

# Camping & Picnicking

Yuba River Ranger District—Highway 49, Middle and North  
Yuba Rivers, Gold Lake Road



Tahoe National Forest

## Welcome

Welcome to the Yuba River Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest. These public lands are dedicated to the conservation of the forests, water, grazing areas, wildlife, and recreational opportunities. The Forest name, taken from the famed Lake Tahoe, is probably from a Washoe Indian word meaning Big Water.

The Tahoe National Forest is located northeast of Sacramento in the central Sierra Nevada mountains and extends from Lake Tahoe to north of the prominent Sierra Buttes. Several highways, including Interstate 80; State Highways 20, 49, 89, and 267; and Forest roads, provide excellent access to most portions of the Forest.

The Tahoe National Forest offers scenic beauty and an attractive climate that have made the area an outstanding year-round center for outdoor recreation. Elevations within the Forest vary from about 1,500 feet in the foothills to over 9,000 feet at the Sierra crest.

The Forest maintains many public campgrounds. Nearly all have fireplaces, tables, water, and toilets. Their locations and descriptions are listed in this guide. Swimming beaches, boat launches, and other commercial services are accessible from a number of campgrounds.

Fishermen and hunters use the campgrounds in season. Fishermen frequent the many rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs on the Forest in the quest for rainbow, German brown, and eastern brook trout. There are also numerous deer, black bears, and upland game birds of interest to the hunters who visit the Forest.

Enjoy your visit to the Tahoe National Forest. Please help us prevent forest fires and keep recreation areas clean. The Forest is yours to explore, enjoy, and protect.

## Use of Recreation Sites & Areas

### Family Recreation Sites

All picnic areas along Highway 49 (Middle and North Yuba) and Sierra Buttes (Gold Lake Highway) are on a first-come, first-serve basis with no reservations needed. Unless otherwise indicated, each campsite has a table and a fire ring. Some campgrounds have bear resistant food lockers. You can make a reservation at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 877-444-6777, or stay at the first-come, first-serve sites available in each campground.

### Campground Time Limitations

Camping is limited to fourteen days per year within each family campground, per individual or family group. Exception: In the Truckee River corridor, State Route 89 South, there is a limit of 14 days' stay per year for the entire corridor (three campgrounds) between I-80 and Tahoe City.

Camping outside developed campgrounds is limited to fourteen days per Ranger District per year.

### Seasons

The main camping season in the Tahoe National Forest is from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Although some campgrounds remain open for public use after the regular season, water systems are shut down and garbage collection is discontinued. Snow may inhibit vehicle access to campgrounds during the winter, and care must be taken to park off roadways where snow removal equipment operates. Contact your local Forest Service office for snow and parking conditions.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

## **Trailers**

Many campgrounds will accommodate travel trailers up to 26 feet in length. Parking space only is available; there is no provision for utility connections. Please plug your toilet drains. Sink waste water may be drained into a container and disposed of as directed. Campgrounds from which trailers are excluded are indicated within the Campground Guide. Pickup campers and other single vehicle campers are permitted in any car space.

Loganville RV Dump Station is located along Highway 49 just 1 mile west of Sierra City.

## **Group Campgrounds**

Group camps are available by advance reservation only. See individual site descriptions for size, location, and information on reservations.

## **Garbage and Sanitation**

Most developed sites have garbage containers, and we ask you to please use them. This is especially important to protect your family from bears that may enter your campsite in search of food. When garbage containers are not available please take all of your garbage with you. Leave a clean camp!

## **Campfire Permits**

Campfire permits are not required in designated recreation sites; however, a permit is required for all camping and cooking fires on undeveloped National Forest land. In periods of high fire danger other restrictions may be in effect. Check with a Ranger Station before your outing.

## **Number of Campers per Camp Unit**

In order to protect the adjacent soil and vegetation, the number of campers in a developed campground is limited to six persons per individual camp unit (except for group campgrounds). This restriction does not apply to a single family composed of parents and dependent children.

## **Pets**

Pets are allowed in developed sites, but must be on a leash or under some physical control only. Please be considerate of your pet as well as other campers.

## **Firearms**

You may bring firearms into developed camp and picnic grounds; however, you may not discharge them near any developed sites or areas of concentrated public recreation use (within 150 yards).

## **Landownership**

Within the boundaries of the Tahoe National Forest roughly 800,000 acres are public land and 400,000 acres are privately owned. Please respect the rights of the private landowners. You may inquire at the nearest Ranger Station or consult the Tahoe National Forest map regarding landownership.

## **Motor Vehicles**

The operation of all motor vehicles in recreation sites, including motor scooters and motorcycles, is permitted only on developed roads or parking areas. Vehicles are to be used only for entering and leaving recreation sites.

The operation of motor vehicles in such a manner as to create excessive noise is prohibited. Please drive carefully and observe all posted speed limits.

## **Horses**

Corrals and water troughs are available at Packsaddle Campground.

## **Water**

Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

## **For More Information**

### **Yuba River Ranger Station**

15924 Highway 49  
Camptonville, CA 95922  
(530) 288-3231 (voice)  
(530) 288-3656 (TDD)  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

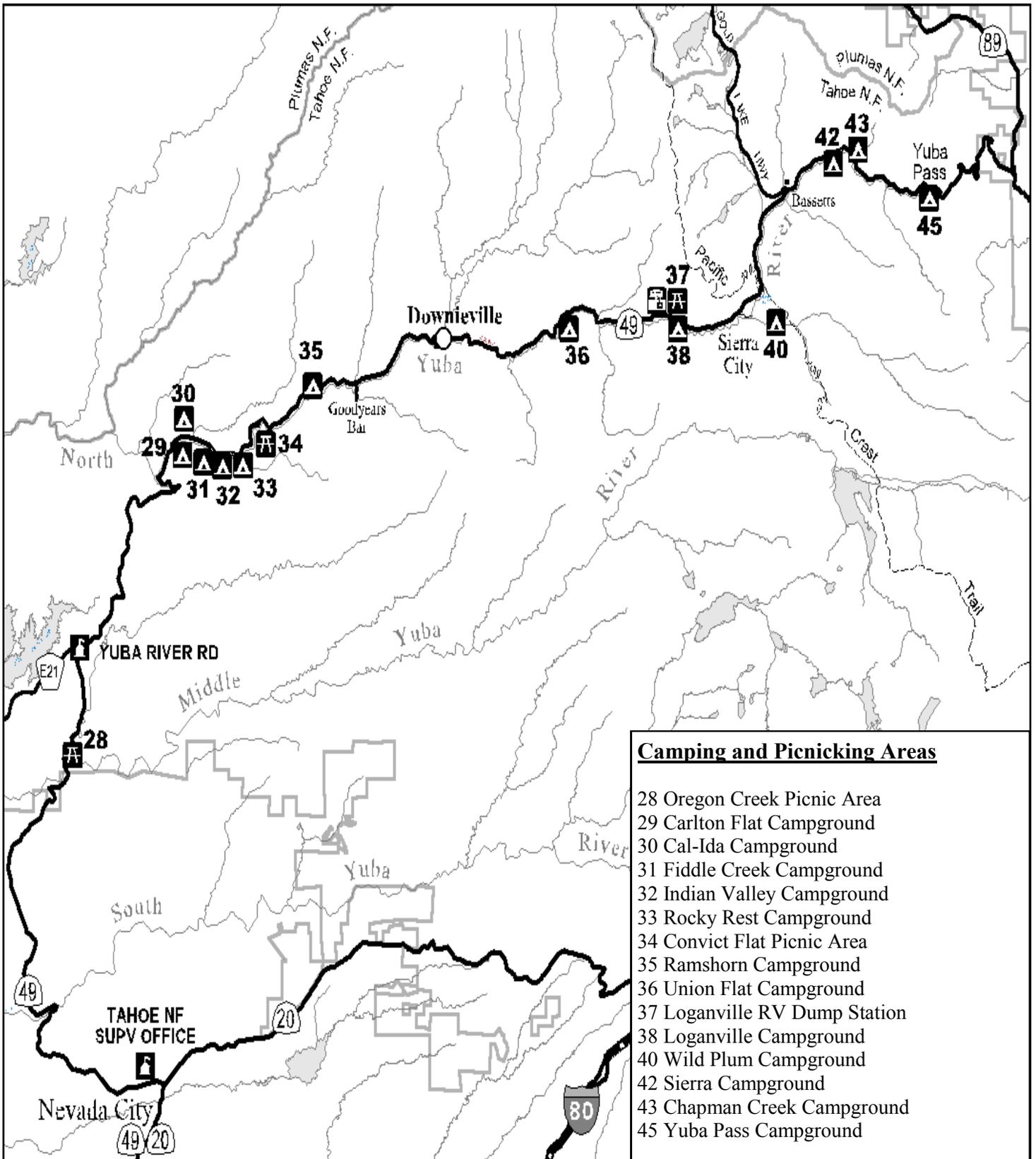
## **All Are Welcome**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Camping and Picnicking

## Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)

### Yuba River Ranger District



# Camping and Picnicking

## Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)

### Yuba River Ranger District



### Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)

From Nevada City, Highway 49 goes north crossing the South and Middle Yuba Rivers. It follows the North Yuba River, from Indian Valley through Downieville and Sierra City, to the summit at Yuba Pass. The following sites are all near Highway 49 and the Yuba River. Activities include fishing, swimming, gold panning, camping, hiking, and hunting in season. Camping season is May through October at the lower elevations and June through October at higher elevations.

#### 28. Oregon Creek Day Use Area

Located five miles southwest of Camptonville on Highway 49.

**Elevation:** 1500 feet

**Facilities:**

11 picnic units

Vault toilets

Supplies available at North San Juan or Camptonville

**Attractions:**

Popular swimming beach

Historic covered bridge built in 1880

#### 29. Carlton Flat Campground

Located nine miles northeast of Camptonville, on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 2200 feet

**Facilities:**

17 campsites

Vault toilets

Piped water

Limited supplies are available at Indian Valley Outpost

#### 30. Cal-Ida

Located on the Cal-Ida Road where it joins Highway 49.

**Elevation:** 2200 feet

**Facilities:**

19 campsites

Vault toilets

Piped water

Limited supplies are available at Indian Valley Outpost

#### 31. Fiddle Creek Campground

Located nine miles northeast of Camptonville on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 2200 feet

**Facilities:**

15 Campsites

Vault toilets

Tent camping only

Piped water

Limited supplies are available at Indian Valley Outpost

#### 32. Indian Valley Campground

Located ten miles northeast of Camptonville on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 2200 feet

**Facilities:**

19 Campsites

Vault toilets

Piped water

Limited supplies are available at Indian Valley Outpost

Bear resistant food lockers



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

# Camping & Picnicking

## Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)



### Yuba River Ranger District

#### 33. Rocky Rest Campground

Located ten miles northeast of Camptonville on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 2200 feet

**Facilities:**

10 campsites

Vault toilets

Piped water

Limited supplies are available at Indian

Valley Outpost

Bear resistant food lockers

#### 34. Convict Flat Picnic Site—Day Use Only

Located twelve miles northeast of Camptonville on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 2400 feet

**Facilities:**

1 group site - 4 picnic tables, large grill

Two picnic sites with tables, but no cooking facilities

River water source—purify before drinking

Supplies are available at Downieville

#### 35. Ramshorn Campground

Located 15 miles northeast of Camptonville off Highway 49.

**Elevation:** 2600 feet

**Facilities:**

16 campsites

Piped water

Vault toilets

Supplies available at Downieville

#### 37. Union Flat Campground

Located six miles east of Downieville on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 3400 feet

**Facilities:**

11 campsites (6 have space for trailers)

Piped water

Vault toilets

Supplies available at Downieville and Sierra City

#### 38. Loganville Campground

Located two miles west of Sierra City on the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 4200 feet

**Facilities:**

19 campsites

Vault toilets

Piped water

Supplies available at Sierra City

**Attractions:**

Located near Kentucky Mine,

Sierra County Historic Park

#### 40. Wild Plum Campground

Located one mile east of Sierra City on the Wild Plum Road along Haypress Creek.

**Elevation:** 4400 feet

**Facilities:**

47 campsites

Piped water

Vault toilets

Supplies available at Sierra City

Bear resistant food lockers

**Attractions:**

Located near Kentucky Mine,

Sierra County Historic Park



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

# Camping and Picnicking

## Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)

### Yuba River Ranger District



#### 42. Sierra Campground

Located seven miles northeast of Sierra City on the North Yuba River.

Elevation: 5600 feet

Facilities:

16 campsites

Vault toilets

River water source—purify before drinking

Supplies available at Bassetts, 2 miles west

#### 43. Chapman Creek Campground

Located eight miles northeast of Sierra City across Highway 49 from the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 6000 feet

**Facilities:**

27 campsites

Piped water

Vault toilets

Supplies available at Bassetts, 3 miles west

#### 45. Yuba Pass Campground

Located eleven miles east of Sierra City and eleven miles west of Sierraville at Yuba Pass Summit.

**Elevation:** 6700 feet

**Facilities:**

20 campsites

Piped water

Vault toilets

Supplies available at Bassetts Station, 6 miles west and at Sattley, 7 miles to the east

**Attractions:**

Bird Watching



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

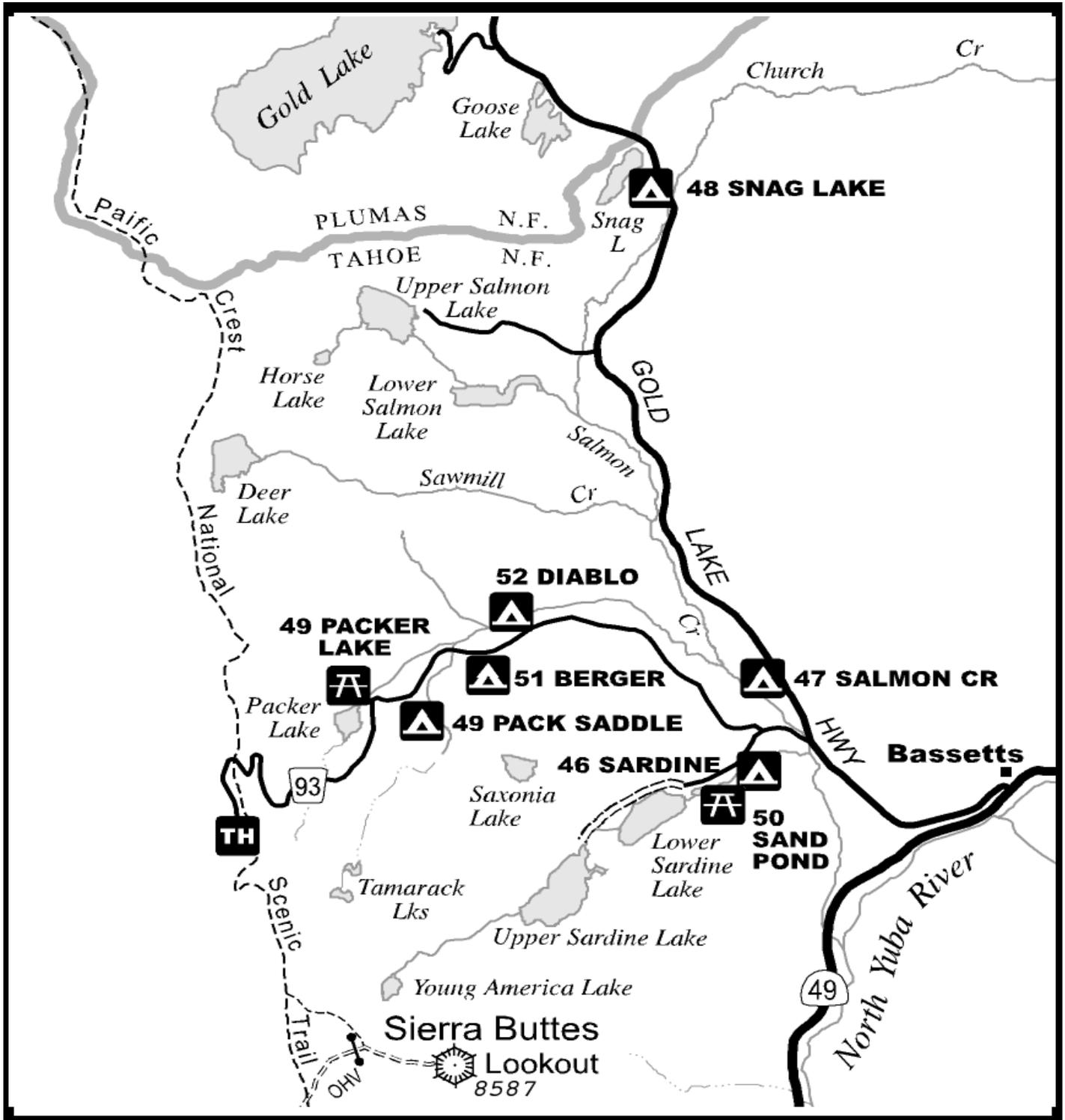
Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

# Camping and Picnicking

## Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway

### Yuba River Ranger District

#### Tahoe National Forest



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

# Camping and Picnicking

## Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway

### Yuba River Ranger District



#### Sierra Buttes-Gold Lake Highway

This area of high mountain lakes and streams is dominated by the massive and spectacular Sierra Buttes. It may be reached by following Highway 49 north and east from Sierra City, 41/2 miles to the Gold Lake Highway junction at Bassetts. It may also be reached from the Sierra Valley by following Highway 49 westward approximately 13 miles from its junction with Highway 89 at Sattley to the Gold Lake Highway. Activities include fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, and hunting in season. Supplies are available at Sierra City and Bassetts. Primary camping season is June through October. Camping is not permitted within 1/4 mile of Gold Lake Highway (from Highway 49 to Sardine Lake Road), Sardine Lake Road (from Gold Lake Highway to Sardine Lake Road to Packer Lake), and around Salmon Lake because of heavy visitor use.

#### 46. Sardine Campground

Located one and one-half mile north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Highway and 1/2 mile southwest on the Sardine Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 5800 feet

**Facilities:**

29 campsites (15 have space for trailers)  
Piped water  
Vault toilets  
Bear resistant food lockers

#### 47. Salmon Creek Campground

Located two miles north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Highway near Salmon Creek..

**Elevation:** 5800 feet

**Facilities:**

31 campsites (7 have space for trailers)  
Piped water  
Vault toilets  
Bear resistant food lockers

#### 48. Snag Lake Campground

Located five miles north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Road adjacent to Snag Lake

**Elevation:** 6600 feet

**Facilities:**

12 undesignated campsites  
Space for small trailer use  
Lake water source - purify before drinking  
Vault toilets

**Attractions:**

Fishing is fair to good at Snag Lake and other nearby lakes.  
Hand-off boat launching only

#### 49. Packer Lake Picnic Ground - Day Use Only

Located three miles west of the Gold Lake Highway on the Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 6200 feet

**Facilities:**

3 picnic sites with tables and stoves  
Lake water source -purify before drinking  
Vault toilets

#### 50. Sand Pond Picnic Ground - Day Use Only

Located just off the Gold Highway on the Sardine Lake Road near the Sardine Campground.

**Elevation:** 5800 feet

**Facilities:**

16 picnic sites  
Vault toilets  
Limited supplies are available at Bassetts

**Attractions:**

Sand Marsh Interpretive Trail, 1 mile loop  
Wheelchair accessible  
No pets permitted in swimming area for sanitary reasons  
Boat rentals available at Sardine Lake Lodge



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)

# Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway

## Yuba River Ranger District

### Tahoe National Forest



#### 51. Berger Campground

Located 2 miles west of the Gold Lake Highway on the Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 5900 feet

**Facilities:**

9 designated campsites

Space for small trailers only

Stream water source-purify before drinking

Vault toilets

#### 52. Diablo Camping Area

Located eight miles northeast of Sierra City across Highway 49 from the North Yuba River.

**Elevation:** 5800 feet

**Facilities:**

18 designated campsites

Room for trailer and tent camping

Stream water source-purify before drinking

Vault toilets

#### 53. Packsaddle Camping Area

Located 2 1/2 miles west of Gold Lake Highway on Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 6000 feet

**Facilities:**

14 developed campsites

Room for trailer and tent camping

Piped water

Vault toilets

Pack saddle stock are permitted

Corrals for livestock

Bear resistant food lockers



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe)