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 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.
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

All Are Welcome
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Camping and Picnicking
Highway 49 (Middle Yuba and North Yuba Rivers)
Yuba River Ranger District

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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
Camping & Picnicking
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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
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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
Camping and Picnicking
Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway
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48 SNAG LAKE
52 DIABLO
49 PACKER LAKE
49 PACK SADDLE
51 BERGER
46 SARDINE
50 SAND POND
47 SALMON CR

North Yuba River
Bassetts

Sierra Buttes Lookup 8587

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Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
www.fs.usda.gov/r5
Tahoe National Forest
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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
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