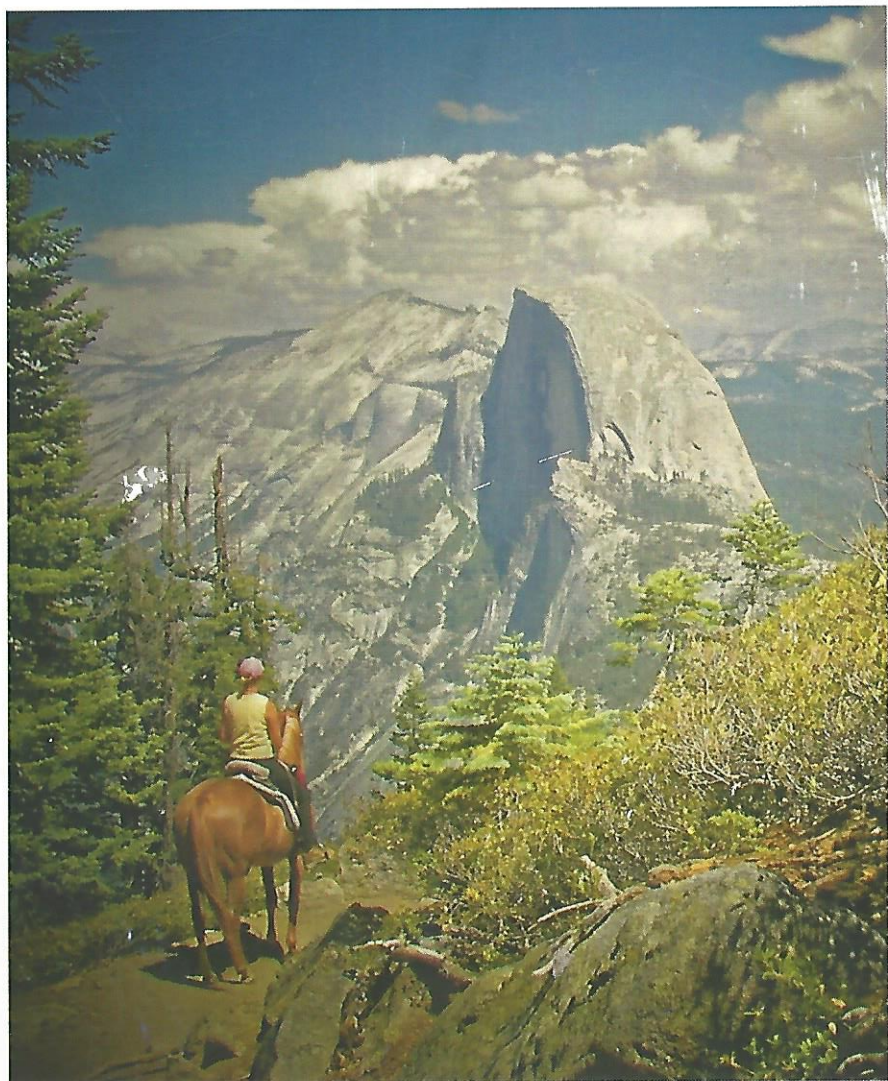


# CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA HORSE TRAILS



**By Sherry Antill & Ann Bates**

**2008**

**Volume One - Revised**

**CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA  
HORSE TRAILS**

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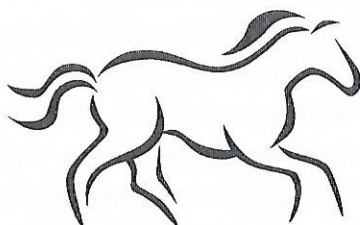
**Fourth Edition – Revised**

**Web site**

**[www.csnhorsetrails.com](http://www.csnhorsetrails.com)**

**Printing by: Print Shack**

*Sherry  
Antill*



*Ann  
Bates*

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**Cover Page: View of Half Dome  
Pohono Trail - Glacier Point Ride  
Yosemite National Park**

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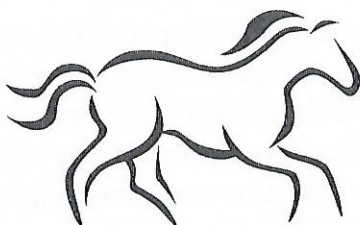
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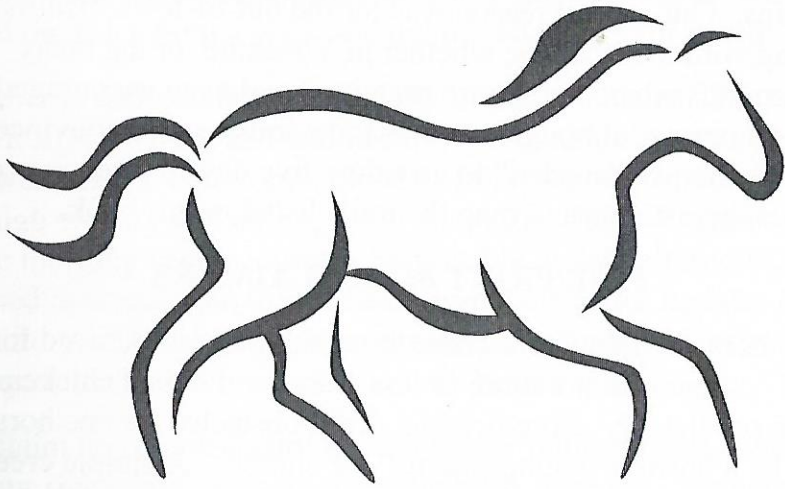
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Cover Page: View of Half Dome  
Pohono Trail - Glacier Point Ride  
Yosemite National Park

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1, 2
Trail Savvy .....	3, 4
Notes/Map .....	5, 6
Contact List .....	7, 8
Trails:	
Yosemite .....	10
Dewey Point .....	11
Glacier Point .....	19
Ostrander Lake .....	29
Taft Point .....	37
Wawona Point .....	45
Fish Camp .....	54
Fish Camp Loop .....	55
Kelty Meadow .....	65
Nelder Grove .....	75
Mariposa Grove – Biledo Meadow .....	83
Bass Lake .....	94
Bass Lake .....	95
Cowboy Trail – Bass Lake Vista .....	105
Crane Valley .....	115
Goat Mountain Lookout .....	125
Peckinpah Mountain .....	132
Brown's Creek .....	133
Peckinpah Overlook.....	141
White's Cabin .....	149
Winter Rides .....	158
Eastman Lake .....	159
Hensley Lake .....	167
San Joaquin River Gorge Trail .....	175



Happy Trails

## EXTRA NOTES

Our email address is [csnhorsetrails@netptc.net](mailto:csnhorsetrails@netptc.net).

Our web site is [www.csnhorsetrails.com](http://www.csnhorsetrails.com). We, with the help of other local riders, do our best to update the trail conditions regularly. We have "pictures of the month" showing what you may experience 12 months of the year. Our section on camping in Yosemite has a wealth of information and worth checking out before you go.

In the spring we try to get out as early as possible to check the trails. Trails in Yosemite are cleared by the National Park Trails Crews. Snow and popularity of trails determines when particular trails are cleared within the park.

It is a good idea to purchase a local forest service map to carry in your saddlebags.

We have flagged trails with pink and yellow ribbon. We do our best not to over-flag and have limited them to trail junctions. For trails that are difficult to follow, we have flagged in a line of sight manner.

When writing up the driving instructions, we came as close as possible to the actual mileage. Please give or take a little and keep your eyes open for signs.



## CONTACT LIST

### **Sierra National Forest**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra>

**Bass Lake Ranger Station** located in downtown North Fork.  
Maps, permits, and information.  
559 877-2218

### **Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau**

41969 Highway 41, Oakhurst

559 683-4636

<http://www.yosemitethisyear.com>

Eastman Lake Ranger Station: 559 689-3255

Hensley Lake Ranger Station: 559 673-5151

**San Joaquin River Gorge BLM:** 661 391-6000  
Ranger Station 559 297-0706

### **Yosemite National Park**

Trails Office 209 372-0576

Corrals Office 209 372-0524

Wawona Ranger Station 209 375-9520

**Camping Reservations:** ReserveUSA.com 1-877-444-6777

### **Yosemite National Park:**

Bridalveil Campground (reservations required)

Wawona Campground (reservations required)

Tuolumne Meadows Campground (reservations required)



**Horse Camping** – Sierra National Forest

Kelty Meadow (reservations required)

Texas Flat group camp (reservations required)

Whiskey Falls (primitive)

Camp 5 (primitive)

San Joaquin River Gorge (permit for groups, pipe corrals)

Snow Play Area (primitive)

Granite Creek (pipe corrals, first come, first served)

**Place to stay with your horses:**

The Homestead Cottages

Ahwahnee, CA

1-800-483-0495 559-683-0495

[www.homesteadcottages.com](http://www.homesteadcottages.com)





**Pohono Trail to Glacier Point**

**YOSEMITE**

**DEWEY POINT**

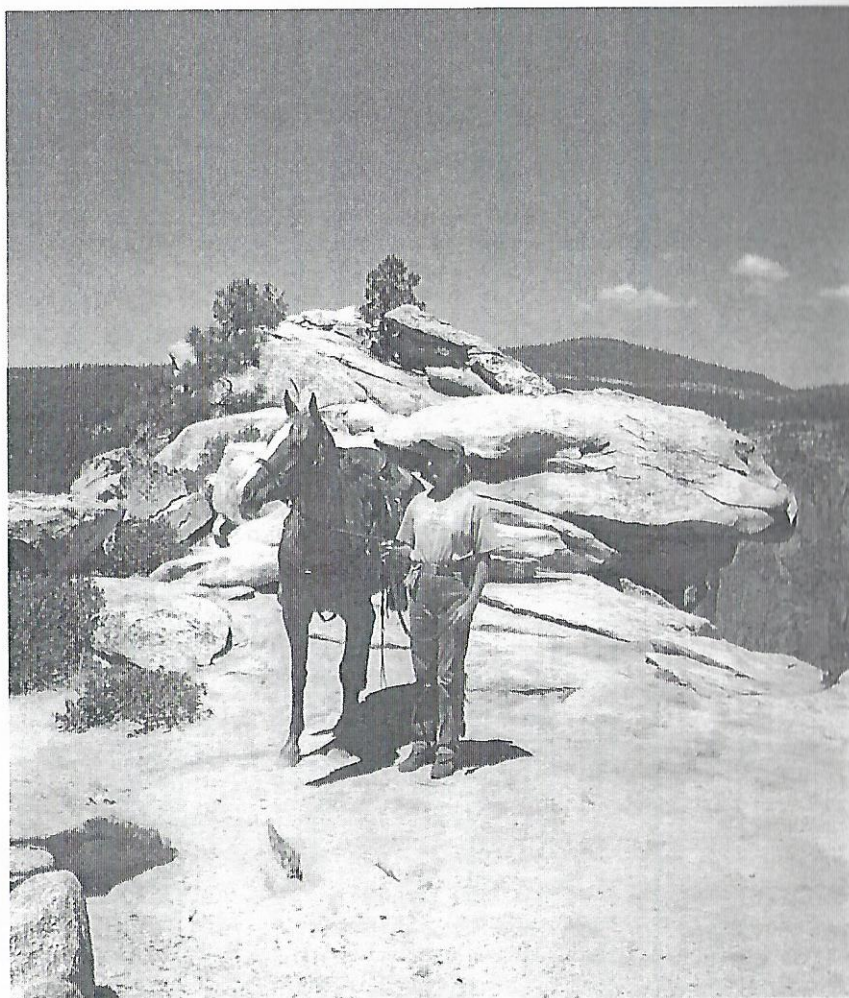
**GLACIER POINT**

**OSTRANDER LAKE**

**TAFT POINT**

**WAWONA POINT**

# DEWEY POINT



## DEWEY POINT

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Single track with one road crossing.

**Season:** July – September or until the snow flies.

**Elevation:** 7000 – 7300

**Terrain:** Single track trails through meadows, rocky areas, small creek crossings and one wooden footbridge.

**Difficulty:** Fairly strenuous

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Several small tributaries along the way.

**Camping:** Bridalveil horse camp

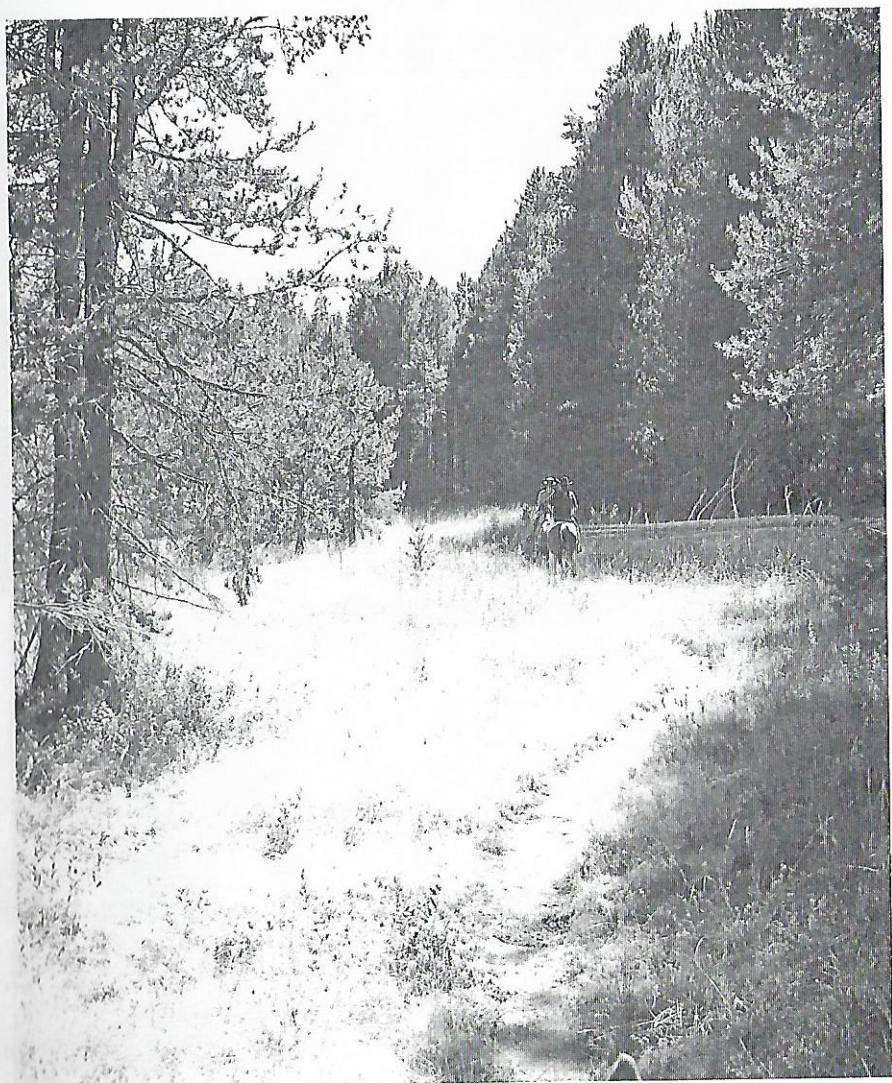
**Staging Area:** Parking at the side of the road which is merely a wide dirt shoulder. It is suggested that you do not tie horses on road side when tacking up. There is room for several rigs.

**Attention:** Yosemite National Park has a \$20 per vehicle fee for entering the park which is good for 7 days. Be aware that you are in bear country. Do not leave any food visible in your vehicles. You will be cited!

**About the Area & Ride:** As you make your descent into McGurk Meadow, you will pass a small log cabin. This stockman's cabin, made from Lodgepole pine logs, was intended to be the homestead of John J. McGurk. However, through an error in the land description, the wrong property was filed upon. The property was filed on with errors several times and was sold to McGurk in 1895. McGurk possessed it until August of 1897 when he was removed by U.S. troops, then the custodians of the national park.

When you pass through the meadow, you will cross on a wooden footbridge. The meadow, best seen in late June and July, is a virtual carpet of wildflowers including corn lily, orange red paintbrush and shooting star. Looking toward the east from the meadow, you will see Ostrander Rocks. After crossing the meadow, White fir, Jeffery Pine, Huckleberry Oak and Manzanita are abundant. You will soon be on the historic Pohono Trail. There are several small tributaries of Bridalveil Creek where the horses can get a drink. Then, you make the climb to Dewey Point. The point was named for the hero of the Spanish American War, Admiral George Dewey.

The views of Cathedral Rocks & Spires, the Leaning Tower and Half Dome are breathtaking. If you are brave enough to glance over the edge, views of the Yosemite Valley floor are spectacular. Be sure to bring your camera!



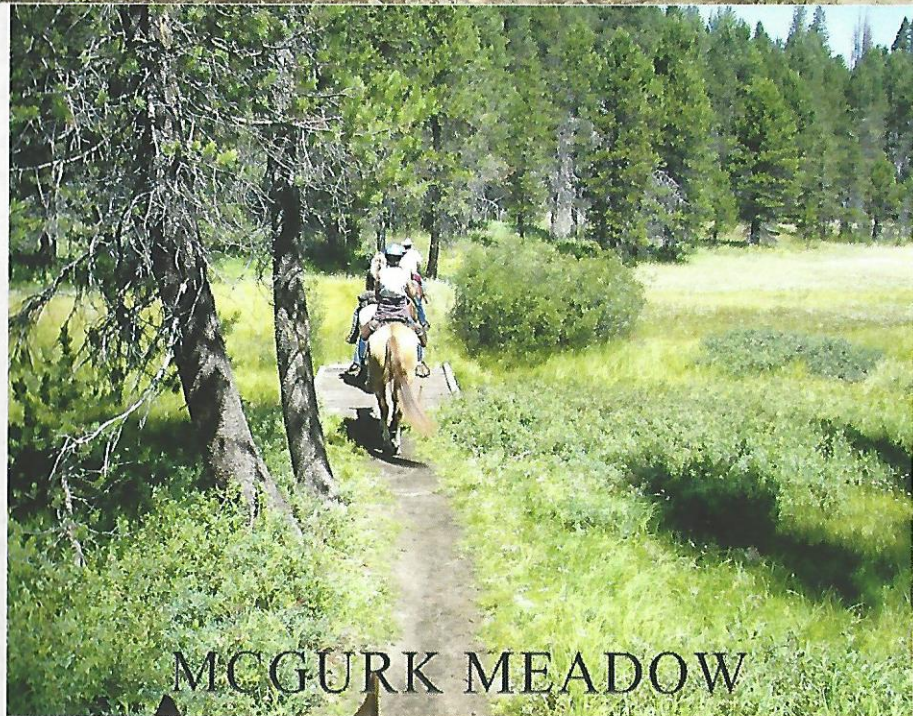
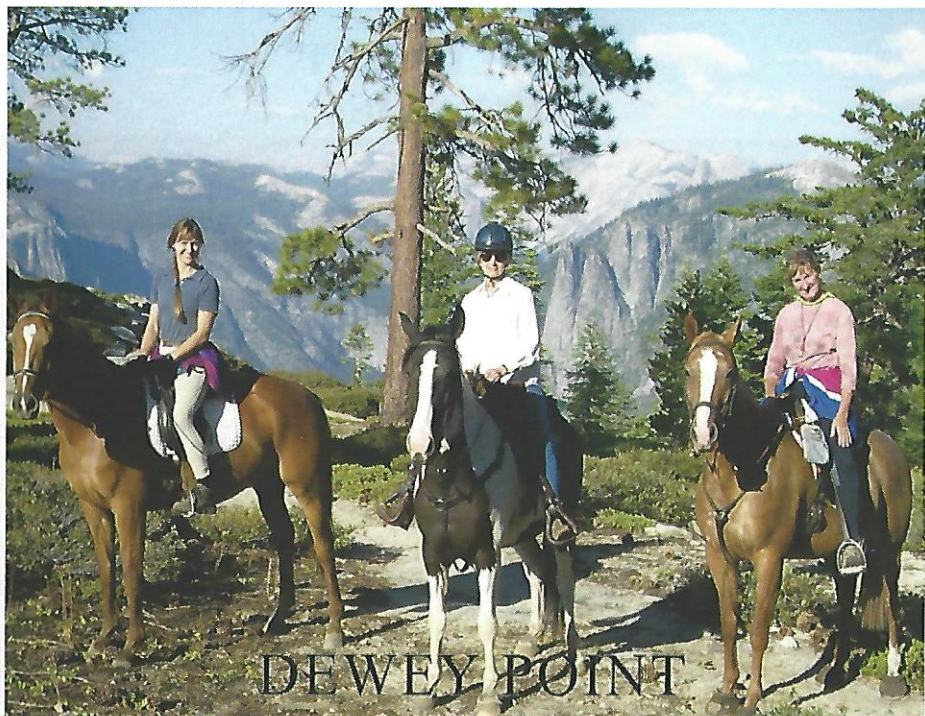
**Trail through McGurk Meadow**

## DEWEY POINT STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41, 13 miles to the Yosemite gate entrance. Go left after entering and drive approximately 16 miles to Glacier Point Rd. Turn right and drive another 7.4 miles to the staging area and the McGurk Meadow sign. Parking is difficult as there is virtually no way to make the u-turn for parking. It is best to keep going to Ostrander Lake parking and trail head (1.5 miles) where you can turn around, drive back and park. Parking is merely a dirt shoulder.





# DEWEY POINT THE RIDE



— Trail   
 - - - - - Trail from Bridalveil   
 Staging Area   
 Destination

## DEWEY POINT

### THE RIDE

#1 At the west end of the staging area, on the right, is the trailhead. You will see a rustic steel trail sign, complete with mile guides. The single track trail is shaded by Lodgepole pines.

#2 The trail descends to McGurk Meadow. Past the meadow and farther down the trail will be a signed trail fork. Stay to the left, heading toward Dewey Point.

#3 You are now on the historic Pohono Trail. There will be several creek crossings. After you cross the third, you will begin to make the climb to Dewey Point.

Return the way you came.

#### **Alternate route from Bridalveil Campground**

#A Ride through the campground. At the camp entrance where there is an information board and telephone booth, take the trail to the left. You will be going around a gate. You will pass the generator house. Stay on the wide trail.

#B Just after a small creek which may be a dry creek bed, is the trail junction. Turn right. Follow this trail to Glacier Point Road. Cross the road and follow the above directions. This adds approximately 2 miles one way to your ride.

# GLACIER POINT



## GLACIER POINT

**Riding Time:** 5-6 hours (Approximately 16 miles round trip)

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Elevation:** 7000 – 7600

**Terrain:** Single track trails through meadows, rocky areas and dirt footing.

**Difficulty:** Steep climbs, 2 wooden bridges and several narrow trails with steep drop offs. Busy road crossing at Glacier Point. Not for horses out of condition, or horses with a tendency to spook. You will encounter many hikers and backpackers on this trail. Not for easily frightened novice riders.

**Facilities:** Restrooms at Glacier Point

**Water:** None at the staging area. Several creek crossings for watering horses. Bring plenty of drinking water and lunch, although there is a convenience store at Glacier Point.

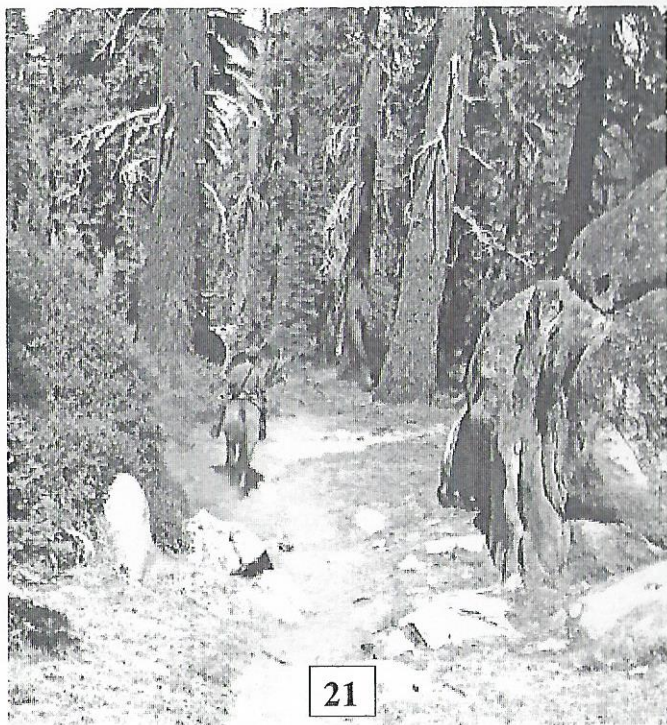
**Camping:** Bridalveil Campground.

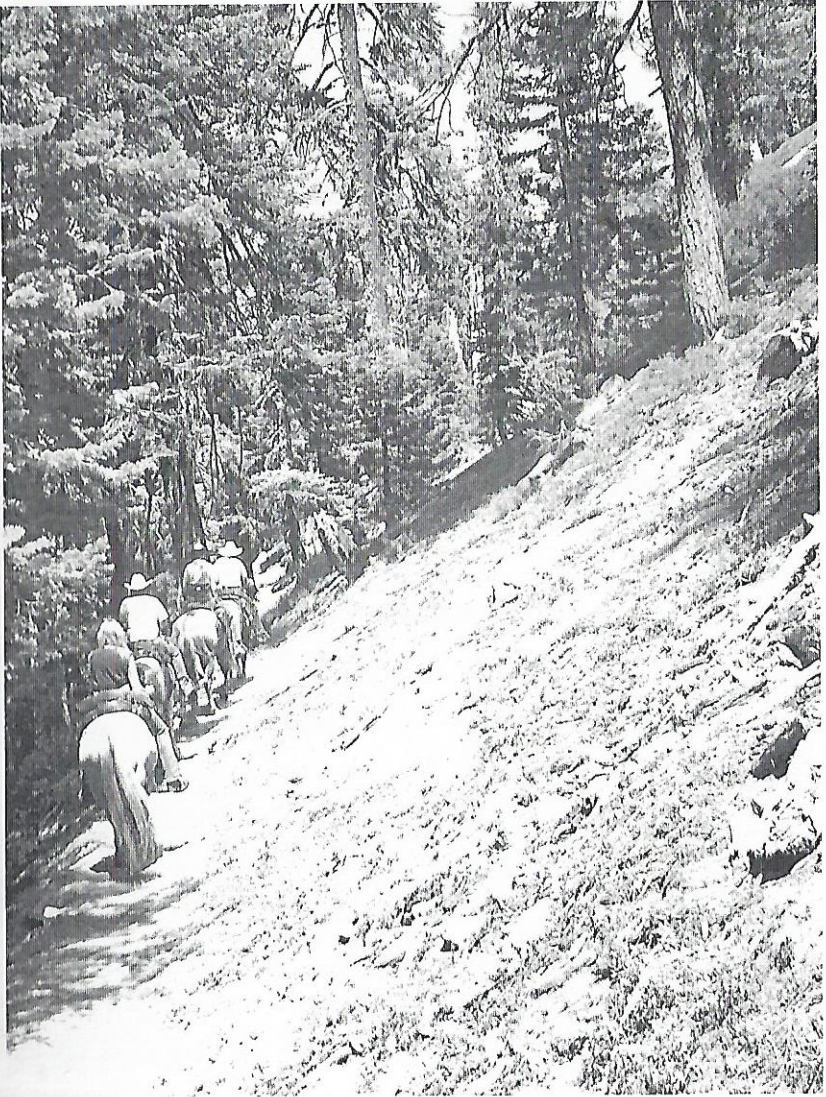
**Staging Area:** This is basically a dirt shoulder along Glacier Point Road. There is heavy traffic with many busses and campers.

**Attention:** There is one area of narrow trail with a steep drop off. If in doubt, get off and walk your horse through this area. It is a short section, about 3 minutes long, below Sentinel Dome. Some say it is the longest 3 minutes you will ever spend.

**About the Area & Ride:** Glacier Point sits 3,200 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor. It is a super vista which stretches out north and east, overlooking meadows, forests, and Nevada & Vernal Falls. The trail from Taft Point to Glacier Point is one of the most beautiful trails you will ever ride on. The views around every corner are spectacular. The granite outcroppings, distant views and fern & wildflower laden meadows will take your breath away. Take advantage of short side trails as they usually lead to awesome views of the Yosemite Valley, with its many famous rock formations. This is Yosemite in a nutshell!

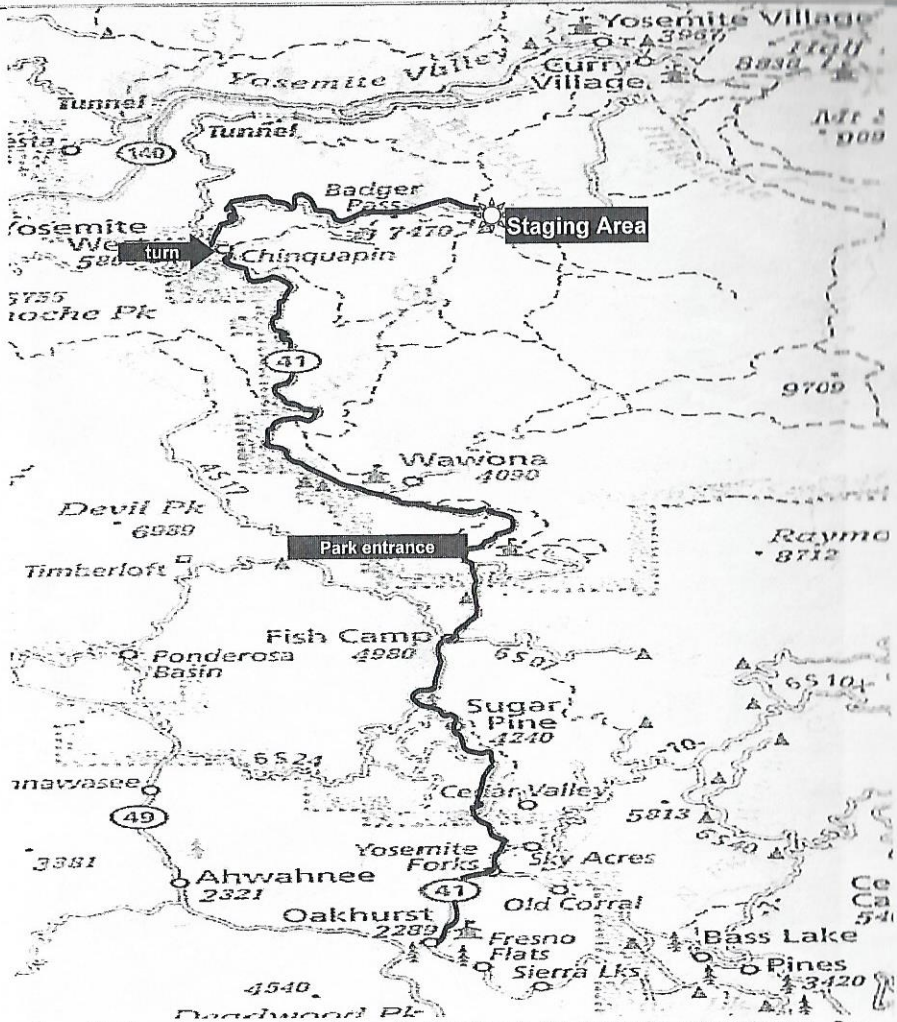
The meadows can be fairly boggy, but most of the terrain is dirt or decomposed granite with rocky areas.





**Narrow Trail Below Sentinel Dome**

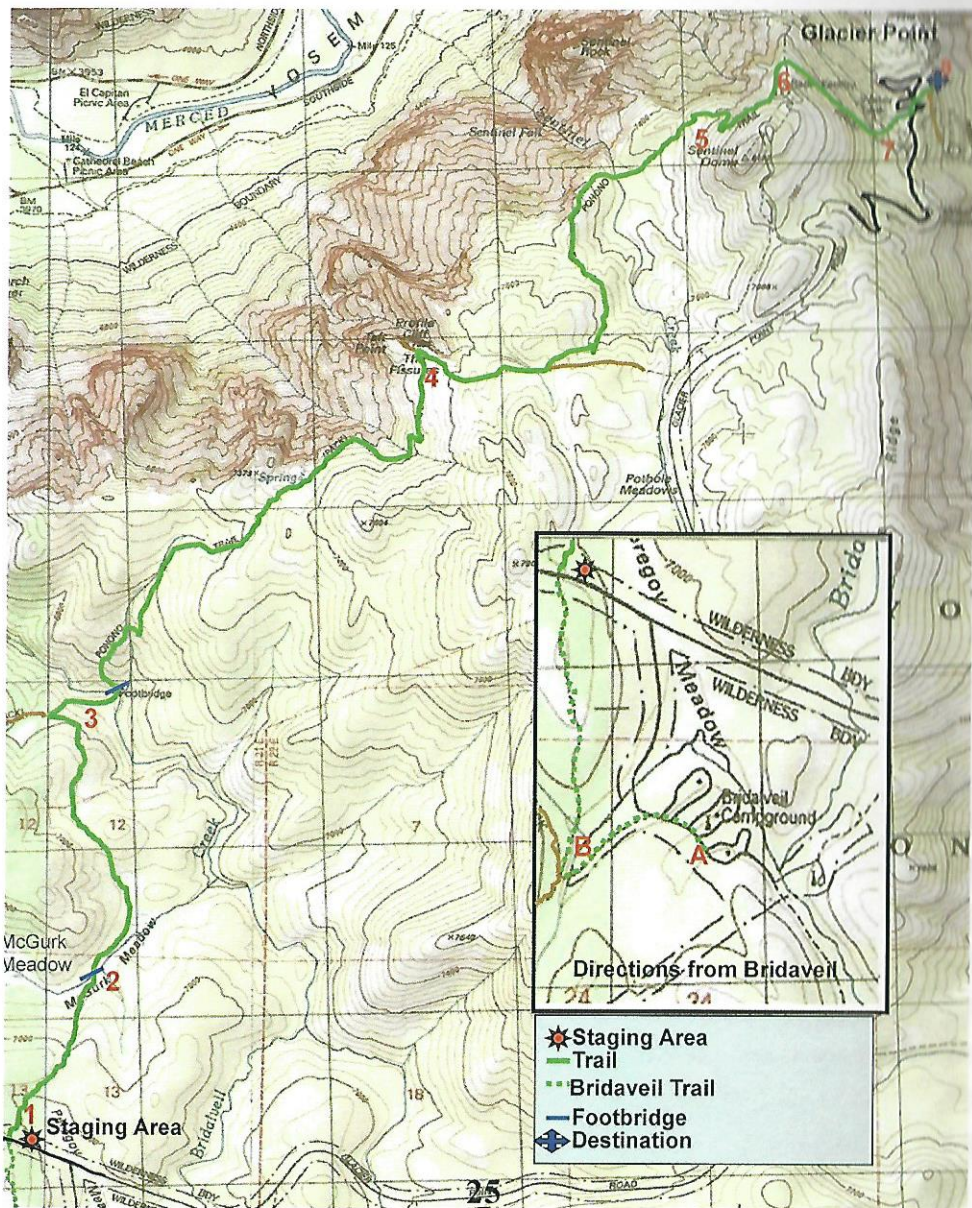
## GLACIER POINT STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41, 13 miles to the Yosemite gate entrance. Go left after entering and drive approximately 16 miles to Glacier Point Rd. Turn right and drive another 7.4 miles to the staging area and the McGurk Meadow sign. Parking is difficult as there is virtually no way to make the u-turn for parking. It is best to keep going to Ostrander Lake parking and trail head (1.5 miles) where you can turn around, drive back and park. Parking is merely a dirt shoulder.



# GLACIER POINT THE RIDE



## GLACIER POINT

### THE RIDE

- #1 Take the McGurk Meadow trailhead from the staging area. At .7 miles you will reach the old log cabin. At .8 miles you will reach McGurk Meadow.
- #2 There is a small wooden footbridge to cross. Cross the meadow on the rocky trail and continue on the dirt single track trail through Lodgepole pines, tall grass and abundant wildflowers.
- #3 When you come to a signed trail intersection, take the trail to the right toward Taft Point. Soon you will cross Bridalveil Creek on the wooden bridge.
- #4 Continue past Taft Point and the “fissures”, winding your way up a rocky trail which will flatten out and footing is again dirt. Continue along this trail.
- #5 Before you reach Sentinel Dome, which is not signed, the trail makes a sharp left. The trail also continues right, but is impossible for horses. Keeping to the left, you are approaching the narrow trail with the steep drop-off. This is where you may choose to dismount and walk. The right hand side of the trail is Sentinel Dome, which is uphill terrain. The left hand side of the trail is equally as steep all the way to the valley floor. You must keep walking on. This is not a place to stop. We don't want to scare you, as we have ridden this many times, but we are always grateful to reach the other end. The reward, just a little farther up the trail, is a magnificent view of Half Dome.

**#6** The trail heads right. After approximately one mile you will reach the Glacier Point area. On your left will be cabins.

**#7** There is a trail heading left. Take this trail which will lead you to the Glacier Point Road crossing. Be extremely cautious here. Traffic is heavy and you are crossing just beyond a blind curve.

**#8** Cross the road and continue until you are once again face to face with Half Dome. On the left is the convenience store. Do not ride among the public. Stay in this area, but do send a rider in for ice cream bars! Return the way you came.

### **Alternate route from Bridalveil Horse Camp**

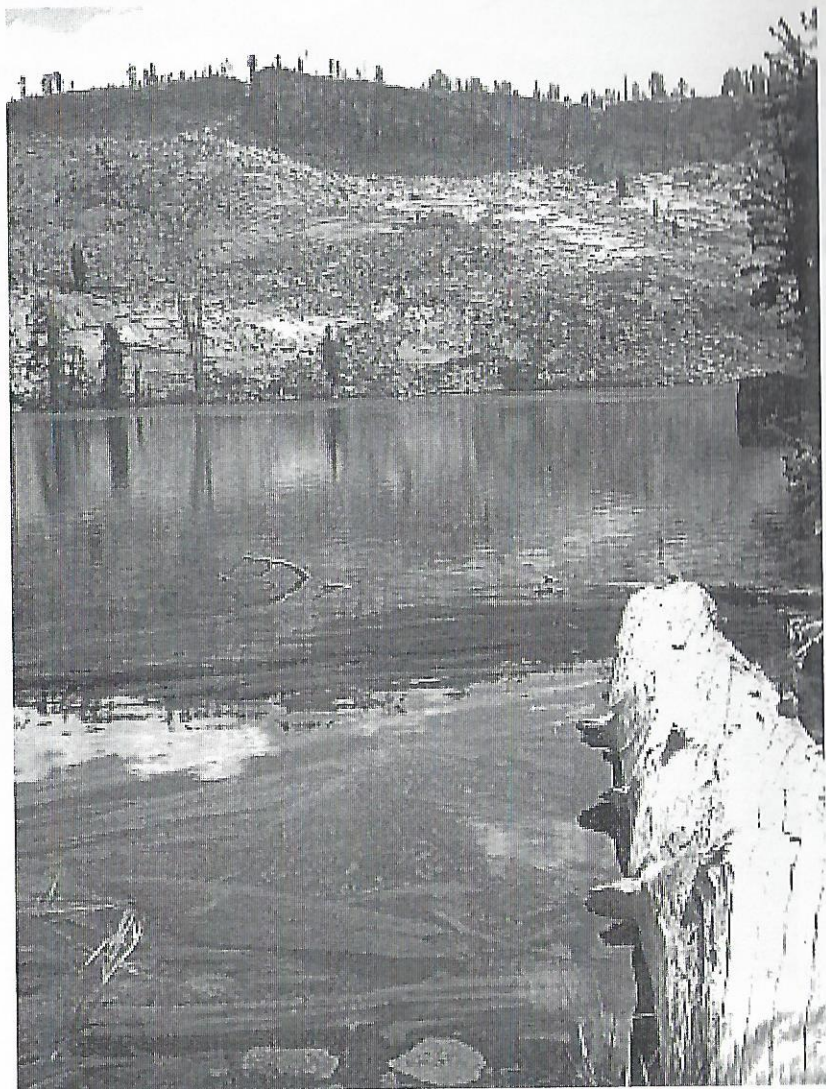
**#A** Ride through the campground. At the camp entrance where there is an information board and telephone booth, take the trail to the left. Keep on the trail, riding past the generator house.

**#B** Just after a small creek which may be a dry creek bed is the trail junction. Turn right and follow to Glacier Point Road. Cross the road and follow the above directions. This roughly adds 2 miles one way to your ride.



**View of "3 Brothers"**  
**From Glacier Point side trail**

# OSTRANDER LAKE



## OSTRANDER LAKE

**Riding Time:** 4 ½ - 5 hours (12.4 miles)

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** July – September or until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 7000 – 8505

**Terrain:** Single track dirt trails with rocky areas and granite slabs.

**Difficulty:** This is not a difficult ride as far as terrain. Fairly strenuous though as there are climbs to make. The first half is a gentle ascent through the forest and meadows. The second half is quite a climb. Elevation gain for this half is about 1500 feet. From the Ostrander trailhead, there is one footbridge to cross. You might consider equine tennis shoes for unshod horses.

**Facilities:** Restrooms at the staging area

**Water:** Bridalveil Creek and Ostrander Lake

**Camping:** Bridalveil Campground

**Staging Area:** Very roomy and will accommodate a number of rigs.

**Attention:** This is a very popular day hike and backpacking trail. Have your horses ready to experience hikers adorned with packs. This is one of the higher elevation rides. Have your horses prepared. There are many lower elevation rides to get you and your horse accustomed to these higher elevations.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is a beautiful ride with trickling creeks, lush meadows, Jeffery and Lodgepole pines and views of the Illilouette Creek basin. You can see the tops of Royal Arches and Washington Column. Above and to the east you see the back side of Half Dome. We recommend purchasing an area map so that you can discover what you are viewing. Ostrander is a beautiful lake. Late in the Ice Age, glaciers originated on the north slopes and extended down below Ostrander Lake for about 1 ½ miles. The rustic ski hut is built atop a moraine. During your ride you will notice remnants of an old asphalt road. It is said that President Roosevelt, in his attempt to create jobs in time of war, paved many National Park trails since asphalt was not a scarce commodity. Throughout Yosemite, on trails that you would never expect, remnants of asphalt still remain.

Once you arrive at the lake, there are many places to tie the horses and easy access to the water. If you bring your fishing pole, you are likely to catch a fish. Only one though...the fish are smart! This is a lovely place to have lunch and investigate the shoreline. The enormous ridge on the other side of the lake is called "Horse Ridge".





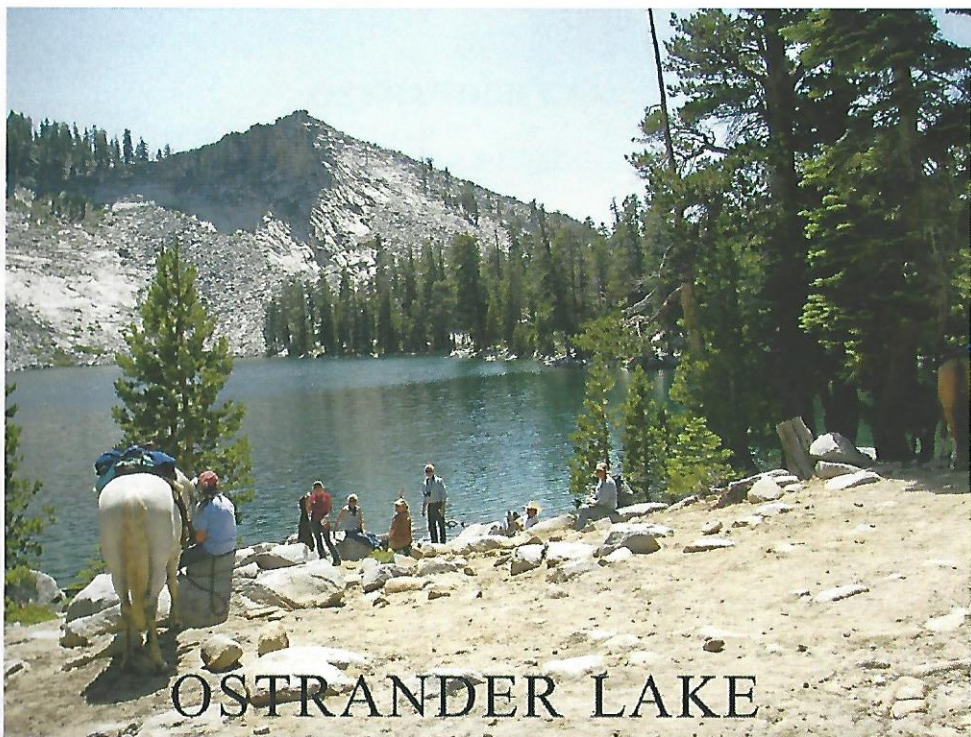
**Ostrander Lake**



## OSTRANDER LAKE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

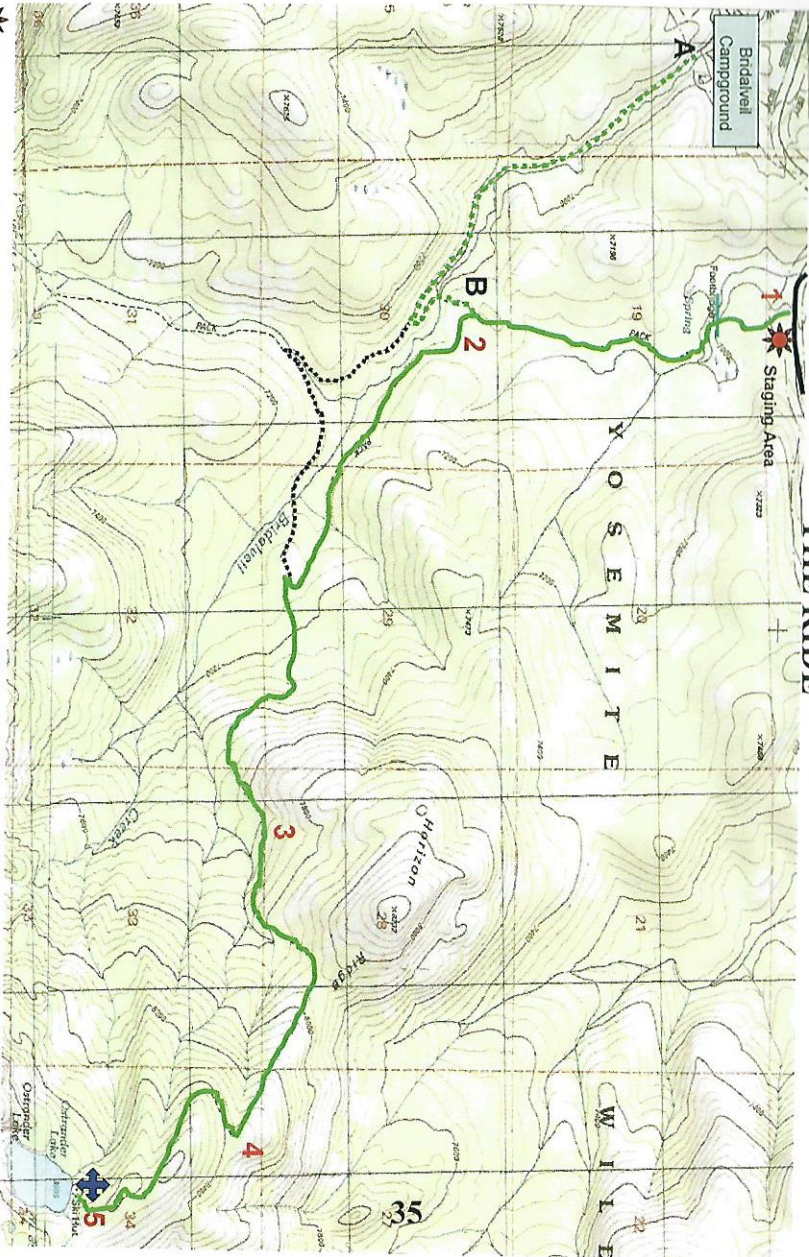


From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41, 13 miles to the Yosemite gate entrance. Go left after entering and drive approximately 16 miles to Glacier Point Rd. Turn right and drive approximately 8.9 more miles to the trailhead parking on the right



# OSTRANDER LAKE

## THE RIDE



-  Staging Area
-  Trail
-  Trail from Bridalveil
-  Destination
-  Footbridge

## OSTRANDER LAKE

### THE RIDE

#1 After leaving the staging area you will cross a small creek on a wooden footbridge. The trail winds through grassy meadows and shaded forest until you come to the remains of a badly burned area, the result of fires in 1987 and 1994.

#2 At the 1.7 mile mark you will come to a fork in the trail. Follow the sign for Ostrander Lake, heading left.

#3 You will cross an area of granite. It is best to stay low or toward the bottom of the "V", especially if your horse is shod. Ahead is a very open, rocky climb. This is where the horse boots may come in handy.

#4 Once up the climb, the trail flattens out somewhat. Watch for a less traveled trail on the left which will take you to an overlook of the backside of Half Dome, Mt. Starr King and the Clark Range. If you feel like a very short side trip, this is a nice one.

#5 Returning to the trail, you will make your way through a rocky area leading down to Ostrander Lake. Return the way you came.

#### **Alternate route from Bridalveil Campground:**

#A From Bridalveil Horse Camp, take the road over the creek to the trailhead on the left. After a mile or so, you will come to a trail junction.

#B Make a sharp left, cross the creek and head uphill to another trail junction. At this point you are at #2 of the ride instructions.

# TAFT POINT



## TAFT POINT

**Riding Time:** 4 hours (12 miles round trip)

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Season:** July – September or until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 7000 – 7600

**Terrain:** Single track trails, rocky areas and steep climbs. There are two wooden foot bridges. Some meadows can be quite boggy in early summer.

**Difficulty:** Strenuous. Not for out of condition horses. If your horses are barefoot, you might want to consider equine tennis shoes.

**Facilities:** None

**Camping:** Bridalveil Horse Camp

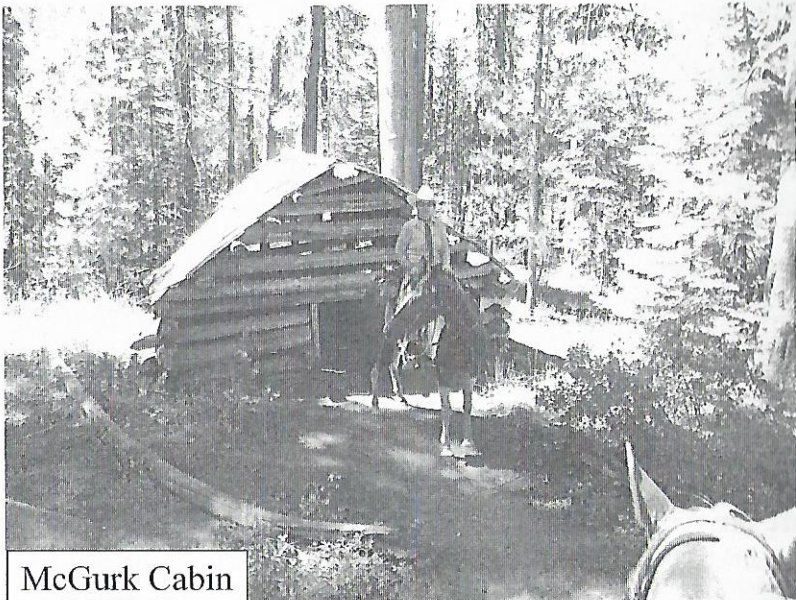
**Water:** Along the trail at creek crossings

**Staging Area:** McGurk trailhead. There is minimal parking at the Taft Point trailhead and not recommended as a staging area.

**Attention:** The staging area along Glacier Point Road is merely a wide dirt shoulder. The road is very busy, so tie horses away from the road when tacking up.

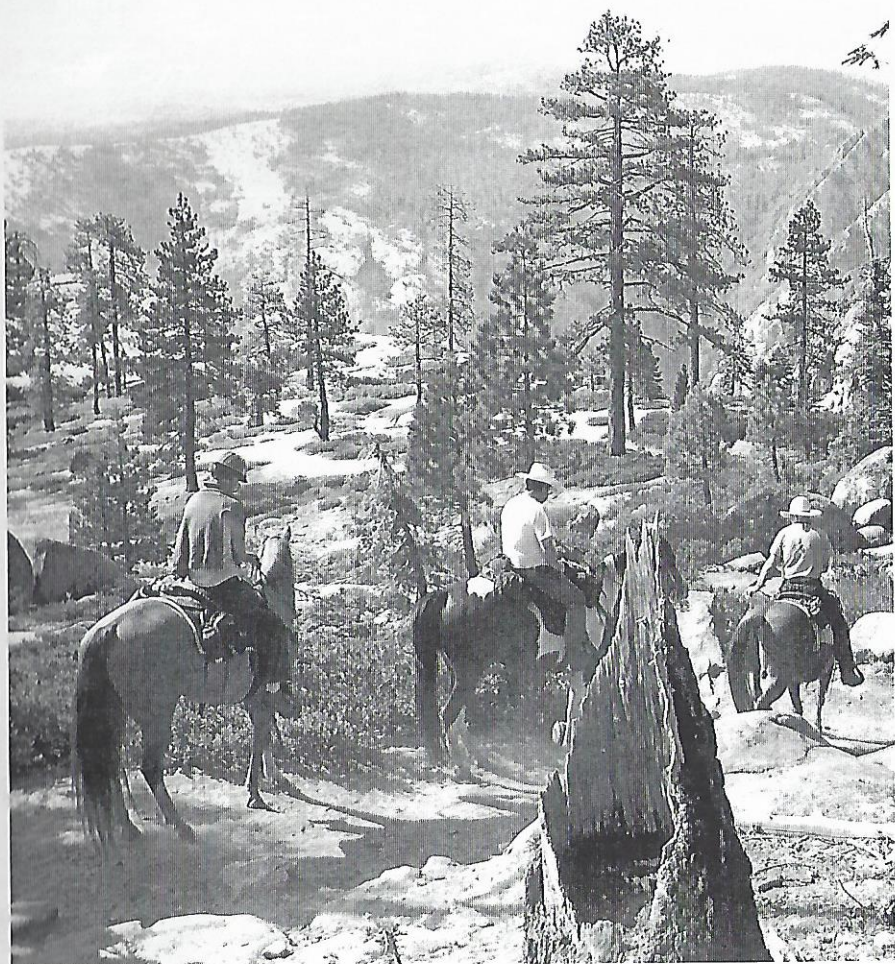
**About the Area & Ride:** Riding from this trailhead offers you a longer ride. You will be riding through a virtual carpet of wildflowers in McGurk Meadow. There are two wooden

footbridges to cross; one at McGurk Meadow and one over Bridalveil Creek. The Pohono Trail is from the Pohonochee Indians who lived in the south region. When you get to the point, a good place to tie your horses is down to the left in the area with plenty of trees. Take the short walk to the point. To the right is a place with a metal guard rail. At this point you will be looking at Eagle Peak and the 3 Brothers. A little to your left will be the vertical cracks in the granite, some only several inches, but a thousand feet deep. If you look directly across to the other side, you have a spectacular view of El Capitan. This is not an area to bring your horses or small children. Slightly southeast of the fissures, the Pohono Trail leads to Glacier Point and the Taft Point trailhead. Enjoy the magnificent views.



McGurk Cabin

Trail at Taft Point

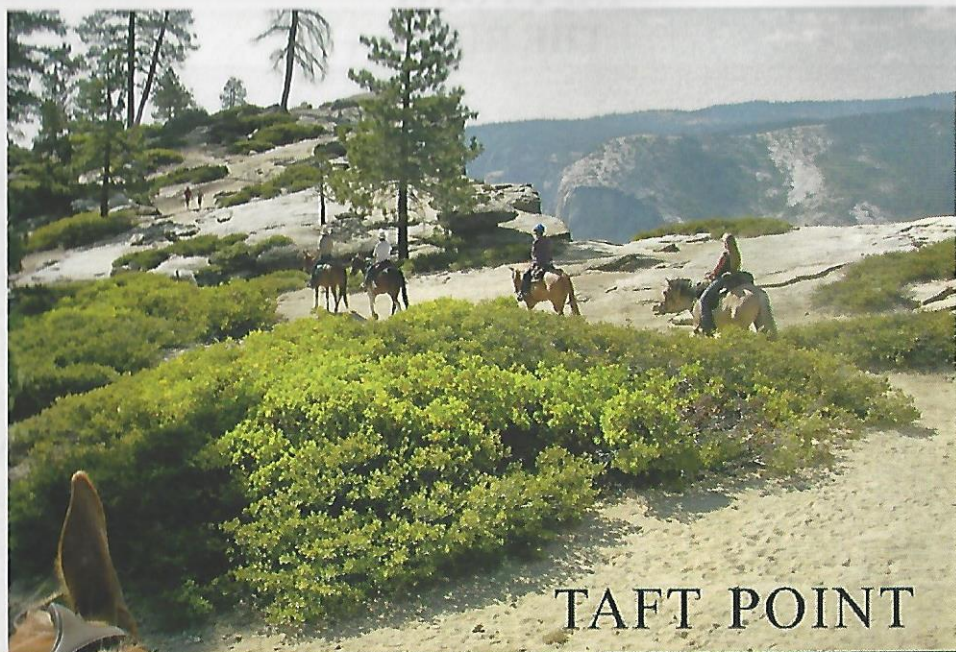




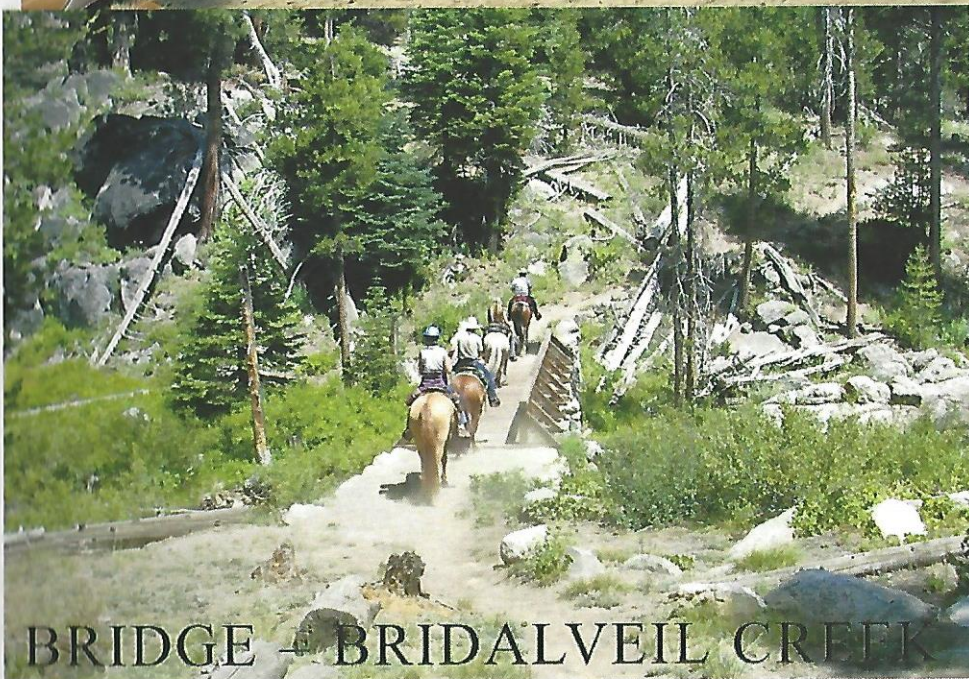
## TAFT POINT STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



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TAFT POINT



BRIDGE - BRIDALVEIL CREEK

# TAFT POINT THE RIDE



- Staging Area
- Trail
- Alt. Trail
- Destination

## TAFT POINT

### THE RIDE

#1 From the staging area, head west to the McGurk Meadow trailhead. Follow this single track trail down to McGurk Meadow and across the small footbridge. Meandering your way along the trail, you will ride through forests and meadows until you come to a signed fork in the trail.

#2 Heading right toward Taft Point, you are now on the historic Pohono Trail. At .3 miles you will come to Bridalveil Creek and the wooden bridge.

#3 Cross the bridge and wind your way up some steep climbs and through lush meadows.

#4 Approximately 4.7 miles from the bridge you will come to a rocky open area. This is Taft Point. Return the way you came.

#### **Alternate route from Bridalveil Campground**

#A Ride through the campground. At the camp entrance where there is an information board and telephone booth, turn left and ride around the gate. You will pass the generator house.

#B Just after a small creek, which may be a dry creek bed, is the trail junction. Turn right and follow this trail to Glacier Point Road. Cross the road and follow the above directions. This adds roughly 2 miles one way to your ride.

TAFT POINT  
TERRACE

# WAWONA POINT



## WAWONA POINT

**Riding Time:** 5+ hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 4000 – 6810

**Terrain:** Single track and wider trails with rocky areas. Most of the trail has dirt footing. Short paved road leading to Wawona Point.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Not super technical, but the ride does climb steadily and horses must be in good condition. There are a couple of narrow areas. The last leg leading to Wawona Point is on an old asphalt road which is rather slick for shod horses.

**Facilities:** None at the staging area. Although there are restrooms at the Mariposa Grove, they are not by the trail where horses are permitted.

**Water:** In spring, there are two small creeks where horses can get water. In summer, there are no places to water the horses.

**Camping:** Bridalveil and Wawona horse camps. Primitive camping at the Snow Play Area, just south of the South Entrance into Yosemite.

**Staging Area:** Unmarked dirt turnout approximately 2 ½ miles inside the south entrance. The turnout is on the right and can accommodate 3 rigs. Do not block the gate.

**Attention:** The Outer Loop Trail within the Mariposa Grove is shared with hikers. If your horse makes a "deposit", please be courteous and kick it off the trail. Yosemite National Park has an entrance fee of \$20 which is good for 7 days.

**About the Area & Ride:** The village of Wawona was established around 1855 as a way station and resting place for visitors on their way to the Yosemite Valley. Because of the lush meadows and rushing streams, it was a favorite stop over. Shortly, an Inn was built and thereafter the historic Wawona Hotel. The wooden covered bridge spanning the south fork of the Merced River is still in use today. The Post Office/General Store is very much the way it was 50 years ago, with the addition of a gift shop. The hotel, although completely renovated, has the charm of the early 1900s. The Pioneer History Center will take you back in time. The Wawona Golf Course, the first golf course in the Sierras, is still in full operation today.

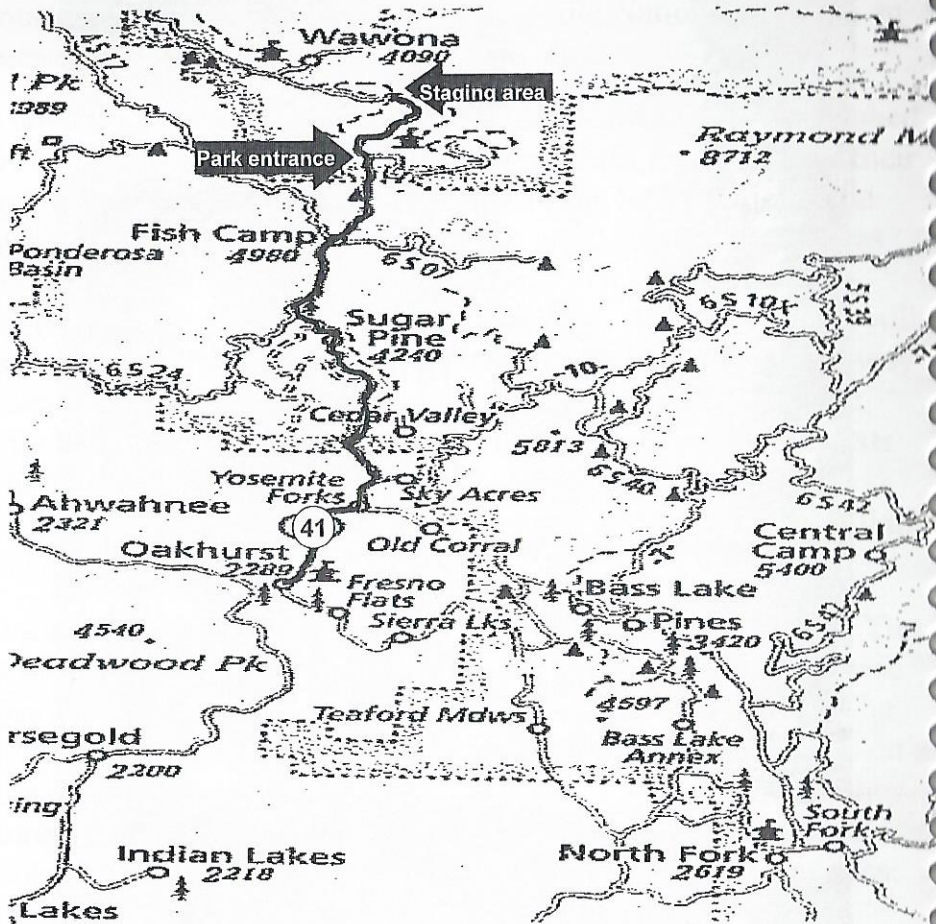
Once you reach the Mariposa Grove, you will be turning left. You won't see the Giant Sequoias right away, but will soon pass these magnificent beauties in large clusters. Bring your cameras! The lower asphalt road is used by trams taking tourists and visitors on a tour through the grove. If you see a tram, be sure to wave as they think we are part of the show! When you reach Wawona Point, look very closely and you might see the turnout and staging area. The view of the meadow and golf course is spectacular.



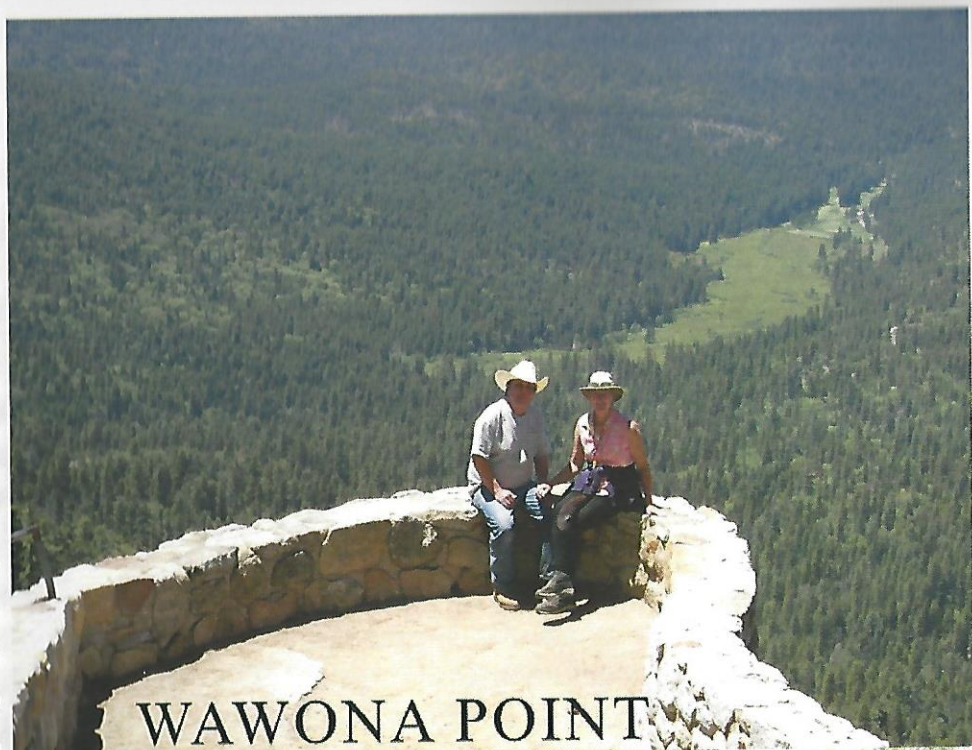
**Outer Loop Trail**



# WAWONA POINT STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



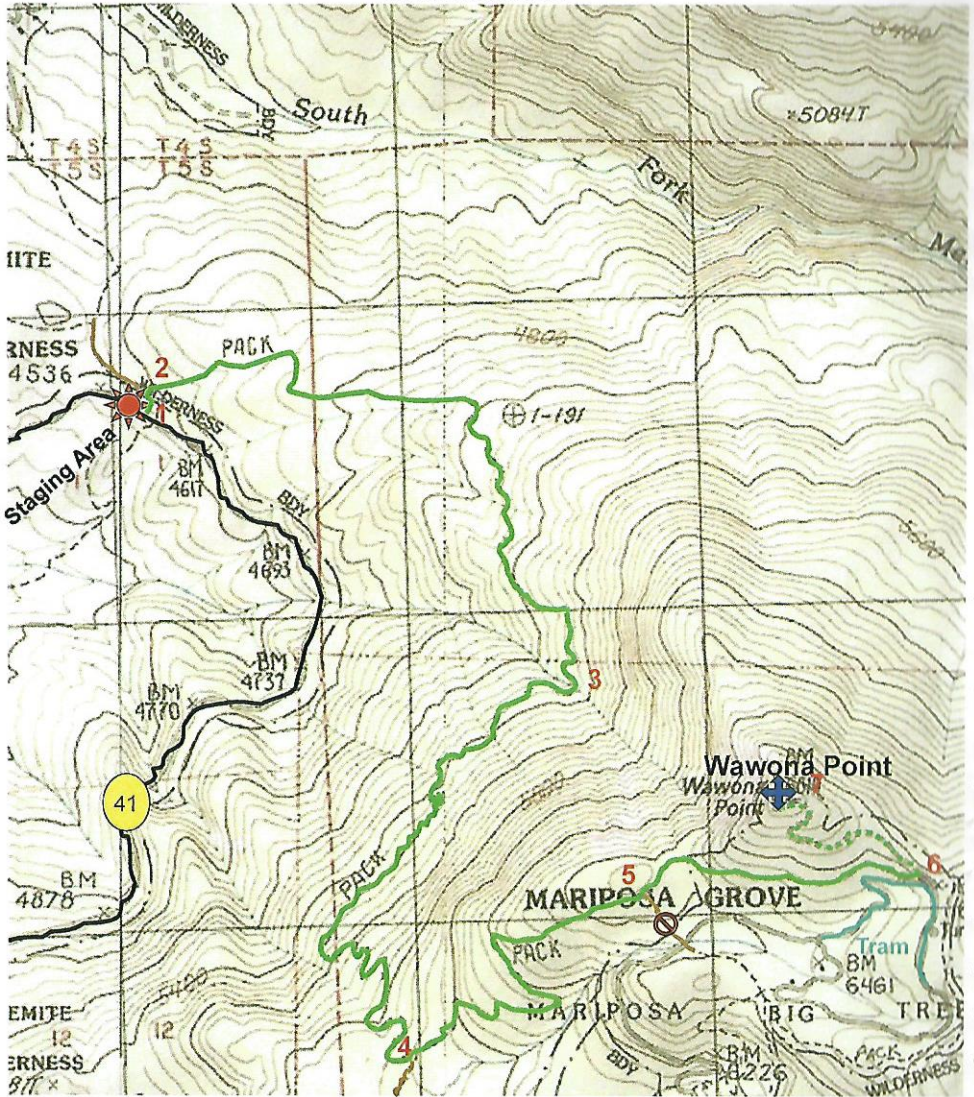
From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41, 13 miles to the Yosemite National Park entrance. Turn left after entering and drive approximately 2.5 miles. Look to your right for an unmarked dirt turnout with a green forestry gate. This is the staging area.



WAWONA POINT



# WAWONA POINT THE RIDE



Staging Area



Asphalt Trail



Destination

## WAWONA POINT

### THE RIDE

- #1 Leaving the staging area, take the trail heading right.
- #2 Shortly you will come to a fork in the trail. Stay to the left. You will make a gradual climb on a single track trail.
- #3 Approximately 2 miles into the ride the trail gets a little rocky and washed out, but soon returns to nice footing. You will begin a series of switchbacks. The trail flattens out as you enter the Mariposa Grove.
- #4 At the "T" intersection you will be turning left toward Wawona Point. **Note:** In spring there is a possibility of water for the horses if you turn right. Do not go farther than the creek. Horses are not permitted any farther on this trail. Go back to the "T" and head toward Wawona Point.
- #5 When you come to the clusters of Sequoias, you must stay on the trail. You are not permitted on any trails except the Outer Loop with horses.
- #6 When you reach the junction with asphalt roads, make a sharp left. You are now on the last stretch to Wawona Point.
- #7 Wawona Point offers spectacular views of the Wawona Meadow and golf course. Be sure to clean up any of those "deposits". Return the same way you came.



**Fern Grotto at Fish Camp**

# FISH CAMP

FISH CAMP LOOP

KELTY MEADOW

NELDER GROVE

MARIPOSA GROVE  
BILEDO MEADOW

# FISH CAMP LOOP



## FISH CAMP LOOP

**Riding Time:** 3 – 5 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5089 – 5921

**Terrain:** Mostly single track horse trails with a short distance on a forest service dirt road.

**Difficulty:** This trail could be a challenge for a horse with no mountain training. It is well maintained, but there are obstacles. You have water crossings with river rock and sand bottoms, step ups and downs through exposed tree roots, steep downhill switchbacks through rocks, a few areas with steep drop offs and a short area through lava rock. Don't let us scare you off. This is a great trail ride and one of our favorites during the hot summer months. Just be prepared.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** No water at staging areas, but plenty on the trail.

**Camping:** The closest camping is at the Snow Play Area, past Fish Camp. It is primitive, wilderness camping.

**Staging Area:** There are two options and both are dirt. The first has room for 4 rigs easily. Starting here extends your ride by 15 minutes. The second is smaller and has room for 3 rigs.

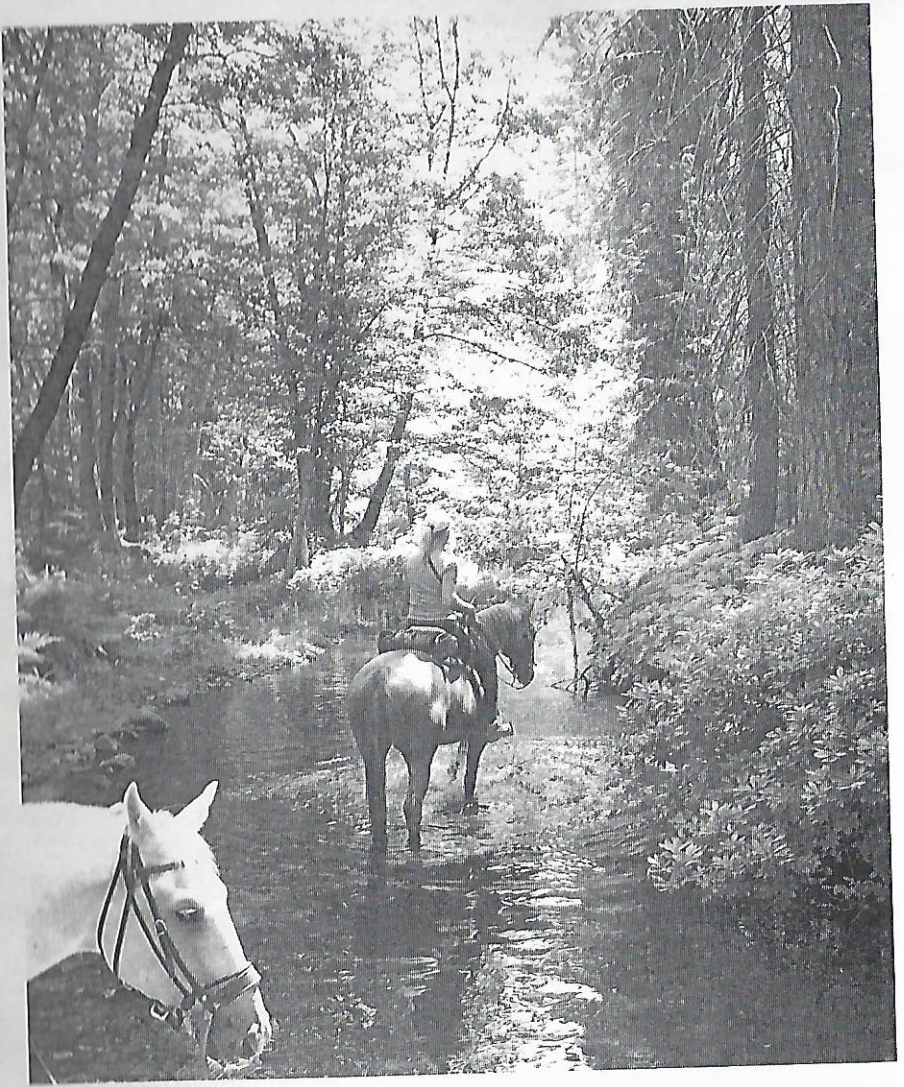


**Attention:** These trails are ridden and maintained by the Yosemite Trails Pack Station. We ask that you please be respectful and give right of way to these riders. They ride in a counter clockwise direction.

**About the Area & Ride:** You will love this ride! The trail meanders along Big Creek & Rainier Creek much of the time. It is well shaded by large pines and cedars and enormous black oaks. Buffin Meadow is green and lush, and a nice spot to have lunch and let your horses graze. Once down the switchbacks, if you make a sharp right when you come to the 3-way intersection, you will wind your way down to the creek. To the left is a picnic table which is another nice place to stop for lunch.

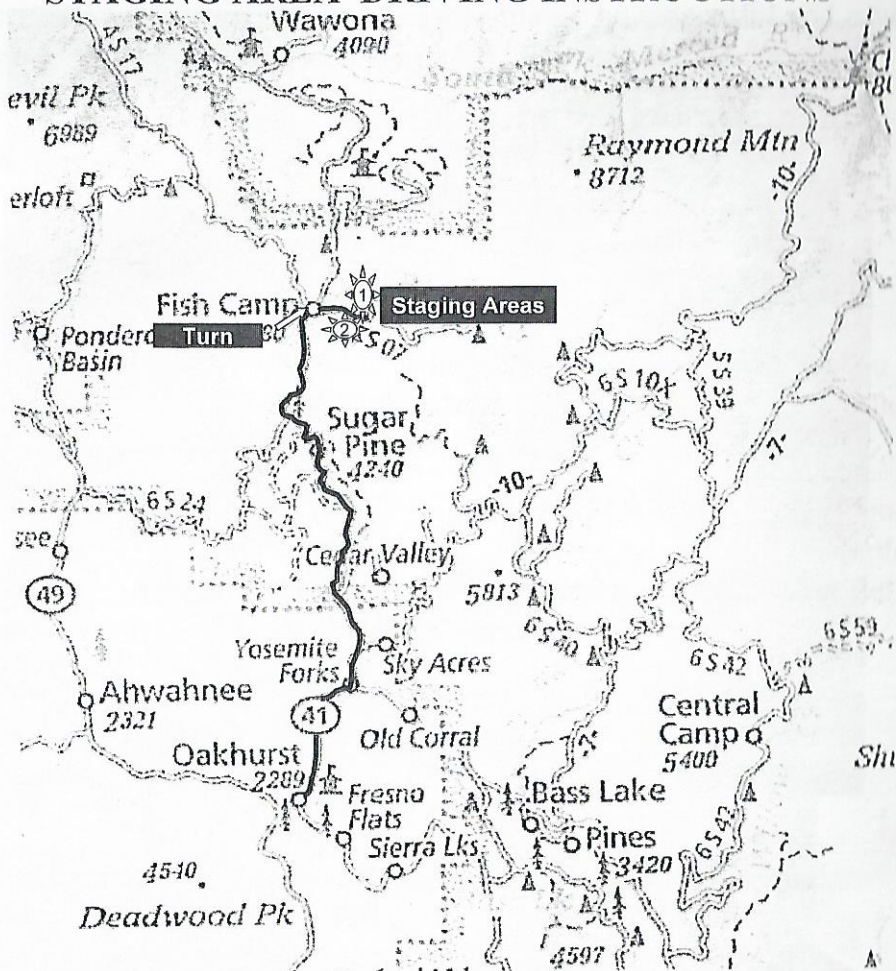
There are many options to this trail system, which you will see on your map. You can customize your ride to be long or just a couple of hours. The directions we have given are for the long loop ride. Alternate routes are also noted.



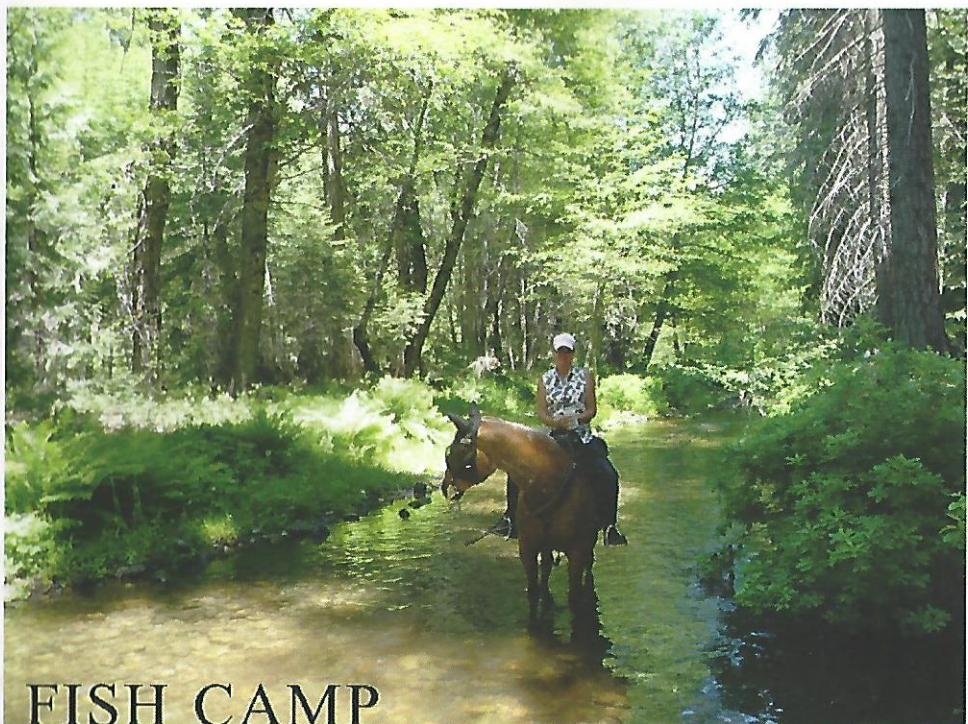


**Big Creek at Fish Camp**

# FISH CAMP LOOP STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41 approximately 10 miles to Jackson Rd., just before Teneya Lodge. Follow the public horseback riding signs to the right. The road forks, head through the green gate #6S07. #1 Staging area. Start looking for a large dirt turnout on your left not very far down the road. #2 Staging area. Drive 1 mile from Hwy 41 until you see a dirt turnout on your right. This is just before the stables. It is best to back in for, an easy out.



## FISH CAMP



# FISH CAMP LOOP

## THE RIDE



-  Staging Areas
-  Trail
-  Side Trails
-  Dirt Roads
-  Culvert

## FISH CAMP LOOP

### THE RIDE

#### Directions from Staging Area #1

#1 Cross the road and follow the dirt road up a steep hill. Watch on the left for an opening in the brush. Turn left and follow this trail which comes out at Staging Area #2, just before the Pack Station.

#### Directions from Staging Area #2

#1 Ride to the right when leaving the staging area. As you pass in front of the pack station, you will pass a trail on your left. This is your return trail. At the pack station entrance, watch for another trail on your left. This is the one you want to take.

#2 Ride to the first water crossing. Cross the creek and turn left. At the log gate, you can go straight ahead or turn right. Take the trail to the right. Open the gate if needed, but please close it after passing through. In other words, leave the gate as you found it.

#3 Your second water crossing is a step down. Follow the river at an angle to the right and pick up the trail on the other side. Farther up the trail you will pass other intersecting trails. Continue straight on the main trail.

#4 When you come to a culvert crossing, you will notice that it intersects with another trail. This is the Old Railroad Grade Trail which is in our second book. Stay on the main trail over the culvert.

**#5** Ride until you see another trail heading to the right. Take this trail to the right. You may see another faint trail also on your right before this one, but it will take you back to the old trail. Follow your map carefully.

**#6** Follow this trail until you come to another intersection. This again is the old trail. Stay on the main trail heading straight.

**#7** You will pass Buffin Meadow on your left. Continue on the trail until you come to a dirt road (5S06). Cross the road and pick the trail back up on the other side.

**#8** You will come to another road. Cross slightly to your left and pick up the trail on the other side. Take this trail to the next wilderness road and go to the left. You may see a metal T-post on your left just after crossing the first road. This is a short cut trail. Check your map.

**#9** Follow the wilderness road until you come to the main trail on your left. It is well used. You will take this trail. However, if you feel your horses need a drink of water, continue a short distance on the road to the creek before taking this trail.

**#10** Ride until you come to road (5S06). Before you reach this road you will be passing another trail intersection. This is the short cut that was mentioned. Farther, you will see another trail to the right which is just before you reach the road. This trail will take you to the Snow Play Area.

**#11** Cross the road. A little to the left is the trail which is hidden slightly by trees. Take this trail.

#12 Follow this trail. It will cross another dirt road. Continue straight ahead on the main trail.

#13 Ride until you come to a "T" intersection. You will be turning right. Turning left will take you back to the culvert crossing.

#14 Follow this deeply grooved, rocky switchback trail. When you come to a split on the trail, stay to the right (left will take you back to the log gate). Just a little farther is another split. Turn right and head down to the picnic table. Staying straight is a short cut, bypassing the picnic area.

#15 After passing the picnic table you will come to a split. Stay to the left (straight is a dead end). You will head up the hill and at the top, turn right. Stay on this trail until you reach the creek crossing. The crossing has stair steps on either side. After crossing, follow the trail back to Jackson Road and the pack station.

#16 At the pack station, turn right and ride back to your trailers.



# KELTY MEADOW



## KELTY MEADOW

**Riding Time:** 5 hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5800 - 6150

**Terrain:** Single track trails and forest service roads.

**Difficulty:** Moderately difficult with some climbs. You will navigate through brush and trees. There are rocky areas. One tricky creek crossing above Soquel Meadow.

**Facilities:** None at the staging area. Outhouses at Nelder Grove and Kelty Meadow.

**Water:** Several creek crossings.

**Camping:** Kelty Meadow (do the ride in reverse) and nearby Texas Flat group camp.

**Staging Area:** Dirt turn around that will fit several rigs. In spring, it may be muddy and require a 4-wheel drive truck.

**Attention:** Do not attempt to drive into Nelder Grove unless you have a good 4-wheel drive truck. It is a steep, narrow single lane gravel road. We don't recommend it.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is another one of our favorite rides. To start, you ride through a forest of second growth pine, fir, incense cedar, dogwood and Giant Sequoias. Most of the sequoias were harvested in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century after the original owner, John Nelder, died. You will ride to the “Bull Buck” tree. The base is almost 30 feet in diameter at chest height. Looking up you may feel like falling over backwards as your eyes scan up 274 feet to the top. With a spread of 71 feet at the crown, this enormous beauty is estimated to be 2,700 years old. Imagine that!

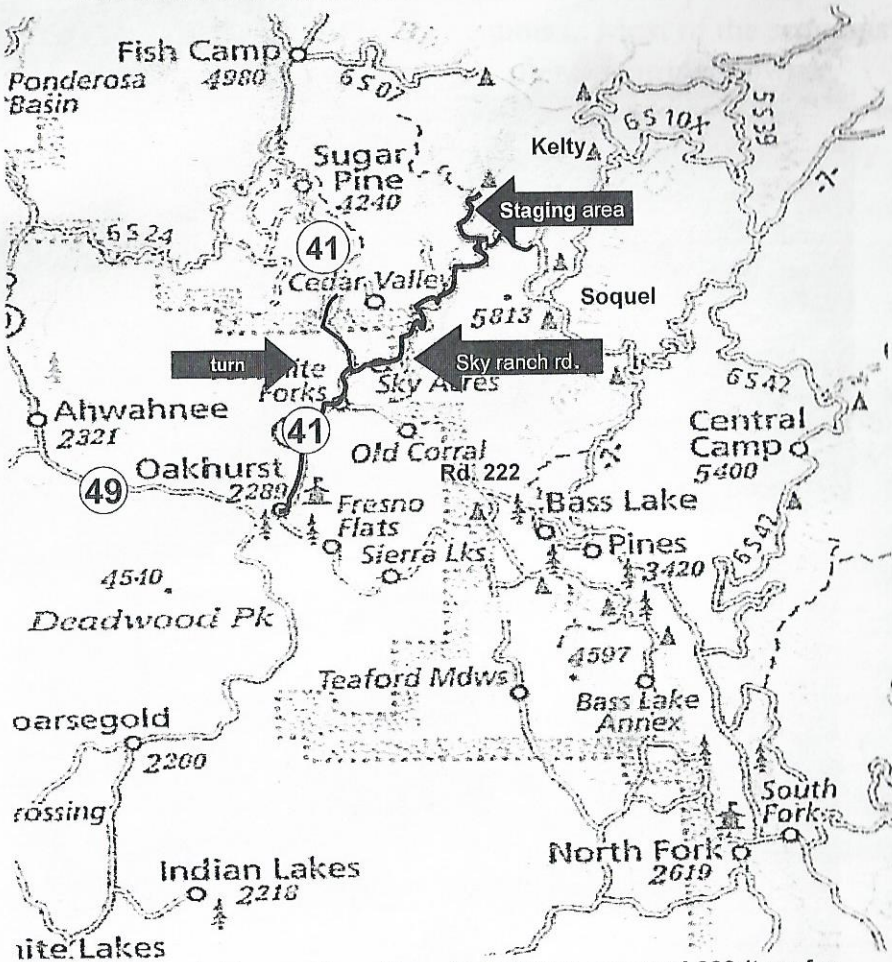
After a ride through thick forest, you come to a clearing with beautiful mountain views. You will descend to a dirt road and down a trail to a creek crossing at the top of Soquel Meadow. You will climb again until reaching the last turn toward Kelty Meadow. There is a nice creek, lush grass and an amazing view of Fresno Dome.





Kelty Meadow in the Fall

# KELTY MEADOW STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

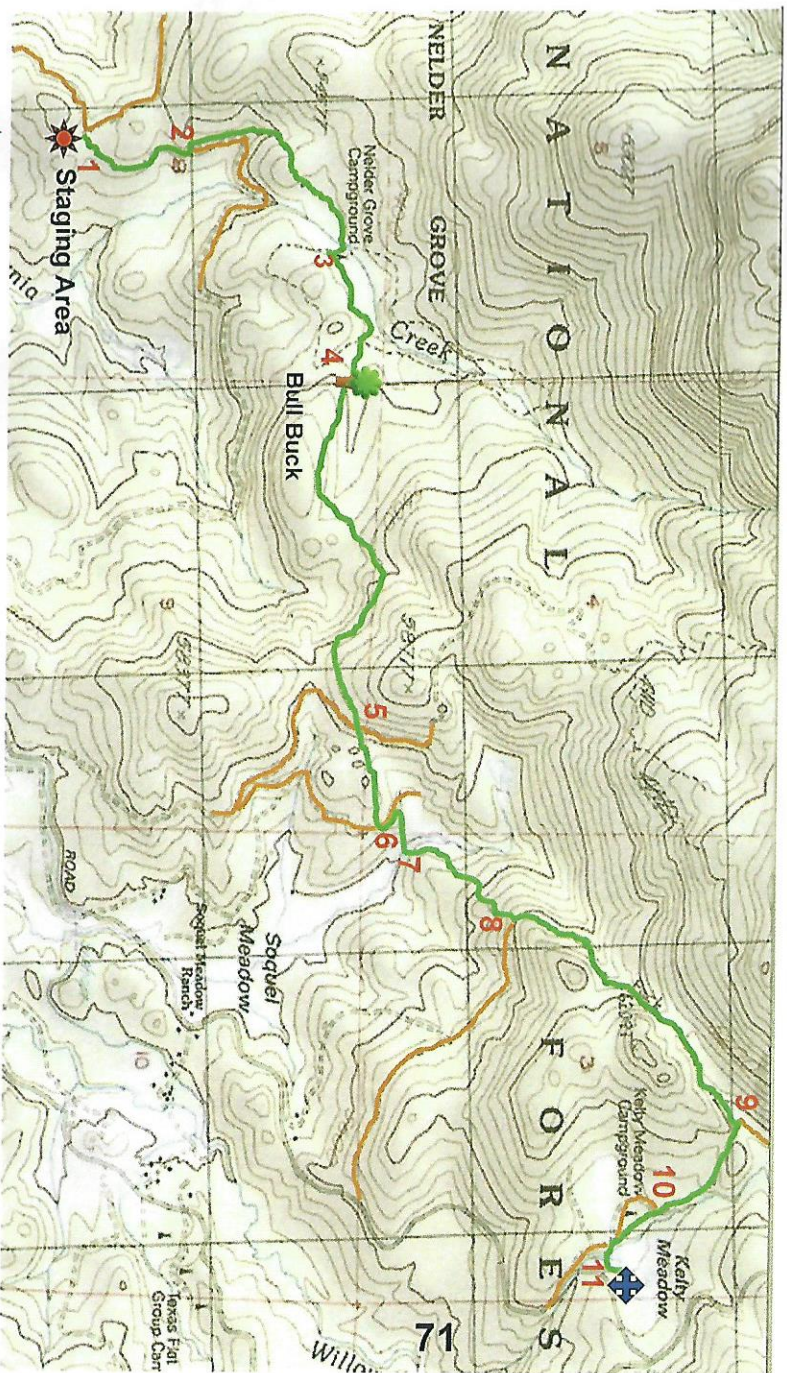


From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41 until you see road 222 (turn for Bass Lake) and start counting mileage. Continue on 41 for ½ mile. Make a right turn on road 632 (Sky Ranch Rd.). Drive for 6.8 miles until you come to a split in the road. Go left on road 6S47Y towards Nelder Grove for 1.2 miles. The staging area is on the right where the large sign is "NELDER GROVE INFORMATION"

# KELTY MEADOW



# KELTY MEADOW THE RIDE



Staging Area



Trail



Bull Buck Tree



Destination

## KELTY MEADOW

### THE RIDE

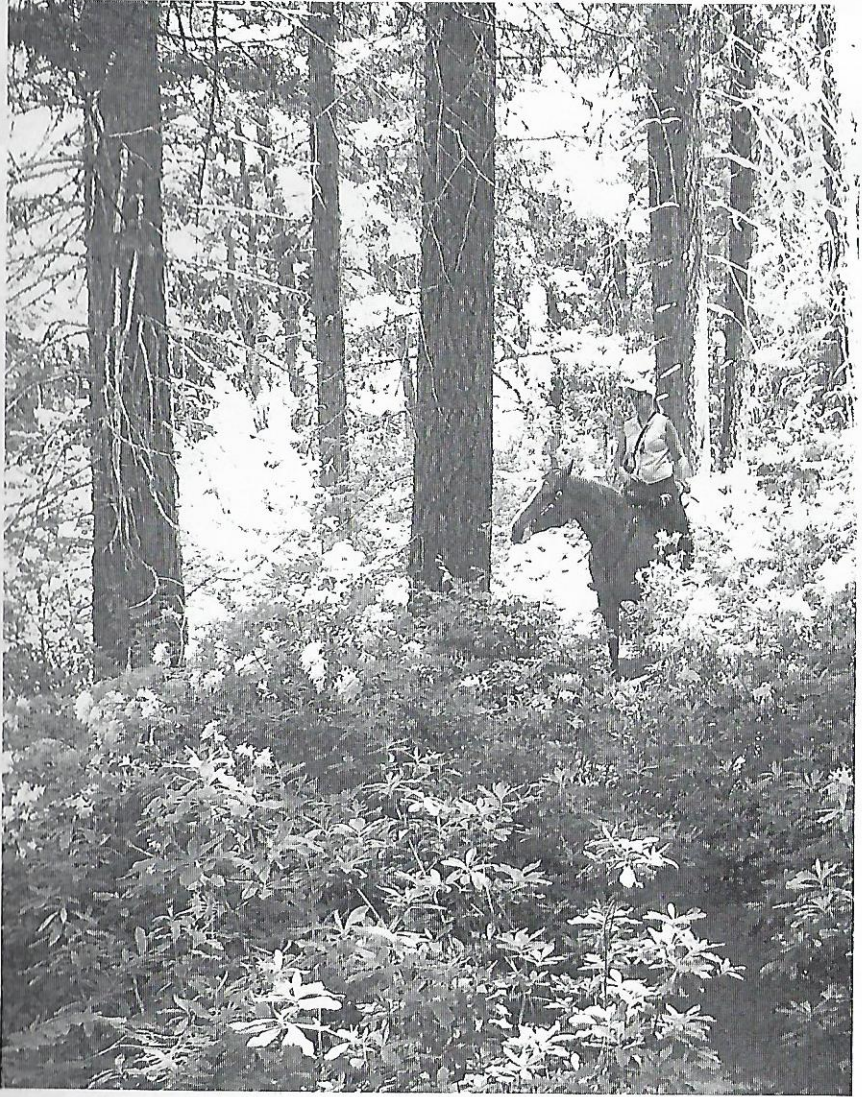
- #1 From the staging area, turn right and ride the road toward Nelder Grove.
- #2 Turn left at the Nelder Grove entrance. Ride past the cabins and over the creek (culvert).
- #3 Turn left, riding around the gate.
- #4 Ride to the Bull Buck Tree. This is a great spot for a photograph. Just to the left of the tree is our trail. Take this trail, which heads right, until you come out onto a dirt road.
- #5 Cross the road. Look for the pink and yellow flagging at the opening directly across the road. The opening changes from time to time because of the rapidly growing brush, but it never varies more than 20 feet or so. Follow the single track until you come to a dirt road.
- #6 Turn left and ride the road a short distance. Watch for the pink and yellow flagging on the right at the trailhead. If you come to another road or a dead end, you have gone too far.
- #7 Take the single track trail down to the creek. Cross the creek and pick up the trail on the other side. It will head to the right. It will then make a sharp left.
- #8 Follow this trail until you come to another dirt road. Turn left and follow this trail past a large, cut out fallen tree. Just past the tree is a trail to the right. Take this trail which will become a small road.



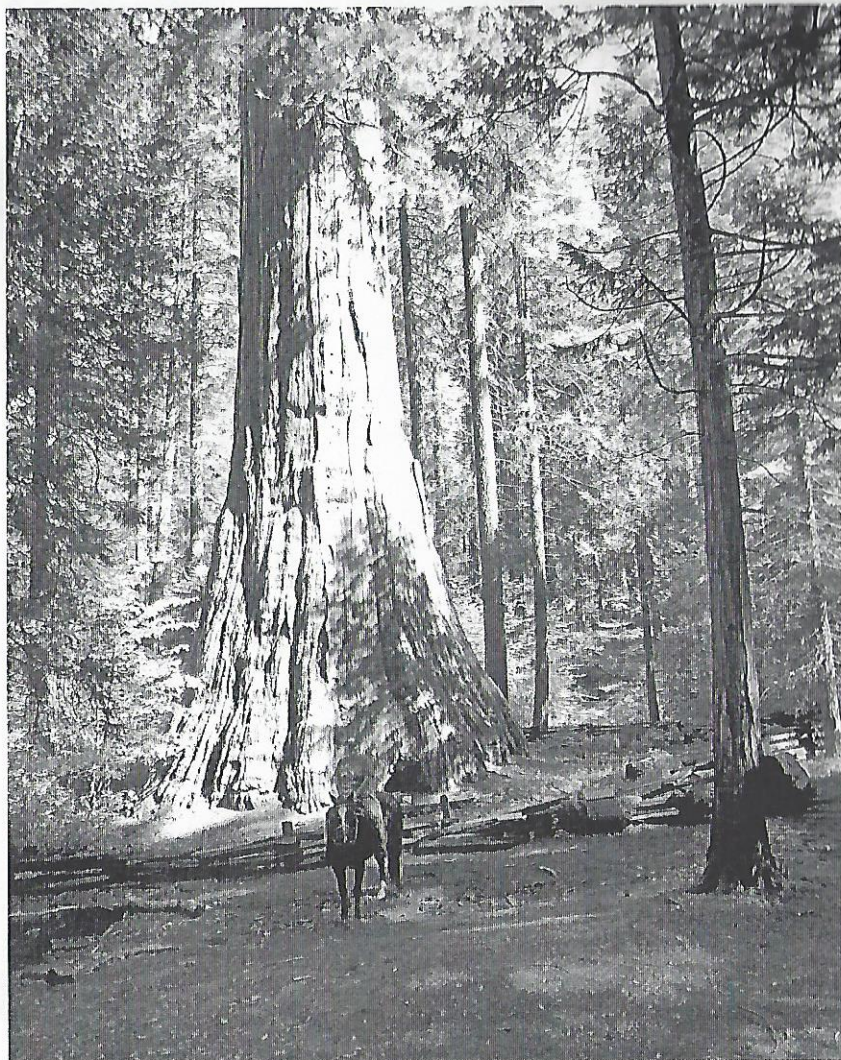
**#9** Ride until you see a small meadow on the left and another small road heading to the right. Turn right on this road which will take you to Kelty Meadow Campground.

**#10** Ride through the campground, watching for the meadow on the left. Cross the creek into the meadow. Return the way you came.





# NELDER GROVE



## NELDER GROVE

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5800 – 6250

**Terrain:** Forest service roads for part of the ride and then a very old single lane road that winds through the pines and redwoods (no motorized vehicles allowed on this part of the trail).

**Difficulty:** This is a relatively easy ride. There are some uphill climbs at the beginning, but they are gradual. You will be riding through cut, downed trees in places. Brush that is close to the trail may rub against the side of your horse. There is one area where a spring occasionally runs down the trail. There are a couple of rocky areas where equine tennis shoes are recommended for barefoot horses. You may see motorized vehicles on this ride. This is a good ride for a horse and rider wanting to gain mountain experience.

**Facilities:** None at the staging area. Outhouse facilities at Nelder Grove and Shadow of the Giants.

**Water:** California Creek at Nelder Grove, several seasonal runoff creeks on the trail and a creek at Shadow of the Giants.

**Camping:** Kelty Meadow and Texas Flat group camp.

**Staging Area:** Shaded dirt turn around that will accommodate several rigs. May require 4x4 trucks when muddy.

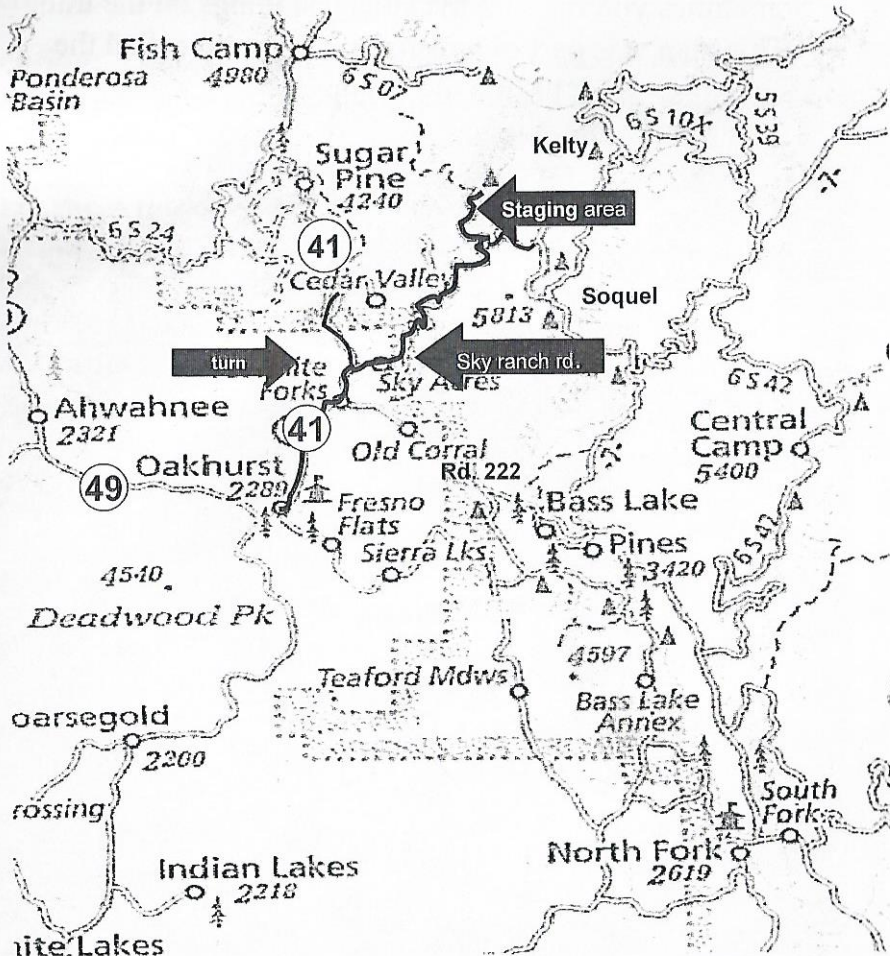
**Attention:** Do not attempt to drive into Nelder Grove unless you have 4 wheel drive and a good truck. It is a steep, single lane dirt road with gravel. We do not recommend driving there.

**About the Area & Ride:** Nelder Grove is over 15,000 acres containing Giant Sequoias intermingled in a forest of second growth fir, pine and incense cedar. From 1878 to the mid 1890s, Madera Flume and Trading logged in and around the grove. From 1888 until 1892, California Mill #4 was located within the grove. The grove is now owned by the Forest Service. The Bull Buck tree, at 246 feet in height and a circumference at ground level of 99 feet, is well worth checking out. It is located in Nelder Grove. Also, the Shadow of the Giants, with its own Giant Sequoias, is near the end of the ride. There, you can water your horses at the creek and have lunch before heading back to the trailers. The ride has spectacular views, and if you look carefully you will catch a glimpse of Tenaya Lodge in the distance. Keep a sharp eye, as there are many Giant Sequoias hidden among the pines.....some right next to the trail! You may also hear the whistle of the Sugar Pine railroad.

Sometimes you run into the strangest things on the trail.  
This man was part of a reenactment group called the  
"1779 Rifle Company"

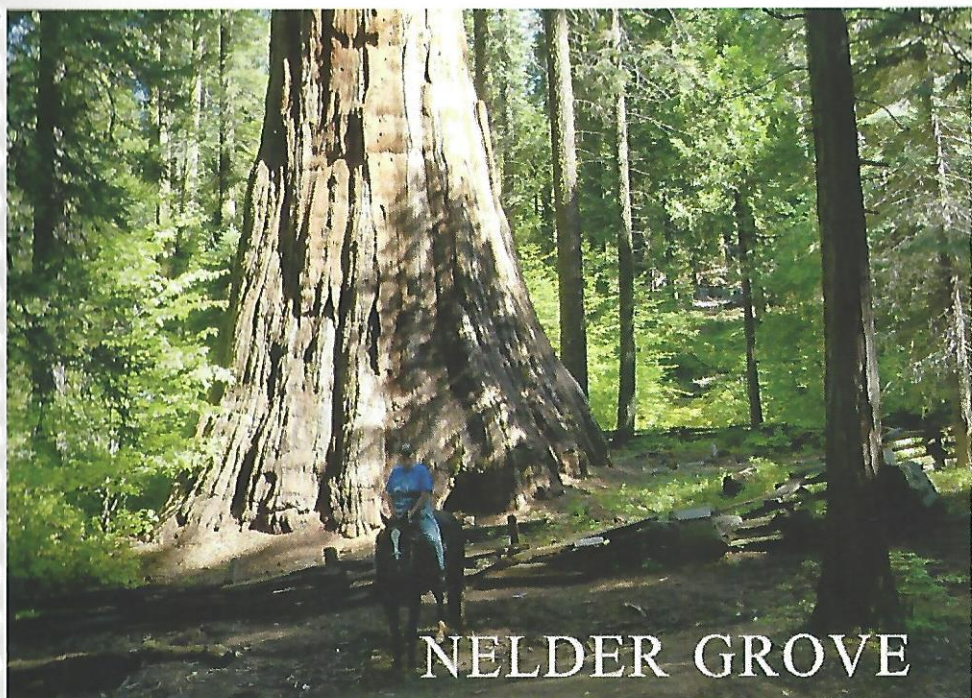


# NELDER GROVE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



White Lakes

From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41 until you see road 222 (turn for Bass Lake) and start counting mileage. Continue on 41 for 1/2 mile. Make a right turn on road 632 (Sky Ranch Rd.). Drive for 6.8 miles until you come to a split in the road. Go left on road 6S47Y towards Nelder Grove for 1.2 miles. The staging area is on the right where the large sign is "NELDER GROVE INFORMATION"

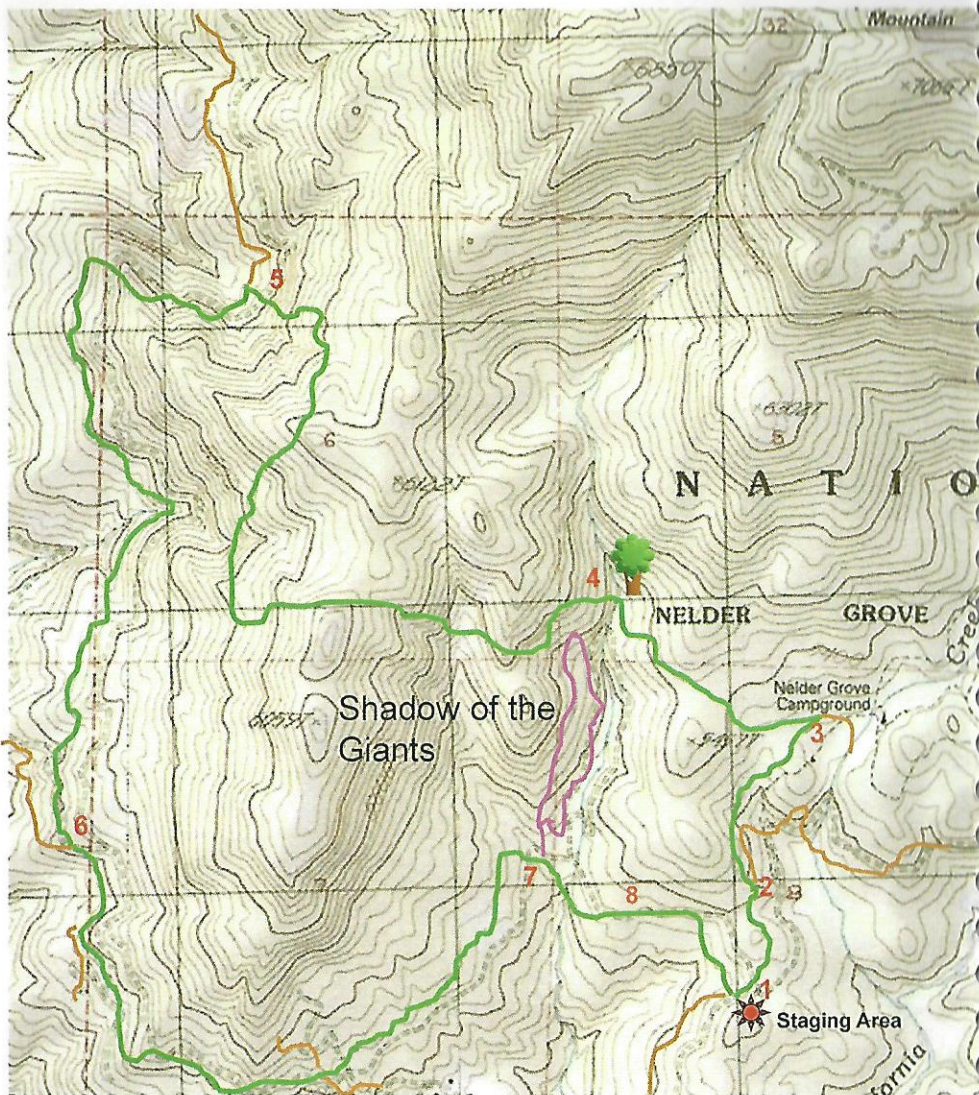


NELDER GROVE





# NELDER GROVE LOOP THE RIDE



-  Staging Area
-  Trail
-  Shadow of the Giants

## NELDER GROVE

### THE RIDE

- #1 Leaving the staging area, head right on the main road.
- #2 When you see the sign for Nelder Grove, turn left. Follow the road past the cabins. Start looking on the left for a sign that says "Old Grandad and Hawksworth Trees". This is the trailhead.
- #3 Follow the single track trail which heads left. Be sure to look around as you ride so you don't miss any of the Giant Sequoias. At the top of a rocky grade is a tree across the trail. It is low enough that you may want to dismount and walk underneath.
- #4 When you come to a sign pointing to the right for the "Old Grandad" tree, you may wish to take this short side trip. The view of the "Old Grandad" tree with his outspread branches sheltering the young sequoias (his grandchildren) is quite a sight to see. Return to the main trail.
- #5 Continue your ride until you come to a large dirt turnout. Look to the left and you will see a road. Take this road to the left.
- #6 Follow this road until you come to another road. Take this road to the left.
- #7 Stay on this road. Eventually you will see a sign for the "Shadow of the Giants". To your right will be picnic tables and the creek.
- #8 Continue on this road which will bring you back to your trailers.

MARIPOSA GROVE  
BILEDO MEADOW



## MARIPOSA GROVE

### BILED0 MEADOW

**Riding Time:** 5 hours

**Trail Type:** Semi loop

**Season:** Late May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5521 – 6738

**Terrain:** Single track trails, dirt forestry roads, some rocky areas, and possible boggy areas.

**Difficulty:** You will be at a steady, gradual climb until you reach the turnoff for Biledo Meadow. The first part of the trail has a boggy area. Cross this carefully. When leaving Biledo Meadow, you will be riding over a very rocky dirt road for approximately one mile. I always put the equine tennis shoes on my horse for this stretch of the trail.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Creek crossing before entering the Mariposa Grove. Creek at Biledo Meadow. No creek crossings on the return.

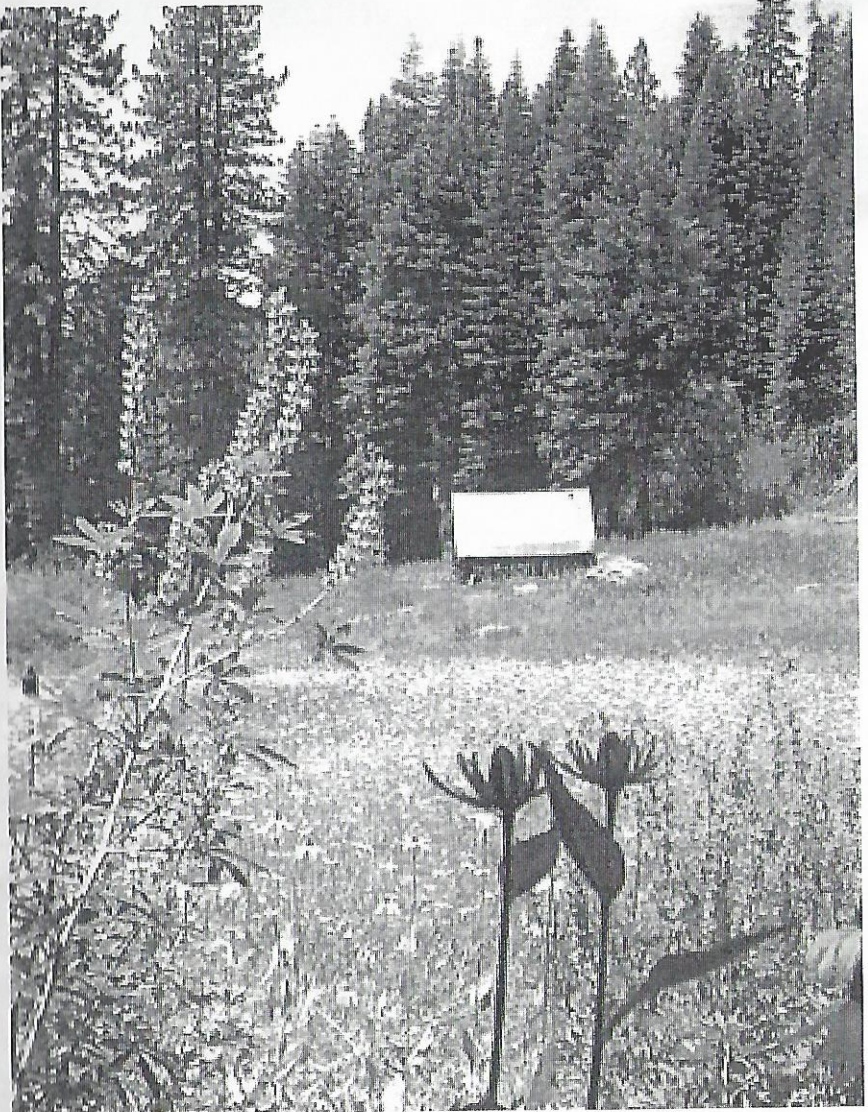
**Camping:** Primitive camping at the Snow Play Area.

**Staging Area:** Very large asphalt and dirt parking area.

**Attention:** Part of this ride includes the trail used by the pack station. Please give them right of way. When in the Mariposa Grove, you will be on the Outer Loop Trail which is a heavily used hiking trail. If your horse “deposits” here, please kick it from the trail. Horses are only allowed on the Outer Loop. You will be making all right hand turns at junctions. When in the Mariposa Grove, you have ample opportunities for photographs by the Sequoias right there on the trail. There is no need to venture off the trail for that special picture. It is also not allowed.

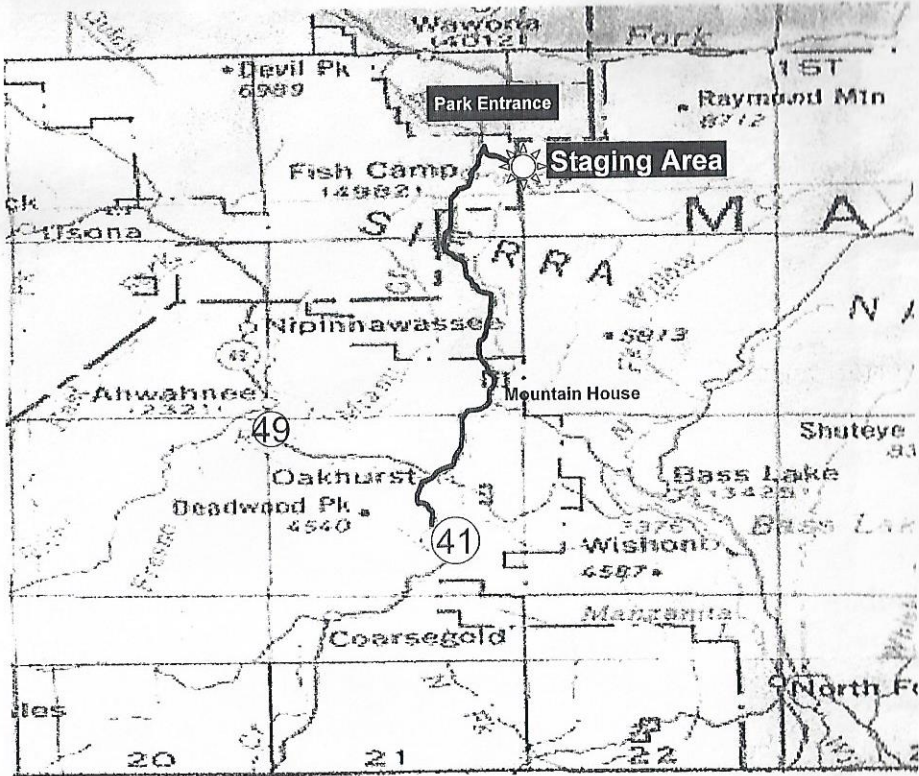
**About the Area & Ride:** This is one of those rides that you will remember forever if you time it right with the profuse wildflower bloom. The best time is July into August. The trail to Biledo Meadow from the Mariposa Grove is an old cavalry trail. It was also the route of a water pipeline from Biledo to the Grove. You will see remnants of pipes and valves along the way.

Biledo Meadow is at an elevation of 7000 feet on the southern slope of Mount Raymond. The trail from the grove to the meadow is lined with Sugar Pine, Incense Cedar and Jeffery Pine until you reach an open area which was the result of fire. It is now covered with brush and Manzanita. A few rustic cabins of the miners working on Mount Raymond remain. One of the cabins at Biledo was disassembled and moved to the cabin display in the Nelder Grove. The meadow is abundant with Cone flower, Lupine, Shooting Star, Sierra Rein-Orchid, Indian Paint brush, and Larkspur which are taller than you will ever see in a garden environment. There is a natural spring at the north end which feeds into Rainier Creek.

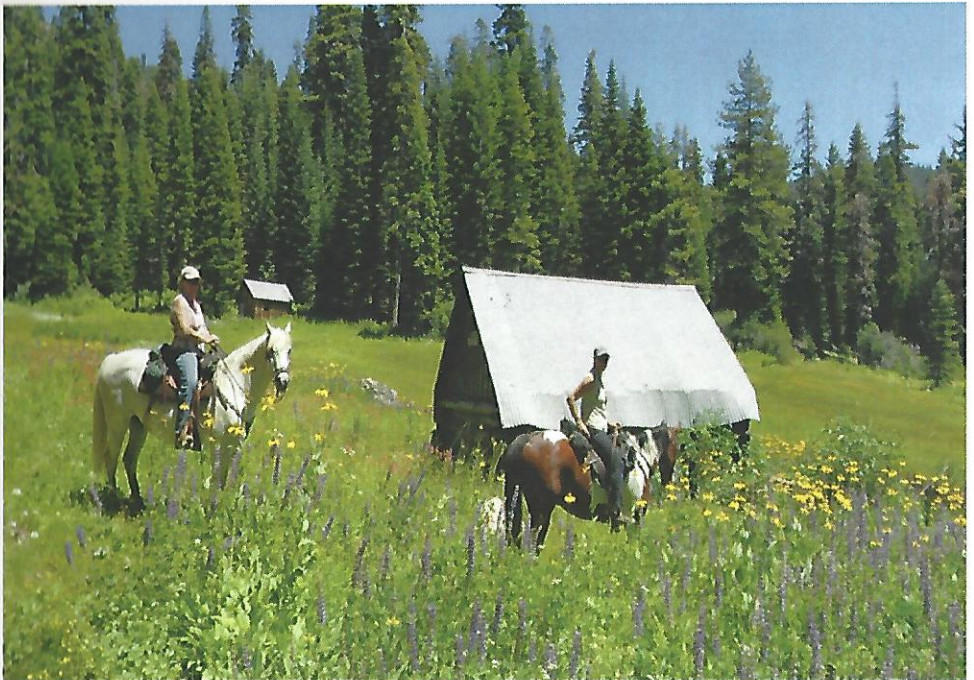


**Biledo Meadow**

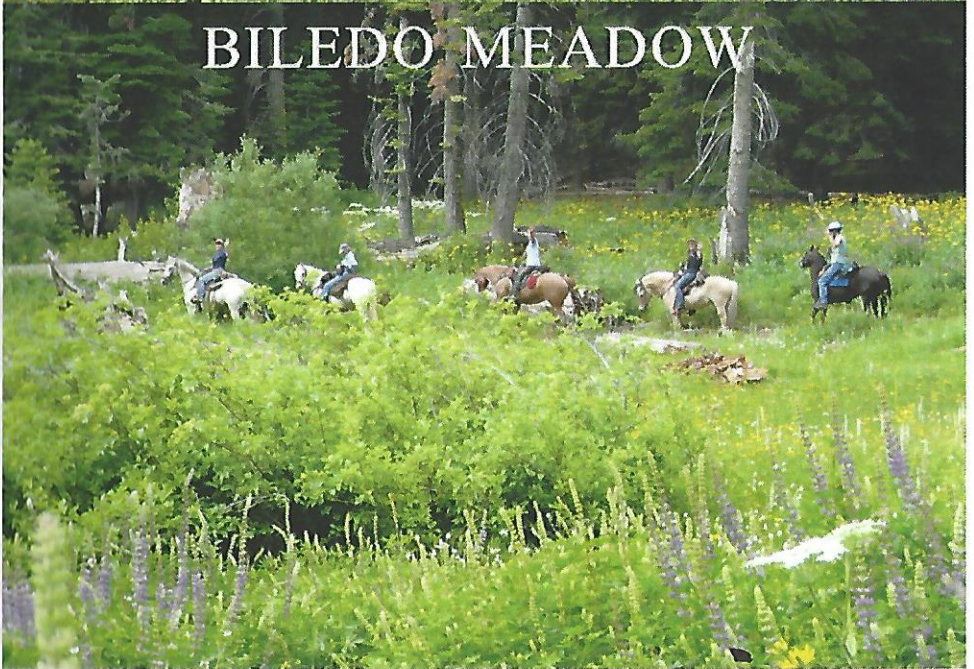
# MARIPOSA GROVE \_ BILEDOMEADOW STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41. Stay on 41 for approximately 11.7 miles to the snow play area. It is located on the right hand side just past a sign for Yosemite National Park. Go slow as it is just past a curve and hard to see. Turn right and travel up the road .8 miles. You will come to a chain link fenced area. Staging Area "A". There will be a road to the right turning to dirt. It is a large camping area so you have many spots to choose from. Staging Area "B". Turn left, staying on the paved road. Just before you enter the large paved parking area there is a turn into a dirt primitive camp site on the left. Or you can park in the asphalt parking area.



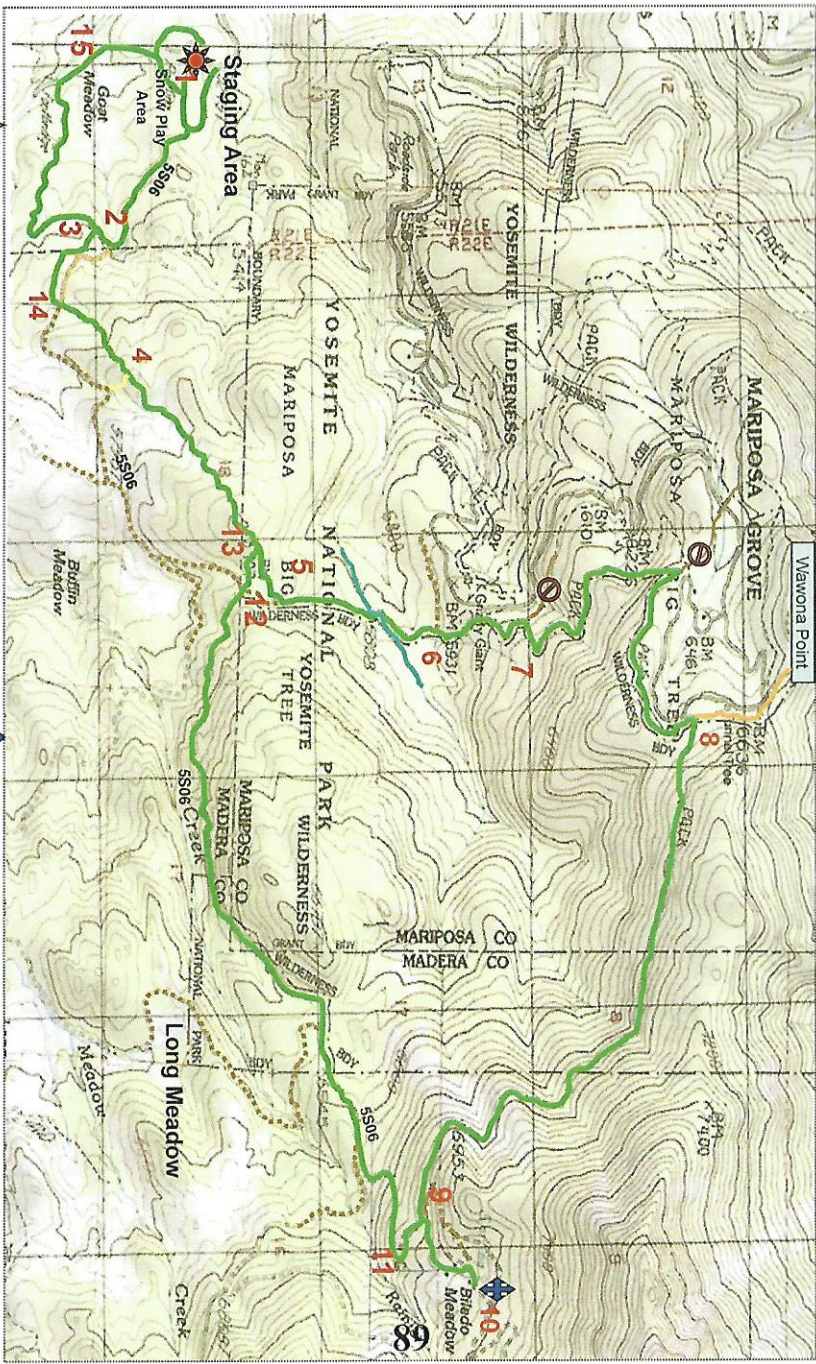
## BILEDO MEADOW





# MARIPOSA GROVE – BILED0 MEADOW

## THE RIDE



Staging Area



Trail



Destination



Option

## MARIPOSA GROVE

### BILED0 MEADOW

#### THE RIDE

- #1 When leaving the staging area, go back to the main road and turn right. Or, you can ride through the asphalt parking lot and head up the hill which will also take you to the road.
- #2 Follow this road until you come to a spur road on the right. Take this road a short distance and watch for the trail heading left just before the road veers right. Take the left trail. **Option:** You can also ride the main road to the junction where the trail crosses the road, bypassing the first short leg of trail.
- #3 Follow this trail until you come to a fork on the left. Ahead will be a large rock outcropping. Take the trail to the left which leads to the road. Cross the road and pick the trail back up (it is a little to the right, but quite overgrown and easy to miss).
- #4 Stay on this trail until you cross a couple of downed logs just before a trail intersection. Turn left onto the trail. Remember this spot for your return ride, as this is easy to miss. Continue on this trail, which has many spurs, until you arrive at a dirt road.
- #5 Follow the road to the left. You will cross a creek.
- #6 Stay on the road until it curves left and right. Take the right turn. There will be a large downed tree over the trail with a cut out section. After a short distance is the trail on the left heading into the Mariposa Grove. Watch carefully for this trail.

#7 Follow all marked trails to the right. Remember that horses are not allowed on any trail but the Outer Loop. There are no exceptions!

#8 You will be on this Outer Loop trail for quite some time, always making those right hand turns at the junctions. When you come to the sign for the fallen tunnel tree, start looking for the trail to Biledo Meadow which will be on the right. If you get to the tunnel tree, you've gone too far. **Option:** If you want to continue to Wawona Point, stay on the main trail until it reaches the asphalt. Continue on the far right side road leading to Wawona Point.

#9 Continue on the trail to Biledo Meadow. You will come to a dirt road. Cross the road and make the uphill climb to the meadow.

#10 Take the trail on the left all the way around, cross the creek and have lunch by the cabin. There are many places where you can tie horses.

#11 Retrace your steps back to the last road you crossed. Take this road to the **left**. When you come to another road, turn right. Stay on this road, passing the turnoff to Long Meadow. This road is the rocky area where we use the equine tennis shoes. Follow this road until you see a gate on the right.

#12 Stay on the main road just a short distance beyond the gate until you see a single track trail to the right. Take this trail. Almost immediately will be a trail to the left by a "T" post. Take this trail.

#13 Stay on this trail until it intersects with another trail. Turn left onto this trail. You are now on the trail you came in on. Follow this trail until you see the intersection with the two logs (remember, I mentioned this on the way in). Turn right on this trail. If you miss this turn and end up at the road, turn right and ride this road all the way back to the staging area.

#14 When you come to the road, cross over and head back on the single track trail (#3) that you came in on. When you come to the road (#2), turn left. **Option:** If you want to go back to the staging area, turn right here and left at the road. This will take you back to your trailers.

#15 Follow this road, keeping to the right. At the bottom, follow the curve to the right. There will be a small footbridge on the left. The trail will take you through Goat Meadow. After you cross the meadow, you are basically at the far end of the camping area. Stay on the trails to your left to return to your trailers, or right if you are parking in the asphalt cul-de-sac. **Attention:** In early spring the meadow can be quite boggy. You might consider taking the alternate route back to your trailers.



**Trail from Bass Lake Vista**

BASS LAKE

BASS LAKE

COWBOY TRAIL  
BASS LAKE VISTA

CRANE VALLEY

GOAT MOUNTAIN  
LOOKOUT

# BASS LAKE



## BASS LAKE

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Semi Loop

**Season:** All year

**Elevation:** 3570 – 3771

**Terrain:** Forest service dirt roads and single track trails. Posted as a non-motorized vehicle road, but not enforced.

**Difficulty:** Relatively easy with some fairly steep climbs and narrow single track trails. Intermediate riders suggested for single track trails.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** None at staging areas, but off-season access to Bass Lake is possible.

**Camping:** No horse camping.

**Staging Area #1:** Dirt turnout on Road 426 with room for 3 rigs. Do not block gate.

**Staging Area #2:** Overflow parking area by dam, next to the launch ramp. Very large dirt area with room for a multitude of trailers. Suggested for off-season parking only (Labor Day through Memorial Day).

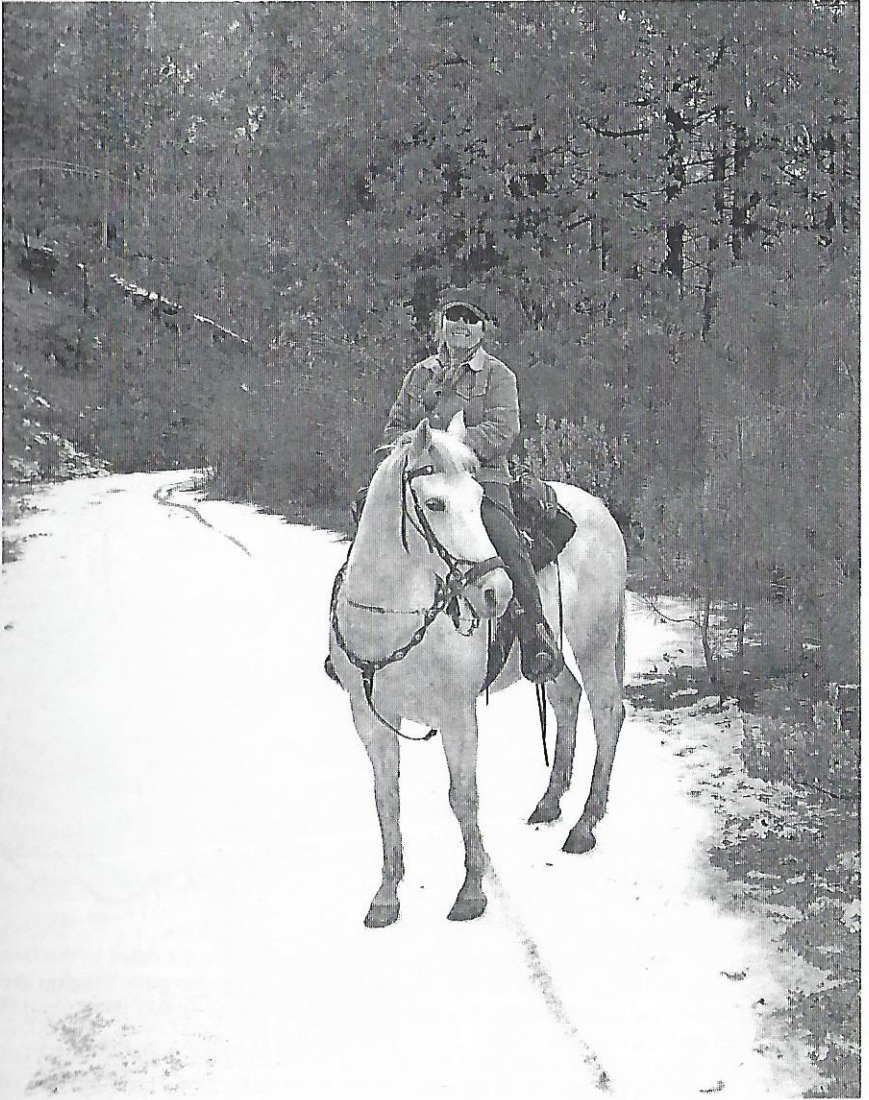
**Attention:** The staging area by the dam is recommended for off-season parking only. Horses are not permitted at the launch ramp or in any of the campgrounds.



**About the Area & Ride:** In the 1800s, Bass Lake was just a meadow inhabited by the Mono Indians. After the discovery of the Yosemite Valley, the area was named Crane Valley. The dam was built in 1901 and enlarged in 1910. The Sugar Pine Lumber Co. began laying railroad tracks across the dam to haul logs to the valley from 1923 to 1931. A small lumber mill polluted the lake and killed all the fish. The mill was fined and ordered to replace the fish. The chosen fish was Bass, hence the name change to "Bass Lake". The lake is now enjoyed by fishermen, swimmers, water skiers and the public in general.

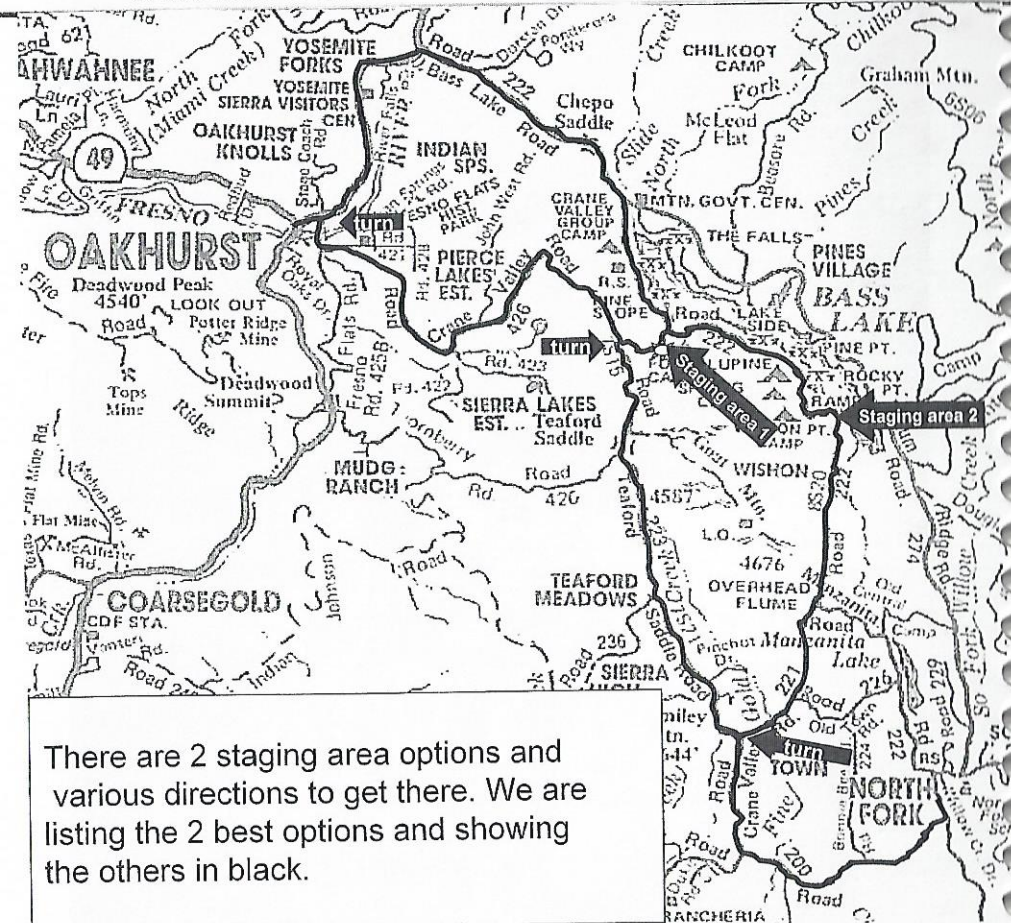
This is a nice ride through pines, old oaks and Manzanita. Views of the lake pop in and out. In the spring and summer months you may catch a glimpse of the resident bald eagles. Riding options are nice. There are single track trails that are best for more experienced horses and riders, many shared with the dude string horses from Yosemite Skylake Camp. There are plenty of dirt roads for beginning riders. This ride can be enjoyed all year long.





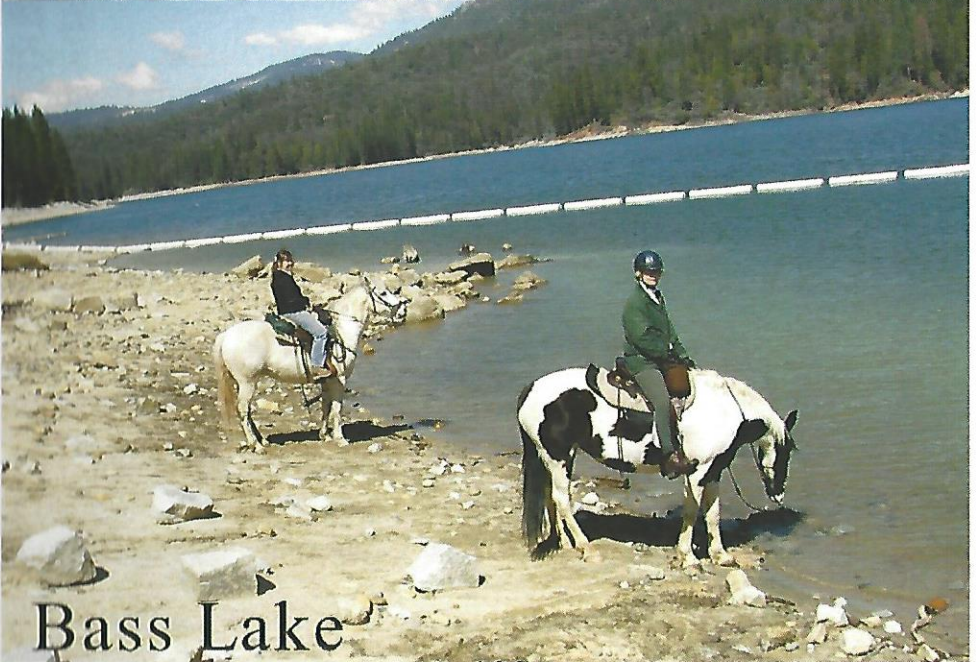
Bass Lake forestry road in January

# BASS LAKE TRAIL STAGING AREA DRIVING DIRECTIONS



There are 2 staging area options and various directions to get there. We are listing the 2 best options and showing the others in black.

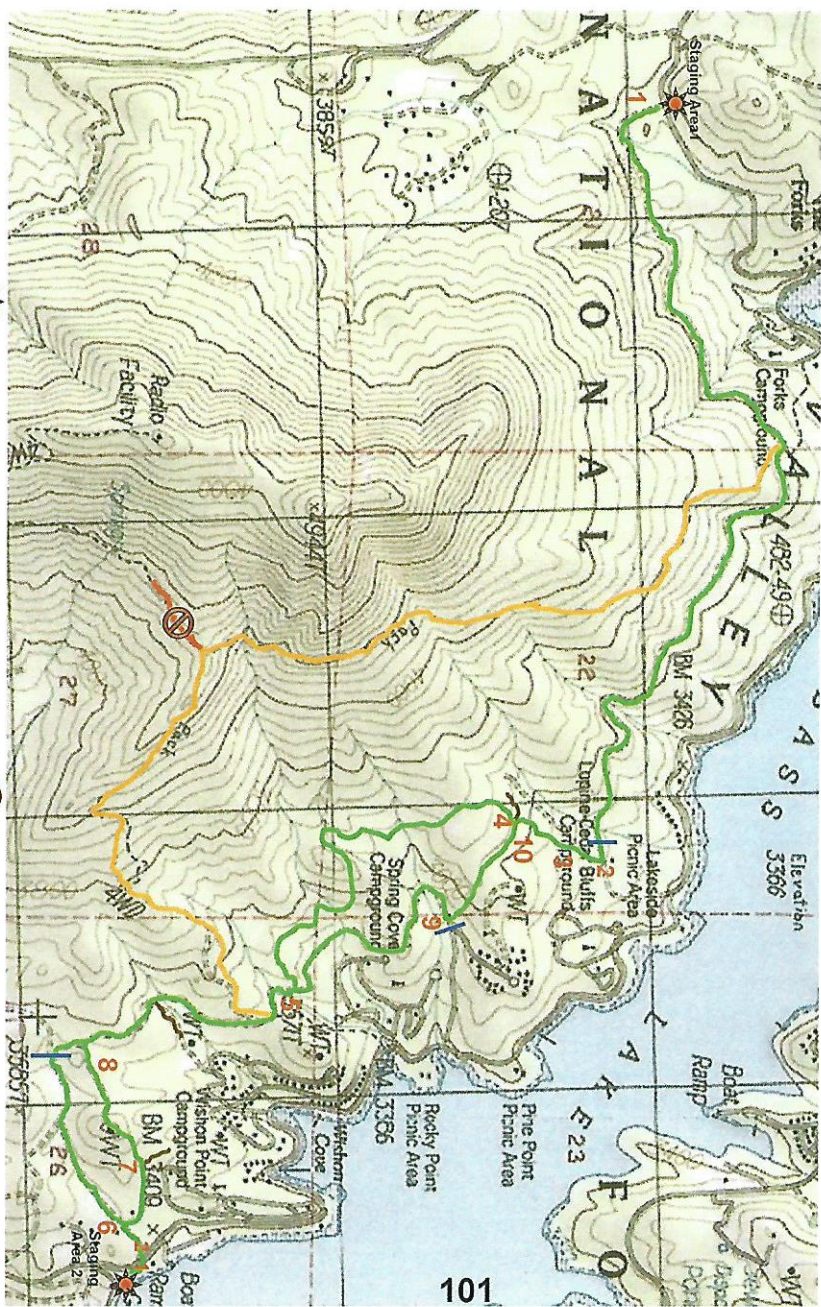
- Staging area #1. From Oakhurst turn on road 426 (talking bear). Drive 6.4 miles to the Bass Lake turn. Turn left. Drive .3 miles and look for the dirt turnout with the green gate. Staging area #2
- Stay straight on main road which changes numbers (223) follow to road 221 (stop sign). Turn left Follow to the dam parking overflow area.
- Staging area #1. From North Fork Take road 200 west to road 221. Turn right. Drive 1.4 miles to road 223 (stop sign). Turn left and drive 6.2 miles to the Bass Lake turn. Turn right and go .3 miles to the dirt turnout.
- Staging area #2. From North Fork. Follow directions above to the stop sign at 221 and 223. Go Straight on road 221 until you come to the dam parking overflow area.



Bass Lake

# BASS LAKE THE RIDE

-  Staging Areas
-  Trail
-  Option
-  Bad Trail
-  Gate



## BASS LAKE

### THE RIDE

**#1 From Staging Area #1** off of Road 426, go around the forest service gate. The first two miles are on the dirt road.

**Option:** Approximately 20 minutes into the ride you will see a well used trail on the right. This is the optional trail highlighted in yellow. This is a nice trail for experienced riders and trail savvy horses.

**#2** At the end of the road you will come to another forest service gate. Go around the gate and continue a short distance. You are just above Cedar Lupine Campground. Before you get to the asphalt, watch for the trail to the right. Take this trail which will curve to the right, away from the storage parking lot.

**#3** After a short distance the trail curves to the left, heading down to a small ravine. Continue on this trail, which gets a little steep, until you come to a trail crossing. It splits to the right and left, but continue on straight.

**#4** This trail is used by the Yosemite Skylake Camp. Follow this trail through oak, pine and Manzanita. If you come upon the camp horses, you are to leave the trail and give them right of way. This trail has many forks. Stay to the right. Trails to the left will take you to the second forestry road. You will be on this single track trail approximately 20 minutes.

**#5** You will come out on a forest service road. Turn right. Continue on this road until you come to another forest service gate. Go around the gate and stay on the road.

**#6** Follow until you come to a road heading to the left. You will see a vacant house and garage. Turn left on this road.

**#7** Follow this road until you see a campsite on your right and a road leading uphill to your left. Take this road. At the top of the hill you will pass a small green water tank. Continue on until you come to the forest service road again.

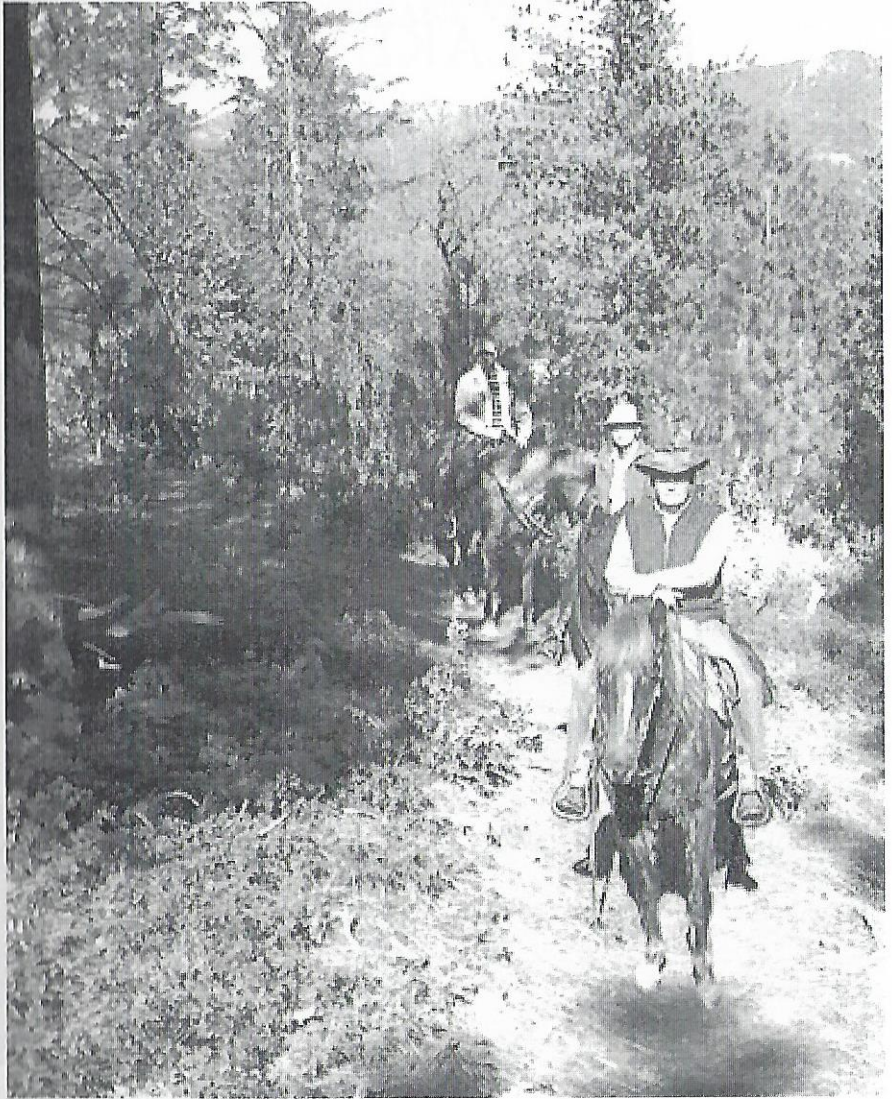
**#8** Turn right on the road and follow until you see another gate ahead.

**#9** Take the trail uphill to the left which is just past a small ravine. Stay on this trail until you reach the top of the hill. Turn left.

**#10** Shortly you will arrive at the **#4** trail split. Take the trail to the right and retrace your steps back to the staging area at Rd. 426.

**#1 From staging area #2**, head toward the launch ramp along the dirt trail. After you pass the large rocks used to block vehicle access, look for a short, steep trail on the left. Follow this to the road.

**#2** When you come to the road, to the right across the road is another road. Take this road, riding past the old garage. Watch for the road heading right. This would be **#6** on your trail map. Take this road and follow the directions in reverse.





# COWBOY TRAIL BASS LAKE VISTA



## **COWBOY TRAIL**

### **BASS LAKE VISTA**

**Riding Time:** 5 hours

**Trail Type:** Semi Loop

**Season:** Mid April until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 3686 – 5325

**Terrain:** Forest service dirt roads and single track trails.

**Difficulty:** This is a strenuous, but easy ride. The first hour is a steady uphill climb. You will cross over granite slabs with small step ups. If you take this ride in April, you may encounter some snow drifts.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** A couple of small runoff creeks. Don't expect to have access to water during the summer months.

**Camping:** None

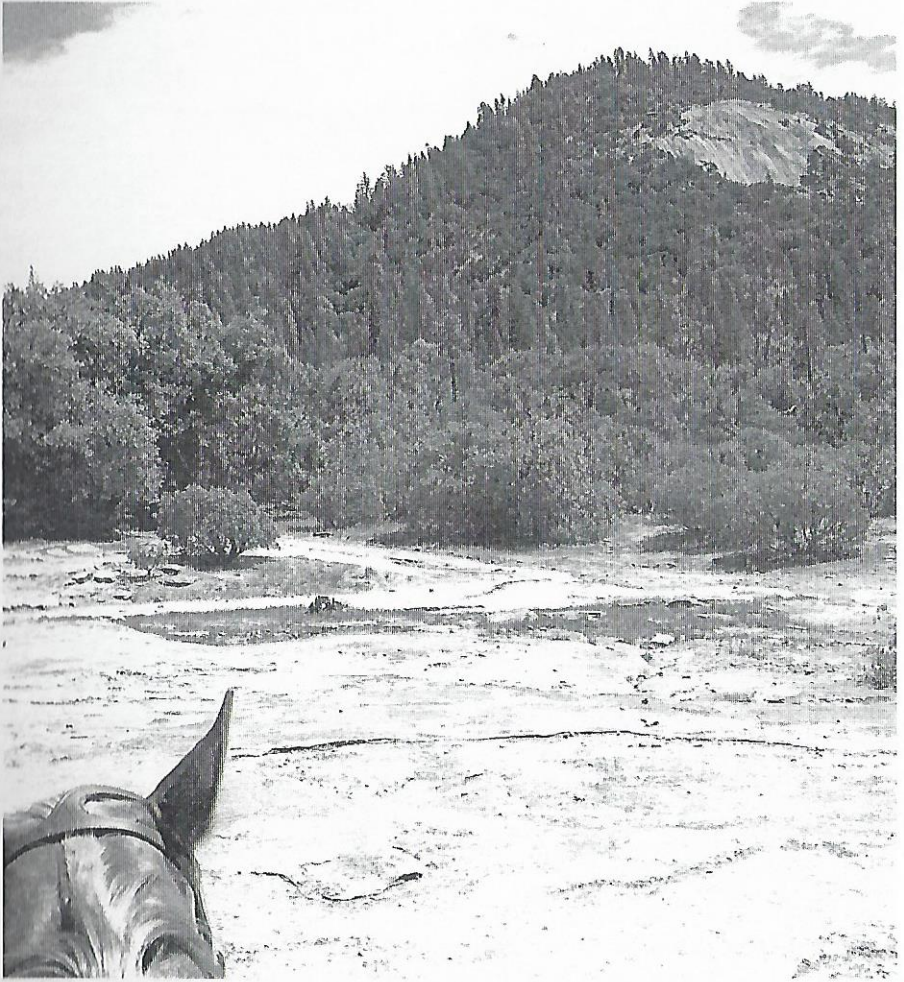
**Staging Area:** Inside the gate (which is closed during wet months), you may fit 4 rigs. Outside the gate you can park 3 rigs tightly.

**Attention:** During the dry months the gate is open to public access. Expect to see motorcycles and ATV's, especially on the weekends. This can be a hot ride during the summer.

**About the Area & Ride:** Starting close to Bass Lake, you ride steadily uphill until reaching the first of two huge granite slabs. The views are almost 360 degrees! Once up the hilly climb you will be riding through pines, oaks and Manzanita. Dogwoods are plentiful and bloom in May. We feel that this is a very good ride to get into shape for the higher elevation rides.

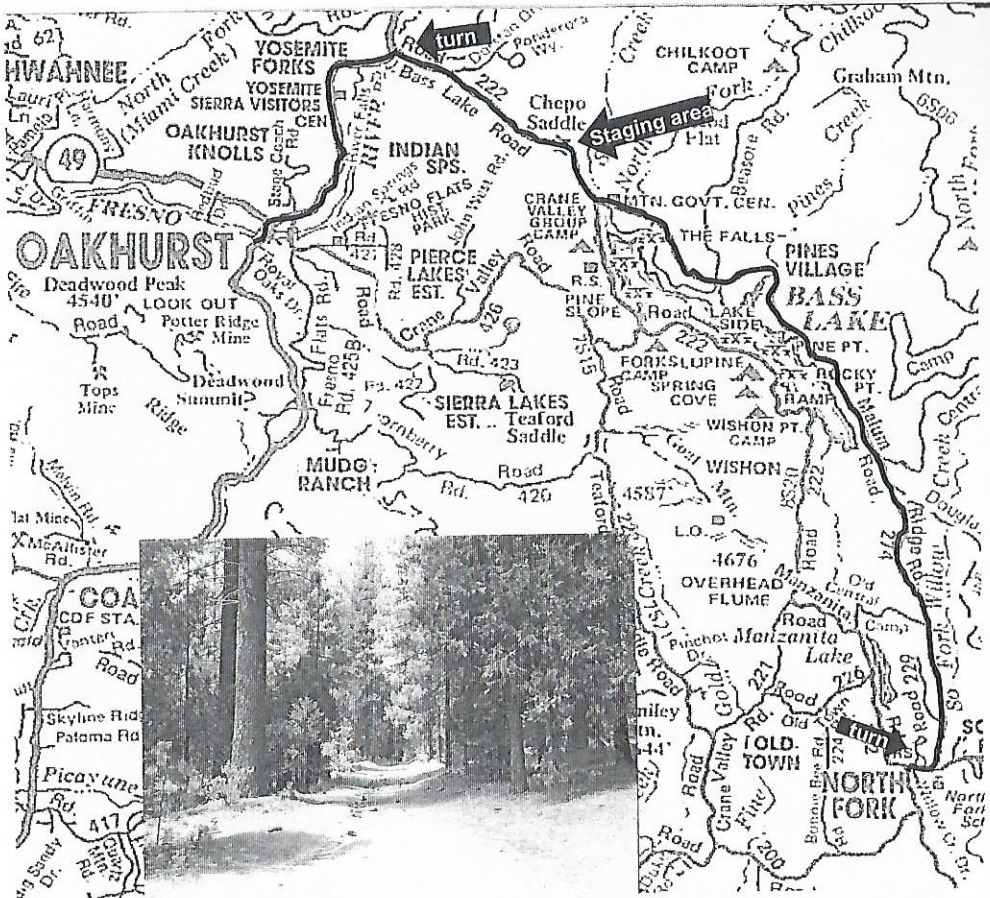


“View of Bass Lake from the Vista”



View of Bass Lake Vista from below

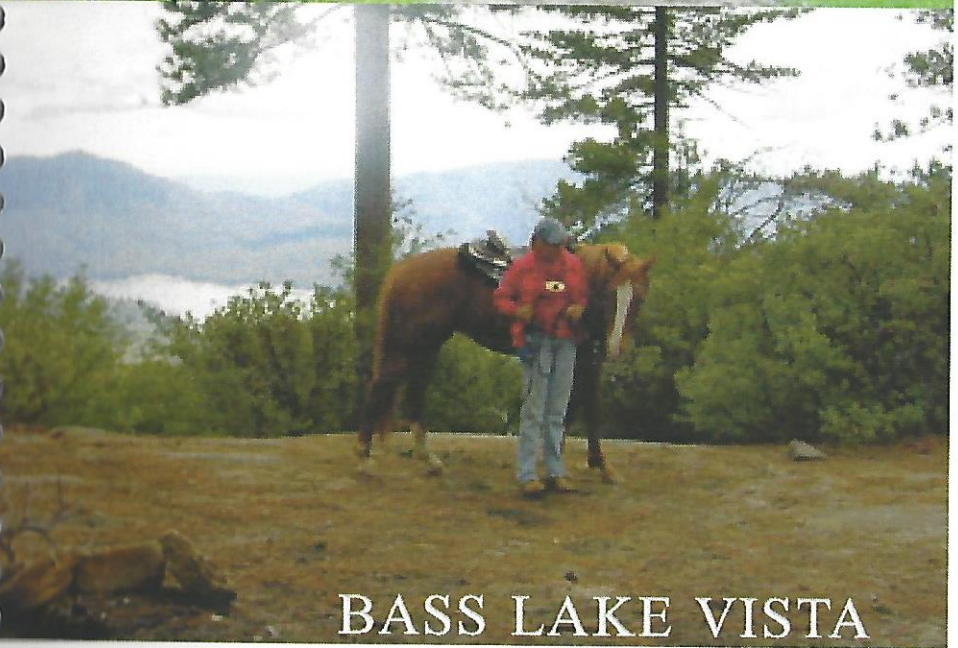
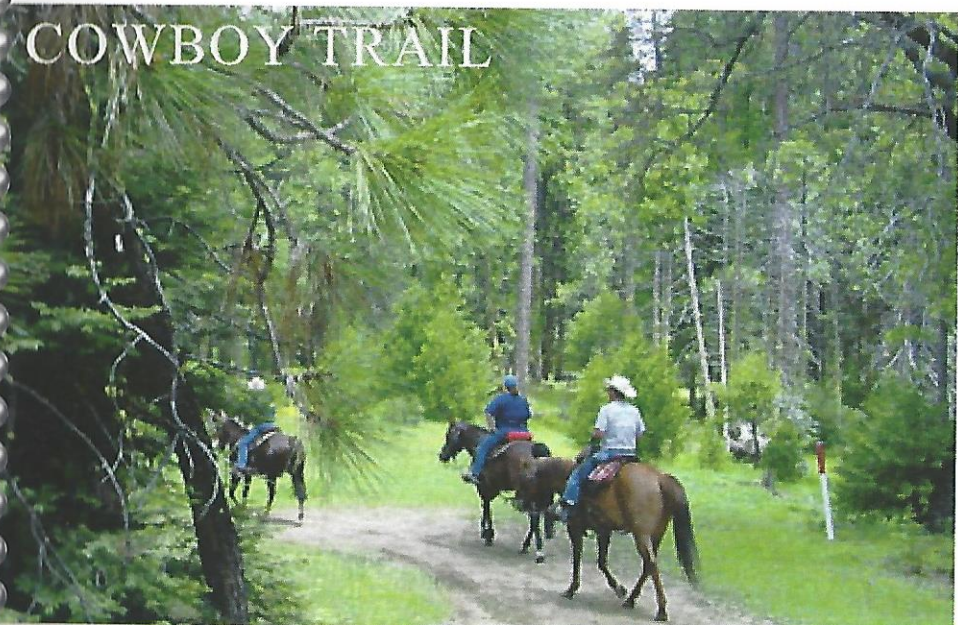
# COWBOY TRAIL BASS LAKE VISTA STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst drive north on Highway 41 to road 222 (Bass Lake). Turn right and drive 2.6 miles. Look to your left for the turn just past the Sierra National Forest sign. This is on a curve so if you don't feel safe turning left, follow another 1.8 miles to Orchard Lane (Old Cowboy Trail). Make a left turn around and go back.

From North Fork head east out of town. Turn left on road 274. Drive 11.7 miles to the turn out on right.

COWBOY TRAIL



BASS LAKE VISTA

# COWBOY TRAIL - BASS LAKE VISTA THE RIDE



- Staging Area
- Trail
- Gate
- Option
- Destination

## **COWBOY TRAIL**

### **BASS LAKE VISTA**

#### **THE RIDE**

**#1** From the staging area, ride up the road. You will come to a cattle guard and gate. Go through the gate. The road has many spurs, but stay on the main road.

**#2** You will eventually come to the top of the hill. It looks like a turn around with a road heading to the right. Take the right turn, heading down the hill. When you come to the "Y", go to the left.

**#3** You will come to the first granite slab. Stay on the road which sweeps to the right. Continue on this road. Eventually, you will come to a gate.

**#4** Just past the gate is a dirt road on the right leading uphill. Take this road. It will turn left, crossing a creek bed. Before the creek, look for a trail heading to the right. Take this trail, cross a creek bed and continue on this trail until you come to a road.

**#5** When you get to the road, turn right. Just past the meadow is a well marked trail. Turn left onto this trail.

**#6** When you come to the next road, go right. A short distance is another road heading right. Turn right on this road.

**#7** Eventually you will come to a 3-way split. Keep straight, heading down the middle trail.



**#8** Stay on this road until it ends. This is the “Vista”, which is a great spot to rest and enjoy the view.

**#9** Return down the road. You will come to another road heading off to the left. Turn left on this road and follow it until you come to the granite rock.

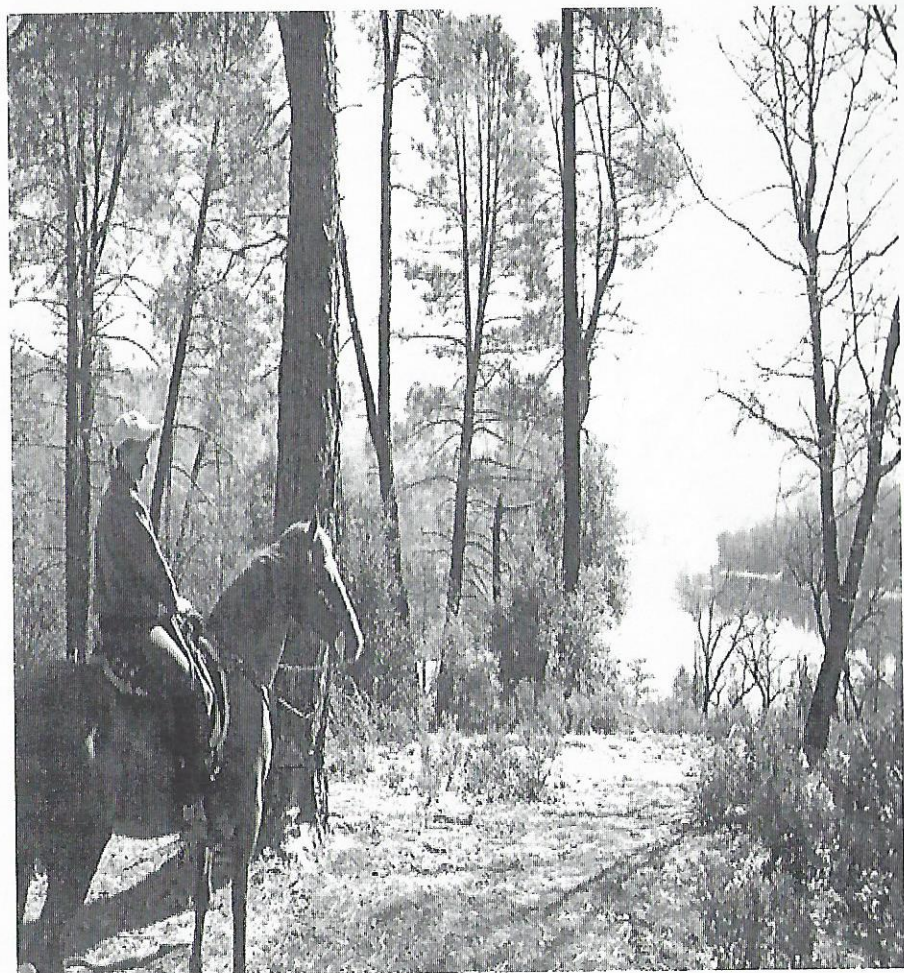
**#10** If you choose to cross on the granite, stay straight until you reach the top. The view is spectacular. Then, skirt slightly to the left until you are off the granite. Look for a dirt road heading down hill on your right. If you choose not to ride on the granite, stay to the left on the trail. This trail skirts the rock. You will see a small granite rock to your left, coming out of the trees. Stay to your right until you see the dirt road heading down hill on your left. Take the dirt road.

**#11** At the bottom of the hill, you come back to the #7 dirt road. Go left and retrace your steps back to your trailers.





# CRANE VALLEY



## CRANE VALLEY

**Riding Time:** 2+ hours

**Trail Type:** Semi Loop

**Season:** All year

**Elevation:** 3603 – 3850

**Terrain:** Forest service roads and single track trails.

**Difficulty:** The trail is not difficult, but does have strenuous climbs and steep downhill descents. There is one seasonal creek crossing. At the beginning, you ride on a gravel road for a very short distance.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** None at the staging area. One seasonal creek crossing.

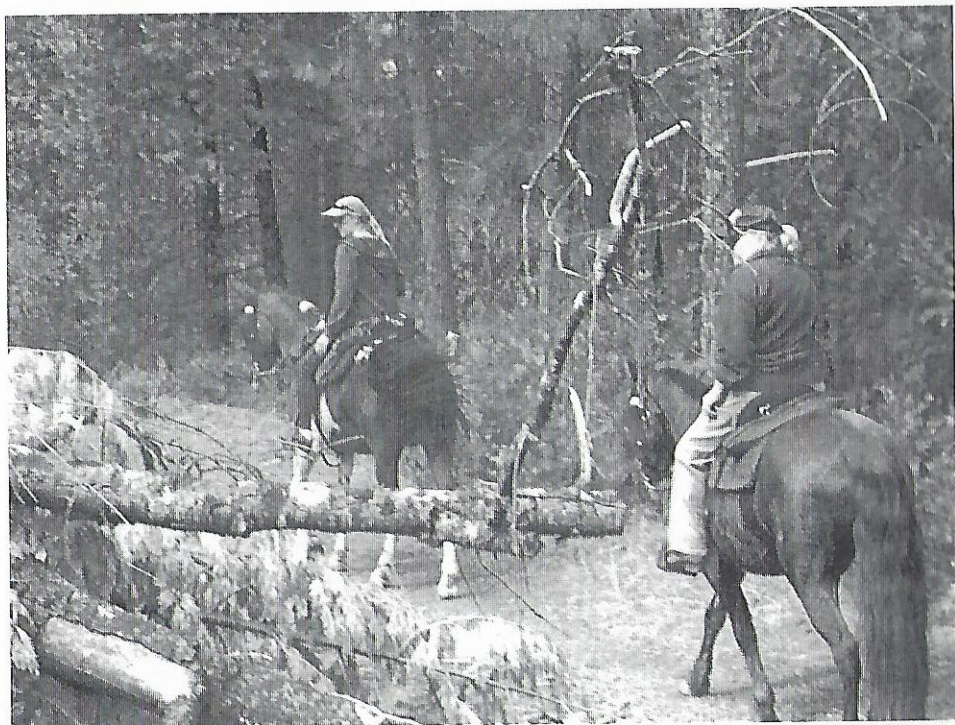
**Camping:** None

**Staging Area:** First turnout off Road 426 leading to Bass Lake. It is large enough for several rigs, but this is a road leading to homes. Please do not block the road for through traffic.

**Attention:** You may encounter motorcycles and ATV's. The local residents have put logs across the trail to keep the motorized vehicles out, but these are easy for horses to step over.

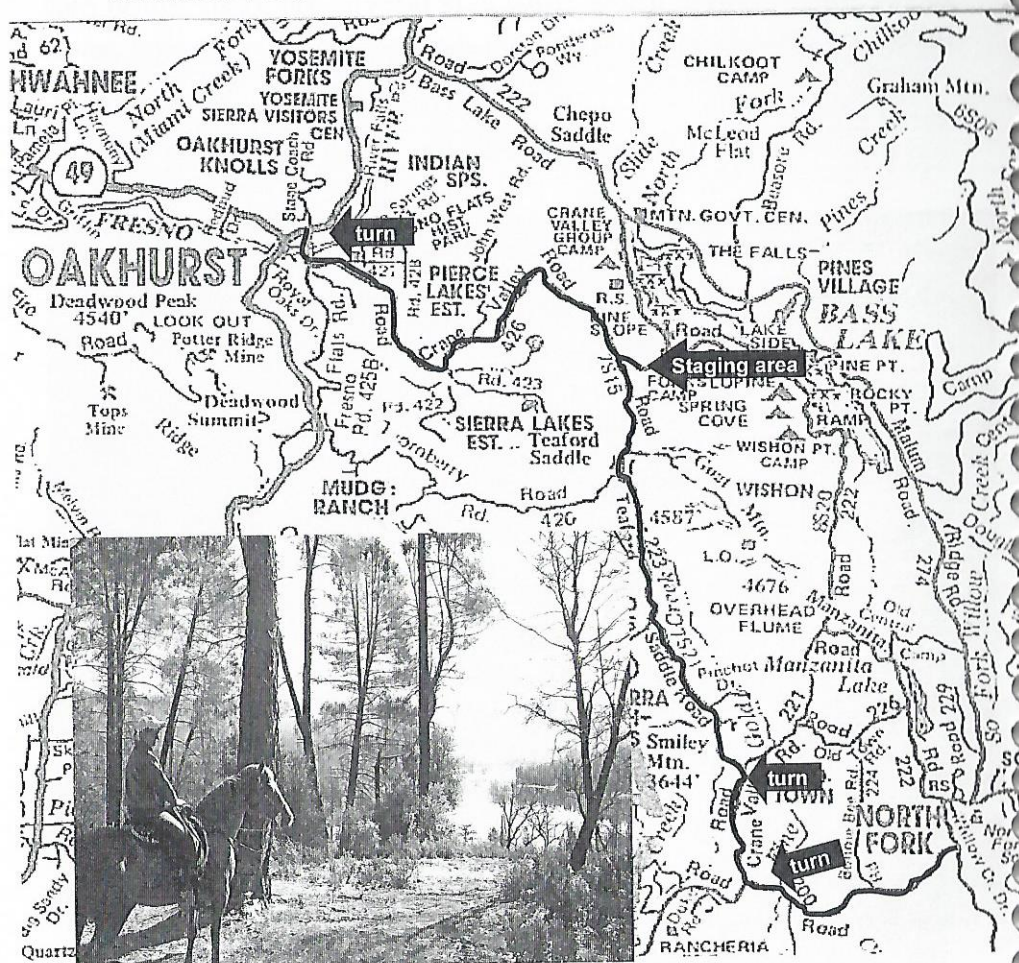
**About the Area & Ride:** This is an area to the south, above Bass Lake. You have only a couple of lake views, but they are very nice. The trail meanders through pines and old oaks. This is a

nice conditioning ride for your horse. Although “our” ride is only two hours, there are several side trails worth investigating. Your horse will get a good workout, plus he will have to use his brain!





# CRANE VALLEY STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

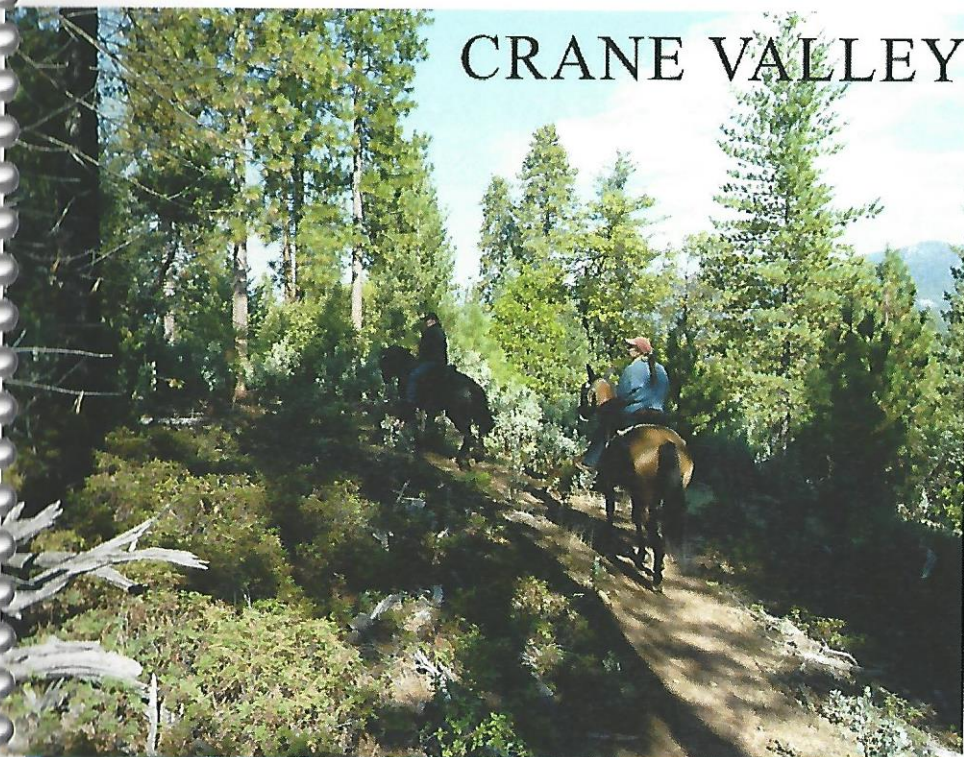


From Oakhurst turn onto road 426 (talking bear) and follow 6.4 miles to the Bass Lake turn and go left. Drive a very short distance and you will see a dirt turn out on the right, this is the staging area.

From North Fork take road 200 heading west for 3 miles to Rd. 221. Turn right. Drive 1.4 miles (stop sign). Turn left onto Rd.223. Drive 6.2 miles to the Bass Lake turn. Turn right on 426. staging area on right.

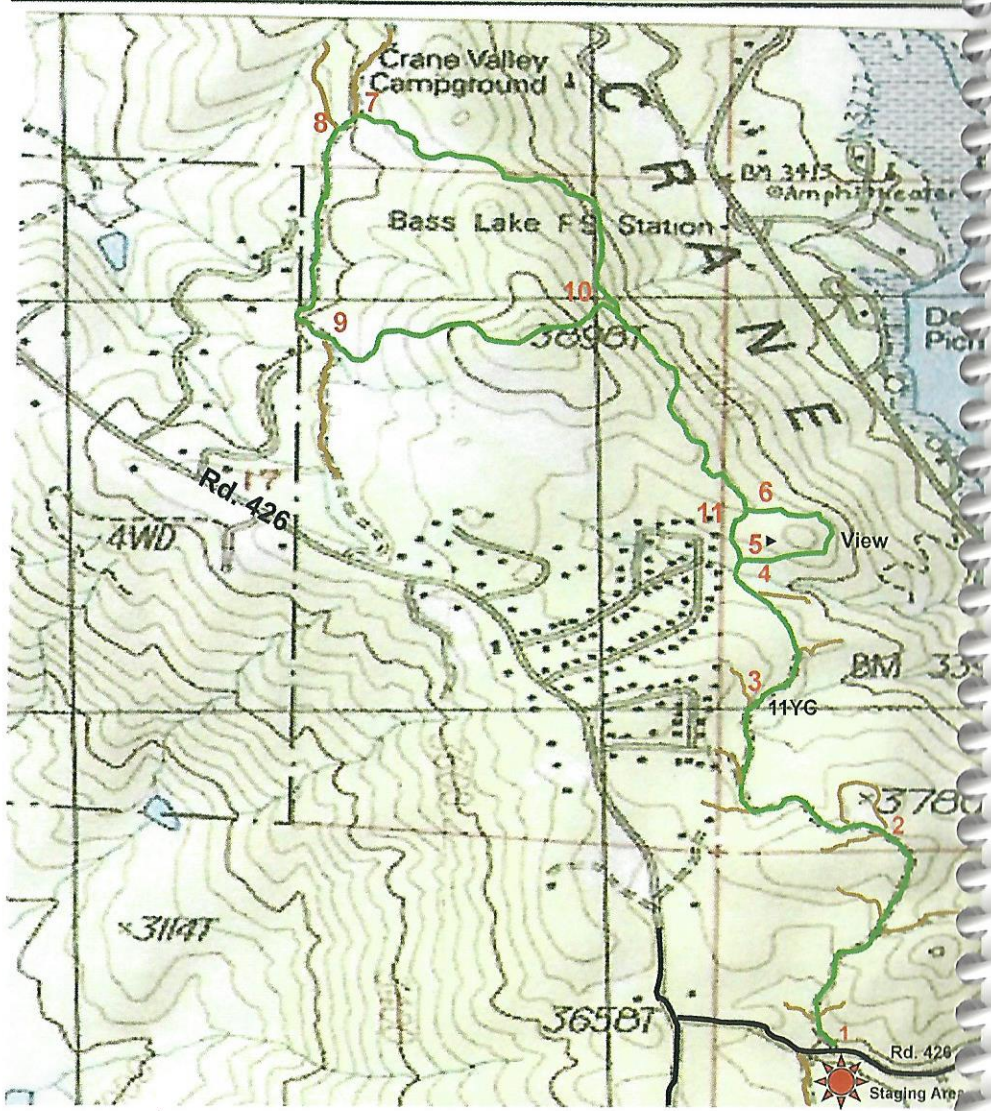
Please do not block the dirt road leading off the back.

# CRANE VALLEY





# CRANE VALLEY THE RIDE



 Staging Area

 Trail

## CRANE VALLEY

### THE RIDE

#1 From the staging area, cross over Road 426. Head up the dirt road just to the right of the staging area. There are some off shoot roads. The second road on the right looks large, but is not the 3-way split (#2). Stay on the main road.

#2 You will come to a junction. On your right is a hill with a road leading up and back down. On your left is another road. Stay straight a few more yards and you will see another road leading straight and one leading down to the left. Go down the road leading to the left.

#3 At the next large split, go to the right (11YC). Again, stay on the main road.

#4 You will come to a dirt turn around. Stay on the single track trail. Look straight ahead and you will see a small granite slab. Stay to the left on the small trail over the rock. Just around the corner is another trail leading to the right. Take this trail which crosses over the stream. If you continue straight you will end up in someone's back yard.

#5 Just up from the water crossing is a 3-way trail split. Stay on the right hand trail that heads up the hill. This is the spot where you have a beautiful view of Bass Lake. Continue on this trail.

#6 You will shortly come to another split where you will turn right. The trail is faint in spots. A little way up the hill you may see pink & yellow flagging on the left. This is where you will be coming back after making the loop.

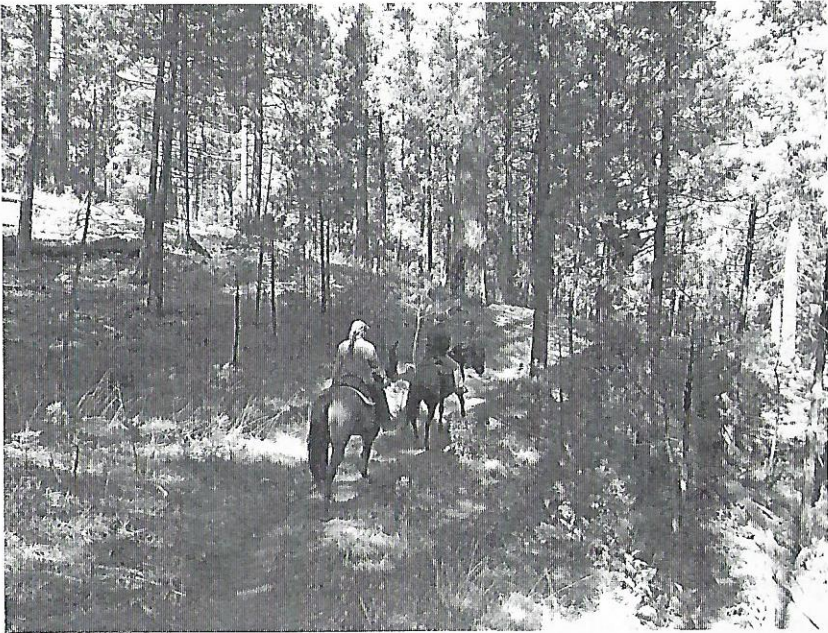
**#7** Eventually you will come out on a narrow dirt road. Follow this to your left.

**#8** You will come to a larger dirt road with a split. Go to the left and continue on the road.

**#9** After a while you will see a dirt road heading off to the left. Take this road.

**#10** You will climb a couple of hills and intersect with the main trail again (remember about the pink & yellow flagging). Turn right on the main trail.

**#11** At the next 3-way split (**#6**), go to the right and continue to **#5** and turn right back to the water crossing. Retrace your steps back to the staging area.





# GOAT MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT



## GOAT MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

**Riding Time:** 2+ hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** All year

**Elevation:** 3910 – 4607

**Terrain:** Gated forest service road which has gravel much of the way.

**Difficulty:** Much of the ride is a steady uphill climb.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** None

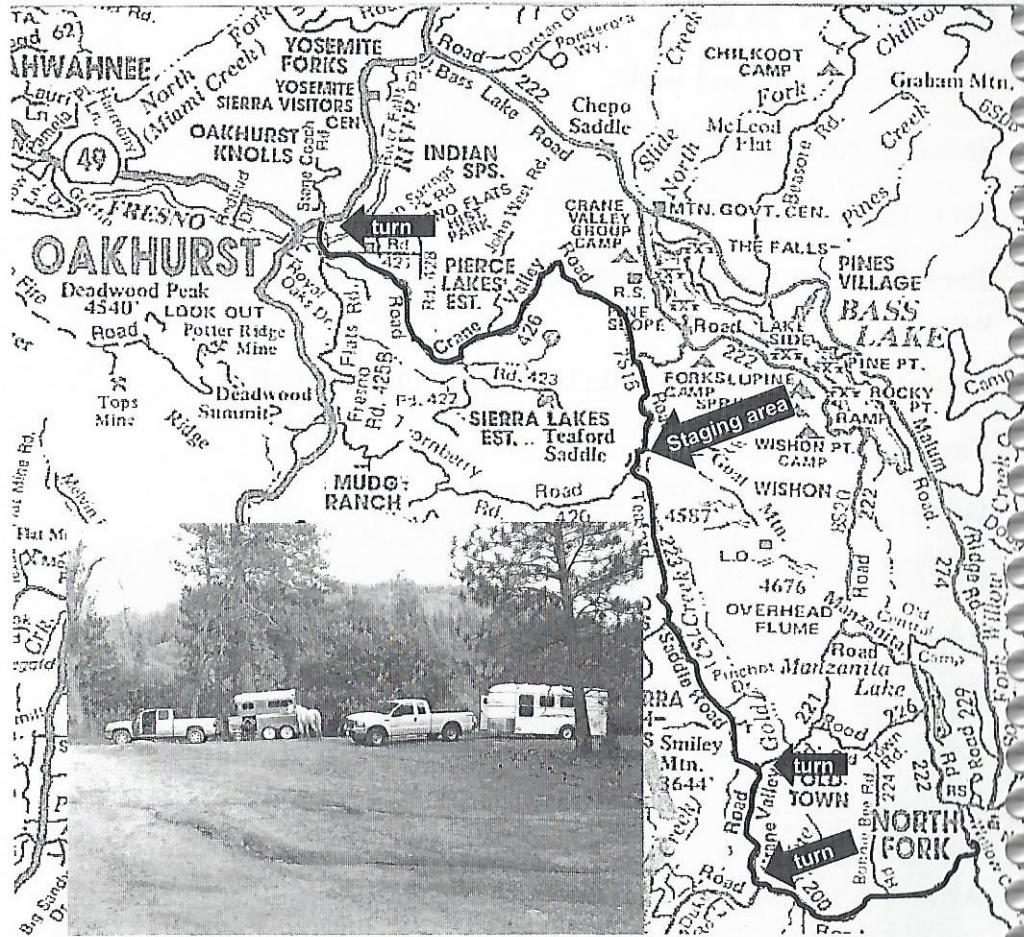
**Camping:** None

**Staging Area:** Dirt turnaround which will accommodate several rigs.

**Attention:** This ride can be very hot in the summer. Face gnats are a real problem, so bring fly masks for your horses. You may want to use equine tennis shoes on barefoot horses.

**About the Area & Ride:** During the logging era goats were used to pack the roads they made, thus "Goat Mountain". You will ride through pine and oak trees. There are terrific views of Bass Lake and Shuteye Mountain, and to the east, North Fork and Manzanita Lake. There is a picnic table at the lookout. The tower, constructed in 1934 as a fire lookout, is no longer in use.

# GOAT MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst turn down road 426 (Talking Bear) and drive 7.7 miles until you come to the top of the mountain and look to your left for the dirt road and turn out.

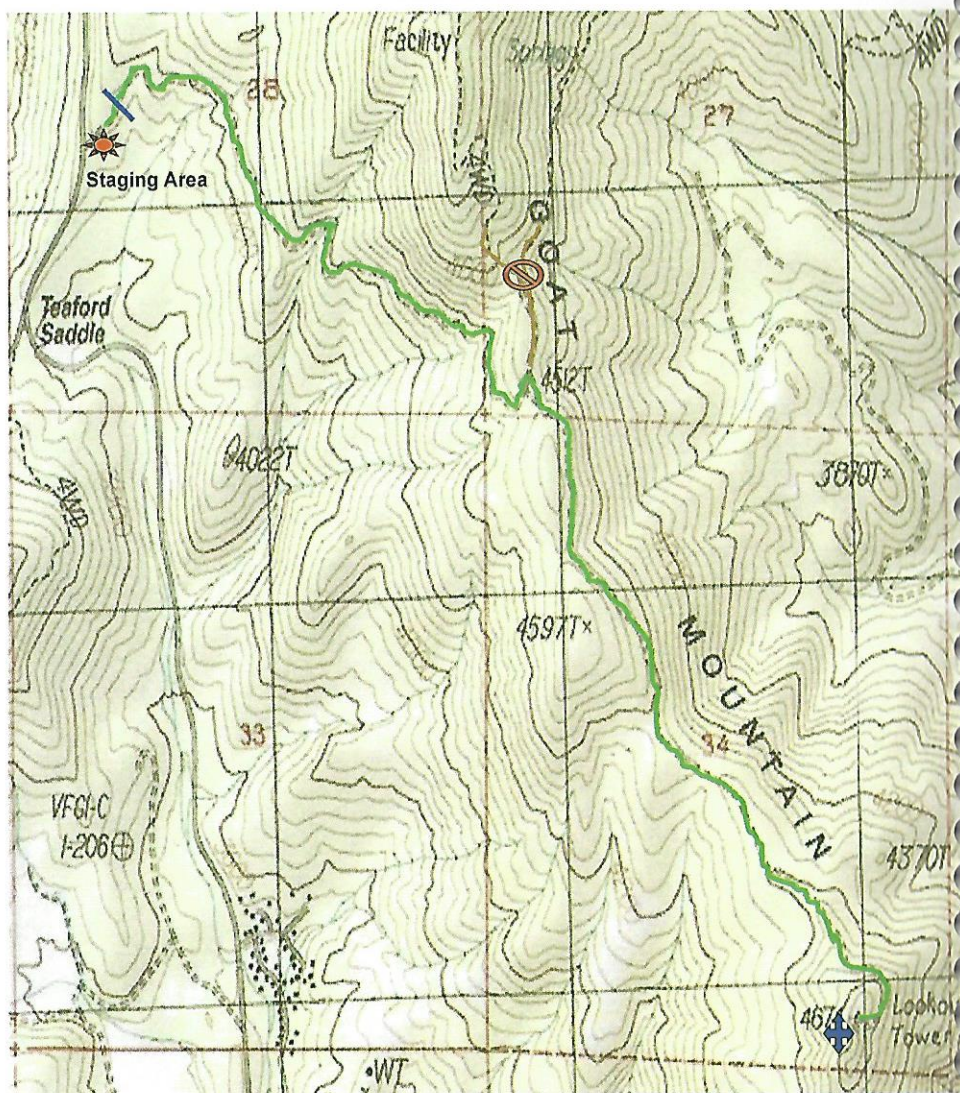
From North Fork travel west to road 221. Turn right. Drive 1.4 miles to the stop sign and turn Left onto road 223. Drive 4.7 to the top of mountain and look for the dirt road/turnout on the right.



# GOAT MT. LOOKOUT





# GOAT MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT THE RIDE



 Staging Area     Trail     Gate     Destination

## GOAT MOUNTAIN

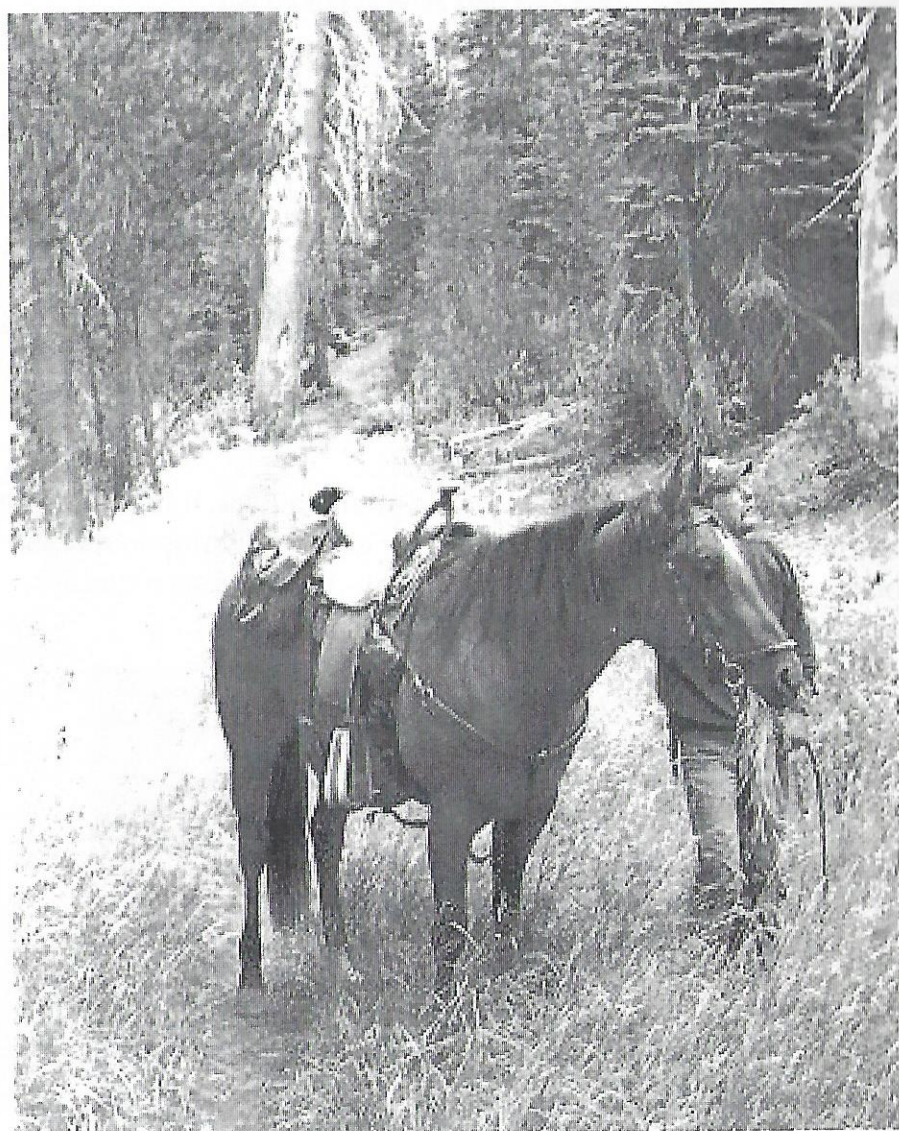
### THE RIDE

This ride needs no real instructions. You ride around the gate and stay on the main road all the way to the lookout. There are side trails worth investigating. The trail leading down to the Bass Lake forestry road has a steep granite rock to cross. People do ride this trail, but we don't ride it, and certainly won't recommend it to people on horseback. It is used primarily by mountain bike riders.

If there is snow in the area, there will be a lot as you gain elevation.

This is a very nice place to "pony" a young horse. It is also a good ride to keep your horse in condition or get a beginning mountain horse accustomed to hills and the forest. We have seen turkeys, deer and heard about bear sightings.





**Peckinpah Mountain trail**

**PECKINPAH MOUNTAIN**

**BROWN'S CREEK**

**PECKINPAH OVERLOOK**

**WHITE'S CABIN**

# BROWN'S CREEK



## BROWN'S CREEK

**Riding Time:** 5+ hours

**Trail Type:** Loop – Semi loop

**Season:** April – October (See Attention)

**Elevation:** 5592 – 6766

**Terrain:** Forest service roads and single track trails.

**Difficulty:** This trail has many obstacles that you need to be aware of. If you and your horse are accustomed to mountain riding and can cross rocky areas, water, granite and navigate through fairly narrow passages, you will enjoy this ride. Your horse should be in good condition.

**Facilities:** None

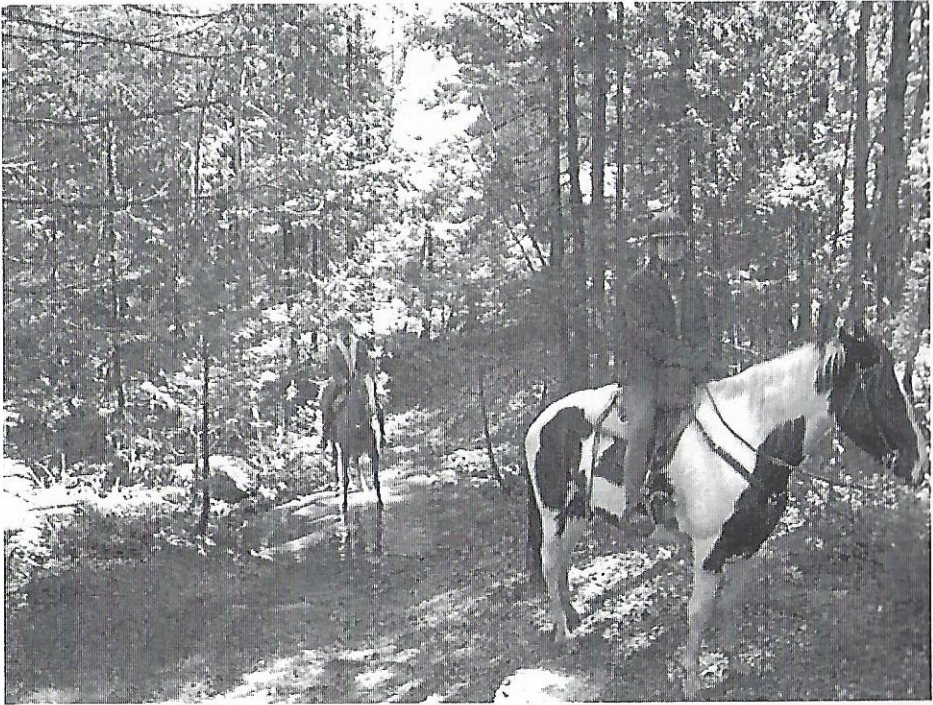
**Water:** Three water crossings during the first half of the ride.

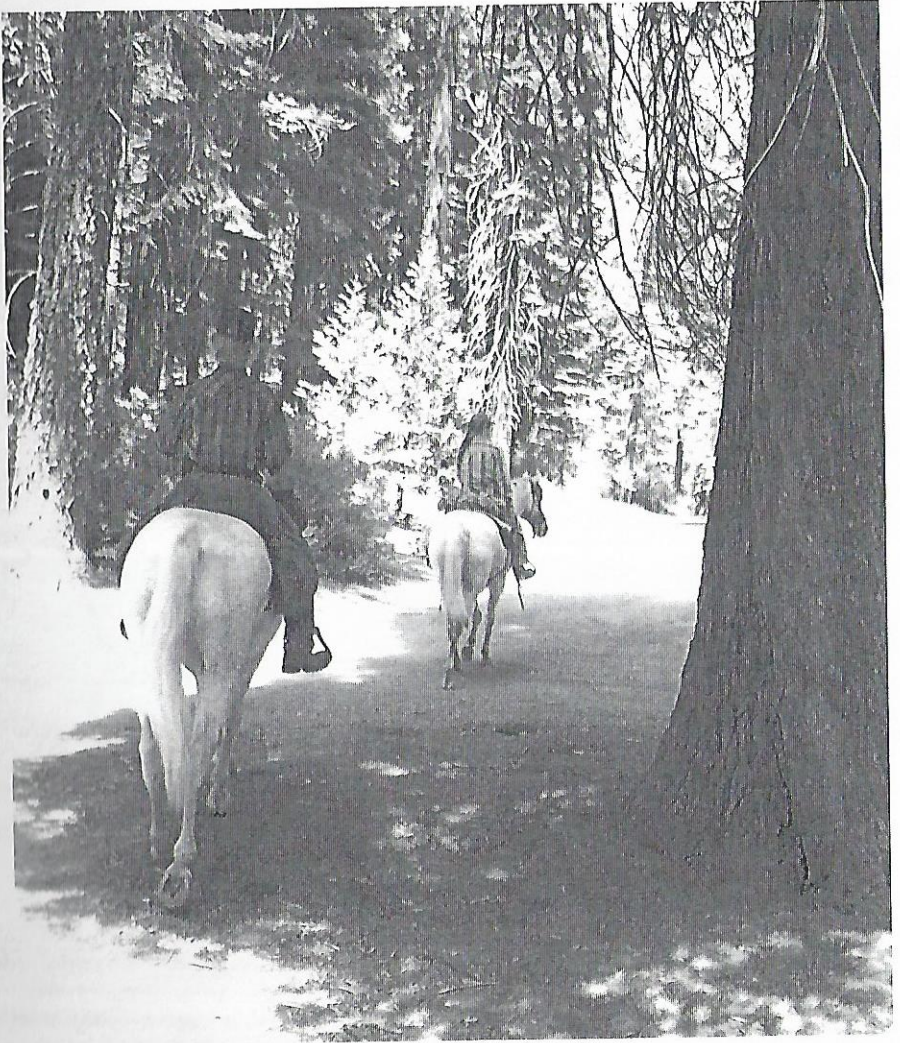
**Camping:** Camp 5 is a dirt parking area and considered primitive camping (no facilities). If you drive a little farther, you will come to another large pull out area next to a creek.

**Staging Area:** Large dirt turnouts that will accommodate a number of rigs.

**Attention:** Check with the forest service (1-559-877-2218) for road conditions and possible gate closure. If you reach the gate and it is closed, there is NO place to turn around with a rig!

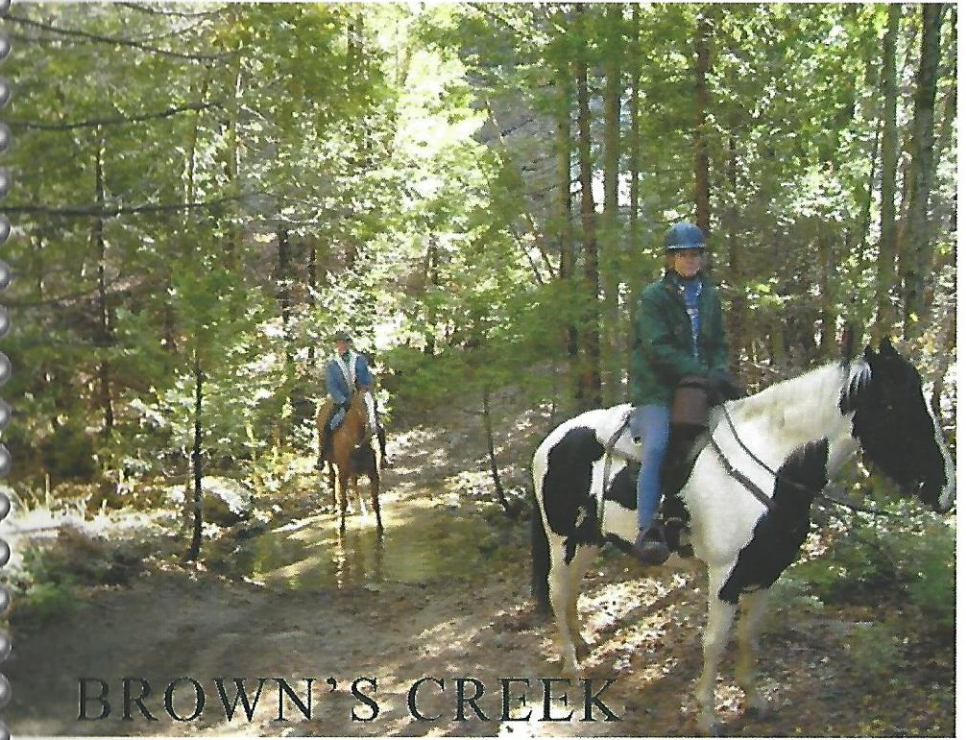
**About the Area & Ride:** This ride has gorgeous views! When you enter the single track trail, you are following the Sugar Pine railroad grade that was used to haul logs into the valley from 1899-1932. As you ride through the pine, oak and cedar trees, you may see remnants of trestles and railroad spikes. Brown's Creek crossing is very pretty. When you ride out from the trees, you will have views of Peckinpah Ridge, Deadwood and Shuteye Peak.







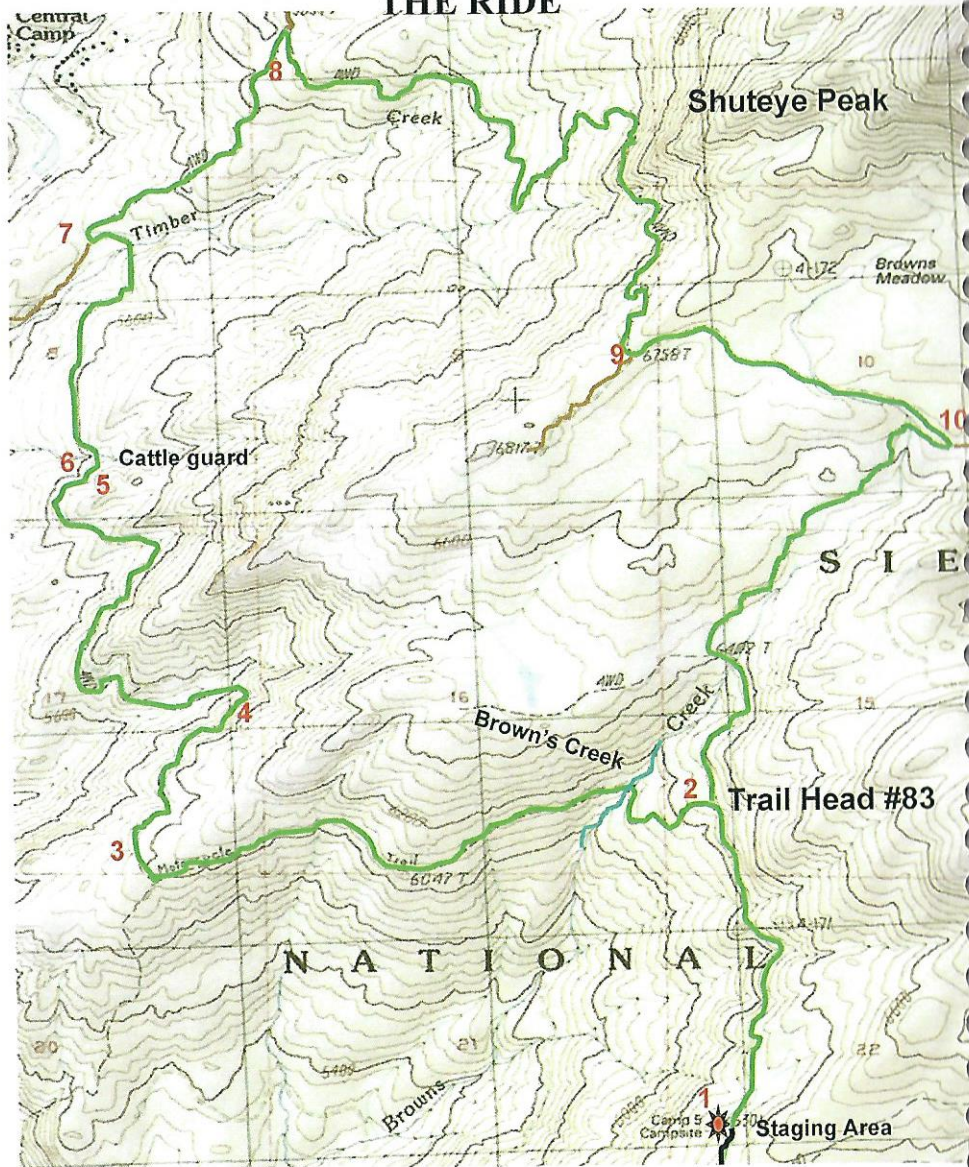




BROWN'S CREEK



# BROWN'S CREEK TRAIL THE RIDE



Staging Area

Trail

139

Side Roads

## BROWN'S CREEK

### THE RIDE

- #1 When leaving the staging area, follow the main road to the left (as if you were continuing down the road).
- #2 When you see a small forest service 4x4 post on the left that reads “#83”, this is the Brown’s Creek trail. It is about 10 minutes from the staging area and very easy to miss.
- #3 Once on the single track trail, follow it until you come to a split. It continues straight, or heads right up a hill. Stay on the straight trail.
- #4 When you come to an old dirt road, keep to the left.
- #5 When you come to a forest service road, turn right.
- #6 Soon you will come to a cattle guard at a creek. Look to your left for a small trail with a step down leading to the creek. Take this trail, cross the creek and continue on the road.
- #7 Stay on this road for a short distance until you see a road on the right. Turn right.
- #8 When you come to a split with a sign reading “Gagg’s Camp left” and “Brown’s Meadow right”, turn right.
- #9 When you come to a road veering to the right, stay to the **left**.
- #10 Continue on this road until you come to the main forest service road. Turn right and ride back to the staging area.

# PECKINPAH OVERLOOK



## PECKINPAH OVERLOOK

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** April – October (See Attention)

**Elevation:**

**Terrain:** Forest service roads for the entire ride.

**Difficulty:** This is an easy ride if your horse is used to the elevation. You have some ups and downs, but nothing drastic. There are a few areas on the road with broken up rocks.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** None

**Camping:** There is primitive wilderness camping along the road past the staging area. Check with the Forest Service about camping with horses at Whiskey Falls Campground. We were told that you can, but it is a good idea to check first.

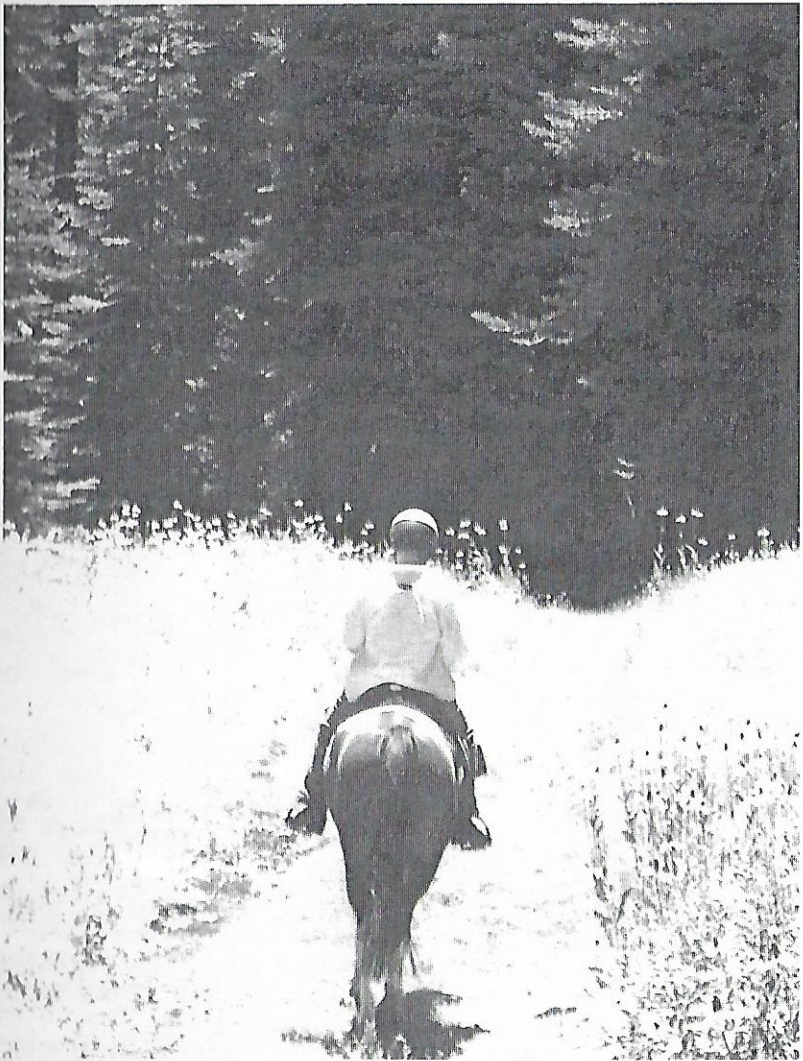
**Staging Area:** Two pull in spots and one drive through. Across the road is also parking. This can be muddy in early spring.

**Attention:** Check with the forest service (1-559-877-2218) for road conditions and possible gate closure. If you reach the gate and it is closed, there is NO place to turn around with a rig!

**About the Area & Ride:** Peckinpah Meadow was a lumber mill in the 1800s. There is a write-up in the White's Cabin trail document. This is a great day ride through the pine and oak lined lanes. We ride mid week as this is a very popular dirt bike and ATV recreation area.

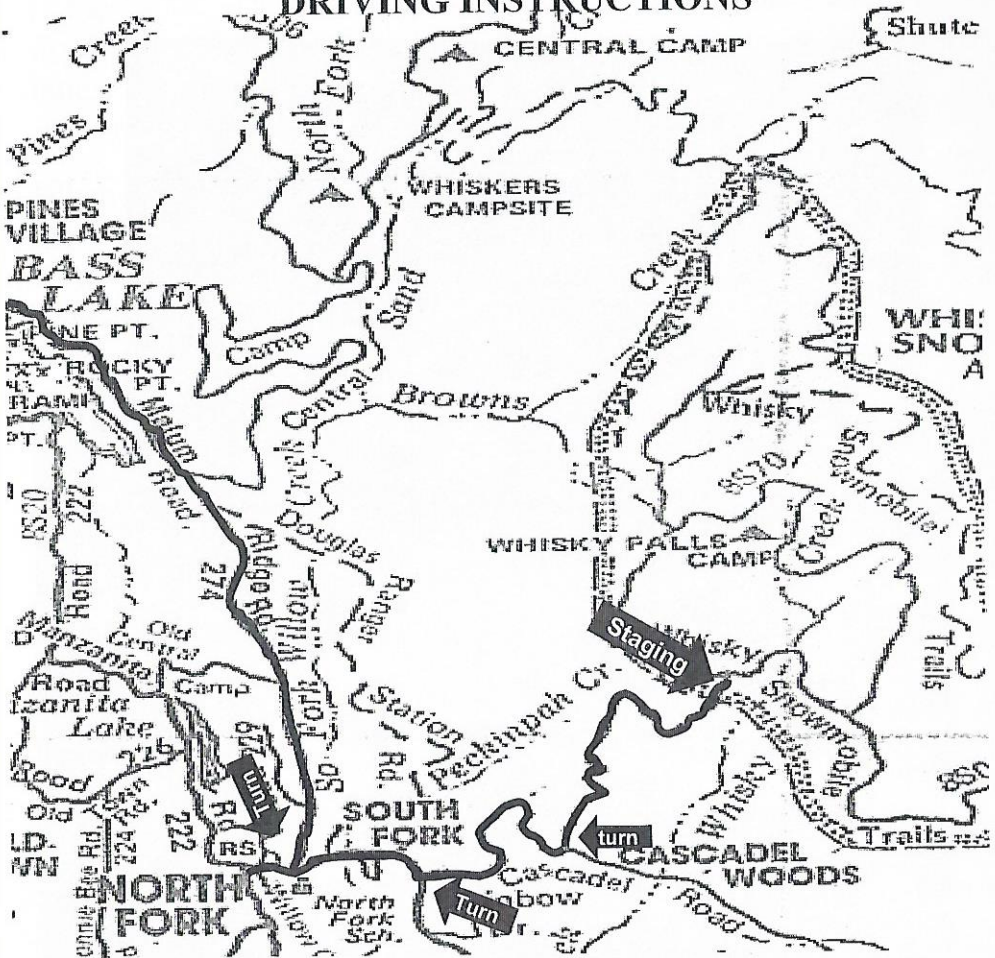
When you reach the overlook, you have beautiful views of Bass Lake and the surrounding mountains. There are granite rocks to sit on and have lunch. Also, if you would like to make your ride longer, continue riding downhill. It goes quite a way down and is very pretty as you get lower, but it is a dead end road.





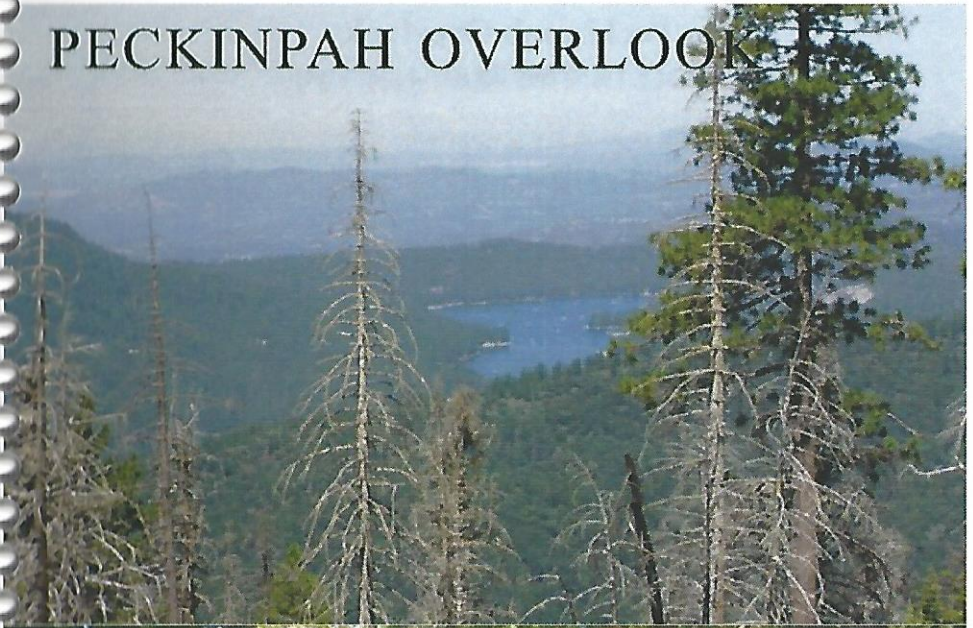


# PECKINPAH OVERLOOK STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

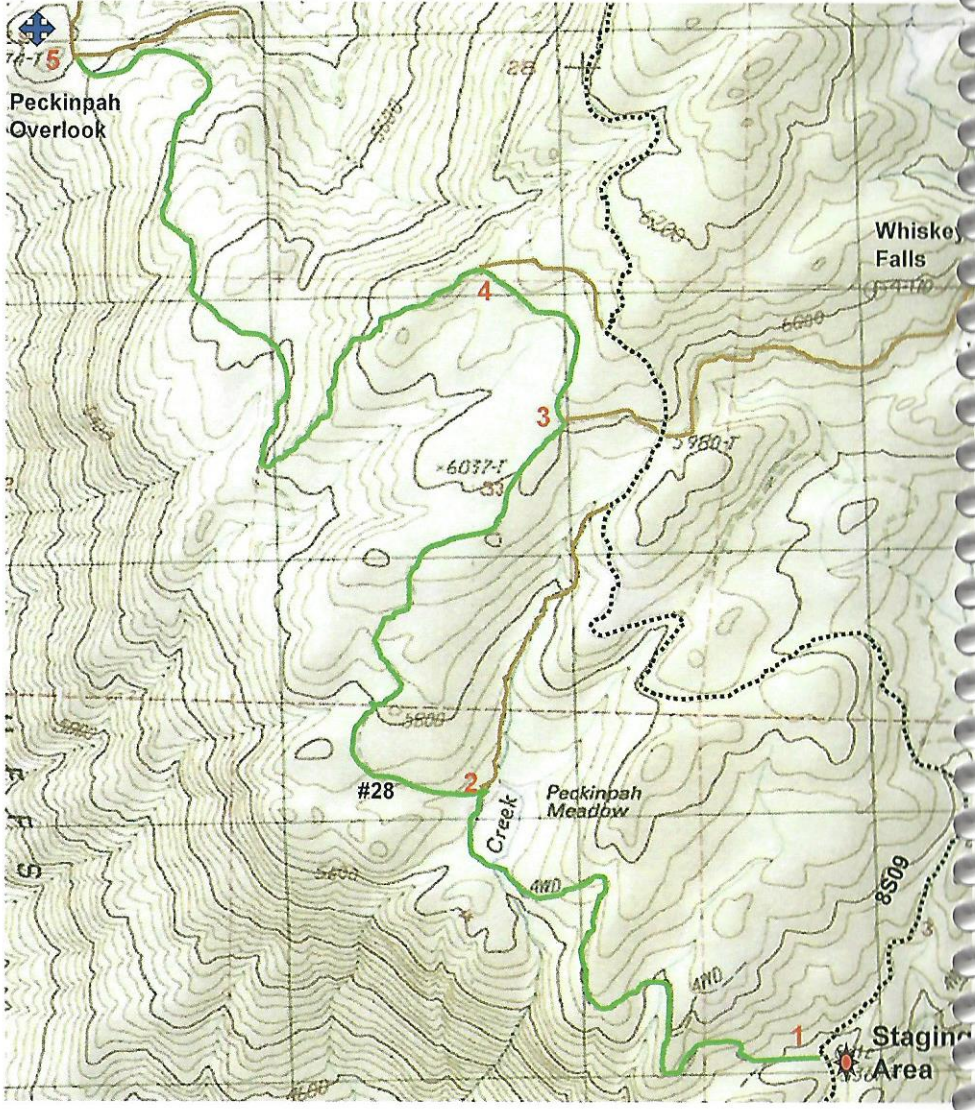


From Oakhurst head north on 41. Turn right on road 222 ( to Bass Lake). Stay on main road ( it turns to rd. 274 but you won't notice). Drive 14.3 miles to road 225 (stop sign). Turn left and drive 1 mile to road 233 (Cascadel). Turn left and follow for 2.1 miles to Peckinpah/Whiskey Falls road (8S09). "Do not go through the Cascadel Arches". Turn left and drive for 5.2 miles. You will pass through the forest service gate, next to the road on the right is the staging area. From North Fork, drive through town and stay on main road passing the 274 turn to Bass Lake. Follow above.

# PECKINPAH OVERLOOK



# Peckinpah Overlook The Ride



-  Staging Area
-  Trail
-  Side roads
-  Main Road
-  Destination

## PECKINPAH OVERLOOK

### THE RIDE

- #1 Just past the turn for the staging area (if you stayed on 8S09) you will see a road heading to the left. Turn left on this road. There are many spurs, but stay on the main road.
- #2 Ride until you come to a split in the road just past the meadow. Turn left on Rd. 28.
- #3 Continue on this road until you see a good road heading to the left. Turn left on this road. If you miss this road, you will shortly come out on Rd. 8S09. You can go back to the first road on the right, or head left down 8S09 and make another left at the next road. Check your map.
- #4 Ride until you come to another road. Turn left.
- #5 Stay on this road until you come to the overlook. There are no signs, but you will know you are there when you see the view of Bass Lake. You can continue on from here, but the road is a dead end. Return the way you came.

# WHITE'S CABIN



## WHITE'S CABIN

**Riding Time:** 3 hours

**Trail Type:** Semi loop

**Season:** April – October (See Attention)

**Elevation:** 5378 – 6000

**Terrain:** Forest service dirt roads and single track trails.

**Difficulty:** This fairly easy ride is a good trail to get your horse accustomed to mountain riding. There are a few short step downs, small water crossings and some areas with low hanging branches and side brush. There is a small culvert that can make noise if your horse steps on it. One chunky rock area, but ok for barefoot horses. There may be cattle in the meadow. There is not a lot of climbing.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Some seasonal creek crossings in spring.

**Camping:** There is wilderness camping along the road past the staging area. Check with the forest service about their policy for camping with horses at Whiskey Falls Campground.

**Staging Area:** There are two pull in spots and one drive through. There is also extra parking across the road.

**Attention:** Check with the forest service (1-559-877-2218) for road conditions and possible gate closure. If you reach the gate and it is closed, there is NO place to turn around with a rig!

**About the Area & Ride:** White's Cabin was built by Stewart Edward White (1873 – 1946). He was a lumberjack, miner, prospector and acclaimed writer. In 1904 he married Elizabeth Calvert Grant. Together they built the cabin and lived there many summers. This book "The Cabin" describes in detail the land, people and his many adventures while living there. This wonderful book, written in the early 1900s, will help you appreciate the meadow and cabin remains.

Peckinpah Meadow was the site of a lumber mill, built and run by Charles Peckinpah and his 5 brothers in 1884 on Whiskey Ridge. The mill produced 2 million board feet of lumber each year, which was hauled down the hill by teams of 12 mules. All that remains are a few piles of wood shavings and a couple of cabins known as "Cow Camp".

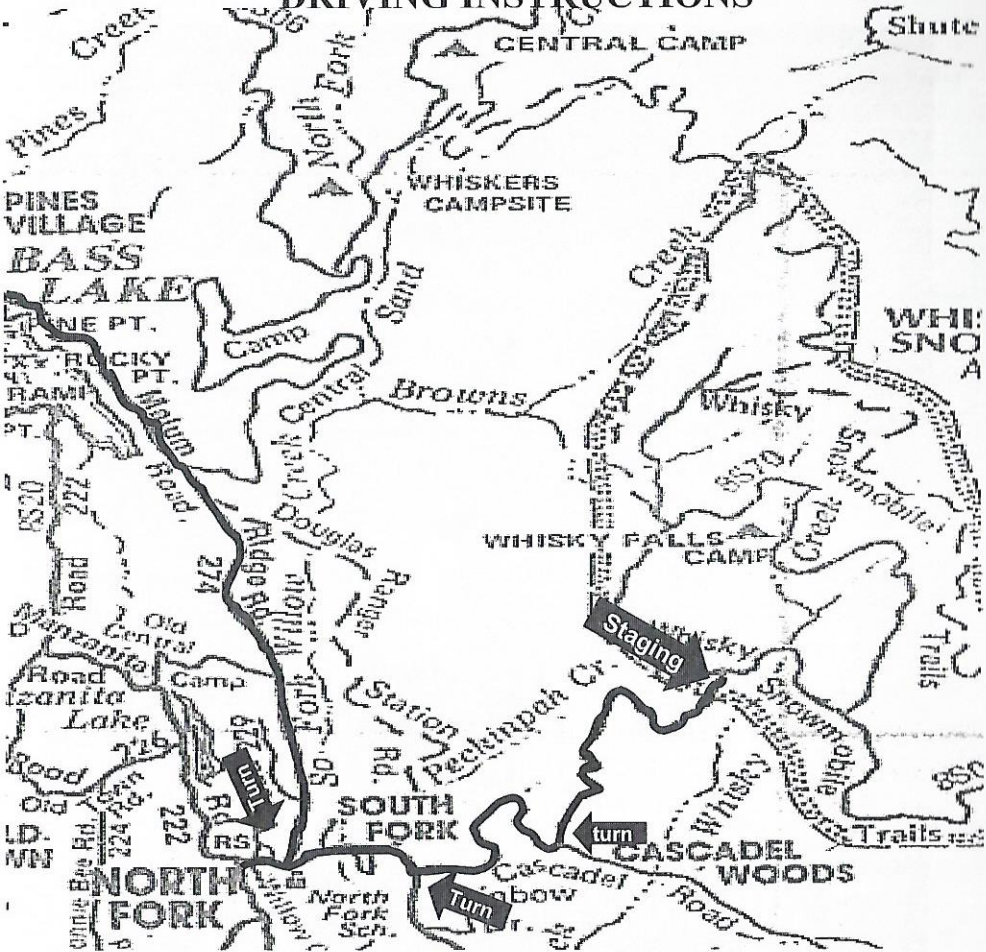
This is a nicely shaded ride with gradual climbs. You have beautiful views of the valley and surrounding mountains. In spring, the meadows are spectacular wildflower displays. "Cow Camp" will take you back in time. The tree lined lanes, normally peaceful during the week, can become quite busy on weekends as this is a very popular dirt bike and ATV area.



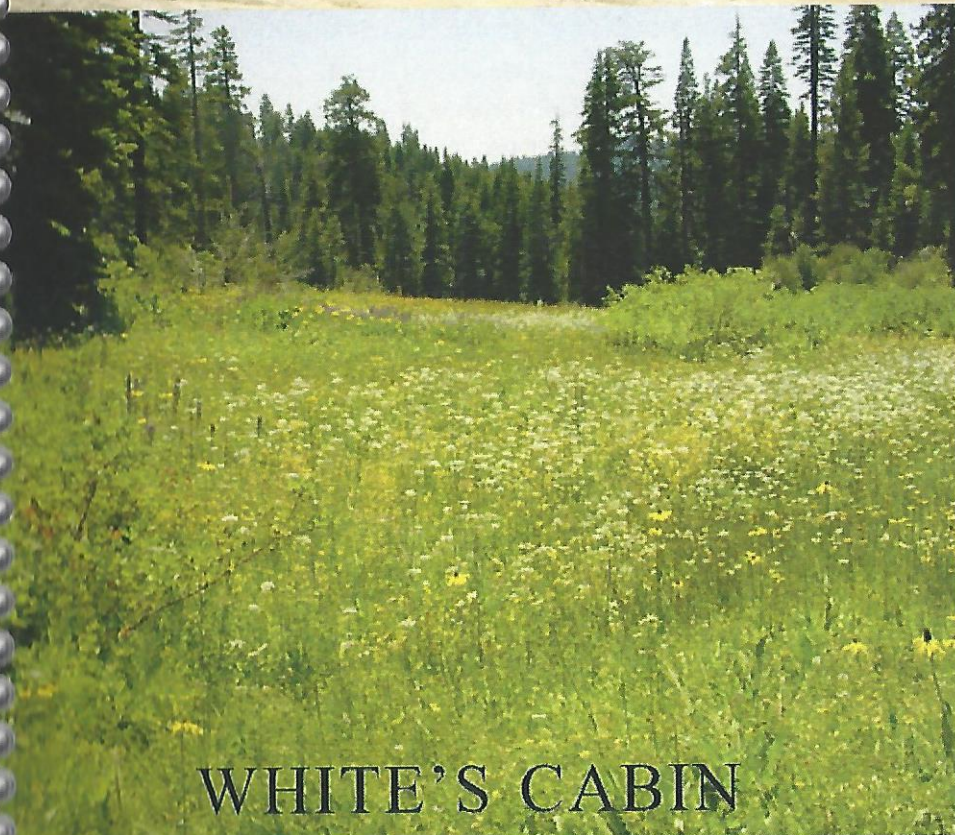




# WHITE'S CABIN STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

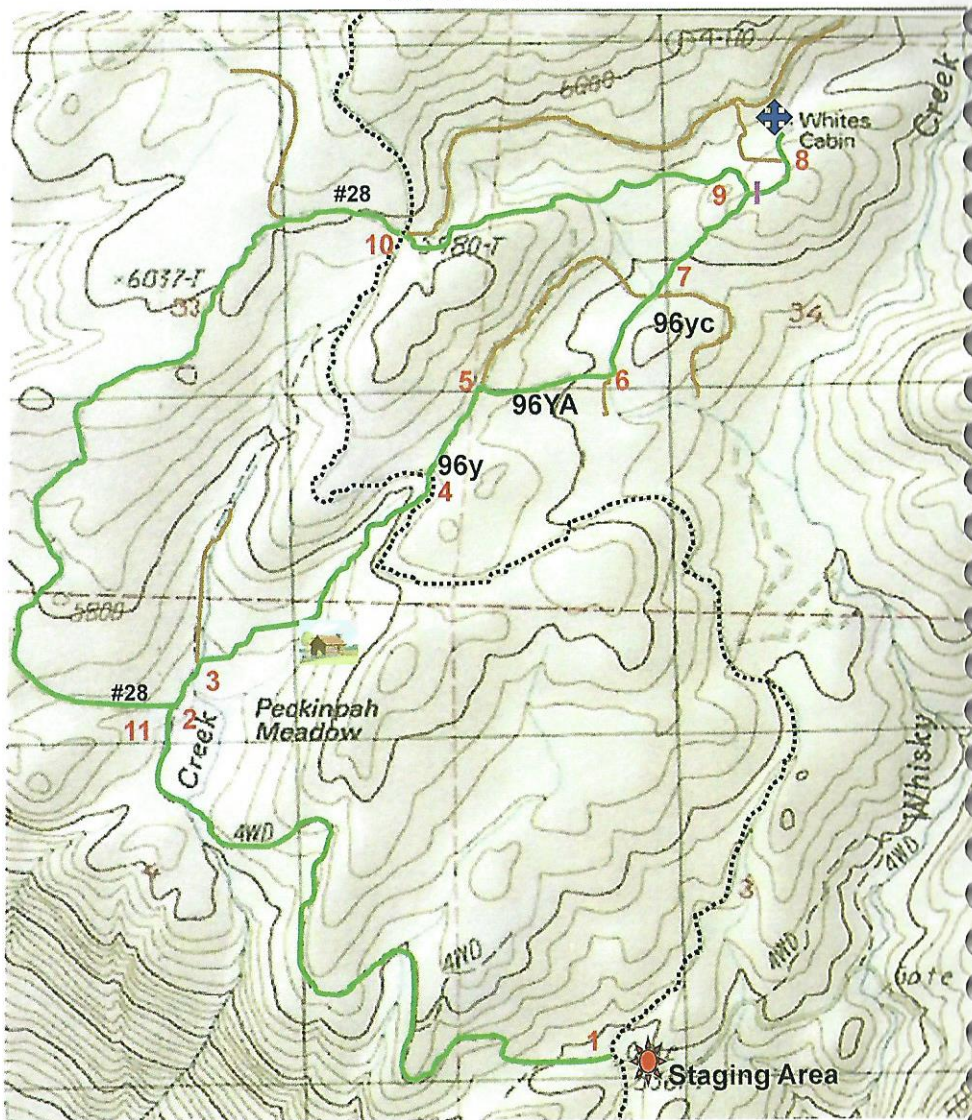


From Oakhurst head north on 41. Turn right on road 222 ( to Bass Lake). Stay on main road ( it turns to rd. 274 but you won't notice). Drive 14.3 miles to road 225 (stop sign). Turn left and drive 1 mile to road 233 (Cascadel). Turn left and follow for 2.1 miles to Peckinpah/Whiskey Falls road (8S09). "Do not go through the Cascadel Arches". Turn left and drive for 5.2 miles. You will pass through the forest service gate, next to the road on the right is the staging area. From North Fork, drive through town and stay on main road passing the 274 turn to Bass Lake. Follow above.



## WHITE'S CABIN

# WHITE'S CABIN THE RIDE



-  Staging Area
-  Trail
-  Side Roads
-  Culvert
-  Destination
- 155
-  Main Road

## WHITE'S CABIN

### THE RIDE

- #1 Just past the turn for the staging area (if you stayed on Road 8S09) you will see a road heading to the left. Take this road. Be sure to stay on this road, as there are many spurs.
- #2 Ride this road until you pass Peckinpah Meadow, at which point you will come to a split in the road (not the one with the cattle chute). Turn to the right. The road on the left is Rd. 28, which you will return on.
- #3 Follow this a short distance until you come to another split. Turn to the right. You will soon pass "Cow Camp" on the right. This becomes a single track trail which you will follow through a little canyon until coming back out on the main road.
- #4 Take the main road to the left and follow a short distance to Road 96Y which will be on the right. Turn right.
- #5 When you come to Road 96YA, turn right.
- #6 Follow this road until you come to a "T". Turn left. This will be a single track trail.
- #7 Stay on this trail until you come to Road 96YC. Cross this road and continue on the trail to another "Y" (this is a small single track trail next to a large bush). Stay to the right. You will come to where the culvert is.

**#8** Continue on this trail until you come to a bend in the road. There will be a faint trail straight ahead. Take this trail. It leads to the meadow and the remains of White's cabin. If you miss this trail you will come to a main road (road to Whiskey Falls). Turn around and go back.

**#9** After enjoying the scenery, ride back to the culvert and look to your right for the "Y" (by the bush). Take this to the right. Follow this until you come to the main Road 8S09. Road 96YB will be on your left. Do not take this road.

**#10** Cross the main road and continue on road 28.

**#11** Follow this road until you come to the next split. Turn right. This is the split mentioned earlier in **#2**. Stay to the right. Peckinpah Meadow will be on the left. Follow this main road back to the staging area.



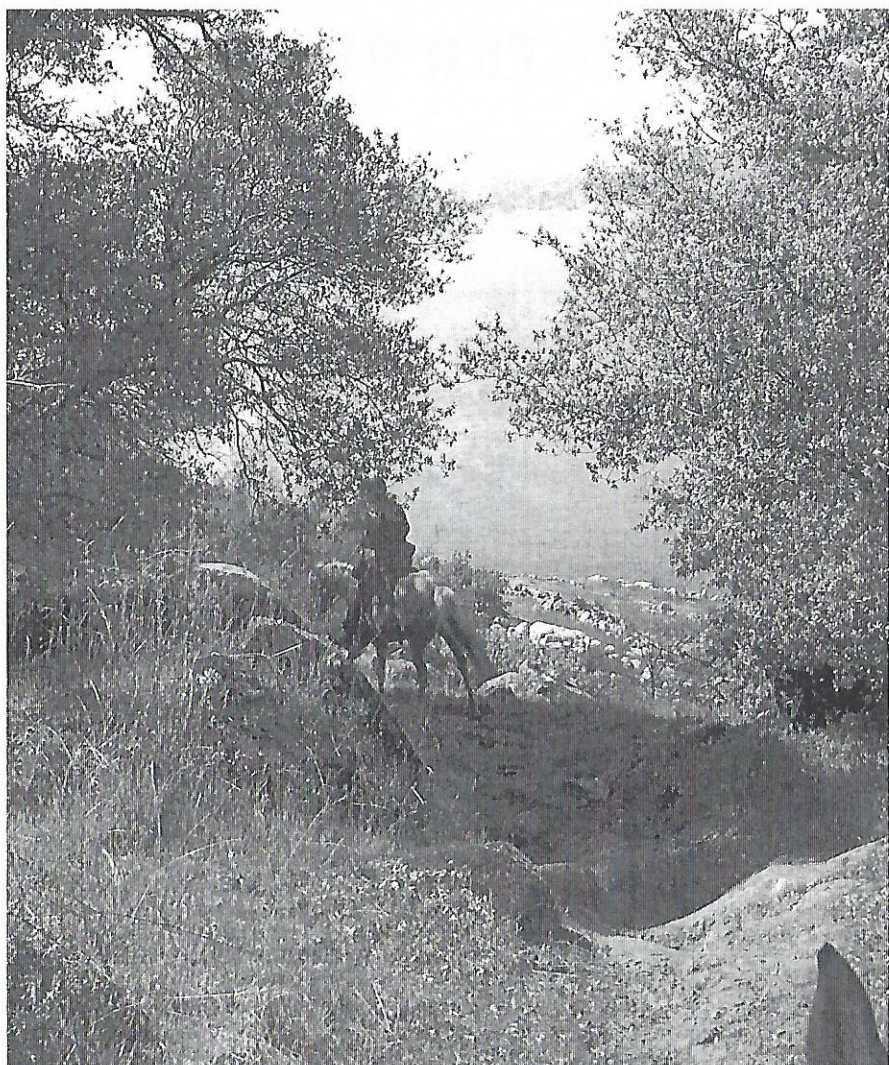
# WINTER RIDES

EASTMAN LAKE

HENSLEY LAKE

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER  
GORGE TRAIL

# EASTMAN LAKE



## EASTMAN LAKE

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** Fall through early spring

**Elevation:** 650 – 800

**Terrain:** Single track trails with a short distance on a plowed road. No motorized vehicles on trails.

**Difficulty:** The trail is a mixture of steep ups and downs. This trail is very well maintained, although you have some rocky areas to maneuver through. There is one water crossing, but it is a trickle. Your horses really must be in good shape.

**Facilities:** None at the Raymond Bridge staging area. The horse camp has nice restrooms and corrals (for campers first), picnic tables and hitching posts. The horse camp is our destination point.

**Water:** No water at the staging area, although you can make your way to the river close by. There is a hose at the horse camp.

**Camping:** Eastman Lake has an equestrian campground with bathrooms and corrals. For more information call the ranger station at (559) 689-3255.

**Staging Area:** Large dirt circle turn out. There is plenty of room for at least 4 large rigs.



**Attention:** The Lakeview Trail is subject to closure in mid-March through August due to nesting Bald Eagles. Please check with the ranger station if your ride is planned during that time. When the weather warms up, this is heavy rattlesnake country.

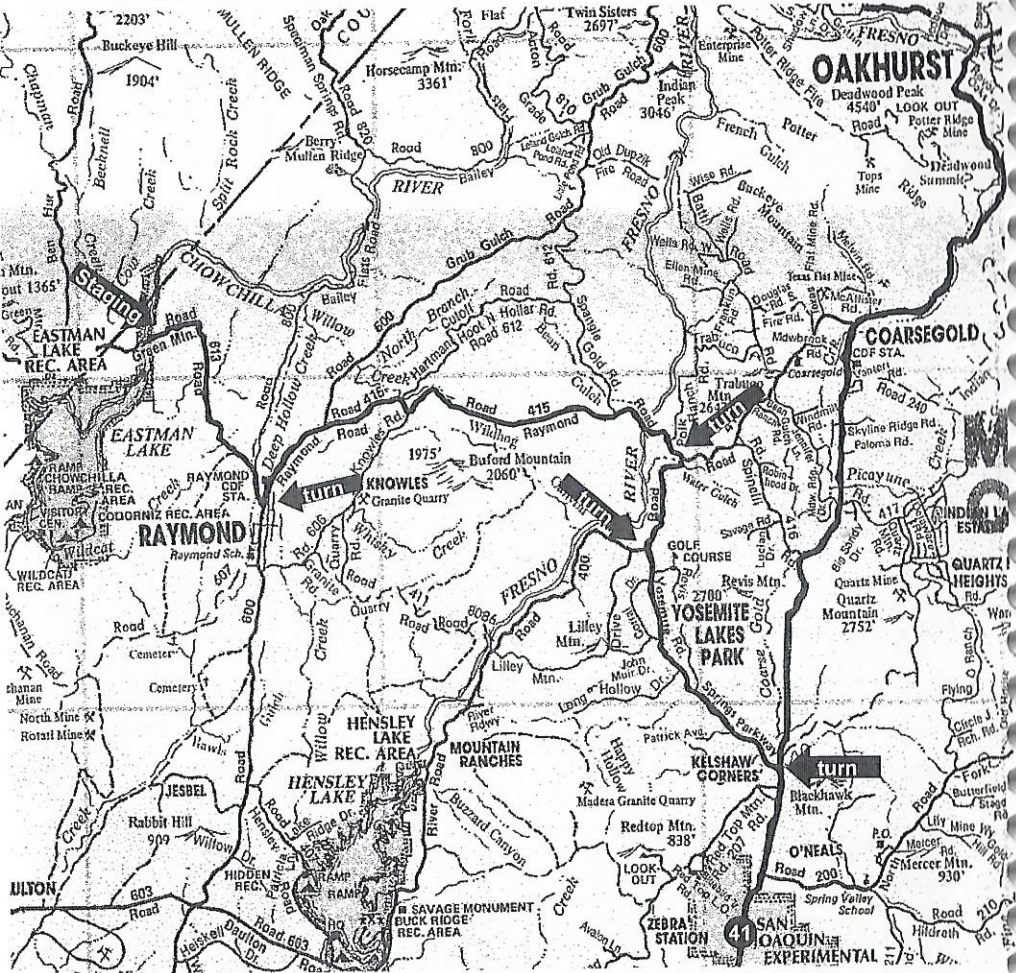
**About the Area & Ride:** You have wonderful views of the lake for most of the ride. In mid-spring, the wildflowers are spectacular. There is abundant grass for your horses to nibble on along the way. Beware of the fiddleneck which is poisonous for horses. This is a good ride to keep your horse in shape during the winter.





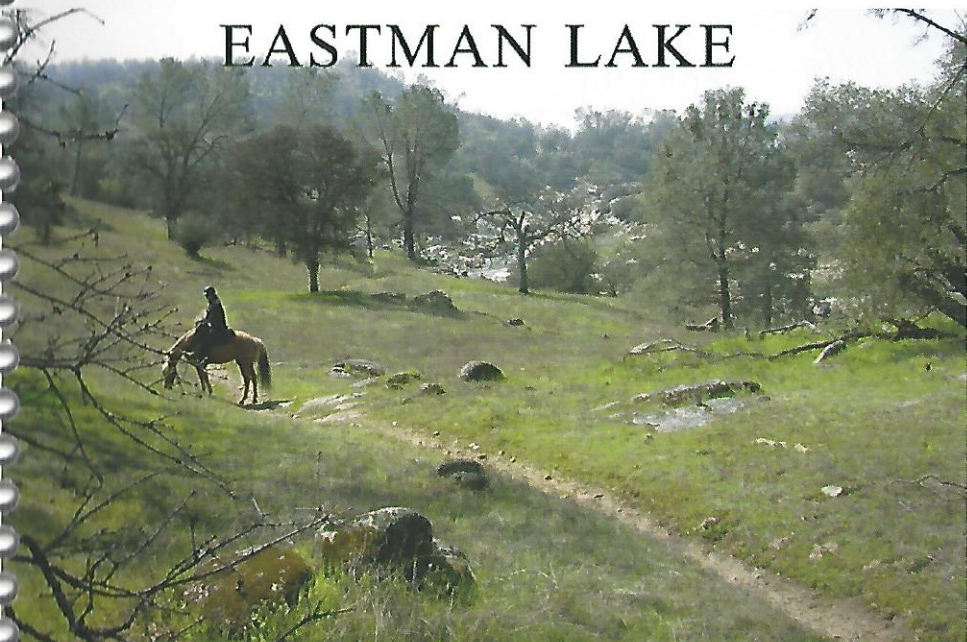
**Eastman Lake in the Fall**

# EASTMAN LAKE - LAKEVIEW TRAIL STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

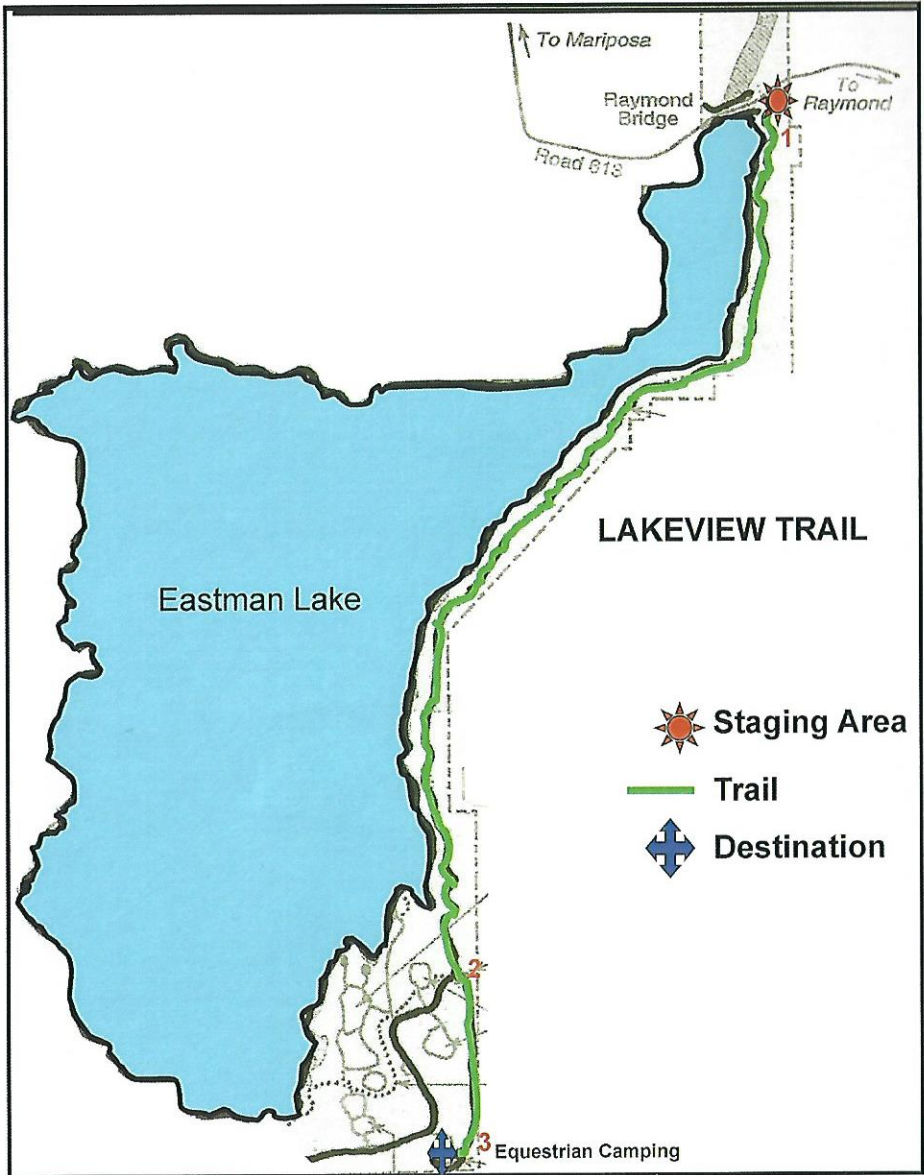


From Highway 41 driving north from Fresno or south from Oakhurst enter Yosemite Lakes Park on Yosemite Springs Parkway (at signal). Follow the main road 4.8 miles until you reach road 400 ("T" in road, end). Turn right and drive 2 miles to road 415 which is another "T". Turn left heading towards Raymond for 9.6 miles ( road 415 turns into road 600 at a curve, keep following the main road until you see road 613. Turn right and drive until you reach a concrete bridge, about 3 miles, look for the sign on the left "Raymond Bridge Rec. Area" This is the staging area.

# EASTMAN LAKE



# EASTMAN LAKE THE RIDE



## EASTMAN LAKE

### THE RIDE

- #1 Next to the information board on the right is the trailhead. Follow this trail. There are a few off shoots, but stay on the main trail.
- #2 You will come to a paved area which is parking for hikers. Ride across until you come to a plowed road next to a fence line.
- #3 Follow this plowed road until you come to the horse camp area which is on the right. You will see the corrals. Return the way you came.



# HENSLEY LAKE



## HENSLEY LAKE

**Riding Time:** 2 hours plus or minus

**Trail Type:** Loops and spurs

**Season:** Late fall into early spring

**Elevation:** 608 – 831

**Terrain:** Wide dirt trails, narrow single track trails, rocks to maneuver and steep climbs. Trail is shared with bicycle riders and hikers. The trails are mostly decomposed granite, making this ride possible after rains.

**Difficulty:** Not for novice riders or out of shape horses. Many steep climbs. One or two small seasonal creek crossings.

**Facilities:** Very clean outhouse facilities. There are picnic tables and hitching posts at the staging area. \$4 day use charge.

**Water:** Small creek crossings possible on the trail. Riding to the water is not advisable because of cockleburrs and possible “quicksand” areas. There is no water at the staging area.

**Camping:** There is no horse camping. We were told that if you call ahead, they may be able to set you up in a site below the dam.

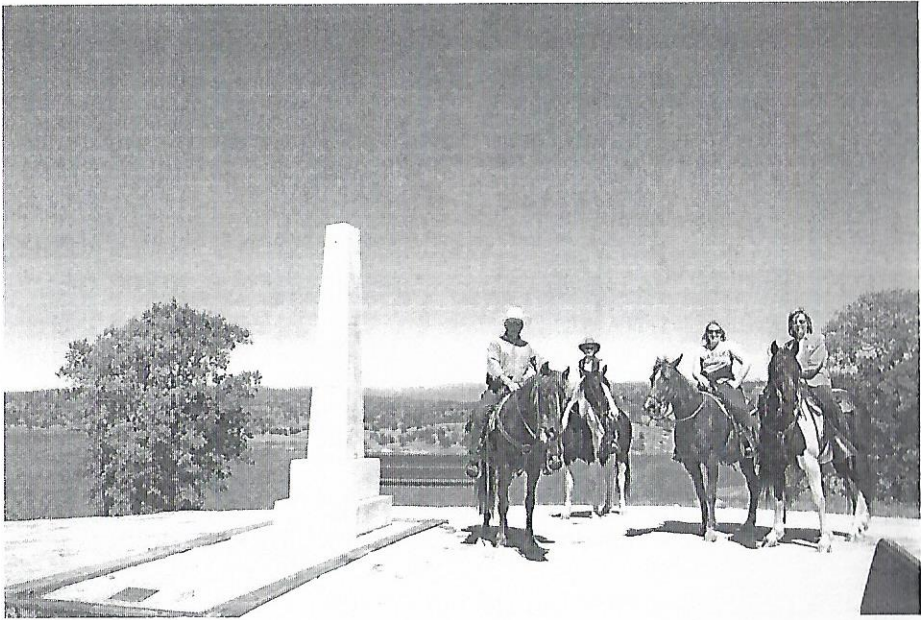
**Staging Area:** Large dirt/gravel parking lot at Buck Ridge capable of handling many rigs. Great for group rides.

**Attention:** This is a very hot ride in summer not to mention a heavy rattlesnake area as well. When you come to #6, be sure to take the trail to the left as the trail straight ahead goes down a granite slab and is quite slippery. 168



**About the Area & Ride:** The lake area was home to the Miwok and Yokut Native Americans. Major James D. Savage, the man credited with the discovery of the Yosemite Valley on March 25, 1851, ran a highly successful trading post where the lake is now. There is a monument erected to his memory.

This is a wonderful cool weather ride. The wildflowers in March are breathtaking! Grass along the trail will make this ride a favorite of your equine buddy as well. If you want to take a shorter, easier ride, consider riding the trail to the left #1 and follow to #7.





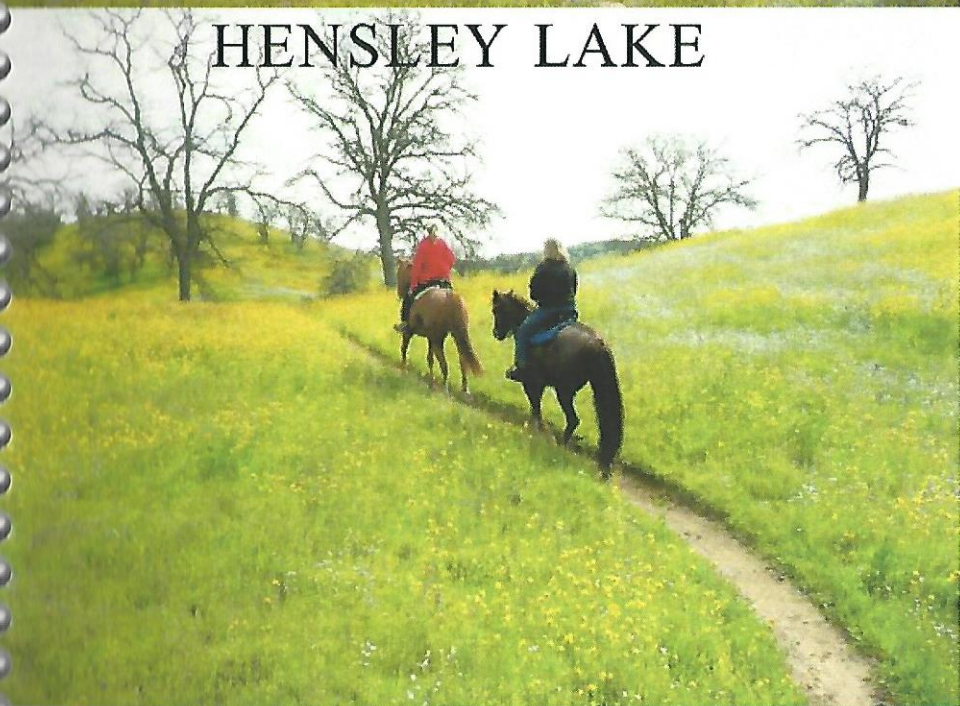
# HENSLEY LAKE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

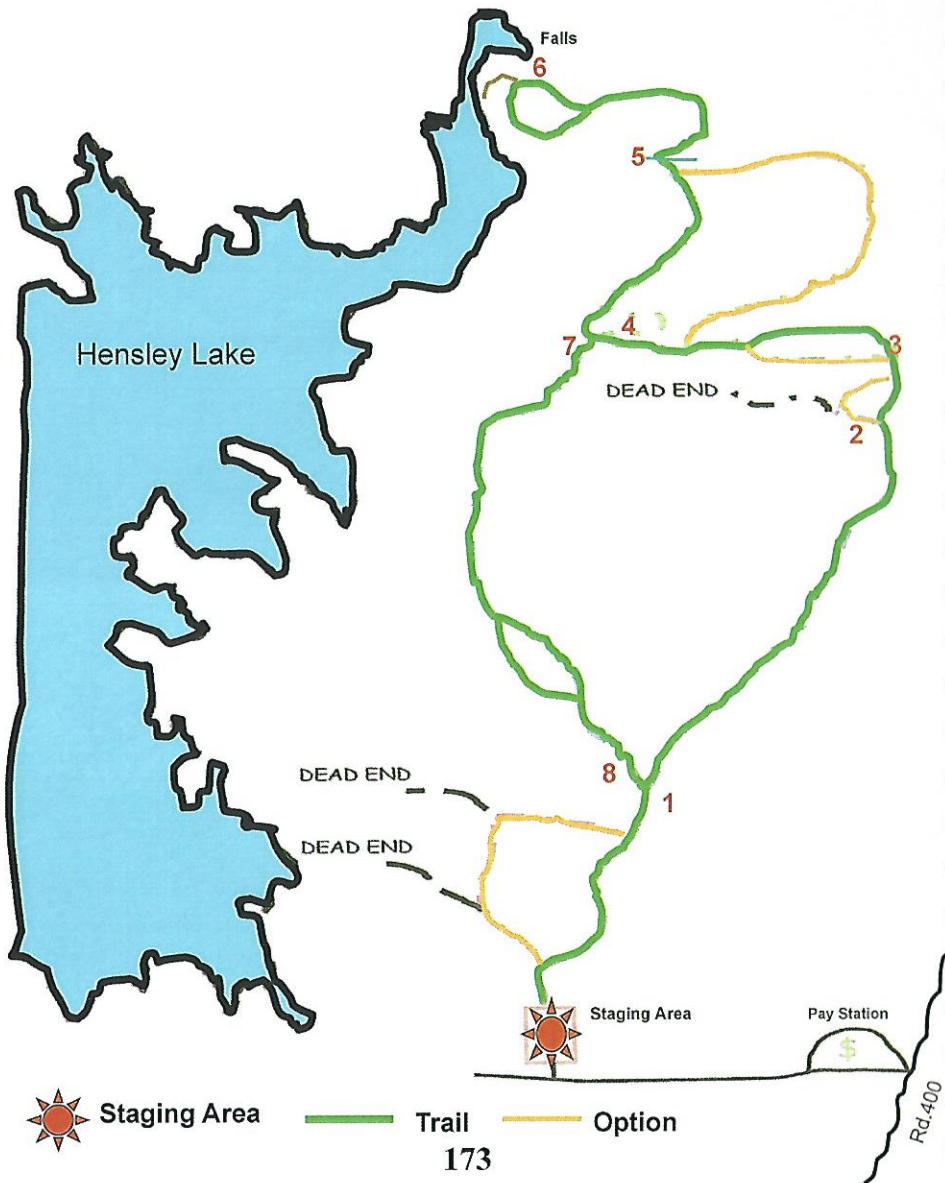


From Highway 41 driving north from Fresno or south from Oakhurst enter Yosemite Lakes Park on Yosemite Springs Parkway (at signal). Follow the main road 4.8 miles until you reach road 400 ("T" in road, end). Turn Left and drive 11.7 miles to Buck Ridge Recreation Area. Turn right, and just past the turn you will see the pay station on your right. Stop and pay. You will continue down the road .2 miles to the first road on your right. This is the Staging Area.



## HENSLEY LAKE





Staging Area



Trail



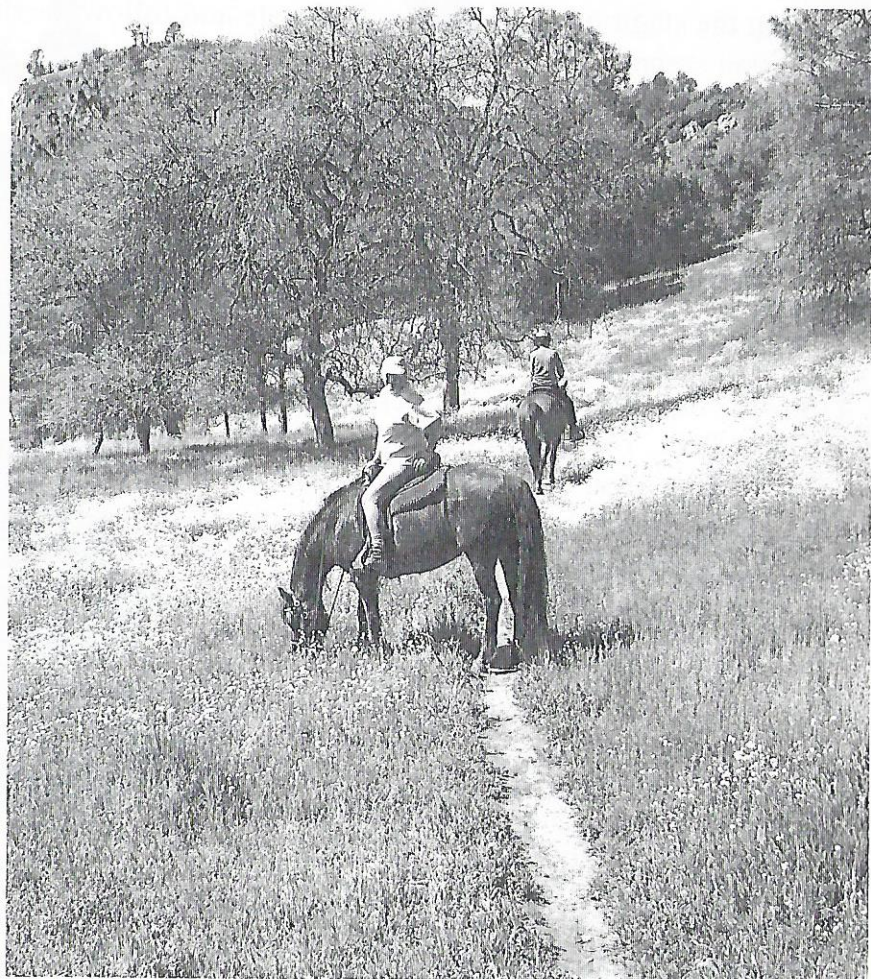
Option

## HENSLEY LAKE

### THE RIDE

- #1 Leaving the staging area, go around the gate and follow the dirt road until you come to a wide fork. Turn right.
- #2 Ride this wide trail until it becomes a single track trail. Stay on this trail.
- #3 When you come to a split in the trail, stay to the right.
- #4 You will pass a side trail, and there are many small spurs, but stay straight until you come to another definite trail. Turn right.
- #5 You will come to a seasonal creek crossing. When you cross, you will veer left. Take the very first trail on the right which will skirt a very rocky area. You will soon see the loop trail on the left. Stay straight. When you reach the top, look on your right for the lake inlet and barrier wall which is a beautiful waterfall in spring.
- #6 Just past the falls you will come to a split in the trail. Make sure you take the trail heading left. You will loop around and join up with the trail, heading to the right, which will lead you back to the creek crossing.
- #7 When you get back to the 3-way intersection, turn right and follow the trail above the river.
- #8 When you get back to #1, turn right and ride back to the staging area. There are side trails worth investigating. If the lake is extremely high, some of these trails are under water.

# SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE



## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE

**Riding Time:** 3-4 hours

**Trail Type:** Out and back

**Season:** Spring, but open all year

**Elevation:** 1080 – 606

**Terrain:** Single track dirt trails with short distance on road.

**Difficulty:** We consider this to be a ride for experienced riders and horses.

**Facilities:** Porta-potty, picnic tables and pipe corrals at the staging area:

**Water:** Water faucet at the staging area. Two small creek crossings in early spring. Lake access at Temperance Flat.

**Camping:** Pipe corrals for horses at the horse camp. Permits are required for groups. No fees at this time.

**Staging Area:** This is a large area with plenty of room for many rigs.

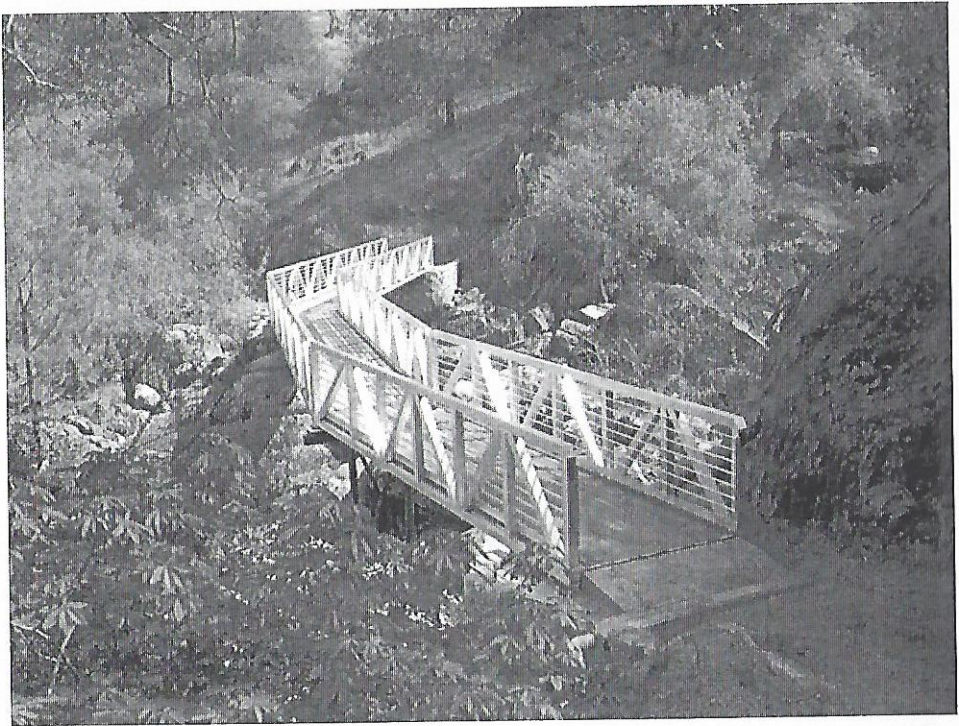
**Attention:** We recommend riding this during the cooler months. This is heavy rattlesnake country. Trails can be slippery after rains. Trails shared with hikers and mountain bike riders.

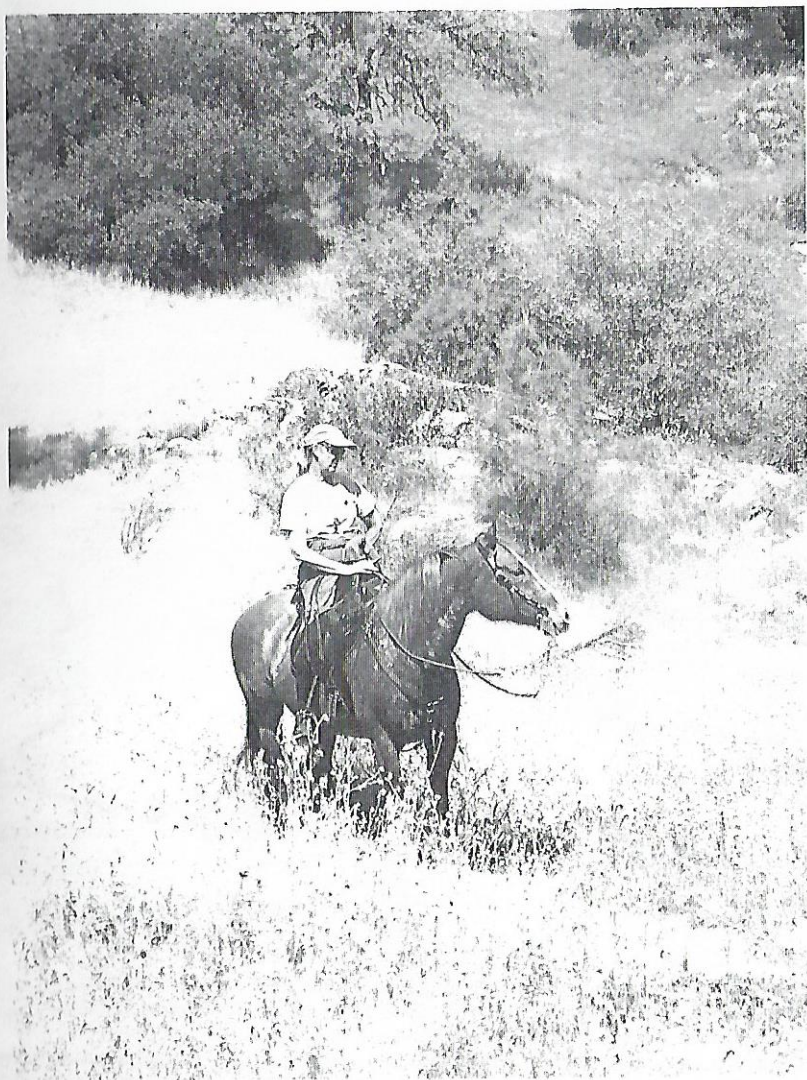
**About the Area & Ride:** The Dumma and Kechayi Native Americans once occupied the management area and surrounding



lands. You ride along the San Joaquin River Gorge, looking down at the river and small waterfalls along the way.

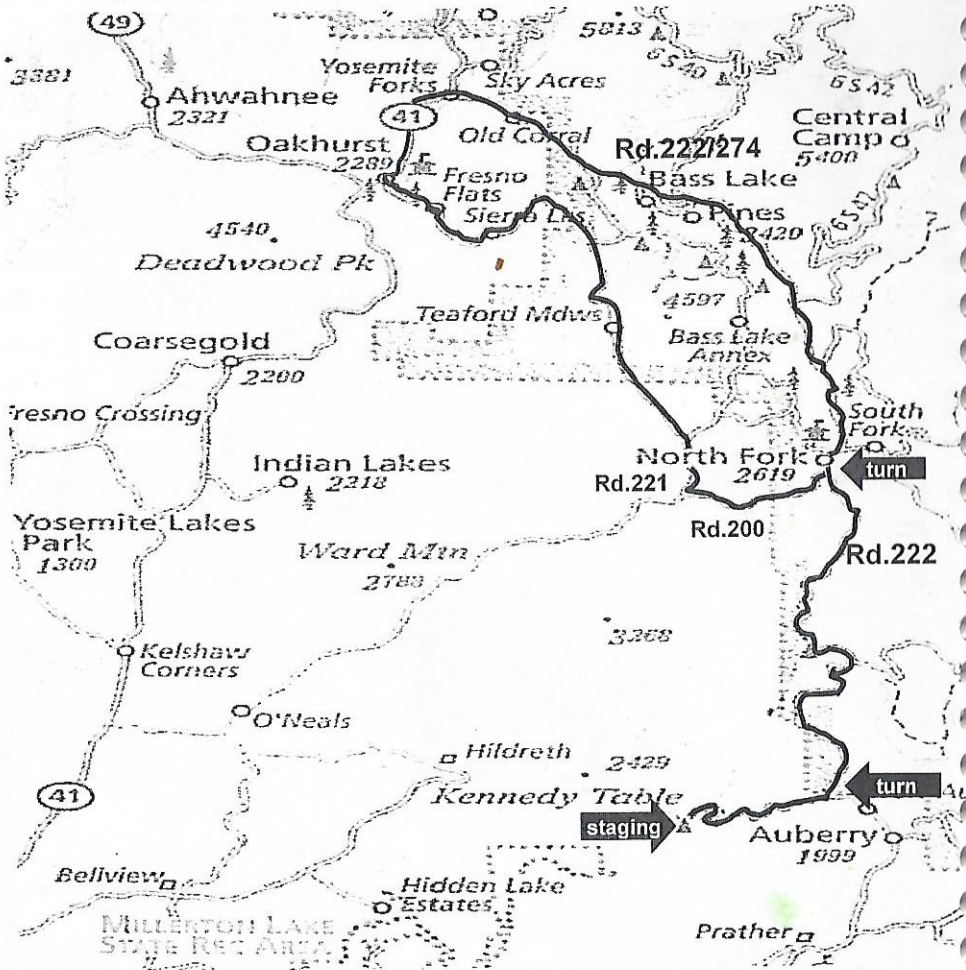
This is a beautiful ride in spring as the green grass and wildflower display are spectacular! You will cross a steel bridge that the Backcountry Horsemen installed in 2008. The bridge is very nice, but is fairly noisy although you are walking on wood. You return on the same trail. You can ride all the way to Millerton Lake by following the SJRT (San Joaquin River Trail) posts. Our ride takes you only to Temperance Flat. There are great views at the turn around point. This is a nice place to have lunch before you head back.





**San Joaquin River Gorge in Spring**

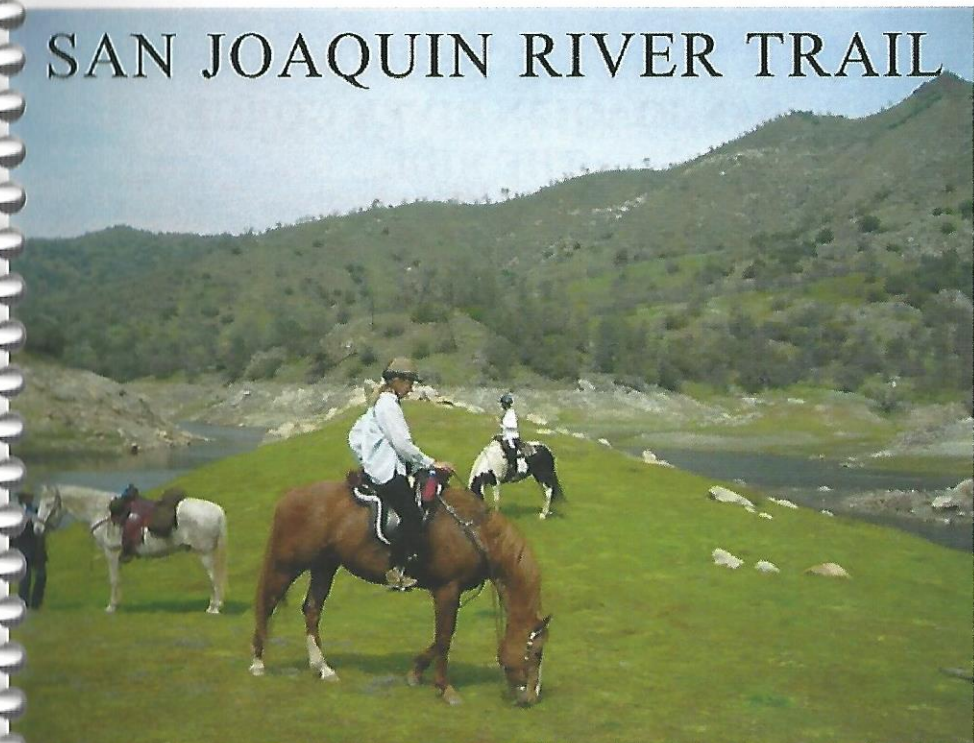
## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



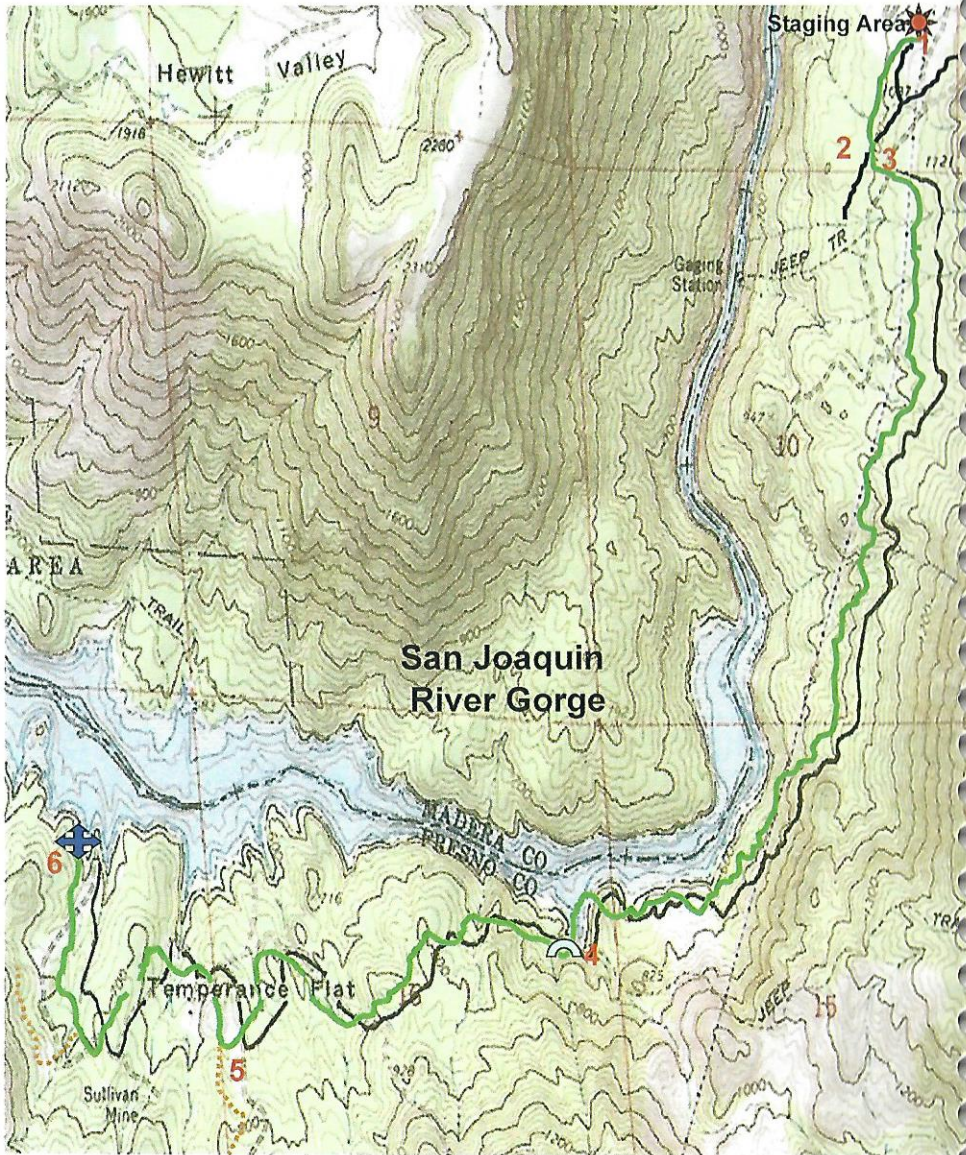
From North Fork, travel west heading out of town, appx. .2 miles to road 222 (powerhouse road-Auberry). Turn left, drive 11.9 miles to Smalley Road (San Joaquin River Gorge). Turn right and drive another 4.3 miles until you come to a split with a sign. Turn right and follow until you pass through a gate, directly on the right are the corrals and staging area. From Oakhurst you can take Rd. 426 to 221. Turn right on 221. Turn left on Rd. 200 (Bass Fork Minit Mart). Turn right on Rd.222 toward Auberry.

Also from Oakhurst you can take 41 to Rd. 222, turning right toward Bass Lake. Stay on main road as it changes to Rd.274. Continue to the stop sign and turn right. Follow directions from North Fork.

# SAN JOAQUIN RIVER TRAIL



# SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE THE RIDE



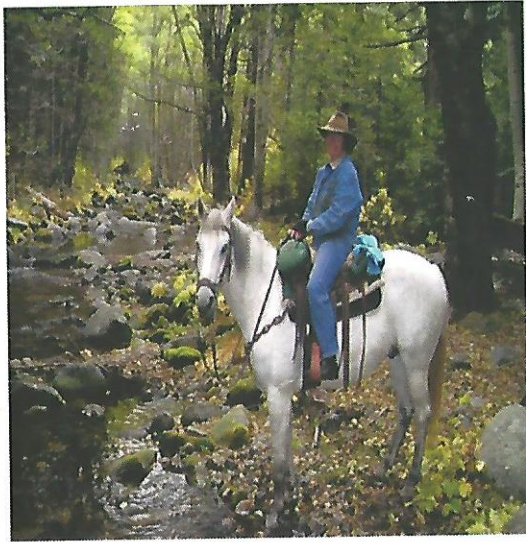
 Staging Area    Trail    Bridge    Destination

## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE

### THE RIDE

- #1 From the staging area, look toward the group camping area. You will see a small green gate. Go through the gate and follow the trail. Cross the road and ride toward the small covered kiosk. Follow the single track trail that skirts the road.
- #2 When you reach the parking area by the lower trailhead, look to your left. You will see the trail. Cross the road and follow the trail to a green gate.
- #3 Go through the gate and follow the trail. There are small side trails, but stay on the main trail. You will pass through a couple of gates. Please close them after you.
- #4 After crossing the bridge, the trail becomes a small dirt road. Keep going. At one point, the trail turns to the left onto a single track. You will see the SJRT post. Follow this trail.
- #5 You will come to a regular dirt road. Go to the right and follow post signs. There are some off shoot driveways, but stay on the main road.
- #6 When you come to a cattle guard, you will be turning right (leaving the SJRT trail). Stay to the right on the road which will take you to the Temperance Flat point. If you decide to continue, follow the SJRT signs. Return the way you came

## About the Authors



I was born & raised in California. My grandfather had me on a horse before I could walk (I have proof!). I have been half-horse ever since. I, my husband Bill and our son Shawn moved to North Fork in 1976. I love to train and ride trails horses in the mountains. I love to be with friends, especially my horses.

Sherry Antill & "Rowdy"



I was bitten by the horse bug when I was a young girl. It is a terminal disease. I bought my first horse when I was 12 years old. My husband Gary and I moved to North Fork in 2000 and within a few months bought horses. My early horse owner years were the best times of my life. I pinch myself every day that I am able to once again enjoy that experience.

Ann Bates & "Bambi"