

# CENTRAL SIERRA NEVADA HORSE TRAILS

Volume II



By Sherry Antill & Ann Bates

Happy  
Trails!

Ann Bates

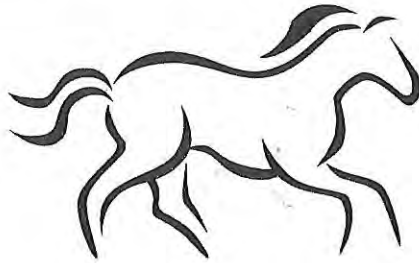
Henry Antell

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HORSE TRAILS  
Volume II**

**By Sherry Antill & Ann Bates**

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**Cover Page: Trail to Deer Camp – Empire Meadow  
Yosemite National Park**

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## INTRODUCTION

**Central Sierra Nevada Horse Trails – Volume II** was written to compliment our first book, **Central Sierra Nevada Horse Trails**, by offering options to trails already written about and to add new trails to your repertoire.

In Volume II, we, with your suggestions and input, have done things a little differently. The maps are traced on a topography style map, showing elevations and information that will make following the trails easier.

We have added more detail in our descriptions of each ride and what you can expect or may encounter along the way.

### FINE PRINT & DISCLAIMERS

We, as horse owners, have come to realize that our beloved four-legged companions are more or less "thousand pound chickens" and are predictably unpredictable. Trail obstacles for one horse might be a horrific "stumapasaurus" for another. A simple creek crossing for your horse might be a bottomless rushing pit to hell for your riding companion's mount. Our own horses have many, many miles of trail experience; and, while they are not bombproof, are seasoned trail horses. They still spook and they still will at times question our decisions. They are horses.

We are not endurance riders. We are casual, or maybe just a tad more than casual, trail riders.

We prefer not to take risks, but riding in general is a risk (remember the thousand pound chicken). Our trails are in the forest and foothills. Bears live in the forest. Deer jump from behind bushes. Snakes slither through the grass. Today we saw wild turkeys! Tomorrow we might not even see a squirrel. Nothing is predictable on horseback and no two days are the same. We have done our best to rate the trails from a conservative standpoint rather than from the views of a hard core back country rider. These trails are not for horses used to arenas and 12' x 12' stalls. These trails are not for riders who are beginners. We have timed the rides from a walk and did not add stops for lunch. Weather is unpredictable, especially in the mountains. We have seen it snow in May and hail in July. Trail conditions can change. It is always advisable to contact the local forest service office for updates on conditions and weather. We claim no responsibility for damage or injury to you, your horse or your rigs while using these trails or roads. We cannot be responsible for weather, trail or road conditions, including fee changes or trail closures. We have ridden these trails literally dozens of times because we live here and this is where we ride. It is our hope that you will find them as enjoyable as we have and that this will be a positive experience and one that you will remember for years to come. Happy Trails!

Sherry & Ann

## TRAIL SAVVY

**Etiquette:** Please stay on the trails. Don't let your horses eat the trees when tied. We ask that you remove and scatter "deposits" left at staging areas. If riding in the Mariposa Grove, please kick "deposits" off of the trail, as this is a major hiking trail. Thank you.

**Wild Animals:** It is always exciting to see wildlife, but beware and keep your distance.

**Pack it out:** We love our trails. Please keep them beautiful by packing your trash out (or somebody else's). Please practice "Leave No Trace" principles.

**Look but don't touch:** Please leave any artifacts you might find where you found them.

**All use trails:** We ride where you may encounter hikers, ATVs, mountain bikes and motorcycles. Most will stop and let you pass. They have just as much right to these trails as we do. If at any time you come upon stable horses or pack animals, they are always given the right of way.

**Safe than sorry:** If you are uncomfortable riding where you don't feel you or your horse is ready for, either get off and walk or turn around and go back. Your safety is the most important thing to think about. If your horse isn't used to obstacles, practice at



home before you head out for the ride. If you cross an area that is a challenge, it is more than likely you will be crossing it on the return trip.

**First Aid:** It is always a good idea to take a small first aid kit with you on your ride. You can go on the internet and find lists of things to carry. We always ride with cell phones and/or walkie-talkies. We outfit our saddlebags with different items in summer than we do in winter. When riding in the mountains, be prepared for unexpected changes in weather.

**Elevation:** Elevation changes can take a toll on you and your horse. Rides at lower elevations are a good way to begin.

**Weed-Free Feed:** When planning your trip, find out if hay and uncertified feed are allowed where you are camping.

Elk Grove Milling (they carry weed-seed free feed)

8320 Eschinger Road

Elk Grove, CA

Toll Free 1-888-346-7649

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

## CONTACT LIST

### **Sierra National Forest:**

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

They have up to date information on weather conditions, road conditions, maps, camping information, fees and much more.

### **Bass Lake Ranger Station:**

(559) 877-2218

Located in downtown North Fork

Maps, permits, information

### **Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau:**

(559) 683-4636

41969 Highway 41

Oakhurst

Maps, book & information

[www.yosemitethisyear.com](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

(559) 297-0706 Ranger Station

## **Yosemite National Park**

(209) 372-0576 Trails Office

(209) 375-9520 Wawona Ranger Station

(209) 372-0524 Corrals Office

## **Camping Reservations**

ReserveUSA.com

1-877- 444-6777

## **Horse Camping – Sierra National Forest**

Kelty Meadow – Reservations Required

Texas Flat – Reservations Required

Whiskey Falls (primitive camping)

Camp 5 (primitive camping)

San Joaquin River Gorge – (559) 855-3492 Gorge Office

Snow Play Area – Fish Camp (primitive camping)

Our web site is [www.csnhorsetrails.com](http://www.csnhorsetrails.com) . We update trail conditions as soon as we receive the information. Our flagging colors are pink & yellow. Our email address is [csnhorsetrails@netptc.net](mailto:csnhorsetrails@netptc.net) .

**What if you don't have your own horse** but would love to enjoy the experience of riding in the Sierras? You have several options. You can ride in Yosemite from the stables in Tuolumne Meadows, the Yosemite Valley, or Wawona. Children must be at least 7 years old and 44" tall. Maximum weight is 225 lbs.

Yosemite also offers High Sierra Camps saddle trips where you can spend 4 or 6 days with a professional guide packer, exploring and learning about Yosemite. Then, top off your days with a stay at a High Sierra Camp, enjoying delicious food and good company. Reservations are by lottery and can be made by calling (801) 559-4909 after February 9. You can get information online at [www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com).

Tuolumne Meadows Stables (209) 372-8427

Yosemite Valley Stables (209) 372-8348

Wawona Stables (209) 375-6502

Outside of the park is the **Yosemite Trails Pack Station** which is our personal favorite. Phone them at (559) 683-7611 or visit their web site at [www.yosemitetrails.com](http://www.yosemitetrails.com). They are a 3 generation, family owned and operated pack station, plus they raise their own horses! You ride horses, not mules. They offer 1 hour trail rides through the pines along the banks of Big Creek which is one of the most pristine rivers in the area. Their 2 hour ride offers the grandeur of Vista Pass. The half day ride is their exclusive trail ride into Yosemite's Mariposa Grove. What better way to get a glimpse into Yosemite's past than to visit these

2,000 year old redwood trees the way John Muir did. This ride is offered Wednesday and Saturdays. A minimum of 4 riders is required. They also offer an "All You Can Eat" chuck wagon BBQ and camp fire sing along on Tuesday and Friday nights from mid June through Labor Day weekend. Their "Drovers" pick you up at the beautiful Tenaya Lodge, via a horse drawn wagon pulled by two Belgian draft horses, and take you down historic Jackson Road to their cowboy camp. Steak, fish, chicken, chili, salads, roasted vegetables and sausage are just a few of the delights to enjoy as you walk through the chow line. After dinner, while making S'mores, join their cowboys as they sing the campfire classics around the open camp fire. At the end of the evening the wagons will return you to the lodge with family memories that will last forever. This is especially nice for families with young children.





# **YOSEMITE**

## **WAWONA**

**WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS**

**WAWONA – MOUNT SAVAGE**

**ALDER CREEK FALLS – DEER CAMP**

**CHILNUALNA FALLS**

**GLACIER POINT**

**NEVADA FALLS**

**DEER CAMP LOOP**

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**ELIZABETH LAKE**

**LYELL CANYON**

**LOWER GAYLOR LAKE**

**UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE**

**DOG LAKE**

**GLEN AULIN**

# WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS





## WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS

**Riding Time:** 2 – 5 Hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** As early as late March through November or until it snows. Check with the Wawona Ranger Station, Corrals or Yosemite Trails Office as to trail conditions.

**Elevation:** 4000 – 6000 ft

**Terrain:** Dirt, asphalt & gravel roads, and single track trails.

**Difficulty:** This ride is for everyone. Beginners will love the Meadow Loop with virtually no obstacles. This ride is perfect for the older horse. Intermediate riders will find the optional trails more challenging, although quite suitable for riders and horses new to mountain riding. The optional trails have more uphill climbs and a couple of creek crossings. If you park at Staging Area #1 you will ride through a covered bridge with wood flooring, possibly pass a 2-horse drawn wagon, and encounter a lot more tourists and autos.

**Facilities:** None at staging areas. Restrooms are at the parking lot in Wawona village and the far end of the golf course.

**Water:** Numerous creek crossings. It is a good idea to bring water with you.

**Camping:** Wawona and Bridalveil horse camps within the park (reservations required). Ride right from camp in Wawona.

**Staging Area:** #1 – Very large dirt parking area off of Chilnualna Falls Road. #2 – Turn out off of Wawona Road which will accommodate several rigs.

**Attention:** Your horses must be accustomed to bridges and horse drawn wagons if you choose Staging Area #1. It is a very popular tourist area and nobody wants to risk a wreck.

The Meadow Loop is a popular ride of the Wawona Stables. If you encounter the rental horses, they must be given right of way. If you happen to see them, take a break so you aren't following closely. You will pass through the golf course on your return. Remain on the asphalt. Do not let your horses graze! You will cross Wawona Road. Be prepared for passing campers and busses.

Be on your best behavior whenever using the trails in Yosemite as we want to remain an asset. Riding in the park is a privilege not to be taken lightly.

**About the Area & Ride:** The village of Wawona was established around 1855 as a way station and resting stop 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 same as it was 50 years ago, with the addition of an attached gift shop. The hotel, although completely renovated, has the charm of the early 1900's. The Pioneer History Center will take you back in time. The Wawona Golf Course was the first golf course in the Sierras and is still in full operation today.

This ride is especially colorful in the autumn and during May & June when the dogwoods are in bloom. Be sure to watch for the old cedar rail fencing and cattle chute from days long ago when cattle and horses were pastured in the meadow.

After passing behind the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist camp (do not ride into the camp), veer away from the camp to the right. You will come to the 3-way unmarked trail junction. Keep riding straight ahead and shortly you will arrive back at Staging Area #2.



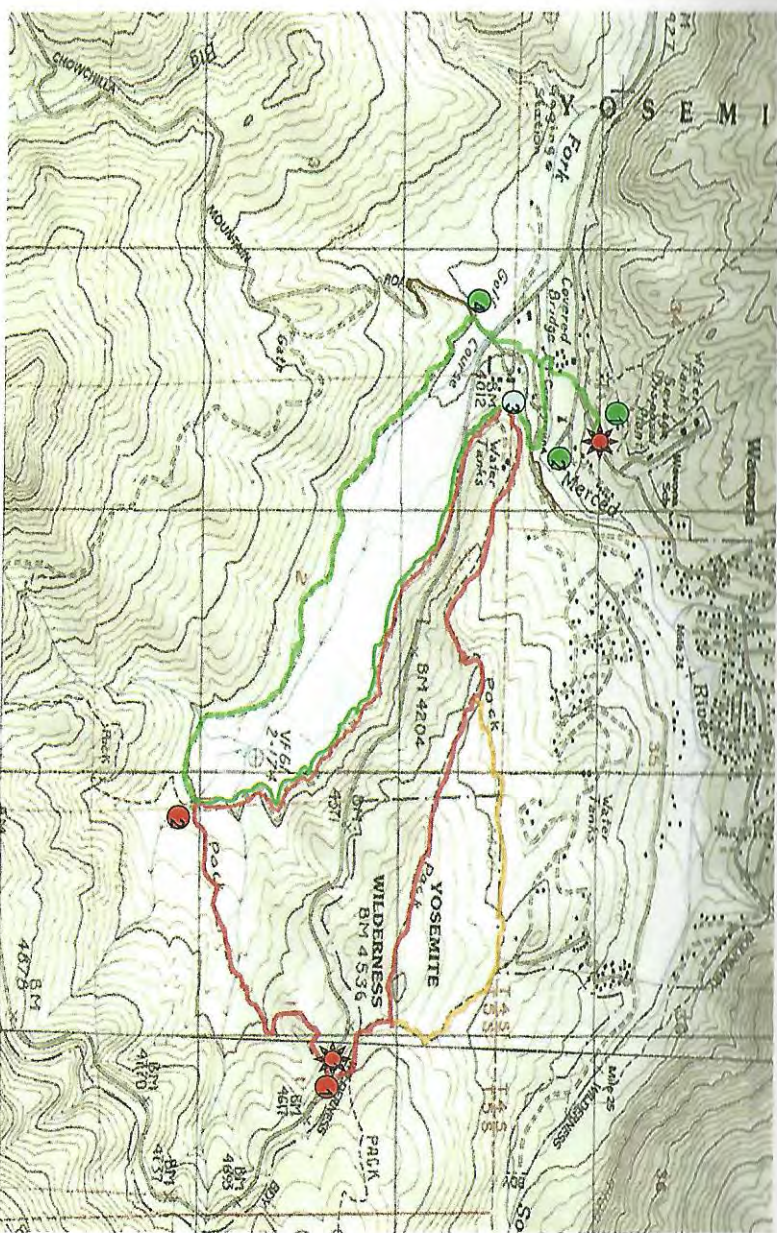
## WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41 towards the south entrance to Yosemite. Turn left after entering the park entrance and drive approximately 2 ½ miles to a dirt turnout on the right Staging Area #2. Or continue on to 4.9 miles to the Chilnualna Falls Rd. and turn right. Travel 0.4 miles to the dirt turnout Staging Area #1 on the right just past the turnoff for the Wawona Ranger Station and Horse Camp.



 Staging Areas  
  Trail 1  
  Trail 2  
  Option



# WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS

## THE RIDE

## WAWONA MEADOW LOOPS

### THE RIDE

- #1 From staging area #1. Cross over road onto single track trail leading toward the stables. Cross the road and continue to the right, crossing the road leading to the ranger station and horse camp. Ride through the small dirt parking lot, turning left onto the single track trail before the stables. Follow this to the covered bridge. Ride through the bridge and turn left next to corrals.
- #2 Continue on dirt trail past the corrals. The trail heads right, just past the RV dump station. Cross the asphalt road and continue up the trail to the dirt service road. Stay on this road which skirts the backside of Wawona Hotel. Do not turn left at the sign for the Mariposa Grove. Stay on this road past the water tanks, which will be on the left, and look for a single track trail that leads down to the highway (41).
- #3 Cross the highway and follow the dirt road to the left and you will arrive at the entrance to the meadow loop. Follow the meadow loop road until you come out at a green gate.
- #4 Turn right after the green gate, ride through the golf course (on paved road) and cross back over the highway. Just to the left of the driveway leading to the hotel is a single track trail. Follow the trail straight into the tree line. You will be next to the tennis court. Skirt around the backside of the court and follow the trail until you see the hay stack. Cross the road and follow the dirt road next to the corrals and through the covered bridge back to your trailers.

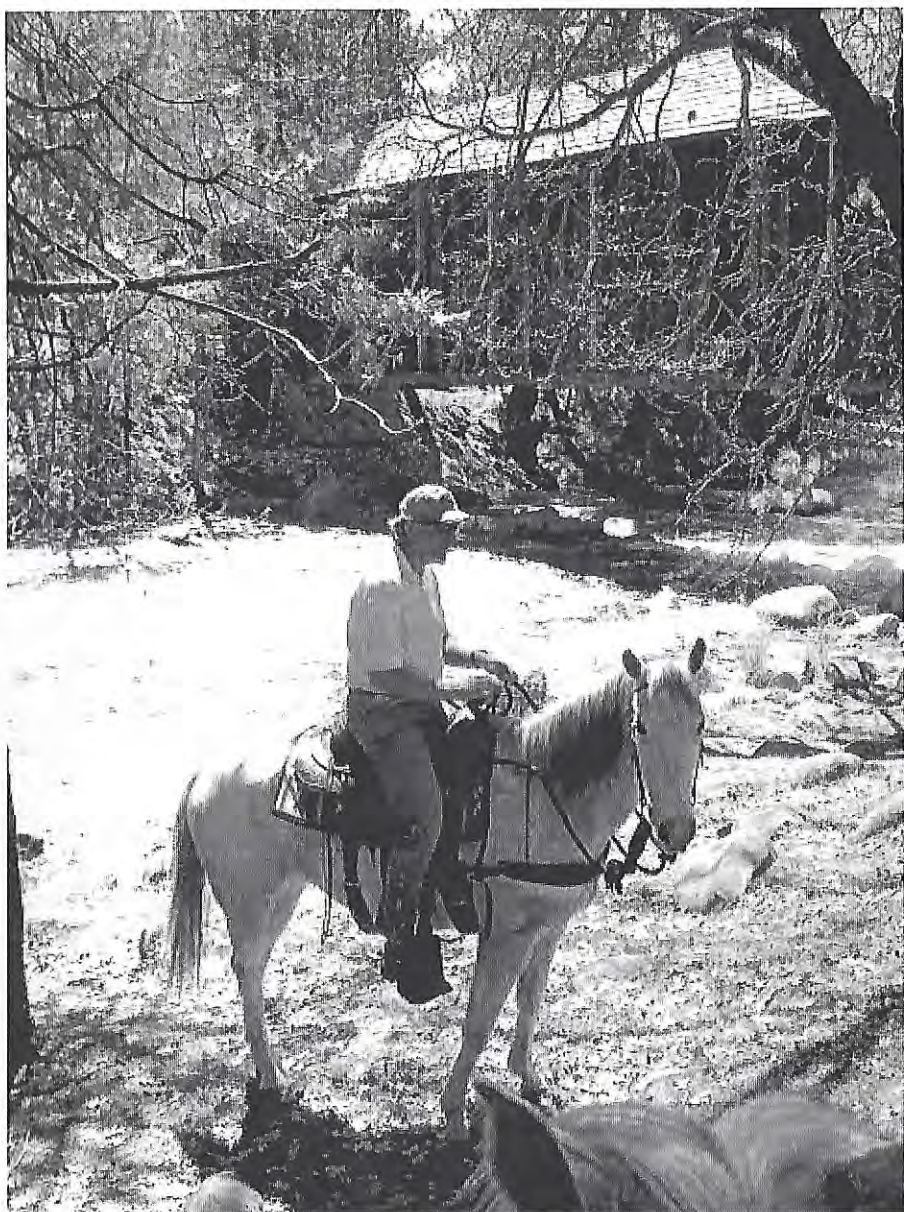
**#1** From staging area **#2**. Go around the gate and head to your right on the single track trail until you come to a metal sign for the Mariposa Grove. There will also be a wooden sign "Two Hour Trail". This is the trail you want. Turn right and follow the single track trail to the highway. Cross over and continue to follow the single track trail, crossing one and possibly two small creeks, until you come to the meadow loop road.

**#2** Turn right on the road, riding until you see a gate. Go around the gate. Follow the dirt road until you see a single track trail on the other side of the highway. Cross the road and ride up the trail.

**#3** Stay on the trail/road until you see a metal sign on the right for the Mariposa Grove (just behind the hotel). Turn right on this trail and follow back to your trailers. You will pass 2 side roads along the way. Stay on the main trail.

**OPTION:** After turning right at the Mariposa Grove sign, you will come to a trail on the left. Turning left and riding this trail is actually prettier than the main trail and avoids rocky areas. We personally like to take this side trail. Stay to the right on this trail at all junctions. You will be riding past the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Camp. Don't ride into the camp. The trail will veer to the right and arrive back at the main trail. Stay to your left and continue to step 4. When the trail makes a sharp left, you will see staging area **#2** and the metal gate.





# WAWONA – MT. SAVAGE



## WAWONA - MOUNT SAVAGE

**Riding Time:** 5 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** April or May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 4000 – 5000 ft

**Terrain:** Dirt single track and wide trails, rocky areas, forestry road and approximately ½ mile of gravel road.

**Difficulty:** Fairly strenuous

**Facilities:** None at staging area. Restrooms at horse camp, golf course and Wawona picnic area.

**Water:** Several creek crossings along the trail. River below RV dump station.

**Camping:** Wawona Horse Camp (reservations required)

**Staging Area:** Large turnout off of Chilnualna Falls Road or unmarked dirt turnout approximately 2 ½ miles inside the south entrance to Yosemite. The turnout is on the right and can accommodate 3 large rigs.

**Attention:** Two areas where trail is single track with fairly steep slope. One creek crossing where you may choose to dismount and lead your horse across. Some horses jump this creek, so be aware and give them plenty of room.

**About the Area and Ride:** Mount Savage, a peak with an altitude of 5745 feet, is located 2 miles south of Wawona and in Mariposa County. Chester Versteeg suggested the name in the early 1950's

to commemorate Major James D. Savage of the Mariposa Battalion. The mountain was known locally as Twin Peaks or Mount Adeline.

In 1851 the Mariposa Battalion was created under the authority of the Governor of California to put an end to raids carried out by Native Americans. Major James Savage led the Battalion into Yosemite Valley that same year while in pursuit of around 200 Ahwaneechees, led by Chief Tenaya. They were suspected of raiding trading posts in the area...most notably one owned by Savage. He is given credit for the discovery of the Yosemite Valley on March 27, 1851 and named it after the tribe which inhabited it. Ironic that first Savage was involved in fighting the Indians, but as the area became more populated, he made friends with them and even married at least five Indian girls, one from each tribe. There are also records showing that Savage employed Chinese to work the San Joaquin River for him.

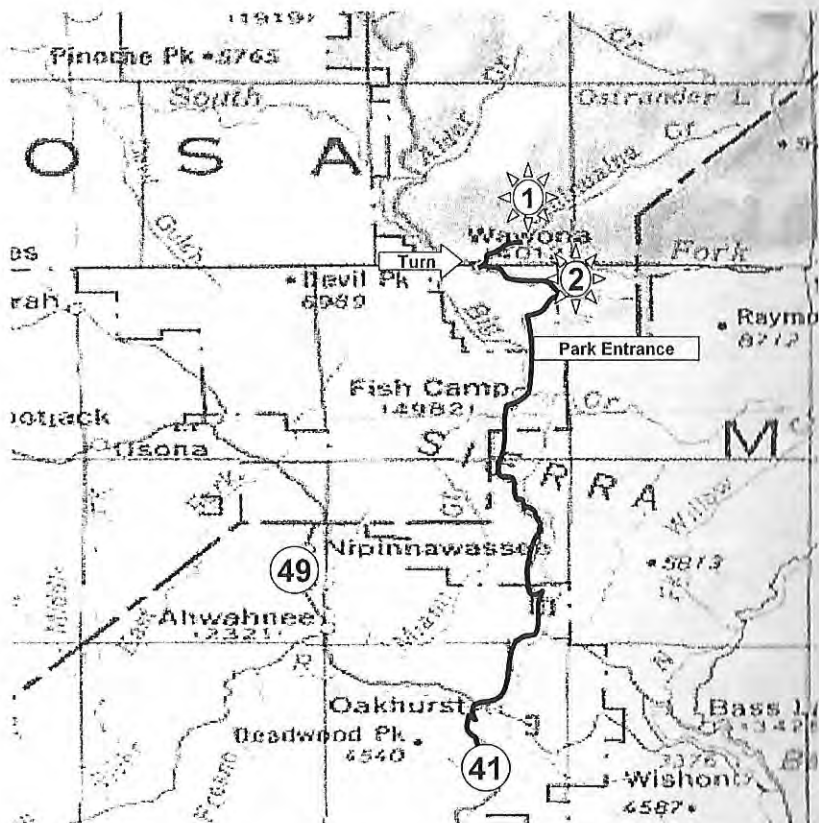
On March 27 of the same year, the company of 60 men reached what is now called Old Inspiration Point and saw for the first time the major features of the Yosemite Valley such as Half Dome, El Capitan and Bridalveil Falls.

This ride is a combination of dirt forestry roads, single track trails on old pack routes and returning on Chowchilla Mountain Road, which was at one time the stage coach route to Wawona. This ride has many instructions, so we chose to add more detail in this section. As you begin your ride past the stables, alongside the Pioneer Village and through the historic covered bridge over the south fork of the Merced River, beware that you are in a heavily used tourist area. Horses are not allowed in the Pioneer Village.

Beginning in spring and into early fall, the two-team horse drawn wagon takes tourists on a ride through the Wawona area, including the Pioneer Village and through the covered bridge. Right of way must be given to them at all times. If you would like to water your horses, a good place is just below the RV disposal station. If your horse is not used to picking his way over river rocks, you may choose to wait.



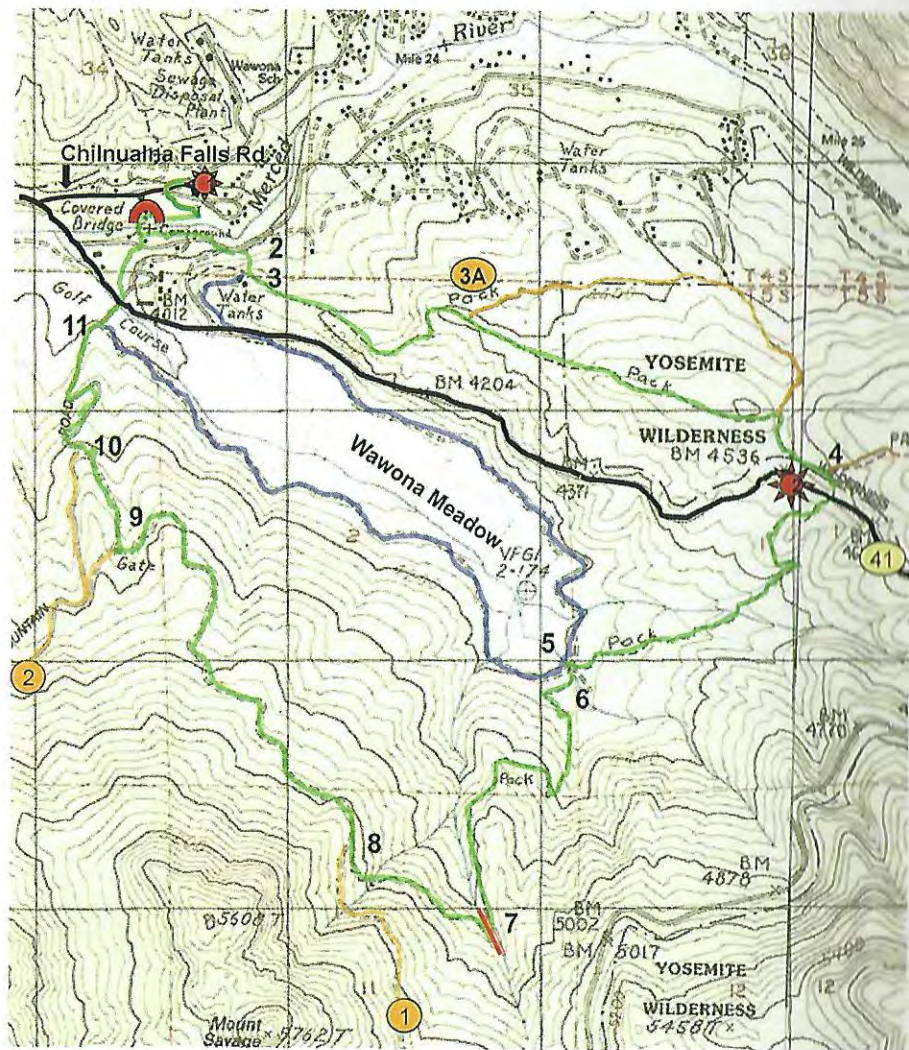
## WAWONA – MOUNT SAVAGE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41 towards the south entrance to Yosemite. Turn left after entering the park entrance and drive approximately 2 ½ miles to a dirt turnout on the right Staging Area #2. Or continue on to 4.9 miles to the Chilnualna Falls Rd. and turn right. Travel 0.4 miles to the dirt turnout Staging Area #1 on the right just past the turnoff for the Wawona Ranger Station and Horse Camp.



## Wawona – Mount Savage The Ride



- |                |           |                  |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| Covered Bridge | Options   | Small bridge     |
| Trail          | Extension | Camping/ Staging |



## WAWONA – MOUNT SAVAGE THE RIDE

#1 From staging area #1, cross over Chilnualna Falls Rd. and head left on the single track trail. Cross the road again at the bottom and continue to the right. Crossing the road that leads to the Ranger Station and horse camp, ride through the small dirt parking lot and take the single track trail to the left just before the stables. Follow this to the covered bridge. Ride through the bridge and turn left. The corrals will be on your right.

#2 Continue on the dirt road past the corrals. Just past the RV disposal station, the trail heads to the right. Cross the asphalt road and continue on the trail. Turn right on the dirt road which will skirt the back side of the Wawona Hotel. Look for the trail leading to the left with a metal sign marked "Mariposa Grove".

#3 Turn left on this trail. Stay on this main trail. **Option# 3A** You will come to a trail on the left. Turning left and riding this trail is actually prettier than the main trail and avoids the rocky areas. We personally like to take this side trail. Stay to the right on this trail at all junctions. You will be riding past the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Camp. Don't ride into the camp. The trail will veer to the right and arrive back at the main trail. Stay to your left and continue to step #4. When the trail makes a sharp left, you will see staging area #2 and the metal gate.

#4 Shortly, you will come to a trail junction with a metal sign for the Mariposa Grove. Turn right, following the sign that says "2 Hour Trail". Do not head toward the Mariposa Grove. You will come to the highway. Cross the highway and continue on the single track trail. When you come to a creek crossing, the

approach to the creek is rocky and somewhat difficult. Use your own judgment, but we approach it from the left. Follow this trail until you come to the dirt road.

#5 Turn left on the road and almost immediately you will see another small road on the left. Turn left at this road until you come to a steep uphill.

#6 Watch carefully on your right for a small single track trail. You want to take this trail which switches back and forth across the road, avoiding a very steep uphill climb. The road will eventually end, but the trail continues.

#7 When you get to a bridge crossing over a small creek, do not attempt to cross on the bridge! Stay to the left of the bridge and walk your horse across the creek. We usually get off and lead them. It is small and easy for them to do.

#8 When you come to a dirt road, turn right. **Option #1** Turn left on the road and ride for another ½ hour until you come to a picnic table on the right and target range on the left. This is a good lunch spot. When returning, follow this road back, passing the single track trail.

#9 When you come to a split in the road with a large tree in the middle, stay to your right.

**Option#2** Turn left and ride until you come to a road (Chowchilla Mountain road). Turn Left. Stay on this road until you come to a bridge. This is about a 45 minute ride and another nice picnic spot, right on the creek. Ride the road all the way to the Wawona Golf Course. Although this road is not heavily traveled, it is a public road into Yosemite. This optional detour is best ridden in fall and

spring, as the gates are closed prohibiting vehicle use. We do not recommend riding this option if the gates are open. Follow directions from # 11.

**#10** When you come to another road (Chowchilla Mountain Rd.), turn right and follow to the Wawona Golf Course. You will be crossing through the middle of the golf course. Don't venture onto the grass or let your horse graze. Watch for golfers before crossing.

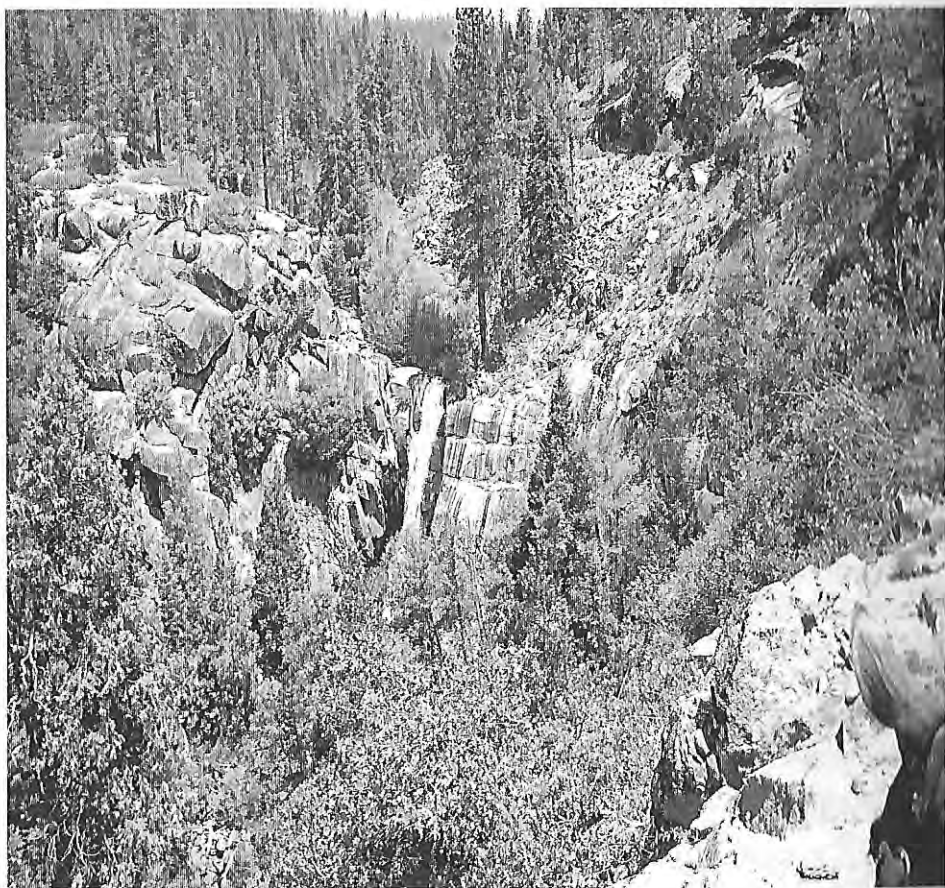
**#11** Cross the highway and follow the trail to the left of the driveway leading to the hotel. Follow the trail straight into the tree line. You will be next to the tennis court. Skirt around the backside of the court and follow the trail until you see the hay stack. Cross the road and follow the dirt road next to the corrals and through the covered bridge back to your trailers.

**Extension:** If you would like to make the ride a little longer, turn right before crossing the golf course and ride around the meadow. Cross over the highway and follow the trail back to #3 and back track to your trailers.

If you are parking at Staging Area #2, turn right at the Mariposa Grove signed trail junction, following #3 in the riding instructions back to your trailer.

# ALDER CREEK FALLS

## DEER CAMP



## ALDER CREEK FALLS DEER CAMP

**Riding Time:** 6 Hours

**Trail Type:** Out and Back

**Season:** June until the snow flies. Check with Wawona Ranger Station, Corrals or Yosemite Trails Office as to trail conditions and clearing status.

**Elevation:** 4000 - 5700

**Terrain:** Single track trails and old railroad grades.

**Difficulty:** This ride is moderately difficult. The first hour is a steady uphill climb through dry, hot exposed areas. The second part of the ride is through dense forest. It is recommended that you get an early start in hot weather. Footing on the trail is mostly dirt with very few rocky areas and not a problem for barefoot horses. Before reaching the falls, the trail is 6 feet wide with a 300 ft drop off.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Don't count on water until you reach Alder Creek.

**Camping:** Wawona Horse Camp (reservations required).

**Staging Area:** Large dirt turnout that will accommodate many rigs.

**Attention:** Due to recent prescribed burns and lightening set fire in 2007, the first hour of the ride is through dead, burned Manzanita and pine. There are remnants of wood lined stair steps that have fallen victim to the fires and time. Horses can easily step through the rotten wood, so be aware of this as you make your climb. Remember, too, that during these controlled

prescribed burns, roots will burn deep into the ground creating hidden caves that can collapse under the weight of the horse. It is best to keep in the center of the trail.

**About the Area & Ride:** Alder Creek Falls is a little known seasonal 250 foot waterfall. The trail is not heavily travelled. The Yosemite Lumber Company logged the area from 1912 - 1923.

We have added more details about this ride in the following description. When you leave the staging area, go directly across Chilnualna Falls Road. To the right, you will see a rusted steel trail sign. Although Alder Creek Falls is not listed, this is the trailhead. Due to recent prescribed burns and a lightning set fire in 2007, the first hour of the ride is through dead, burned Manzanita and pine. You will cross several seasonal creeks before actually beginning your climb. There are remnants of wood lined stair steps that have fallen victim to the fires and time. Horses can easily step through the rotten wood, so be aware of this as you make your climb. Remember, too, that during these controlled prescribed burns, roots will burn deep into the ground creating hidden caves. Be careful where you guide your horse. It is best to stay in the center of the trail.

2.9 miles from the trail head you will come to a signed fork. To the left is Wawona Road. Take the trail to the right toward Alder Creek (3.2 miles). Although evidence of the recent fires is everywhere, the charred remains of fallen timber and undergrowth insure a more healthy forest in the future. "Mountain Misery" or "Bear Clover", depending on your personal view of the lush, white flowered ground cover, is the first plant to make its way through the blackened earth. Areas of Bracken Fern and wildflowers are more abundant. Black Oak, Sugar Pine and Dogwood trees

once again shade the ride. You will notice a substantial drop in temperature.

Soon you will come to wider sections on the trail. This is an old railroad grade from the Yosemite Lumber Company. You will also cross several man made drainage ditches. One has two logs as a step. Be careful as they can rot from the inside out, creating a hazardous situation.

As you make the last turn, Alder Creek Falls comes instantly into view. No ride is without its cliffs and "hold your breath" sections, and this is no exception. The 6 foot wide trail drops off sharply 300 feet. Also, there is a rock that you will have to maneuver around with a dark, muddy spot on the other side. This is particularly unnerving for some horses (mine included), and if it is safer to get off and walk at this point, you will not be alone.

Continuing along the trail another 5 minutes or so will bring you to a small tributary leading to Alder Creek and a good place to water the horses. After a well deserved drink, head back, keeping an eye out on the right for an opening to a shaded camp area. This is a nice place to give the horses a rest and have lunch before your return.

**OPTION – DEER CAMP** - This will add another 1 1/2 hours to your ride.

Starting from the place where you watered the horses, continue on that trail, heading upstream. At this particular creek crossing you have to maneuver your way very carefully. It changes every year. One year you had to cross on the left. The year before, you crossed on the right. Watch for holes and wood debris. When you come to a signed fork, take the trail to the right. You will travel along a very nice single track trail through rather dense forest.

There will also be several creek crossings. Don't expect too much from Deer Camp other than a nice place to stop and rest before the ride back. The "camp", which is now merely a series of fire rings, is located above the meadow. I don't want to downplay this area either. It is a lovely addition to the Alder Creek Falls ride and one that we do every couple of years.

This is a nice midsummer ride because of long daylight hours and ample water crossings beyond Alder Creek Falls.







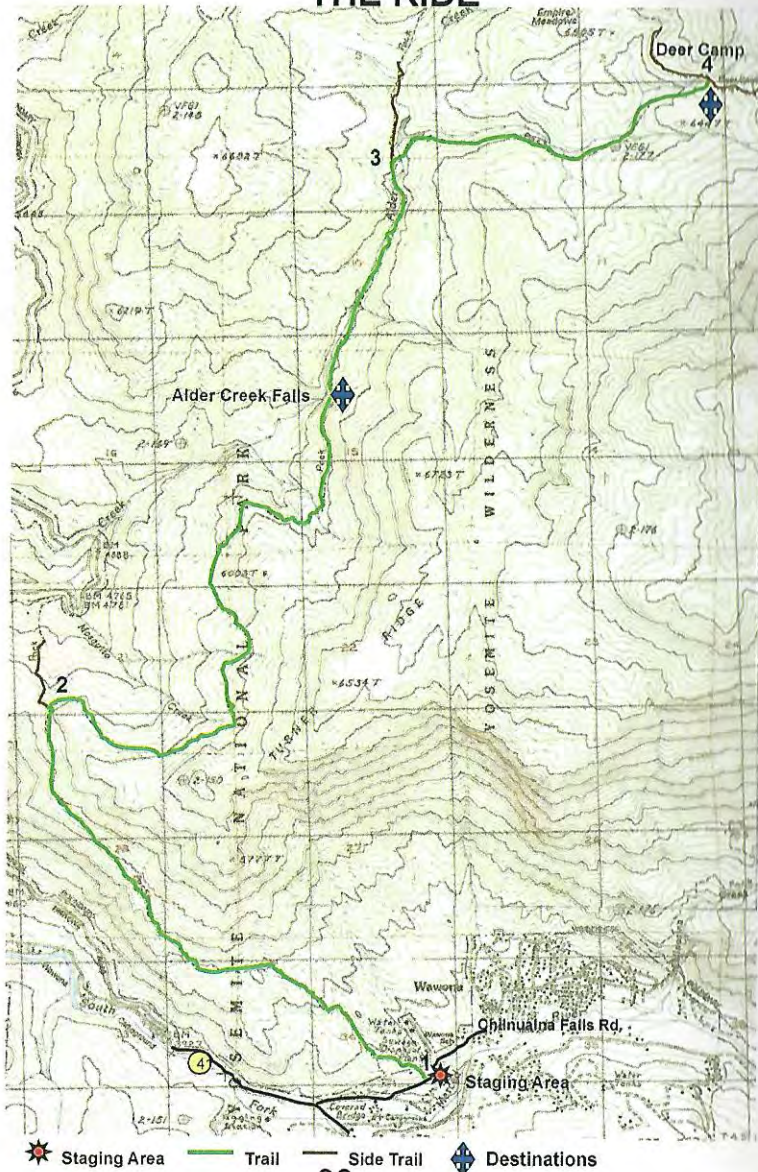
## ALDER CREEK FALLS – DEER CAMP STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41 towards the south entrance to Yosemite. Turn left after entering the park entrance and drive approximately 4.9 miles to the Chilnualna Falls Rd. and turn right. Travel 0.4 miles to the dirt turnout Staging Area #1 on the right just past the turnoff for the Wawona Ranger Station and Horse Camp.



# ALDER CREEK FALLS – DEER CAMP THE RIDE



## **ALDER CREEK FALLS – DEER CAMP**

### **THE RIDE**

**#1** When you leave the staging area, go directly across Chilnualna Falls Road. You will see a steel trail sign on the right. Although Alder Creek Falls is not listed, this is the trailhead. You will cross several seasonal creeks before actually beginning your climb. Beware of rotten wood lined stair steps.

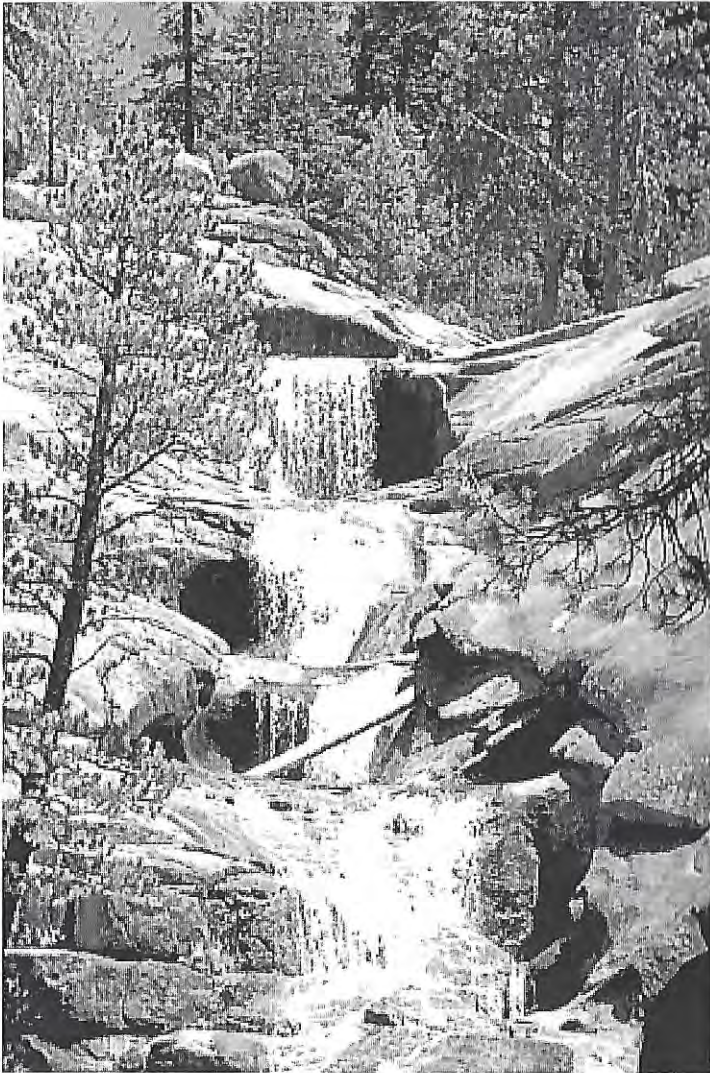
**#2** At 2.9 miles from the trailhead you will come to a signed fork. To the left is Wawona Road. Take the trail to the right toward Alder Creek (2.3 miles). Stay in the center of the trail and avoid obvious burnout areas.

**#3** As you make the last turn, Alder Creek Falls comes instantly into view. No ride is without its cliffs and “hold your breath” sections, and this is no exception. The trail, although 6 feet wide, has a 300 foot drop off. If it is safer to get off and walk at this point, you won’t be alone. Continuing along the trail another 5 minutes or so will bring you to a small tributary leading to Alder Creek and a good place to water the horses. After a well deserved drink, head back, keeping an eye out on the right for an opening to a shaded camp area. This is a nice place to give the horses a rest and have lunch before your return ride.

### **DEER CAMP**

Continue on the same trail. When you come to a signed trail junction, stay to your right. Travel another 1.2 miles to Deer Camp. Return the way you came.

# CHILNUALNA FALLS



## CHILNUALNA FALLS

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Season:** June until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 4000 – 6316

**Terrain:** Well maintained dirt single track trail with two areas of rocky stair steps.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Not for novice riders or beginning mountain horses.

**Facilities:** Out houses at the trailhead.

**Water:** A couple of seasonal creek crossings along the way and ample water at the falls.

**Camping:** Nearby Wawona Horse Camp and Bridalveil Horse Camp (reservations required).

**Staging Area:** Dirt turnout parking lot on the right at the end of Chilnualna Falls Road (2 miles from the Wawona Rd. junction). If you are riding from Wawona Horse Camp you have to ride along the road.

**Attention:** There is a section just before reaching the falls, which is approximately 6-feet wide and has a very steep 2000 ft. drop-off.

If riding to the trailhead from the Wawona Horse Camp, much of the time you will be riding on the asphalt road which has a lot of vehicle traffic during the summer.

**About the Area & Ride:** Located in Wawona, Chilnualna Falls is one of Yosemite's lesser known treasures. Hikers enjoy the spectacular lower falls just minutes into the hike. Unfortunately for us, stock is not permitted on this section of the trail.

If you are riding from Wawona Horse Camp, turn left at Lark Lane and follow up to the stock trail. If you are staged at the trailhead parking lot, follow sign to the stock trail.

The trail, being a fairly steady climb, does have its flat areas where horses can catch their breath. Although the trail is nicely shaded most of the way, the open areas can be rather warm in summer. Vegetation along the trail is a mixture of oak, Manzanita, incense cedar and pine. At the beginning the path keeps fairly close to the stream, but due to the lush vegetation, you only catch glimpses of the creek. The trail veers away from the creek for the second half of the ride, with switchbacks out in the open.

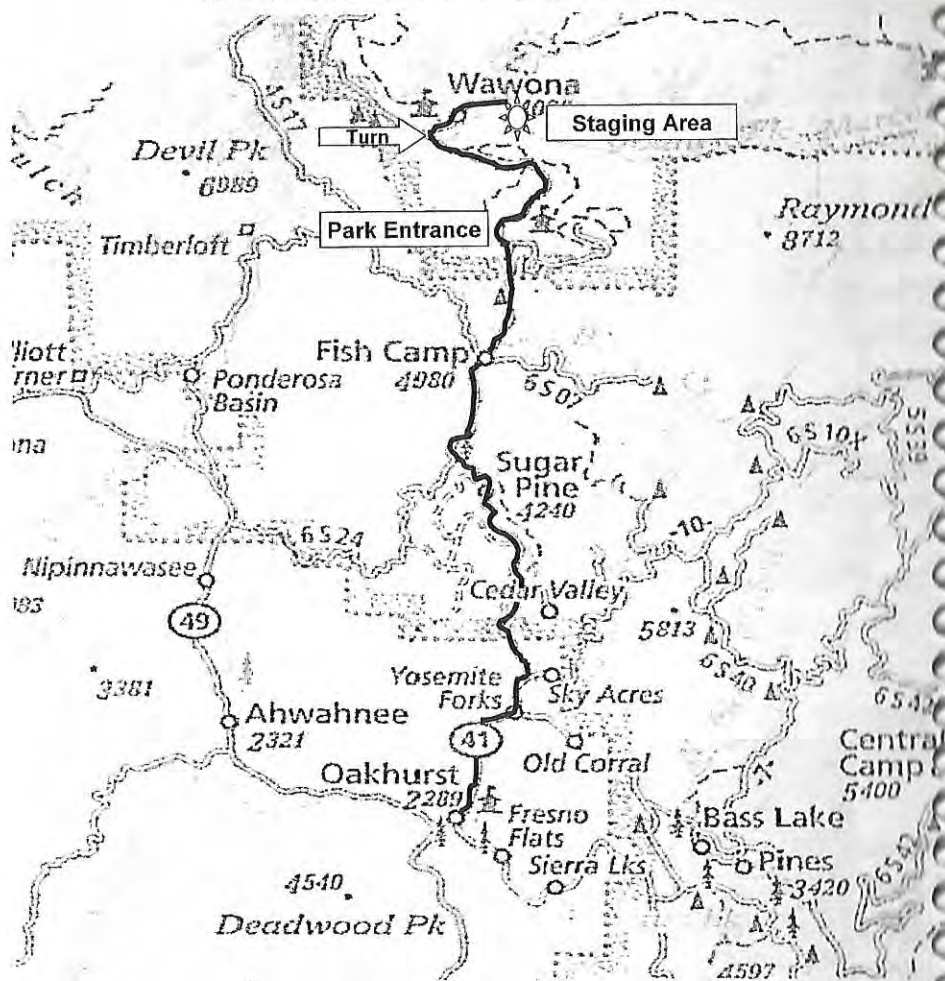
You will encounter two areas with stair steps. The first series is easy, with less than a foot rise with each granite step. As you make your ascent to Chilnualna Falls, the trail is more intimidating due to the lack of structure or organization of the rocks as with the first series of steps. Horses must pick their way through the rocky trail that has a 2000 ft. drop off the right side. All this said, we get off and walk.

The first falls, with its 240' cascade, is merely the last of a series of rather spectacular waterfalls making up the upper portion of Chilnualna Falls. Heading left will take you to the tiered falls and pool where you might like to take a dip before your ride back. You will also find safe places to water the horses, as the small pool you will first come to is rather close to the edge. The view from the falls is breathtaking with Wawona Dome on the left, Mount Savage in the distance and the village of Wawona below. You will definitely want to bring your camera. Further up the trail you will come to a signed junction. Left takes you on trails ultimately leading toward Glacier Point Road. Right heads to Buena Vista Peak and beyond.

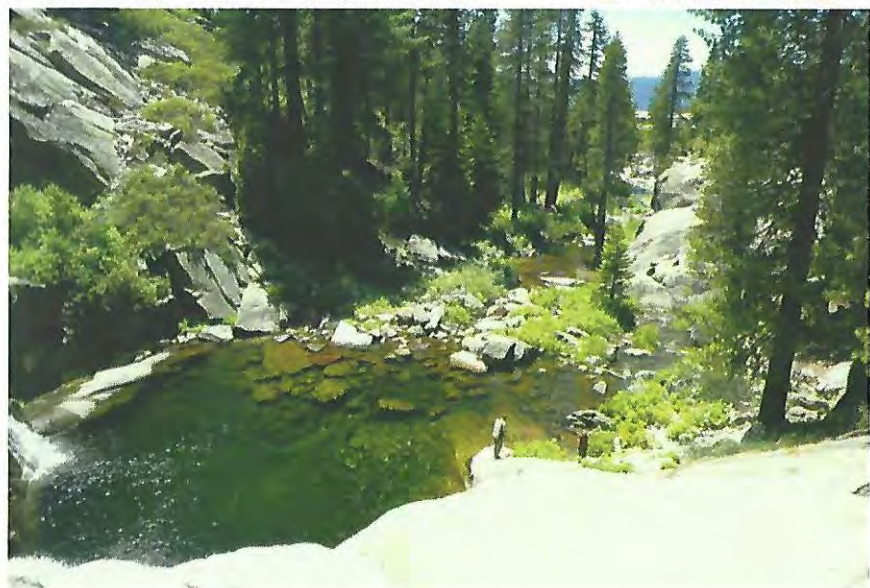




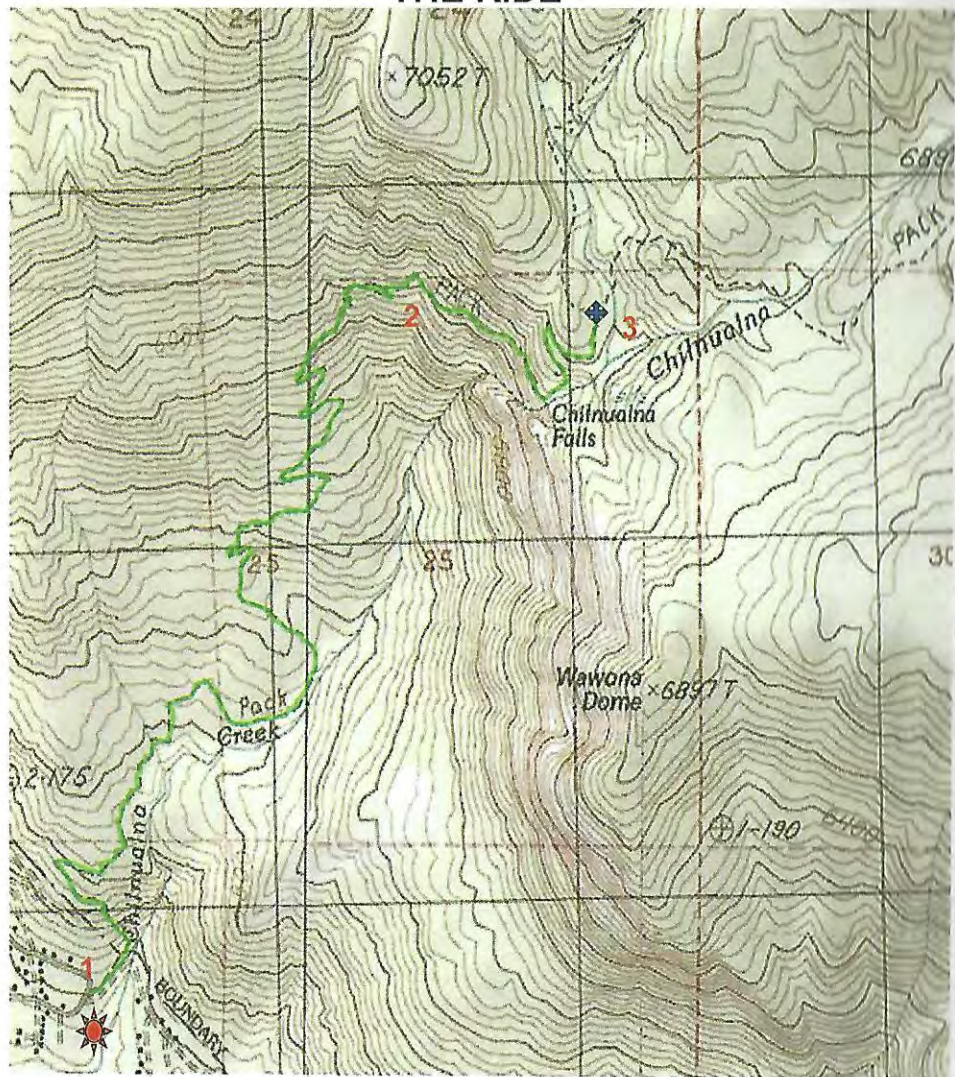
## CHILNUALNA FALLS STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy 41, 13 miles to the Yosemite Park entrance. Turn left after entering the park and drive 4.9 miles to Chilnualna Falls Rd., just past the bridge in Wawona. Turn right and follow to the end, looking for the parking area off to your right.



# CHILNUALNA FALLS THE RIDE



— Trail



Staging Area



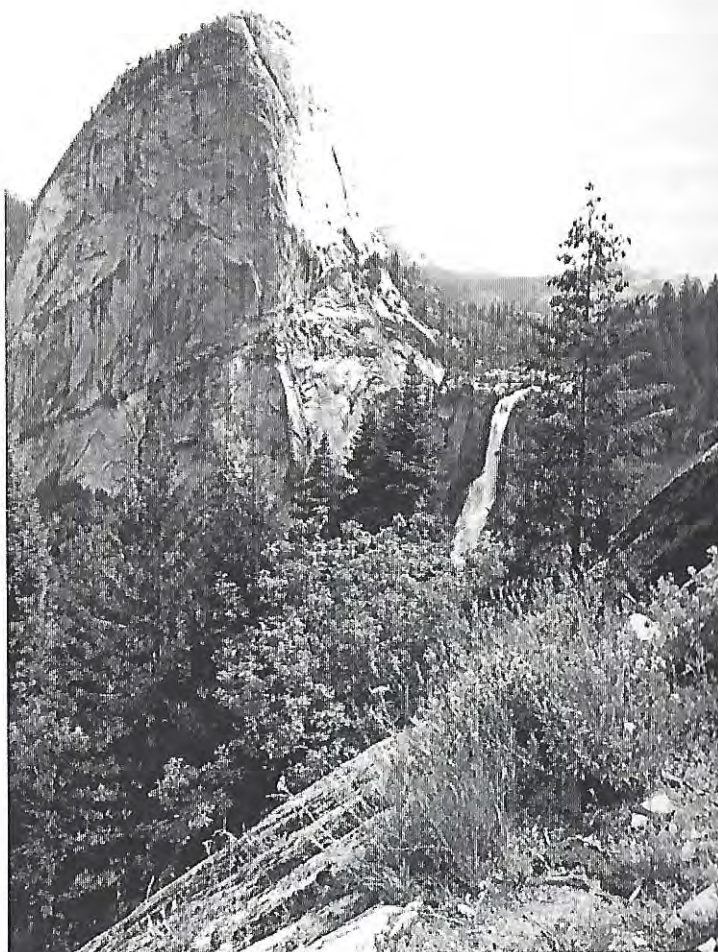
Destination

## CHILNUALNA FALLS THE RIDE

- #1 From the staging area, cross Chilnualna Falls Rd. and follow the stock trail signs. Horses are not permitted on the hiking trail to the lower falls. You will ride on the asphalt road. When you come to a gate, go around it and follow the road until you come to the stock trail entrance. If you are riding from the horse camp or the turnout on Chilnualna Falls Road, you must ride through the town of Wawona. You will turn left on Lark Lane to pick up the stock trail.
- #2 After riding through the switchbacks you will come to the stair steps leading up to the falls. We get off and walk our own horses up the rocky trail which has a 2000ft drop off on one side and cliff wall on the other.
- #3 Once at the top, continue up the trail to your left until you come to a safe place to water and rest the horses. The pool below the tiered falls is a great spot for lunch. Return the way you came.



# NEVADA FALLS



## NEVADA FALLS

**Riding Time:** 6 hours or 14 miles round trip

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Season:** Mid-summer until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5900 - 7200

**Terrain:** Boggy meadows, rocks, cobblestones, open sandy areas and nice single-track trails.

**Difficulty:** Because of the mixed terrain, this is not recommended for novice riders and horses not accustomed to these conditions.

**Water:** Many creek crossings

**Camping:** Wawona and nearby Bridalveil Horse Camps (reservations required).

**Staging Area:** Large parking area at Mono Meadow which is approximately 10 miles up the Glacier Point Road.

**Attention:** There is nothing particularly scary or potentially dangerous about this ride. Just make sure you and your horse are in condition for the climbs.

**About the Area & Ride:** This trail starts from the Mono Meadow trail head, with an immediate and fairly steep descent of 300 ft. in the first half mile. You continue to lose elevation all the way to Illilouette Creek (at about 3 miles), which means your horse will have a good climb at the end of this fairly long ride!

You will reach Mono Meadow after about 1 mile. Take extreme caution here to keep your horse in the center of the trail where the ground is the firmest, as this meadow can be very boggy, especially early in the season. For that reason, it is recommend

that this be a fall or late summer ride. Another reason to enjoy this ride in the fall is the fact that it is one of the few rides in the area that does have plenty of water crossings very late in the season.

Once past Mono Meadow, you will cross a low divide and make a viewless descent to a major tributary of Illilouette Creek at 1.5 miles from the trail head. From the tributary we have a short climb to an open area with awesome distant views of Cloud's Rest, Mt. Starr King, and Basket, North & Half Domes. After a descent through an old burned out fir forest, we emerge onto an open slope and head straight toward Mt. Starr King, the highest of the Illilouette Creek domes. Immediately after the view disappears, you will come to the Buena Vista Trail. This trail heads to Buena Vista Lake to the right and Glacier Point to the left. However, we will continue straight ahead to a crossing of Illilouette Creek. Once across the creek the trail climbs for a short distance to a wide, open sandy area, great for a nice gallop if you are so inclined! (Note— It may be a good idea to check out the footing here before your gallop as ground squirrels can be a problem in this area!!)

The final 2 miles or so are a gentle climb through open expanses on the western side of Mt. Starr King. You will encounter a few more creek crossings and another good bog to cross (if you can call a bog "good") before meeting up with a junction to a connecting trail (stay to the right), which meets up with the Panorama Trail at 0.5 miles. Following the signs toward Nevada Falls, the final mile descent of the Panorama Trail before reaching the falls is fairly steep and rocky. There is also old blacktop on parts of the trail. When the weather gets colder, this blacktop can actually be coated with a thin layer of ice, making it very slippery. This section of the trail is where the solitude ends as you are likely to encounter many



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more tourists. Once arriving at the top of the falls, you can cross over the footbridge and walk your horse onto the granite slabs leading down to the water for a welcome drink. It is best to cross back over the bridge and find a tree to tie up to. Have lunch here, as it is out of the way of most of the tourist traffic.

With the horses secured, take a stroll back over the footbridge & walk out to the guard rail at the base of Liberty Cap for a heart stopping look straight down from the brink of the falls, as the Merced River plunges 594 ft. to the valley below. Truly spectacular!

Take your time here to relax and enjoy the scenery & let your horses have a good rest (remember the uphill grind back to your trailer!) Then retrace your steps back the way you came.



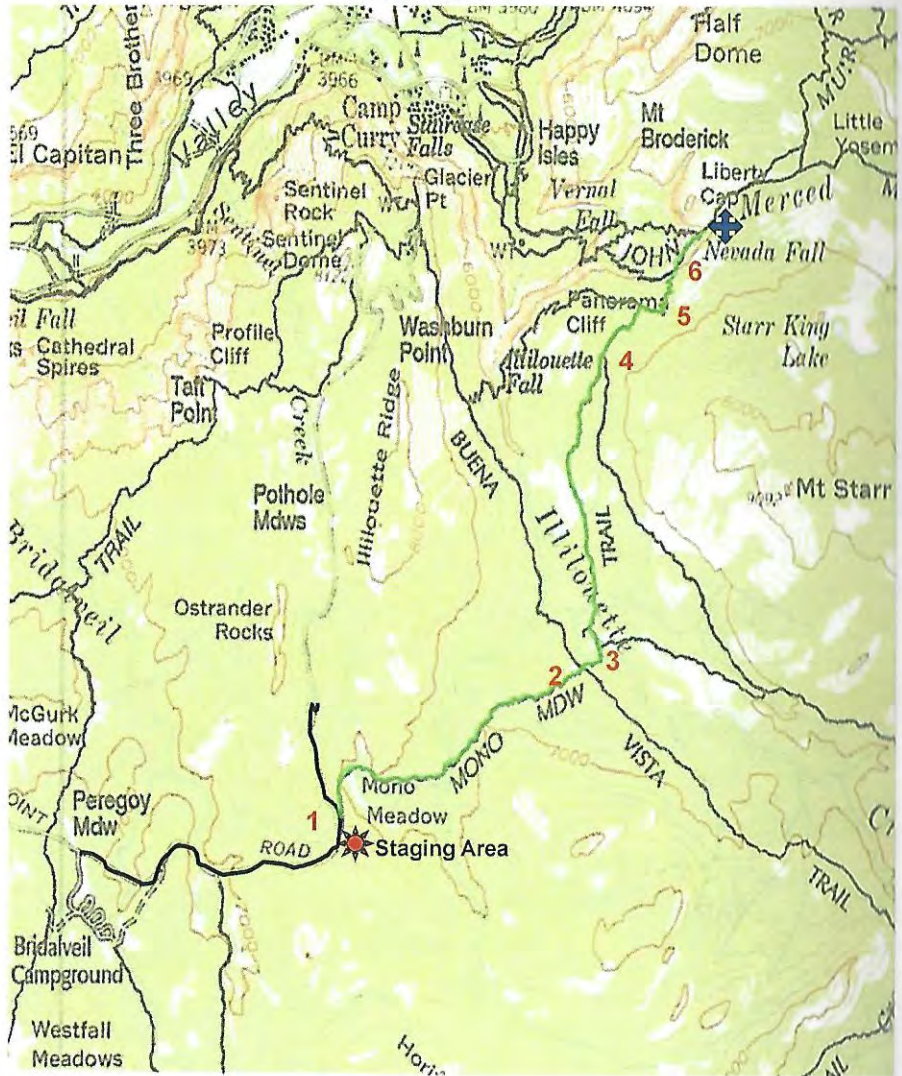
## NEVADA FALLS STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



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 10 more miles to the Mono Meadow Trail Head.



# NEVADA FALLS THE RIDE



— Trail     
 ★ Staging Area     
 ✚ Destination

## NEVADA FALLS THE RIDE

- #1 From the staging area, take the Mono Meadow trail. This has a steep descent for the first ½ mile. Ride through the boggy meadow, staying in the center of the trail and continue on toward Illilouette Creek.
- #2 Go past the sign for Buena Vista Lake and continue on across the creek.
- #3 Stay on the trail heading left, following the signs for Nevada Falls.
- #4 When you come to a trail heading to the right, continue left toward Nevada Falls.
- #5 When you come to the Panorama Trail junction, head right toward Nevada Falls.
- #6 Once arriving at the top of the falls, you can cross over the bridge and walk your horse down to the water. Enjoy a long rest as the ride home will be a workout. Return to your trailers on the same trail.



# DEER CAMP FROM BRIDALVEIL



## DEER CAMP FROM BRIDALVEIL

**Riding Time:** 5 – 6 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** Varies – July if early snow melt thru October or until it snows.

**Elevation:** Approximately 6000 – 7600 feet

**Terrain:** All Types of terrain on this ride. Single track trails with good footing suitable for long trots or canters, rocky uphill climbs, boggy meadows, several small creek crossings and short section of an old railroad grade road. In August and beyond, trails are extremely dusty.

**Difficulty:** Very strenuous with a lot of uphill climbs and fairly steep downhill descents. Tennis shoes for barefoot horses are recommended. Boggy conditions at Westfall Meadow can be unnerving for both rider and horse.

**Facilities:** None at trail head for day riders. You will be riding through Bridalveil Campground where there are restrooms. Campground closes Labor Day Weekend. No exceptions. You can still ride through, but restrooms will be locked.

**Water:** None at staging area and not likely until after leaving Deer Camp. Several small creek crossings on the way back deep enough to water horses. When you reach Deer Camp you can continue the trail to the right which will take you to Alder Creek. There are several creek crossings where horses can get a drink.

**Camping:** Bridalveil and Wawona Horse Camps.



**Staging Area:** For day riders, staging area is merely a wide dirt shoulder by the trail to McGurk Meadow. You must be facing in the opposite direction to park. Turning around is both difficult and dangerous, so it is recommended that you drive a few miles to the Ostrander Lake trailhead where you can pull in and turn around.

**Attention:** Glacier Point Road has heavy traffic all season. Do not tie your horses on the road side to tack up. Be aware of muddy areas in the meadows which can be quite boggy.

**About the Area & Ride:** Although your destination Deer Camp is somewhat lackluster, the ride itself is spectacular. There are breathtaking meadows waist high in blue lupine, yellow shooting star, corn flowers, bright red Indian paintbrush and periwinkle blue larkspur to name a few. Surrounding the meadows are white fir and enormous red fir.

Deer Camp was once the end of a logging road and later a camp for the California Conservation Corps. There are fire rings from overnight backpackers, but not a "camp" that you might expect. Along the way you will see remnants of old railroad ties and maybe spot an old spike or two. The climbs are intense, but you are rewarded with views that will take your breath away. This is also a trail not heavily travelled. With that in mind, you are more likely to see bears. This ride is approximately 14 miles round trip.

**Option:** If you need to water the horses, continue on toward Alder Creek. There are several creeks that run all year and not far from Deer Camp.



# DEER CAMP – BRIDALVEIL 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 (on the left hand side of the road). 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 pulling onto a dirt shoulder.



# DEER CAMP FROM BRIDALVEIL THE RIDE



— Trail

☀ Staging Area

◆ Deer Camp

## DEER CAMP FROM BRIDALVEIL

### THE RIDE

- #1 Cross over the main road and look for the trail sign for Bridalveil Campground.
- #2 At the intersection, turn left toward the campground.
- #3 When you get to the campground road, turn right.
- #4 Just before the horse camp and bridge, look for the trailhead on your right. Take this trail to the left.
- #5 Stay to the right at the first spur in the trail.
- #6 Stay to the right at the second spur.
- #7 At the last spur before Deer Camp, again, stay to the right.
- #8 After visiting the meadow at Deer Camp, head down the trail to the right toward Glacier Point Rd.
- #9 You will travel down an old dirt road for about 2.1 miles. Look to your right for a signed trail for Westfall Meadows and Bridalveil Campground. Take this trail.
- #10 Ride through the meadow and continue on the trail leading to the Glacier Point Road staging area.

#### **From Bridalveil horse camp.**

Head away from camp and cross over the bridge. Take the trail to the left, #4. Follow directions until #10. Here you will follow the trail back to Bridalveil campground, turning right back to the horse camping area.

# **TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**ELIZABETH LAKE**

**LYELL CANYON**

**LOWER GAYLOR LAKE**

**UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE**

**DOG LAKE**

**GLEN AULIN**

**Tuolumne Meadows campground** has four sites designated as “horse camps” located at the end of campground “B”. As it takes several hours just to reach Tuolumne Meadows, whether it is from the Tioga Pass or from the Crane Valley/Yosemite Valley side, we won’t consider these to be day rides. We will assume that you are camping and rides will be directed from the horse camp. Water is available along all trails. Restroom facilities are located at the campgrounds.

**Horse site reservations are required** and available only by calling 877-444-6777. Call way in advance to find out the date to make reservations.

**Number of sites: 4**

**Cost:** \$25/night (maximum 6 horses & 6 people per site).

**Maximum trailer length 27’.**

**No pets in horse site.**

**2 vehicles per site.** Note: We were given a written warning for having too many rigs. 2 vehicles means 2 trucks/horse trailers.

Although the trails listed have specific destinations, trails are well marked and continuing further is your choice. The trails in this section are listed in mileage instead of time. The reason for this is because the rides are so incredibly scenic, you may choose to stop along the way for photographs or just to take it all in. Another thing to consider is resting horses along the way. The elevation is above 8600 feet, and most of us do not have sufficient time to acclimate horses gradually. You will also be riding over granite slabs and terrain that is unique to this elevation. Consider bringing along equine “tennis shoes” if your horses are barefoot.



the other campgrounds. It is common for them to meander through camp at any time. It is probable that you will have this happen during your stay. Bear proof trash dumpsters are provided in many locations as well as bear boxes at each campsite. Bears are particularly fond of grain and sweet feeds that we supplement our horses' diets with. Don't store these in your horse trailer. Bears have a very keen sense of smell and will break into anything to get what they want. If you must bring grain along, it is a wise idea to have it premixed in baggies that can be stored in the bear boxes. At no time is food to be left unattended or in sight. This includes ice chests. The park staff considers this a high priority violation and you will be cited!

Stock is not permitted in ANY meadow except on the designated trails. Cross rivers on bridges. Access rivers only to water horses. Horses are not permitted at the lodge, store, service station and their surrounding parking lots. They are not permitted along the Tioga Road or any road shoulder. They are not permitted in the public campground at Tuolumne and there is no reason for you to pass through this area as the trails listed originate from the horse camp. It is common to see pack mules bringing supplies to the various high country camps. They are to be given right of way and if you can, give them plenty of distance by moving far and safely from the trail.

Remember, too, that you are at an elevation of almost 9000 feet above sea level. It is MUCH colder at night and horses cannot move around freely to keep warm. Good waterproof blankets are a MUST! Temperatures routinely drop into the low 30's and often into the 20's at night. It is not uncommon to experience a few thunder showers and occasionally a snow flurry or two! And, this is when the horses are sporting their sleek, shiny summer coats!

We have seen unprepared campers have to pack up & leave after one cold, wet night in the high country due to shivering, chilled horses. Be prepared!

Bring more hay than you would normally feed. We probably feed a total of 4 flakes each horse during a 24 hour period for two reasons. #1 – they are more than likely ridden every day for many hours at a time, and #2 – they get very bored while highlined and seem to do better when munching on something. We have not listed a “season” when rideable as the season is short and depends entirely on weather. Under normal conditions, mid July through August is a safe bet.

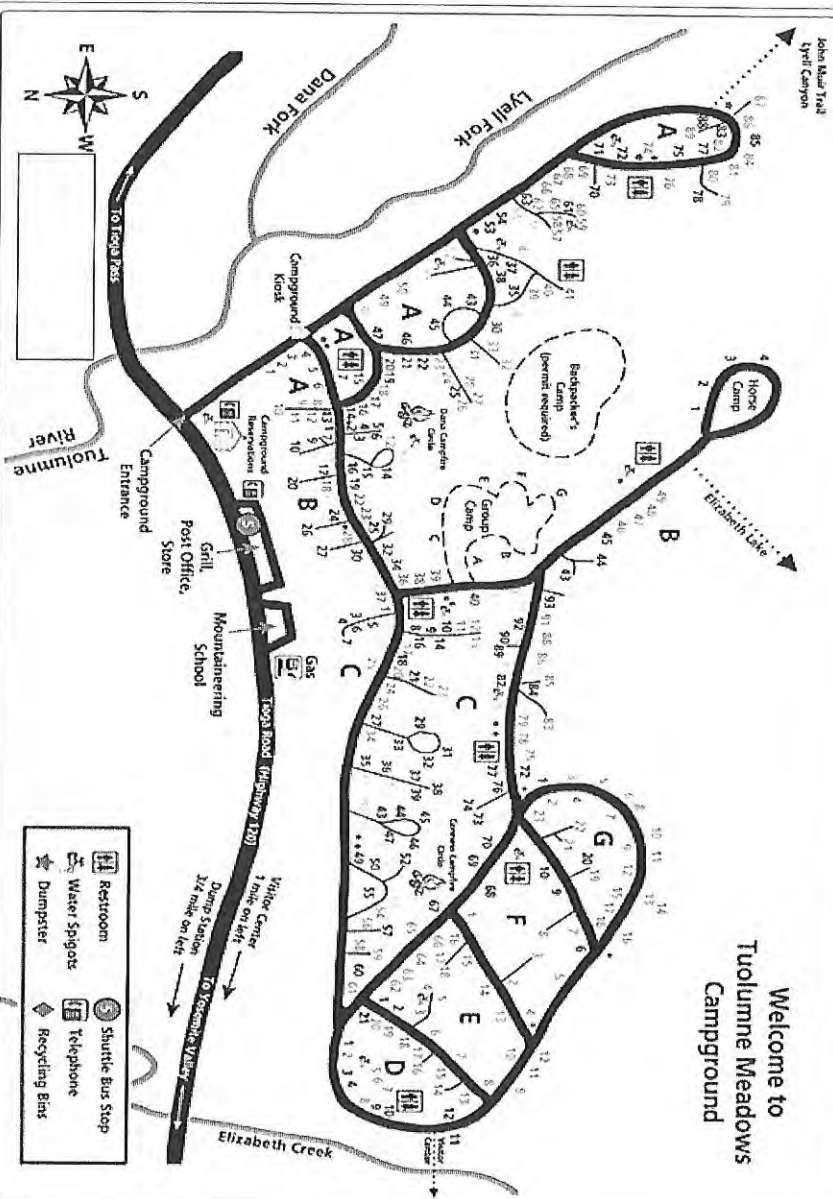


# TUOLUMNE MEADOWS DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



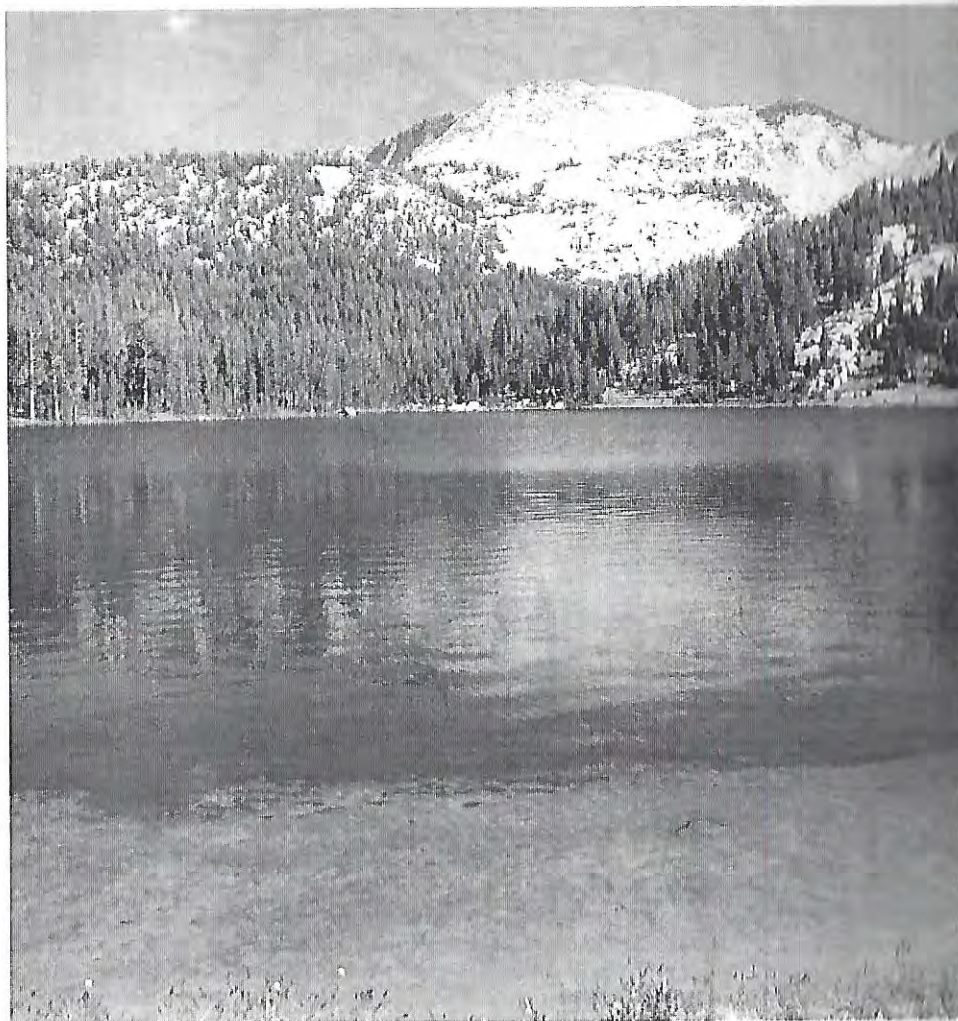
Leaving Oakhurst heading north on Hwy 41, drive 13 miles to the Yosemite entrance. Go left and drive approximately 27 miles to Yosemite Valley. When you enter the valley start to look for the signs to cross over the valley floor and head towards 120. Take 120 for 10 miles to the Crane Flat turnoff onto Tioga Road, then take Tioga Road 38 miles east to reach the meadows. From Yosemite's east entrance at Tioga Pass, take the Tioga Road west 8 miles to the meadows.

# Welcome to Tuolumne Meadows Campground



- Restroom
- Water Spigot
- Dumpster
- Shuttle Bus Stop
- Telephone
- Recycling Bin

# ELIZABETH LAKE



## ELIZABETH LAKE

**Mileage:** 5 Miles

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Elevation:** 8600 - 9487

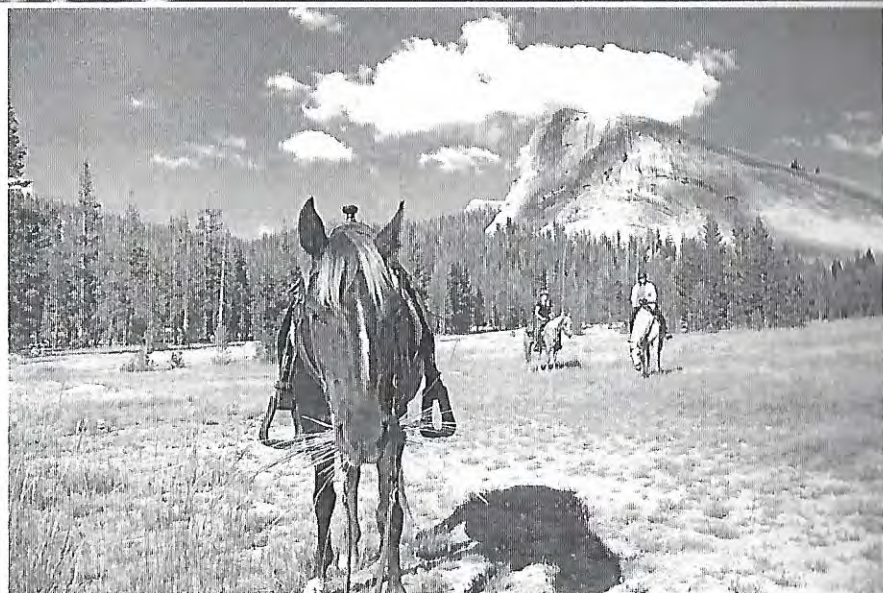
**Terrain:** Rocky, but not too steep and no drop offs.

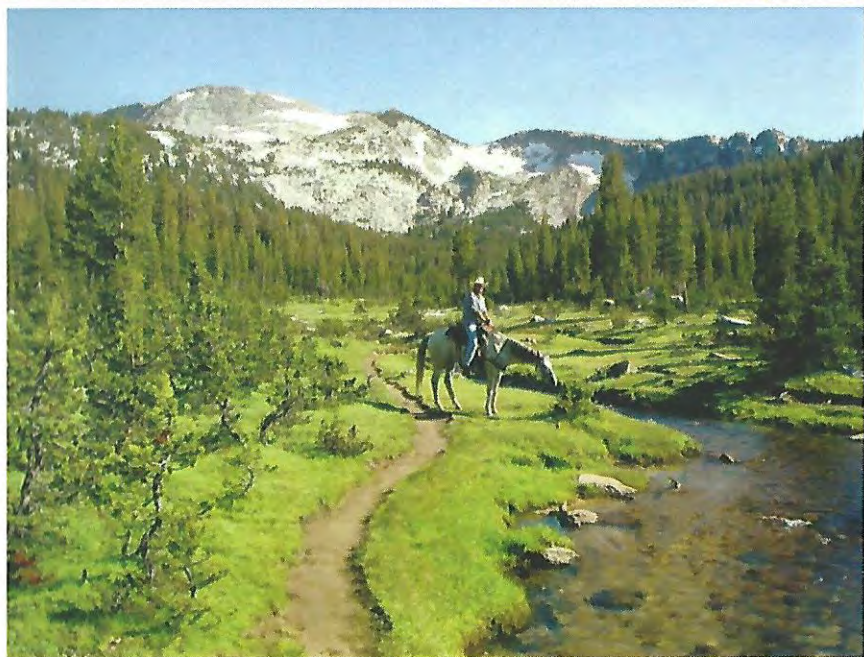
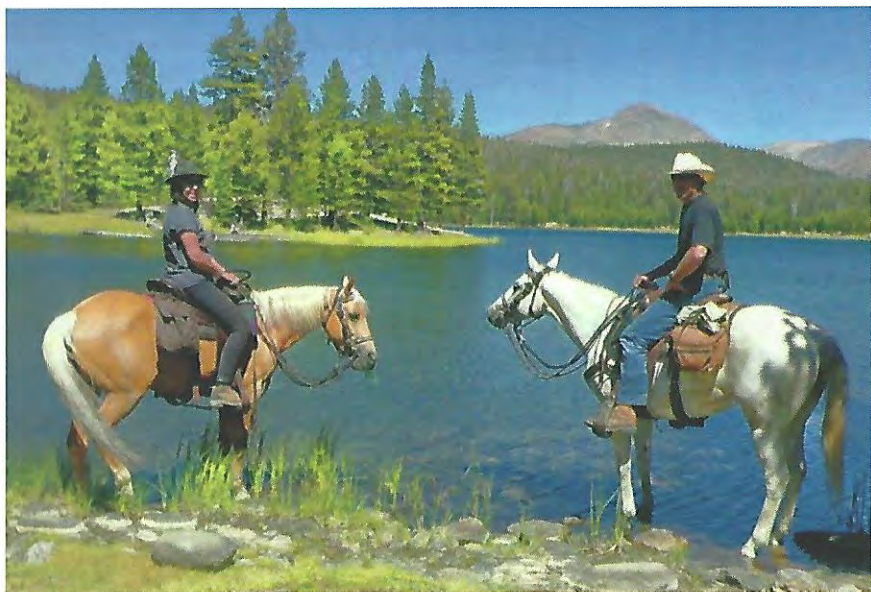
**Difficulty:** Steep climb with rocks to maneuver.

**Attention:** Be aware of potential boggy conditions by lake.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is a short ride (2.5 miles one way), but it IS a climb with about a 900 ft. gain in elevation. As with most high elevation rides, there are rocks to maneuver through.

Since it is such a short distance to the lake, this ride is a good choice for either your day of arrival or your day of departure from camp. There is ample time to fit in this ride after setting up camp on your first day, or as an early morning ride before departing camp on your last day. NOTE: If there is any question about clearing out of camp by noon on your day of departure, pack up as if ready to leave and park away from the campsite. If you are still at camp after 12:00 noon, you will be cited. It is also extremely rude for the campers arriving not to be able to set up camp because you have not vacated it. This has happened to us twice and was quite annoying.







# ELIZABETH LAKE THE RIDE



— Trail

◆ Destination

## ELIZABETH LAKE THE RIDE

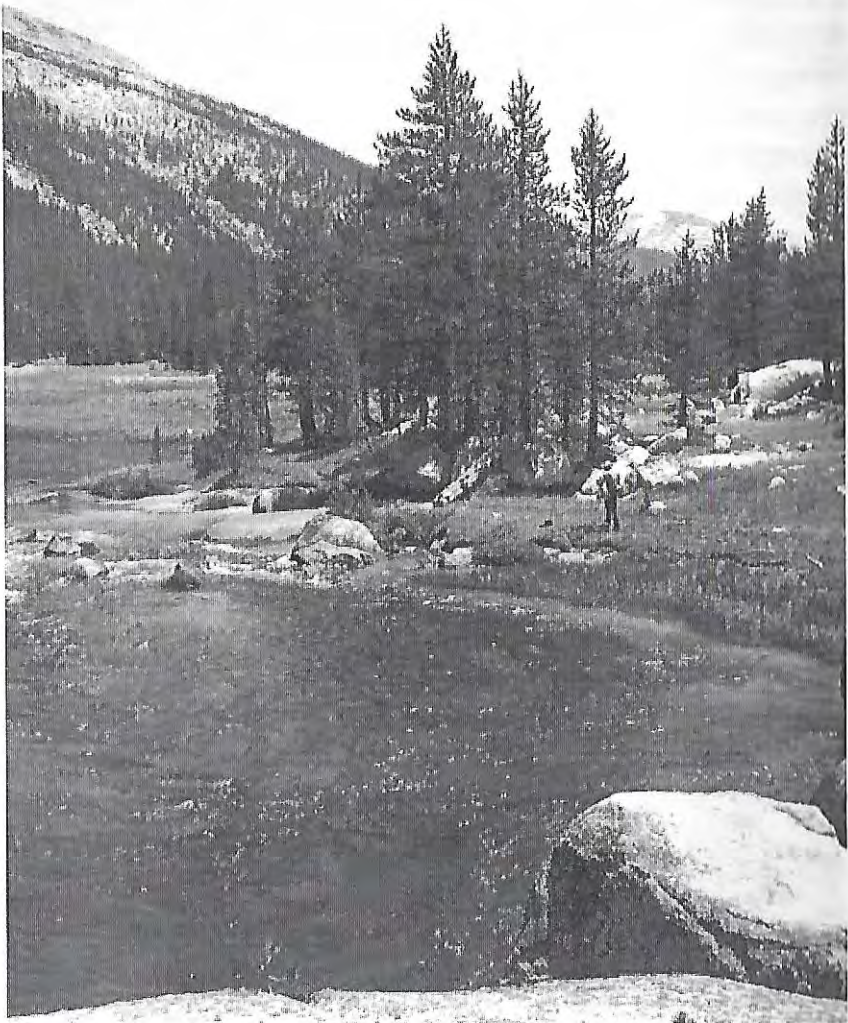
#1 The trail head is almost directly behind the horse camp, just a stone's throw west (left). Follow the signs – you can't miss it.

About a mile out, the trail veers toward Unicorn Creek and on to the lake.

#2 The trail takes you through a long meadow to Elizabeth Lake. If it is not wet and marshy near the northwest end of the lake, it is possible to ride around the entire lake. However, we prefer the southeast end of the lake where we find trees to tie the horses to, have lunch and enjoy the stunning views. Return the way you came.



# LYELL CANYON



## LYELL CANYON

**Distance:** 12 – 16 miles

**Trail Type:** Out & back, or semi-loop

**Season:** Late July & August and until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 8600 – 8800

**Terrain:** Nice trails with good footing. Some rocks, but minimal and easy. No steps or cliffs!

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Attention:** One boggy area about midway up the canyon that can be difficult to cross early in the season.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is one of the most scenic rides along the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River as well as one of the easiest, with only a 200 ft. elevation gain.

You will enjoy a beautiful ramble along the John Muir Trail through the Lodgepole forest, with probably the nicest footing of any of the trails in the area. The wide open expanses, views and meadows along the way, are breathtaking. At times, the trail follows the Tuolumne River so closely that you can count the fish from the saddle!

If you take the semi-loop through the meadow, it is especially beautiful if you time your ride right and cross the meadow in the evening light.





# LYELL CANYON THE RIDE



 Trail

 Option

 Destination

## LYELL CANYON

### THE RIDE

#1 Leaving the horse camp, head east (left) on the main trail directly behind camp.

#2 After approximately one mile you will come to the John Muir Trail junction. Continue straight, following the signs directing you toward Donahue Pass.

#3 You can ride up the canyon as far as you like, but we turned around at the spur trail to Ireland Lake which is around 5.5 to 6 miles from the horse camp. Retrace your steps back to camp.

**OPTION:** If you want a longer ride you can make a semi-loop with a detour through Tuolumne Meadows. Retrace your steps back to #2.

#4 Watch for the sign for the John Muir Trail toward Tuolumne Meadows on your right. Take this fork to the twin bridges.

#5 Cross over the bridges and head north (left) until you come to a sign "High Sierra Camp-Ranger Station-Glen Aulin". Head left, crossing another bridge over the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. After the bridge you will head west (left), continuing to follow the signs toward the Ranger Station & Glen Aulin. The trail splits with a 3-trail stock trail and a trail to the right heading to a parking lot. Continue straight on the stock trail. On your right will be cabins and the ranger station. On the hill to the right will be the stables for the pack animals. Past that is a parking lot. Continue on the stock trail.



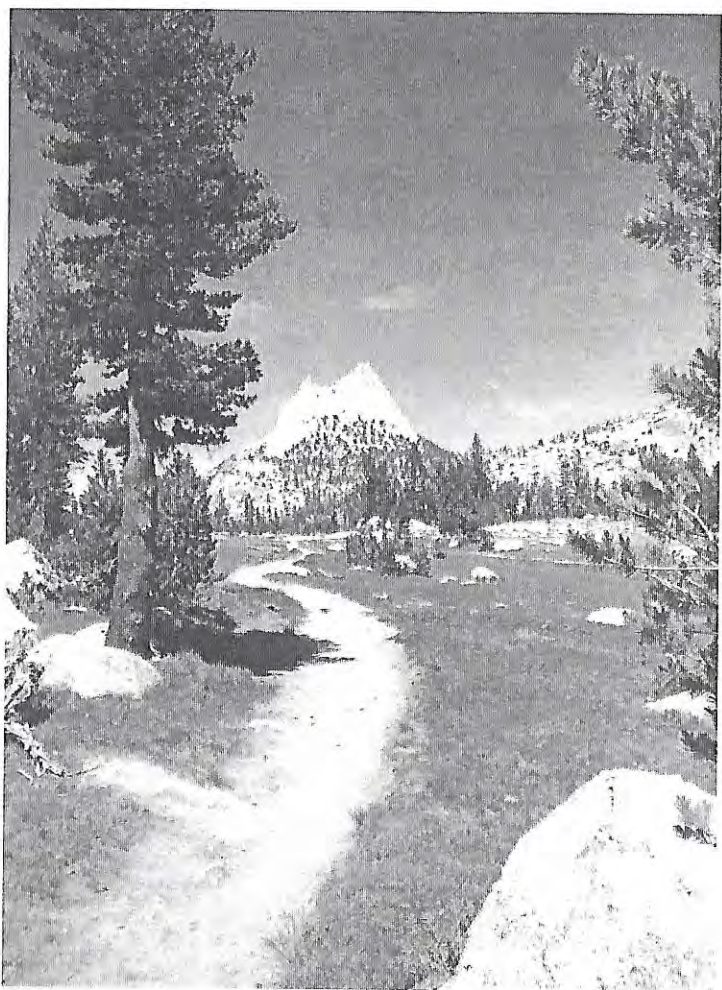
**#6** Just as you reach the front of Lember Dome, the trail veers right. Take this right. There is a sign for “Lember Dome and Soda Springs, Dog Lake, Glen Aulin & Stables” pointing right. Cross the road and pass the dumpster to the single track tree lined trail to the right of the parking lot. Ride until you see the public stables. Head left toward the gravel road, just below the stables. At the gravel road, turn right and ride to the parking lot by the stables.

**#7** Ride through the parking lot and pick up the trail heading downhill toward “Soda Springs, Parson’s Lodge & Glen Aulin”.

**#8** At the next trail junction, head right. The road veers to the right. Ride through the meadow, past Soda Springs and on to the bridge (or river) crossing. This is one of the most scenic spots on the ride, with Lember Dome to the east and Unicorn and Cathedral Peaks to the west. Once across the river, continue through the meadow on the flat, wide trail until you come to the Hwy. 120 crossing. Again, cross in the crosswalk with care as this is a high traffic area!

**#9** Continue up the trail bearing left at the intersection near the Visitor Center on the trail marked “Tuolumne Meadows HSC – Cathedral Lakes – Sunrise”. At the next junction, head left toward the campground and Elizabeth Lake. Cross over a small wooden bridge. You will wind to the right, up rock stair steps. Next sign says “Campground left and Elizabeth Lake right”. Head right

toward Elizabeth Lake (this is the trail directly above the horse camp. Watch for the trail leading into the horse camp, above Campsite #4.



# LOWER GAYLOR LAKE



## LOWER GAYLOR LAKE

**Mileage:** 12 Miles

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Elevation:** 8600 – 10,089

**Terrain:** Some rocks to maneuver, but a gradual climb. Not too steep, no drop offs.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Attention:** Stock prohibited beyond the lower lake.

**About the Area & Ride:** We start the ride to Gaylor Lake on the same route as the Dog Lake ride, heading east toward Lyell Canyon, going left and crossing the twin bridges at the John Muir Trail junction. You then follow the signs east toward Gaylor Lakes along the scenic Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River.

On the other side of the highway, the trail more or less parallels Gaylor Lakes Creek. The trail climbs moderately for another 2.4 miles before leveling off at the south end of large, open Gaylor Lakes basin. Continuing through the open basin, you will enjoy the many interesting glacial erratics and distant views.

Once arriving at the lower lake, find a tree (which are scarce here), tie up and explore this scenic area. Beautiful views of the Lyell Glacier are visible looking south from the lake. Returning the way you came will give you more awesome views of Lyell Glacier and the Cathedral Range.





# LOWER GAYLOR LAKE THE RIDE



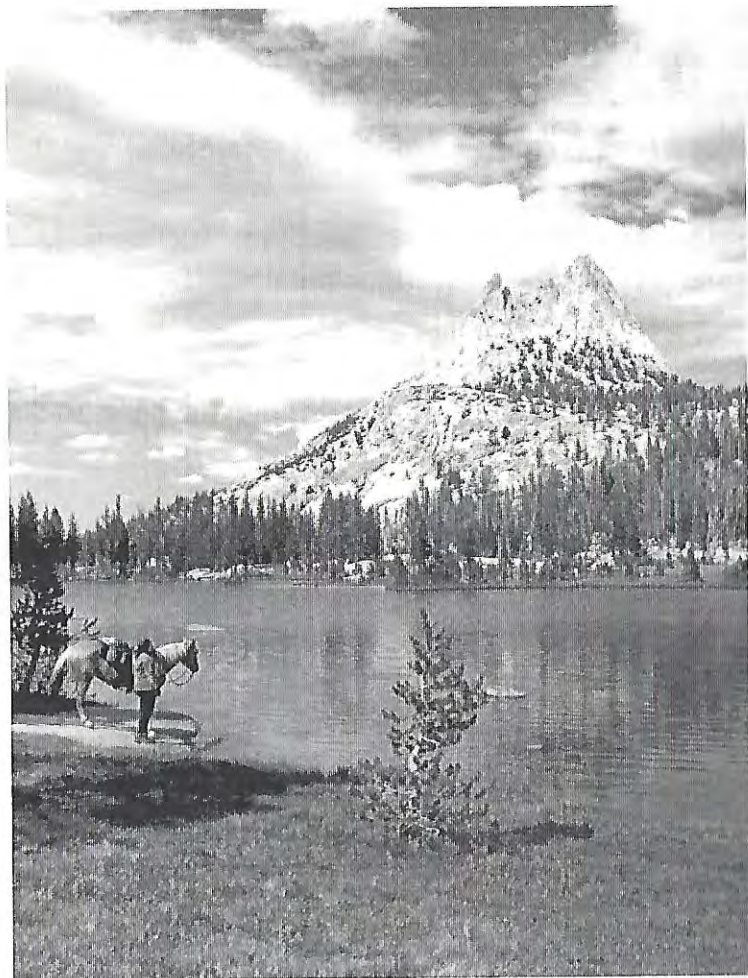
## LOWER GAYLOR LAKE THE RIDE

- #1 From the horse camp, ride to the main trail. Head east (left) up the trail toward Lyell Canyon.
- #2 When you come to the John Muir junction, head left toward Tuolumne Meadows. Continue north, crossing the twin bridges. Ride 0.6 miles to the Gaylor Lakes trail fork.
- #3 Head east (right) on the Gaylor Lakes trail following the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River.
- #4 At 2.4 miles you will cross the Dana Fork and Hwy. 120. Cross with caution. Follow the trail, which parallels Gaylor Lakes Creek.
- #5 The trail climbs 2.4 miles before leveling off at the south end of the Gaylor Lakes basin. Continue through the basin to the lower lake. Return the way you came.

**NOTE:** Please pay attention to the signs near the lake stating that stock are prohibited beyond the lower lake. The middle and upper lake trails are some of the few in the park that are prohibited to stock! **PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THE WARNINGS!**



# UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE



## UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE

**Distance:** 11 miles

**Trail Type:** Out & back

**Elevation:** 8600 – 9585

**Terrain:** Quite a few rocky areas with steps to maneuver and steep inclines.

**Difficulty:** A challenge for novice riders.

**Attention:** Challenging steps to maneuver by Budd Creek.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is not a long ride, (3.5 miles one way from the trailhead), but it is a climb with elevation gains of over 1,000 feet and quite a few rocks and steps to maneuver along the way. Novice riders may find it a bit challenging!

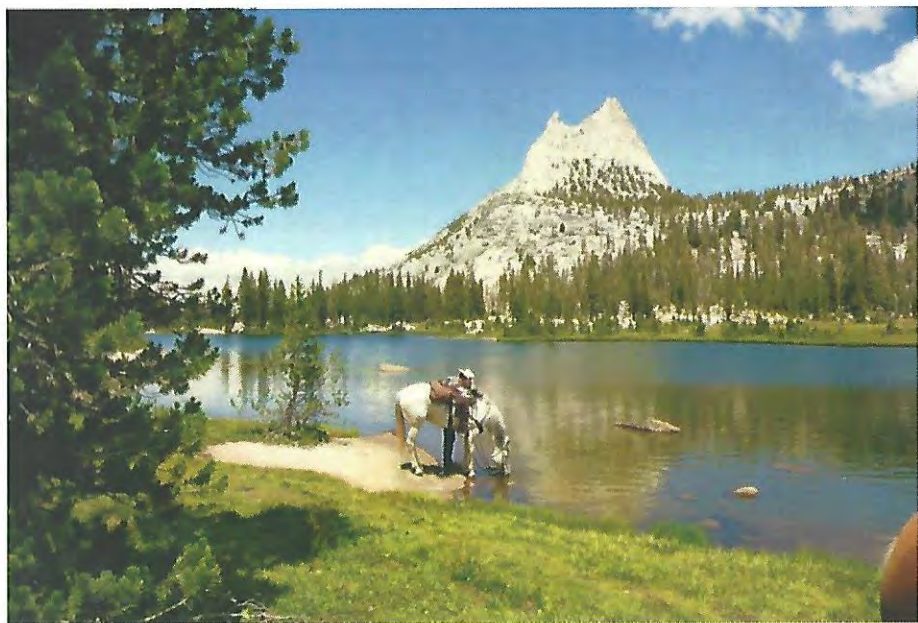
You will cross several small branches of Cathedral Creek, pass through many flowery meadows along the way and by beautiful domes. An interesting note – once Cathedral Peak comes into view, keep your eye on it as you ride along. You will notice that the appearance changes dramatically from different angles along the trail.

Although upper Cathedral Lake is the turnaround point for most riders as this is a wonderful stop for lunch before heading back, we have discovered that if you continue on up the trail PAST the lake for a very short distance and up a short, steep, rocky incline, you will be rewarded with a better overall view of the lake, not to mention one of the finest vistas in the park! A favorite lunch spot of ours is on a large boulder just off to the left of the trail at the top of the steep incline. The expansive view of Upper Cathedral Lake and Cathedral Peak and the distant peaks from there, is truly breathtaking! Another little note of interest on a sight not to be

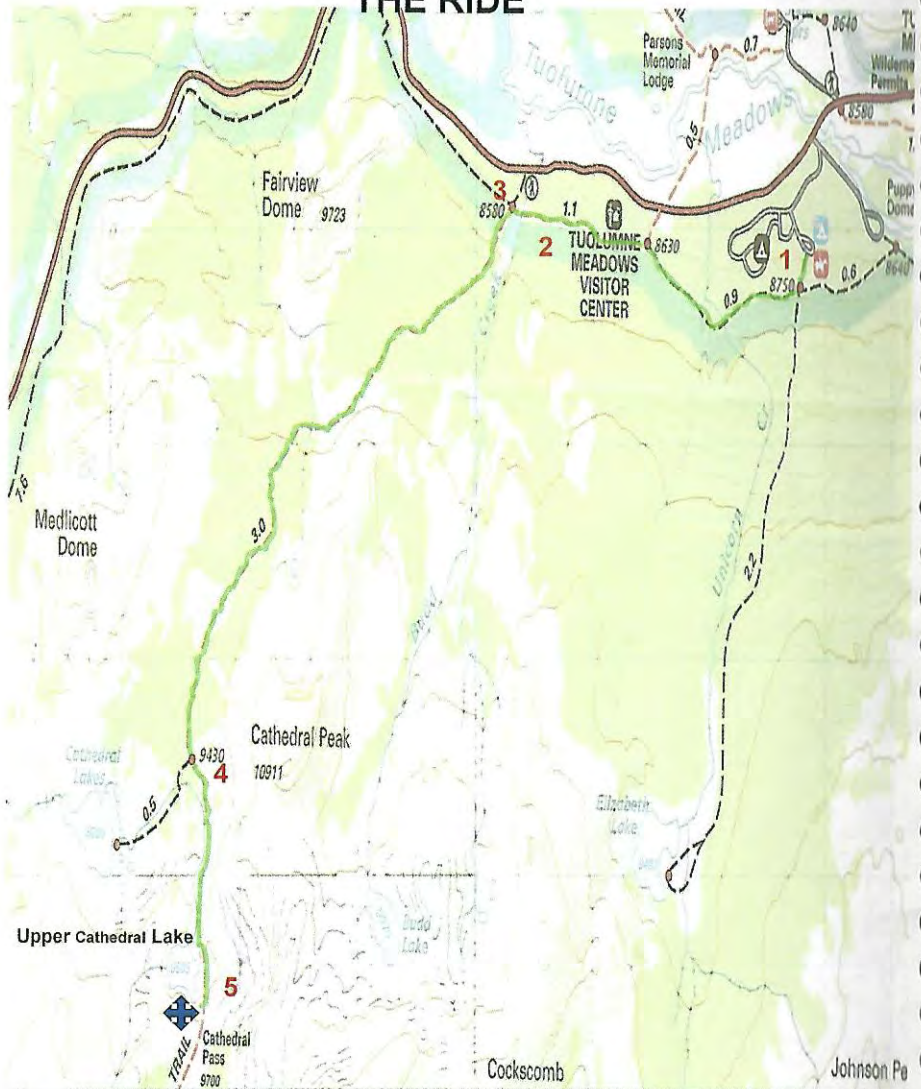
missed while in this area, after your lunch break, continue on up the trail a few hundred yards to an expansive meadow, that if timed right in the season is filled with Lupine in bloom. It is absolutely gorgeous and worth the few extra steps. Those hardy and more experienced riders can continue on up the trail, time permitting, to Cathedral Pass with even more stunning views such as Cockscomb, Tresidder and Echo peaks. The trail does, however, get much more difficult and challenging beyond this point. We have taken the trail a few miles beyond the meadow and were rewarded for our efforts with incredible views, but most times we head back after spending some time enjoying the meadow.

You can stop at the upper lake on your return trip to water your horses and take advantage of more stunning photo opportunities. There is a nice rock slab at the southeast end of the lake where the horses can easily step into the lake for a drink without disturbing the shoreline--something we riders should always keep in mind when enjoying the trails in our National Parks. Be considerate and leave as little impact as possible so that we, equestrians, never lose our trail privileges in this incredibly special place!





# UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE THE RIDE



— Trail

⊕ Destination

## UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE THE RIDE

#1 To begin your ride, head west (right) on the main trail directly behind the horse camp.

#2 You will stay on this trail, eventually crossing a short bridge over Budd Creek near the Visitor Center and head up a sandy slope. There are a few challenging steps to maneuver right before reaching the bridge!

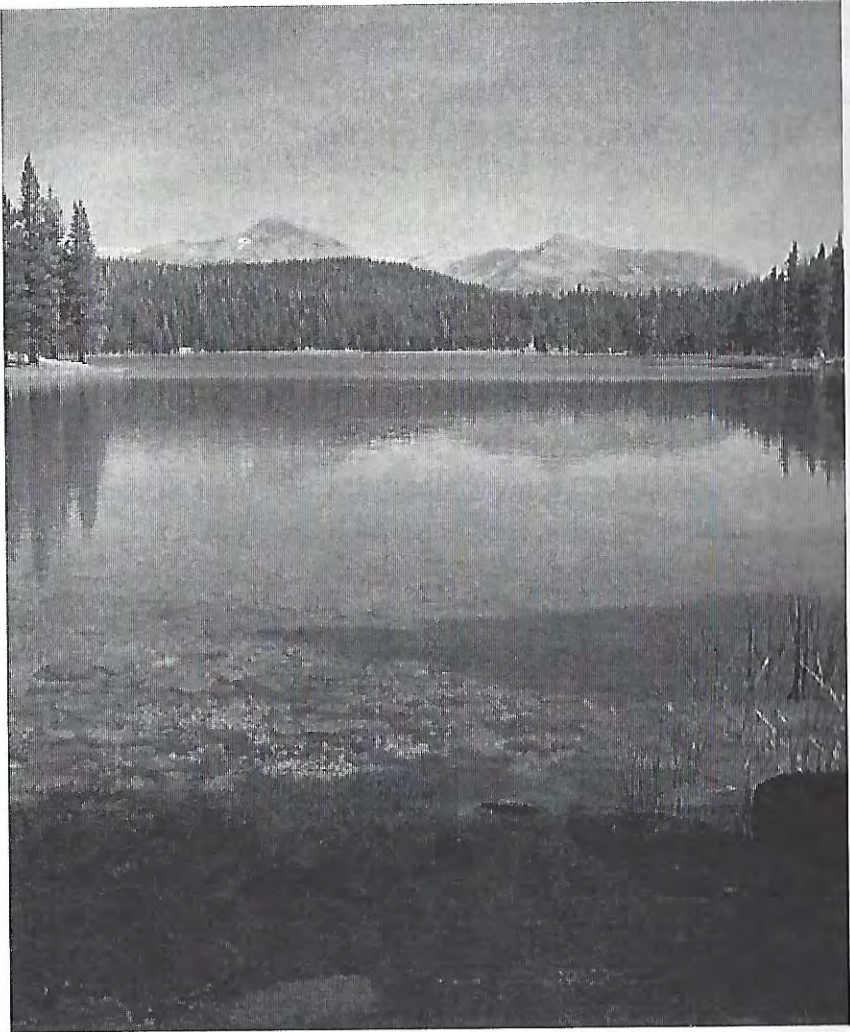
#3 Continue along the trail, watching for the Cathedral Lake trail sign about a mile past the Visitor Center. Head south (left) up the Cathedral Lakes trail.

#4 After several miles, you will come to a sign on your right for Cathedral Lakes. **PASS** this sign as it directs you to the lower lake.

#5 Most people make Upper Cathedral Lake their destination, but be sure to continue on the trail past the lake. If you ride a very short distance up a steep and rocky incline, which is really not difficult, you will be rewarded with an overall view of the lake -- not to mention one of the finest vistas in the park! A favorite lunch spot of ours is on a large boulder just off to the left of the trail at the top of the steep incline. Another "must see" is the flower filled meadow behind the lunch spot.

Return the way you came.

# DOG LAKE



## DOG LAKE

**Distance:** 8 – 10 miles

**Trail Type:** Semi loop

**Elevation:** 8600 – 9240

**Terrain:** Rocky and steep in some sections, but no drop offs.

**Difficulty:** It has a fairly steep climb and is quite a workout for the horses.

**Attention:** The directions for this ride will take you from Dog Lake, down a very steep rocky trail. **Note:** Having done the trail, I prefer to do it reverse of how we have directed you in this book. I feel that it is easier and safer to ride uphill through the rocks than downhill. You may disagree. It is an individual choice.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is one of the shorter rides for those days when you want to get your horses out of camp for a bit, but don't feel like spending all day in the saddle. It is about 3.5 – 4 miles to the lake. The reward for your short climb is this scenic, gem of a lake in an idyllic setting, sitting at 9170 ft. with superb views of Mt. Dana & Gibbs. On a still day, the reflections of the peaks in the lake are breathtaking.

There are switchbacks and a very steep, rocky trail to negotiate. There are also stair steps by the parking lot that can be slick and somewhat dangerous as they lead right to the road. However, you can easily skirt around these steps on the dirt.

Once across the highway, the trail climbs more steeply up to a broad, Lodgepole forested saddle. The trail levels off and has some of the nicest footing on the ride. You will actually be passing directly behind Lumbert Dome and past a small pond

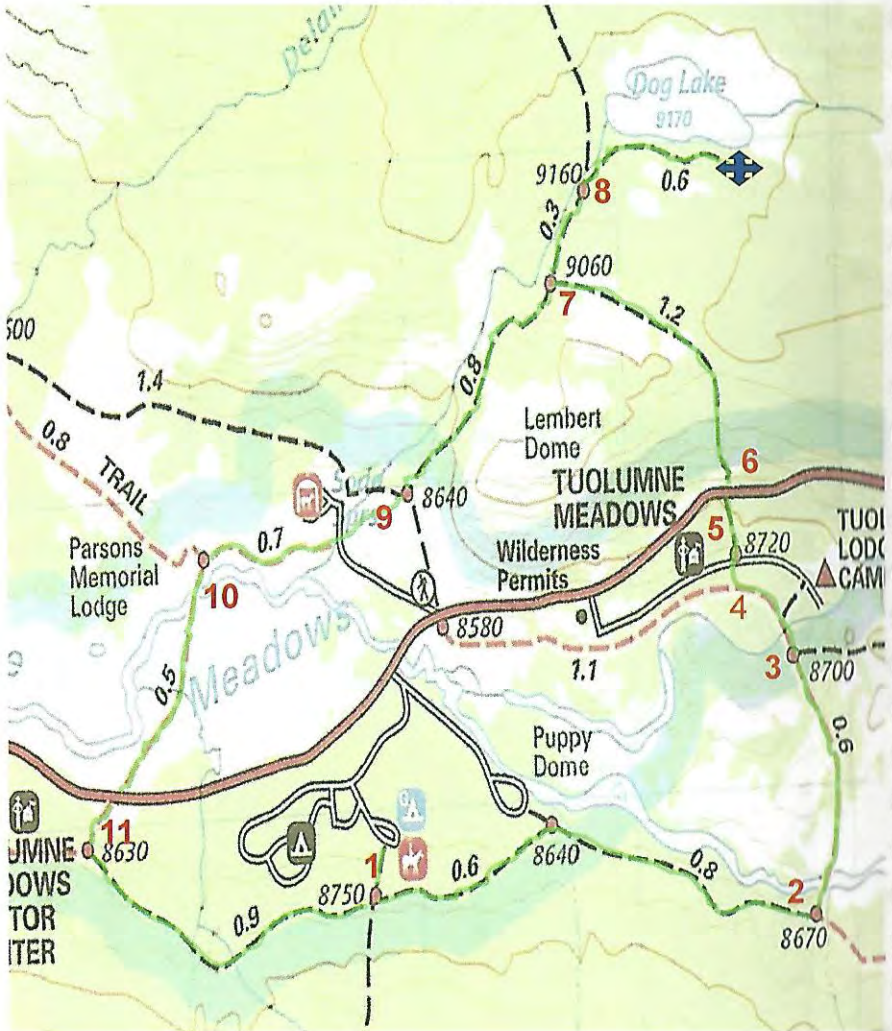


before connecting back to the main trail to Dog Lake. Approximately 1.2 miles beyond the pond you will come to the main trail to Dog Lake. Once reaching the lake, you can either go left or right as the trail circles the entire lake. We like to go left to a nice sandy hill and stop for lunch. There are trees to tie the horses to. The view from this point is beautiful. You are likely to encounter many more tourists at this lake due to the fact that it is a short distance from the campground and easily reached by hikers. Also, this is one of the warmer high elevation lakes, so it is a popular place to take a dip! Take precautions to tie your horses far enough away from the lake (at least 100 ft.) and any curious tourists. After a relaxing lunch and maybe a swim, you can continue on around the lake, making a complete circle which adds 1.5 miles to your ride. There are pretty views for you to enjoy from all angles. From the northeast end of the lake, Cathedral Peak becomes visible, giving the lake a whole new look. This meadow end of the lake can be boggy and is quite fragile, so travel with care and try not to leave unnecessary hoof prints.





# DOG LAKE THE RIDE



— Trail

↔ Destination

## DOG LAKE

### THE RIDE

*Described here is the direction that our writer felt was easier. I and my fellow riders preferred to ride this reverse of how it is written. The reason was that we felt it was much safer to do the steep uphill, picking our way through rocks, than attempting it downhill. Do what you feel is the safest for you.*

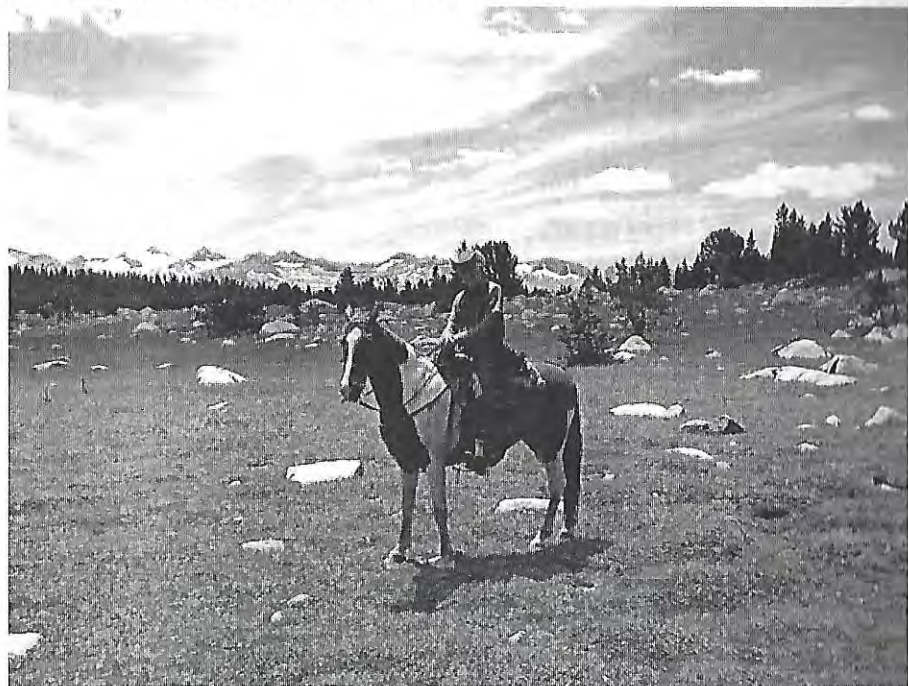
- #1 From the horse camp, head down to the pack trail. Turn left (east) up the trail toward Lyell Canyon.
- #2 Turn left when you come to the connection with the John Muir and Lyell Canyon trails, heading toward the twin bridges.
- #3 Cross the twin bridges and go 0.6 mi. to the trail fork to Gaylor Lakes. Turn left here toward Tuolumne Meadows.
- #4 Continue on this trail, cross one more bridge over the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River. Shortly after the crossing, look for a side trail to your right taking you to the backpackers' parking lot near the Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp.
- #5 Head directly across the parking lot and look for the trail head sign. There will be rock stair steps to negotiate.
- #6 A three minute climb northwest up these steps brings you to a crossing of Hwy. 120. Keep your group together and cross with care. The trail climbs more steeply up to a broad, lodge pole forested saddle, then levels off with nice footing. You will be passing directly behind Lemberst Dome and a small pond.
- #7 At 1.2 miles you will come to the main trail to Dog Lake. Head north (right) on the main trail for 0.3 miles, looking for the spur trail to Dog Lake on your right (the main trail continues on toward Young Lakes).

**#8** Go right at the spur. Once reaching the lake, you can go left or right as the trail circles the entire lake.

**#9** When you are ready to leave, head back to the main trail #8. Turn left and continue down this trail toward Tuolumne Meadows. The trail eventually veers right toward the stables. Continue to follow the signs for Soda Springs, Parson's Lodge & Glen Aulin.

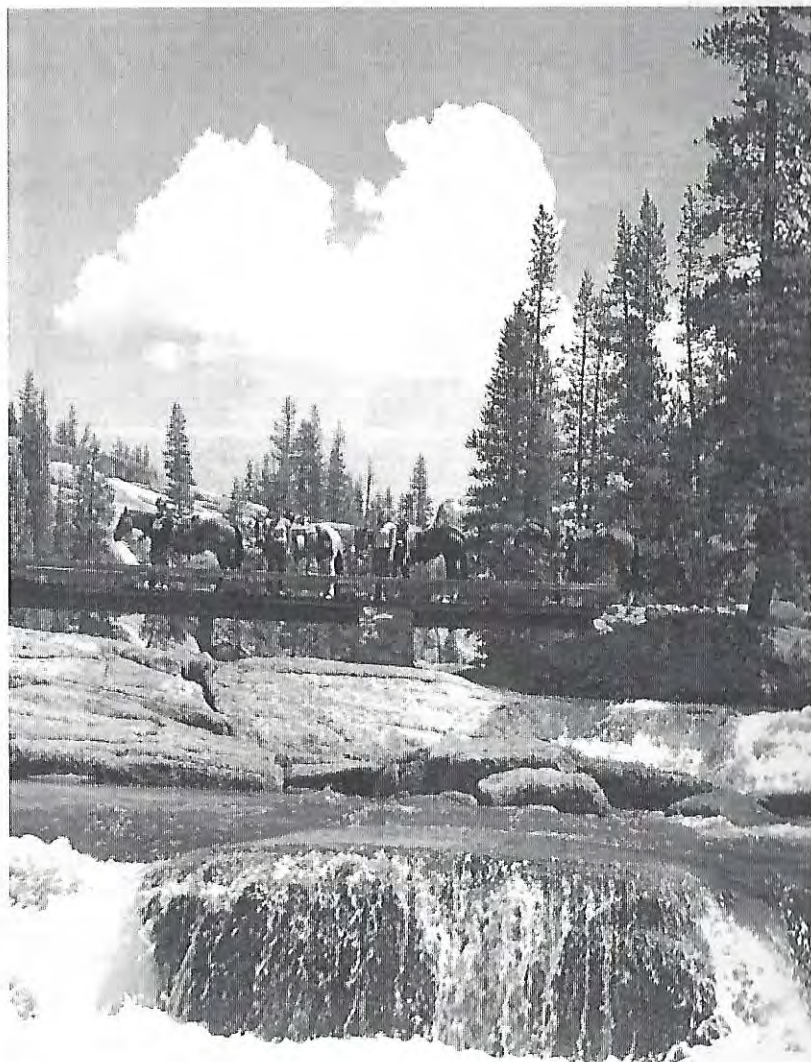
**#10** Pass through the parking lot past the stables and continue on through the meadow to the bridge. Cross the bridge, heading toward Hwy. 120.

**#11** Once across the meadow you will again cross Hwy 120 making your way back to the horse camp. (See Lyell Canyon)





# GLEN AULIN



## GLEN AULIN

**Distance:** 12 Miles

**Trail Type:** Out & Back

**Elevation:** 8600 ft.

**Terrain:** Dirt trails with rocky areas. Granite slab crossings and cobblestones to maneuver.

**Difficulty:** Easy all the way to the narrow cliff area.

**Attention:** One short cliff area with narrow trail. Steep trail with cobblestone footing.

**About the Area & Ride:** This trail is noted for its scenic cascades, riding on the Pacific Crest Trail along the Tuolumne River, as well as expansive views of the Cathedral Range. It is fairly level with maybe a 500 ft. elevation gain, if that. You will actually be going down in elevation on the way out and gaining your elevation on the return trip.

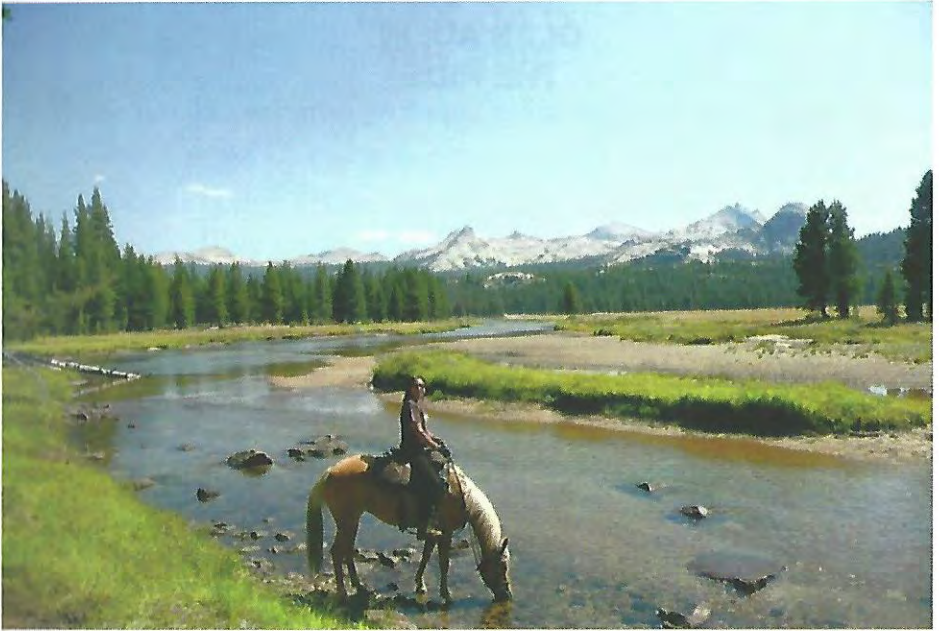
This is another one of our favorite destinations. We have not ridden this trail all the way to Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp as we understand that the trail does get pretty rough after the falls.

There are some rocky sections and a few granite slab crossings which have proven to be NO problem for the horses at all. The traction on these slabs is quite good, especially if your horse is unshod.





Cobblestone Section





## GLEN AULIN THE RIDE

- #1 From the horse camp go to the main trail and head west (left) toward the Visitor's Center.
- #2 Turn right at the Visitor Center sign. Continue on to the Hwy 120 crossing. Ride north across Tuolumne Meadow.
- #3 At the far end of the meadow, cross the river using the bridge. Once across the river, make a right turn and follow the road above Soda Springs for 0.7 miles to the east, toward the stables. Look for a sign on your left directing you back (west) toward Glen Aulin before reaching the stables. This will reconnect with the Pacific Crest Trail. This short detour is necessary to avoid a section of the main trail immediately after the river crossing, which would take you very near the Parson's Lodge. We have been asked by park officials to avoid this area with horses.
- #4 Continue straight ahead, ignoring all trail junctions, making sure to follow the Glen Aulin Signs.
- #5 We usually ride to the footbridge at Tuolumne Falls for our lunch stop and turn around point. There is, however, a section of the trail before reaching the falls that some riders might find a bit challenging. At a point when our fairly level trail begins to climb slightly, the trail becomes more rocky, narrows for a short distance and has a drop off on the left. We have not found it to be a problem for a trail wise horse. Once past this narrow rock ledge, you will come out onto a large granite rock with great views and a definite photo op spot. From this point the trail drops down a cobblestone section. If you have reservations about riding down the section, by all means dismount and walk your horse. Once

down the cobblestones you can re-mount and continue on for another 500 yards, or so, to the scenic bridge over Tuolumne Falls. This is an extremely beautiful spot and well worth the small effort to get there! We have not ridden beyond this point all the way to Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, as we understand that the trail gets pretty rough after the falls. However, this is the trail that the pack station uses to supply the high sierra camp, so it is a stock trail.

If the “challenging” part of this trail is not your thing, you may choose to stop 3 or 4 miles into the ride at any of the many scenic spots along the river for your lunch stop and turn around point. One of our favorites is an open meadow area on the left with a single track trail heading down to the river. This is a great place to water the horses, as the river is wide and shallow with a sandy bottom. This spot is a mile or two BEFORE the trail becomes challenging.

Return the same way you came.



# **FISH CAMP**

**OLD RAILROAD GRADE**

**OLD GRAND DAD LOOP**

**LONG MEADOW LOOP**

**TEXAS FLAT – CALIFORNIA MEADOW LOOP**

**SOQUEL – GREY'S MOUNTAIN LOOP**

# OLD RAILROAD GRADE



## OLD RAILROAD GRADE

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** Late April until it snows.

**Elevation:** 4950 – 5300 ft.

**Terrain:** Dirt trails, creek crossings, switchbacks with rocks & tree roots, meadows that can be boggy in the spring and brief ride on dirt road.

**Difficulty:** Fairly strenuous, but all in all a nice ride for just about everyone.

**Water:** Many creek crossings. No water at staging area.

**Camping:** Primitive camping at the staging area with huge areas to maneuver rigs. Wawona horse camp (reservations required).

**Staging Area:** Parking at the “Snow Play Area” which is a huge asphalt parking lot. There is additional parking to the right of the waste disposal yard which is where we prefer to park.

**ATTENTION:** Once you reach #2 thru #3, you will be riding the local pack station route. If at any time you encounter this group, you are to give them right of way. You will also be riding their trail from #8 thru #10 of the trail ride instructions. Same rules apply.

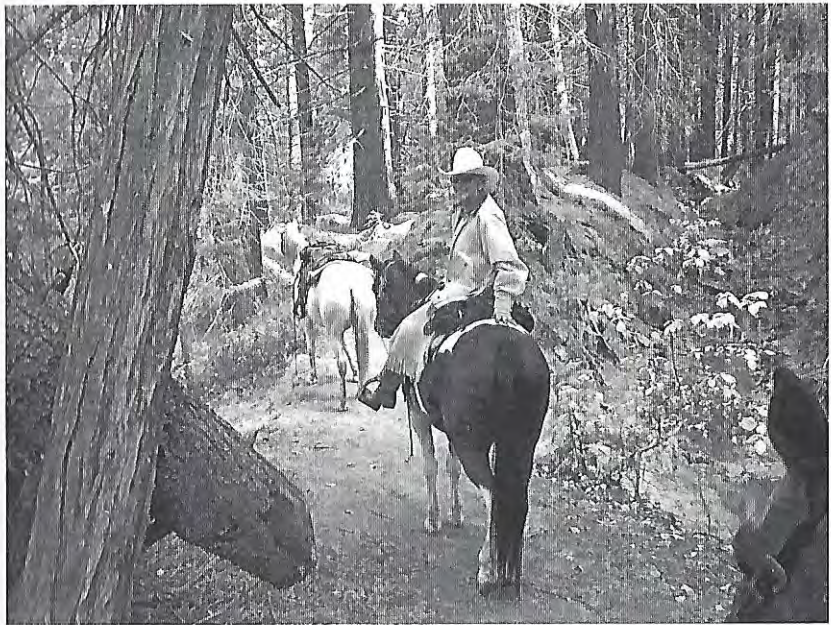
**About the Area & Ride:** Fish Camp is located approximately 2 miles south of the south entrance into Yosemite. The early inhabitants were mostly loggers or employees of the Sierra National Forest. Much of this ride is on an old railroad grade which belonged to the Madera Sugar Pine Co. and probably dates around 1921. There are many, many wooden ties still in place or strewn off to the side. Parts of the trail are on the old pack station



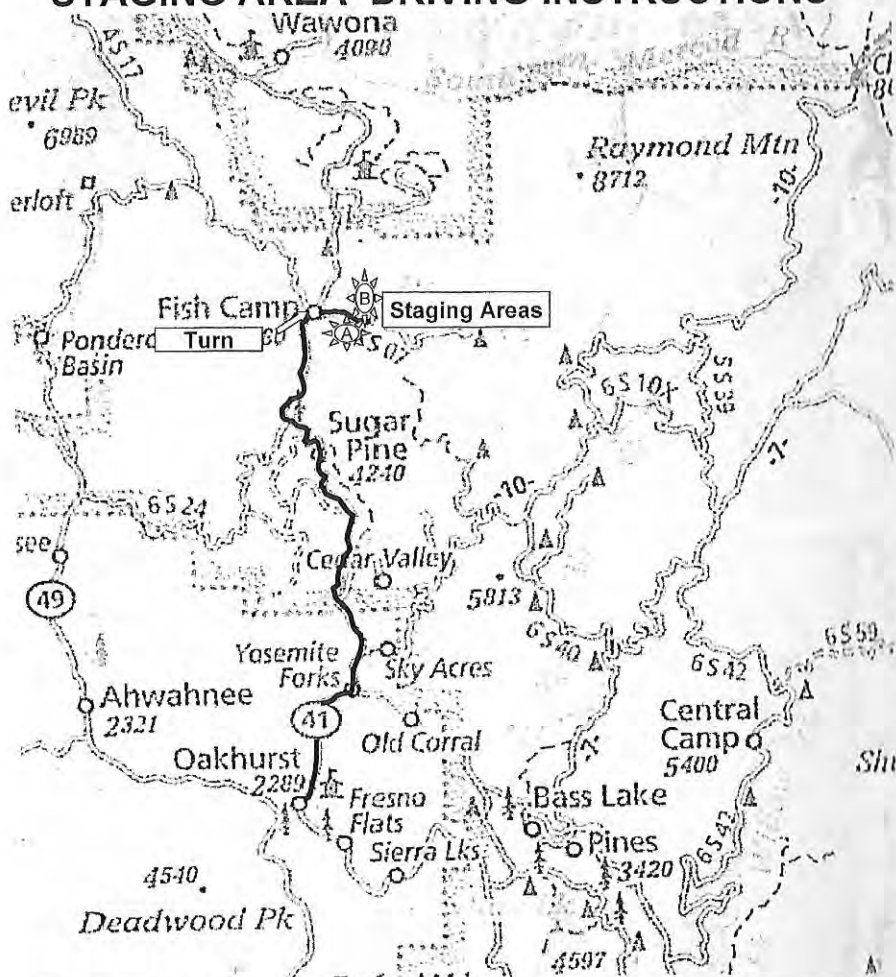
route. The locals still use this trail as it is quite beautiful, especially in July when the azaleas are in bloom. We do not want this trail to disappear from lack of use.

In 1918, a camp was added to the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company on the Mt. Raymond line known as "Skidder Camp". In 1941, this became Fred Wass's pack horse camp, according to the diary of Matilda Wright. Today, we know it as Yosemite Trails Pack Station & Horsemanship Camp and owned and run by the Knapp family.

Half way thru the ride you will come to an old cabin now locked and boarded up. This is a perfect place to stop and have lunch as there is a rustic log picnic table and plenty of places to tie the horses. You will notice a canal to the right of the cabin. Early settlers in the Sugarpine area built this canal to divert water from Big Creek into the Lewis Fork of the Fresno River. The original purpose of the diversion was to increase the water supply to Sugarpine and to the flume for moving lumber to Madera. The canal and diversion system is still in use today and managed by the Madera Irrigation District. Another account of this "ditch" was that water was needed in large quantities for irrigation purposes in the San Joaquin Valley. Isaac Friedlander, a large landholder in the Madera area, used Fresno River water to irrigate his crops. He looked farther into the high mountains for more. From his office in San Francisco in 1871, he sent word to have work started on the Big Creek Diversion Ditch. Construction was started in the spring of 1872. You cannot ride along this ditch very far, but come back at another time and hike to the many deep pools. The view is spectacular and well worth the walk. It is not strenuous. Once you reach where the water is diverted, continue walking upstream to the many swimming holes. This is a real treat that you won't want to miss.



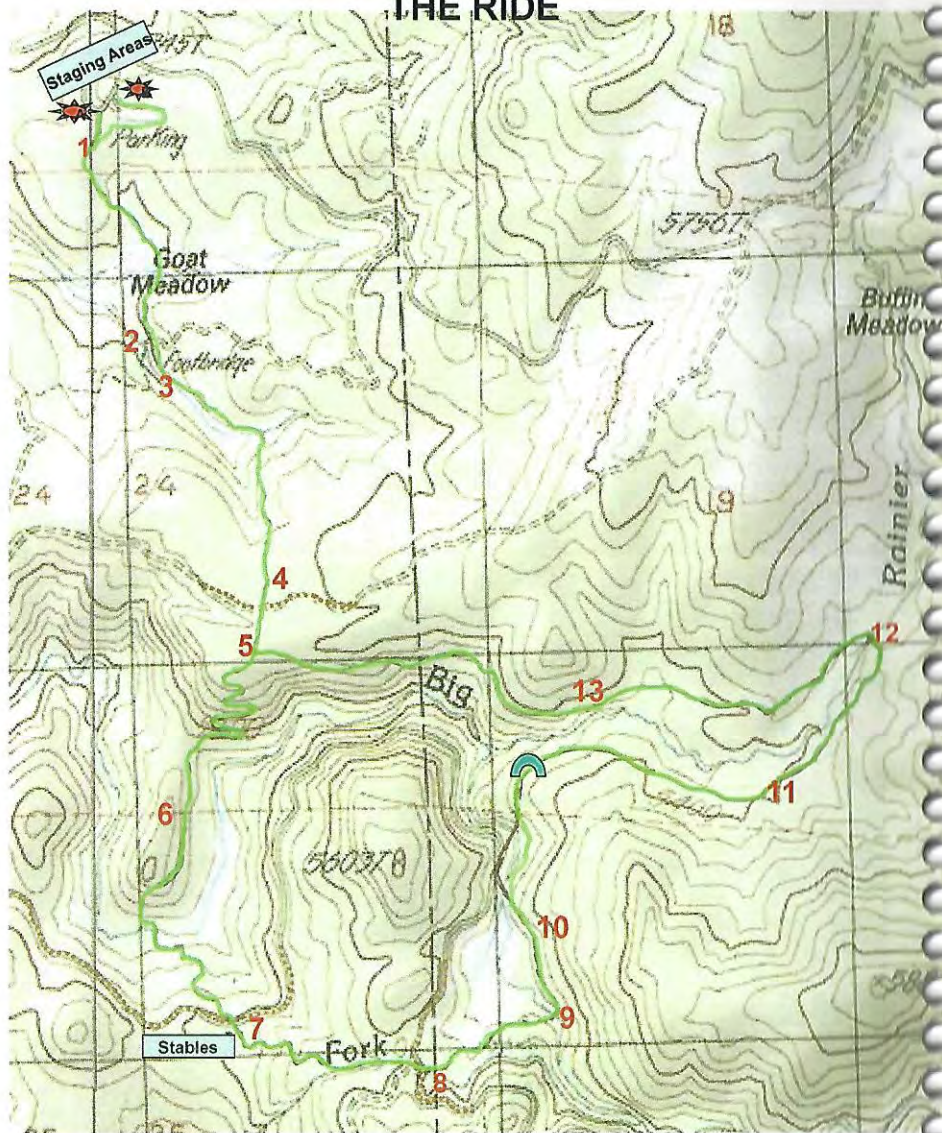
## OLD RR GRADE LOOP STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



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.



# OLD RR GRADE LOOP THE RIDE



— Trail    ★ Staging Areas    ..... Road    ⤴ Culvert

## OLD RR GRADE LOOP

### THE RIDE

**Directions from staging area #A:** Head through the campground on the dirt road until you pick up the single track trail to Goat Meadow.

**Directions from staging area #B:** Ride around the paved parking area to the other side and pick up the single track trail to Goat Meadow.

**#1** Ride through Goat Meadow and follow the yellow and pink flagging.

**#2** Once through the meadow head right, riding past the small footbridge and along the creek. It will veer left away from the creek.

**#3** You will come to a rock pile just up from the creek. Look to your right for a single track trail. Take this trail. Follow the flagging, which at one point will take you through a small boggy meadow.

**#4** Arriving at a junction, hopefully with a trail marker, turn right. You are now on the pack stations return trail from the Mariposa Grove. Follow this trail across a dirt road.

**#5** At the next junction, take the trail to the right. Follow through the rocky switchbacks with exposed roots. This switchback section will take approximately 5 minutes. At the bottom, stay to your right.

**#6** You will come to a junction. Continue on the middle (or main) trail which will eventually wind along the creek. At a well defined crossing, you will cross the creek.

**#7** You will continue on the trail until you come to Jackson Rd., across from the riding stables. Go to the left down the road just past the stable entrance. You will see a green forest service gate. Take the trail on the right, just before the gate. Stay on this single track trail until you come to Jackson Road.

**#8** Cross the road and go through the opening between the gate and tank. You will see an old cabin with a log picnic table. This is a great spot to stop for lunch. After your break, continue on the narrow trail to the right of the cabin alongside the canal. Follow this just a few minutes until you see a trail heading down on the left hand side. Take this trail.

**#9** Follow this trail down to a primitive campsite. Go through the campsite to the creek. On your left will be a barbed wire fence. Cross the creek and follow the trail which will head to the left.

**#10** You will next come to a trail junction. Take the trail to the left, watching for a quick fork to the right. Take the fork to the right. You are on the old pack trail. It is also the old railroad grade. Follow the trail until you see a culvert ahead. There will be a trail on the right which skirts around and crosses over the culvert to the other side. Continue on the old trail.

**#11** When you come to a "Y" in the trail, stay to the right. This split can be missed, so be careful.

Follow this trail which winds its way above the creek. You will come to a spot with old railroad ties. Just past that, look to your right for the trail heading up the hill and around to the final creek crossing.

#12 Cross the creek and follow the trail a short distance to a trail junction. Take the trail heading left. You are again on the pack station's trail. If you encounter the pack station horses, it is your responsibility to leave the trail and allow them safe passage.

#13 After some distance you will come to another junction. Head right and follow until you come back to the trail #5 junction on the right. Be watching as it can be easily missed. Turn right and cross over the road. Watch for the trail junction on the left. Once on the trail you will cross the boggy meadow and come back out by the rock pile. Heading left and then right along the creek with the wooden foot bridge, make your way back to Goat Meadow. Follow your path back to your trailers.





# OLD GRAND DAD LOOP



## OLD GRAND DAD LOOP

**Riding Time:** 5+ hours

**Trail Type:** Semi Loop

**Season:** April until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5800 - 6250

**Terrain:** Single track and railroad grades, dirt footing and rocky sections.

**Difficulty:** Not particularly difficult, but you do have some steep climbs. Not for out of shape horses.

**Facilities:** None at staging area. Outhouse at Nelder Grove.

**Water:** Several watering spots and at Nelder Grove.

**Camping:** Primitive camping at optional 3<sup>rd</sup> staging area.

**Staging Area:** #1 – After turning right onto Jackson Road from Hwy. 41, the road forks right (6S07). The road is narrow and bumpy. There is a large turnout on the left. #2 – Continue a few minutes further to a turnout on the right, just before the Yosemite Trails Pack Station. Option #3 – Continue ahead a few more minutes to a turnout on the right. To your left will be stock fencing and an old cabin. You can park on the right.

**Attention:** When you are on the railroad grade and have crossed Nelder Creek by the leaning giant sequoia, there is a tree across the path. Unless you are riding a pony, it is best to get off and walk your horse under the tree.

**About the Area & Ride:** Read about the history of this area in the description of the “Old Railroad Grade”. After turning left off of Rd. 5S18, you will be climbing steadily and riding through manzanita and buck brush which can be overgrown at times.

On clear days, this ride has spectacular views of the San Joaquin Valley all the way to the coastal range. North, you can see into Yosemite. South, you will be looking toward Bass Lake.

You will come to a tiny runoff creek that usually has enough water for the horses to get a drink. On the left is a trough. If you use that water, make sure it is clean and mosquito larvae free.

The trail widens to an old railroad grade. Keep your eyes open as there are many giant sequoias in this area. The first one you will spot is on the left. After passing a rock wall on your left, look to the right for another one of these ancient beauties. At this point, you will see them scattered along the way. Watch for a huge, old dead sequoia. Directly ahead will be the "Hawksworth" tree. Just before the Hawksworth tree is a wooden sign on the ground "Old Grand Dad Tree" with an arrow pointing to the left. Turn left up this trail and watch high above on the right for the Old Grand Dad tree with his arms (branches) stretching out, sheltering his grandchildren (young sequoias).

At the top and winding your way to the right, you will start to descend on a single track trail through dense incense cedar and fir. The area opens up a bit and gives you a view of the area around Bass Lake.

Nelder Grove is a very nice place to have lunch. There are outhouse toilet facilities, California Creek which runs year 'round and picnic tables. During the summer there are camp hosts who enjoy the company and like to share their knowledge about the cabins situated there as well as the history of the area. Heading toward Nelder Grove, you will see the leaning sequoia tree and pass over Nelder Creek. Just past the creek is the fallen tree described in the "Attention" part of this trail description.

Making your way into Nelder Grove and staying to the left, ride past the Nelder Grove Campground sign and on to the creek. Pass over the creek, making a left and head down to the water.

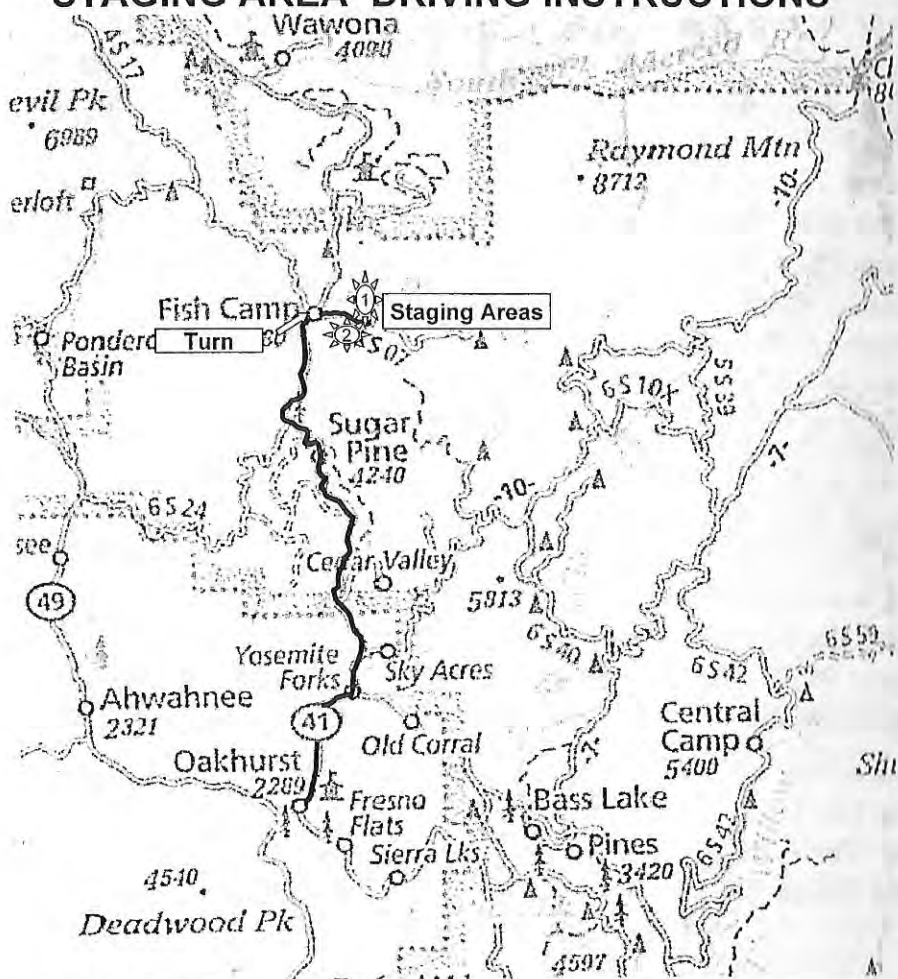
Archaeological studies found the Southern Sierra Miwok Indians were well aware of the grove and had been for several thousand years. The area's first Euro American historical reference appears in the 1851 diary of a soldier in the Mariposa Battalion.

Yosemite's Galen Clark called it Fresno Grove. The grove is named for John Nelder, who in 1849 left New Orleans heading for California during the gold rush. He retired from mining, built a cabin and homesteaded the land. Nelder lived there 14 years and died in 1889 when his cabin burned.

From 1878 until the mid-1890s, Madera Flume & Trading Co. logged the area extensively. Although they were primarily logging sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir & cedar, they also brought down some of the sequoias. From 1888 to 1892, California Mill #4 was located within the grove. The small gauge rail tramway took the lumber  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the flume. After the mill closed, most of the sequoias were cut to make posts, grape stakes and building shakes. The Forest Service acquired the land in 1928.

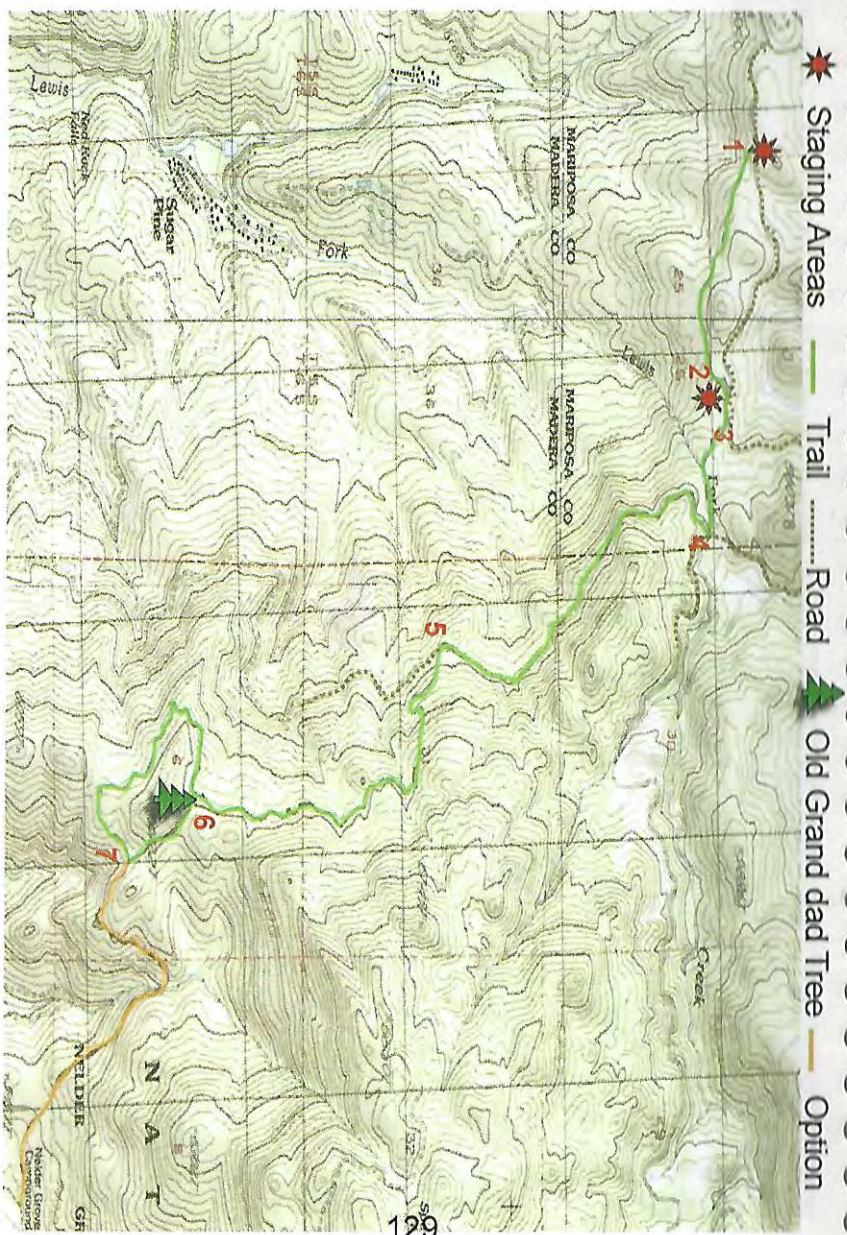
Returning by the "long" route rather than taking the trail back to the Old Grand Dad tree, notice when the trail heads north you can see Tenaya Lodge ahead to the left. On this trail you can also hear the distant whistle of the Sugar Pine Railroad train.

## OLD GRAND DAD –NELDER GROVE 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.





**OLD GRAND DAD - NELDER GROVE  
THE RIDE**

-  Staging Areas
-  Trail
-  Road
-  Old Grand dad Tree
-  Option

## OLD GRAND DAD – NELDER GROVE THE RIDE

### **Directions from first staging area:**

#1 Ride directly across Jackson Road and follow the small dirt road up the hill. Look to your left for an opening in the brush. This is the trail you will take. Follow until you come to the second staging area and follow directions below.

### **Directions from second staging area:**

#2 Ride to the right down the main road toward the stables. Pass the stables.

#3 Just before the green forest service gate and just past the stable entrance, look for a trail leading up the hill on your right. Follow this trail all the way until it ends at Jackson Road, by the canal and old cabin. This is also the optional #3 staging area.

#4 Turn right on the main road for a very short distance and you will see another road, Rd. 5S18. Turn right on this road.

#5 After riding on this road for approximately 30 minutes, keep your eyes open for a large open dirt area on your left. Take this left turn and then veer to the right where it will turn into a single track trail. You will be climbing steadily now.

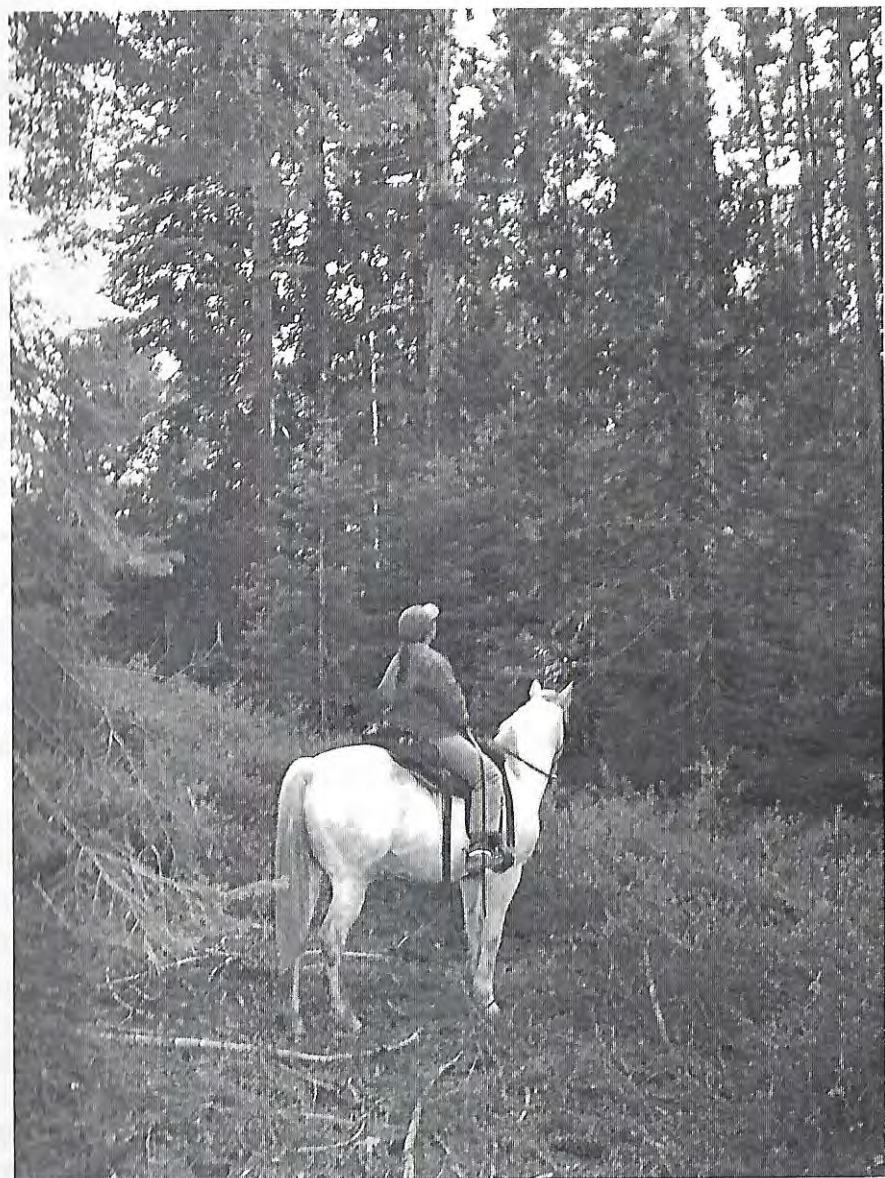
#6 Just before the “Hawksworth” tree is a wooden sign on the ground “Old Grand Dad”, with an arrow pointing to the left. Go left up this trail. Watch high above on the right for the Old Grand Dad tree and young sequoias beneath his branches. This will be before you reach the top of the hill.

#7 Making your way down a steep, rocky trail, you will end up on a wide trail. At this point you have a choice. Turning right will take you back to the turn (#6) at the Old Grand Dad tree where

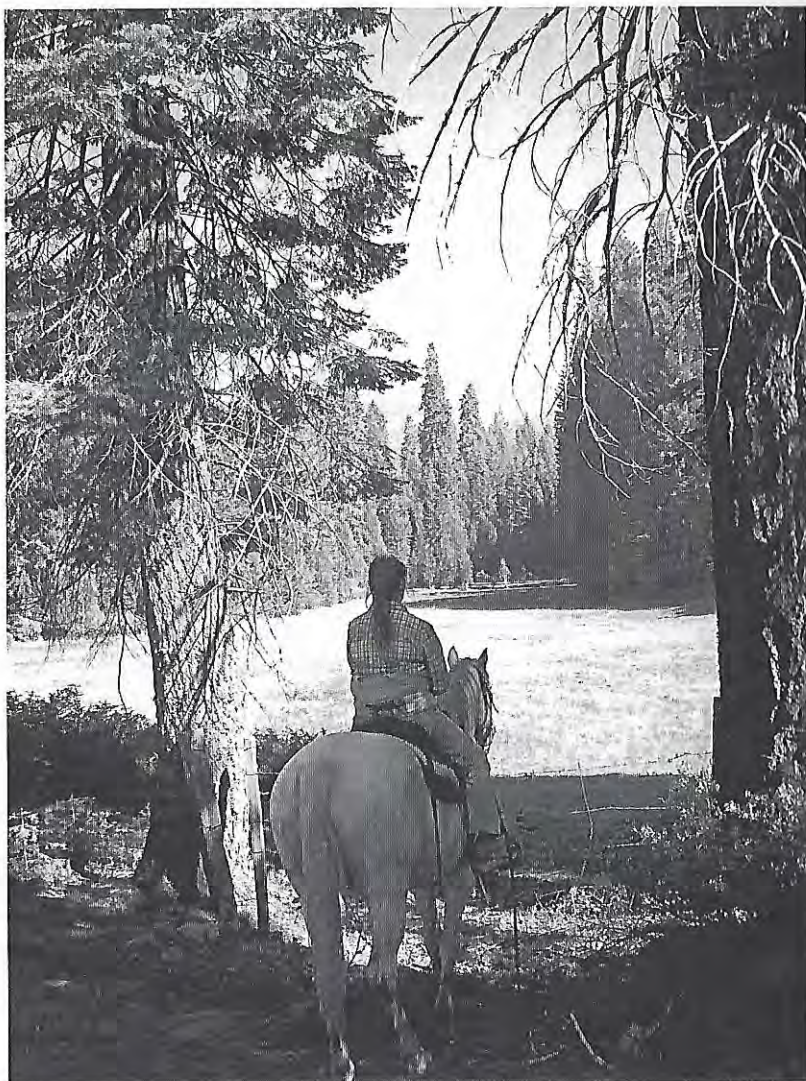


you can retrace your steps back to the staging area. This is a 4 hour ride. Turning left will take you to Nelder Grove, making this a 5-6 hour ride. Nelder Grove is a very nice place to have lunch. There are outhouse toilet facilities, California Creek to water the horses and picnic tables. When you enter Nelder Grove campground, ride to the dirt road. Turn left and ride to the creek and picnic tables. When you are ready to leave, retrace your steps to #7. There you will not turn, but continue on the wide trail back to the Old Grand Dad turn (#6). Retrace your ride back to the staging areas.





# LONG MEADOW LOOP



## LONG MEADOW LOOP

**Riding Time:** 5 – 6 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5200 - 6845

**Terrain:** Dirt footing with some rocks. Two short areas on gravel roads. Fairly steep climbs and descents.

**Difficulty:** Not particularly difficult, just a long ride with altitude gain of 1800 ft.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Two creek crossings

**Camping:** Primitive camping at the Snow Play Area (staging area)

**Staging Area:** Very large staging area with many parking options.

**Attention:** One boggy area on the trail leading down from Long Meadow, but there is a trail skirting it. Early in the season, Goat Meadow and the small meadow on the trail before Goat Meadow can be boggy.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is a very interesting area. Long Meadow is appropriately named. It is quite long and ideal for grazing cattle. It is high enough in elevation (6800 – 7000) that the temperature in midsummer stays rather mild.

Buffin Meadow is also a gorgeous area and full of wildflowers in late spring. It is also a favorite spot to stop for lunch.

You will be riding on many single track trails, some used by the Yosemite Trails Pack Station for their Mariposa Grove trail ride. Some trails will actually be old logging roads and perfect for those long trots. When you are well acquainted with the trails in this area, you will realize that so many of them connect. On this Long Meadow Loop ride, you can stray from the trail and connect with the Biledo Meadow trail and on to Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove's Outer Loop trail. Or, you can head to the left at Buffin Meadow and connect with the Old Railroad Grade trail.

Technically, you can ride from the Cowboy Trail to the Soquel-Grey's Mountain trail, head to Nelder Grove and the Old Grand Dad trail to Fish Camp, catch the Old Railroad Grade trail to Buffin Meadow and on to the Mariposa Grove. From there, you can take the Outer Loop trail to the trail heading for Wawona. From Wawona and the turnout on Chilnualna Falls Road you can ride to Alder Creek and Deer Camp. From Deer Camp you can ride to Bridalveil Campground, and on, and on, and on.

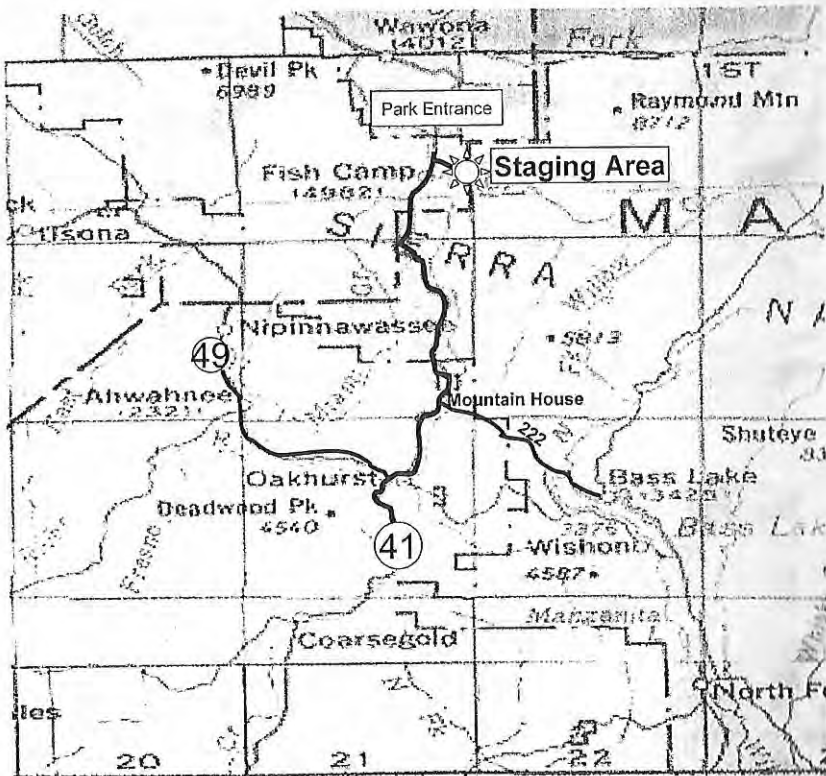
The trail from Long Meadow is marked "Stock Trail", and *is* the trail that the cowboys use when bringing the cattle up to the meadow in late spring or early summer and back out in the fall before it snows.

Rainier Creek is gorgeous! It is the creek that runs by Biledo Meadow. The spring at Biledo flows into Rainier Creek, depositing the wildflower seeds from the meadow along the way. If you follow Rainier Creek to where it connects with Big Creek, the flowers along its banks are spectacular.

The dirt road after leaving Buffin Meadow has many spur trails. We have investigated a few, but they don't seem to really go anywhere. They probably lead to camps used by hunters. The single track trail that will bring you back to Goat Meadow and the staging area is lush. You will want to stop and let your horse snack a bit. After all, it is a long ride. When you cross Goat Meadow and if it is late spring, the wild azaleas will take your breath away. They are huge and their fragrance is intoxicating. Making your way through the many primitive campsites and back to your trailers, make plans to come back in the winter with your kids or the grand children. After all, this is the "Snow Play Area".



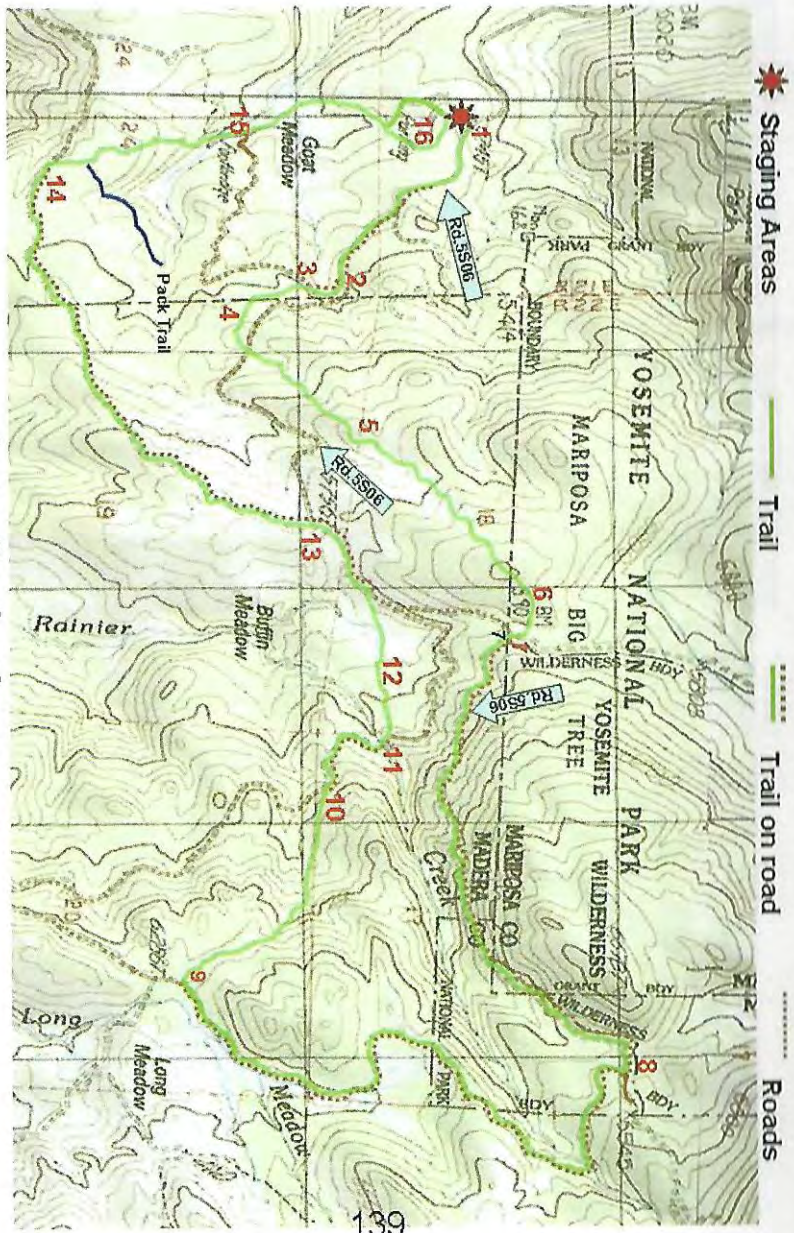
## LONG MEADOW LOOP STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



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.







**Long Meadow Loop  
The Ride**

## LONG MEADOW LOOP THE RIDE

- #1 From the staging areas, ride through the large asphalt parking area to the left and head up the hill by the dumpster. When you arrive at a dirt road (5S06), turn right.
- #2 Ride the road until you come to a side road leading to the right with a faint sign for "Goat Meadow". Turn right.
- #3 Look for the trail sign and flagging on the left. It is located just past where the road turns to the right. Take this trail up the hill. It winds back and forth quite a bit.
- #4 When you come to a "Y" intersection with a large rock outcropping ahead to the left, take the trail to the left heading toward the Mariposa Grove. When you come to the road, cross and continue on the single track trail for a little while.
- #5 You will come to a major trail crossing. Turn left and follow the sign heading toward the Mariposa Grove.
- #6 After 15-20 minutes, watch for a trail on the right. There will be a sign to your left (Fish Camp & Mariposa Grove) directly across from the trail you want to take. Take the trail to the right leading downhill. This is a short cut trail.
- #7 You will come to a split in the trail. Turn right toward the dirt road. Turn left onto the dirt road. You are back on Rd. 5S06.
- #8 Eventually you will come to an intersection with a sign for "Long Meadow". Turn right. You will come to a creek crossing (Rainier Creek) where you can water your horses. When you come to Long Meadow make sure you take advantage of the wonderful views.
- #9 Be careful not to miss this turn. Look for the pink and yellow flagging on your right. The trail is rather faint. Turn right down the trail. This trail is fairly steep. You are on the "Stock Trail" and will see signs on the trees. There is a boggy area along this trail, but there is a side trail that skirts around it on the right.

**#10** Coming out on to a dirt/gravel road, turn right, and go through the green gate next to the cattle guard. Please close the gate after passing through.

**#11** You will cross over Rainier Creek. This is an especially beautiful creek and may be a nice photo opportunity. After crossing the creek you will ride a very short distance. Look to your left for a trail/turn out with our flagging. Go left down the trail and follow the flagging until you come to Buffin Meadow.

**#12** Cross through the middle of the meadow until you come to a rather faint road. Follow it to the right toward the trees. You will come to a primitive camping area with a road heading left to 5S06. Turn left on 5S06.

**#13** Soon you will come to another road on the left with a sign "Goat Meadow". Turn left and follow this quite a ways.

**#14** You will come to a trail crossing the road. Look for flagging. You don't want to miss this trailhead or you will end up in Fish Camp. The trail is well used by the pack station. Turn right and follow a short way to another trail leading to the left. Turn left down this trail toward Goat Meadow.

**#15** You will come out to what appears to be an old road. Follow the flagging to the left, then right along a creek with a footbridge crossing (do not cross this bridge). Ride past the bridge and follow the flagging into Goat Meadow.

**#16** Cross the meadow and follow the road on the other side. If you parked in area "A" look for a road leading to the left that takes you through the primitive campground. Stay on main road back to your trailers. For area "B" parking, stay straight and it will curve to the right around the asphalt parking area and back to where you started. You can do this trail in reverse. The climb up to Long Meadow is steep. Be sure to make all the turns in reverse. There are many trails out there, so follow the instructions carefully. When you become familiar with this area, you will realize that there are many options for this ride.



# TEXAS FLAT CALIFORNIA MEADOW LOOP



## TEXAS FLAT – CALIFORNIA MEADOW

**Riding Time:** 5-6 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** April or May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5100 – 5870

**Terrain:** Diverse – Trails & roads with dirt footing, rocky areas, steep climbs, boggy meadows early in season and challenging creek crossings.

**Difficulty:** Somewhat difficult because of creek crossings and boggy meadows.

**Facilities:** Outhouse facilities at Texas Flat, Kelty Meadow and Nelder Grove.

**Water:** Ample

**Camping:** Kelty Meadow & Texas Flat horse camps

**Staging Area:** Large dirt turnout on Sky Ranch Road, past the turnoff to Soquel & Grey's Mountain campgrounds and just before the bridge. The turnout is large enough to accommodate 5-6 rigs.

**Attention:** The creek crossing above Soquel Meadow is somewhat challenging because of the switchback leading to a small landing just before crossing the creek. It is a series of quick maneuvers that even our horses question at times. There is rubber "webbing" at the California Meadow creek crossing used to minimize erosion. It isn't dangerous, but your horse may disagree. There is a very steep climb after leaving California Meadow.

**About the Area & Ride:** This is a ride with "everything". Much of the trail is on old railroad grades. California Meadow is the site of a lumber mill, although there is really no evidence of that now.

Nelder Grove, with its giant sequoias and the home of the “Bull Buck” tree, has a small village of historic cabins . The giant sequoias that were victims of the logging industry still grace us with their enormous stumps. Notice the notches along their trunks where planks were placed for lumbermen to stand on as they sawed through the trees. From Kelty Meadow you have an incredible view of Fresno Dome!

You will pass a rustic cabin with a steep, pitched snow roof. Although it is tempting to investigate the area and cabin, this is private property and should be treated as such. You will be following the creek upstream and then heading away from it, to the right.

Unfortunately, you will be riding into Texas Flat on a broken asphalt road. There are cow trails skirting the road, but many of these have low branches making them unsuitable for horseback riders.

Past Texas Flat you will skirt the dirt road on a single track trail. It has been heavily tagged with our pink/yellow ribbons plus blue ribbons. This trail has not been heavily used and can be somewhat difficult to follow.

Heading up the trail away from Kelty Meadow Campground, look to the right. There are many young sequoias. Wouldn't you just love to know how they got there and who planted them?

When you are making your way toward the upper end of Soquel Meadow, the trail drops rather steeply and is thick with brush. As you get closer to the creek, the trail heads left. In the spring there is a pretty waterfall. Stay on the trail a short distance, watching where it makes a sharp right. This is the switchback we mentioned in the “attention” part of the trail description. Stay close to the

wall, not the edge. When you get to the landing at the bottom, cross the creek.

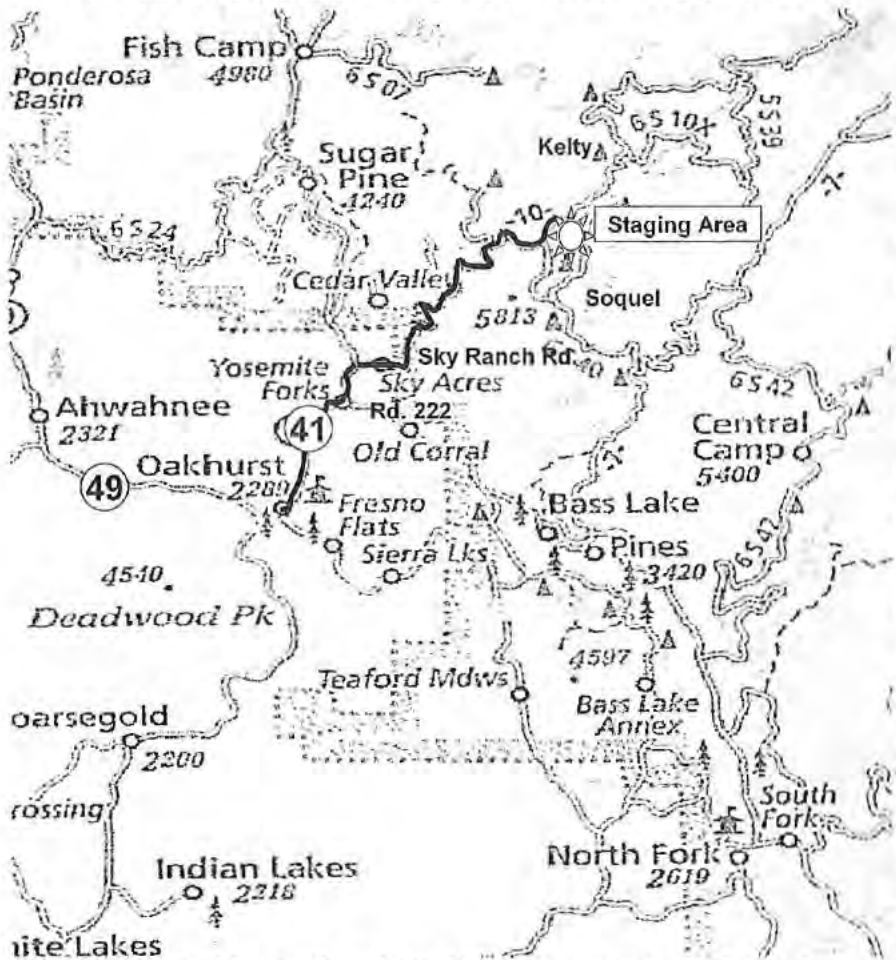
The next meadow area you will cross is not easy to follow, but watch for tagging. Across the road, the next trail winds its way into Nelder Grove, entering at the Bull Buck tree.

Next, you will ride on to California Meadow. Crossing California Meadow, ride through the cowboy gate but watch for stray barbed wire. Head away from the gate a little toward the right and pick up the trail at the far end of the meadow. Follow the trail. It is very steep in one area. This trail ends up at a dirt road. Turn right and you will be heading back to Sky Ranch Road. When you reach Sky Ranch Road, turn right and cross the bridge back to the staging area.

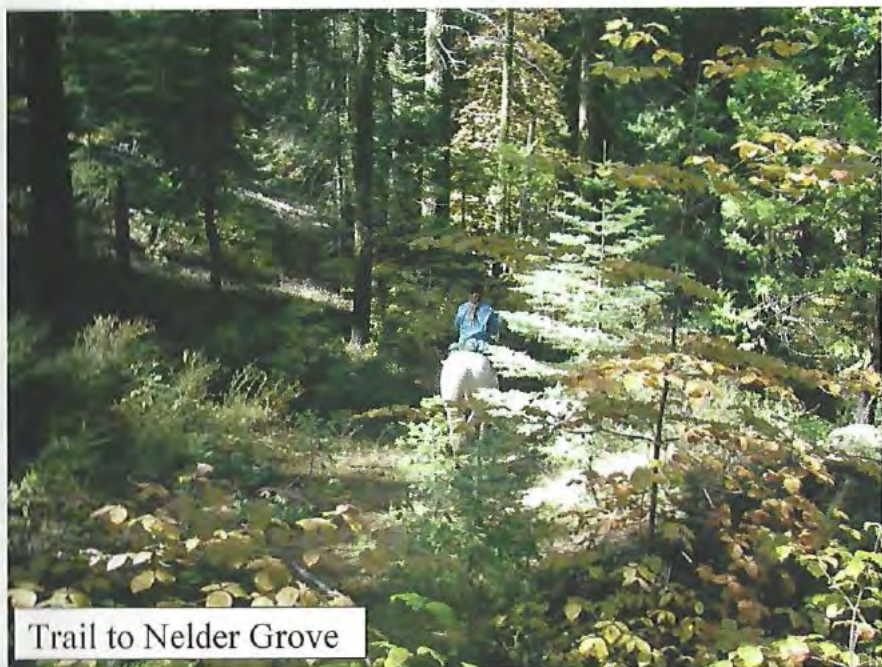




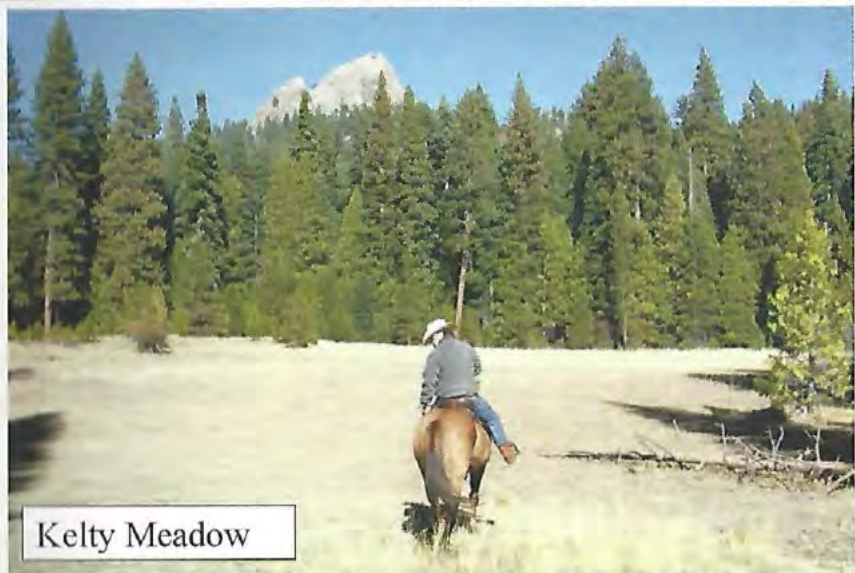
## TEXAS FLAT – CALIFORNIA MEADOW STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



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 miles. 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 right towards Soquel. Drive 1.6 miles to another split in the road. Stay left towards Kelty Meadow and Fresno Dome for .2 miles. You will see a dirt turn out on your right just before the bridge. This is the staging area.



Trail to Nelder Grove



Kelty Meadow



## **TEXAS FLAT – CALIFORNIA MEADOW LOOP THE RIDE**

- #1 From the staging area, take the dirt road (#72) to the right.
- #2 Turn left on dirt road 6S72Y (first fork in road). Continue on this road, passing primitive campsites and 2 meadows. When you come to a large turnout, ride across the middle and pick up the trail on the other side. It has a narrow opening and can be easily overlooked. Follow this trail to the right, down a hill and make a sharp left onto a single track trail (watch for flagging).
- #3 Follow the trail to Sky Ranch Rd. Turn right and ride a short distance to a road on the right with a brown gate. Go around the gate and follow the road.
- #4 You will come to an old cabin. Pass the cabin and continue to follow the trail across a small ditch.
- #5 At a junction, head left toward the creek crossing. (If you turn right it will take you back to the trailers.) Cross the creek and continue on the main road, passing the campgrounds.
- #6 You will come to a main road with broken asphalt. Turn left. This is the main road to Texas Flat Campground. Pass road 6S36 and a small meadow and another small road on the right. Cross over the bridge and continue up the road.
- #7 You will pass through Texas Flat Campground.

**#8** Continue on main road to the right, passing a road on the left. Continue past another rather sparse road on the right and look for the side trail that skirts the road. Follow this side trail. It will come back out on the dirt road.

**#9** Cross the road and continue to follow the single track trail. You will come to a junction. Head to the right. Cross the creek and follow the trail through a dense area of fir and pine trees.

**#10** You will come out on a narrow road/trail with a creek on the left. Do not cross the creek, but stay to the right.

**#11** Continue to follow the trail, eventually passing over a dirt road. You will climb a short hill and come out on Sky Ranch Rd. Go to the right a very short distance until you see a trail up a steep hill on the left. There may be a small trail marker "Kelty Meadow". This single track is easy to follow.

**#12** After the single track, take the fork to the right. Ahead you will see the gravel road that leads into Kelty Meadow campground. Turn left on the gravel road. Ahead is a sign "Horse Water". If you turn right here, there is a creek to water horses and the meadow with a gorgeous view of Fresno Dome. Continue through the campground to a small dirt road heading to your right. Stay on this trail.

**#13** Coming to an intersection with a meadow across the way, stay to the left of the meadow.

**#14** After riding downhill and ending at an old railroad grade road, turn left. This road once continued to the right, but is now overgrown.

**#15** This is a pretty section of the trail, but does have a rocky area. You will shortly come to an open area on the right, 6S02XA. Turn right here and go through a cut out section of an old downed pine tree. Continue down this trail. Watch for a turn on the right, where you will be riding through some pretty dense brush. As you get closer to the creek, you will be making a sharp right and then a sharp left turn to cross the creek. Head up a short steep incline on the other side and continue up to a road.

**#16** Head to the left down the road. After riding the road a short way, start looking for a single track trail on the right. Follow the trail which meanders through pine trees and brush, and at times can be difficult to follow. We try to tag this area heavily.

**#17** You will come out at a dirt road. Cross the road and pick up the trail on the other side. It heads into low growing Manzanita brush. This trail winds its way into Nelder Grove, bringing you into the grove at the Bull Buck Tree. This tree is estimated to be 2700 years old and is 87 feet around, measured several feet up from the base. This is a great spot for a picture, but please stay outside the barrier to protect the fragile root system.

**#18** Leaving the Bull Buck tree and heading to your right, you will come to a gate. This is a good place to water the horses. Going around the gate and continuing on the road to the right, you will pass by the campground and grove. Continue on the road leaving the grove.

**#19** You will come to the entrance sign and end at another road. Turn right. (If you want an easier way back to your trailers, turn left and follow this road to Sky Ranch Road where you will turn right to the staging area.) Watch for an old road heading down to the left. Take this trail.

**#20** At the bottom of this trail, turn left. Follow until you come to the remnants of an old camp. Cross the creek on your right, head through the trees and across a short section of meadow. You will come to another small creek crossing. It has rubber “webbing” for erosion control. This area can be boggy in the spring and very early summer. Cross the creek and veer to the left. You are entering California Meadow. Ride through the meadow and follow the trail which veers to the right through the trees. It gets a little steep in areas. This trail will come out on a dirt road.

**#21** Turn right on the dirt road and follow back to Sky Ranch Rd.

**#22** When you reach Sky Ranch Road, turn right and cross the bridge back to your trailers.







# SOQUEL GREY'S MOUNTAIN



## SOQUEL – GREY’S MOUNTAIN

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Loop

**Season:** May until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 5370 – 5489

**Terrain:** Forest service roads, camp roads and single track trails. Gravel on some roads. Creeks with river rock creek beds.

**Difficulty:** If your horse has little or no experience crossing water with a river rock bottom, this could be a challenging ride as there are 8 creek crossings.

**Facilities:** None at the staging area. Out house at Grey’s Mountain Campground.

**Water:** Creek crossings all along the ride.

**Camping:** Kelty Meadow and Texas Flat horse camps.

**Staging Area:** Dirt turn-around, large enough to fit 5-6 rigs.

**Attention:** You will be passing through Soquel and Grey’s Mountain Campgrounds. Be aware of motorized vehicles and people. There is a cliff area on one of the trail options. It is a road wide enough for a jeep, with a wall on one side and a sheer drop off on the other. There are a couple of narrow, short stretches on the trail above the creek between Soquel & Grey’s Mountain. There are free range cattle in the area.

**About the Area & Ride** – This is a beautiful area, full of history. Evidence of old railroad grades is everywhere. Raising cattle was, and still is, a thriving business here because of the ample grazing opportunities in the lush, green meadows found around every corner. It is also a favorite area of hunters during hunting season.

The staging area, which is after the turn off for Soquel and Grey’s Mountain Campgrounds and just before the bridge on Sky Ranch Road, is where you would park for many of the rides in this area.

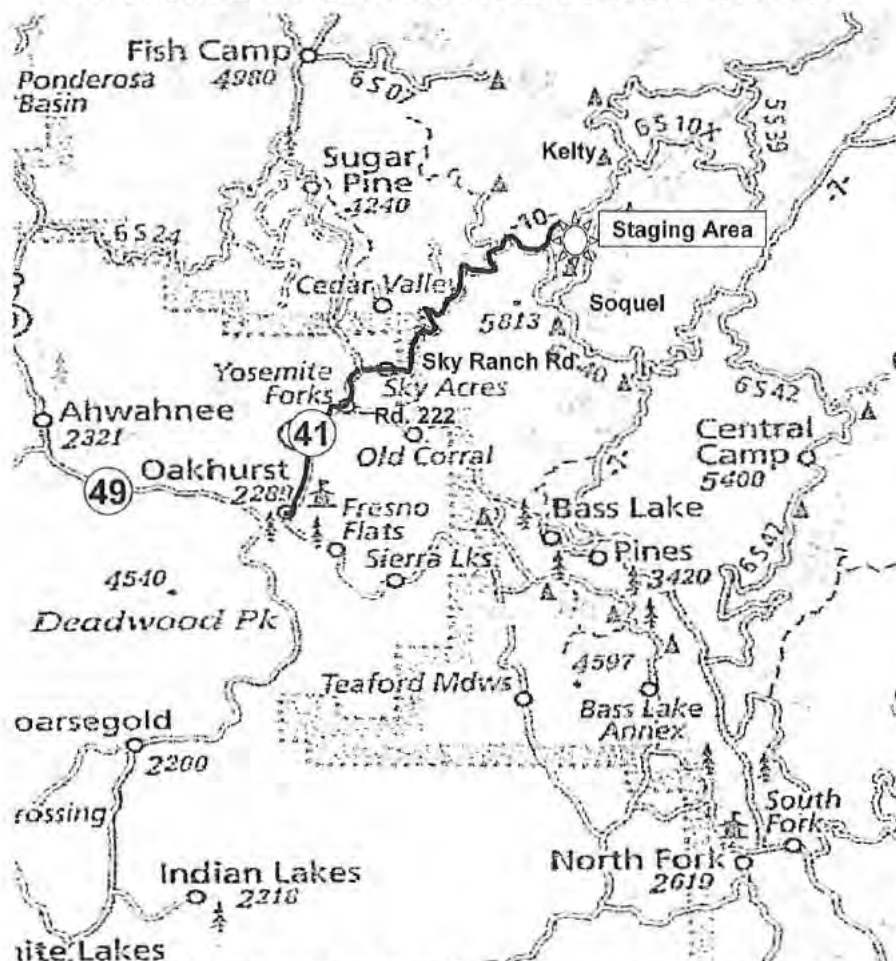
Although we are focusing here on the trails around Soquel & Grey's Mountain, Texas Flat, Kelty Meadow, Nelder Grove and California Meadow are all within a stone's throw and wonderful trails of their own....some of them listed in this book!

You will ride through "stump meadow" on an old railroad grade. You will ride through a series of primitive campsites. At what appears to be the end of the campground, watch for the trail heading left toward the creek. You will cross the creek and follow the trail to the right. Watch for the pink & yellow tags as this trail changes often due to fallen trees, etc. What you are doing is basically heading downstream. You will pass through several meadows ride which can be boggy early in the year. After leaving Soquel campground and heading down stream, you will cross the creek and wide river rock creek bed. The trail from this area is difficult to see as it is merely an opening in the brush. It is at the end of the open creek area. This is a beautiful single track trail heading downstream above the creek. Once past Grey's Mountain campground and through the meadow, the trail ends at a wide area of the creek. This is a nice spot for lunch. There are logs to sit on and trees to tie the horses to.





## SOQUEL – GREY'S MOUNTAIN STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

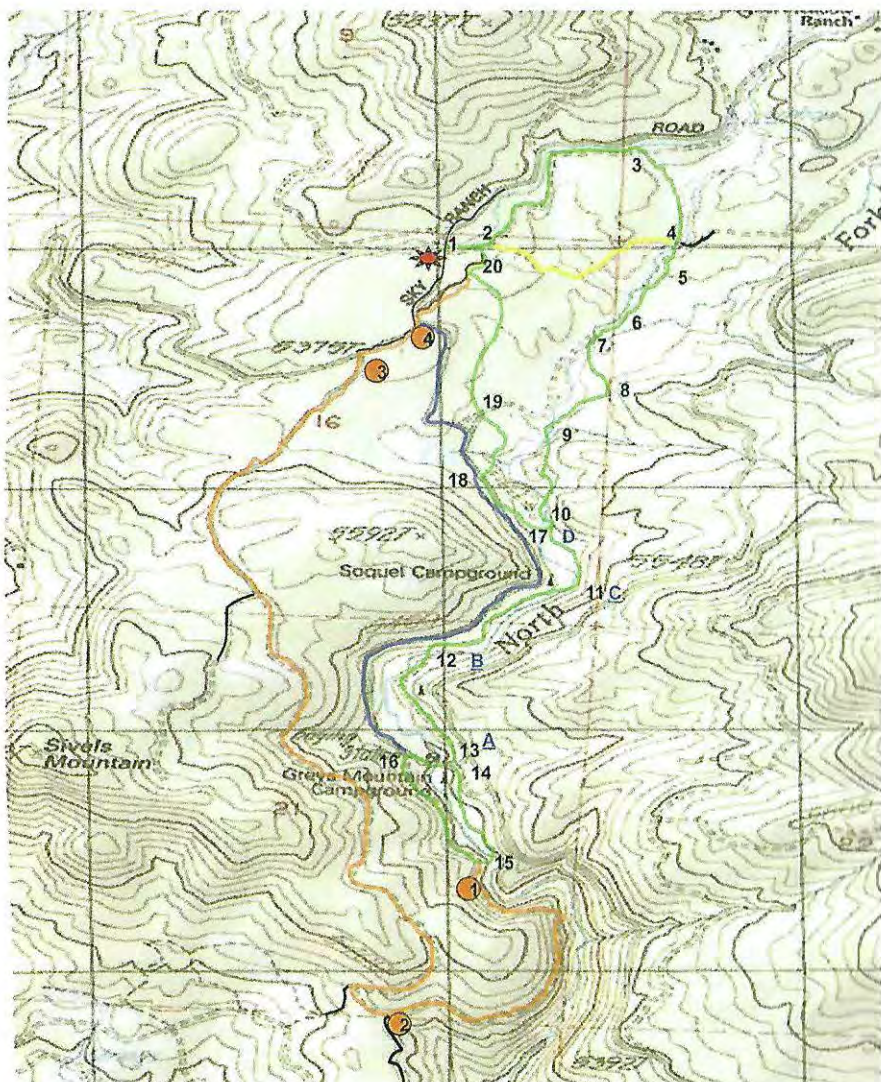


From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41 until you see road 222 (turn for Bass Lake) and start counting mileage. Continue on 41 for ½ miles. Make a right turn on road 632 (Sky Ranch Rd.). Drive for 6.8 miles until you come to a split in the road. Go right towards Soquel. Drive 1.6 miles to another split in the road. Stay left towards Kelty Meadow and Fresno Dome for .2 miles. You will see a dirt turn out on your right just before the bridge. This is the staging area.



# Soquel – Grey's Mountain Loop

## The Ride



 Staging Area

 Trail

   Options

A-D Backtrack

## SOQUEL – GREY'S MOUNTAIN LOOP

### THE RIDE

- #1 From the staging area, take the dirt road (6S72) to the right.
- #2 A short distance down the road you will come to a fork. Turn to the left (6S72Y). Follow past a meadow staying to your left on road. "Option Yellow"- Stay straight at the fork and follow the road to a small pond with a large culvert. Follow directions from #4". This road is shorter, but has a lot of gravel.
- #3 You will come to a meadow on the right with a lot of tree stumps. We call this "stump meadow". Take the road to the right skirting the meadow. Notice the railroad ties which were part of the old railroad grade that took lumber down to the valley.
- #4 Coming to a gravel road, cross over and pick up the trail to the left of the large culvert and "pond". Cross the small meadow and follow the trail into the trees and to the right.
- #5 You will come to a large dirt intersection. Go slightly to the right and veer left, following the pink and yellow flagging.
- #6 You will come to the end of a primitive campground. Staying right, follow the creek along a small trail. The trail will head left toward the creek.
- #7 You will see a brown forest service sign (there are a few, stay to the left). Cross the creek and follow the pink and yellow flags to your right into the trees.
- #8 Soon you will come to a beautiful meadow. Make your way to the end of the meadow, staying to the right. Cross the creek.
- #9 After crossing, follow the creek downstream a very short distance (making almost a U turn) and cross back over to the other side. The reason for this is that the trail at the end of the meadow is a cow trail and too boggy and steep for the horses.



**#10** Weave through the trees back to the creek. Cross the creek, staying close to the creek and not entering the campsite. Cross right back over the creek (watch for flagging). Continue heading right.

**#11** Follow the trail downstream making your way to the section where it makes a sharp right and narrows a bit. Cross the rocky river bed and creek, and pick up the trail on the other side. The trail is narrow and brushy, so look carefully for the opening. Stay left on the trail.

**#12** Coming to the last campsite at Gray's Mountain, cross the creek and follow the road to the right. Stay on this road above the campsites.

**#13** You will now come out on another road. Turn right and cross yet another road. You will notice a bridge on the right.

**#14** Keep heading downstream. You will take a short trip through a parking area and pass in front of the "outhouses". Stay to the right on the little road until you come to a meadow. Follow the meadow trail downstream. The trail ends at the creek (do not take the narrow single track that continues on the left side of the creek).

**#15** This is a great place for lunch. Cross over the creek and head right. You will climb a rather short steep, rocky hill that comes out onto a dirt road. Turn right on the road. At this point you have the option of taking the "orange" route. Check the end of this trail report for instructions on that optional route.

**#16** You will come to another road. Turn right and cross the bridge. Option "Blue"- take the road back and follow instructions from #4 on "orange" trail, back to your trailers.

**#A13** Turn left at first road after the bridge and left again down road (6S17X) skirting campsites, retracing your steps.

**#B12** Cross the creek at end of the road before the last campsite. Follow trail to the right.

**#C11** Cross back over the creek and continue on trail until you see a picnic table across the creek. This will be before the #10 crossing.

#D17 Cross the creek making your way along a trail heading to the right, NOT through the campground. You will shortly come out on a road with some gravel. You don't have to ride this road far. Start looking for the sign "Soquel Campground".

#18 Turn right on this road (6S40B). Looking straight ahead you will see a large brown metal box and the "camp hosts" campsite. Turn Left, picking up the trail approximately 20 feet before the box. You may cross over a small seasonal creek, making your way to the top of a small burn ridge. Turn left on this ridge and follow the trail left into the meadow. Turn right, staying to the left of the meadow and heading toward a granite rock. Stay to the left of this rock and veer to the right noticing the plastic post with "Resource Restoration Project" at a road.

#19 Cross the road and make your way into the next meadow. You are now on a very visible cow trail on the left side of the meadow. Follow the cow trail, cutting across the meadow and into the trees, to yet another meadow. Continue to follow the cow trail heading right up the middle of this fairly long meadow. Look for the huge ponderosa pine tree and stay to the right. Follow the flagging through the trees and away from the meadow. You will shortly come out onto a narrow dirt trail/road.

#20 Turn right. Follow road and look to your left for a trail which will intersect with another road. Turn left and head back to your trailers.

### **Option Orange**

#1 Turn left on this road and ride along the cliff area mentioned in the "attention" section. Past the cliff, there is a gate at a cattle guard. Please close gate after passing through. Continue on the road to a "T" intersection.

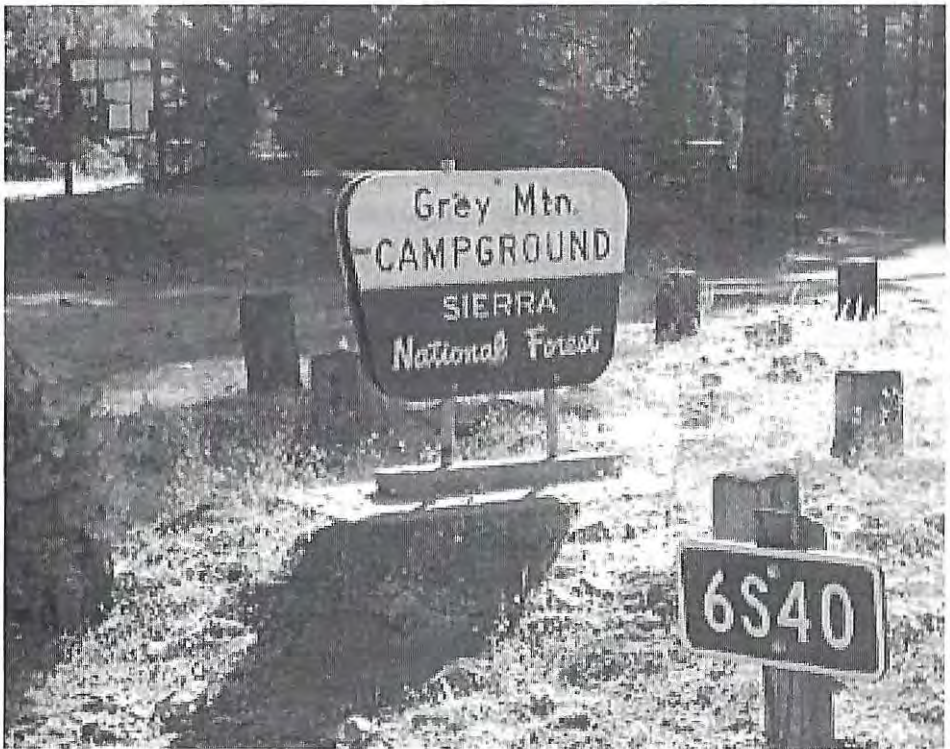
#2 Turn right at the "T" and stay on the main road. You will pass another cattle guard with gate. Continue on the road until you reach the signed "T" intersection at Sky Ranch Road.

#3 Turn right on Sky Ranch Road.

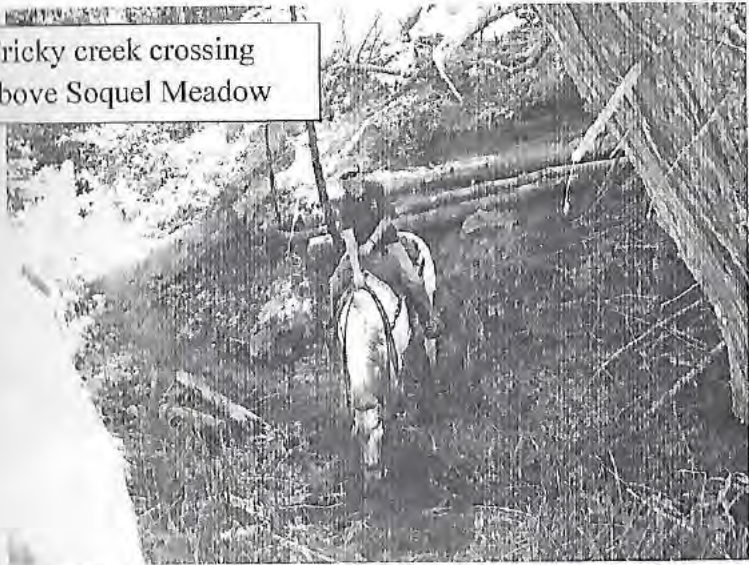
**#4** When you reach the intersection for Soquel Campground, stay left toward Kely Meadow. Ride a short distance until you see a small dirt trail/road leading to the right. Take this to #20 and follow directions back to staging area. If you take the road rather than the trail, it will also take you back to the staging area.

### **Option Blue**

At #16 you can turn left, taking this road back to Sky Ranch Road. Follow “orange” #4 directions back to your trailers. This road has gravel most of the way.



Tricky creek crossing  
above Soquel Meadow





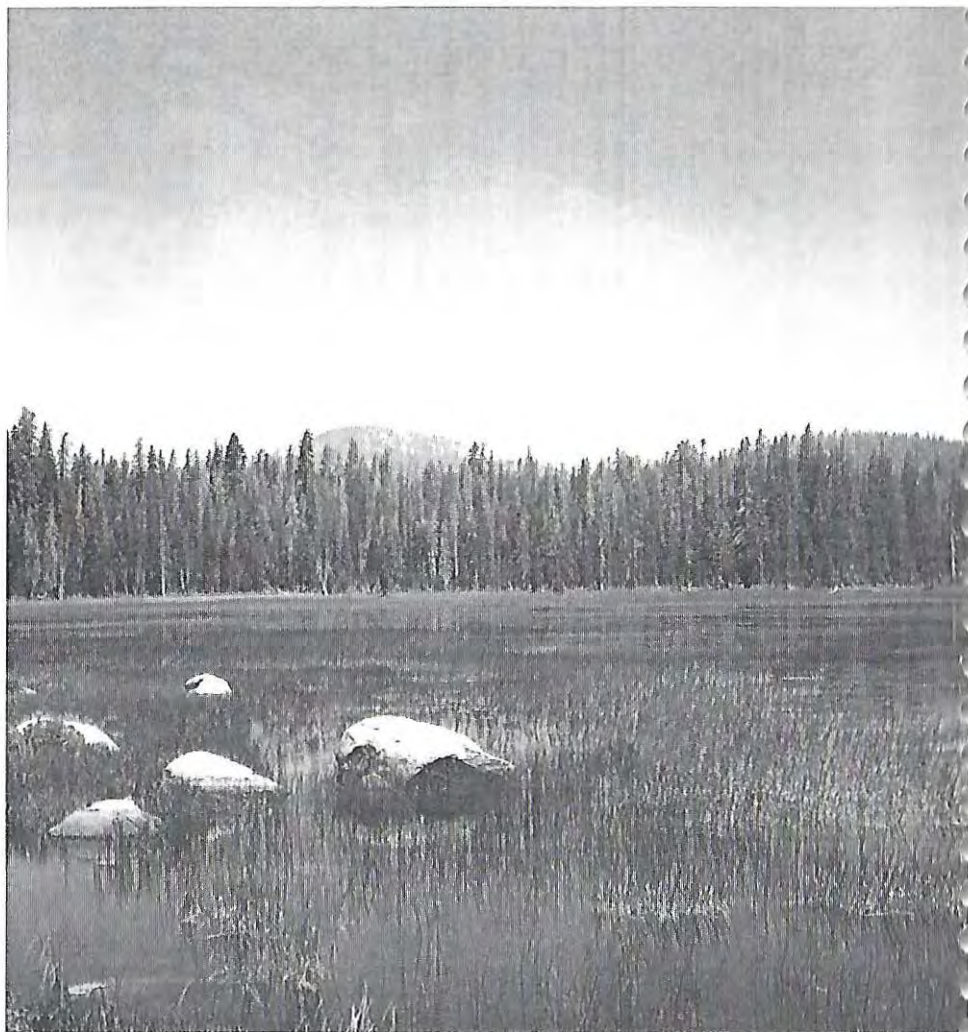
**BEASORE ROAD  
SCENIC BYWAY**

**CHIQUITO LAKE**

**JACKASS LAKE**

**CORA LAKE**

# CHIQUITO LAKE



## CHIQUITO LAKE

**Riding Time:** 3+ hours

**Trail Type:** Out & back

**Season:** Very late spring thru September or until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 7230 - 7940

**Terrain:** Single track and wide trail with very rocky sections.

**Difficulty:** Although this trail is not particularly steep, it is **very** rocky and horses must pick and choose their way. This ride would not be recommended for beginning mountain horses, old horses or novice riders.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Streams and creeks along the way.

**Camping:** Bowler, Kely Meadows, Texas Flat and Granite Creek horse campgrounds.

**Staging Area:** Large dirt turnout across from trailhead with room for many rigs.

**Attention:** This ride is extremely rocky! Although we are mapping the ride to Chiquito Lake, the Yosemite National Park boundary is a very short distance beyond the lake. There is a barbed wire "cowboy gate" that must be kept closed to keep range cattle from entering the park. The trail continues on to the Chiquito Pass and Chain Lakes, and forks left to Wawona. We continued on a few miles toward Chain Lakes. It is also rocky, but really a pretty ride and well worth exploring. Beware of rattlesnakes!!

**About the Area & Ride:** The trailhead, which is directly across the road from the parking area, starts out fairly rocky. You will pass back and forth from nice dirt footing to picking your way through rocks the entire way. There are several creek crossings, so watering the horses is not a problem.

The lake has many places to tie the horses, and a great spot to rest and have lunch. The distant alpine views are spectacular. After lunch, do

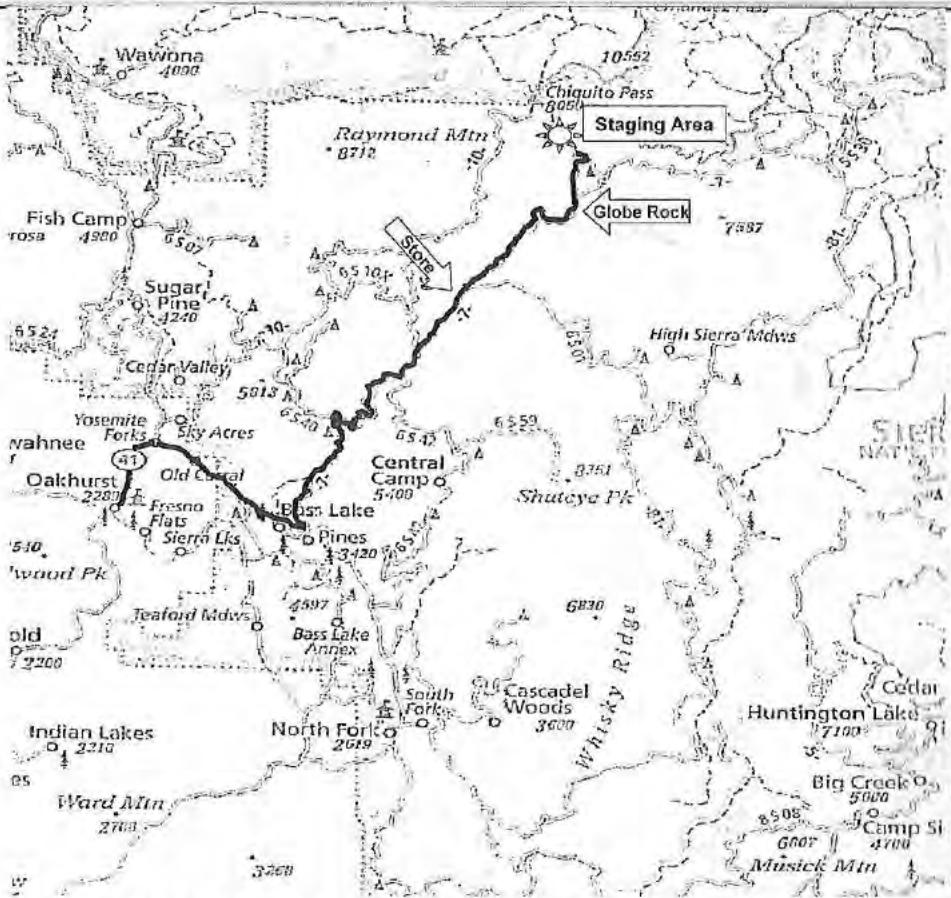


continue on the trail and into Yosemite (but please shut the cowboy gate once you have passed through). You are high enough in elevation that the temperature is quite nice, even in the middle of summer. Although the trail is rocky the entire way, this ride is definitely a must at least once. If you choose to continue on all the way to Chain Lakes, get an early start as this is an all day ride.





## CHIQUITO LAKE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41 to road 222 (Bass Lake). Turn right. Drive 5.7 miles staying on main road (Rd. 222 turns into 274) to Beasore Rd. Turn left. Continue up this road to Jones Store, just past the store you will come to a "Y" in the road, stay to your left. Drive until you come to a junction with Rd. 5S04, opposite Globe Rock. Turn left and drive up the road 2.4 miles to the signed trail head.





## CHIQUITO LAKE THE RIDE

- #1 Follow the trail signs heading to Chiquito Lake.
- #2 After enjoying the lake, return the way you came in. You can continue up the trail leading to Chiquito Pass and Chain Lakes if you would like a longer ride. Please shut the cowboy gate.



# JACKASS LAKE



## JACKASS LAKE

**Riding Time:** 4+ hours

**Trail Type:** Out and Back

**Season:** June through October or until it snows

**Elevation:** 7000 – 8650

**Terrain:** Decomposed granite, rocky areas, granite slabs and dirt trails.

**Difficulty:** Although this ride is only 3+ miles to the lake, it is a steady climb. You start climbing the moment you hit the trail. There are rocks to maneuver through and granite slabs to cross. Remember the elevation if you are from areas close to sea level and prepare your horse with a ride at a lower elevation first.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** One or two creek crossings on the trail. Easy water access at Jackass Lake.

**Camping:** Bowler Campground is near the trailhead. Granite Creek campground, complete with camp host and pipe corrals, is several miles away (no reservations and first come, first served). Wilderness camping is permitted with required overnight permits.

**Staging Area:** Large dirt turnout suitable for several rigs and automobiles (hikers). This is a popular hike.

**About the Area & Ride:** The Jackass Lake trailhead is at the top of the scenic byway. You are in the high country. The ride will take you to the lower lake where you can tie the horses and just enjoy where you are. The lake is crystal clear and very cold. You might even try your hand at fishing!



You will see a few tires and auto parts along the way which makes one wonder how in the world they got there? An interesting bit of information about the trail to Jackass Lake is that it used to be a jeep trail.

You will pick your way through rocks and ride on sections, especially over granite, where the trail is very difficult to follow. There are arrows spray painted on rocks and although they might be considered vandalism, have come in very handy.

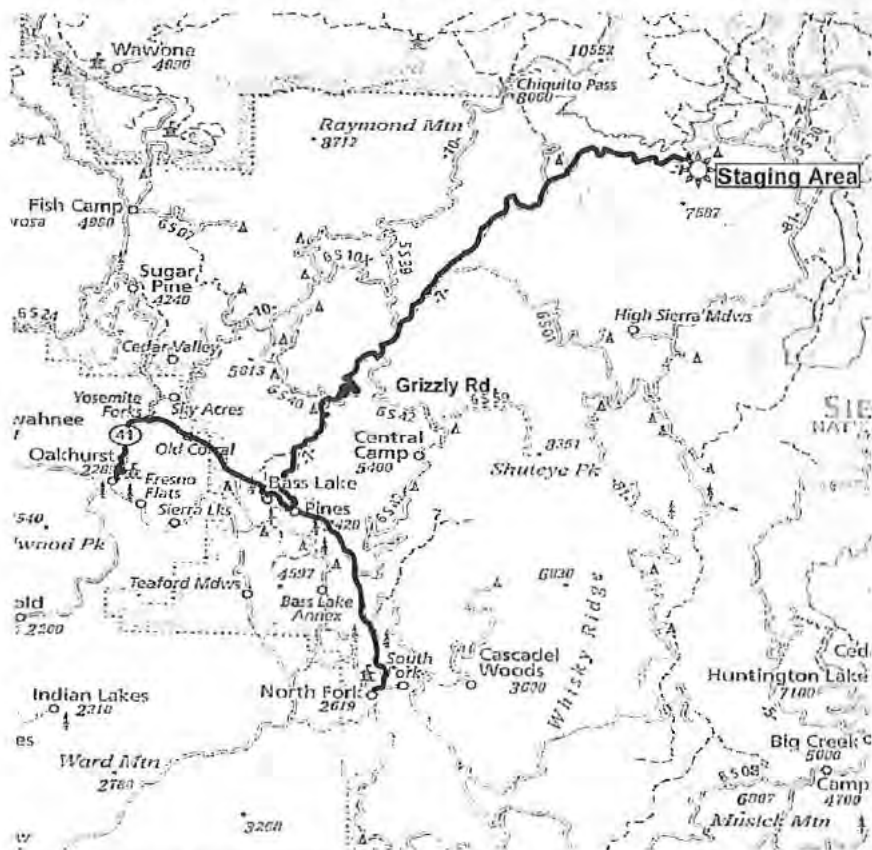
When you reach the lake, there is a sandy area with easy access where you might like to give the horses a drink. Follow the trail heading right to the end of the lake where you can tie the horses, have lunch and a rest. Investigate the area, especially where the lake spills over the rocks. There are truly some breathtaking views.

The lake can be boggy at the shoreline, so leading horses to the edge is not advisable.

Return the same way you came. The view you have on the way back is quite different!

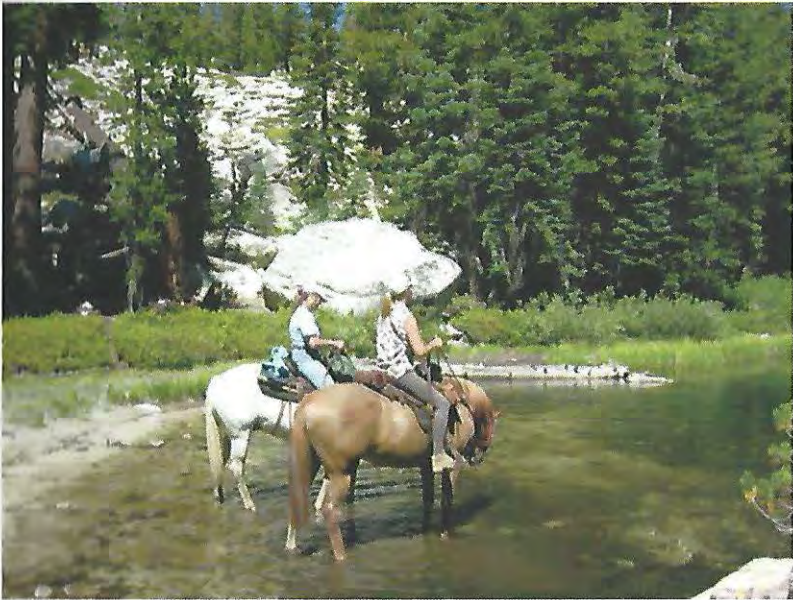


## JACKASS LAKES STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

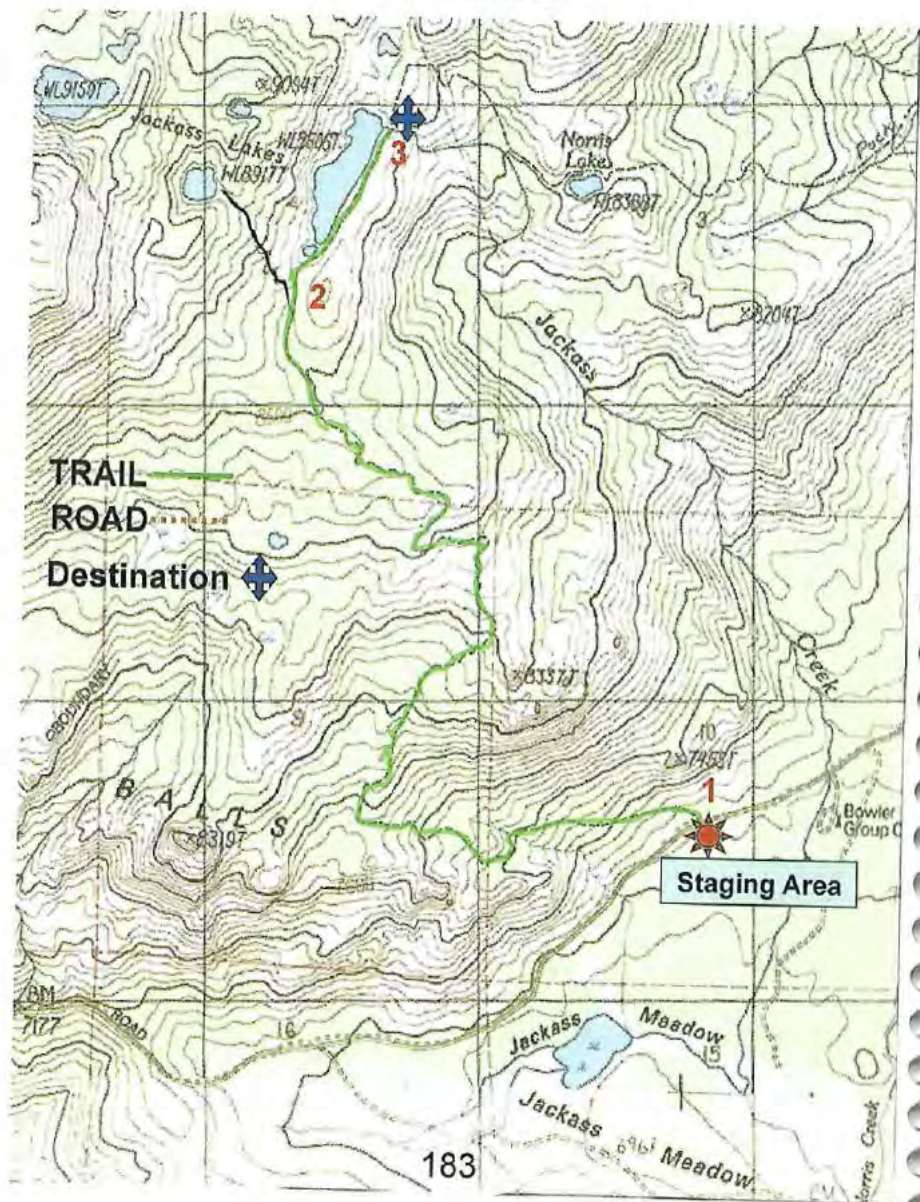


From Oakhurst drive north on Hwy. 41 to road 222 (Bass Lake Turnoff) and turn right. Drive 5.7 miles to Beasore Road (stay on main highway as 222 turns into 274). Turn left on Beasore Rd. After you pass Jones's Store and reach a slight split (appx. 17 miles, Grizzly Rd.) stay to your left. The road will eventually turn to dirt. At approximately 29.3 miles you will see the Jackass Trail head parking on your right. This is a dirt parking area.

From North Fork, go east heading through town to the intersection 274 (Totem Pole). Turn left and drive 5.5 miles to Beasore Road. Turn right on Beasore Road and follow directions above.



# JACKASS LAKE THE RIDE



## JACKASS LAKE

### THE RIDE

- #1 When leaving the staging area cross over the road to the trail head and follow up.
- #2 You will come to a junction, stay to your right as going left takes you to the upper lake and is not advised for horses.
- #3 Ride to the other end of the lake which is for camping. This is a great place to have a lunch break and rest your horses. Return to your trailers staying left at the junction to the upper lake.



# MIDDLE CORA LAKE



## MIDDLE CORA LAKE

**Riding Time:** 5+ hours (9 miles round trip)

**Trail Type:** Out and Back

**Season:** Summer until the snow flies

**Elevation:** 7000 - 8350

**Terrain:** Single track trails with good dirt footing. Steep climbs and very rocky areas.

**Difficulty:** Fairly difficult because of the steady climbs and maneuvering through the "Niche".

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Creek crossings along trail.

**Camping:** Nearby Granite Creek Campground. Horse area has several pipe corrals. Campground has outhouse facilities.

**Staging Area:** Very large staging area at Isberg trailhead.

**Attention:** The "Niche" is a very rocky climb. This ride is not for novice riders or horses not accustomed to picking their way through rocks and climbing rock stair steps.

**About the Area & Ride:** Granite Creek Campground and the Isberg trailhead are very popular starting points for backpackers, as it leads into the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The ride to Cora Lake (you will actually be riding to middle Cora Lake), is fairly strenuous and you will be climbing 1400 feet.

From the east end of Granite Creek Campground, take the Isberg trail north. Your ride starts out gently on a sandy trail climbing through a forest of red fir, Lodgepole and Jeffrey pine. After 2 miles the trail steepens as it climbs a ravine, crossing and re-crossing the ravine's tiny creek. Entering the Ansel Adams Wilderness, approximately 2 ½ miles from the trail head, you are at an elevation of 8000 feet. Reaching the Niche, you must pick your way through the rocks and over stair steps, some easily 2 feet high. Early in the season there are many pinecones.



covering the trail, adding to the already fairly difficult obstacle course through the Niche. The views, however, are breathtaking.



Once past the Niche the trail levels out a bit as you wind your way along the creek lined with tiger lilies, crimson columbine, lupine, Indian paintbrush and western azaleas.

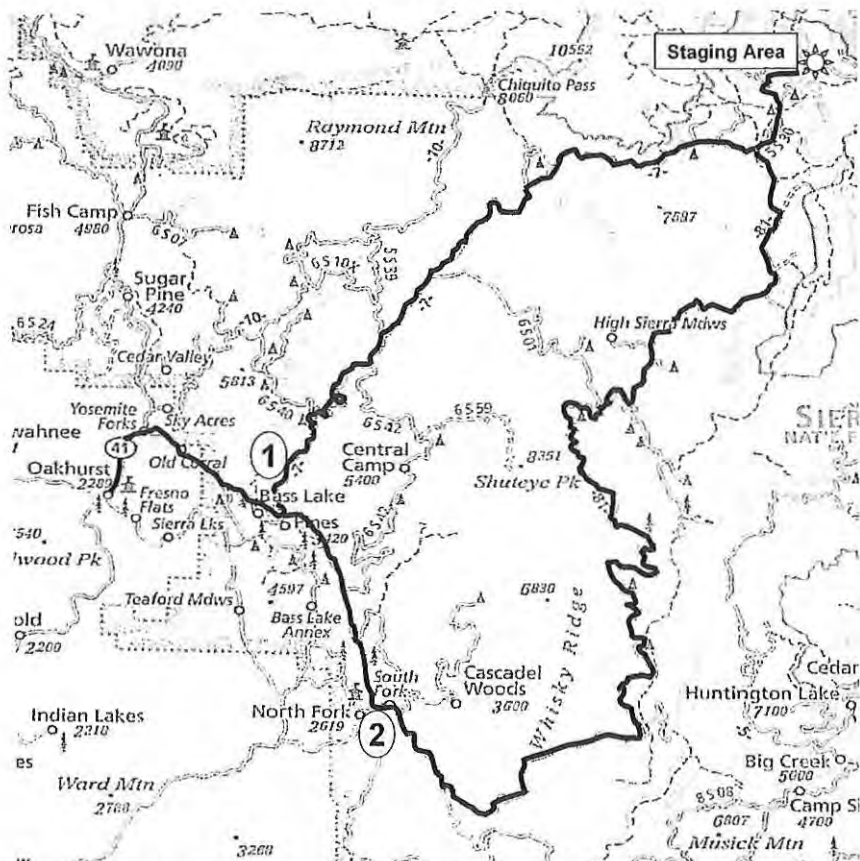
When you reach Granite Creek, approximately 3 miles into the ride, cross with care as early in the season the creek can be a couple of feet deep and rather swift. When we planned this trip, it was mid-June and the trail had not yet been cleared for horses. We hiked it instead. The creek crossing was very cold and quite challenging on foot, but doable. The trail was difficult to follow at the creek as it veered to the left. Cross the creek when you reach it and do not take the left trail. After crossing, continue on and you will soon come to a junction.

Turning left toward Cora Lakes, you pass through more meadow areas abundant with wildflowers before starting the steep climb up to the lake.

Once you reach the lake, take notice of the signs directing where you can and cannot go. When we hiked it, the lake was going through a sort of "restoration" and horses, as well as hikers and backpackers were prohibited in certain areas. Tie the horses and be sure to investigate the area on foot. After a well deserved rest, return the way you came.



# CORA LAKE STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS



There are two ways to go. Beasore Rd (route #1) which eventually turns to dirt or Mammoth Pool (route #2), which is paved all the way.

From Oakhurst head north on Hwy 41 to road 222 and turn right. Drive 5.7 miles to Beasore Rd. and turn left (for route #1). Or keep driving another 7.5 miles toward North Fork (for route #2).

From North Fork go left on Rd.274 and drive 7.5 miles to Beasore Rd. (for route #1). Or follow directions below for Mammoth Pool.

**Beasore #1 Route:** Head up Beasore Rd. and when you come to a "Y" in the road just past Jones Store, stay to the left. Continue following signs to Clover Meadow until you reach the junction FR811, approximately 30 miles from Bass Lake. Turn left and follow Granite Creek directions below.

**Mammoth Pool #2 Route:** Head east on Rd.225 which heads toward South Fork and Mammoth Pool. Stay on this main road. After driving approximately 35.8 miles from South Fork, stay left where a right-branching road descends to Mammoth Pool Reservoir. A sign points left to Minarets Station: continue driving another 13.8 miles to a 3 way junction. Turn right toward Clover Meadow.

**Clover Meadow and Staging Area:** Drive 1.8 miles to the Clover Meadow Ranger Station. Continue straight ahead past the ranger station for 0.5 mile to a junction with a northwest-bound road signed for Isberg Trail and Mammoth Trail. Turn left and follow this road for 1.2 miles to a junction along West Fork Granite Creek, turning right, follow to the Isberg Trailhead parking on the right.



# MIDDLE CORA LAKE THE RIDE



Staging Area



Destination

Trail

## MIDDLE CORA LAKE

### THE RIDE

#1 From the staging area, cross over the road to the Isberg Pass Trailhead. Take this trail.

#2 You have arrived at The Niche. Some riders may want to dismount and walk their horses up this stretch of trail. There are stair steps and a lot of rocks to pick your way through. If you do lead your horse, be cautious going up or down the granite steps.

#3 When you reach the top of the Niche, you will be skirting Granite creek. You will come to the creek crossing. The trail can be difficult to follow as it veers to the left. Cross the creek and do not take the left trail. After crossing, continue until you come to a junction. Turn left toward Cora Lake.

#4 Once you reach the lake, take notice of the signs directing where you can and cannot go. After a well deserved rest, return the way you came.





# **WINTER RIDES**

## **SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE**

**PA'SAN RIDGE TRAIL**

**WUH-K'PO - TEMPERANCE FLAT**

## **BASS LAKE**

**CENTRAL CAMP LOOKOUT**



## PA'SAN RIDGE



## PA'SAN RIDGE TRAIL

**Riding Time:** 4 hours

**Trail Type:** Semi-Loop

**Season:** Winter/Spring

**Elevation:** 1080 - 1200

**Terrain:** Dirt trails with nice footing. Very few rocky areas.

**Difficulty:** A lot of climbing and a good workout for horses.

**Facilities:** Outhouse restroom at staging area.

**Water:** A couple of runoff creeks and faucet at the staging area.

**Camping:** Yes. Pipe corrals with water faucet. Picnic tables & outhouse. First come, first served and no fees at this time. The corrals are very popular so you may want to call the Gorge office at 559-855-3492 for availability information.

**Staging Area:** Large staging area with plenty of parking.

**Attention:** The bridge across the San Joaquin River is quite frightening the first time (even the 20<sup>th</sup> time!). There are several areas with steep drop-offs.

**About the Area & Ride:** The Dumna and Kechayi Native Americans once occupied the management area and surrounding lands. Pa'san translates to pine nut. Across the road and to the right of the staging area is a village set-up where an Indian village once was. There are many grinding holes. You may see grinding holes in large granite slabs along the trail. The area has several powerhouses located along the river.

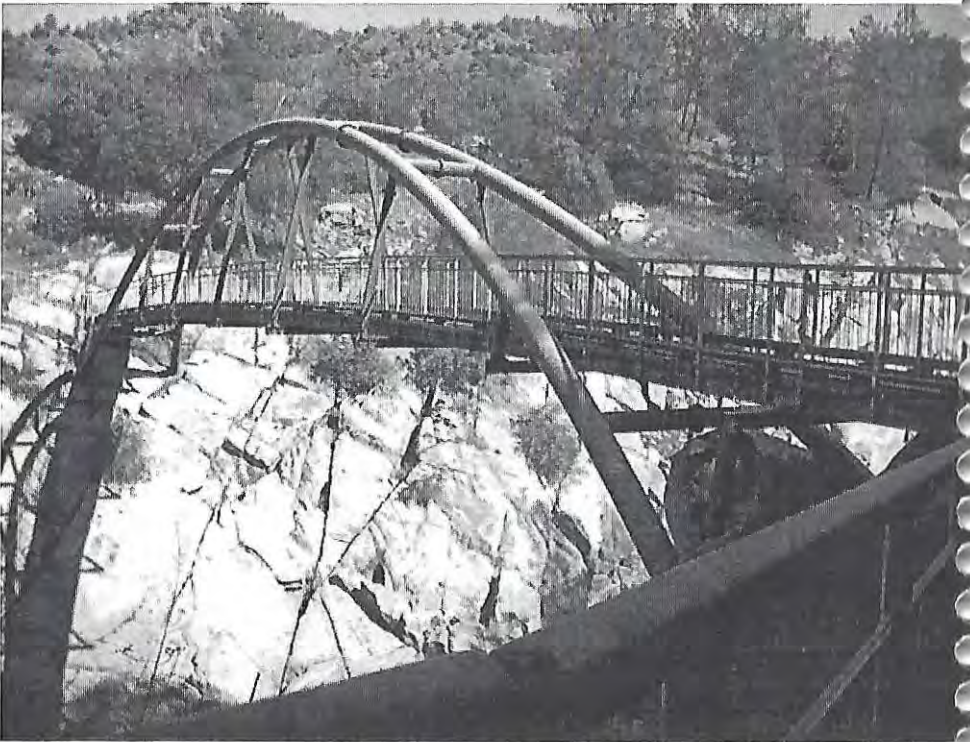
The wildflowers, which start to bloom in February, are unmatched! The show of wildflowers including lupine,

yellow fiddleneck, baby blue eyes, white popcorn flowers, California poppies, goldfield, shooting star & owl's clover, bloom through April. They are chest high and some are toxic to horses.

There are two ways to reach the bridge. The long way is to the left after leaving the staging area. You have 2 gates to go through. There is a steep drop with a fairly narrow trail. The shorter way is to the right, down a rather steep asphalt road. You save approximately 20 minutes by taking the shorter route.

There are free range cattle in the area, so please close any gates behind you.

This area is very popular with mountain bike riders. We ride here during the week and avoid weekends.

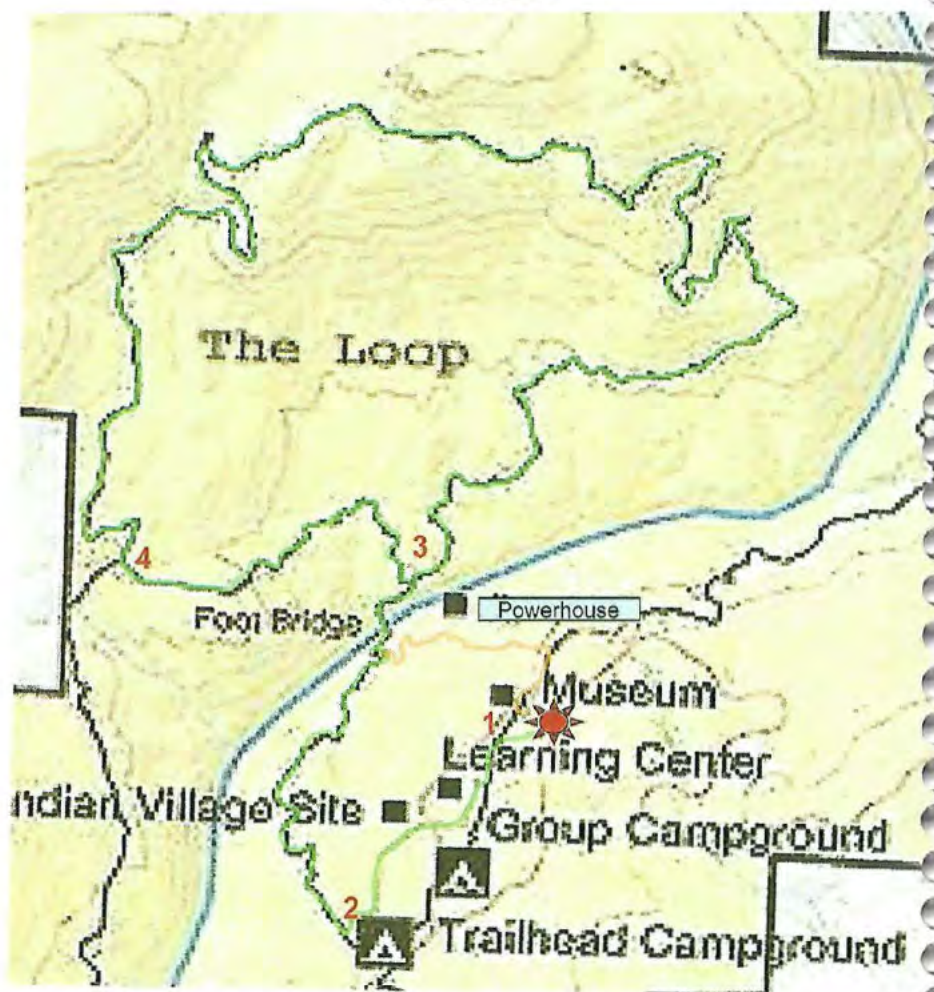








## PA'SAN RIDGE LOOP THE RIDE



Staging Area

Trail

Optional Trail

## PA'SAN RIDGE LOOP THE RIDE

#1 Leaving the staging area look toward the group camping area. You will see a small green gate. Go through the gate and follow the trail, which crosses the road. Head to the left, and at the Ted Anderson Kiosk (rock building), the trail veers to the right.

#2 Follow this trail until it ends. To the right will be a cowboy gate. To your left will be restrooms, picnic area and information board. Go through gate, closing it behind you. Follow this trail all the way to the bridge. You will go through another gate before reaching the bridge. Please close this gate also.

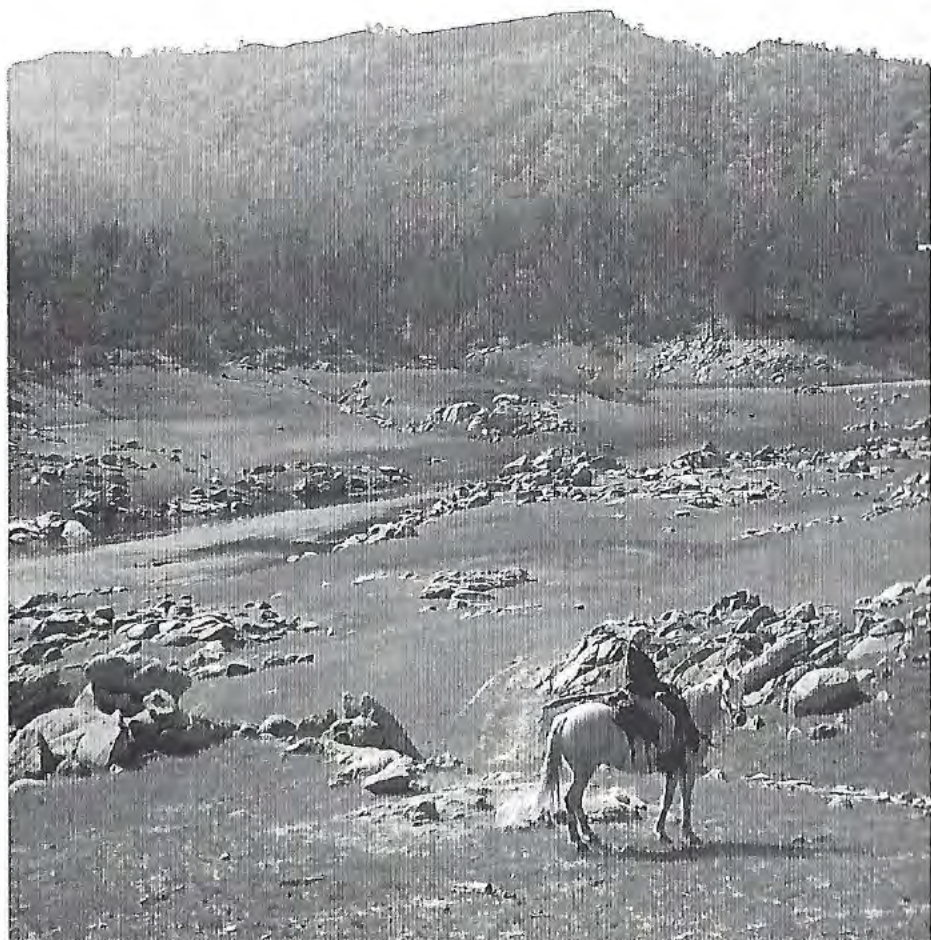
**Option:** If you want to make your ride a little shorter and not ride on the steep, sloping drop off area, from the staging area ride out to the paved road and go right toward the powerhouse. Across from the powerhouse building is a green gate (on the left). Go through the opening on the left and follow the asphalt road down until you see a trail sign on the left. Take this trail until it intersects with the main trail and go to the right toward the bridge.

#3 Once across the bridge, continue up the fairly rocky trail to the junction. Turn right up the "Ridge Trail". This trail makes a steady but easy climb. After reaching the top you will be making your way back down in elevation.

#4 You will pass a trail sign on the right, "Wuh-ki'o Trail". Stay straight heading back to the bridge. Once at the bridge, cross and retrace your steps back to your trailers.



# WUH-KI'O TEMPERANCE FLAT



## WUH-KI'O – TEMPERANCE FLAT

**Riding Time:** 5 Hours

**Trail Type:** Out & Back with Optional Trails

**Season:** Winter & Spring (open all year)

**Elevation:** 550 - 1080

**Terrain:** Single track trails, rocks to maneuver through, short distance on asphalt road.

**Difficulty:** This ride is fairly difficult. Trail savvy and experience, both with horse and rider, is recommended.

**Facilities:** Outhouse facilities, picnic tables & pipe corrals.

**Water:** Water faucet at staging area and seasonal creek crossings. River access at Temperance Flat.

**Camping:** Yes, on a first-come first-served basis. Gorge Office (559) 855-3492.

**Staging Area:** Large dirt area with plenty of parking.

**Attention:** Bridge across the San Joaquin River (See attention on the Pa'San Ridge Trail instructions).

**About the Area & Ride:** As with the Pa'San Ridge Trail ride, this area was home to the Dumna and Kechayi Native Americans. Wuh-ki'o is the Dumna/Kechayi term for the San Joaquin River. When you leave the staging area, across the road and to the right is a village set-up. There is a granite rock full of grinding holes. Also, at the bottom of the asphalt road is another granite rock with grinding holes. This area is a rich archaeological site.

Along the San Joaquin River are numerous power house facilities. They are enormous and really quite impressive. The bridge across the river is solid but intimidating to say the least. The Wuh-ki'o trail has many side trails worth investigating. Be aware that one trail heading to the left is along a cliff. This trail is shown as an option. Also, these trails are

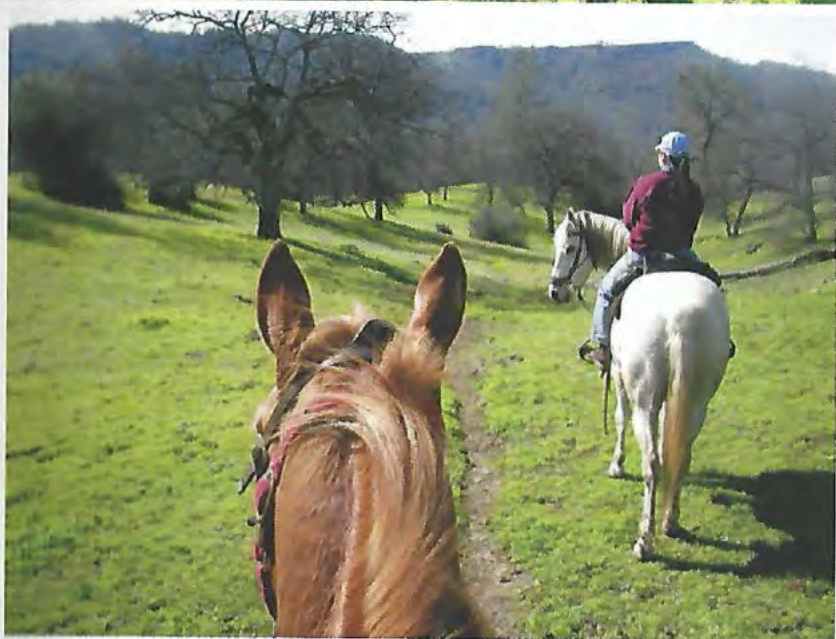
favorites of mountain bike riders. During the week you will not see many riders, if any, but the weekends can be quite busy. Temperance Flat is a boat-in campground with 25 campsites, located at the upper end of Millerton Lake. The footing at the edge of the lake is solid, making watering the horses an easy task.

There is a one gate to go through which must be closed behind you. There are also many free range cattle in the area. You will ride through several lush grass covered meadows.

The wildflowers in spring are spectacular! You will definitely want to bring your camera along. Be aware that some of these flowers are toxic to horses. Also, this area is abundant with rattlesnakes. When the weather warms up, they come out of hibernation.

There is a wide range of wildlife present throughout the San Joaquin River Gorge area. The list of species includes the California mule deer, California quail, band-tailed pigeons, waterfowl, Audubon cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, and mourning dove. The area is open to the hunting of game species only. Target shooting is prohibited.





# WUH-KI'O TRAIL – TEMPERANCE FLAT THE RIDE



★ Staging Area

— Trail

— Optional trails

## WUH-KI'O TRAIL – TEMPERANCE FLAT THE RIDE

//1 Leaving the staging area, look to the left and go through the small green gate. Follow the trail and cross the main road. Head to the left. At the Ted Anderson Kiosk (rock building), the trail veers to the right.

//2 Follow this trail until it ends. To the right will be a cowboy gate. To the left will be restrooms, picnic area and information board. Go through the gate, closing it behind you. Follow this trail all the way to the bridge. You will go through another gate before reaching the bridge. Please close this gate also.

**Option:** If you want to make your ride a little shorter and not ride on the steep, narrow trail above the river, ride out to the paved road from the staging area and turn right toward the powerhouse. Across from the powerhouse building is a green gate. Go around it on the left and follow the asphalt road downhill until you see a trail sign on the left. Take this trail until it intersects with the main trail. Turn right, following the trail to the bridge.

//3 Once across the bridge, continue up the fairly rocky trail to the junction. Turn left on the "River Trail".

//4 Approximately 45 minutes into the ride you will come to another signed junction. Take this "Wuh-Ki'o Trail" to the left. After riding a short distance you will come to a barbed wire fence. You will also see a trail sign just before a small creek crossing. Follow sign. Do not go through the fence at this point.

//5 You will follow the barbed wire fence which is on your right, and eventually come to a metal gate. Go through the gate, closing it behind you. Continue on this trail.

**#6** You will come to a “Y” in the trail. At this point you have a choice. If you proceed to the left, the trail will take you through a very narrow section with a drop-off on one side and steep wall on the other. It is rideable, but we got off and walked our horses as it is quite intimidating. If you take the trail to the right, you bypass the cliff area (which we prefer). When you come to the next “Y” (possibly a cow trail), stay to your right. At the next “Y”, stay left. Follow the flagging. Both ways are beautiful and both lead to #7.

**#7** Trails intersect here. If you took the left trail at #6 stay straight. If you took the bypass trail to the right, veer to the right at the junction. You will shortly come to another “Y”. Stay to your right.

**#8** Continue on this trail. Soon you will come to a barbed wire fence which will be on the left. You will ride alongside the fence, which will be on your left, until you come to a green metal gate. Go through the gate and follow the trail to the campground. You can head down to the water to give your horse a drink. After lunch and a rest, return the way you came.







# CENTRAL CAMP LOOKOUT



## CENTRAL CAMP LOOKOUT

**Riding Time:** 3-4+ hours

**Trail Type:** Semi-Loop

**Season:** Winter

**Elevation:** 3000 - 4500

**Terrain:** Broken asphalt road & dirt trails.

**Difficulty:** Road is easy. Trails are fairly easy.

**Facilities:** None

**Water:** Seasonal runoff creeks possible.

**Camping:** None

**Staging Area:** Bass Lake overflow parking area by dam. Brown's ditch turnout off of Road 274.

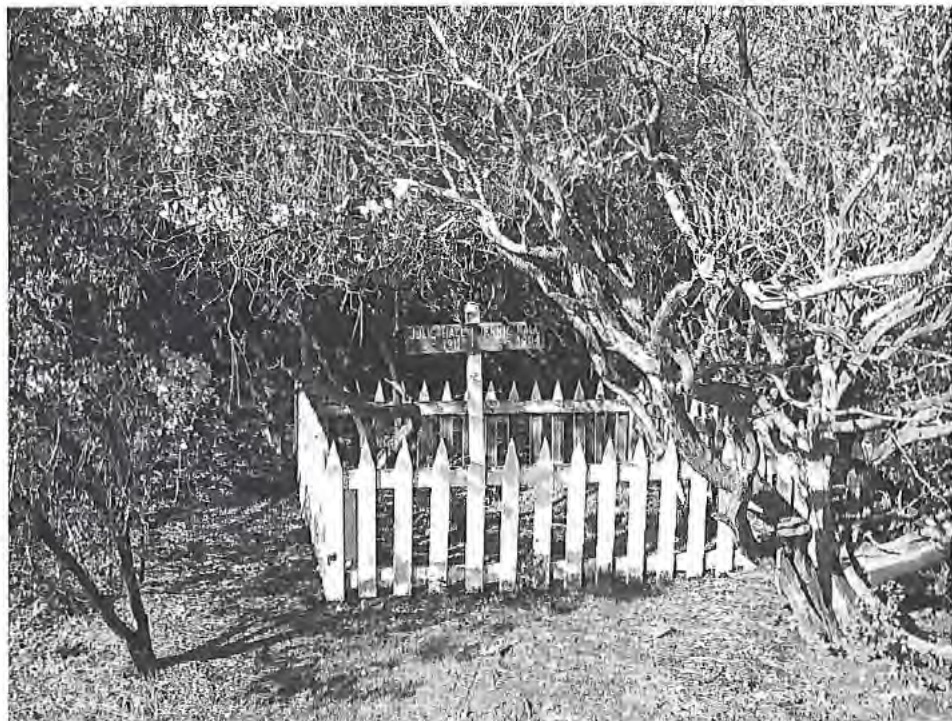
**Attention:** This is a **winter only** ride as it is quite popular with dirt bike and mountain bike riders. This is their territory and their trail, and used quite heavily in spring, summer and fall.

**About the Area & Ride:** Of the various trees making up these great California forests, there are nineteen conifers and seventeen broadleaves in all. According to John Muir, "The King of Pines" is the Sugar Pine.

Because of their size they became a great asset to the logging industry for lumber. In 1922 the Madera Sugar Pine Company (1899-1932) began completing their final rail system to access the great sugar pine trees. The RR tracks cross over what is now the Bass Lake Dam and continued 10.82 miles to the logging company's headquarters in Central Camp. It was here the loggers and their families stayed during their work in the forest. Some of the buildings and cabins are still in use as summer resorts. To maintain a maximum grade of 4.5 percent, much of the 10.82 mile right of way had to be blasted through solid granite in a circuitous route containing sixty-two 20 degree curves. Seven wooden trestles and considerable heavy fill

work were also required along the 2,053 ft climb running to the heart of the timber area. From the beginning of operations in July 1923, when the first logs entered the mill, until the powerful band saws shut down for the last time in November 1931, the Sugar Pine Lumber Company produced nearly 800 million board feet of lumber.

In between the dam and the staging area is a trail leading away from the service road. At the bottom is a picket fence with two grave markers for Julie & Jenny Hall, dated 1904 and 1911. There are no birth dates listed.



The road we ride up is the actual railroad line. Our downhill single track was used as an access road for bringing in supplies.

When you cross over Road 274, you are now on Central Camp Road which is marked 6S 42. It is approximately 30 minutes from the staging area at the dam to Central Camp Road. The gate is closed during winter.

Notice the sign clearly marked "Please Share the Road" and pictures automobiles, motorcycles and quads. Horses are not even listed. This is a road that has always been known as a mountain bike, dirt bike and jeep road, and we must be aware that this is their road. We ride this ONLY in the winter on week days. Don't even think of riding this trail in summer.

The road you will be riding on is basically broken asphalt with gravel. This type of ride may not appeal to everyone, but we find it to be a nice winter ride. The climb is gradual and not particularly strenuous, making it suitable for horses not in peak condition. It is a very pretty, quiet ride with beautiful views of Peckinpah Ridge, "007", Bass Lake and the valley floor. As you make your way up Central Camp Road and depending on rain and snowfall, the hills to the right are riddled with seasonal waterfalls. You will also ride along a few shallow runoff streams with clean water, deep enough for the horses to drink from. Just beyond a rocky cut, the area opens with beautiful views of the valley. Up ahead, in a clear area on the left, is the view of Bass Lake. It is about 1 ½ hours to the lookout. We usually ride until we reach snow. There is an optional trail which is shown on the map and detailed in the riding instructions.



# CENTRAL CAMP OVERLOOK STAGING AREA DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

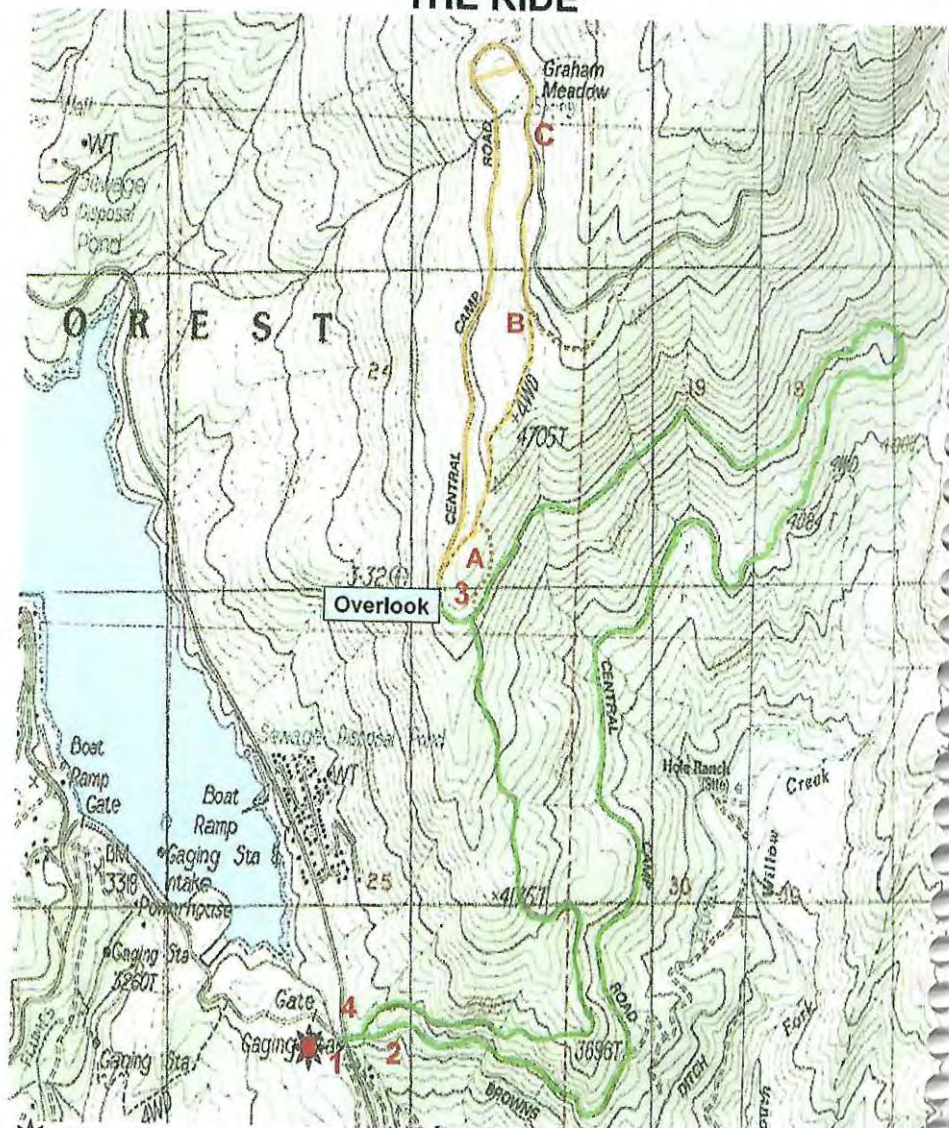


From Oakhurst, staging area, head north on Hwy 41 to road 222, turn right heading toward Bass Lake. Stay on the main road (Rd.222 changes to 274) for 9.9 miles to the staging area on the right, across from Central Camp Rd.

From North Fork, staging area, head toward Bass Lake on road 274. Drive 4.3 miles to Browns Ditch on the left, just before Central Camp road.



# CENTRAL CAMP OVERLOOK THE RIDE



★ Staging Area

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— Trail — Options

## CENTRAL CAMP OVERLOOK

### THE RIDE

#1 Starting from the Browns Ditch staging area, carefully cross Road 274 (Speed Limit is 55) on to Central Camp Rd. (6S42).

#2 Go around the green forest service gate.

#3 Follow this broken asphalt road for approximately 5 miles. Along the way you will pass a green gate to your right. Notice the falls below rock "7". Stay on this road until you come to a dirt turnout (Bass Lake Overlook). At this point you turn around and follow the road back down a short ways, turning right on the single track trail marked (6S42G).

**Option:** From the lookout, continue on the broken asphalt road until you come to a dirt road (A) leading to the right. Follow this road uphill, staying to the left at the single track trail. Follow until you come to a trail veering to the left off the main trail (B). Stay on this trail until you come back to the main Central Camp Rd. (C). Turn left. You can stay on this road or take a short cut by the cow corral which will also take you back to the main road. Follow this down, past the lookout and on to the single track trail on the right.

#4 The single track trail will end up in front of the green gate. Turn right and cross back over Road 274 to the staging area. You will notice a green gate ahead. Take the trail on the right around the gate. Before crossing Road 274, you will actually pass over the flume. It is somewhat noisy and not something horses are typically used to hearing, so be aware that this is a potential "spooky" area. Continue across the road onto Central Camp Rd., following directions above. Return the same way when you return.





## NOTES



Sherry Antill & "Rowdy"

*I moved to the sierra foothills in 1976 with my husband Bill and son, Shawn. We are lucky to have a beautiful ranch where my horses can roam like the wild creatures they are. I have been on a horse before I could even walk, and over the years they have taught me patience, respect, keep your buddies close, never lose your spirit or freedom and mostly, love needs no words. Happy Trails, Sherry*



Ann Bates & "Bambi"

*Since moving to the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills in 2000, my husband Gary and I are certain that we have won the lottery. Not only do we have 4 wonderful mountain horses, but friends who share our love of horses and the magic of "traildust". To be able to ride where we ride, merely an hour from home, is a priceless gift. Having Yosemite practically in our own backyard is a privilege that we will never take lightly. We truly feel blessed. Happy Trails, Ann*