

# Trails

## Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



The general forest map is missing from the on-line version

## Welcome

From the heights of the Sierra Buttes to the solitude of the American River Canyon, visitors to the Tahoe National Forest will be rewarded with beautiful scenery occasional glimpses of wildlife, and trails suited to every taste and ability. Some of the trails have been used for thousands of years by Indians and, in more recent times, by miners traveling to and from their claims. The trails have been built and maintained to help you explore and enjoy the Tahoe National Forest - but please do so with care.

## Keep the Back Country Beautiful

Over five million visitor days are spent exploring the Forest each year, so it is important to minimize impacts while using the trails. Remember the motto: **Pack-it-in pack-it-out.** It takes from four months to thirty years for trash to decompose. Littering has always been a problem in the Forest and currently the Forest Service has few personnel to manage our trails. There are no trash bins in the back country, so please carry out what you bring in.

- Stay on trails and don't cut switchbacks.
- Pets must be kept under control.



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

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.r5.fs.fed.us/tahoe](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/tahoe)

## Seasons of Use ... Be Prepared

Summers in the Forest are hot and dry, and campgrounds are frequently full. Spring and fall are ideal times to beat the heat and the crowds. However, the cooler temperatures also bring occasional snow or rain showers.

Plan property, even for short day trips. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Always take the "ten essentials" - extra food and water, clothing, map, dark glasses, compass, first aid kit, waterproof matches or lighter, flashlight, and knife. Since weather in the mountains is so changeable, you should have clothing that will keep you warm and dry. Bring along a waterproof poncho and warm outer clothing. Although the valley swelters in summer, nights in the Sierra can be very cold.

## Maps and More Maps

Recreation maps of the Forest can be purchased at any Ranger Station. For backcountry travel, topographic maps are recommended. They can be purchased from most sporting goods stores in the area.

## If Lost

If you are lost: take it easy, keep calm, and don't panic. Sit down and try to figure out where you are. Use your head - not your legs. As you hike try to be aware of prominent landmarks. These will help you find your way back. Carry a whistle for emergency use. Three of anything (shouts, whistles, etc.) are a sign of distress.

**Trail Wise** It is never wise to travel alone, but if you must - stick to frequently used trails in case you become sick or injured. An illness which is normally minor can become serious at higher elevations. If you get sick, try to get out of the mountains, or at least to a lower elevation, while you can still travel. Poison oak **grows most often in wooded** canyons up to about 5000 feet in elevation. It is a beautiful green plant in summer, turns red in the fall, and loses its leaves in the winter. Learn to identify its changing appearance throughout the year. Rattlesnakes, an important predator in the mountain ecosystem, may be found up to 9000 feet in elevation.

## Smokey Says

At certain times of the year the danger of wildfire is high. During these times building campfires and smoking may be restricted in some areas. Before you leave, check with a Forest Service Ranger Station for current fire danger conditions. Beginning around May 1 a campfire permit is required for all campfires and stoves outside developed campgrounds. The permits are valid until the end of the year issued.

If you wish to smoke, stop and clear an area five feet in diameter down to bare mineral soil before lighting up. Crush out your smoke completely in the bare soil. Be sure to pack the remains out.

## The Water May not be Safe

For day trips, carry sufficient water from home. Water from Sierra streams or lakes may be contaminated with an organism called "Giardia lamblia." Drinking untreated water can make you quite ill. If you do drink water from streams or lakes, be sure to boil it for three to five minutes.

## Private Land

Many parcels of private land will be found within the National Forest boundary. Please respect the rights of landowners.

Persons of any race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or with any handicapping condition are welcome to use and enjoy all facilities, programs, and services of the USDA. Discrimination in any form is strictly against agency policy, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

## All Are Welcome

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

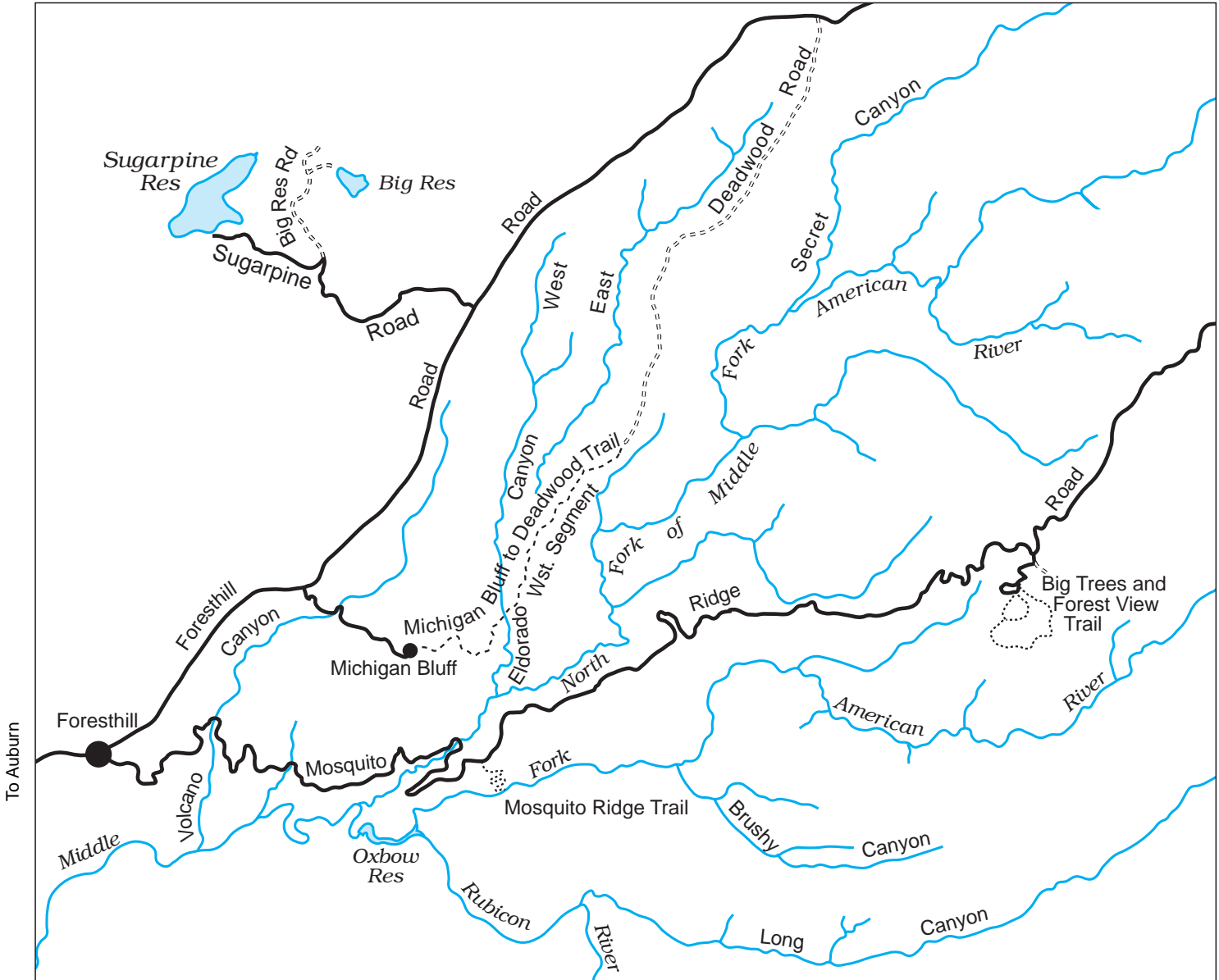
To file a complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Trails

## Foresthill Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



# Mosquito Ridge Trail

## Foresthill Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



#### General Information

Mileage: 1 1/4 miles one way  
Elevation: 2240 to 1520 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Michigan Bluff

#### Access

The trailhead begins on the Mosquito Ridge Road, approximately 2.3 miles above the 'Circle Bridge'.

#### Trail Description

This trail is in good repair but is very steep in places with many switchbacks, as it winds its way down to the Middle Fork of the American River. Good fishing is available at times and adequate campsites can be found on the large gravel bars along the river.

#### Note

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

**Foresthill Ranger District**  
**22830 Foresthill Road**  
**Foresthill, CA 95631**  
**(530) 367-2224**

# Big Trees Interpretive Trail and Forest View Trail

## Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage:	Big trees 3/8 mile Forest View 1 1/2mile
Elevation:	5200 feet
Difficulty:	Easy
Use Level:	Heavy
Topographic Map:	Greek Store 7.5

### Special Note

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on both of these trails. Campfire permits are required.

### Access

The trailhead is reached by driving 27 miles east of Foresthill on Mosquito Ridge Road - a paved, two-lane highway. The drive provides spectacular views of the areas' rugged topography.

### General Description

The well maintained, interpretive trail meanders through a virgin old growth forest area, featuring the worlds largest tree species, the Giant Sequoia. This grove of six trees is the northernmost grove of giant sequoias or Big Trees, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, in California, the only state in which they occur naturally. The nearest grove to this one is 60 miles south, in Calaveras County.

There are 16 numbered stops along the 1/2mile of trail, coinciding with the numbers and text in a brochure available at the trailhead. You may hike either the 3/8 mile Big Trees trail or continue for the entire 1 1/2mile loop, via the Forest View Trail.

Picnic and restroom facilities are available at the trailhead.

### Note

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# Michigan Bluff to Deadwood Trail

## Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 6 miles one way  
Elevation: 3520 to 1520 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Michigan Bluff

### Access

This section of trail is part of the Western States Trail system. The trail is accessible at both ends by auto. One trailhead is located about 1/4 mile east of Michigan Bluff.

### Trail Description

The trail drops off quickly into Eldorado Canyon and switchbacks down to the footbridge over Eldorado Creek. Good camping and fishing is available here. After crossing the West Branch of Eldorado Creek, the trail continues up the other side of the canyon offering some very scenic views of the rugged topography. The trail flattens out and eventually intersects the Deadwood Road near the old Deadwood Cemetery, which acts as the other trailhead for the trip. This hike can be made in a day by anyone in good physical shape or a more leisurely overnight trip.

### Note

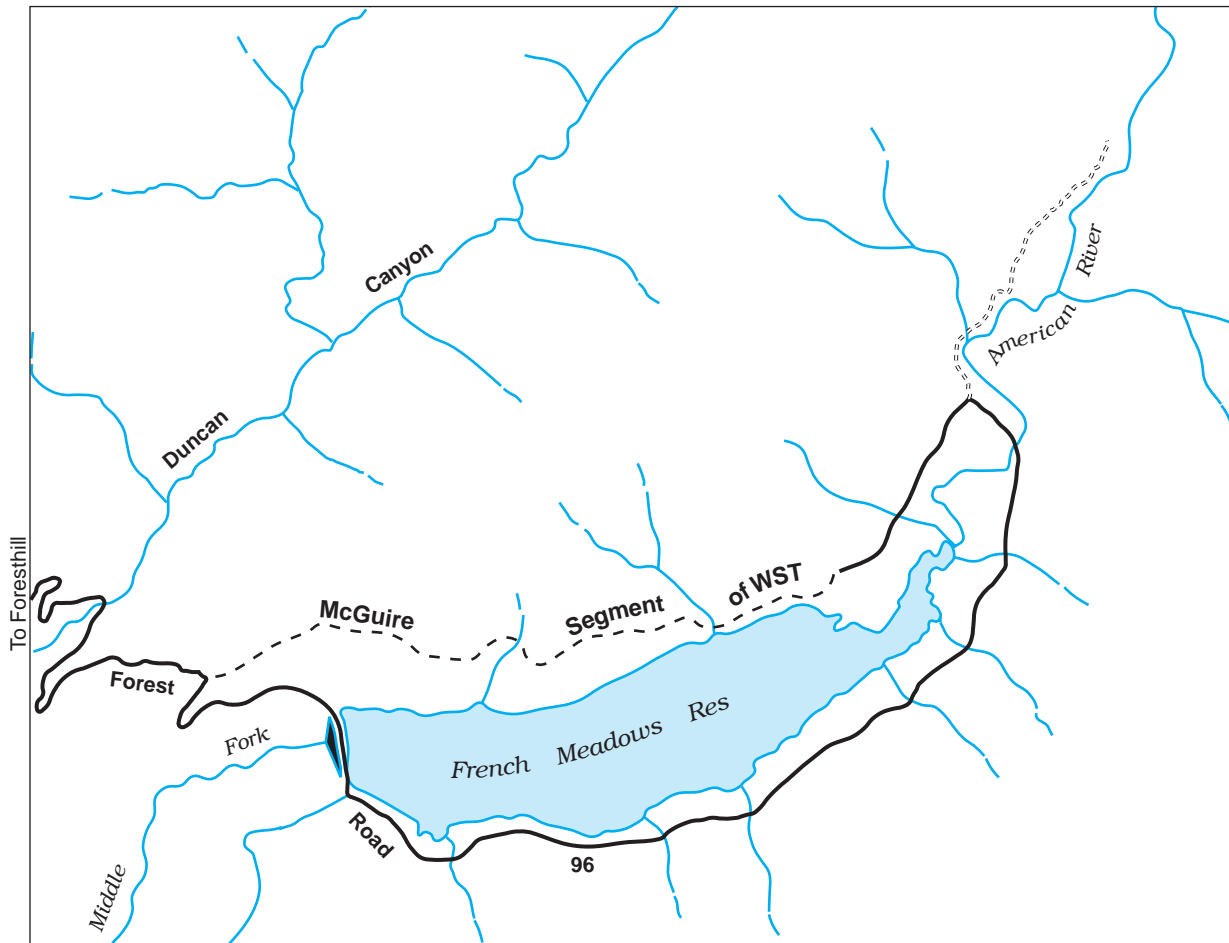
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# French Mdws. Res. Area

## Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



# McGuire Trail

## French Meadows Area

### Western States Trail Segment

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



#### General Information

**Mileage:** 3 7/8 miles one way  
**Elevation:** 5290 to 5600 feet  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Use Level:** Moderate  
**Topographic Map:** Bunker Hill 7.5'

#### Special Note

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on McGuire trail.  
Campfire permits are required.

#### Access

The Trailhead is located at the McGuire boatramp on the north side of French Meadows campground.

#### Trail Description

The trail winds through timber and follows the north shore of French Meadows Reservoir, climbing moderately to the top of Red Star Ridge.

This short trail offers scenic views of French Meadows area and is easy enough to be enjoyed by the entire family.

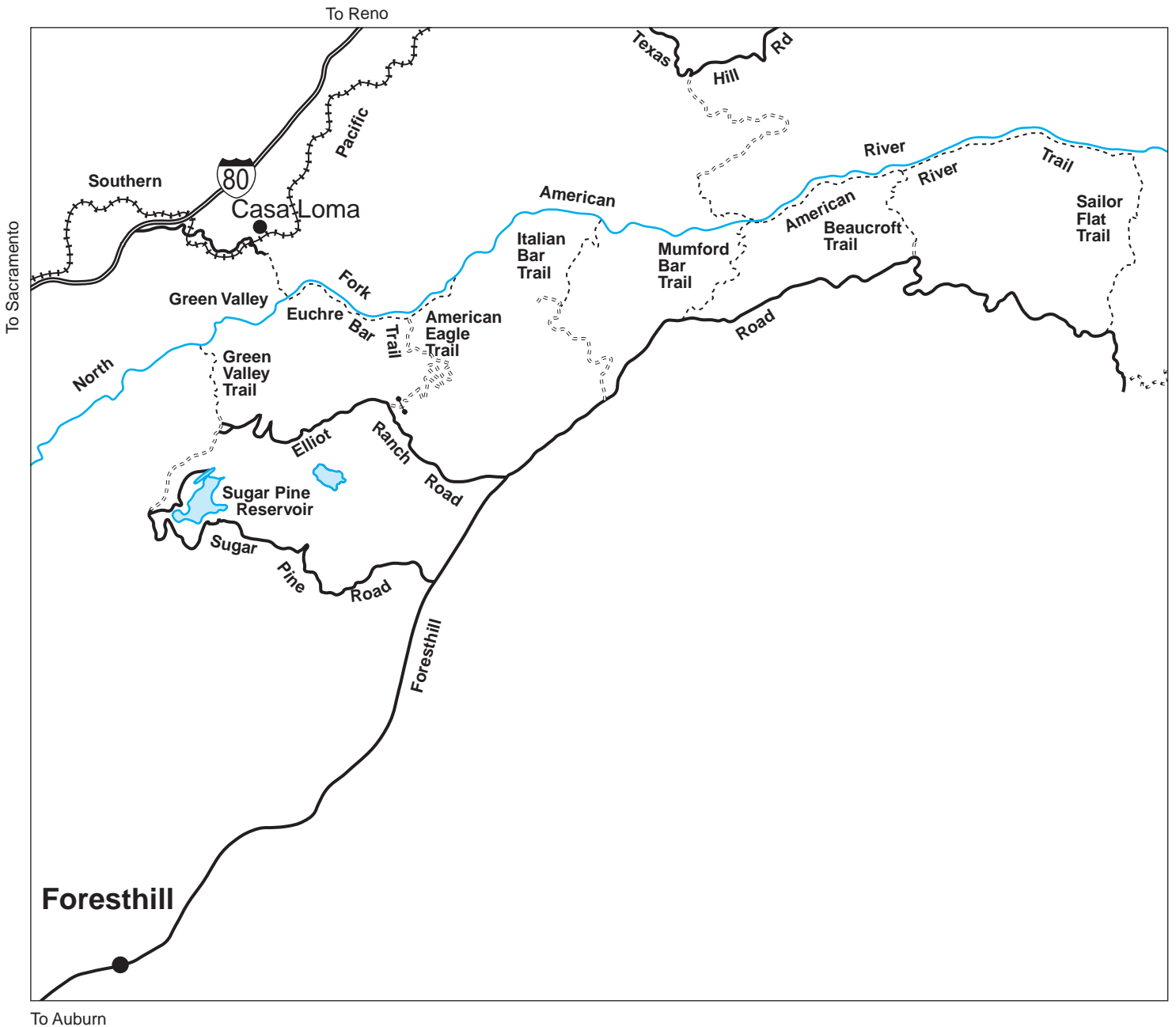
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# North Fork American River Area Foresthill Ranger District Tahoe National Forest



# American River Trail

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 7.6 miles one way  
Elevation: 2640 to 3360 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Duncan Peak 7.5

## Access

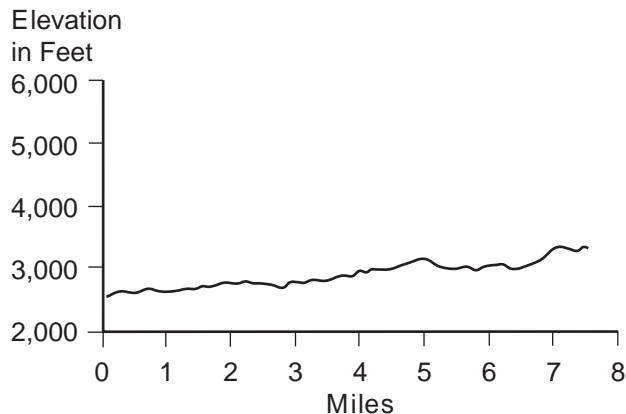
This trail may be accessed from any of the following trails: Mumford Bar, Beacroft, and Sailor Canyon. See individual descriptions of these trails.

## Trail Description

This trail follows the North Fork American River (a Wild and Scenic River) from Mumford Bar Trail to the Sailor Canyon Trail, a distance of seven and six-tenths miles. Along the way you intersect the Beacroft Trail, which leads out of the canyon.

The trail offers a variety of overlooks as it meanders along the river, passing through dense vegetation, past old cabins and mining sites and through small meadows.

## Trail Profile



## Cautions

The trail crosses Tadpole and New York Creeks, which flow heavily in spring and could be difficult to ford.

The trail crosses private property in places and care should be taken to stay on the trail. The trail is closed to all motorized vehicle use.

## Note

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# Beacroft Trail

## North Fork American Area Foresthill Ranger District

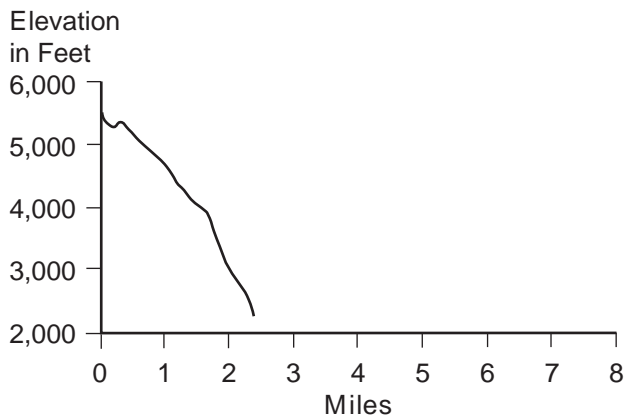
Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 2 1/4 miles one-way  
Elevation: 5520 to 2280 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Duncan Peak 7.5'

### Trail Profile



### Access

Drive 18 miles east of Foresthill on the Foresthill Road to Secret House Campground, continue on Foresthill

Road 1 mile past the Campground to the Beacroft Trail Trailhead on the left side of the road. past the campground

### Trail Description

This is a very steep and difficult trail which involves numerous switchbacks. At the bottom it intersects the American River Trail, from which other trails may be reached.

### Note:

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# Euchre Bar Trail

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 7 1/2 miles one-way  
Elevation: 4180 to 2000 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Dutch Flat 7.5', Westville 7.5'

### Access

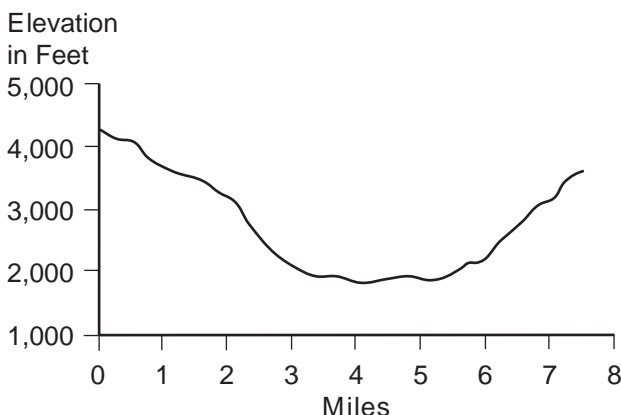
**North Side:** From Interstate 80 take the Alta turnoff, turn right on Morton, then left on Casa Loma. Take Casa Loma until you see the Rawhide Mine sign and turn right. Follow the road three-quarters mile past the second railroad crossing to a parking area. The trailhead is one-tenth mile down the road.

**South Side:** From Interstate 80 take the Foresthill exit to the town of Foresthill. Go ten and one-quarter miles beyond the town on the Foresthill Road to Elliot Ranch Road and turn left. The trailhead will be seen on the right after two and one-half miles.

### Trail Description

This is another trail along the American River with two methods of access. The portion along the river is 2.4 miles, with opportunities for fishing, camping, swimming, and gold panning.

### Trail Profile



The trail which leads to the downstream (west) end begins at Iron Point, near Casa Loma, and winds steeply down to the suspension footbridge at Euchre Bar.

The upstream (east) end is reached by a trail which follows the old Dorer Ranch Road. It passes old mining ruins and abandoned equipment from the gold rush era. Since it passes through private property, care should be taken to stay on the trail.

This trail, and all others along the river, is closed to use by motorized vehicles.

### Note:

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# Italian Bar Trail

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

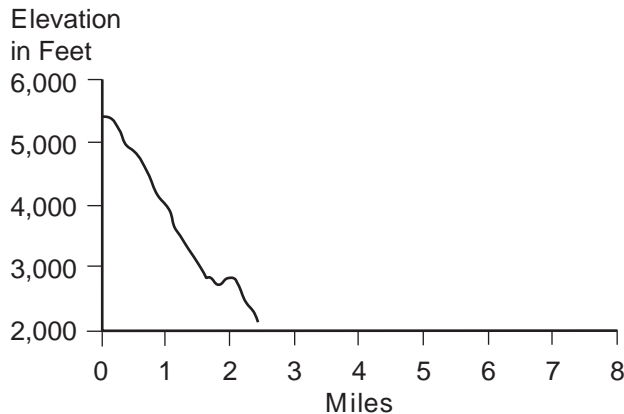
Tahoe National Forest



#### General Information

Mileage: 2.3 miles one-way  
Elevation: 5400 to 2400 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Westville 7.5'

#### Trail Profile



#### Access

Drive thirteen miles east of Foresthill on the Foresthill Road to Forest Highway 66 (Humbug Ridge Road).

Go north three miles to the trailhead, just off Humbug Ridge Road.

#### Trail Description

This is an old trail which was used by miners to reach the American River. It is steep, with numerous switchbacks. The trail ends at the river, but it is possible to travel upriver and downriver by scrambling along the riverbanks.

#### Note:

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# Green Valley Trail

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

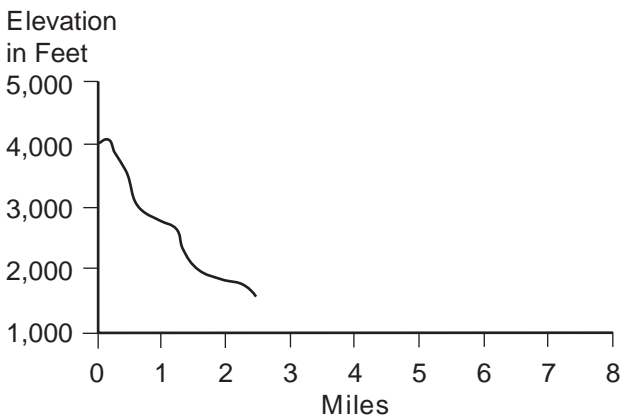
Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 2 1/4 miles one-way  
Elevation: 4080 to 1840 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Dutch Flat 7.5'

### Trail Profile



### Access

Take the Foresthill Road east out of Foresthill for seven miles to Forest Road 10. Follow this road for approximately five miles until you cross Sugar Pine Dam. One mile beyond the dam turn north on Elliot ugar Pine Dam. One mile beyond the dam turn north on Elliot Ranch Road and travel three miles to the signed trailhead.

### Trail Description

Access to the North Fork American Wild River via the Green Valley Trail is steep and rocky in places. There is a 2240 foot change in elevation in the 2.4 mile hike, so one should be in good physical condition. It is possible to continue downriver for a short way or cross the river and travel upstream into Green Valley and through private property. However, these sections of the trail are not maintained by the Forest Service and may be difficult to follow in places.

### Note:

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# Sailor Flat

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

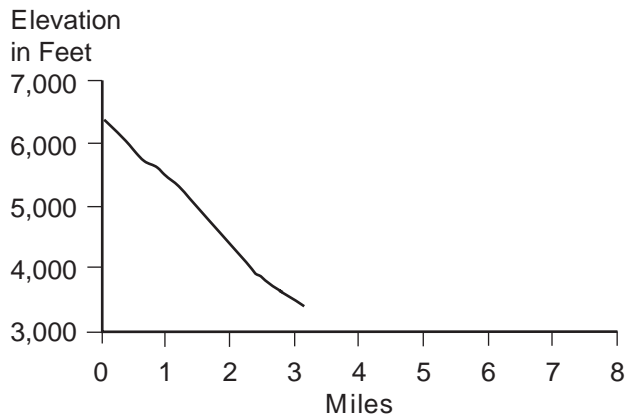
Tahoe National Forest



#### General Information

Mileage: 3.3 miles one way  
Elevation: 6400 to 3360 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Royal Gorge 7.5'  
Duncan Peak 7.5'

#### Trail Profile



#### Access

From Interstate 80, take the Foresthill exit and follow the signs to Foresthill. Continue on the Foresthill Road for 25 miles to Sailor Flat Road and turn left. Go 1 mile north to the trailhead.

#### Trail Description

The first 1 1/2 mile follows an old mining road and is relatively easy.. The trail then becomes steeper, with many switchbacks, as you drop down to the North Fork of the American River.

The remains of an old gold stamp mill still stand near the trailhead.

A popular trip for many is to enter via this trail, proceed downriver, then exit via the Mumford Bar Trail. This can be accomplished in one or two days, but would require the use of two vehicles or arranging for pickup. (Total distance is 15.6 miles.)

#### Note

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# Mumford Bar Trail

## North Fork American Area

### Foresthill Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 3 1/4 miles one-way  
Elevation: 5360 to 2640 feet  
Difficulty: Most Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Topographic Map: Duncan Peak 7.5  
Westville 7.5'

### Access

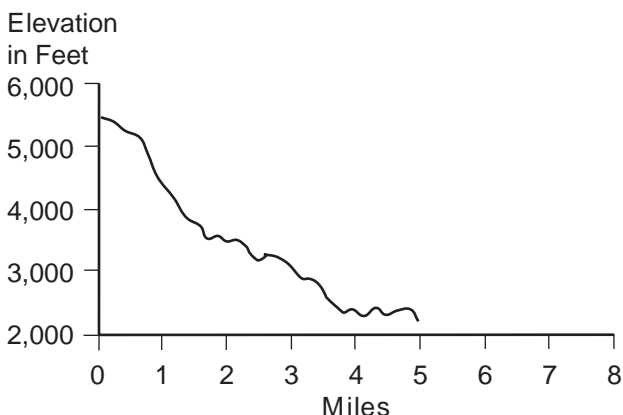
From the Foresthill exit on Interstate 80, proceed east to Foresthill and then twelve miles further on the Foresthill Road to the trailhead sign.

### Trail Description

This is a popular trail to the American River and is used by hikers and equestrians. Motor vehicles are prohibited on this trail. There is no water at the south side of the trailhead. The first mile follows an old four-wheel-drive road which winds its way down to the river. At the bottom you may take the American River Trail upstream (see description on separate sheet).

This hike, although hot in summer, offers some scenic views of the canyon and good fishing and camping opportunities.

### Trail Profile



### Note:

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