

# Palisade Creek Trail - Donner Summit Area

## Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

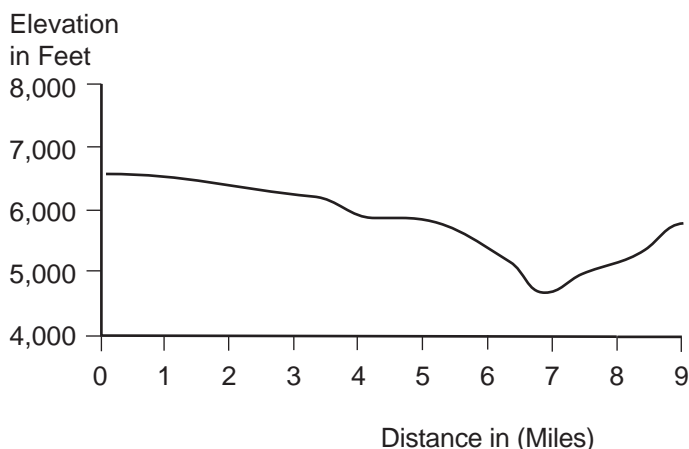


### General Information

Mileage: 7 miles to American River  
Elevation: 6600-4400 feet  
Difficulty: Very Difficult  
Use level: Moderate  
Season: June-October  
Topo. Maps: Soda Springs, Royal Gorge

Motorized vehicles and horses are prohibite.  
Campfire permits are required.

### Trail Profile



### Access

Take the Soda Springs/Norden exit off Interstate 80 and follow Old Highway 40 east for .8 mile to Soda Springs Road. Turn south and follow the road for another .8 mile to Pahatsi Road, which will be on your right. Pahatsi Road will be paved for about .2 mile. When it turns into a dirt road the name will change to Kidd Lakes Road. Follow the dirt road for 1.5 miles to where it forks. Do not take the road to Palisade Lake/Camp Winther, but continue straight ahead for 2.5 miles (you will pass Kidd Lake on your left). The trailhead is on the north side of Cascade Lakes.

### Trail Description

Because of its steep climbs, this trail is for the hiker who is looking for a real challenge. There are some ideal spots along the way for overnight camping.

The first two miles of the trail are relatively flat, passing through areas of glacier-polished granite and along a small tranquil lake surrounded by old timber stands. The trail then descends down some switchbacks to reach the Palisade Creek Bridge. The Palisade Trail continues to descend to the bridge which crosses the American River, 4400 feet in elevation. Beyond the bridge the trail is not maintained. It immediately climbs back up to 4800 feet with a series of switchbacks and ends at a large landslide.

Hikers should note that much of the trail is on private land. Hikers are requested to observe the rights of the landowners.

### Note

Water is often not available along the route. 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. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

### Truckee Ranger Station

10342 Hwy. 89 N.  
Truckee, CA 96161-2831  
(530)587-3558



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)