


Sand Ridge Lake Trail via PCT - Donner Summit Area

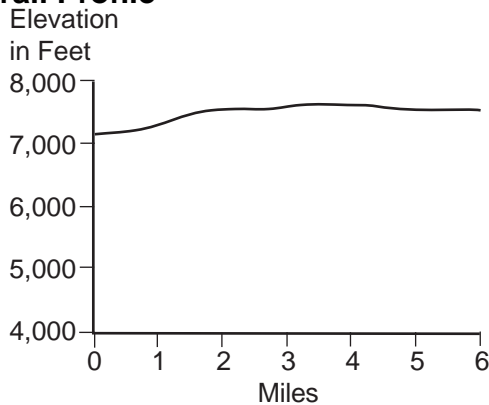
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7200-7880-7760 feet
Difficulty:  (Moderate)
Use Level: Heavy
Season: June-October
Topographic Maps: Soda Springs, Webber Peak

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. To access the trails in the Donner Summit area there is a Forest Service trailhead, with restrooms and water. To reach the trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
Donner Summit
Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign turning east for 0.4 mile to the trailhead.

Trail Description

The Sand Ridge Lake Trail (14E11) is a relatively short trail, covering a distance of 1.5 miles between the intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail near Peter Grubb Hut and the lake. However, it is a 4 mile hike from the trailhead to the hut on the PCT.

From the trailhead follow the Pacific Crest Access Trail (15E18) 0.5 mile to the PCT. Turn north on the PCT and follow the trail 0.5 mile through the tunnel under I-80. Shortly after the underpass you will come to the intersection with the Summit Lake Trail. Continue north on the PCT.

The trail begins a moderate ascent through a nicely forested area and climbs gradually for 3 1/4 miles to Castle Pass at an elevation of 7880 feet. After the pass the trail begins an 0.5 mile descent into Round Valley where the Peter Grubb Hut is located.

This hut is one of several Sierra Club cabins in the Sierra Nevada. Primarily an emergency shelter, the hut is open for public use. Hikers who wish to use the hut overnight should contact the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge (530) 426-3632 for reservations.

Continuing the hike, just 200 yards north of the Peter Grubb Hut the intersection with the Sand Ridge Lake Trail takes off to the west. Over a distance of 1.5 miles the trail descends slightly and passes through open forest and several small meadows before reaching the small, tranquil Sand Ridge Lake. The lake offers nice campsites and an enjoyable place for a refreshing swim. Fishing is not very promising.

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.

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