

REF. ONLY

**HIKING GUIDE**



**EBBETTS PASS**

**LAKE ALPINE**

**AREAS**

*Thomas E. Ward*

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We have lived in Bear Valley since 1985. We enjoy hiking the many trails in the area. So we started writing an article for The Cub Reporter called: "TAKE A HIKE". There was so much response from people who wanted to know about trails in the area we decided to put together this Hiking Guide.

There are numerous other trails in the area, some are short and some are very long. We felt we wanted to keep the Hiking Guide short and inexpensive, so the trails we decided on are all easy day hikes to a lake. If you enjoy backpacking there are nice spots at each lake to camp. Be sure to get a Wilderness Permit from the U.S.F.S. for all overnight stays.

TOPO maps are available at several locations in the area and the U.S.F.S. sells several maps of the area.

In Memory of M.W.

Tom & Dolores Ward  
Jim & Trish Fedderly



# TRAIL GUIDE

## LAKE ALPINE - EBBETTS PASS

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Hiking Guide-Ebbetts Pass-Lake Alpine Areas  
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We have prepared this Hiking Guide for the novice. We use left, right and straight ahead instead of the compass points most of the time, because you probably won't take a compass with you. You should always take a day pack with water, snacks, matches, first aid kit, map and a light rain parka. Always tell someone where you are going, that way if you should get lost Search and Rescue will know where to start looking for you.

Mileage used in this guide is fairly accurate. However, the time it takes is dependent on the individual, your fitness, children and how much you like to observe nature. A reasonably fit adult can hike at a rate of two to three miles and hour.

Pick a short hike to start with and see how well you do in the altitude. All the hikes are at 7,000+ feet.

## DUCK LAKE

An easy hike for the out of shape and children. There are nice areas at the end of the trail for a picnic lunch. The lake has a grassy shoreline, so is not suitable for swimming or fishing.

The trailhead is at the east end of Lake Alpine next to the entrance of Silver Valley Campground.

The trail starts out uphill for approximately .3 of a mile. Shortly after you start downhill you will see a junction with a trail to your left stay to your right and continue downhill for one mile. You will come into a large open area with two old cabins in it. The lake is to your left. This area is marshy and has lots of mosquitoes, early in the spring. After lunch retrace your steps to the trailhead. Total distance 2.6 miles, approximately two hours.

If you would like a little longer hike continue on the trail past the cabins where you come to a junction. Turn left and follow this trail for 1.2 miles to the Rock Lake junction. Turn left and follow that trail for approximately 2 miles to the junction you passed coming in. Stay to your right for .3 miles to the trailhead. Total distance 4.5 miles time approximately 3.5 hours.



## ROCK LAKE

This hike begins at the Silver Valley trailhead, as did the Duck Lake hike. Head toward Duck Lake and take the trail to your left at the first junction. You'll descend for approximately 1 mile then level off for approximately another mile, and come to another trail junction. Continue straight ahead, right will take you to Duck Lake. The trail climbs briefly, giving you views to the south, then drops very steeply to the north fork of the Stanislaus River. Can be a wet crossing early in the summer. The trail then climbs rather steeply for approximately 1 mile, levels off for another mile and arrives at Rock Lake.

Several rocky points to have lunch on and to swim from late in the summer.

Total distance one way 4.8 miles and about two hours.



## WHEELER LAKE

Wheeler Lake via Sandy Meadow Trail and out at Woodchuck Trail distance 8.5 miles and you will need two cars. Leave one vehicle at Woodchuck Basin trailhead, approximately 1 mile east of Lake Alpine ... The Sandy Meadow Trail starts by the corrals just west of Mosquito Lake. For a shorter hike you can go in and out from the Woodchuck Basin trailhead. Total distance 7 miles.

.The trail starts out gradually uphill to the wilderness boundary sign .25 miles, then stays fairly level for 1.5 miles. You will come to a junction with a sign. Take the trail to the left, Avalanche Meadow, it's more scenic. In approximately .5 miles you will come to a steep uphill for .25 miles then level off for 1 mile. There are two small meadows at this point and the trail is difficult to find through them. Go straight across them and look close for the trail. Another .5 miles brings you to another large meadow. The trail is marked with rock ducks across it, then a steep .5 miles through another meadow to the junction from Woodchuck Trail. Take a right and in approximately .5 miles you're at Wheeler Lake. The fishing is good and late in the summer swimming is bearable.

Leave the lake in reverse on the trail you came in on, pass the junction staying to the right. It's 1.5 miles uphill to a saddle where you have some great views. Then a 2 mile descent to Woodchuck Basin trailhead. Total hiking time is approximately 4 hours.

## BULL RUN LAKE

A fairly strenuous hike to one of the prettiest lakes in the area. A great lake for swimming and fishing.

Take Hwy. 4 east to Stanislaus Meadow. There is a well signed trailhead on the right side of the highway. Parking is available next to the highway. If you have a good four wheel drive vehicle, you can drive down a rutted road to the actual trailhead.

The trail starts out fairly level for approximately 1 mile, then drops off fairly steep for .75 miles, where you'll cross several streams. Then a gradual uphill for .25 miles, a short level stretch, then a steep uphill for approximately 1 mile. You'll come to a trail junction to Heiser Lake, take a hard right. Another short level stretch, and then a steep uphill switchback stretch for approximately .50 miles. Don't give up yet, a short level stretch then a steep uphill over granite for approximately .25 miles and you're at the lake.

Total distance one way, 3.75 miles, approximately 2 hours hiking time.



## PEEP SIGHT PEAK

Take Hwy. 4 east from Bear Valley to Highland Lake Road, a bumpy road, but okay for cars. Follow the road to the trailhead parking lot. Sign at the trailhead, "Tryon Meadow Trailhead".

Follow the ribbons and ducks for approximately .4 miles. The Forest Service is in the process of building this section of new trail. A signpost with an arrow to the right states "Milk Ranch Trail". Follow this fairly level section of the trail for approximately 1.9 miles, where you will come into Milk Ranch Meadow. Continue along the meadow and then begin a steep climb for 1 mile. The trail will level off for a short distance and then climb again for .2 miles. Traverse through a small meadow with several small creek crossings. Then your last climb will be approximately .25 miles. At that point you enter a large open area. Peep Sight Peak will be on your right, but not visible from the trail. Go a few yards to your left to a rocky point and look back. Great area for lunch and views of surrounding peaks.

Distance one way 4.25 miles approximate time two hours.



## ASA LAKE

An easy hike to a nice lake with good fishing for small Brook Trout. Please catch and release or there won't be any fish left.

Take Hwy. 4 approximately 12 miles east of Bear Valley to the Highland Lakes turnoff. Then the dirt road to Highland Lakes and a left to the Garner Meadow trailhead.

The trail starts off very steep downhill for approximately .25 miles and then climbs a short distance to a trail junction. Go straight ahead, you'll meander up and down for approximately 1 mile and cross a large meadow. At the far end of this meadow you'll come to a trail junction with the Pacific Crest Trail. Take the trail to your left, (Pacific Crest Trail North). A short uphill stretch will bring you to another trail junction, go straight. The trail to your right will take you to Asa via Pacific Crest Trail, but you might miss the lake approximately 200 yards. Up the trail will bring you into Asa Lake. At the far end of the lake a spring feeds the lake with very cold water that is excellent to drink.

Distance to Asa Lake is two miles and about one hour. If you want some great views, follow the Pacific Crest Trail North for approximately 2 miles. You'll come to a saddle with a fence line. Great views in all directions. Noble Lake, Noble Canyon, Highland Lakes, Disaster Peak, Carson Valley and much more.

## UPPER KINNEY RESERVOIR

From Ebbetts Pass, a very short, easy hike with great vistas. Park at the top off Ebbetts Pass, walk 100 yards. Eastbound on the highway to a small turnout on the left side off the road. There is not a sign here as the official trailhead is at the Pacific Crest trailhead parking lot .50 miles east of Ebbetts.

Great fishing for Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout. Sandy beaches around the shoreline for swimming.

A short uphill grade to start the hike and a downhill stretch to a small unnamed lake. The remainder of the trail has short up and down stretches with no other trail junctions. In approximately 1.5 miles you come to a sign indicating Upper Kinney Reservoir. Walk a short distance downhill thru the trees to the lake.

Total distance is approximately 1.75 miles and about 45 minutes.

