

the three general categories explained below.

Easy: Suitable for all stock four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicles with high ground clearance and low range. Some trails can be driven in two-wheel drive without low range in dry weather. A few trails, under ideal conditions, are suitable for passenger cars.

Moderate: Suitable for most stock 4WD sport utility vehicles with high ground clearance and low range. For the toughest moderate trails, factory skid plates, tow points, and all-terrain tires are recommended. These options are available from your dealer or local four-wheel-drive shop.

Difficult: Suitable for some aggressive stock 4WD sport utility vehicles with very high ground clearance, excellent articulation, tow hooks, and a full skid plate package. All-terrain tires are a minimum, mud terrains preferred. A winch or differential lockers are recommended for the most difficult trails. Drivers who spend a great deal of time on the most difficult trails may find it necessary to modify their vehicles with higher ground clearance, oversized tires, and heavy duty accessories. A trail is rated difficult if any spot on the trail is difficult. You may be able to enjoy much of a trail before running into the difficult portion. Read the trail description carefully.

CALIFORNIA LAWS, LICENSING AND FEES

California has the greatest number of off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts in the nation and the number is growing rapidly. In the last twenty years OHV registrations have increased 83%. Unfortunately, since 1985, land available for OHV recreation has decreased 47%. Much of this land was lost in 1994 when Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act. Over 7 million acres of land were designated wilderness and closed to OHV recreation. To deal with this problem, California has enacted special licensing classifications, strict OHV laws and additional fees which are explained as follows:

Street-Legal Vehicles. This classification includes licensed SUVs, Jeeps and dual-purpose motorcycles. They are allowed on major highways, forest roads, state park roads and in most OHV areas. Fees are paid when license plates are purchased and vary with vehicle type. Normal highway laws apply.

Green-Sticker Vehicles. This category includes ATVs, dune buggies, sand rails and unlicensed dirt bikes. These vehicles are allowed in OHV areas and on certain BLM and forest lands. Green stickers are good for two years. (See OHV laws on next page.)

Red-Sticker Vehicles. ATVs and motorcycles made after January 1, 1997, must meet stricter emission standards. Those that don't get a red sticker, which is exactly the same as a green sticker except the riding period is limited. Cost is same as green sticker.

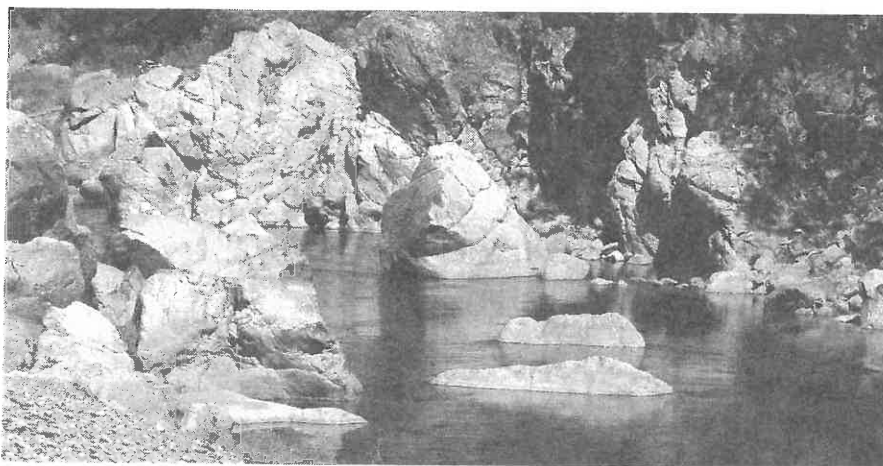
National Forest Adventure Pass. You'll need a special Adventure Pass if you camp or stop to recreate in Los Padres National Forest. If you are just



Not much room to pass.



Fishermen enjoy Stag Point OHV Campground.



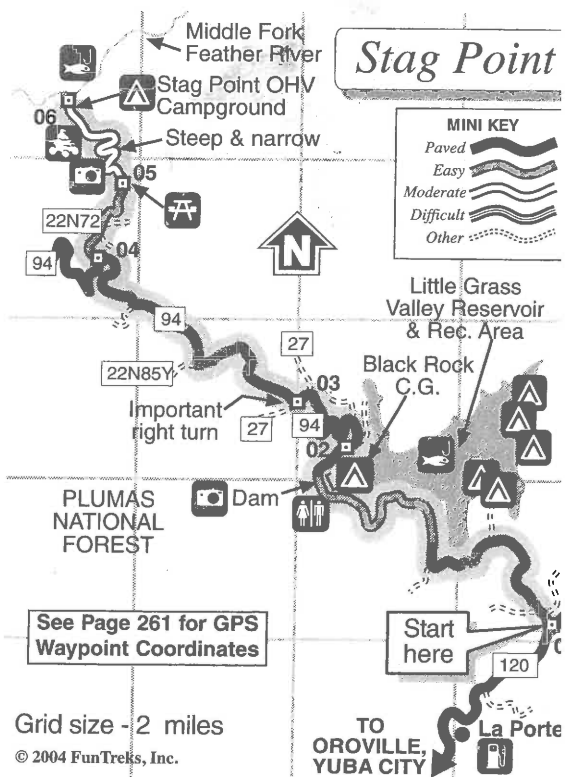
Middle Fork of Feather River slightly upstream from campground.



Fishing near dam.



One small part of reservoir.



Location: Northeast of Yuba City, north of La Porte.

Difficulty: Moderate. Steep, narrow switchbacks that drop 2800 feet in 2.7 miles. Minor ruts and tight brush in places. Could be difficult coming back up if trail is wet. Suitable for all 4-wheel-drive SUVs with low-range gearing when trail is dry. Best time to drive is late spring through fall.

Features: A heart-pumping descent to remote camping and fishing along the banks of the Feather River. One of a few points where river access is allowed in this designated "Wild and Scenic" river valley. Outstanding camping, hiking and boating at Little Grass Valley Recreation Area. (This trail is designated as OHV Route #34 on Plumas N.F. OHV map.)

Time & Distance: The trail itself measures only 2.7 miles; however, it is 15 miles to the trailhead from F.S. Highway 120. Allow 2 hours one-way.

To Get There: Drive 1.5 miles northeast of La Porte on paved F.S. Rd. 120.

Trail Description: *Reset your odometer* (01) and turn left following signs to Little Grass Valley Reservoir. Meander north, ignoring side roads, and cross dam. Go by the Black Rock C.G. and turn left at 6.1 miles (02) on F.S. 94. (Also note small posts with a number 34. This is the OHV marker for Stag Point.) After uphill switchbacks, turn left at 8.2 miles where F.S. 27 goes right. At 8.3 miles (03), turn right staying on F.S. 94. Stay on this paved road bearing right at 10.9 and 11.7 miles. At 13.5 miles (04), turn right uphill off the pavement onto easy gravel road 22N72. Stay left downhill at 14.3 miles. Stag Point Trailhead is reached at 15.1 miles (05). There's a camp spot with picnic table just before an information board. Proceed north on a narrow, single-lane road. It descends gradually at first, then quickly gets steeper. Watch for wide spots to pull over in case someone comes up the hill. Trail ends at OHV campground at 17.8 miles (06). River is short walk to left. Best fishing is in the fall when water level is lower. Take insect repellent.

Return Trip: Return the way you came.

Services: One gas pump at General Store in La Porte. Vault toilet at dam.

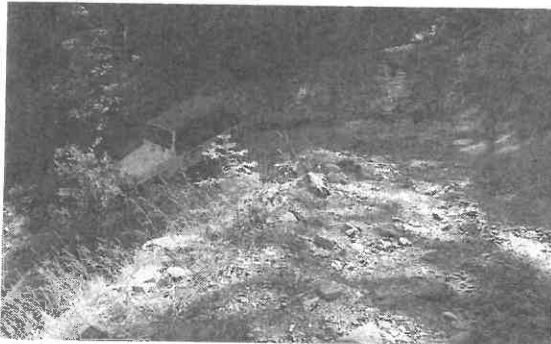
Maps: Plumas National Forest map, Plumas National Forest Summer-Use OHV map, USGS 250,000-scale map, Chico, CA.



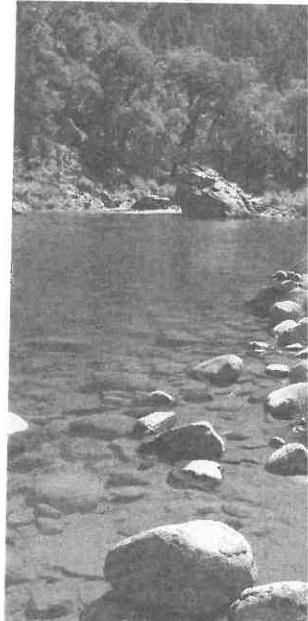
Point where trail begins its steep descent.



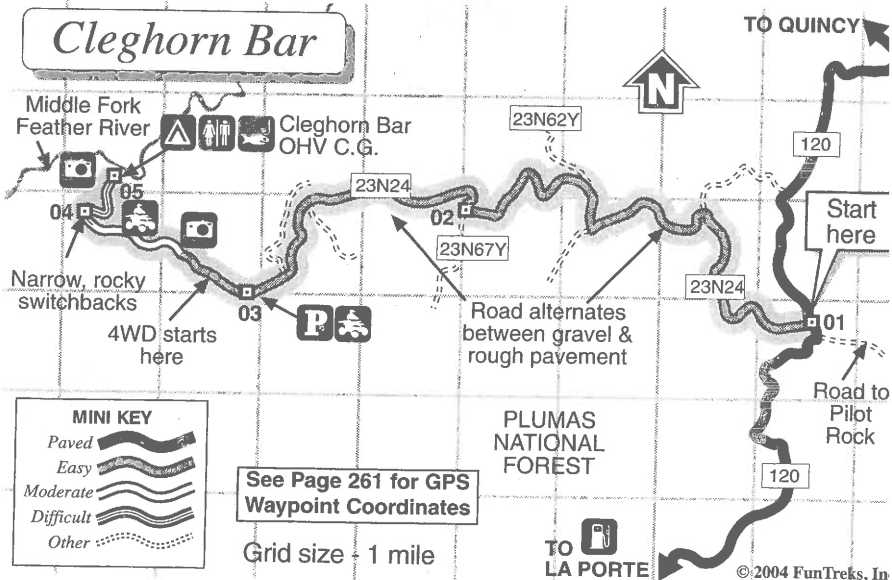
This stock SUV made it.



One of several tight switchbacks. It gets worse.



Feather River next to campsite.



3 hrs 12 min

Cleghorn Bar 9

Location: Northeast of Yuba City, northeast of La Porte.

Difficulty: Difficult in just one place. Similar to Stag Point Trail #8 except rougher, steeper and narrower towards the bottom. One tight switchback has been chewed up from uphill tire spinning. Stock 4WD SUVs with low-range gearing can make it when trail is dry. Not for novice drivers. Avoid when wet. Best time late spring through fall. Take insect repellent.

Features: A thrilling and scenic descent to the Middle Fork of the Feather River. Great camping and fishing especially in the fall. A designated "Wild & Scenic" area. (Identified as OHV Route #37 on Plumas N. F. OHV map.)

Time & Distance: The 4WD portion of the trail measures 3.3 miles. It is 8.6 miles to trailhead from Hwy. 120. Allow about 2 hours one way.

To Get There: Drive 12.3 miles northeast from La Porte on F.S. Hwy. 120 (La Porte/Quincy Road). Turn left on F.S. Road 23N24 at sign for Cleghorn Bar. This intersection is just after a sign for Pilot Rock.

Trail Description: *Reset your odometer and head west on gravel road 23N24 (01).* The road is partially paved in places. Bear left at 3.8 miles (note OHV marker #37). Turn right at 5.5 (02). Stay left at 6.4 and 6.6. Road gradually narrows to one lane in places. Bear right at 7.5 miles where lesser road goes left. Stay left at 8.3 as the road narrows. Start of 4WD trail is reached at 8.6 miles (03), identified with sign warning: "Road may be impassable to all vehicles one half mile from bottom due to loose rock." There's a small area to park if you are unloading ATVs or motorcycles.

Reset odometer and start downhill (03). An easy trail goes up and down for a while. There's a dramatic view at 1.3 miles where the trail descends in earnest. Very tight switchbacks at 3.0 miles (04) including the only difficult spot on the trail. Bottom is reached at 3.3 miles (05).

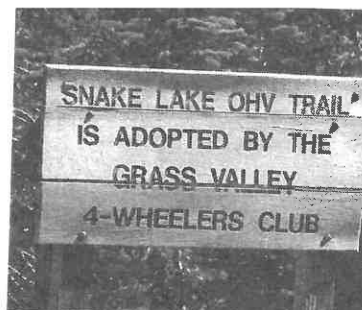
Return Trip: Return the way you came.

Services: One gas pump at General Store in La Porte. Primitive, roofless pit toilet at Cleghorn OHV Campground.

Maps: Plumas National Forest map, Plumas National Forest Summer-Use OHV map, USGS 250,000-scale map, Chico, CA.



The trail climbs high above Gold Lake.



Responsible four wheelers in action!



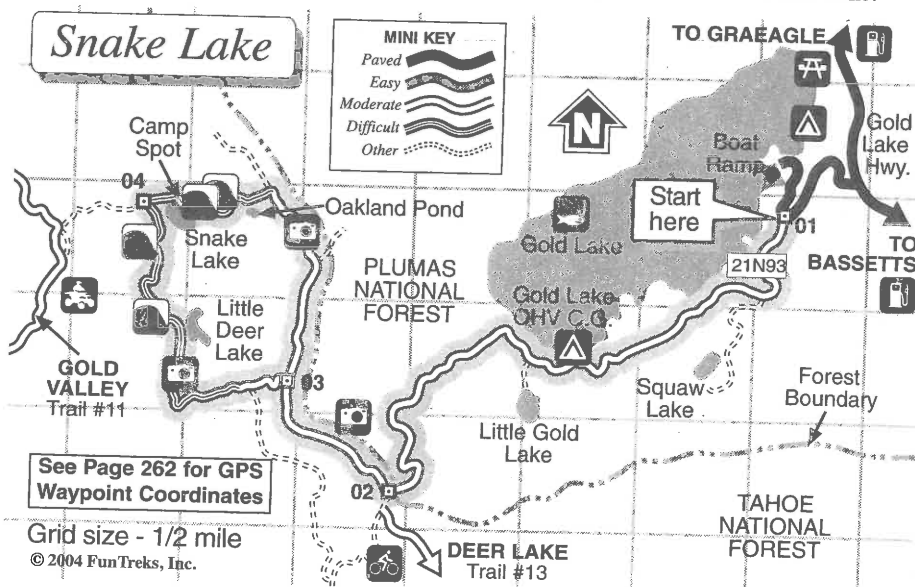
Snake Lake where steep descent begins.



Tough section above Snake Lake.



Taking a break near Little Deer Lake.



Location: Northeast of Auburn and Grass Valley, northwest of Truckee between Bassetts and Graeagle. In the Lakes Basin Recreation Area.

Difficulty: Difficult. Very rocky and extremely steep above Snake Lake. Driven uphill, this point requires lockers front and rear and very low gears. Trail is not suitable for stock SUVs.

Features: Relatively short but obstacles and views are memorable. ATVs and dirt bikes are not allowed between Summit Lake and Oakland Pond.

Time & Distance: An out-and-back trail with a loop at the end. As described here, the trail measures 9.6 miles. Allow 3 to 4 hours. This route also connects to Gold Valley Trail #11 and Deer Lake Trail #13 (see map).

To Get There: Use same directions as Gold Valley Trail #11, but instead of turning at the bridge to Sardine Lake (1.5 miles north of Bassetts), continue north on Gold Lake Highway another 5.0 miles to Gold Lake boat ramp entrance. Turn left and follow paved road 0.4 miles to start of trail on left.

Trail Description: *Reset your odometer at start* (01). Head south on a rocky road. Stay right at 0.4 miles at sign to Squaw Lake. Continue around the southern end of Gold Lake, passing OHV Campground. Go straight at 1.5 past Little Gold Lake. The trail turns south away from Gold Lake at 1.6. Stay left at 2.2 and right uphill at 2.6. Bear right at 2.8 miles (02) at OHV sign. (Walk right to great views of Gold Lake at 3.1 miles.) Go straight at 3.5 miles (03) where loop starts. Bear left at 4.0 and soon you will see Oakland Pond below. At 4.4 the trail heads downhill to Snake Lake over the toughest obstacle. Be very careful. You'll reach a nice camp spot on left when you reach bottom. Bear right and go around lake. Turn left at 5.1 miles (04). (Straight connects to Gold Valley Trail #11.) More rock challenges follow as you climb around Little Deer Lake. Bear left at 6.6 and reconnect to start of loop at 6.8 miles (03).

Return Trip: Turn right and go out the way you came in. An alternate way out is to drive Deer Lake Trail #13. (See map at left then turn page.)

Services: Gas & food at Bassetts. Pit toilet at Gold Lake C.G. & boat ramp.

Maps: Lakes Basin Recreation Area map, Tahoe or Plumas National Forest maps, Plumas-Eureka State Park map, USGS 7.5-minute map, Gold Lake, CA.