



Clear Creek Canal Trail



FEATURES

Difficulty Level: Easy to moderate

Length: 4.5 miles one way

Trail is part of an historic water ditch

This trail connects to the Mount Shasta Mine Loop

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive towards Whiskeytown Dam. The road forks. Take the left fork which becomes Paige Bar Road. Do not take the right fork over the dam. The trailhead and parking lot are about 1.0 miles past this intersection, on the left, across from Peltier Valley Road.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

There are several routes that can be taken to explore this trail. This guide describes the trail beginning on the north side of the parking lot. It will wind through the landscape first heading north, crossing the paved road, then circling back to the south.

The trail is relatively flat and meanders along parts of a historic water ditch that was once part of the Clear Creek Water Ditch. The steepest part of the trail descends into Orofino Creek and ascends the other side where a water flume once crossed the creek. Watch for trees across the trail, puddles and in the spring, several seasonal creeks that flow across the trail.

A short distance after the start of the trail is a fork, take the right fork. The trail parallels Paige Bar Road as it makes its way north.

At approximately 0.5 mile, the trail crosses Paige Bar Road and turns back toward the south. Here visitors can get a good view of Whiskeytown Dam and Clear Creek flowing from the tunnel below the dam.

After an additional 0.75 mile the trail crosses Peltier Valley Road. Continue on until coming to a gated service road. Follow the service road through the gate and then pick up the trail on the left.

Here, the path passes through oak woodlands, mixed chaparral and pine forests. The trail will again cross Paige Bar Road, just below the cemetery. At this point, the trail merges with the Mount Shasta Mine Loop trail for a short distance. After a short ascent, look to the right for the trail sign, Clear Creek Canal Trail. The path continues on in a level manner.

Soon running water is heard again as the path approaches Orofino Creek. Once at the creek the trail takes a steep climb downhill, crosses the creek climbs uphill and heads west. Once at the top, notice the views



View of Whiskeytown Dam

of Shasta Bally and Kanaka Peak.

The trail soon crosses Muletown Road and continues on for a short distance into an area treated with prescribed fire in 2004. The trail ends at Salt Creek and Mule Town Road.



Orofino Creek



A MINER'S DITCH



The Clear Creek Canal was over 41 miles long. It started near the Tower House Historic District and ended near Lower Springs Road in Northwest Redding.

From the 1860's to the 1880's, the canal was used by miners in their quest for gold.



RESTORING FOREST HEALTH

Throughout the hike, visitors will notice the impact of recent fire in the area. Several prescribed burns have occurred to reduce hazardous fuels and restore forest health. Blackened trees and dead brush are noticeable, but so is new growth. Fire has opened the canopy to sunlight, stimulating a new growth of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants

Before



After

