



Mule Mountain Pass Trail



FEATURES

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Length: 3.0 miles one way,

Elevation: 700 feet elevation gain

Whiskeytown's newest trail

Mining history

This trail connects to Salt Creek Loop and Buck Hollow Trails

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

West End of Trail -Via Salt Creek Loop Trail: Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center, drive south on Kennedy Memorial Drive. The road forks, take the left fork which becomes Paige Bar Road. Continue south past the Whiskeytown Cemetery.

Again the road forks, turn left onto the unpaved road which leads to Shasta and Igo. Pass Horse Camp and continue to the intersection of Mule Town Road.

Turn right towards Igo and Ono. Drive across two small creeks. Just up the hill from the second creek crossing on your left is the Salt Creek/Mule Mountain Pass Trail Head.

East End of Trail: Starting at the Visitor Center, drive east on Highway 299, towards Redding, approximately 3.0 miles.

Turn right from Hwy 299 on to Swasey Drive. Drive approximately 2.9 miles. Look for a dirt road with a Bureau of Land Management information sign on the right (across the street from the Straight Arrow Archery Club). Drive up the dirt road approximately 0.3 miles to a trail head sign marked by a fiberglass stake on the left.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This guide describes the trail starting from the west end off Swasey Drive. The trail climbs over the Shasta Divide into Whiskeytown National Recreation Area from a very picturesque area of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Starting at Swasey Drive and ascending to the pass, the trail explores open meadows, dense chaparral of mostly manzanita, and a shaded oak woodland.

Creeks, springtime wildflowers and terrific views of Mt. Lassen, Redding, and greater Shasta County are seen during the east side climb. The area was used by the Wintu Indians for hundreds of years and more recently, during the Gold Rush Era. Stone walls and some mining prospects are visible.

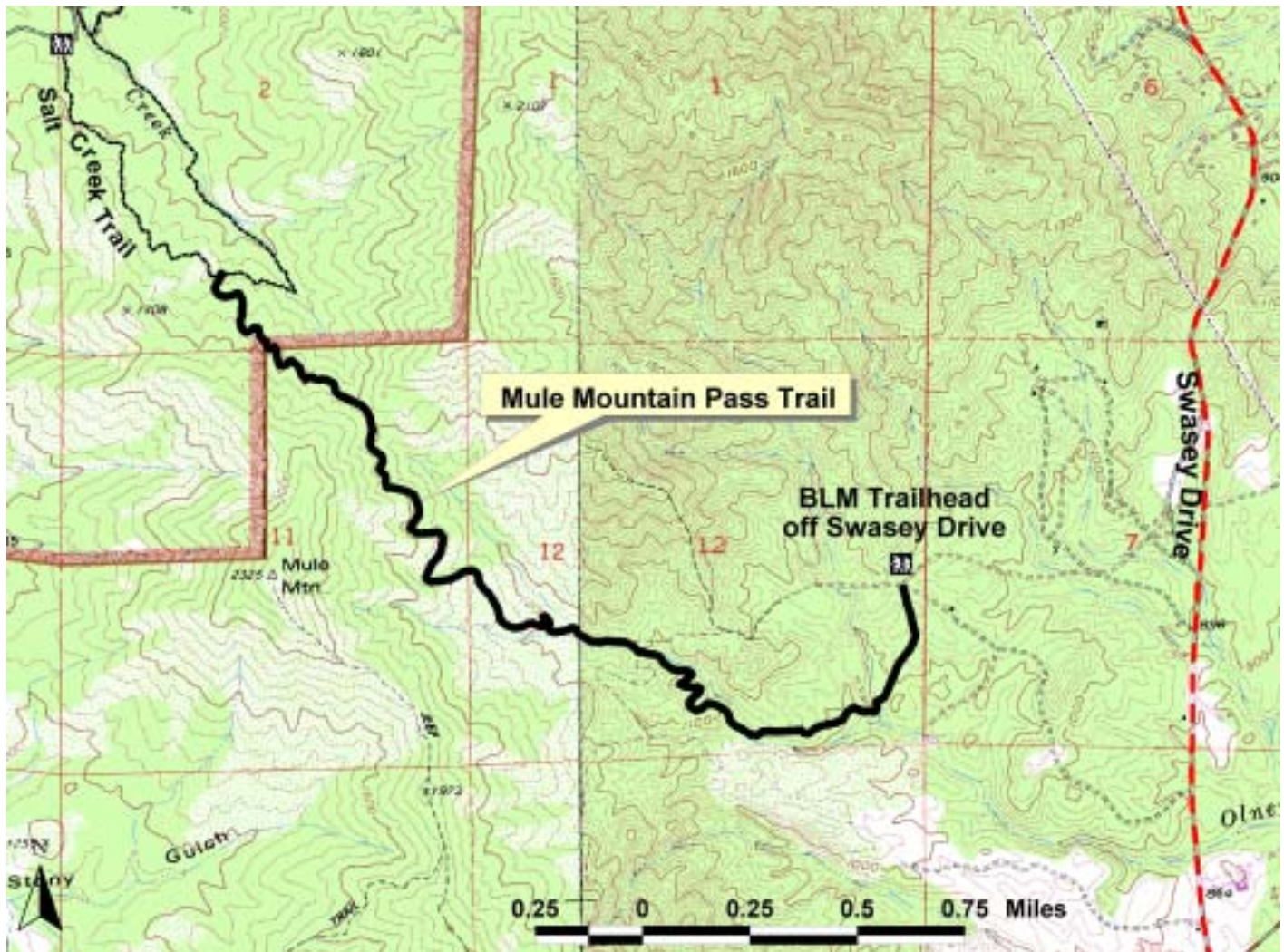
This is the first trail built into Whiskeytown in over 40 years (2004) and was constructed for the comfort of hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. Grades do not exceed 10%. The path is narrow and winds in and out of the small drainages of Mule Mountain. Once achieving the pass, the trail is all downhill into Whiskeytown and terminates the intersection of the Salt Creek Loop Trail.

Salt Creek Trail is a loop, either direction returns to Mule Town Road. The western loop is best for horseback riders. The eastern loop eventually leads to the junction of the Buck Hollow Trail. Follow the signs on to Mule Town Road to seek civilization.

Beautiful oak trees are found throughout the trail route, along with rocky crags and a wild forest setting.



Terrific views of Mt. Lassen, Shasta County are seen on the east side portion of the trail.



Several creeks and springtime wildflowers are visible along the trail.



This is a narrow, single track trail. Watch for bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians. Always demonstrate good trail etiquette.

Poison Oak is prevalent along the trail, especially on the Swasey Drive end; stay on the trail to avoid contact.

