



Salt Creek Loop Trail



FEATURES

- Difficulty Level: Moderate
- Length: 1.8 mile loop
- Trail follows part of an old mining wagon road
- Six creek crossings
- This trail connects to Buck Hollow and Mule Mountain Pass Trails

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

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 on to the intersection of Mule Town Road.

At the intersection, 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.

The trail is a loop and can be started from either end. This guide will describe the trail starting at the second trail head, a short distance further, up an incline on Mule Town Road.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This trail leads back into the hills below Mule Mountain Pass along part of an old mining wagon road and loops back along Salt Creek.

The trail gradually climbs through the drainages of oak woodland and rocky crags. Small seeps and springs flow into the early part of summer and a variety of wildflowers can be seen. Some distant views of the Shasta Divide can be noticed to the northeast.

After about one mile is a trail intersection. Turn to the right to connect to the Mule Mountain Pass section of the Shasta Trinity Trail.

Continue past this intersection, the trail then comes upon a short and steep ascent. Soon, the trail hooks around to the west and leads into the Salt Creek stream channel.

The trail descends, traveling downhill to arrive at the first of six crossings of Salt Creek. This part of the trail is rocky, following the stream bed at times and can be difficult for horses to traverse. Along the way, small mining prospects can be seen that date back to the 1850s.

During the winter or other periods of heavy rainfall, creek crossings can be dangerous. This section of the trail is much safer during late spring, summer, and fall, when the creek is lower.

Follow the channel down until intersecting the Buck Hollow Trail. Turn left onto the old mining road



Colorful shooting stars blaze along the trail.

that leads to Mule Town Road. The road is less than 0.25 mile from the creek.

This trail is mostly a single track trail with use by bicyclists, equestrians and hikers. Please demonstrate good trail etiquette and make room for others.

EARLY MINING - THE BIG PICTURE

After early resident Major Pierson B. Reading discovered gold on Clear Creek in 1848, other miners followed. Initially, local mining operations were often limited to winter and early spring when water was available. Miners quickly realized that although there was sufficient water in the area, it was located in the "wrong" places for mining operations. The innovation of early residents; including Charles Camden whose home still stands in the park today, remedied this problem by constructing a system of ditches and flumes to convey water to where they needed it. Today's Central Valley Water Project is an outgrowth of these humble beginnings.



FLORA

Left: Firecracker Flower

Right: Stream Violet

Below Right: California Buckeye

