

## HUMBOLDT/TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST RUBY MOUNTAINS RANGER DISTRICT

Thank you for your interest in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District, located in northeast Nevada. The Ruby Mountains Ranger District is made up of the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountain Ranges. These mountains contain some of the most spectacular scenery and varied recreation opportunities in Nevada. The District starts near Wells, NV and runs almost 100 miles to the south, covering 450,000 acres. Elevations range from 6,000 feet at the valley floor to 11,387 feet at Ruby Dome (the highest point on the District). Grazing is the largest commodity use of the District. Pinyon-Juniper woodland and sagebrush-grass dominate the vegetation.

In 1989 certain areas of the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains were designated as Wilderness with the passage of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act. The East Humboldt Wilderness comprises 36,000 acres and the Ruby Mountains Wilderness contains more than 90,000 acres. Trails in the wilderness usually open mid-June through October, weather permitting. Mechanized vehicles and equipment are prohibited in the Wilderness. Protect the pristine character of the backcountry by following "Leave No Trace" camping and hiking techniques.

The East Humboldt Mountains attract visitors who enjoy seclusion, fishing and hiking. A famous attraction, Hole in the Mountain Peak (elevation 11,300), can be seen from Highway 93 (15 miles south of Wells). Hole in the Mountain Peak can also be seen from I-80, between Elko and Wells. Angel Creek and Angel Lake are the two developed campgrounds in the East Humboldt area. Weather permitting, Angel Creek is open from late May through October and Angel Lake opens in mid-June and closes shortly after Labor Day.

The Ruby Mountains are characterized by rocky peaks, cirque basins, high glacier-formed lakes, rolling sage/grass hills and steep narrow canyons. Lamoille Canyon, one of the scenic wonders of the Great Basin, is located in the west-central portion of the Ruby Mountains (25 miles from Elko, NV). The Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway (a 12-mile paved two lane road) runs through breath-taking scenery and gives access to assorted recreational activities before it dead ends at the Roads End trailhead. An interpretive auto tour offers 3 informational stops along the road, explaining the geological history and formations of the Canyon. A self guided Nature Trail introduces the flora and geology of the area. Thomas Canyon campground is located 8 miles up the Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway and is open late May through September. Several picnic areas are also available along the Scenic Byway.

To catch a glimpse of the old west, Cherry Springs Wildhorse Territory is located in the southwestern corner of the Rubies and is home to approximately 150 wild horses. The Overland Stage and Pony Express Route, used from 1862-1869, is located at the southern tip of the Rubies. This was also the route of the ill-fated Donner party. Today, known as Overland Pass (County Road 006), it connects County Road 1000 on the west side of the Rubies to the Ruby Valley Road (County Road 003) on the east side of the Rubies.

The Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Gallagher State Fish Hatchery, located on the southeastern tip of the Rubies (12 miles north of Overland Pass Road) are adjacent to the District. Waterfowl hunting, fishing and nature photography are popular recreation opportunities. For more information on the Refuge, contact the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge at HC 60-860, Ruby Valley, NV 89833 or call (775) 779-2237. The South Ruby campground is located adjacent to the Refuge and is open late May through October, weather permitting. There is a RV sanitary station adjacent to the campground (fee \$5.00/visit), and a fish cleaning station is provided free of charge.

**Reservations can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or ON THE WEB AT:  
www.recreation.gov Reservations must be made at least 4 days prior to arrival**

Bundles of firewood can be purchased from the campground hosts for \$6.00/bundle.

#### **CAMPING REGULATIONS:**

You may occupy a single-family site with a maximum of 8 people and 2 vehicles. Double family sites have a maximum of 16 people and 2 vehicles. There is a \$5.00 charge for extra vehicles.

- You may occupy a site for a maximum of 14 days.
- Dumpsters/trash cans are provided for solid garbage disposal.
- Contain all gray and black water to your storage tanks.
- Carry water from hydrants to your site for washing dishes and cleaning fish.
- Contain firearms and other explosives in a safe place and do not use within or near the campground. Fireworks are prohibited in the State of Nevada and on National Forest lands.
- Pets must be leashed and controlled at all times.
- You may run your generator until 10pm. Quiet hours are 10pm-6am.
- Camping for recreational purposes only, not as residence.
- Campfires must be extinguished when not attended.

#### **RESERVATIONS:**

- Reservations can be made by calling the National Recreation Reservation System at 1-877-444-6777.
- Web Site: <http://www.recreation.gov>
- Reservations are accepted up to 4 days ahead of planned arrival.
- There is a one-time reservation fee of \$9.00 per site reserved online and \$10.00 per site if reserved over the phone.
- Any change in site selected or dates selected will result in a \$10.00 fee.
- Cancellation fees:
  - Cancellations made before 6pm on date of arrival will result in a \$10.00 fee.
  - Cancellations made after 6pm on date of arrival will result in a \$10.00 fee plus a forfeit of the site fee for the first night.
  - Reservations are held for 24 hours. Cancellations made after the first 24 hours will result in a \$20.00 fee plus a forfeit of the site fee for the first night.

#### **DISPERSED CAMPING:**

- Dispersed camping is allowed. You may stay at the same campsite up to 16 days, then you must move at least 10 miles from that original site.
- Backcountry wilderness permits are not required.
- Please check with the Ranger Station prior to or upon arrival for the latest campfire restrictions and fire severity levels.
- Camping for recreational purposes only, not as residence.

**CAMPING / PICNIC AREAS**

**Near Wells**

**1. Angel Creek Campground/Picnic Area:** Open late May through mid-September  
 LOCATION: 8 miles south of Wells on SR231 (paved two-lane road)  
 LAYOUT: Contains 18 sites  
 CAMP FEES: \$14.00 per night, \$5.00 for extra vehicle  
 PARKING FEE: \$5.00 a day, per vehicle at picnic area  
 ELEVATION: 6800 feet  
 AMENITIES: Water and vault toilets

**2. Angel Lake Campground/Day Use Area:** Open mid-to-late June through early September  
 LOCATION: 12 miles south of Wells on SR231 (paved two-lane road)  
 LAYOUT: Contains 26 paved sites, all having tent pads except site 10  
 CAMP FEES: \$14.00 per night single family site, \$28.00 per night double family site, \$5.00 for extra vehicle  
 PARKING FEE: \$5.00 a day, per vehicle, for day use area  
 ELEVATION: 8500 Feet  
 AMENITIES: Water and vault toilets  
 WARNING: Trailers not advised to travel to Angel Lake due to steep grade last four miles

**3. Powerhouse Picnic Area:** Open late May through mid-September  
 LOCATION: Forest Rd 660 (paved two lane road) at mouth of Lamolle Canyon  
 LAYOUT: Contains 7 single family picnic sites  
 PARKING FEE: \$5.00 a day, per vehicle  
 ELEVATION: 6200 feet  
 AMENITIES: Tables, BBQ grills and vault toilets (NO WATER)

**4. Powerhouse Pavilion:** Opens late May through mid-September: [Reservations w/ www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) only

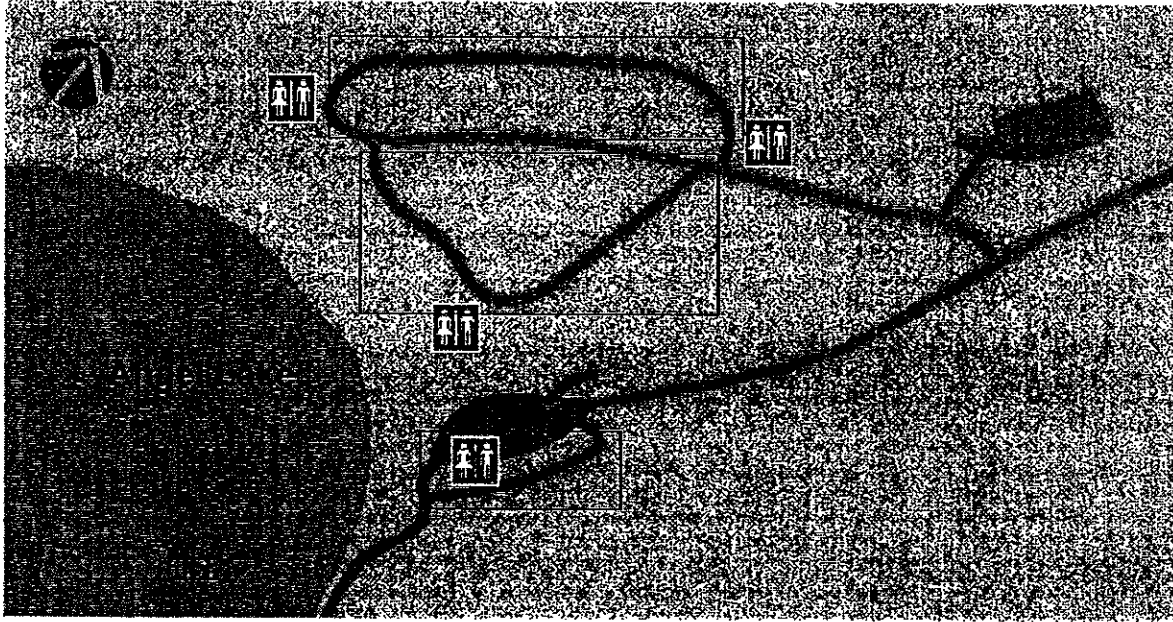
**5. Thomas Canyon Campground:** Open late May through mid-September  
 LOCATION: In Lamolle Canyon, 25 miles south of Elko on Forest Rd 660 (paved 2-lane road)  
 LAYOUT: Contains 39 paved sites, 30 sites have tent pads, (5 double sites, 4 pull thru)  
 CAMP FEES: \$15.00 per night single family site, \$5.00 for extra vehicle  
 ELEVATION: \$30.00 per night double family site, \$5.00 for extra vehicle  
 AMENITIES: Water and vault toilets

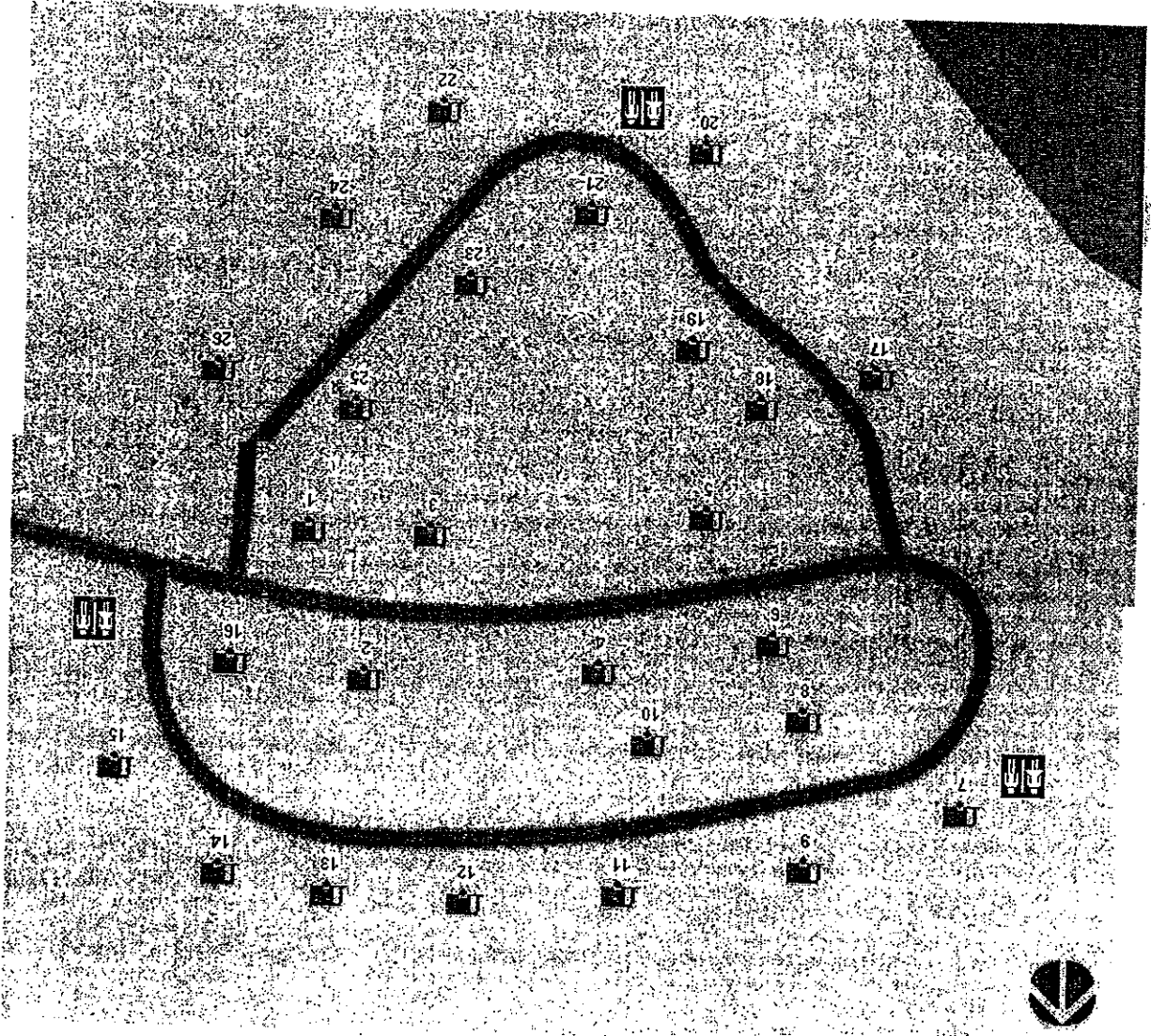
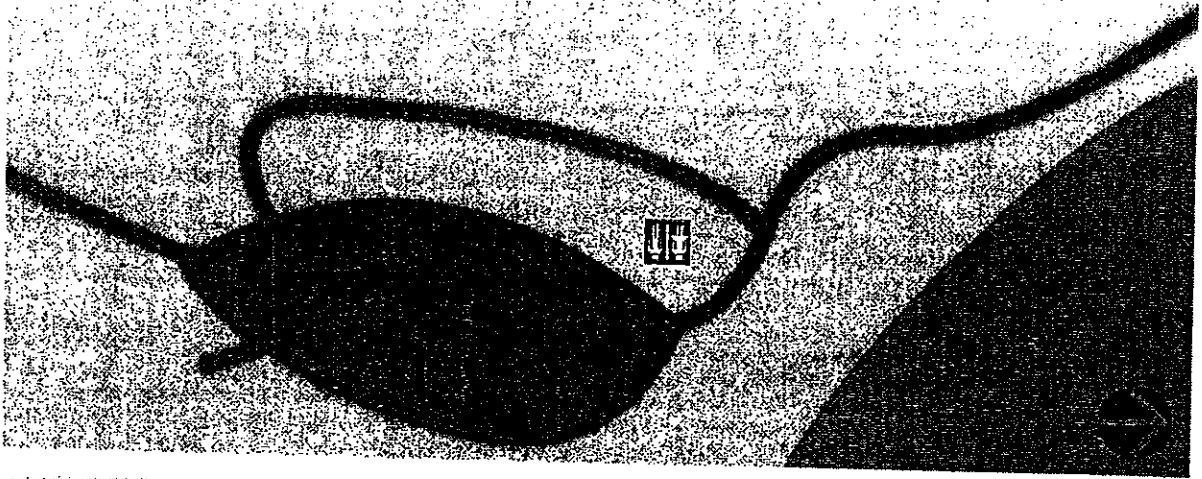
**6. Terraces Picnic Area:** Open mid-June through mid-September  
 LOCATION: 27.5 miles from Elko on Forest Rd 660 (two lane paved road)  
 LAYOUT: Contains 9 single unit picnic sites (can reserve entire area as group site- max group 75)  
 PARKING FEE: \$5.00 a day, per vehicle. (Daily rate for group reservation at picnic site - \$50.00)  
 ELEVATION: 8400 feet  
 AMENITIES: Tables, BBQ grills, water and vault toilets

**7. Roads End/Trailhead Picnic Area:** Open mid-June through mid-September  
 LOCATION: 29 miles from Elko on Forest Rd 660 (two lane paved road)  
 PARKING FEE: No fees are being charged-donations accepted  
 ELEVATION: 8800 feet  
 AMENITIES: Water, vault toilets, trailhead for Island Lake and the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail

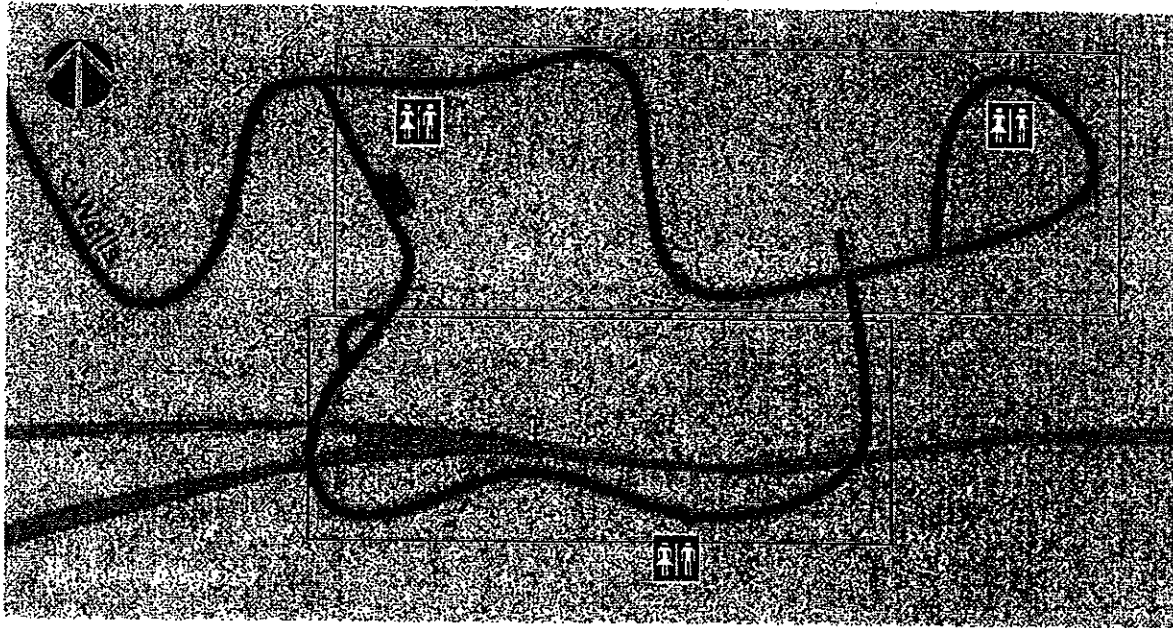
**8. South Ruby Campground:** Opens mid-May (one loop open year round)  
 LOCATION: 75 miles south of Wells on County Road 788 (near Ruby Lake Wildlife Refuge)  
 LAYOUT: 45 miles paved two lane, 30 miles improved gravel two lane road  
 CAMP FEES: \$12.00 per night, \$5.00 for extra vehicle  
 ELEVATION: 6200 feet  
 AMENITIES: Water, vault toilets, fish cleaning

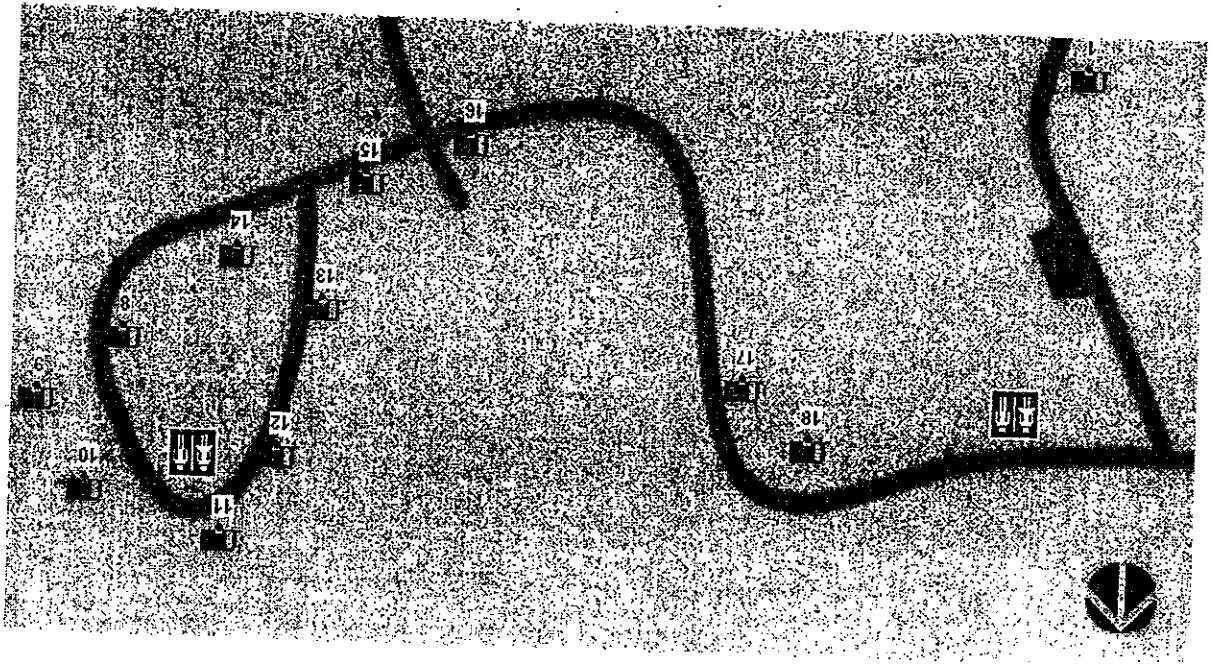
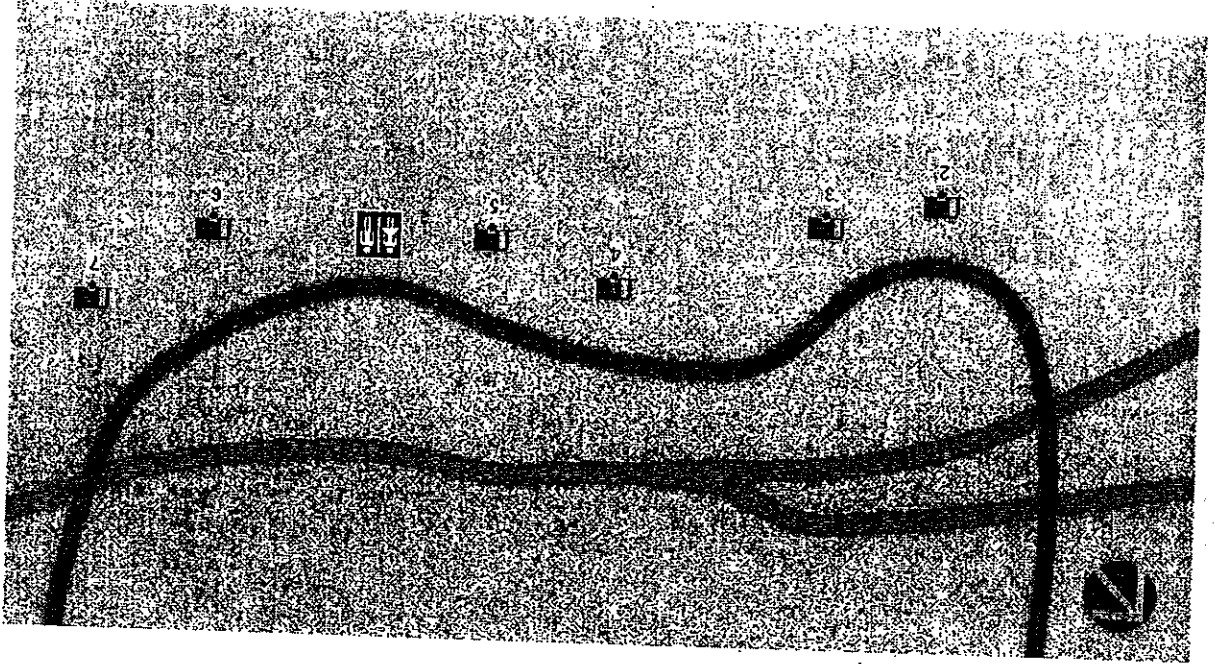
# Angel Lake Campground



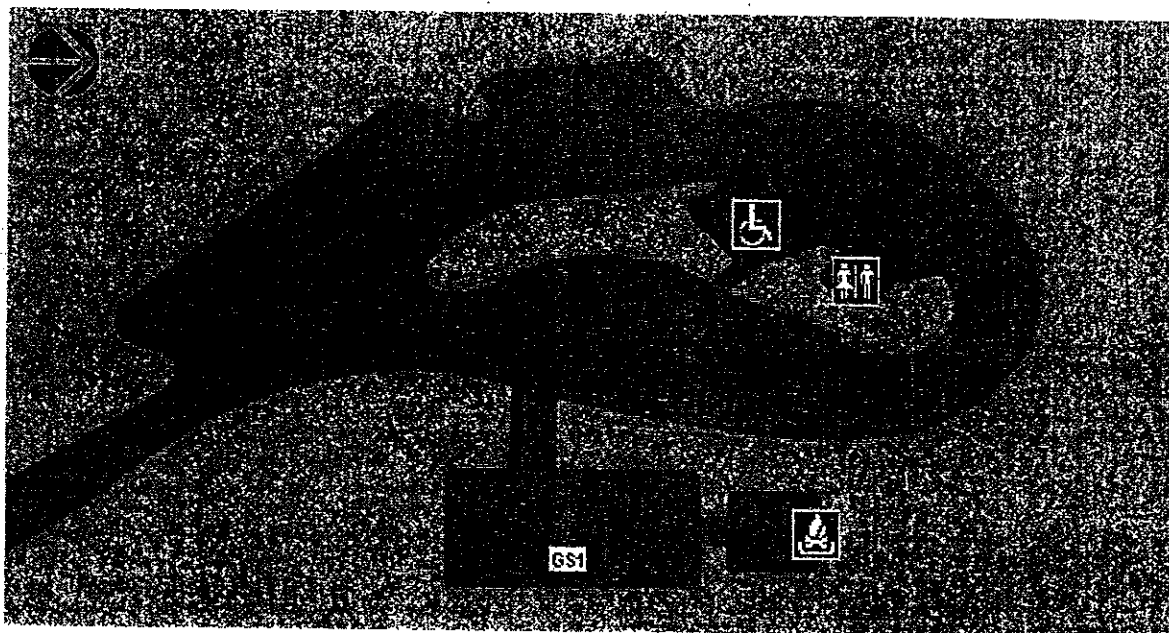


# Angel Creek Campground



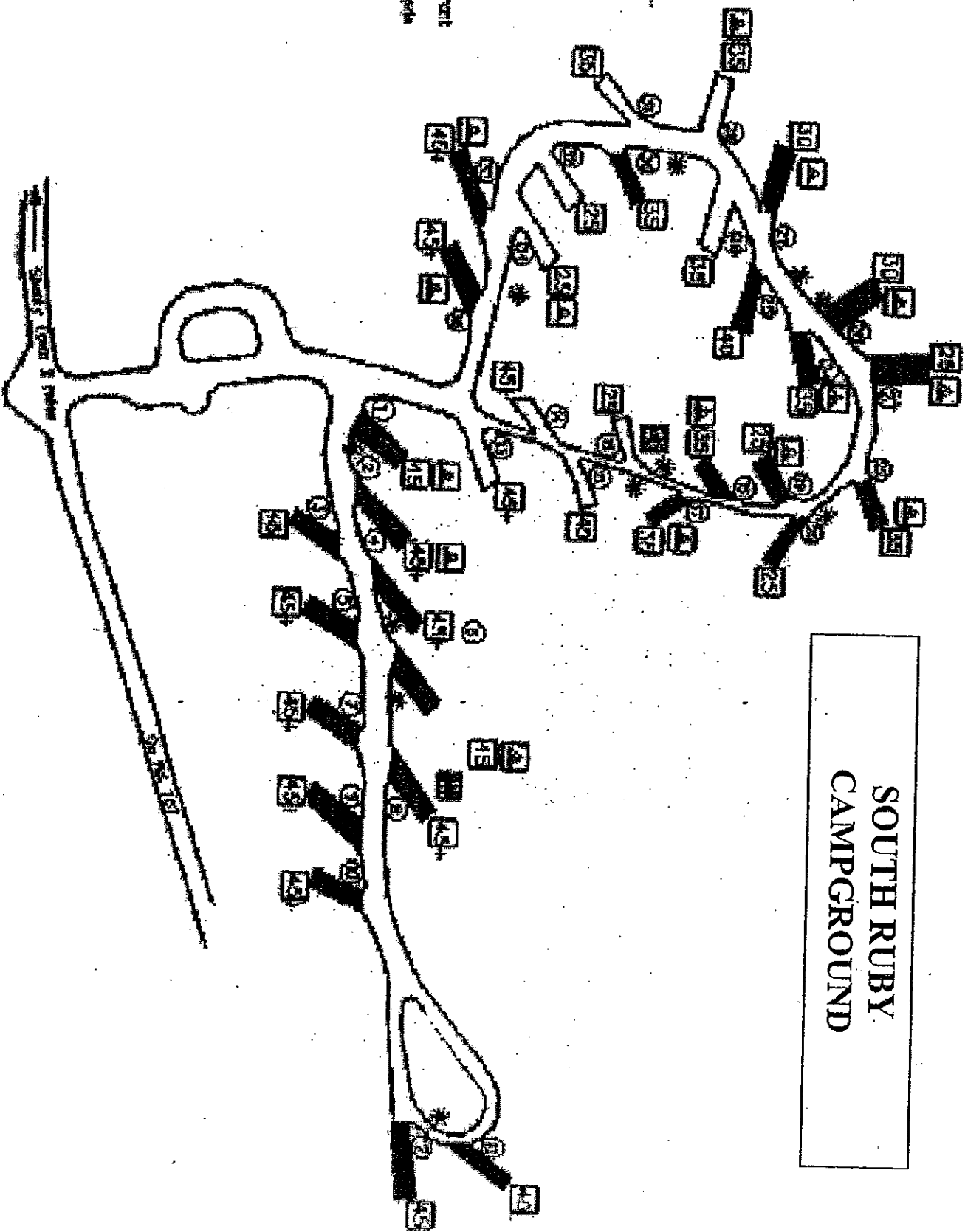


# Powerhouse Group Picnic

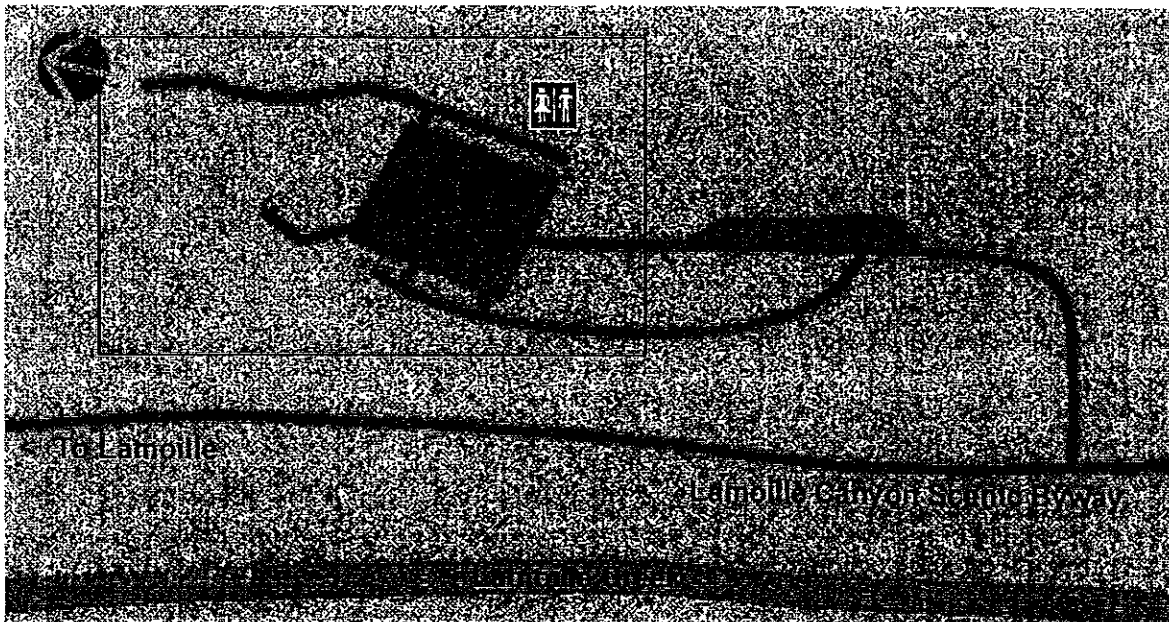


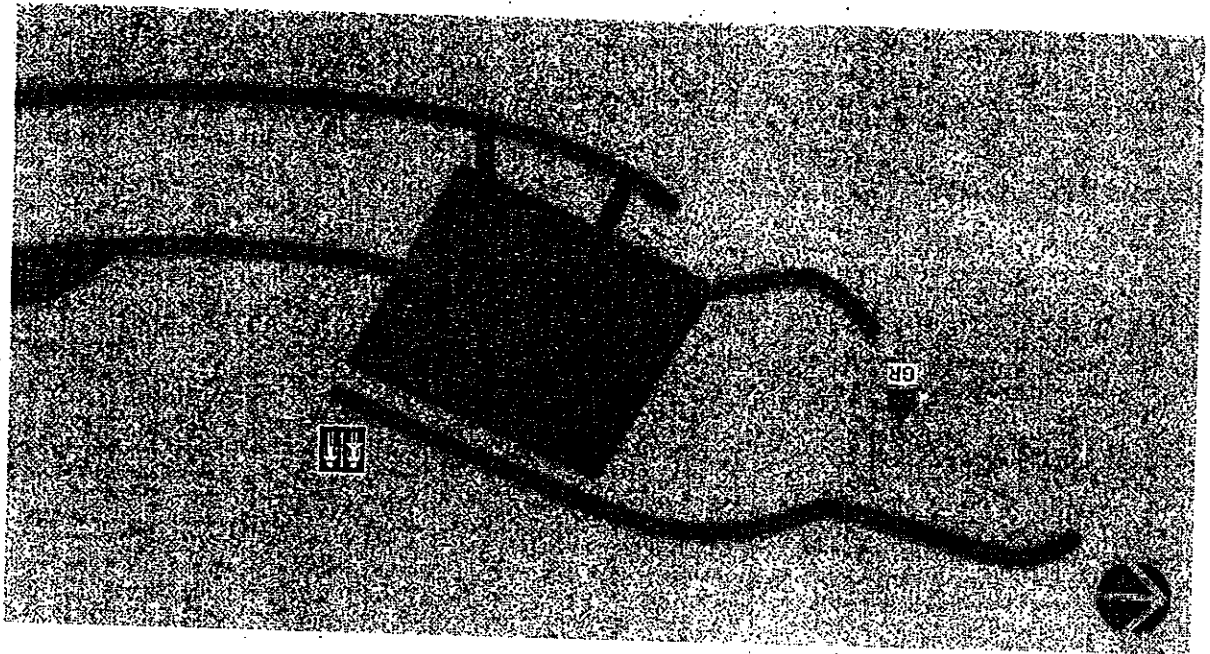
# SOUTH RUBY CAMPGROUND

- KEY**
- 10 Site length in feet
  - 1 Site number
  - Reservation site
  - Road space
  - Host camp site
  - Drinking water incident
  - Sites with tent pads



# Terraces Group Picnic

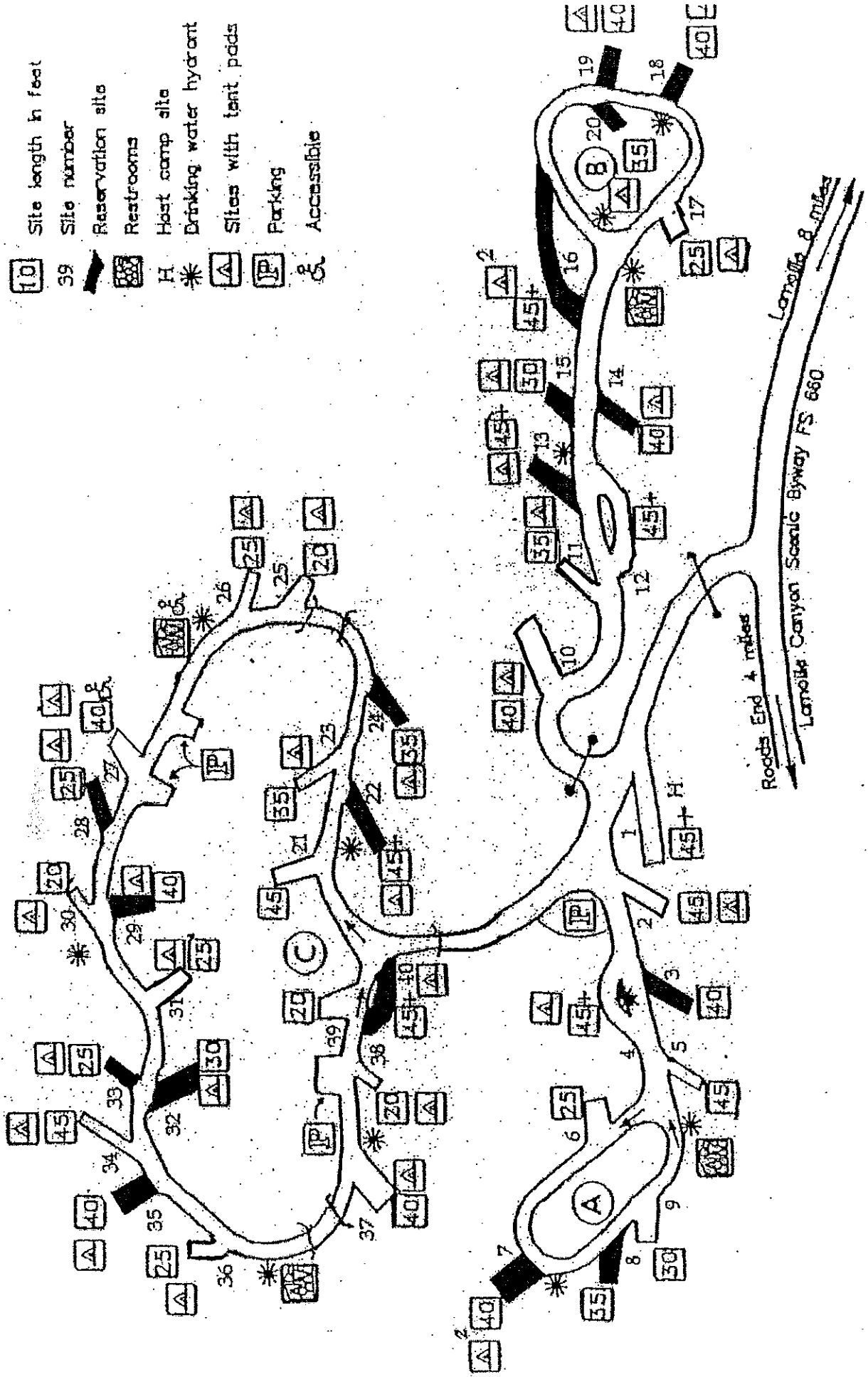




# THOMAS CANYON CAMPGROUND

## KEY

- Site length in feet
- Site number
- Reservation site
- Restrooms
- Host camp site
- Drinking water hydrant
- Sites with tent pads
- Parking
- Accessible



## TIPS AND GUIDELINES FOR HIKING

### PERMITS:

- Backcountry hiking and camping permits are not required.
- Groups greater than 10 people or using more than 6 pack animals at a time should pre-plan their trip with the Forest Service.

### GUIDELINES:

- Wilderness travel is limited to primitive means - foot or pack animals.
- Check with Ranger Station prior to or upon arrival for latest campfire restrictions and/or fire severity levels.
- Camp beyond 200 feet of lakes, streams, and trails.
- Firewood is scarce, use camp stoves.
- Use established fire rings. Do not build new ones.
- Bury human waste 200 feet from water and trails.
- Burn toilet paper.
- Purify water from lakes, stream and springs before using. Remember, water can be scarce during the summer months.
- Stay on designated trails. Do not cut switchbacks or make multiple trails.
- Use earth-tone colored equipment.
- Practice "Leave No Trace" backcountry travel and camping techniques (information available at Forest Service offices).

### STOCK USE GUIDELINES:

- Forage is scarce. Please pack in weed/seed free hay or pellets.
- Use highlines or portable corrals, scatter manure and move stock often to prevent over use.
- Use designated backcountry horse campsites.
- Stock is not permitted in developed sites.
- Remember, water can be scarce during the summer months.
- Practice "Leave No Trace" backcountry travel and camping techniques (information available at Forest Service offices).

# EAST HUMBOLDT TRAILS

## ANGEL LAKE TRAILS:

- ◆ GREY'S LAKE (026) – trailhead is located at Angle Lake. This low-maintenance trail is 7 miles of winding in and out of drainages to Grey's Lake. Stock is allowed on this trail. Stock unloading facilities are located at the trailhead, along with a parking area. There is no fee for parking. There is no camping with or without stock at the trailhead.

- ◆ SMITH LAKE – this trail forks off the Grey's Lake trail 1 1/2 miles from the trailhead. The Smith Lake trail from the fork is approximately 1 mile long and offers a spectacular view of the valley.

- ◆ WINCHELL LAKE - trailhead begins on a sharp curve of Angel Lake Road (State Route 231), 2 miles below Angel Lake. This trail climbs easily past beaver ponds and aspen stands 4 miles to Winchell Lake. A small parking area is located on the east side of the road just above the trailhead. Stock is allowed on this trail; however there are no unloading facilities available.

## BOULDER LAKES REGION:

These trails are located on the west side of the East Humboldt Mountains. The trailhead is located on State Route 229 approximately 15 miles south of I-80. This trailhead is the only access to the Boulder trails. A small parking area is provided at the trailhead. Stock is allowed on the trail; however there are no unloading facilities available. These trails are great for scenic beauty and solitude.

- ◆ SECRET-STAR TRAIL (025) – connects the trailhead to the four Boulder trails. This trail is approximately 11 miles long. The first four miles are over private property to the Forest/Wilderness boundary. Please respect the private property and stay on the trail at all times. The trail for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Boulder trails is approximately 6 miles past the intersection of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Boulder trails.

- ◆ FIRST BOULDER TRAIL (024) – is an un-maintained trail extending 2.5 miles through an open sagebrush boulder field.

- ◆ SECOND BOULDER TRAIL (153) – is a 3.5 mile trail through a thick aspen stand and past beaver ponds to a 2 mile un-maintained connector trail (026) to Boulder Lake.

- ◆ THIRD BOULDER TRAIL (028) – is a 4.5 mile hike through thick aspen along the Third Boulder Creek to Boulder Lake.

- ◆ FOURTH BOULDER TRAIL (027) – is a 2.6 miles un-maintained trail.

# RUBY MOUNTAINS

## LAMOILLE CANYON SCENIC BYWAY TRAILS:

- ◆ RT FORK LAMOILLE CREEK TRAIL - trailhead is located just below the Lions Club Camp Lamoille. Please park in pull off area located before gate of Lions Club camp. This trail is a 2-mile day use trail.
- ◆ THOMAS CREEK TRAIL - trailhead is located near Site 30 in Loop C of the Thomas Canyon Campground. This is a 2-mile day use trail.
- ◆ ISLAND LAKE TRAIL - trailhead is located at Roads End. Large paved parking area along with stock facilities (hitching rails & unloading ramps) is provided. This trail is a 2-mile day use trail leading up to Island Lake.
- ◆ CHANGING CANYON TRAIL - located between Thomas Canyon Campground and Terraces Picnic Area, this quarter mile self-guided nature trail introduces the flora and geology of the area.

## RUBY CREST NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL:

The trailhead is located at the end of Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway (FR 660). The Roads End trailhead offers a large parking area (available at no charge), stock unloading facilities, and hitching rails. Vault toilets and potable water are also provided. No camping is allowed at Roads End trailhead.

The Ruby Crest National Trail (043) is approximately 40 miles long. Trail condition is generally good, although thick brush occurs around the Smith Creek drainages on the southern end and wet areas occur near the north end lakes. This trail is located in Wilderness with the exception of the first 2.5 miles and the last 6 miles. Water can be scarce in certain areas of the trail. The elevation of the Roads End trailhead is 8800 feet. This trail climbs following the crest, and averages 9500 feet in elevation along its course before dropping to 7300 feet at Harrison Pass. On the first 4 miles (from Roads End to Liberty Pass) one will encounter the majority of trail users during peak season. Liberty Pass to Harrison Pass one will usually encounter only the serious hikers.

There are two other access points along this trail:

Green Mountain trailhead is located approximately 2 miles off of County Road 718 (66 miles SW of Wells).

Overland trailhead is located off of County Road 788 (52 miles SW of Wells and 18 miles NE of Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge).

## APPROXIMATE DISTANCES TO LAKES ALONG RUBY CREST TRAIL

LAMOILLE LAKE: 2 miles

NORTH FURLONG LAKE: 7 miles

DOLLAR LAKES: 2 miles

LIBERTY PASS: 3 miles

FAVRE LAKE: 5 miles

LIBERTY LAKE: 4 miles

## NORTH RUBY TRAILS:

This trail system in the Northern Ruby Mountains leads to Soldier, Hidden and Robinson Lakes, and accesses the Ruby Mountains Wilderness. The main west side access to the Soldier Basin area is Soldier Creek Road (FR 355). The John Day and Soldier Canyon trailheads are located approximately 4 to 6 miles from the intersection of County Road 703 and FR 335 on FR 335. The John Day trailhead offers parking but no stock unloading facilities. The Soldier Canyon trailhead offers both parking and stock facilities.

- ◆ SOLDIER BASIN TRAIL (031) - the first 2 to 3 miles of the Soldier Basin trail is a steep rocky canyon. At the top of Soldier Canyon, trail 032 (Soldier-Griswold) intersects with the Soldier Basin Trail. The Soldier-Griswold (032) trail follows Soldier Creek for 2 or 3 miles through an open grassy basin to the lake area. A one mile cross country hike west off of trail 032 leads to Hidden Lakes. This trail offers a spectacular view of Soldier Peak.

- ◆ JOHN DAY TRAIL (160) - this trail climbs steeply about a quarter mile to the creek, then heads at a moderate steep climb to the SE along the canyon floor. The route then gets steeper and steeper until it dead ends at about 8200 feet in a deep cirque

There are three east side accesses that lead to the Soldier Basin Lake areas.

- ◆ RUBY SECRET - ROSS CREEK TRAIL (029) - trailhead is located on State Highway 229 near the Ruby Guard Station. No stock facilities are provided. This trail climbs 5 miles to the intersection with the Soldier Basin Trail (031), then heads 5 miles down into the Soldier Basin on trails 031 & 032.
- ◆ KRENKA CREEK TRAIL (041) - trailhead is located 6 miles north of the Ruby Secret trailhead on State Highway 229. Parking is available, but no stock unloading facilities are provided. The Krenka Creek trail climbs 1.5 miles before intersecting with the Ruby Secret-Ross Creek trail (029) approximately 3 miles in from its trailhead.
- ◆ GARDNER CREEK TRAIL (030) - trailhead is accessed 3 miles north of the Krenka Creek trailhead. No stock facilities are provided at the trailhead. This unfinished trail is established for the first mile, and then turns into a cross country route to its intersection with the Soldier Basin Trail (031).

### HIGH RUBY TRAILS:

There is NO PUBLIC ACCESS to the Long Canyon trailhead, which serves as the trailhead to the North Furlong Trail (045), Long Canyon Trail (046), and Segunda Trail (164). Permission must be granted by the Te-Moak Indian Reservation and private landowners before accessing this trailhead.

- ◆ NORTH FURLONG TRAIL (045) - this trail forks off the Long Canyon trail approximately 2 miles from the trailhead. One half mile from this junction the trail reaches the Ruby Mountains Wilderness. This 7-mile trail is not finished in the upper and lower sections. Due to cattle trails, the North Furlong Trail can be difficult to follow. This trail can also be accessed from the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail.
- ◆ LONG CANYON TRAIL (046) - from the trailhead, this trail follows the Long Canyon Creek for 6 miles. Long Canyon trail originated as the American Beauty Mine Road. Today, this trail is routed north of the creek for a few miles, then winds on and off the old mine road until terminating at the end of the canyon. This trail can also be accessed from the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail, although no established connector trail exists.

- ◆ SEGUNDA TRAIL (164) - is an un-maintained trail that forks south off the Long Canyon Trail (046) approximately 3 miles from the trailhead. This 3.5 mile trail follows an old mine road.

## GREYS LAKE TRAIL

The trail to Greys Lake starts in the trailhead parking lot below Angel Lake Campground. The distance to the lake is about 4.8 miles. A power walk pace may take about 3 hours to reach this shallow lake on the west side of the East Humboldt Range.

The trail starts at 8,400' in elevation and quickly enters a pocket of buckbrush/Ceanothus before rounding a ridge to more open country. The wilderness boundary sign is about 30 minutes away on a ridge before the descent into Clover Creek. About 1/2 a mile beyond Clover Creek the trail begins a mean decline from 8,500' to 7,800' as it crosses Trout Creek. Trout Creek is one place you want to make sure to stay on the trail rather than a cattle trail. The first hour of the trail is shared with cattle and aspen and at the Trout Creek crossing there are several trails. Just make sure you stay on the one that goes up after the creek, and up and up for a cruel climb to 9,100'. Some, but not much, relief from the heat on this climb is found early on in the aspen. I reached the east/west divide in about 1:45 minutes. You can hear and see planes, trains and automobiles along the trail. Wells, Interstate 80, and the train tracks are in the distance.

The next stretch (20-30 minutes) actually goes through a mixed conifer forest. Stop, take a break and enjoy forest sights and scents. This is a mix of whitebark pine and limber pine. I believe the very first conifers seen on the trail just beyond Clover Creek are whitebark pine. The next major ridge reached is at 9,100'. Here you can view Greys Lake and wonder if you want to continue downward to 8,700'. Prior to reaching the lake you pass through a patch of false hellebore and western coneflower. The lake area has limited camping spots, it was fairly clean and a few fish occupy the lake. I saw no other hikers while on the trail - coming or going.

Some of the more common plants along the trail and around the lake:

Ceanothus or deerbrush	Lupines*	Sandwort
One-head sunflower	Snowberry	Whorled buckwheat
Horse nettle	Balsamroot	Serviceberry
Senecio/gauge plant	Sagebrush*	Golden currant
Sulfur buckwheat	Slender buckwheat	Aspen
Bastard toadflax	Berberis	Indian paintbrush*
Rabbitbrush*	Beards-tongue	Pussytoes
Cobwebby goldenbush*	Elkweed	Goatsbeard
Chokecherry	Willow	Whitebark pine
Shrubby cinquefoil*	Stinking horsemint*	Low sagebrush*
Ligusticum	False Solomon-seal	Aster
Meadowrue	Arnica	King's buckwheat
Stonecrop	Phlox	Draba
Agoseris	Phacelia	Stickseed
Gooseberry	Elderberry	Rock raspberry
Ross's avens*	Douglas campion*	Saxifraga*
Daisy*	Coneflower	False hellebore
Wildrose	Larkspur	Wheatgrass
Bluegrass	Great Basin wild rye	Squirreltail
Dandelion	Knotweed	

\* still flowering

# RUBY CREST NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL - LAMOILLE CANYON TO HARRISON PASS

Depending on your starting and ending points, the length of this hike varies from 35 to 40 miles. The first 2.5 miles and the last 6 miles are not in the Ruby Mountains Wilderness. The last 5.8 miles or so are along an old road which eventually turns into a drivable road that terminates at the top of Harrison Pass. A 4-wheel drive vehicle allows you to drive approximately 3 miles from Harrison Pass. If you do not have a 4-wheel drive vehicle available to shuttle your group back to Roads End in Lamoille Canyon, you can park the car in the pull-out at the top of Harrison Pass.

I took 3 days and 2 nights to hike the trail. I'm in pretty good shape. The first day I hiked about 5 miles (2 1/2 hours) and camped about 3/4 mile west of Favre Lake just off the trail. A small stream is nearby for water. The second day I hiked to Overland Lake, about 19 miles. Actual hiking time (without breaks) was about 6 1/2 hours. The third day I hiked about 16 miles and figured I was walking about 8 hours. Total walking time was about 17 hours. You can add your own additional hours for pictures, rest, lunch, water and viewing.

Doing it again, I would plan to get over the 2nd major pass and into the North Furlong drainage or even beyond. Just past Wines Peak about 1/2 miles is a flat ridge visible from and not far off the trail. That makes the 2nd day to Overland Lake easier since much of this day is at or above 10,000 feet. The third day could again be hiked out to Harrison Pass, could be spent exploring around Overland Lake or could be hiked to McCutcheon Creek and find a campsite there before hiking out the 4th day.

Be somewhat in shape. The trail is often steep, rocky and high elevation. I did not find water to be limiting but felt that good campsites were limiting. I did not explore to far off the trail for flat spots but the wind does howl in the Rubies and I did not want to be exposed on the 10,000 foot ridge top. Some flat ridges do occur off the main crest but these would add to travel time, mileage, elevation gradients and the need to carry more water.

Water is available at any of the lakes, the tributary to Favre Creek going up the pass to N. Furlong Creek, N. Furlong Creek or Lake. That's about it until the tributaries of Overland Creek which is about 8 hours or 16 miles away. I filled up at North Furlong Creek and carried a gallon and had plenty. If you camp beyond North Furlong you will need more for dinner, breakfast and the trail. Fill up again at the lake above Overland Lake - it saves 15 minutes of packing water straight up hill. There is water just over the 10,200 foot hill in the North, Middle and South Forks of Smith Creek. (There is also livestock - things should be okay with a filter?) There is water in a spring 1/4 mile before McCutcheon Creek, in McCutcheon Creek and at 2 springs 1/2 - 1 1/2 miles after McCutcheon. Chance for water is limited in the last 6 miles to Harrison Pass. A couple of springs occur, one about 1/2 mile after the wilderness boundary and one near where the drivable road begins. Filter or boil all water for safety. Earlier in the year more snow is present and snow melt is flowing and available for use.

Some early distances are 45 minutes to Lamoille Lake, 90 minutes to Liberty Pass, 3 hours 15 minutes to N. Furlong Creek, 4 hours to Wines Peak and about 5 hours to the ridge which has camp sites, not to far off the trail (which may be the last decent sites before Overland Lake).

I saw 19 people of all ages and 2 dogs on the way to Lamoille Lake, 6 people from Lamoille Lake to Liberty Pass, 1 person just after Liberty Pass, 5 people at Overland Lake and 2 people near McCutcheon Creek. All those at Overland Lake and McCutcheon were hunting. You get the picture of the trail use? I saw 23 mountain goats near Wines Peak. Three weeks earlier I saw 14 bighorn sheep at Wines Peak. From Smith Creek out to Harrison Pass you may see cattle and domestic sheep. Keep your eyes on the trail in the North Fork of Smith Creek - lots of livestock trails. If your goal is to see sub-alpine habitat and rock formations, turn around at Overland Lake. The trail to Harrison Pass beyond the pass above Overland Lake is lower elevation. The trail dips down to 7,800 feet in Smith Creek before a very steep climb to 9,400 feet at the pass entering McCutcheon-Creek. You get views of the crest but for the most part the "crest" part of the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail is over. However, you do pass through lots of aspen and can be treated to some fine aspen graffiti or "art".

Many people of all ages hike the short, but in parts, steep, trail to the Dollar Lake and Lamoille Lake. Friends or family could hike this part with you before the more adventurous go beyond Lamoille Lake or Liberty Pass. Another value of the Lamoille Canyon area and the crest trail itself is the tremendous diversity of plants. It's worth it to hike just a short distance to see the mixture of wildflowers, grasses, trees (yes) and shrubs - various sunflowers, ligustrum, palmbrushes, gum, primrose, bistort, lupines, horsemint, horse-nettle, ferns, aspen, ceanothus, oceanspray, limber and whitebark pines, and the potential for over 600 other species. A growing interest in viewing Himalayan snowcock, bighorn sheep and mountain goats is bringing more use to the trail.

When is the best time to hike? It all depends upon the amount of snow, coolness of spring, and snowmelt

## SOLDIER AND ROBINSON LAKES TRAIL - 8-26-95

by  
Steve Anderson

This trail is a good day hike. Round trip mileage to Robinson Lake is about 9 miles. It took me about 2 1/2 hours to reach the Soldier Lakes (or ponds) area and about 3 to get to Robinson Lake. Another 1/4 to 1/2 mile will put you on the ridgeline overlooking the north Ruby Valley.

The trail head is at 6,800 feet and Robinson Lake is at 9,100 feet in elevation. The first 20 minutes or so the trail is along an old road, then for the next 1 1/2 miles the trail is steep. However, with an early start, much of the climb is in the shade due to the steep topography and vegetation. The next 2 to 2 1/2 miles to the lakes are in the open basin. Compared to some trails this one appears to be popular with hikers, horsebacker's, campers and hunters. Enjoy snacking on serviceberry, currant and thimbleberry along the way.

The wildflowers were incredible, some of the best displays that I have seen! As with Winchell Lake, livestock were present but at least this year at this time they did not distract from the hiking experience.

Quaking aspen	Slender buckwheat	Bastard toadflax
Willows	Sulfur buckwheat	Common alumroot
Cottonwood	Whorled buckwheat	Blue flax
Pinyon pine	Annual knotweed	Stoncrop
Limber pine	Mountain lace knotweed	Wild geranium
Common juniper	American bistort	Violet
Ceanothus or deerbrush	Lupines	Sandwort
Wax currant	Sticky cinquefoil	Phacelia(s)
Whitestem gooseberry	Gayophytum	Angelica
Mountain Mahogany	Annual willow weed	Ligusticum
Wild rose	Fireweed	Wheatgrass
Bitterbrush	Evening primrose	Bluegrass
Shrubby cinquefoil	Speedwell (Veronica)	Great Basin wild rye
Chokecherry	Yellow monkeyflower	Alpine timothy
Serviceberry	Lewis' monkeyflower	Squirreltail
Oceanspray	Beard-tongues	Cheatgrass
Big sagebrush	Wh. flowered beard-tongue	Indian rice grass
Louisiana wormwood	Paintbrush	Bulbous bluegrass
Green rabbitbrush	Horse nettle (Agastache)	Idaho fescue
Rubber rabbitbrush	Stinking horsemint	Snowberry
Stemless goldenweed	Yellow paintbrush	Elderberry
Linear-leaf goldenweed	Stoneseed (Lithophragma)	Oregon grape
Goatsbeard	Mountain bluebell	Red-osier dogwood
Yarrow	Stickseed	Rocky Mountain Maple
Western coneflower	Cryptantha	Thimbleberry
Saw groundsel	Larkspur	Ross' avens
Arrowleaf balsamroot	Columbine	Basalt milkvetch
Mule's ears	Buttercup	Northern Bedstraw
Hawksbeard	Baneberry	Scarlet gilia
Thistles	Meadow-rue	Flaxflower
One-head sunflower	Monkshood	Sharp slenderlobe
Dandelion	Smilacina	Large collomia
Mountain dandelion	False hellebore	Phlox
Orange agoseris	Sego lily	Jacobs ladder
Rosy pussytoes	Wild onion	Curlycup gumweed road
Heartleaf arnica	Draba	Sweet-clover (road)
Douglas champion	Alyssum	Mullein (road)
King's buckwheat	Giant gentian	Bitterbrush (road)

WINCHELL LAKE TRAIL - 8/19/95  
by  
STEVE ANDERSON

The trail to Winchell Lake takes off from a switch back along the main road between Angel Creek Campground and Angel Lake Campground. The sign states the distance to the lake is 4 miles. This hike took me about 90 minutes.

The trail is easy to follow, fairly dry and open. Some brushing could be accomplished about 3/4 of the way to cross a few aspen stands. Great views of the craggy peaks, Clover Valley, beaver ponds and miles of mountain ranges are offered from the trail.

The trail starts at 7,700 feet in elevation and Winchell Lake is 8,600 feet. As you hike you may wonder why does this trail keep going slightly up and down rather than contouring - I don't know but I wondered too? Go a little further on the trail to the ridge just south of the lake for more views of the East Humboldt's or scramble above the lake and listen/look for the Himalayan snowcock. Livestock can be found on the trail at certain times of the year.

Some of the more common plants along the trail and around the lake:

- |                            |                          |                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Quaking aspen              | Slender buckwheat        | Bastard toadflax     |
| Willows                    | Sulfur buckwheat         | Common alumroot      |
| Snowberry                  | Whorled buckwheat        | Roundleaf alumroot   |
| Pinyon pine (1)            | Annual knotweed          | Stoncrop             |
| Lambert pine               | Mountain lace knotweed   | Roseroot stoncrop    |
| Common juniper             | American bistort         | Violet               |
| Ceanothus or deerbrush     | Lupines                  | Sandwort             |
| Wax currant                | Sticky Cinquefoil        | Phacelia(s)          |
| Gooseberry                 | Gayophytum               | Scarlet gilia        |
| Rock raspberry             | Annual willow weed       | Douglas campion      |
| Wild rose                  | Fireweed                 | Wheatgrass           |
| Bitterbrush                | Dwarf fireweed           | Bluegrass            |
| Shrubby cinquefoil         | Wild geranium            | Great Basin wild rye |
| Chokecherry                | Yellow monkeyflower      | Alpine timothy       |
| Serviceberry               | Lewis' monkeyflower      | Squirttail           |
| Oceanspray                 | Beard-tongues            | Cheatgrass           |
| Big sagebrush              | Yellow paintbrush        |                      |
| Louisiana wormwood         | Paintbrush               |                      |
| Green rabbitbrush          | Horse nettle (Agastache) |                      |
| Rubber rabbitbrush         | Stinking horsemint       |                      |
| Cobwebby goldenweed        | Giant gentian            |                      |
| Linear-leaf goldenweed     | Popcorn flower           |                      |
| Goatsbeard                 | Mountain bluebell        |                      |
| Yarrow                     | Stickseed                |                      |
| Western coneflower         | Monkshood                |                      |
| Saw groundsel              | Larkspur                 |                      |
| Arrowleaf balsamroot       | Columbine                |                      |
| Mule's ears                | Buttercup                |                      |
| Hawksbeard                 | False hellebore          |                      |
| Thistles                   | Death Camas              |                      |
| One-head sunflower         | Wild onion               |                      |
| Dandelion                  | Large onion              |                      |
| Curly-cup gumweed          | Parry's primrose         |                      |
| Sharp slenderlobe          | Shooting star            |                      |
| Flaxflower (Limanthastrum) | Rockcress                |                      |
| Large collomia             | Draba                    |                      |

# East Humboldt Wilderness

## ABOUT THE AREA

The East Humboldt Wilderness, comprising more than 36,000 acres, sits astride the East Humboldt Mountain Range, a high ridgeline of mountains running south from Wells. The area was added to the Wilderness preservation system with the passage of the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act.

Towering 5,000 feet above the sagebrush flats of Eastern Nevada, the mountains are "desert islands" alive with alpine scenery, lake basins, streams, wildflowers, meadows, stands of aspen and conifers, and abundant wildlife. The highest point is Hole in the Mountain Peak (11,306 ft), which forms a large opening in the skyline.

## TRAILS AND ACCESS

The East Humboldt Wilderness contains large inholdings of non-Wilderness Forest land and private land. Although several trails enter the East Humboldts from the west side, most cross private property and are not open to the public. Wilderness users should respect the property rights of these neighbors.

The northeast area is the best Wilderness access. State Route 231, a 13 mile paved road, starts at Wells and leads to the Winchel Lake and Greys Lake trailheads. From the south, State Route 229 provides access to the Secret-Starr trailhead. Hike north four miles on the trail across private land to the Forest and Wilderness boundary. Please stay on the trail through this stretch. The trail continuing into the Boulder Creek drainages and to Boulder Lake is 2-4 miles longer.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**Party Size:** Groups greater than 10 people or using more than 6 horses at one time should pre-plan their trip with the Forest Service.

**Stay Limit:** 16 days maximum

**Stock Users:**

- Forage is scarce. Pack in weed-free hay or pellets.
- Stock is not permitted in any developed campground.
- Use highline or portable corrals, scatter manure, and move stock often to prevent overuse.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ruby Mountains Ranger District  
140 Pacific Avenue  
PO Box 246  
Wells, NV 89835  
775-752-3357

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:30 PST

## MAPS

The Ruby Mountains Wilderness map is available at \$10.00 each. Send check or Money Order to Ranger District office.

# Ruby Mountains Wilderness

## ABOUT THE AREA

The Ruby Mountains Wilderness, comprising more than 90,000 acres, sits astride a high ridge line of mountains running south from Secret Pass to Harrison Pass. The area was added to the Wilderness preservation system with the passage of the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act.

The northern end of the Rubies was vigorously scoured by alpine glaciers. Lamoille Canyon, in the heart of the Rubies, is known as "Nevada's Yosemite" because of the hanging valleys, towering peaks and year-round snowfields above it. The Rubies include ten peaks above 10,000 feet and more than two-dozen alpine lakes.

## TRAILS AND ACCESS

The Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail follows the crest of the Rubies from Lamoille Canyon south 40 miles to Harrison Pass. Most people access this trail at Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway. The Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway is a paved 12-mile road (Forest Road 660) located 25 miles southeast of Elko.

Most trails are open July to October. Liberty Pass, which is the northern pass to begin the Ruby Crest Trail, is historically under snow until the middle of July. Elevations range from 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**Party Size:** Groups greater than 10 people or using more than 6 horses at one time should pre-plan their trip with the Forest Service.

**Stay Limit:** 16 days maximum

**Stock Users:**

- Forage is scarce. Pack in weed-free hay or pellets.
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## MAPS

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# PUBLIC ACCESS

Public access to the East Humboldt / Ruby Mountains is limited. Only the roads listed below can be used to gain access to the National Forest. Use this guide as a supplement to the Ruby Mountains Ranger District Map. Most, but not all of the access roads are in pink on the Ranger District map.

Public access roads are signed at the main roads around the District. With the exception of SR231 and Forest Road 660, all roads are low maintenance 2-track, dirt and/or gravel surface roads. Remember, due to changing weather conditions, dirt and/or gravel roads can change from two wheeled access to high clearance four wheel drive access with each passing storm. SR231 Angel Lake Road, and Forest Road 660, Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway, are 2-lane, paved roads.

## EAST HUMBOLDT MOUNTAINS

### East Side

- \* Angel Lake Road (State Road 231) Located at south end of Humboldt Avenue in Wells, I-80 Exit 351
- \* Weeks Access (Forest Rd 103) South on US 93 to Clover Valley Road (SR 232) continue about 8 ½ miles to FS 103

### West Side

- \* Horse Creek (Forest Rd 506) Off of North Ruby Valley Road (County Rd 786), 28 miles south of Wells  
Take Hwy 93 to State Hwy 229 to County Rd 786 then north about 10 miles  
(not in pink on the map).
- \* Secret-Starr Trailhead (Trail 025) Park off Secret Pass Highway (SR229) at entrance to Sorensen Ranch. Follow trail  
markers 4 miles across private land to Forest Boundary. (This is foot and horse  
travel only). 18 miles from I-80 Ruby Valley exit. (shown in yellow on the map)

## RUBY MOUNTAINS

### East Side

- \* Devils Slide Canyon (Forest Rd 124) Off of Secret Pass Highway (SR 229) about 15 miles from I-80 turnoff
- \* Gardner Creek (Forest Rd 865B) Off of Secret Pass Highway (SR 229) about 17 miles from I-80 turnoff
- \* Krenka Creek (Forest Rd 041) Off of Secret Pass Highway (SR 229) about 20 miles from I-80 turnoff
- \* Ruby Guard Admin Site Off of Secret Pass Highway (SR 229) about 4 miles south of FS 041
- \* Watermelon Springs (Forest Rd 149) Off of Ruby Valley Road (SR 767) Also called Luits.
- \* Thompson Creek (Forest Rd 509) Off of Ruby Valley Road (SR 767)
- \* Col. Moore Creek (Forest Rd 503) Off of Ruby Valley Road (SR 767) North of the Ruby Valley School
- \* Battle Creek (Forest Rd 110) Off of Ruby Valley Road (SF 767)
- \* Mayhew Creek (Forest Rd 828) Off of Ruby Valley Road (SF 767)
- \* Road Canyon (Forest Rd 111) Off Ruby Valley Road (SF 767), north of Wildlife Refuge (not shown in pink on map)
- \* Long Hair Smith Cyn (Forest Rd 089) Off Ruby Valley Road (SF 767), north of Wildlife Refuge (not shown in pink on map)

### West Side

- \* Soldier Canyon (Forest Rd 335) Take County Road 703 from Secret Pass Highway (SR 229) and follow it past the  
Fort Halleck Historical Marker (shown in orange on the map)
- \* Lamoille Canyon (Forest Rd 660) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) from Elko to Lamoille Canyon Road
- \* Cottonwood Creek (Forest Rd 350) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) from Elko to the Jiggs/Lee Road (SR 228) continue  
south past County Road 714 about 3 ½ miles
- \* Green Mtn Creek (Forest Rd 353) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) from Elko to the Jiggs/Lee Road (SR 228) continue  
on County Road 718 about 3 ½ miles to FS 353
- \* Pearl Creek (Forest Rd 117) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) from Elko to Jiggs/Lee Road (SR 228), continue  
south on SR 228 to County Road 719. Continue County Road 719 to FS 117
- \* Lindsay Creek (Forest Road 367) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) to SR 228. Continue south to County Road 719  
Continue south on County Road 719 to FS 367
- \* Mitchell Creek (Forest Road 362) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) to SR 228. Continue south to County Road 719  
Continue south on County Road 719 to FS 0114
- \* N. Cherry Springs (Forest Road 381) Take Lamoille Highway (SR 227) to SR 228. Continue south to SR 46  
Continue south on County Road 719 to County Road 1000
- \* Cherry Springs (Forest Road 390) Take SR 227 from Elko to SR 228 and continue south to SR 46. Take SR 46 to  
County Road 1000
- \* S. Cherry Springs (Forest Road 392) Take SR 227 to SR 228 traveling south to County Road 719. Take CR719 south to  
County Road 1000 to County Road 006

## LAKE INFORMATION

LAKE	ELEVATION	AREA (in acres)	DEPTH (in feet)	FISH
Castle Lake	9,800	14.0	15.0	no fish
Dollar Lake	9,600	3.0	unknown	no fish
Echo Lake	9,820	29.0	155.0	brook trout
Favre Lake	9,500	19.0	45.0	brook trout
Griswold Lake	9,200	17.0	20.0	no fish
Hidden Lake #1	9,500	6.1	32.0	cutthroat trout
Hidden Lake #2	9,500	2.8	9.0	cutthroat trout
Island Lake	9,800	7.5	22.0	brook trout
Lamoille Lake	9,700	13.6	20.0	brook trout
Liberty Lake	9,700	21.0	108.0	brook and lake trout
N. Furlong Lake	9,600	16.0	20.0	no fish
Overland Lake	9,000	15.0	55.0	brook trout
Robinson Lake	9,000	17.4	4.5	brook trout
Seitz Lake	9,000	17.0	20.0	no fish
Smith Lake	9,100	4.0	unknown	Stocked 1987 - unknown
Soldier Lake	9,100	6.0	14.0	no fish
Verdi Lake	10,150	6.0	86.0	cutthroat trout

## FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

Fishing Licenses may be obtained at the following locations:

### ELKO

- Nevada Division of Wildlife    60 Youth Road                    775-777-2300
- K-Mart                                    2450 Mountain City Highway    775-738-8866
- CVS                                        550 W. Idaho Street                775-738-7177
- Raley's                                    2511 Mountain City Highway    775-738-2775
- Wal Mart                                 2944 Mountain City Highway    775-778-6778

### WELLS

- Chamber of Commerce    6<sup>th</sup> & Lake Avenue                775-752-3540

### SPRING CREEK

- Ace Hardware                         263 N. Spring Valley Parkway    775-738-5444

For more information on lake or stream fishing please contact:

Nevada Department of Wildlife at  
775-777-2300  
or  
<http://ndow.org/>



# WILDLIFE

**Mule Deer:** Mule Deer make use of the Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt Ranges throughout the summer months. Dense aspen stretches of thickly wooded riparian areas (cottonwood, aspen and willow) and vast areas of brush provide good hiding and fawning cover. Fawning occurs from the end of May through June.

**Mountain Goats:** Mountain Goats were introduced to the Ruby Mountains in the mid-1960s and to the East Humboldts in 1981. The goats have done well and now range throughout much of the high country in the Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt Range. They are most commonly observed in the spring when moving to lower elevations in search of green grasses (especially in the Lamoille Canyon area). However, they can often be found around the Angel Lake area throughout the summer.

**Bighorn Sheep:** Bighorn sheep once inhabited the Ruby and East Humboldt Ranges. In 1989-1990, releases of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from Canada were made on the west side of the Ruby Mountains. In 1992 a release was made on the north end of the East Humboldts. During the spring and summer, the bighorn sheep can often be seen in Lamoille Canyon on canyon walls, as well as near the canyon bottom. During the summer months they can also be found in the Angel Lake area of the East Humboldts.

**Pronghorn Antelope:** Pronghorn males average approximately 120 pounds and females about 10% less. Males are distinguished by a black cheek patch and black markings on the top of the muzzle and forehead. Their most prominent physical feature is a white rump patch that can be seen for a great distance. Pronghorn have keen eyesight, and are the fastest of the hoofed animals. They have been clocked at speeds up to 55 mph and can approach speeds of 60 mph for short spurts. Pronghorn prefer gentle rolling topography and flat prairie or tablelands.

**Himalayan Snowcock:** Native to the Central Asian Mountains of Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc. Between 1963 and 1979 numerous releases were made, and the Himalayan Snowcock is now found in the U.S. only in the East Humboldt/Ruby Mountains of northeast Nevada. Snowcocks eat on grasses, sedges and forbs year-round. Birds forage in groups that fly downslope early in the day, feeding uphill while clucking/cackling constantly. A sentinel bird keeps watch so approach to these wary birds is difficult. Snowcocks remain in higher elevation habitats all year long. The Himalayan Snowcock is similar to the chukar partridge except larger (males: 4-6 lbs, females: 3-4 lbs). Adults are dull mottled gray with chestnut collar, young are paler in color. The males have a blunt metatarsal spur which the females lack. The best places to watch for the Snowcocks are:

- **East Humboldt Mountains: Hole-in the Mountain Peak, Humboldt Peak, and Greys Peak**
- **Ruby Mountains: Verdi Peak, Thomas Peak, Ruby Dome and Wines Peak**

# BIRDS

## Birds Unique to the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains

**Exotic Himalayan Snowcock** - Native to the Central Asian Mountains of Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc. Between 1963 and 1979 numerous releases were made, and the Himalayan Snowcock is now found in the U.S. only in the East Humboldt/Ruby Mountains of northeast Nevada. Snowcocks eat on grasses, sedges and forbs year-round. Birds forage in groups that fly down slope early in the day, feeding uphill while clucking/cackling constantly. A sentinel bird keeps watch so approach to these wary birds is difficult. Snowcocks remain in higher elevation habitats all year long. The Himalayan Snowcock is similar to the chukar partridge except larger (males: 4-6 lbs, females: 3-4 lbs). Adults are dull mottled gray with chestnut collar, young are paler in color. The males have a blunt metatarsal spur which the females lack.

The best places to watch for the Snowcocks are:

East Humboldt Mountains: Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak, Humboldt Peak, and Greys Peak  
 Ruby Mountains: Verdi Peak, Thomas Peak, Ruby Dome, Wines Peak, and Island Lake

## Common spring and summer sparrows of Northeast Nevada

**Fox sparrow** *Passerella iliaca* The fox sparrow is a common breeding bird in woodland undergrowth and in our area, riparian willow and alder communities. The fox sparrow is seldom seen calling from the top of brush or trees, but hides low in brush clumps and nests on or about three feet off the ground. The fox sparrow feeds primarily on the ground, gleanings-insects, seeds and berries from low branches and ground vegetation.

**Song sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* The song sparrow is a common breeding bird in Northeast Nevada, found in streamside thickets of willow, aspen and alder. The song sparrow gleanings insects and seeds from the ground and vegetation. The song sparrow nests in low vegetation or on the ground and is commonly seen calling from a high perch in the spring.

**Sage sparrow** *Amphispiza belli* The sage sparrow breeds in sagebrush communities throughout Northeast Nevada. The sage sparrow nests on the ground or in shrubbery, predominately sagebrush, up to about 3 feet. This bird gleanings insects from the ground and seeds and insects from low vegetation. The sage sparrow often runs instead of flies when disturbed.

**Vesper sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus* The vesper sparrow is a common breeding bird in upland sagebrush communities in Northeast Nevada. This ground nesting sparrow nests in a small depression and gleanings insects and seeds from the ground.

**Brewer's sparrow** *Spizella breweri* The Brewer's sparrow is a summer breeding bird, commonly nesting in mountain meadows and upland sagebrush flats. This sparrow nests in a low tree or shrub, and will often run, rather than fly when disturbed. The Brewer's sparrow gleanings insects and seed from the ground and occasionally low vegetation.

**Lincoln's sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni* The Lincoln's sparrow breeds in mountain meadows and upland riparian thickets and bogs. This ground nesting sparrow gleanings seeds and insects from the ground surface and occasionally low vegetation.

## Breeding or resident birds found in Northeast Nevada during the summer

### Birds of Prey

- Red-tailed hawk
- Ferruginous hawk
- Swainson's hawk
- Northern goshawk
- Cooper's hawk
- Sharp-shinned hawk
- Golden eagle
- Great-horned owl
- Barn owl

- Dark eyed junco
- Rufus sided towhee
- Mountain chickadee
- Mountain bluebird
- Loggerhead shrike
- American robin

# VEGETATION

Listed below are just a few of the many different types of vegetation one will discover while visiting the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains.

## SHRUBS:

- ◆ Bitterbrush *Purshia tridentata* An extensively branched shrub with small wedge-shaped leaves. Flowers in the late spring with small yellow blooms which are very fragrant. Bitterbrush is commonly found growing with sagebrush.
- ◆ Chokecherry *Prunus virginiana* A shrub or small tree with elliptic leaves approximately 1/4 inch long. Leaves have small teeth around edges. Flowering begins late spring with small white flowers, and later produces dark round fruit. Grows in moist soil along creeks and streams, and also on moist hillsides.
- ◆ Serviceberry *Amelanchier alnifolia* A thornless shrub with 1/2 inch long oval to elliptical leaves, which are toothed toward the tip. Flowering season runs late spring through early summer, with short white flower cluster blooms.
- ◆ Rabbitbrush *Chrysothamnus spp.* A late summer blooming bushy goldenrod-like shrub that grows 2 to 3 feet tall. Flowers thick clusters of yellow blossoms. Its narrow, linear, non-lobed leaves are gray-green, and coated with fine woolly hairs (giving it a whitish color). Does not have the strong sage odor of sagebrush.
- ◆ Sagebrush *Artemisia spp.* A much-branched gray-green shrub that can grow up to 8 feet tall. Sagebrush smells like an herb when wet. Blooms in the fall - minute yellow flowers on long shoots above plant's foliage.

## WILDFLOWERS:

- ◆ Lupine *Lupinus spp.* The blue and white pea-like flowers are found in dense elongate clusters at the tip of stems. Lupines inhabit the high plains and mountains and prefer deep sandy soils. Can be found among the sagebrush. Blooms in the late spring, early summer.
- ◆ Yellow Monkeyflower *Mimulus guttatus* Yellow red-spotted snapdragon like flowers 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches in length. Oval leaves are irregularly toothed around edge. Plant grows 2 to 18 inches tall. Flowering season is late spring through summer. Most commonly found along streams.
- ◆ Indian Paintbrush *Castilleja spp.* Flowering season runs through the summer months. Flowers occur among dense spikes at top of unbranched stems. Stem heights vary from 4 to 16 inches. Native to sagebrush steppe.
- ◆ Bluebells *Mertensia spp.* Light blue drooping, tubular-shaped blossoms giving a bell shaped appearance. Flowers turn pinkish with age. Often found growing beneath sagebrush and in high mountain areas.

Several other species you will find include:

### Wildflowers

Buttercups  
Larkspur  
Wild geraniums  
Violets  
Shooting Star

### Grasses

Wheatgrass  
Blue grass  
Indian Rice Grass  
Great Basin Wild Rye

### Trees

Pinyon Pine  
Juniper  
Aspen  
Mtn. Mahogany

## The Role of the Outfitter/Guide

Outfitting and guiding are historical professions the world over. From expeditions and explorers to modern-day vacationers, there have always been people capable and willing to share their knowledge, skill, and equipment with people needing their assistance. The Hudson's Bay Company, Lewis and Clark, John Wesley Powell, Jedediah Smith, Sacajawea, John Muir, Jim Bridger, the "Wagons West", and famed mountain guides of the Alps were associated with early outfitters and guides.

On the public lands of the United States, and in particular the National Forests, outfitters and guides provide visitors seeking their assistance a quality experience as an extension of the Forest Service mission. Outfitting and guiding provide less than one percent of the total visitor days experienced on National Forests, but it is an important segment to the visitor, the Forest Service, the natural resources, and the economy of the communities where outfitters are based.

People usually desire a diversity of experiences, settings and opportunities on the National Forests. Many are capable of total self-sufficiency, but those selecting an outfitter want and usually need help. They can't do it on their own, or want an introduction to such experiences to help them get started. They don't have the skill and equipment to be successful in remote and challenging environments. They may get lost, be unsafe, may be very young, very old, disabled, out of condition, stressed out, and/or short of time. But the National Forests belong to them just as much as they belong to the residents living at the mouths of the canyons. From their visits to the wildlands of the National Forests, they get the same benefits as those living with the wildlands at their back door.

Working together, the outfitter/guide and the Forest Service strive to provide visitors and clients with that "once-in-a-lifetime" experience which makes lifelong memories of a National Forest visit. Visitors receive educational information, natural history and cultural resource interpretation, as well as specific minimum impact outdoor living skills. The outfitted/guided environment and experience is normally highly different from the visitor's daily life, is inspiring and sometimes challenging, but safe and healthful for their abilities.

The commercial outfitter/guides on the following pages are authorized by the Forest Service to provide outfitting and guiding services on the National Forest. They meet stringent requirements and are monitored by the Forest Service to assure the visiting public utilizing their services, a quality and safe recreational experience, while at the same time protecting the natural resources. Be sure to inquire of any outfitter or guide you may be considering hiring if they are properly authorized by the Forest Service to operate on the National Forest.

## OUTFITTER - GUIDES

### NEVADA HIGH DESERT OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES SERVICE

**Contact:** Mitch Buzzeff  
**Address:** P.O. Box 28-1251  
 Lamolile, NV 89828  
**Phone:** 775-738-4082  
**Area:** East Humboldt: East side from Winchell Creek north, and west side from Smiley Creek north, and Boulder Lakes.  
 Ruby Mountains: West side from Secret Pass to Wilson Creek and Cold Lakes, Little Thorpe Creek south to Lamolile Creek. Himalayan Snowcock areas - Greys Peak, Old Man, and Verdi

### HUMBOLDT OUTFITTERS

**Contact:** Wilde or Sheryl Brough  
**Address:** HC 60 Box 160  
 Wells, NV 89835  
**Phone:** 775-752-3714  
**Cell:** 775-275-0124  
**Fax:** 775-752-2389  
**Website:** www.nvhunting.com  
**Area:** East side of East Humboldt range - Winchell Creek to Polar Star. West side of East Humboldt

### HIDDEN LAKE OUTFITTERS

**Contact:** Henry Krenka  
**Address:** HC 60 Box 515  
 Ruby Valley, NV 89833  
**Phone:** 775-779-2268  
**Area:** Ruby Mountains: East side of Ruby Mountains from Secret Pass to and including Withington Creek. Robinson, Soldier, and Hidden Lakes.

### RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI-SKI GUIDES, INC.

**Contact:** Joe Royer  
**Address:** P. O. Box 1192  
 Lamolile, NV 89828  
**Phone:** 775-753-6867  
**Area:** Ruby Mountain range and Independence Mountain range of the Humboldt National Forest. Also includes East Humboldt range.

### SECRET PASS OUTFITTERS

**Contact:** Walt Gardner  
**Address:** HCR 60 Box 698  
 Ruby Valley, NV 89833  
**Phone:** 775-779-2201  
**Area:** East Humboldt: West side from the ridge north of Third Boulder Creek south along the crest of the East Humboldt Mountains to the ridge; thence west to the Forest boundary to the place of beginning.  
 Ruby Mountains: Beginning at the Forest boundary (Sec 2, T32N, R59E), west along Dads Creek to the crest of Ruby Mountains; thence south along the crest to Harrison Pass, thence east to the Forest boundary, thence north to the place of beginning. Himalayan snowcock areas - Hole in the Mountain and Humboldt Peak.

## U.S. Forest Maps Available

Most maps sold from this office are the synthetic waterproof maps. The Mountain City/Jarbidge Ranger District map is only available in paper. All maps are topographical, with roads and trails.

To purchase maps, please complete the form below, and send your order to the following address, or stop by our offices between the hours of 7:30-4:30 PST, Monday-Friday:

U.S. Forest Service  
2035 Last Chance Road  
Elko, NV 89801

Make checks payable to: **USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**There is NO shipping and handling charge and NO sales tax on Map Purchases**

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### MAP ORDER FORM

MAPS	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Mountain City/Jarbidge Ranger District Map (2008)	\$10.00		
Ruby Mountains Ranger District Map (2005)	\$10.00		
Ruby Mountains/East Humboldt Wilderness Map (1994)	\$10.00		
Jarbidge Wilderness Map (1994)	\$10.00		
Santa Rosa /Paradise Peak Wilderness Map (1998)	\$10.00		
Ely Ranger District Map (West Half) (2000)	\$10.00		
Ely Ranger District Map (East Half) (2000)	\$10.00		
Santa Rosa Ranger District Map (2008)	\$10.00		
TOTAL			