

Caples Creek Trail

The trail follows Caples Creek in the Eldorado National Forest. Depending on your hiking skills and the distance of your hike, the trail can be moderate or strenuous. We hiked about 4 miles round trip to Jake Schneider Meadow, and regarded it as moderate, a few more steps, and it would have become strenuous. In early July, the Lupine was past, but the Gentian, Snow Plants, Pretty Face, Monkeyflower, Penstemon, and a dozen other varieties were in good shape. Lots of water was flowing. A week earlier would have been better.

Directions

Caples Creek Trail parking lot is eighty miles from Lincoln Hills, an easy two-hour drive. Take Route 50 through Placerville, and, after another thirty-one miles from the intersection of 49 and 50 is Kyburz. Turn right on Silver Fork Road, just past the Sierra Inn in Kyburz. Follow the paved, winding road for 9 miles, and turn left just before the Fitch Rantz Bridge, at the sign for Caples Creek Trailhead. The trailhead, campground, toilet facilities, and parking is about 200 yards at the end of the dirt road.

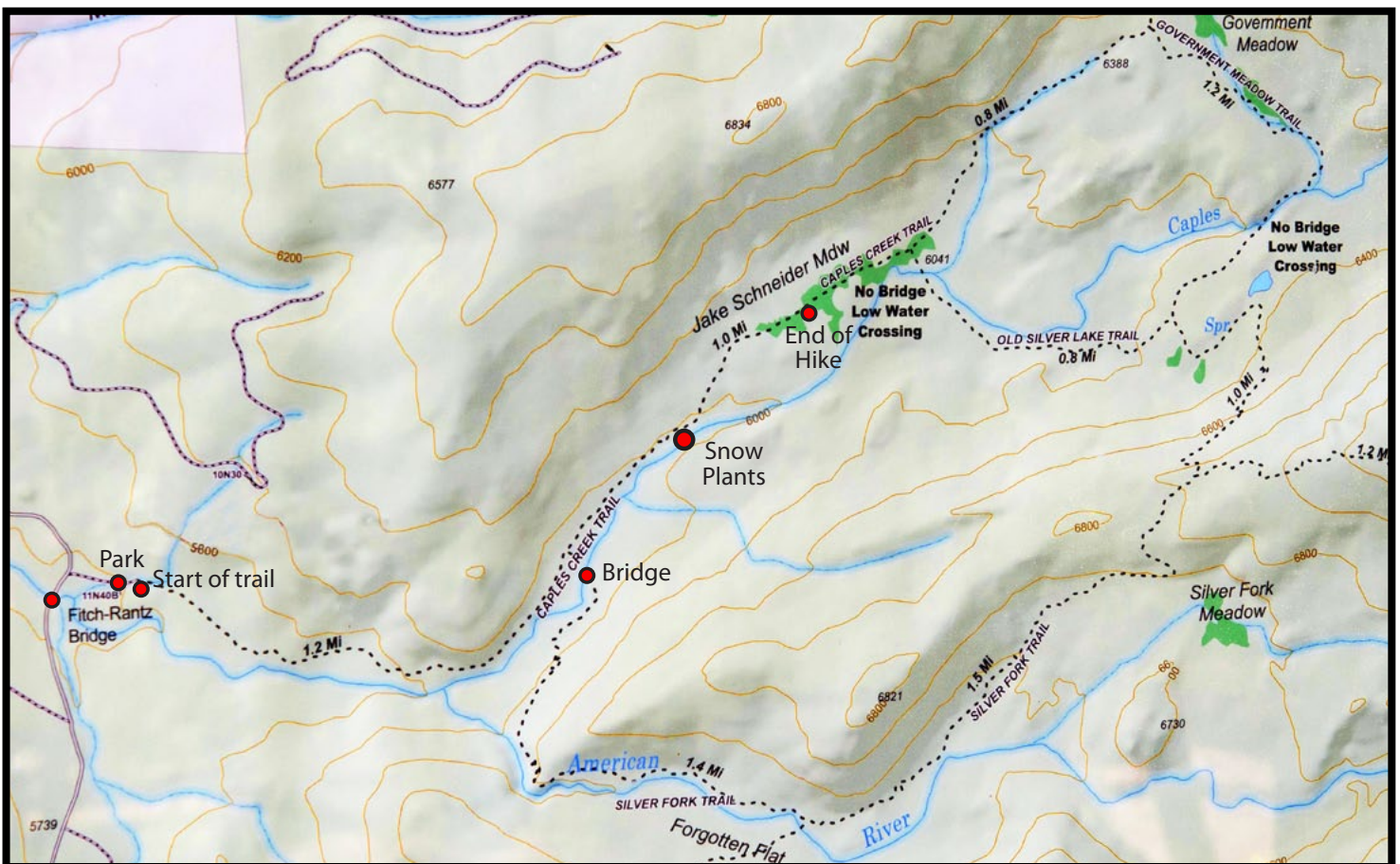
The Trail

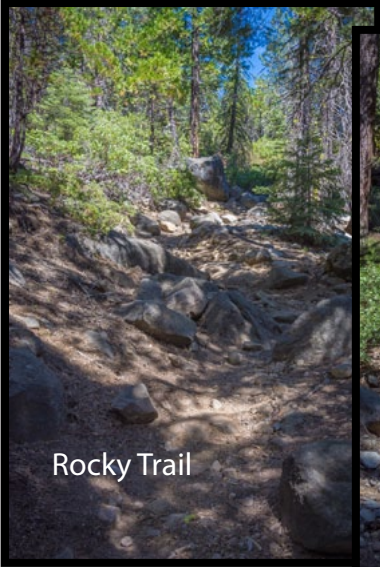
We met hikers who were doing the entire Caples-Silver Fork loop (they said it was 11 miles), but we just did an out-and-back hike on Caples Creek Trail as indicated on the map below. The elevation was 5700 feet at the parking lot and 6300 feet at Jake Schneider Meadow. A map at the trailhead shows additional trails for those hikers having lots of energy. The first part of the trail parallels the Silver Fork of the American River, and you'll see some nice waterfalls, and maybe horseback riders and persons fishing.

After 5 hours of walking and photography, we captured some nice images. A few are shown on the following pages. Remember to take mosquito repellent, water and walking sticks.

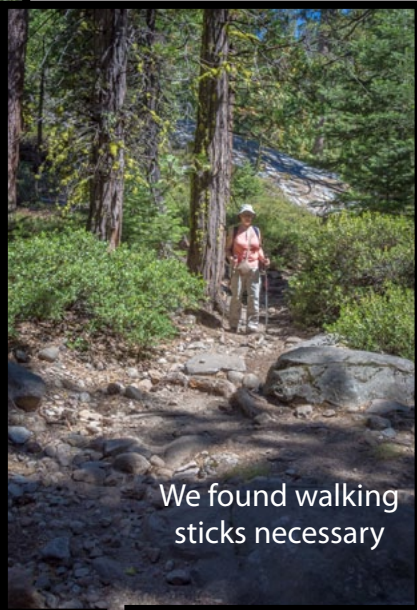
Bill and Dorothe Kress

July 8, 2016





Rocky Trail



We found walking sticks necessary



Schneider Meadow



American River from trail



Must watch where you step



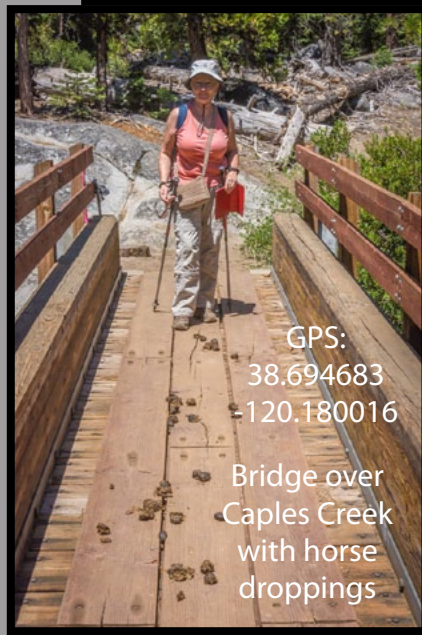
American River fisherman



Caples Creek from Bridge



Snow Plant near creek. Many were past but a few remained.



GPS:
38.694683
-120.180016
Bridge over Caples Creek with horse droppings



GPS:
38.698509
-120.175644



GPS:
38.701847
-120.171082



Unknown



Queen Ann's
Lace



Clusters of
Gentians were
everywhere



Brewer's
cinquefoil



Wandering
Daisy