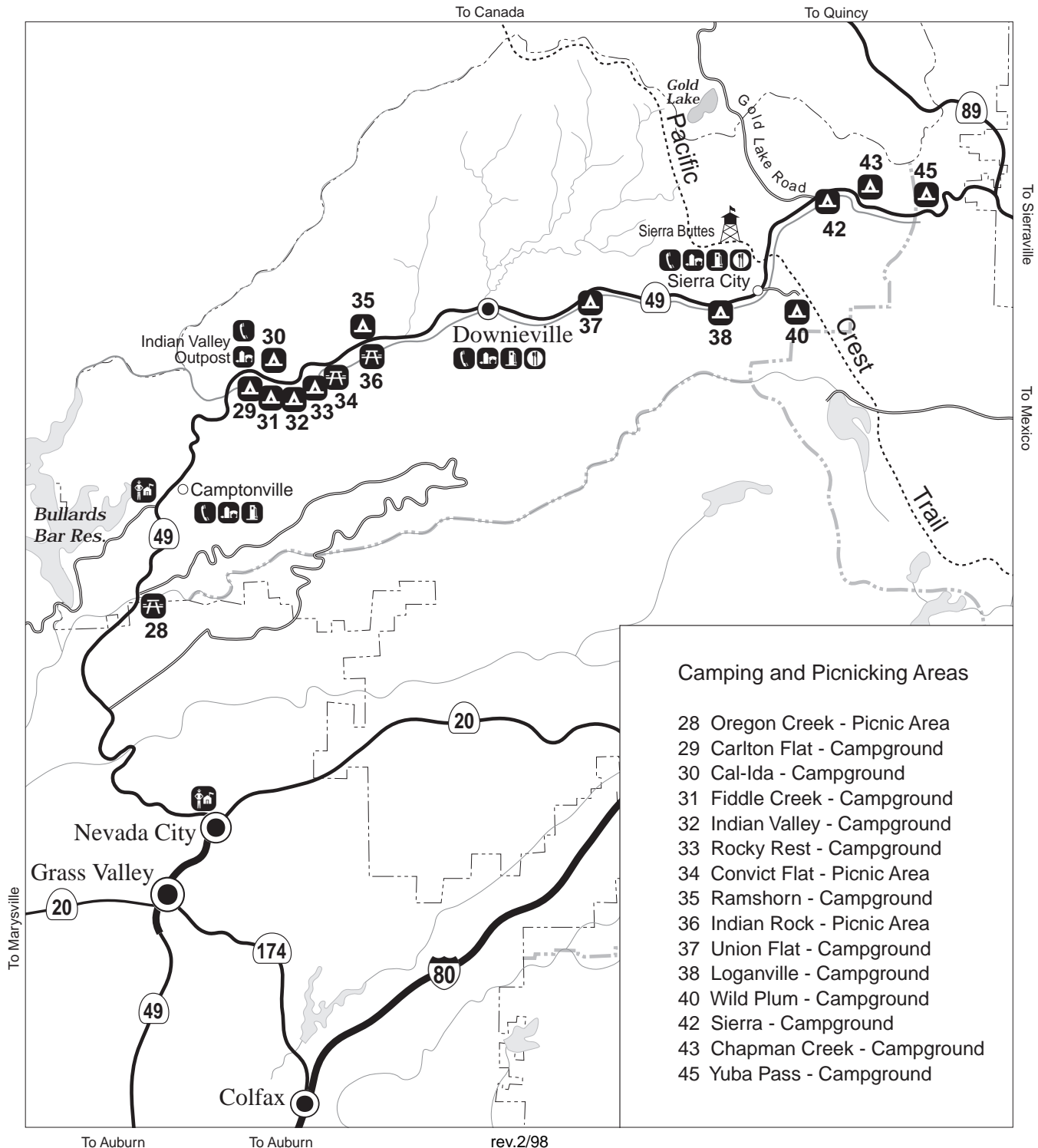
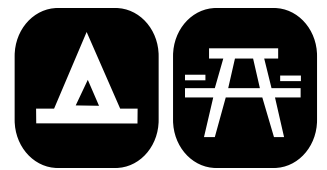


# Camping & Picnicking

## Highway 49 (Middle/North Yuba )

Downieville Ranger District  
Tahoe National Forest



# Camping & Picnicking in the Tahoe National Forest

## Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway

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### Sierra Buttes - Gold Lake Highway

This area of high mountain lakes and streams is dominated by the massive and spectacular Sierra Buttes. It may be reached by following Highway 49 north and east from Sierra City, 4 1/2 miles to the Gold Lake Highway junction at Bassetts. It may also be reached from the Sierra Valley by following Highway 49 westward approximately 13 miles from its junction with Highway 89 at Sattley to the Gold Lake Highway. Activities include fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, and hunting in season. Supplies are available at Sierra City and Bassetts. Season is June through October. Camping is not permitted within 1/4 mile of Gold Lake Highway (from Highway 49 to Sardine Lake Road), Sardine Lake Road (from Gold Lake Highway to Sardine Lake), Packer Lake Road (from Sardine Lake Road to Packer Lake), and around Salmon Lake because of heavy visitor use.

#### 46 Sardine Campground

Located one and one-half mile north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Highway and 1/2 mile southwest on the Sardine Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 5,800 feet

**Facilities:**

- 29 campsites (15 have space for trailers)
- Piped water
- Vault toilets
- Limited supplies are available at Bassetts

**Attractions:**

- Swimming at nearby Sand Pond
- Boat rentals available at Sardine Lake Lodge

#### 47 Salmon Creek Campground

Located two miles north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Highway near Salmon Creek.

**Elevation:** 5,800 feet

**Facilities:**

- 31 campsites (seven have space for trailers)
- Piped water
- Vault toilets

#### 48 Snag Lake Campground

Located 5 miles north of Bassetts on the Gold Lake Road adjacent to Snag Lake.

**Elevation:** 6,600 feet

**Facilities:**

- 16 undesignated campsites
- Space for small trailer use
- Lake water source - purify before drinking
- Vault toilets

**Attractions:**

- Fishing is fair to good at Snag and other nearby lakes.
- Hand-off boat launching only

#### 49 Packer Lake Picnic Ground - Day Use Only

Located 3 miles west of the Gold Lake highway on the Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 6,200 feet

**Facilities:**

- 3 picnic sites with tables and stoves
- Lake water source - purify before drinking
- Vault toilets

#### 50 Sand Pond Picnic Ground - Day Use Only

Located just off the Gold Lake Highway on the Sardine Lake Road near the Sardine Campground.

**Elevation:** 5,800 feet

**Facilities:**

- 16 picnic sites with tables and stoves
- Piped water
- Vault toilets
- Dressing rooms
- Limited supplies are available at Bassetts

**Attractions:**

- Sand Pond Interpretive Trail, 1 mile loop, Wheelchair accessible
- Sand Pond is developed for swimming.
- No pets permitted in swimming area for sanitary reasons
- Boat rentals available at Sardine Lake Lodge

#### 51 Berger Campground

Located 2 miles west of the Gold Lake Highway on the Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 5,900 feet

**Facilities:**

- 10 undesignated campsites
- Stream water source - purify before drinking
- Space for small trailers only
- Vault toilets

## **52 Diablo Camping Area**

Located 1 1/2 miles west of Gold Lake Highway on Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 5,800 feet

**Facilities:**

- Undesignated campsites
- Room for trailer and tent camping
- Stream water source - purify before drinking
- Vault toilets

## **53 Packsaddle Camping Area**

Located 2 1/2 miles west of Gold Lake Highway on Packer Lake Road.

**Elevation:** 6,000 feet

**Facilities:**

- Developed campsites
- Room for trailer and tent camping
- Nearby stream water source - purify before drinking
- Pack and saddle stock are permitted
- Vault toilets
- Corrals for Livestock

## **Drinking Water**

Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

## **All Are Welcome**

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