

PCT, Barker Pass to Twin Peaks - Barker Pass Area

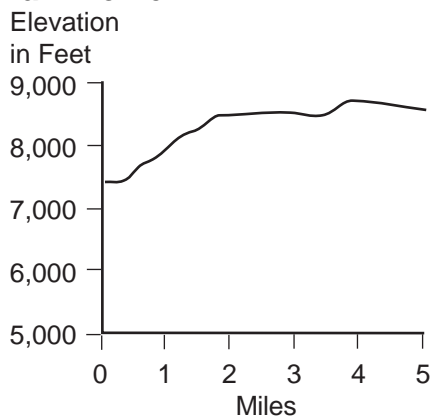
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 5.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7640 to 8880 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Use Level: Light
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Homewood

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89 S and drive to Tahoe City. Continue south on 89 from Tahoe City for another 4.2 miles to Caspian Picnic Area. Turn west on Blackwood Canyon Road. The road follows Blackwood creek for 2.3 miles, crosses the creek and then climbs 4.8 miles to Barker Pass. The pavement ends near the summit. The P.C.T. trailhead is .3 miles beyond where the pavement ends on the North side of the road.

Trail Description

Shortly after leaving the trailhead, the PCT contours around Barker Peak on its western flank and continues at moderate climb for another mile to a ridge (8200'). The view of Lake Tahoe from here makes this a good place to stop for a short break. The trail then descends through a shady forest of mountain hemlock, white pine and red fir to a meadow above the north fork of Blackwood Creek.

The trail continues north for .5 miles, climbs via some switchbacks and then gently ascends through an area of crested knolls to 8434'. Although the PCT does not go to the top of Twin Peaks, this area offers spectacular scenery in every direction.

Twin Peaks are the remnants of a 5-10 million year old volcano. From here you can see spectacular views of the Tahoe high country (Tinkers Knob, Mt. Rose, Freel Peak, Mount Tallac, Dicks Peak and Pyramid Peak).

Note

Water is often not available along the route. 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. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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