

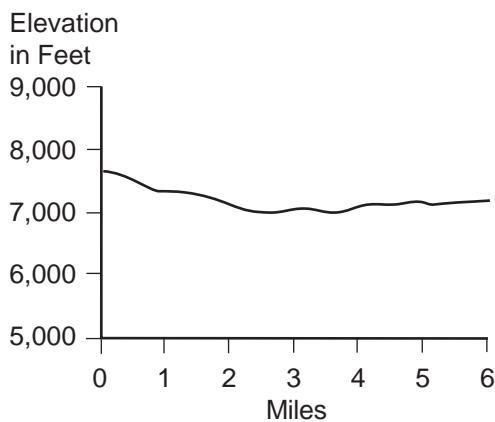
# P. C. T. So. of Barker Pass to Richardson Lake - Barker Pass Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way  
Elevation: 7649-7000-7400 feet  
Difficulty: ● (Easy)  
Use Level: Light  
Season: June-October  
Topographic Map: Homewood



## 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.

## Trail Profile

### Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89 south 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 at the summit. The P.C.T. trailhead is .3 miles beyond where the pavement ends. The PCT south to Richardson Lake starts from Barker Pass Road at the summit.

## Trail Description

From Barker Pass Road, the trail gently descends for 1.8 miles through areas of light forest and open, springfed meadows to Bear Lake Road (7000'). After crossing the road, the trail descends another .2 miles, crosses Bear Lake Creek and goes for another 1.8 miles through a relatively flat open area before reaching the Rubicon Road and Miller Creek.

On the other side of Miller creek is another .5 miles of flat terrain before the trail reaches a dense forest. The last .5 miles is a gentle ascent to Richardson Lake (7400').

For those who wish to continue hiking, follow the PCT south for another 9 miles to middle Velma Lake in Desolation Wilderness. From the lake, it is 4.5 miles to Eagle Falls Picnic Area on Highway 89 at Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe.

## Note

South of Richardson Lake, the PCT enters Desolation Wilderness. A wilderness permit is required. Permits may be obtained from Eldorado National Forest or the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

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

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Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.r5.fs.fed.us/](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/)

Tahoe National Forest  
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