

Big Flat Campground and Trailhead



This trailhead is deep within the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Almost the entire length of Coffee Creek Road is surrounded by Wilderness — rather unusual to be able to drive so far into the Alps. You do need to be very careful storing your food here because bears have been known to be a problem breaking into vehicles at this trailhead.

Hikes

- ◆ Elevation Gain: 500' to 2,000' depending on the trail
- ◆ Difficulty: Easy to Strenuous

Topo Map

- ◆ *Caribou Lake*

Directions to Campground and Trailhead

27 miles to Big Flat Campground and Trailhead

Take Hwy 3 north from Trinity Center 8 miles to Coffee Creek Road. Turn left and take Coffee Creek Road about 19 miles to its end at Big Flat. The first 6 miles are paved, after which the road is mostly gravel and rocky dirt. The road is generally in fair to good condition — it is a county road and a U.S. Postal Route — but watch out for potholes and significant washboarding. Check conditions in the spring since Big Flat is over 5,000' elevation — the road is closed by snow most of the winter. Most street vehicles and horse trailers will have no problem.

Trailhead Amenities

Big Flat is a large camp-group trailhead with about ten nice camp sites, with three corrals spaced out among them, under the big trees. The corrals are fair size and can accommodate a number of animals in each one. Sizes: 47'x48', 25'x25', 28'x56'.

There is room to turn around large horse trailers (22 foot) but most places will require some backing to do so.

This is not a heavily used trailhead/campground and the chances are good of finding an open corral and camp site here.

There is no water at the corrals, but a spring is nearby for water. The South Fork of the Salmon River runs through this area also.

- ◆ Fee: \$12
- ◆ 10 camp units
- ◆ There are out-houses
- ◆ Water and garbage services not provided. Please pack out all of your trash.
- ◆ Camping limit 14 days



Big Flat Campground

Trails out of Big Flat Trailhead:

There are several trails heading out of this trailhead.

One trail follows the South Fork of the Salmon River and can take you all the way to the road at the old Summerville site or on up to Rush Creek Lake and on to Carter Meadows.

Two of the trails will take you up to the Caribou Lakes and Snowslide Lake, and if you continue up to the top you will reach the Sawtooth Ridge. If you are on foot you can take the rugged, steep climb down into the gorgeous Emerald and Sapphire Lakes.

Another trail takes you up to Ward Lake or all the way up to meet with the Deer Creek Trail.

The other trail will take up through the Yellow Rose Mine site and on into Bullard's Basin where it links with other trails, and you pass through the remains of the old mining town Dorleska, which still has a lot of pieces of old gold-mining equipment that was left behind, or up Sunrise Creek and into Mumford Meadow where it links with other trails.

Rev A

