

Stoddard Lake

Easy-to-moderate, 6.6 to 7.7 miles



Stoddard Lake is named after a family who ranched in the area many years ago. The location of the old Stoddard cabin is along the trail, but the cabin is long gone. This trail takes you to Stoddard Lake, the second largest lake in the Alps, and as an easy, short side trip, to pretty little McDonald Lake

Hikes

- ◆ **Stoddard Lake** (41° 9.209'N, 122° 45.249'W)
Total Length (round-trip): 6.6 miles on Stoddard Lake Trail
Elevation Gain: 800'
Difficulty: Easy-to-moderate
- ◆ **McDonald Lake** (41° 8.925'N, 122° 45.370'W)
Total Length (round-trip): 7.7 miles
Elevation Gain: 50' beyond Stoddard Lake
Difficulty: Easy beyond Stoddard Lake

Topo Maps

- ◆ *Tangle Blue Lake* and *Billys Peak*

Directions to Trailhead

18.6 miles to Stoddard Lake Trailhead

Take Hwy 3 north from Trinity Center about 10.4 miles to Eagle Creek Loop Road. Turn left and follow the road 1.2 miles to USFS Road 38N22. Turn left, and follow 38N22 4.3 miles to an intersection where the road you are on turns into 38N27 (which comes in from the right). Go straight and stay on 38N27 2.7 miles to the trailhead. The last 0.6 mile of 38N27 may not be appropriate for low-clearance vehicles. There is ample parking at the hairpin turn 6.4 miles from Eagle Creek Loop Rd. Note that some old trail guides tell you to take 38N27 all the way from Eagle Creek Loop Road. The lower portion of 38N27 is not passable in some spots.

The Trail

The trail almost immediately enters the Trinity Alps Wilderness, and starts uphill through the forest. The trail soon flattens out, and shortly you come to a meadow. The trail formerly went through the meadow, but now climbs a single switchback to go around the meadow.

Shortly, Mount Shasta comes into view to the northeast, and the trail goes in and out of forest and meadow. Be sure to look for the carnivorous California Pitcher, or Cobra Lily plant along the meadows. This bug-eating plant is quite efficient at attacking and trapping bugs.



Stoddard Lake

Once the trail has flattened out, it is an easy trail to Stoddard Lake. The last mile rises gently, arriving suddenly at the north shore of the lake.

The rocks on the southeast edge of the lake make a pleasant resting or lunch spot. On chilly days, the sun exposure will be welcomed. However, if you are continuing on to McDonald Lake, or if you are on horseback, the trail to the west of the lake is easier and preferred. You can easily circumnavigate Stoddard Lake and reach McDonald Lake from either direction around the larger lake.

McDonald Lake is shallow, but a pretty spot. A shoulder of Billys Peak frames it to the south, but it is otherwise surrounded mostly by conifers.



McDonald Lake



Stoddard Lake (continued)

