



Hike Information

Snow Mountain - East Peak via Summit Springs Trail
United States Forest Service - Mendocino National Forest
10025 Elk Mountain Road
Upper Lake, CA
(707) 275-2361

Trail Length - 7.5 miles
Average Elevation - 5200 - 7046 feet
Elevation Change - 3700 feet
Hiking Level - Difficult

Overview

Beginning at the Summit Springs Trailhead, this is the most popular trail in the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area. Some of the best high country scenery can be viewed from this trail. The route passes through several vegetative types, high meadows and to the top of East Peak, Snow Mountain's highest point.

How To Get There

From Upper Lake/Hwy 20: Turn North on Mendenhall Road (Treasure Cove Pizza/corner of Hwy 20 & Mendenhall Road). Proceed on Mendenhall Road to Upper Lake Ranger Station (approximately 1 mile). Turn left on Road M-1 (Elk Mountain Road). Proceed approximately 15 miles to the Snow Mountain turnoff (Road M-10 - Dirt). Proceed approximately 14 miles to Summit Springs Trailhead Road and approximately 2 more miles to the Trailhead. Allow approximately 90 minutes travel time from Upper Lake to the Trailhead.

Note: Approximately 7 miles out M-10, you must ford Bear Creek. For this reason, it is recommended only to attempt this hike from May 1st - November 1st. A four-wheel drive vehicle is also recommended. Contact Upper Lake Ranger District Office at (707) 275-2361 for road conditions.

Camping Facilities

Middle Creek Campground: Approximately 7 miles up Elk Mountain Road (Road M-1). Sites have tables and fire-rings. There is water and flush toilets. Camping fee: \$4.00 per site + \$2.00 per extra vehicle. Information regarding payment of fees is posted at campground entrance.

Bear Creek Campground: Approximately 9 miles out M-10 from the Snow Mountain turnoff. Sites have tables and fire-rings. There are pit toilets. There are no water spigots, however Bear Creek runs year-round, so bring a purifier or boil your water. Camping fee: \$4.00 per site + \$2.00 per extra vehicle. Information regarding payment of fees is posted at campground entrance.

The Hike

Begin at the Summit Springs Trailhead and follow the trail up to East Peak, Snow Mountain's highest point. A register is available at the summit to record your name and comments (and read about others before you). Before starting down the mountain, cross the saddle to the West Peak for more spectacular views.