

# Round Lake Trail and Round Lake Loop

Plumas National Forest  
Beckwourth Ranger District

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## Trail Description

Round Lake Trail offers two hiking options. The Round Lake Trail option is a 4.8 mile out and back hike. The Round Lake Loop option is a 4.0 mile loop returning to the trailhead.

Both hiking options begin with a leisurely 1.7 mile walk through pine forest, close to snow melt ponds and fields of wildflowers. This section ends with a moderate ascent to the site of the Round Lake Mine. Interpretive signs here tell the story of the mine and of gold mining in this area. At this point, choose from two trails.

The trail leading uphill and to the south is Round Lake Trail. This is a strenuous .75 mile ascent to the Pacific Crest Trail. Rewards for choosing this option include panoramic views of several lakes and surrounding peaks.

The trail leading downhill and to the west is the Silver Lake - Round Lake Connector part of the Round Lake Loop. From the old mine site it is 2.3 additional miles past six glacially carved alpine lakes to complete the loop. The .9 mile connector skirts the shores of Round and Silver Lakes before intersecting Silver Lake Trail.

Turn right onto Silver Lake Trail and proceed .2 mile to the intersection of Bear Lakes Trail. During this short section is a wonderful view of Long Lake.

Turn right onto Bear Lakes Trail and continue .8 mile to meet the Round Lake Connector. This part of the loop passes by Cub, Little Bear and Big Bear Lakes. Many hikers will cool off in Big Bear Lake.

Just below Big Bear Lake, turn right onto the Round Lake Connector for the .5 mile uphill home stretch returning to the trailhead.

## Driving Directions

From Graeagle go south about 1.5 miles on Highway 89. Turn right onto Gold Lake Highway. Drive 8 miles and turn right at Gold Lake Lodge. The trailhead is at the northwest end of the parking area. The upper trail heading south is Round Lake Trail. The lower trail is Round Lake Connector and the end of Round Lake Loop.



## Notes

- This trail and loop are open to foot, mountain biking and equestrian traffic
- Do not block traffic when parking
- Pack out all trash
- A restroom is available at the parking area
- Do not drink from naturally occurring water sources without proper water treatment
- Dogs must be under control at all times
- Take along a map
- Stay hydrated, bring plenty of water
- Expect changeable weather
- Backpacking is not allowed

## Related Activities

- Many intersecting trails await exploration
- Hiking the Loop - at the intersection of Silver Lake Trail and Bear Lakes Trail see spectacular view of Round Lake .1 mile further on Silver Lake Trail
- Swimming (cold water)
- Fishing
- Observing wildlife
- Flowers and fall color
- Photography
- Picnic
- Visit Frazier Falls Trail
- Petroglyph Interpretive Trail near Lakes Basin Campground

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

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Elevations - Trailhead - 6600', PCT - 7300', Bear Lakes - 5970'

Difficulty - Easy to Round Lake Mine

- Strenuous from Round Lake Mine to Pacific Crest Trail

- Moderate for the Loop

Usage - Moderate

To Graeagle  
and Hwy 89

