

Trails: Lyons Reservoir to Fraser Flat Stanislaus National Forest

Mi-Wok Ranger District

ROG 16-51-05; 02/05



Railroads were an indispensable part of life in the Central Sierra Nevada, ferrying people, equipment and raw materials up and down the slopes. It has been some time since the railroads served in the Stanislaus National Forest area. Yet the footprint of the railroads continues to be seen in the form of some excellent multi-use trails set up on what were formerly the railroad grades of the Sugar Pine and West Side railways. While these trails are normally sloped at about 3%, the occasional spot on a trail will exceed this average .

Safety

While negotiating these trails, please exercise due caution and care. These trails are not well-maintained and the inattentive hiker or biker could suffer injury if less-than-full attention is paid to these pathways. If you are biking and not wearing a protective helmet, you are risking serious injury in the event of a fall. Please use caution and look for unexpected travelers coming from the opposite direction.

Protecting Railroad Resources

Do not remove railroad artifacts and remnants; leave them so that others may touch the past. Excavating, removing or otherwise damaging a heritage resource is a crime. Anyone caught doing so may be substantially fined and imprisoned. Help protect these fragile and irreplaceable reminders of the past for present and future generations. If you discover anyone digging, metal detecting, removing or damaging any heritage resource, please contact the Mi-Wok Ranger District Office at (209) 586-3234.



Lyons Reservoir is both a popular fishing spot and a drinking water reservoir for Tuolumne County. It serves as a trail hub for some of the more popular trails within our district.



Former railroad grades provide scenic rides and hikes from Lyons Reservoir to the Old Strawberry Road west of Pinecrest.

The trail runs alongside the south fork of the Stanislaus River from Lyons Dam to Fraser Flat, a distance of some ten miles (see map on reverse). You may expect to encounter some ruts and rough rocky areas along the trail. The first one-half mile of the trail is narrow. After reaching that point, riders will need to dismount, forge Lyons Creek, climb a small hill and drop back down to the railroad grade where it resumes. The trail from the last wire gate (at about the 4.2 mile mark) is rough and not recommended for beginners. Total travel time for the trip is approximately an hour and a half (one way).

Trails are also used by hunters, hikers, horsemen, fishermen and other visitors to the Forest, including OHV traffic. (The first 5 miles of this trail, starting at the reservoir and leading to the gate almost halfway up this trail are owned by PG&E. This portion of the trail is OFF LIMITS to OHV traffic.) At no time is swimming, boating, driving of any vehicles or riding of any stock allowed in Lyons Reservoir—it is a drinking water reservoir. The only activity allowed is fishing and, then, only from the shoreline of the reservoir. The only route authorized for access into Lyons is the 2-mile dirt and gravel road leading directly from Hwy 108.

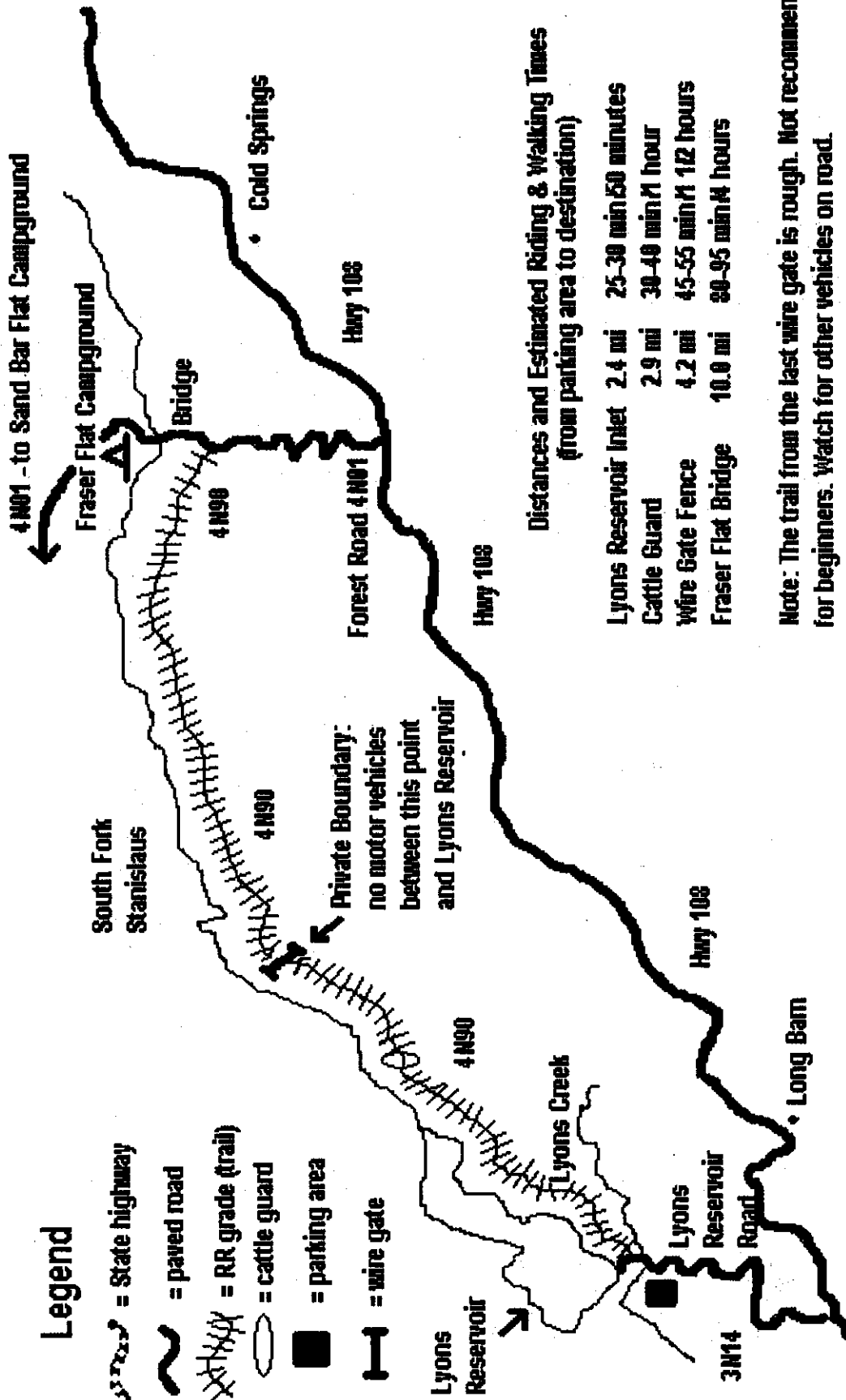


Lyons Reservoir to Fraser Flat Railroad Grade--Bike Trail



Legend

- = State highway
- = paved road
- = RR grade (trail)
- = cattle guard
- = parking area
- = wire gate



Distances and Estimated Riding & Walking Times (from parking area to destination)

Lyons Reservoir Inlet	2.4 mi	25-30 min/50 minutes
Cattle Guard	2.9 mi	30-40 min/1 hour
Wire Gate Fence	4.2 mi	45-55 min/1 1/2 hours
Fraser Flat Bridge	10.0 mi	80-95 min/4 hours

Note: The trail from the last wire gate is rough. Not recommended for beginners. Watch for other vehicles on road.

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