

WEST SIDE TRAIL

Tuolumne County Trails

The West Side Trail

Introduction

This family friendly portion of the Stanislaus National Forest's West Side Rails is a hidden treasure, combining spectacular scenery and a route that represents an amazing feat of railway construction.

The timber industry in Tuolumne County was in full gear at the turn of the 20th century. An impressive sawmill was built at that time, and the West Side Lumber Company constructed its own narrow gauge railroad, called the Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite Valley Railway, to bring timber to the mill. In total, more than 70 miles of mainline track were constructed in the area.

The initial stretch of the mainline grade, constructed without the benefit of bulldozers and loaders, was blasted into an extremely steep and rocky canyon. As you enjoy this 5-mile portion of rail-trail, you can't fail to be impressed by what the workers accomplished.

Directions to the Trailhead

From Sonora

Leaving Sonora, heading south on South Washington St. toward Highway 108, turn left on CA-108 East, then take the Mono Way exit toward Route 108 Business. Turn right on Mono Way. Turn right onto Tuolumne Road.

Continue approximately 7 miles to Tuolumne. Turn left on Carter Street and go 3/10^{ths} of a mile; turn right on Buchanan Road. Continue for 1/2 mile and you will see the parking lot on the left just past the intersection of Buchanan and Miramonte Roads.

From Twain Harte

From Twain Harte Drive at Highway 108, head southeast on Tuolumne Road North. Continue for 6.5 miles until you pass Black Oak Casino. Directly across from the main entrance to the casino, turn left on Carter Street and veer left on Buchanan Road. Continue for .5 mile and you will see the parking lot on the left just past the intersection of Buchanan and Miramonte Roads.



The Tuolumne Park and Recreation District has maintained this wonderful resource for many years. Thank you. The Park district has maps available at its office— 18603 Pine Street in Tuolumne.

Black Oak Casino Resort offers great access to the Trail.



Features of the West Side Trail

- Interpretative Kiosks
- N. Tuolumne Canyon • Expansive views
- Incredible Spring Wildflowers
- Multi-use Trail (non-motorized)

For more information on Trails in Tuolumne County, please visit www.tuolumnecountytrails.com

For more history on the West Side Trail Please visit the Tuolumne Memorial Museum at 18663 Carter St.

Also in downtown Tuolumne
West Side Memorial Park with Shay Locomotive
Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Tuck



TuolumneCountyTrails.com



Trail Etiquette • Multiple Use Trail Guidelines for Trail Courtesy Hike It • Bike It • Ride It

Yield = Slow down, be prepared to stop, establish communication, pass safely. Between cyclist and hiker, "establish communication" may involve just a wave and a nod, but between cyclist/hiker and equestrian, communication should always involve voice communication because horses identify other trail users by voice, not appearance. **Please Do Not Ride** (mtn bikes/horses) after heavy rains or when soil is saturated! If you are leaving tracks on trail, it is too wet to ride.



HIKERS
Yield trail to equestrians. Allow equestrians and bicyclists to pass. Don't cut switchbacks.



BICYCLISTS
Ride on open trails only. Leave No Trace. Control your bicycle. Always yield trail. Never scare animals. Plan ahead.



EQUESTRIANS
Control your horse. Avoid cross-country riding.

DOGS

County leash laws apply while on the trail. Please keep your pet until your direct control at all times.

KUCHI POCHATO

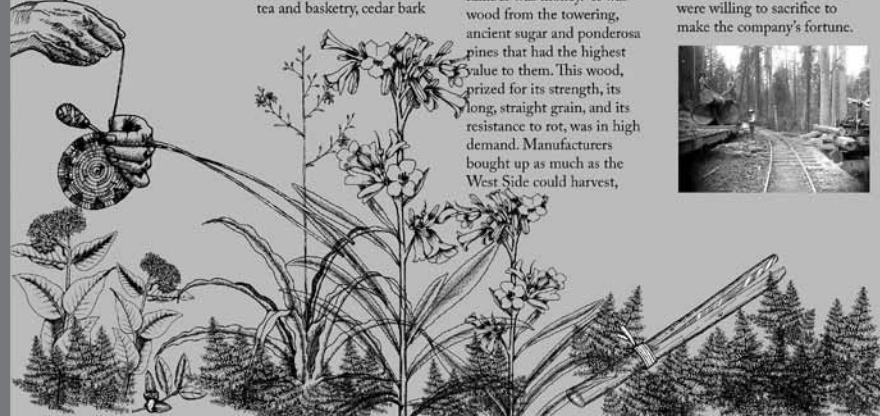
Me-Wuk for "a good plant place"

Me-Wuk have lived here hundreds of years. To traditional Me-Wuk, the forest is an interrelated, diverse web of life encompassing wildlife, plants, people, and more.

In the past and present, Me-Wuk harvested many of the plants you see along this trail: yerba santa for medicine, oak acorn for food, milkweed for twine, soap root for cleaning, bird's foot fern for tea and basketry, cedar bark

for shelter, and elderberry for food and musical instruments. West Side Lumber Company executives held a different view: The forest was timber, timber was lumber, and lumber was money. It was wood from the towering, ancient sugar and ponderosa pines that had the highest value to them. This wood, prized for its strength, its long, straight grain, and its resistance to rot, was in high demand. Manufacturers bought up as much as the West Side could harvest,

turning it quickly into everything from fruit boxes and fence posts to counter tops and fine pianos. The oak and cedar, ferns, shrubs, and bulbs used by the Me-Wuk were to them, resources they were willing to sacrifice to make the company's fortune.



Torment Gulch

Boardwalk to the Moon

Riverside

Fire

Start Rails

Kuchi Pochato

Hope and Risk

Working on the Railroad

Welcome

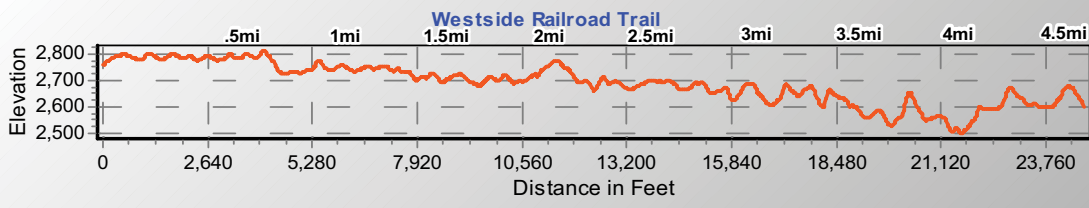
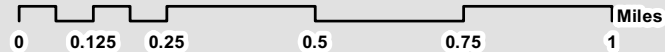
Legend

- Trailhead
- Parking
- Walking / Biking Route to Trailhead
- West Side RR Trail with Post Miles
- Public Land
- Tribal Trust Lands
- Bus Stops - Route 5
- West Side Memorial Park
- Campgrounds
- Black Oak Casino Resort
- Kiosk Locations



Historic West Side Interpretative Railroad Trail

1:20,000



Mira Monte Trailhead to Basin Creek Area