

# Railroad Logging on the Strawberry Branch



## Stanislaus National Forest

### Mi-Wok Ranger District

ROG 16-51-04; 02/07

Imagine a steam train pulling a full load of logs down the canyon, its brakes smoking and squealing. That's easy to do when you walk this three-mile trail (one way), an overlay of the historic Sugar Pine Railway.



#### About the Site

For over half a century, the Sugar Pine Railway hauled logs harvested by, first, the Standard Lumber Company and, second, the Pickering Lumber Company. Called the Strawberry Branch, this three percent rail grade parallels the South Fork of the Stanislaus River, past sights and traces of railroad logging dating from pre-World War I era.

A brochure keyed to tour posts along the grade describes the significance of trailside features and of railroad logging in the yellow pine forests of the Sierra. Pick up this guide at either the Mi-Wok or Summit Ranger District offices. During winter, the trail is a cross-country ski route, accessible from the northeast end of the trail, near the town of Strawberry. This trail is suitable for hiking, biking and equestrian traffic.

#### Getting There

The trail is a short distance off Highway 108, in the vicinity of Summit Ranger District and Pinecrest Lake.

Trail can be accessed either at its northeast end near Strawberry or at its southwest end near Fraser Flat Campground.

- **Northeast access**—from Summit Ranger District at Pinecrest Lake Road, turn left (southwest) onto Highway 108 and proceed for about three miles to Old Strawberry Road. Turn right and continue for two miles; Park at the trailhead on the left side of Old Strawberry Road.

- **Southwest access**—from Mi-Wok Ranger District office, turn right (northeast) onto Highway 108 and continue for about nine miles to the Fraser Flat Road (Forest Road 4N01). Turn left and continue downhill to the bridge at the South Fork of the Stanislaus River. The trailhead and parking are adjacent to the river—on the south side.

Please contact the offices listed below for more information, maps and brochures:

#### Stanislaus National Forest

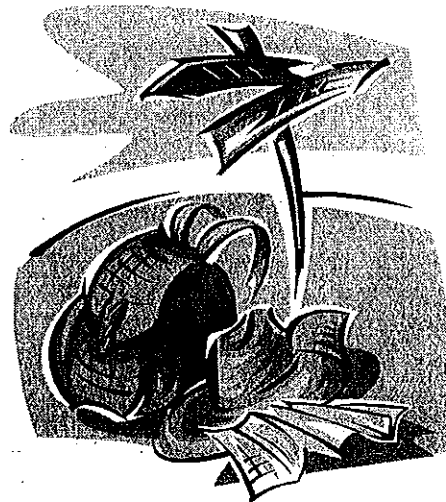
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-3671  
TDD: (209) 533-0765

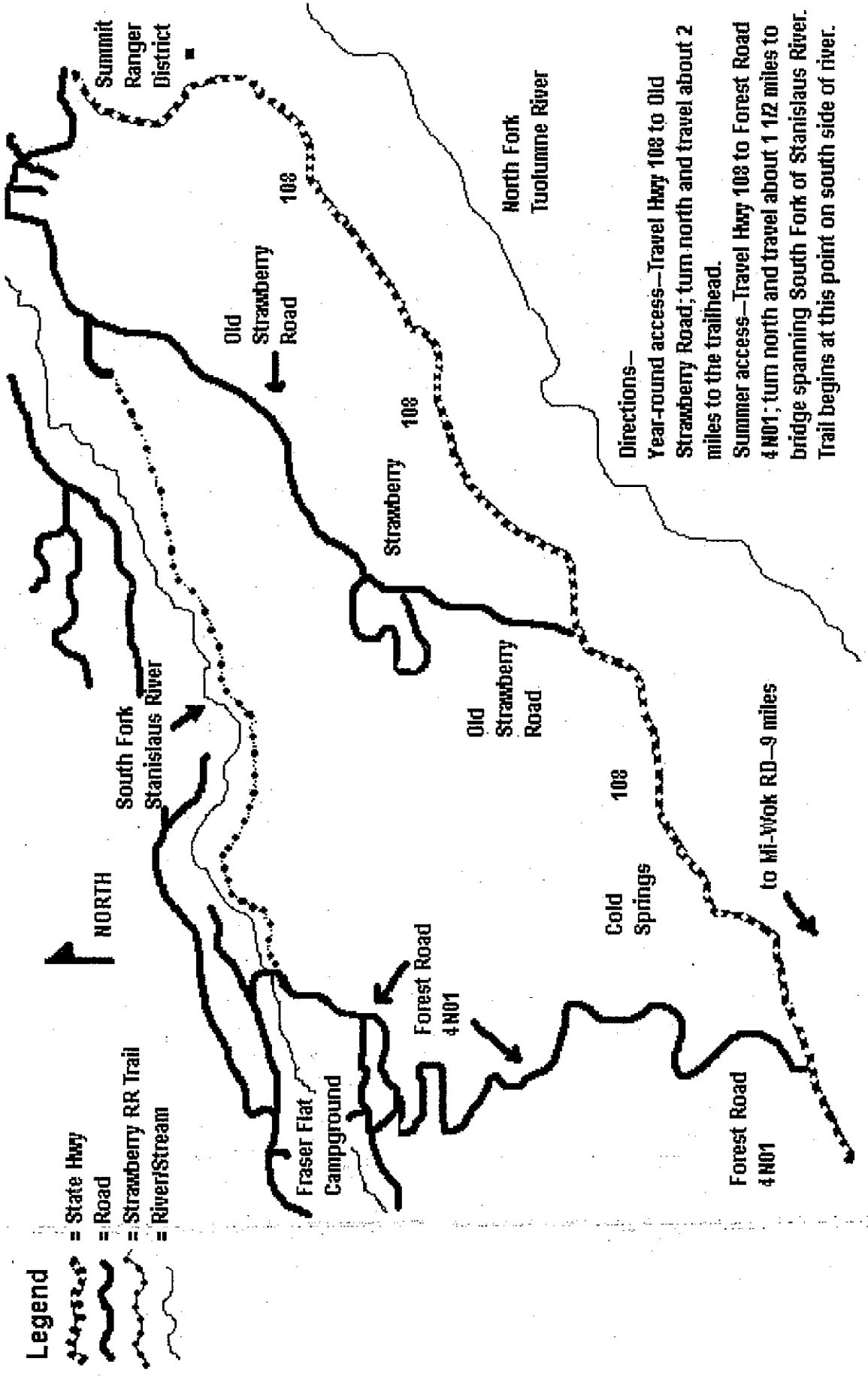
#### Mi-Wok Ranger District

PO Box 100  
24695 Hwy 108  
Mi Wuk Village, CA 95346  
(209) 586-3234  
FAX: (209) 586-0643  
TDD: (209) 586-0262

#### Summit Ranger District

#1 Pinecrest Lake Road  
Pinecrest, CA , 95364  
(209) 965-3434  
FAX: (209) 965-3372  
TDD: (209) 965-0488





**Legend**

- State Hwy
- Road
- - - Strawberry RR Trail
- ~ ~ ~ River/Stream



**Directions—**

- Year-round access—Travel Hwy 108 to Old Strawberry Road; turn north and travel about 2 miles to the trailhead.
- Summer access—Travel Hwy 108 to Forest Road 4N01; turn north and travel about 1 1/2 miles to bridge spanning South Fork of Stanislaus River. Trail begins at this point on south side of river.

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