

HERRING CREEK TRAIL

Hiking Distance: About 6.0 miles
roundtrip
Difficulty: Easy
Start Elevation: 7400 feet
Elevation Change: About 330 feet
Location: In Stanislaus National
Forest
Map: USFS Donnell Lake Quadrangle 490-3



Description:

This trail starts at the end of the Herring Creek Reservoir road and follows the creek as it winds its way up Hammill Canyon. It is a mostly shady trail with an easy grade. It appears to be lightly used and only occasionally maintained. It crosses or skirts several creekside meadows which may have cows grazing during the summer. Early in the season the trail can be quite indistinct in places (and invisible in some meadows). You will find large numbers of Larkspur, Mule Ears, Wandering Daisy, and Lovage plus some Western Spring Beauty and a large patch of One-sided Wintergreen.

A split boulder on the left of the trail opposite the creek can be used as a turn-around point for this trail. If you don't see this boulder, in a few hundred yards the trail turns away from the creek towards the canyon wall and there is an old sign reading Main Trail. After this sign the trail continues up the canyon for another mile until it intersects the Hammill Canyon loop road.

Area's Blooming Season	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	
	Early	E	Mid	M	Late	L	Very Late	V

Trailhead Directions:

From Highway 108 (2 mi east of Strawberry) turn off onto Herring Creek Road (4N12) and go 7.1 miles (the first 5.8 mi of which is paved) to the Y-junction which starts the Hammill Canyon loop road. At the junction go right and after about 0.1 mi go left on the road to the Herring Creek Reservoir Campground (signed). Go through the campground until the road is blocked (by the Forest Service in 2004 for habitat protection) and find a place to park. Walk the rest of the reservoir road (about 1/3 mi) until it ends at the reservoir itself. The trail begins at the road end. It is not signed, but the wide path (on the right in this photo) along the reservoir should be obvious.

