

# EASTERN TRAILS

Indian Creek Recreation Area (ICRA) is a Bureau of Land Management area located approximately halfway between Woodfords and Markleeville. To access, turn onto Airport Road from Hwy. 89.

## Curtz Lake Interpretive

The Indian Creek Recreation Area trails begin with a 1.1 mile interpretive loop located at Curtz Lake, 1 mile up Airport Rd. at 6200'. This trail is an easy hike meant for all levels and ages. Prior to the fire, a dozen beautifully designed interpretive signs described the flora, fauna, geology, and history of this area. These signs will eventually be replaced. There is a large parking area to accommodate several vehicles including buses.

## Carson River

Heading east from Curtz Lake is the Carson River Trail. This is an approximately 1.5 mile trail with an elevation change of 800' which drops down to the East Fork of the Carson River approximately 2 miles below Hangman's Bridge in Markleeville. Spring and fall are a great time to take this hike down to the river. The trail at the bottom is rocky and footing can be challenging.

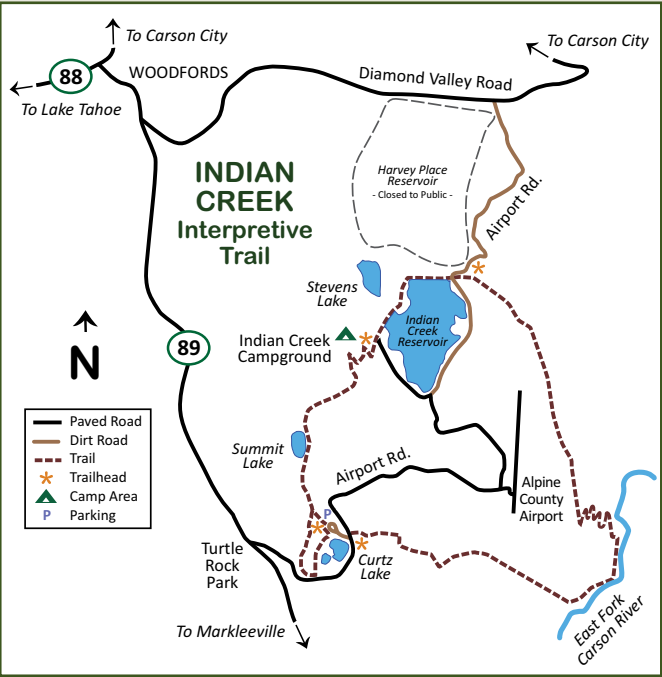
## Summit Lake

The Summit Lake Trail is a 1.9 mile trail connecting Curtz Lake to the Indian Creek Campground. The elevation change is 600'. Head northwest from the Curtz Lake parking area past the gate at the back of the lot. Follow this trail ½ mile to Summit Lake and then proceed to the northeast of the lake. The trail eventually drops 600' to the campground.

## Campground to Carson River

This 4 mile section has been mostly reestablished as of 2022, but still has some very challenging sections along the river. Horses not recommended. When completed, this segment will reestablish the historic Youth Conservation Corp 8 mile loop trail.

*ICRA trail network is closed until fire restoration work is completed. Estimated date of completion is summer of 2024.*



Registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

### Donations accepted:

Individual \$25   Senior Family \$35  
Family \$50   Lifetime \$250

### Mail to:

PO Box 456, Markleeville, CA 96120  
or visit our website at [alpinetrails.org](http://alpinetrails.org)  
for information and/or to donate.

### Contact:

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*Photos courtesy of Andy Lovell*



Markleeville, California  
[alpinetrails.org](http://alpinetrails.org)



## Alpine Trails Association (ATA) dba of Alpine Outdoor Recreation Association (AORA)

A non-profit, all volunteer organization established in 2012 to build, restore and maintain system trails in Eastern Alpine County, CA to give non-motorized access to public lands by providing well maintained multi-use trails for bikers, hikers and horseback riders.

We cover Ebbetts and Monitor Pass to Blue Lakes Rd., Carson Pass and all the public land in between. Our main system trails are Thornburg Canyon, Charity Valley, Burnside Lake and trails in the Indian Creek Recreation Area.

In partnership with Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, Bureau of Land Management Sierra Front Field Office, California State Parks and Alpine County Community Development.

Collaboration with local and regional non-profit groups to improve the resident and visitor experience in Alpine County.

Promote outdoor recreation through improved trail access to federal, state and county lands; local landmarks, campgrounds, fishing, swimming, disc golf and more.

Events include; Trail workdays, forest restoration, stream preservation, community cleanup and annual educational events.

*It is important to note that Alpine County experienced extensive damage as a result of the Tamarack Fire during the summer of 2021. Hazardous conditions exist in burn areas including falling trees and limbs, falling rocks, and unstable ground. Please exercise caution. Wear appropriate clothing and protective gear and stay on designated trails.*

## WESTERN TRAILS

The following trails are managed by the State of California and the National Forest Service. All trails can be accessed via Hwy 88.

### Thornburg Canyon

Thornburg Canyon is located in the Mokelumne Wilderness. This historic wilderness trail is approximately 8 miles long with a total elevation change of 2500'. The trail stretches from a trailhead elevation of 8300' beginning 8.8 miles up Blue Lakes Rd. to 6150' at the end of the 2 mile dirt section of Sawmill Rd. near Markleeville, CA. On Blue Lakes Rd., park on the paved shoulder accommodating 4-6 vehicles. Starting from Blue Lakes

Road, there is a 350' climb to the highest point in the first mile, followed by a 600' descent to a beautiful mountain meadow. Another short ascent to 8300' before your final 5+ mile drop down to the eastern trailhead.

### Charity Valley

The Charity Valley Trail is located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. It stretches approx. 8.5 miles and has an elevation change of 2300'. The west end trailhead is located at 7700', 6.1 miles up Blue Lakes Rd. The east end trailhead is on Hot Springs Rd. in Markleeville, CA at 5700'. There is a 300' gentle climb in the first mile as you head east from Blue Lakes Rd. and then a steady downhill for the remainder of the trail. This trail is open to equestrian and mountain bikes but has some rock drop offs that require some very tricky navigating, especially for horses. There's a crossing of the creek just before the intersection with the Burnside Lake Trail. From this point, the trail descends 3.5 miles to Grover State Park and the eastern trailhead on Hot Springs Road.

### Burnside Lake

The Burnside Lake Trail is located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. It is a 2 mile connector trail which has an elevation change of 900'. The west end trailhead is at 8100' at the far end of Burnside Lake, 7 miles up Burnside Lake Rd. in Hope Valley. It connects to the Charity Valley Trail 2.5 miles above Grover State Park. This is a spectacular canyon with beautiful waterfalls and amazing rock formations but is not recommended for horses.

