

AH-DI-NA: A Short History

McCloud Ranger Station - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Ah-Di-Na has a long and rich history. What the visitor sees today are the remains of an Indian settlement and historic homestead once owned by the William Randolph Hearst family. This land was acquired by the Forest Service in 1965.

The Name

No one knows where the name Ah-Di-Na came from. Some say it is an Indian name, though the McCloud Wintu deny this, calling Ah-Di-Na "Piuti Witomas." The name first appears on a 1936 Shasta National Forest map when the Hearst's owned the property.

The Indians

Many tribes claimed Ah-Di-Na as part of their tribal territory. These include the McCloud River Wintu, the Okwanuchu and the Pit River Indians. Further archaeological research is needed to study the surface and subsurface remains of this settlement.

The Whittier's

They were the first owners of Ah-Di-Na, purchasing the land from the Central Pacific Railroad in 1896. The Whittier's, a wealthy family from San Francisco, had the foresight to begin Ah-Di-Na's development as a sportsman's paradise for hunting and fishing.

What the visitor sees today of this original complex is the old pack trail which is lined with rock retaining walls, a guest cabin (restored by the Forest Service and volunteers) called the "Ladies Cabin," an orchard (which still bears apples, cherries, pears, walnuts and chestnuts), various unidentified foundations and some concrete lined reservoirs.



Ladies Cabin

The Reservoirs

Speculation as to what these were used for ranges from irrigation and fire storage to trout ponds and fishing pools.

The Fitzhugh's

Ah-Di-Na was purchased ("Save one phonograph and records, two saddle horses and bridles.") by William M.

Fitzhugh, also of San Francisco in 1919.

Fitzhugh built a log cabin but the logs

were not well cured

and within the first years they began to crack. A stone

chimney and the outlines of a basement room are the only

things remaining of the cabin. He built a stone cellar in 1923

which present day visitors can walk into.

Ah-Di-Na began to deteriorate under Fitzhugh because it was only used for farming, fishing and fruit harvest. In 1926 it was sold to the Catocin Company of Nevada.

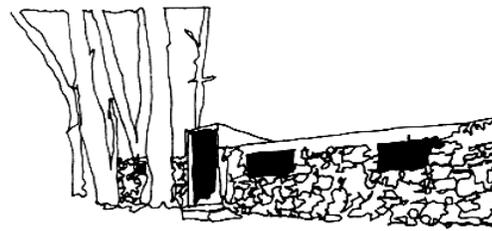


The Hearst's

The reign of wealthy San Francisco owners of Ah-Di-Na culminated with its purchase by William Randolph Hearst in 1936. The 30s saw Ah-Di-Na in its heyday. At that time it was visited by famous guests from Wynton, Hearst's lavish estate ten miles upstream, who came here for the fishing.

Hearst adorned Ah-Di-Na with some lavish furnishings, marble bathtubs, a telephone system, tongue and groove walnut flooring in the log cabin, a carbide generator for lights, and a sprinkler system.

All of the Hearst buildings were burned in 1958 by the caretaker because use of Ah-Di-Na became infrequent and vandalism became an ongoing problem.



Storage cellar built in 1923



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
www.fs.fed.us/r5/

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
fs.usda.gov/stnf

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The Forest Service

In 1965 the Forest Service acquired Ah-Di-Na and began building a campground for the public. Sixteen units were put in and a spring fed water system developed.

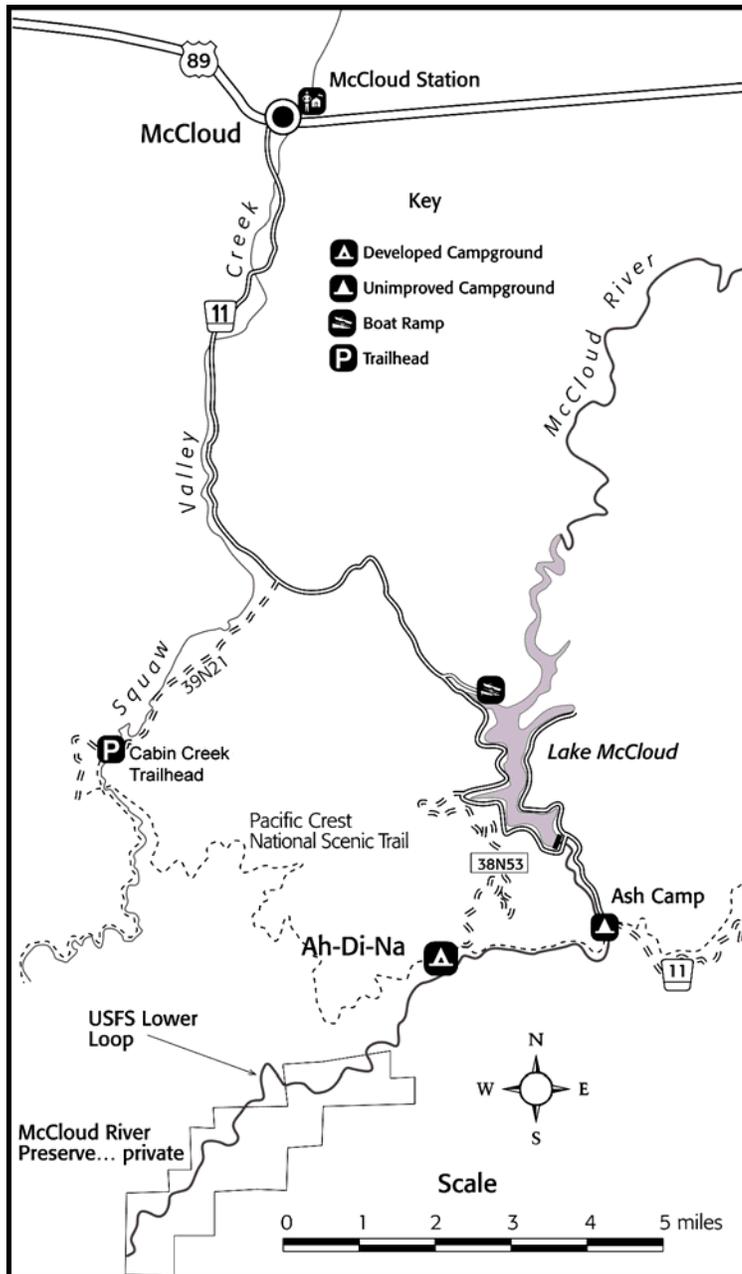
How to Get There

From the McCloud Ranger Station, drive south on Squaw Valley Road to McCloud Reservoir. Turn right on Forest

Road 38N53 (dirt road) and follow the signs to Ah-Di-Na. The trip is 18 miles long and takes approximately one hour.

Remember

Back country travelers may encounter a variety of dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to inform yourself about these inherent risks and take precautions.



For more information

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2019 Forest Road
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(530) 964-2692 (TTY-TDD)

Office hours

Memorial Day - October (2nd week)
8am to 4:30pm
Monday through Saturday

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