

Upper McCloud River Area

McCloud Ranger Station - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



History

The US Forest Service acquired the Upper McCloud River land through a land exchange agreement with Champion International Corporation in the Spring of 1989. The river corridor has long been identified by the Forest Service as a top priority for acquisition because of its recreational and scenic qualities. In the exchange, the Forest Service gained 2,626 acres of land that included 13 miles of river, two spectacular waterfalls and the beautiful, 50 acre Bigelow Meadow. Prior to the exchange, the land was managed for timber production by Champion, who acquired, through the exchange, scattered parcels of land mostly surrounded by other Champion lands. The Upper McCloud River area offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Forest Service manages the land to provide for the best balance of potential uses.

Location

The Upper McCloud River area is accessible by a scenic road which forms a loop. Drive 65 miles north from Redding on Interstate 5 to the Highway 89 exit just south of Mt. Shasta. Drive east on Highway 89 past the town of McCloud. The loop road begins five miles from McCloud at the Fowlers Campground Lower Falls sign after turning right off of Highway 89. The River Loop road continues north east or left at the intersection before the campground and winds along the river passing various recreation sites and comes back to Highway 89 approximately 11 miles east of McCloud. The loop road is approximately six miles long.

Hiking and sightseeing safety

While walking, please be sure and watch your footing on loose rocks and steep slopes. Children and pets should be kept under close supervision.

Camping

With the exception of Fowlers and Camp 4, all developed campgrounds and day-use facilities

along the McCloud River are on a "first-come, first-served" basis and have a 14-day stay limit. All other areas along the Upper McCloud which are under public ownership are for day-use only; no overnight camping is allowed. Camp 4 is a developed group campsite and Fowlers is a developed family campsite and both are available for reservation through www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777.

Fishing

The McCloud River and its tributaries offer excellent fishing opportunities. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly stocks the Upper McCloud River at Lower Falls with Rainbow trout. Anglers also occasionally catch German brown trout from earlier stockings or those that traveled up from the McCloud Reservoir, and Brook trout. Remember that the Bull Trout or Dolly Varden is an endangered species and should be released if caught.

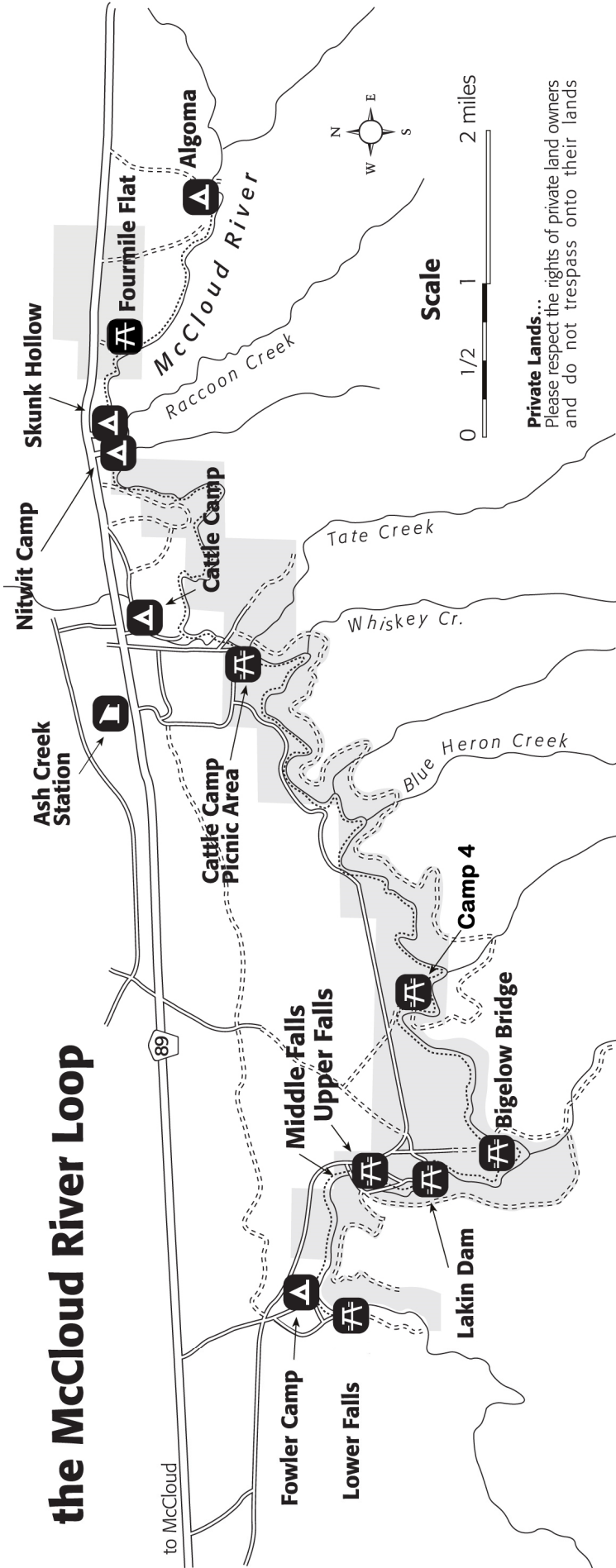
Wildlife viewing

Beautiful, riparian Bigelow Meadow provides a wildlife habitat for numerous birds and animals. Some of the more common birds which visitors can see are Stellar Jays, Western Tanagers, Oregon Juncos, Nuthatches, Clark's Nutcrackers, Red-wing blackbirds, Wrens, and occasionally Canadian Geese. The larger mammals which inhabit the area are deer, ground squirrels, chipmunks, Golden mantle ground squirrels and Douglas squirrels. Occasionally, visitors will be fortunate enough to view black bears which are common to the area but rarely seen. As with all animals, please do not feed them due to their sensitive diets and the possibility of contracting diseases from them.

Fire safety requirements

Permits are required for campfires outside of developed campgrounds. The permit may be obtained free at any Forest Service office or from Rangers in the field. It is illegal to possess or discharge any fireworks within the National Forest boundary.

the McCloud River Loop



Private Lands...
Please respect the rights of private land owners and do not trespass onto their lands

Recreation Sites in the Upper McCloud River Area...

Recreation Site	Day Use	Toilets	Picnic Units	Undeveloped Sites	Drinking Water	Daily Fee	Camping
Algoma Campground	•	•		•			•
Bigelow Bridge	•						
Camp 4	•	•	•	•			group permit
Cattle Camp	•	•			•	•	•
Cattle Camp Picnic Area	•	•					
Fourmile Flat	•						
Fowler Camp	•	•			•	•	•
Lakin Dam	•	•	•				
Lower Falls	•	•	•		•		
Nitwit Camp	•			•			•
Skunk Hollow	•			•			•
Upper Falls	•	•	•				

For more information...

McCloud Ranger Station
P.O. Box 1620
McCloud, CA 96057
(530) 964-2184

Office hours...
Memorial Day - October (2nd week)
8:00am to 4:30pm
Monday through Friday

8:00am to 4:30pm Saturdays

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