

# McCloud Area Recreation Guide

McCloud Ranger Station - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



This guide provides a brief overview of recreation facilities and opportunities available in the McCloud area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Whether you are planning to go camping, fishing, hiking, boating, picnicking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing or sight seeing, the choices for recreation are almost unlimited.

## Recreation plus

During the late spring, summer and early fall, the McCloud River is the most popular attraction in this area, offering fishing, swimming, camping and spectacular scenery. During the winter months, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and downhill skiing are the top ranking activities.

## Developed campgrounds & facilities

Except for Harris Spring, Cattle Camp, Trout Creek Campgrounds and McCloud Reservoir Boat Ramp, all developed campgrounds and day use facilities are located along the McCloud River. All campgrounds except Fowlers are first come-first served. Reservations for Fowlers can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Campgrounds have a 14-day stay limit.

## River route

The McCloud River parallels Highway 89 from its source near Dead Horse Summit to Fowler's Campground. There it turns south and continues through private property to McCloud Reservoir (It is suggested that kayakers not venture onto private land, even for breaks). At McCloud Reservoir, the river again flows through National Forest lands to a point several miles below Ah-Di-Na Campground, plus several other areas downstream to the McCloud Nature Preserve. From here, the river passes through mostly private property and public access is extremely limited until the river enters Shasta Lake.

## Dispersed camping

If the improved campgrounds around McCloud are too crowded and confining, you may want to try camping somewhere else. Unless posted otherwise, you may camp anywhere within the National Forests. A stay limit of 30-days is enforced for dispersed camping (such as the Star City dispersed camping area noted below). No dispersed camping in the McCloud River Loop.

Recreation sites	Boat ramp	Camping units	Daily fee	Drinking water	Elevation	Handicapped restrooms	Picnic units	Toilets (flush/vault)	Trailers (max. length)	Primary use season
<b>Ah-Di-Na</b> - 6.5 miles south of McCloud Reservoir (or 18.5 miles from State Highway 89).		17	•	•	2300'			F	NR*	5/1-11/15
<b>Algoma</b> - 14 miles east of McCloud off State Highway 89.					3800'			V	16'	5/1-10/31
<b>Cattle Camp</b> - 11 miles east of McCloud off State Highway 89.		27	•	•	3700'	•		V	32'	5/1-11/15
<b>Fowlers Camp</b> - 5.5 miles east of McCloud off State Highway 89.		39	•	•	3400'	•		V	32'	5/1-11/15
<b>Harris Spring</b> - 17 miles north of Bartle off State Highway 89.		10+			4800'			V	20'	8/15-10/31
<b>Lower Falls Picnic Area</b> - 5.5 miles east of McCloud off State Highway 89.				•	3400'	•	9	V	24'	5/1-11/15
<b>McCloud Reservoir Boat Ramp</b> - 10 miles south east of McCloud on McCloud Reservoir.	•		•		3000'	•	2	V	24'	5/1-10/31
<b>Star City</b> (dispersed) - Cross the dam, turn left and go about 3 miles, almost to the end of the road. <b>NO</b> amenities (toilet, water). Please do not venture onto private land next to the camping area.		7								5/1-11/15
<b>Trout Creek</b> - 17 miles north of State Highway 89 on Pilgrim Creek Road.		10+			4800'			V	24'	6/1-10/31

\* Not recommended due to rough access road

## Fishing

**Upper McCloud River.** The McCloud River and its tributaries offer excellent fishing opportunities. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly stock the Upper McCloud River at Lower Falls and the McCloud Reservoir with rainbow trout.

**Lower McCloud River.** The Lower McCloud River, from McCloud Reservoir to Shasta Lake, has been designated a Wild Trout Stream by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This portion of the river is not artificially stocked and has special fishing regulations. Only artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks can be used. At the McCloud River Preserve, located one mile below Ah-Di-Na Campground, fishing is limited to catch and release only. Consult the map on the back, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Regulations for further details and restrictions.

**Endangered species.** The McCloud River is the only fishery in California which supports the now rare Bull Trout, also known as the Dolly Varden Trout. Actually a member of the Char family, it is found between Lower Falls and Shasta Lake. Because it is considered an endangered species by the State of California, it must be released if caught.

## Hiking

**The Pacific Crest Trail.** About 60 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail pass through the McCloud Area. Although there are no developed trailheads, good access points are located at Cabin Creek, Ah-Di-Na Campground, Ash Camp, Squaw Valley Creek, and Bartle Gap. The trail may be traversed by foot or on horseback; however, mountain bikes and motorized travel are prohibited. Brochures and maps of the Pacific Crest Trail are available at the McCloud Ranger Station or at the Supervisor's Office in Redding.

**The Squaw Valley Creek Trail.** The Squaw Valley Creek Trail is an easy 5 mile trail that passes through a mature mixed conifer forest filled with wildflowers. It closely follows the creek, past waterfalls and pools lined with umbrella plant (also called elephant ears). Poison oak is prevalent along the trail. A Recreation Opportunity Guide and map describing the Squaw Valley Creek Trail is available at the McCloud and Mt. Shasta Ranger Stations or at the Supervisor's Office in Redding.

**Mt. Shasta.** The south and east sides of Mt. Shasta provides challenging cross country hiking and climbing opportunities for experienced mountaineers. Wilderness permits are required to enter the Mt. Shasta Wilderness and

summit passes are also required if you plan to climb beyond the 10,000' elevation. Check with the McCloud or Mt. Shasta Ranger Stations for more information. Brochures and maps of Mt. Shasta are available at the McCloud and Mt. Shasta Ranger Stations or from the Supervisor's Office in Redding.

**A note about land ownership.** A large portion of the land within the McCloud Area is privately owned. We suggest that you obtain a current National Forest map of the Shasta-Trinity to help you distinguish between public and private lands. We strongly encourage you to know where you are and to respect the rights of private property owners.

## Winter sports

**Snow play.** Snowman's Hill is an established snow play area located five miles west of McCloud on Highway 89. It is a popular site for sledding, tubing and tobogganing. Facilities include a parking area and vault toilets.

**Snowmobiling.** The McCloud area has a variety of excellent snowmobile areas. The Pilgrim Creek Snowpark is located on the Pilgrim Creek Road north of Highway 89 and offers groomed trails, restrooms, a warming hut, loading ramp and garbage service. Pilgrim Creek Snowpark is part of a much larger snowmobile use area called the Tri-Forest Snowmobile Trails. 260 miles of signed trails interconnect four snowparks (including the Pilgrim Creek Snowpark) on three national forests including the Shasta-Trinity, the Modoc and the Siskiyou.

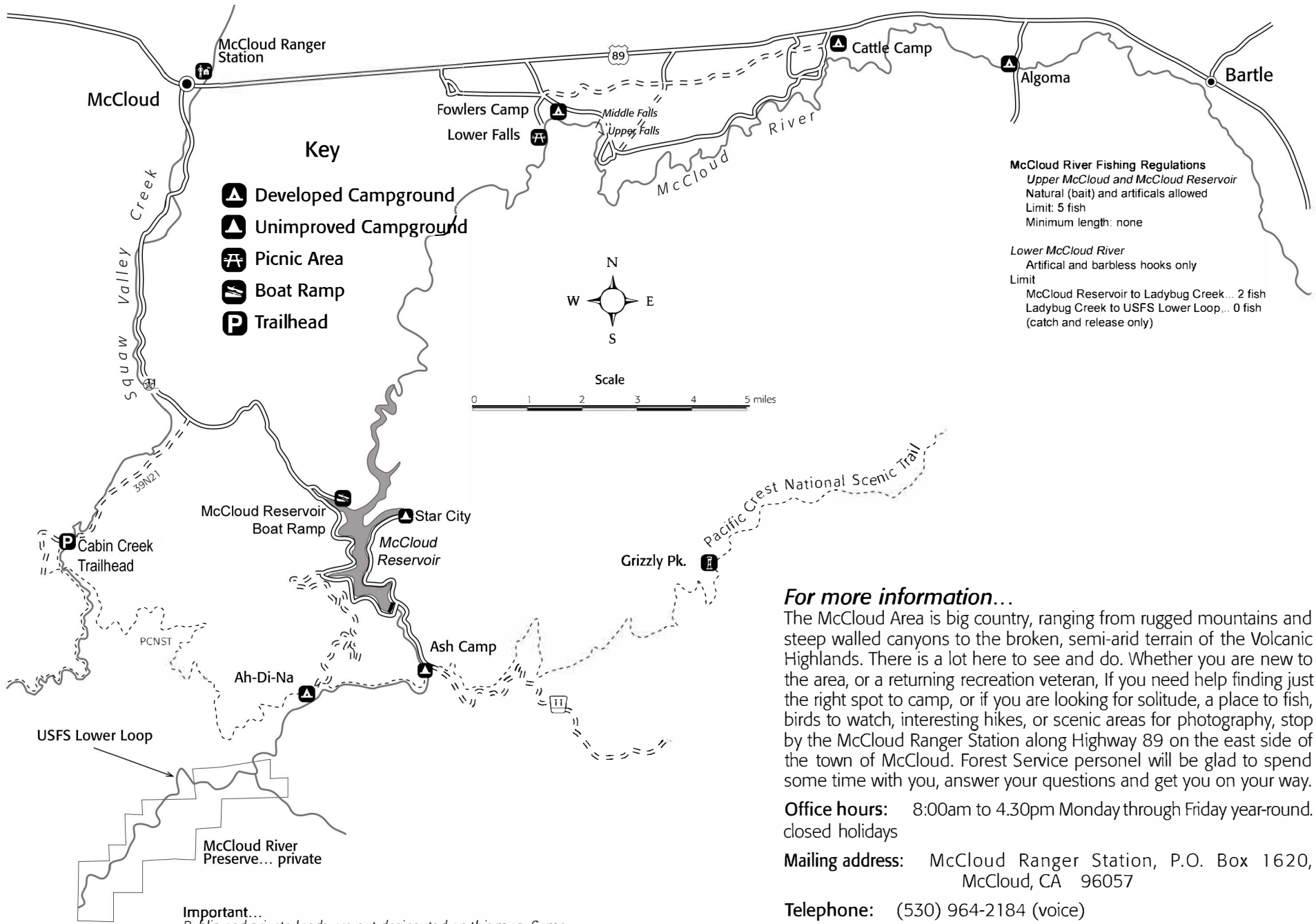
**Cross country skiing.** Although there are no marked trails, there are many cross country areas to choose from. Good touring can be found along the McKenzie Butte Road, at Snowman's Hill and at Dead Horse Summit (20 miles east of McCloud on Highway 89).

## Recreational driving

From late Spring through early Autumn, the Modoc Scenic Byway is the "Sunday drivers" delight. It extends from McCloud, east on Highway 89 to Forest Route 15 (Harris Spring Road), and then north to Forest Route 49 to Medicine Lake. From the beautiful McCloud River to spectacular vistas of Mt. Shasta and the rugged Medicine Lake Highlands it is a drive to remember. Recreational Opportunity Guides and maps of the Scenic Byway and the Medicine Lake Highlands are available from the McCloud Ranger Station or the Supervisor's Office in Redding.

## 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.



**McCloud River Fishing Regulations**  
 Upper McCloud and McCloud Reservoir  
 Natural (bait) and artificals allowed  
 Limit: 5 fish  
 Minimum length: none

**Lower McCloud River**  
 Artificial and barbless hooks only  
 Limit  
 McCloud Reservoir to Ladybug Creek... 2 fish  
 Ladybug Creek to USFS Lower Loop... 0 fish  
 (catch and release only)

**Important...**  
 Public and private lands are not designated on this map. Some private lands are NOT open to public use. Know where you are and respect the rights of the private property owner.

**For more information...**

The McCloud Area is big country, ranging from rugged mountains and steep walled canyons to the broken, semi-arid terrain of the Volcanic Highlands. There is a lot here to see and do. Whether you are new to the area, or a returning recreation veteran, If you need help finding just the right spot to camp, or if you are looking for solitude, a place to fish, birds to watch, interesting hikes, or scenic areas for photography, stop by the McCloud Ranger Station along Highway 89 on the east side of the town of McCloud. Forest Service personel will be glad to spend some time with you, answer your questions and get you on your way.

**Office hours:** 8:00am to 4.30pm Monday through Friday year-round. closed holidays

**Mailing address:** McCloud Ranger Station, P.O. Box 1620, McCloud, CA 96057

**Telephone:** (530) 964-2184 (voice)  
 711 (TTY)

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