



# Railroad logging on the Strawberry Branch

ROG 16-51-04 2/2020

Imagine a steam train pulling a full load of logs down the canyon, its brakes smoking and squealing. That's easy to do when you walk this three-mile trail (one way), an overlay of the historic Sugar Pine Railway.

## About the site

For over half a century, the Sugarpine Railway hauled logs harvested first by the Standard Lumber Company and then by the Pickering Lumber Company. Called the Strawberry Branch, this three percent rail grade parallels the South Fork of the Stanislaus River, past sights and traces of railroad logging dating from before World War I.



A brochure that identifies four posts along the grade describes railroad logging in the yellow pine forests of the Sierra and the significance of trailside features. Pick up this guide at either the Summit Ranger District office or the Forest Supervisor's office.

During winter, the trail is a cross-country ski route, accessible from the northeast end of the trail, near the town of Strawberry. This trail is suitable for hiking, biking and equestrian traffic.

## Getting There

The trail is a short distance off Highway 108, near the Summit Ranger District office and Pinecrest Lake.

The trail may be accessed at its northeast end near Strawberry on the Summit RD, or at its southwest end near Fraser Flat Campground on Mi-Wok RD.

- **Northeast access** - from Summit Ranger District at Pinecrest Lake Road, turn left (southwest) onto Highway 108 and drive about three miles to Old Strawberry Road. Turn right and continue for two miles; Park at the trailhead on the left side of Old Strawberry Road.
- **Southwest access** - from Summit Ranger District at Pinecrest Lake Road, turn left (southwest) onto Highway 108 and drive to Fraser Flat Road (Forest Road 4N01). Turn right and continue downhill to the bridge at the South Fork of the Stanislaus River. The trailhead and parking are adjacent to the river on the south side.

Please contact the offices listed below for more information, maps and brochures:

**Stanislaus National Forest  
Forest Supervisor's Office**  
19777 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-3671

**Summit Ranger District**  
#1 Pinecrest Lake Road  
Pinecrest, CA , 95364  
(209) 965-3434



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