

Camping and Picnicking

Yuba River Ranger District

Hwy 20, Bowman Rd, Interstate 80 Areas

Tahoe National Forest



Welcome

Welcome to the Tahoe National Forest, where each year over several million visitor days are spent enjoying the scenic variety and clean air of the high Sierra. These public lands are dedicated to the conservation of the forests, water, grazing areas, wildlife, and recreational opportunities. The Forest name, taken from the famed Lake Tahoe, is probably from a Washoe Indian word meaning Big Water.

The Tahoe National Forest is located northeast of Sacramento in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains. Several highways, including Interstate 80; State Highways 20, 49, 89, and 267; and Forest roads, provide excellent access to most portions of the Forest.

The central Sierra Nevada Mountains offer scenic beauty and an attractive climate that have made the area an outstanding year-round center for outdoor recreation. Elevations within the Forest vary from about 1,500 feet in the foothills to over 9,000 feet at the Sierra Crest.

The Forest maintains many public campgrounds. Nearly all have fire rings, tables, and toilets. Their locations and descriptions are listed in this guide. Swimming beaches, boat launches, and other commercial services are accessible from a number of campgrounds.

Anglers and hunters use the campgrounds in season. Anglers frequent the many rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs on the Forest in the quest for rainbow, German brown, and eastern brook trout. There are also numerous deer, black bears, and upland game birds of interest to the hunters who visit the Forest.

Enjoy your visit to the Tahoe National Forest. Please help us prevent forest fires and keep recreation areas clean. The Forest is yours to explore, enjoy, and protect.

Use of National Forest Recreation Sites and Areas

Family Recreation Sites

Family campgrounds in the Bowman Road area are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Family

campgrounds in the Highway 20 corridor and Interstate 80 corridor have limited first-come, first-serve availability, but may be reserved. Reservations can be made online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

Unless noted, each campsite has a table and fire ring, or cooking stove/grill. Many campsites also have bear proof food lockers.

In order to protect soil and vegetation resources, family campsites are limited to six persons or one immediate family per site.

Group Campgrounds

Skillman, Faucherie and Big Bend group Campgrounds are available by reservation only. Reservations can be made online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is located throughout the Bowman area (Bowman Lake to Faucherie Campground) and are generally available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Sites have campfire rings with or without grills.

Garbage and Sanitation

Fee sites have regular trash pickup and toilet cleaning services provided during the fee season. These services are not provided when fees are not charged. If there are no trash facilities available, please pack out what you bring in. Be a considerate forest user!

Water

Potable water is available at Hampshire Rocks, Indian Springs, White Cloud, Big Bend, and Skillman Campgrounds. These water systems are maintained and safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of



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treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

Skillman Campground provides water for both human and equestrian drinking. Sources are labeled with signs accordingly.

Pets

Pets are allowed in developed sites, but must be on a leash or under some physical control only. Please be considerate of your pet as well as other campers.

Campfire Permits

Campfire permits are not required in developed camp or picnic sites; however, fires are restricted to the fire rings or stoves provided. Outside of developed sites, campfire permits are required, and campfire restrictions are often in effect during the summer and fall months. Check with a Ranger Station before your outing.

Firearms

You can bring a firearm into any developed site on the Yuba River Ranger District, but you are not permitted to discharge a firearm in or near any developed site, or within 150 yards of a road, trail, or place where people may be.

Motor Vehicles

Operation and parking of street legal motorized vehicles is permitted only on roads and areas designated for this purpose. Unlicensed operators are not permitted to operate vehicles within developed sites. State and Federal vehicle regulations are in effect in all sites.

Equestrians

Horses and stock are only permitted in the Skillman Group Campground on Highway 20.

Concessionaires

Some fee campgrounds are operated in partnership with PG&E. Most fee campgrounds on the Tahoe National Forest are operated by concessionaires, who are selected in a competitive bid process and operate under a special use permit to ensure that standards are being met. The Yuba River Ranger District fee sites are operated by California Land Management.

Campground Time Limits

On the Yuba River Ranger District, camping is limited to fourteen days per year within each family campground, per individual or family group.

Camping outside of developed campsites is limited to 14 days per Ranger District per year.

Trailers

Many campgrounds will accommodate travel trailers up to 26 feet in length. Parking space only is available; there is no provision for utility connections. Please plug your toilet drains. Sink waste water may be drained into a container and disposed of as directed. Campgrounds from which trailers are excluded are indicated within this guide. Pickup campers and other single vehicle campers are permitted in any car space.

Seasons

The main camping season in the Tahoe National Forest is from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Although some sites remain open after the regular season, water systems are shut down, and trash removal is discontinued. Contact a Tahoe National Forest office for current information on which sites are currently open.

For More Information

Tahoe National Forest Headquarters Yuba River Ranger District

631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-265-4531 (voice)
530-478-6118 (TDD)
www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe

All Are Welcome

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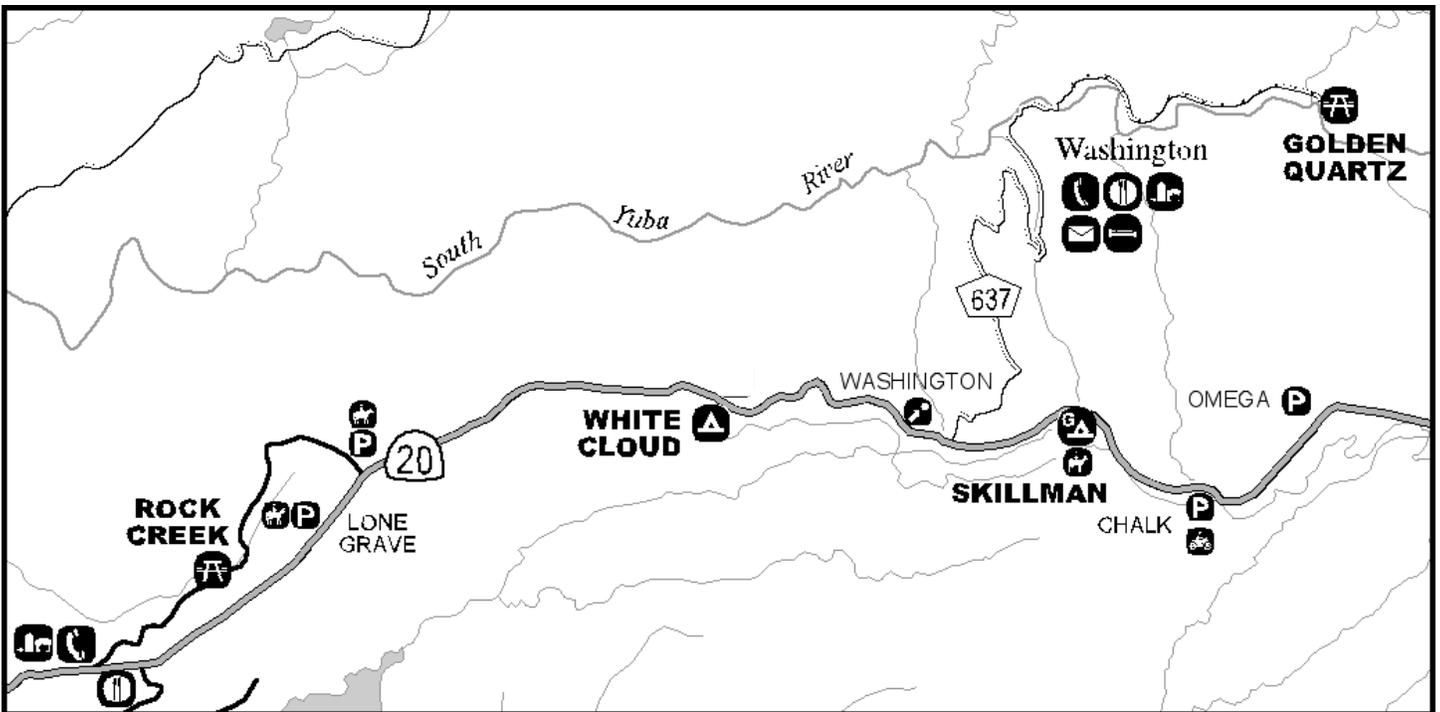
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Highway 20—South Yuba River



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Highway 20—Yuba River Ranger District

Highway 20 runs eastward from Nevada City, 26 miles to its intersection with Interstate 80. It provides access to the South Yuba River in the vicinity of the town of Washington. Activities include camping, picnicking, hunting, and viewing scenery, with the additional pleasures of fishing, swimming and gold panning in the South Yuba River area. Supplies are available in Nevada City and Washington. Normal use season is May through October.

White Cloud Campground

Located on Highway 20 twelve miles east of Nevada City and fourteen miles west of I-80. Reservations, can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777.

Elevation: 4200 feet

Facilities:

- 46 tent and trailer campsites
- Flush and vault toilets
- Potable water
- Paved parking

Skillman Equestrian Group Campground

Located on Highway 20 fourteen miles east of Nevada City and 12 miles west of I-80. Reservations, can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777.

Elevation: 4,400 feet

Facilities:

- 16 campsites, twelve with room for trailers
- Vault toilets
- Potable water
- Non-potable equestrian water
- Tie rails, corrals and water troughs
- Limited parking

Attractions:

- Pioneer Trail
- Hallelujah Trail

Golden Quartz Picnic Area - Day Use Only

Located on the South Fork of the Yuba River, five miles upstream from the town of Washington, on a rough road.

Elevation: 2900 feet

Facilities:

- 7 picnic sites with tables
- Vault toilet
- Adequate parking
- Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage receptacle)

Attractions:

- Yuba River
- Remote location

Rock Creek Nature Trail - Day Use Only

Located seven and one-half miles east of Nevada City on Highway 20, one mile northwest on Conservation Road, and one mile south on the Rock Creek Road.

Elevation: 2900 feet

Facilities:

- Three picnic tables at trailhead
- Vault toilet
- Ample parking

Attractions:

- One mile long self-guided nature trail with brochures available at trailhead.



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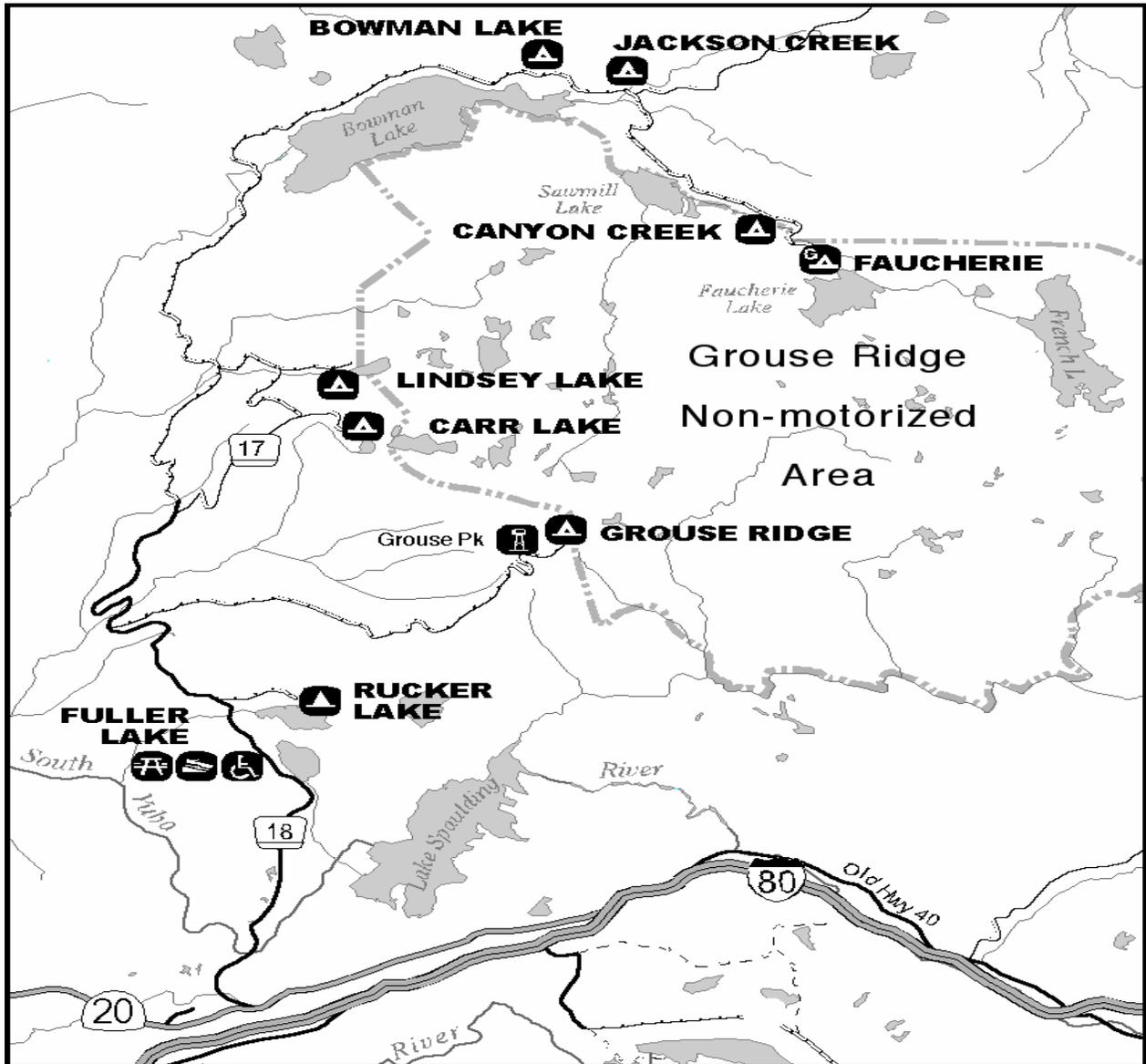
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Bowman Road Area-Yuba River Ranger District

The Bowman Road proceeds north from Highway 20, three and one half miles west of the Interstate 80 intersection. It travels north sixteen miles to Bowman Lake and then northeast six miles to the Jackson Meadow area. Activities include stream fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating and hunting in season. Supplies are available in Nevada City or along I-80. Normal season of use is June through October. There are no sites with potable water within this area.

Fuller Lake Day Use Area

Located on Fuller Lake, four miles north of Highway 20. **Fee Site**

Elevation: 5,343 feet

Facilities:

- Tables
- Vault toilets
- Boat ramp

Attractions:

- Adjacent to Fuller Lake

Rucker Lake Campground

Located near Rucker Lake, six miles north of Highway 20. **Fee Site**

Elevation: 5,462 feet

Facilities:

- 7 walk-in campsites
- Vault toilets
- Pack-in/pack-out
- Limited parking
- Bear proof food lockers

Attractions:

- Rucker and Blue Lake
- Hiking
- Fishing

Grouse Ridge Campground

Located near Grouse Ridge lookout, eleven miles north of Highway 20.

Elevation: 7,400 feet

Facilities:

- Nine campsites with tables and fire rings or stoves (five have space for small trailers)
- Vault toilet
- Ample parking (at campground and trailhead)
- Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage containers)

Attractions:

- Grouse Ridge Lookout
- Dispersed lakes
- Dispersed trails

Carr Lake Campground

Located near Carr Lake, 10 miles north of Highway 20. **Fee Site**

Elevation: 6,700 feet

Facilities:

- 5 unimproved walk-in campsites
- Vault toilets
- Pack-in/pack-out
- Adequate parking

Attractions:

- Carr Lake/Feeley Lake
- Fishing
- Hiking

Lindsey Lake Campground

Located near Lindsey Lake, 12 miles north of Highway 20. **Fee Site**

Elevation: 6,236 feet

Facilities:

- Seven unimproved campsites
- Vault toilet
- Pack-in/pack-out

Attractions:

- Access to hiking and fishing

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Bowman Lake Campground

Located at Bowman Lake, 16 miles north of Highway 20.

Elevation: 5,565 feet

Facilities:

Seven campsites with tables, fire rings and bear proof food lockers

Vault toilet

Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage receptacles)

Parking available

Attractions:

Bowman Lake

Fishing

Swimming

Boating

Jackson Creek Campground

Located on Jackson Creek, eighteen miles north of Highway 20.

Elevation: 5,600 feet

Facilities:

Fourteen campsites with tables, stoves, and bear proof food lockers

Vault toilets

Limited parking

Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage receptacles)

Attractions:

Adjacent to Jackson Creek

Canyon Creek Campground

Located on Canyon Creek below Faucherie Reservoir, three miles southeast of Jackson Creek Campground on Forest Road 122-80. Prairie Creek crossing can be difficult for passenger vehicles, recreation vehicles, and trailers.

Elevation: 6,600 feet

Facilities:

20 campsites with tables, fire rings/grills and bear proof food lockers(11 have paved space for trailers)

Vault toilets

Paved parking

Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage containers)

Attractions:

Adjacent to Canyon Creek

Close to Faucherie Reservoir (one mile)

Remote location

Faucherie Group Campground

Located at Faucherie Reservoir, one mile above Canyon Creek Campground on Forest Road 122-80. Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777. **Fee Site**

Elevation: 6,160 feet

Facilities:

Two 25-person units with tables, stoves and group bear proof food lockers

Vault toilets

Limited parking

Garbage service is available

Attractions:

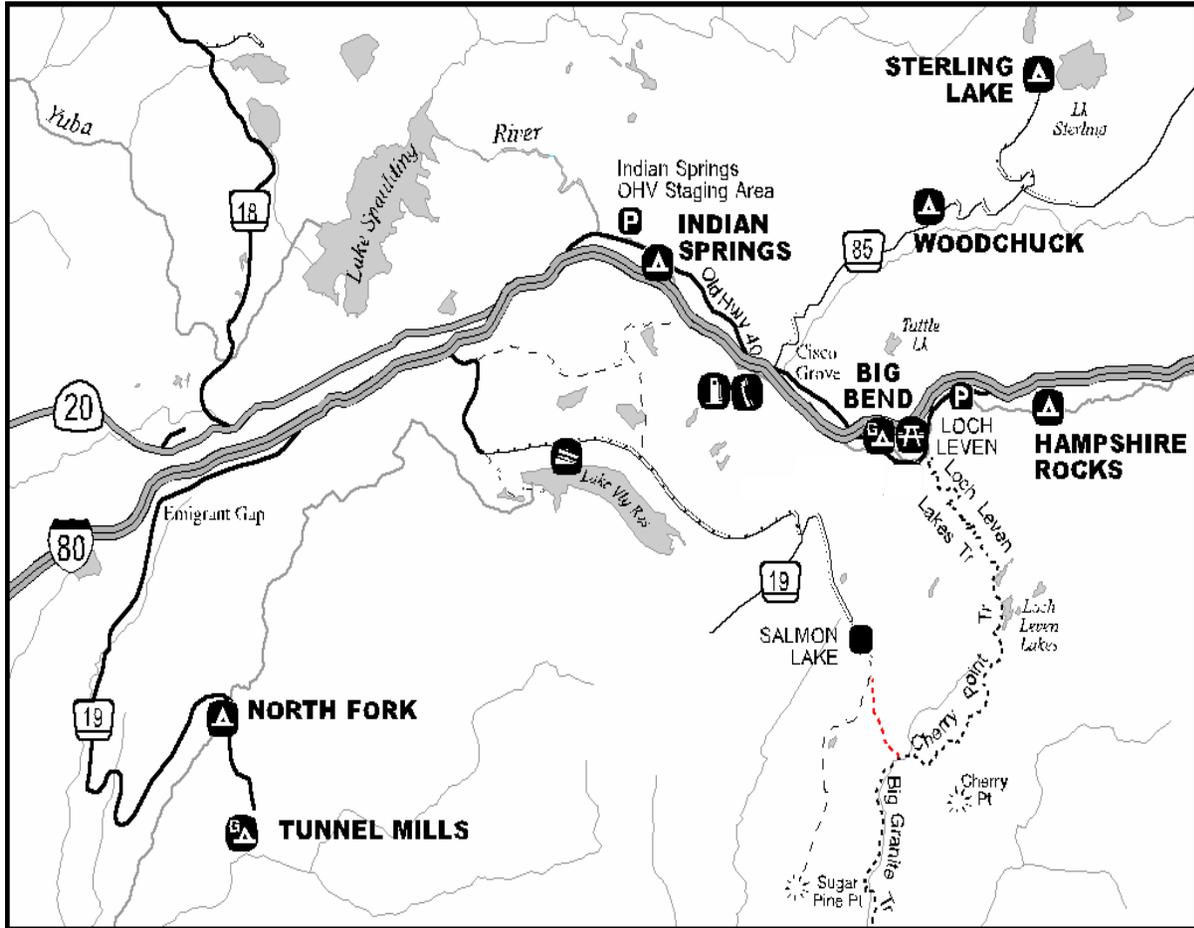
Adjacent to Faucherie Reservoir

Close to Canyon Creek

Interstate 80

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Interstate 80—Yuba River Ranger District

The following sites are all adjacent to or accessible from Interstate 80. Activities include fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking, viewing scenery, and hunting in season. Supplies are available at the Nyack exit of Emigrant Gap, Cisco Grove, Soda Springs, Norden and Truckee. Normal use season is June through October.

Indian Springs Campground

Take the Eagle Lake exit off I-80 and turn north for one-half mile. Reservations, can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777.

Elevation: 5,600 feet

Facilities:

- 35 campsites
- Paved parking
- Vault toilets
- Potable water
- Limited space for small trailers
- Limited parking

Attractions:

- South Yuba River
- Swimming
- Fishing

Woodchuck Campground

Take the Cisco Grove exit off I-80 and turn north. Turn left onto the frontage road after crossing over the freeway and then turn right just before Cisco Grove Campground onto Rattlesnake Road. Proceed three miles to the campground.

Elevation: 6,300 feet

Facilities:

- Eight tent campsites, with fire rings with grills and tables.
- One group campsite with grill, group fire ring and tables
- Vault toilets
- Limited parking
- Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage receptacles)

Attractions:

- Rattlesnake Creek

Sterling Lake Campground

Using the directions to Woodchuck Campground above, proceed three and one-half miles past Woodchuck Campground to Sterling Lake Campground. Steep winding road - trailers not recommended.

Elevation: 7,000 feet

Facilities:

- Six walk-in campsites
- Vault toilets
- Pack-in/pack-out (no garbage containers)

Attractions:

- Sterling Lake

Big Bend Group Campground and Day Use

From eastbound I-80, take Big Bend exit and continue east one-quarter mile to the campground. From westbound I-80, take the Rainbow Road exit and continue west for one and one-half mile to the campground. Reservations, can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777.

Elevation: 5,900 feet

Facilities:

- Two group campsites with tables, group fire rings and grills
- Maximum capacity: 25 people per site
- Vault toilets
- Potable water

Attractions:

- Hiking trails to high elevation lakes
- South Yuba River

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Hampshire Rocks Campground

Take the Rainbow Road exit off I-80. The campground is located off the frontage road on the south side of the freeway. Reservations, can be made at www.recreation.gov/ or by calling 877-444-6777.

Elevation: 5,800 feet

Facilities:

- 31 campsites with campfire rings with grills and tables
- Vault toilets
- Potable water
- Trailer units available
- Limited parking

Attractions:

- South Yuba River
- Hiking trails to high elevation lakes