

# WILDERNESS HIKING

## McGee Creek Canyon

### Inyo National Forest



#### McGEE CREEK TRAILHEAD

The trailhead is 32 miles north of Bishop or 8 miles south of the Mammoth turnoff on US 395. Turn at the McGee Creek exit. Follow this road 4 miles, past the McGee Pack Station to the road end parking.

#### TRAIL DESCRIPTION

##### STEELHEAD LAKE

From the parking area, the trail begins as an old jeep trail and soon enters the John Muir Wilderness. The jeep trail is unused and has been reverted to its primitive state. The canyon is mostly covered with Sagebrush and Rabbitbrush, but closer to the creek there are also Black Cottonwood, Water Birch, Copper Birch and Quaking Aspen. The trail follows McGee Creek, crossing many fords of the creek. During the early season high water levels are something to be aware of. The trail then steepens as it turns west through a Lodgepole forest. Soon after, the trail leaves the jeep road at a signed junction and continues to a junction with the Steelhead Lake trail. (This junction is farther than indicated on the maps. It is where the trail finally returns to creek side.)

The route to Steelhead Lake branches left (east). The trail switchbacks steeply from here to Grass Lake, then switchbacks up another steep slope to finally reach the north end of Steelhead Lake (10,350'). From Steelhead Lake, you can see Mt. Stanford to the south, Mt. Crocker to the west and Mt. Baldwin to the north.

##### McGEE LAKE

The trip to McGee Lake begins the same as the trip to Steelhead Lake. At the junction with the Steelhead trail, continue on the main trail, taking the right branch of the fork. The trail will lead south over a forested and rocky slope, then through meadows and

under Whitebark Pine, Lodgepole and Mountain Hemlock to the slopes below Big McGee Lake (10,600').

There is good fishing at nearby Little McGee Lake, Crocker Lake and Golden Lake.

Continuing on the trail past Little McGee Lake will lead you to McGee Pass (11,876') and on to Fish Creek and Lake Edison.

Weather conditions can change rapidly in the Sierra Nevada. Hikers should carry ample clothing for the anticipated changes. It is recommended that all hikers boil water for 3 to 5 minutes or use a filtering system before drinking due to giardia in most of the waters.

Pack stock often use the trails in the McGee area. Please remember that stock have the right of way on all trails. Stand quietly off trail until all stock have passed to avoid spooking the animals.

**PLEASE** pack out all trash including empty bait containers.

#### GUIDEBOOKS

Sierra North—100 Backcountry Trips by Thomas & Jason Winnett (Wilderness Press)

Best Short Hikes in California's Southern Sierra by Karen & Terry Whitehill (The Mountaineers)

Sierra Nevada Wildflowers by Elizabeth L. Horn (Mountain Press)

#### MAPS

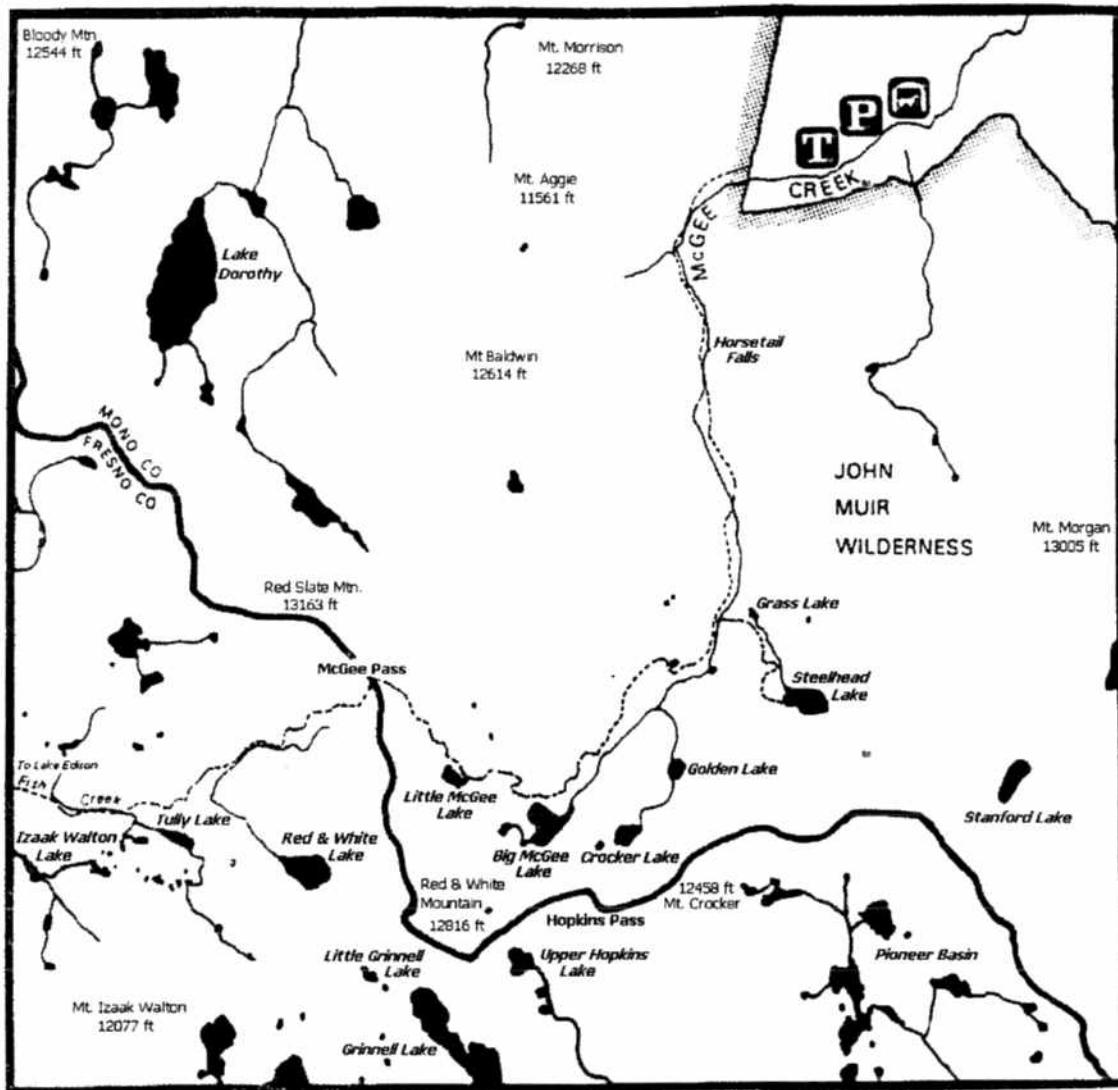
USFS: John Muir Wilderness Map (topo)

USGS: Mt. Abbott—7.5 minute quad

Convict Lake—7.5 minute quad



White Mtn  
Ranger Station



| LANDMARK              | MILES | ELEVATION |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| McGee Creek Trailhead |       | 8,000     |
| Steelhead Lake        | 5.0   | 10,350    |
| Big McGee Lake        | 7.0   | 10,480    |
| McGee Pass            | 9.0   | 11,900    |
| Tully Lake            | 11.5  | 10,400    |
| Tully Hole            | 14.0  | 9,500     |

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