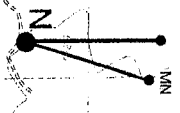


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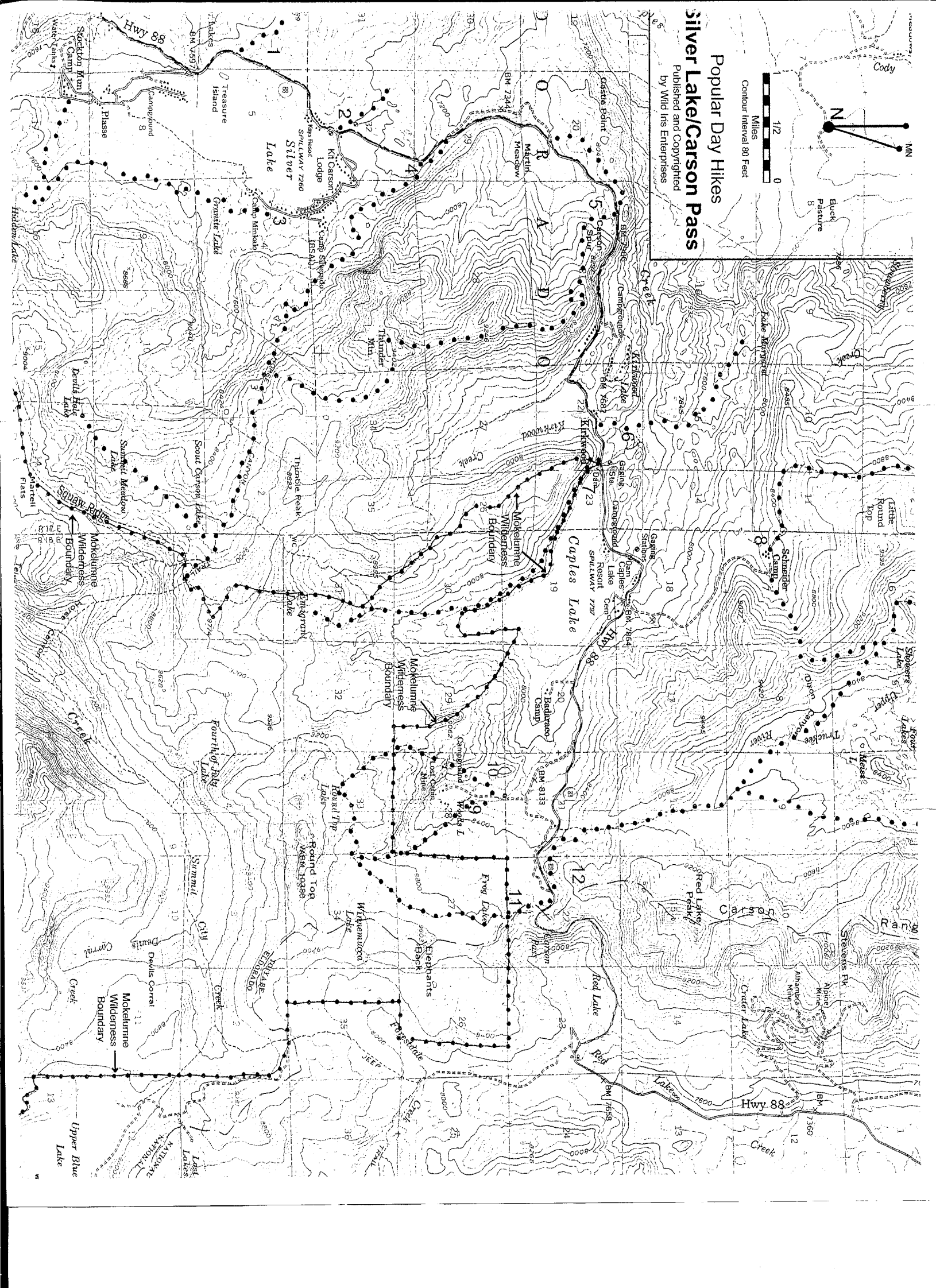
Cody

Buck Pasture 5

Popular Day Hikes

Silver Lake/Carson Pass

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1. SHEALOR LAKES DISTANCE one way: 1.5 miles
ELEVATION GAIN: 300' in and 500' (switchbacks) on the way out.
TRAILHEAD: 1.2 miles west of Silver Lake dam, on the right side of Hwy. 88 as you are heading towards Jackson. Easy to miss the turnoff.
DESCRIPTION: At an elev. of 7200', delightful small lake with a short hike in, up and over a ridge and then down to the lake. The first lake you come to is the most attractive. The climb back out is steeper than the climb in since the lake is lower than the trailhead. A nice, short but steep hike. Wonderful swimming lake.

2. THE POTHOLES DISTANCE one way: 1.0 mile
ELEVATION GAIN: 40' - This is a gentle walk down the river.
TRAILHEAD: At the Silver Lake dam, on the west side of the dam there is a fisherman's path that more or less follows the river downstream. You can also find a similar path at the far end of the campground on east side of river.
DESCRIPTION: Very short and gentle, easy walk to nice granite slabs and pot holes drilled into the rock by the Silver Fork of the American River. Great swimming/picnicking area. Watch your children near this river! The "potholes" stretch is about 300 yards long.

3. GRANITE & HIDDEN LAKE DISTANCE one way: (to Granite) 1.0 mile
ELEVATION GAIN: 320' - Granite is a short "tune up" hike.
TRAILHEAD: Take Kit Carson Rd. off 88 at Silver Lake for 1.5 miles thru summer home tract. Stay on upper Rd. Park at end of Rd. near entrance to old Camp Minkalo. Trailhead is 100 yards before the parking area.
DESCRIPTION: Hike up over granite dome with erratic boulders to trail that crosses Squaw Creek then more steeply up to Granite Lake. A few steep trail sections but good for children, swimming and a picnic. From here continue on 2.0 miles to Hidden Lake and then 1.0 miles to Plasse. After Granite Lake there are lots of unmarked trails. Granite is nicest of the two lakes.

4. HORSE CANYON TRAIL DISTANCE 5.5 miles to top of Squaw Ridge. ELEVATION GAIN: 2100' - Gentle 1st mile then steady but not steep.
TRAILHEAD: South side of Hwy 88, 0.8 miles east of Silver Lake dam.
DESCRIPTION: Trailhead is easy to miss. Long trail, good climb. Several miles up past the 2nd year round creek crossing the trail you can head up 1.4 miles to the back of Thunder Mountain. Horse Canyon trail tops out at 9200' on Squaw Ridge to connect with the OHV road there. 0.5 mi. before that summit, you can hike 0.5 mi. to Scout Carson Lake (elev. 8950'), then 1.5 mi. cross country to Summit Meadow Lake (elev. 8300') and another 1.0 mi. to Devils Hole Lake (elev. 8300')

5. THUNDER MOUNTAIN DISTANCE one way: 3.5 miles
ELEVATION GAIN: 1450'
TRAILHEAD: 4 miles east of Silver Lake on the south side of Hwy 88 just west of the Carson Spur. Castle Point trailhead is directly across Hwy 88.

6. SILVER LAKE A newer trail that goes up (3.5 mi.) onto the ridge that separates Silver Lake from Kirkwood to the back of Thunder Mtn. (spectacular views) and from there continues 1.4 miles down to the Horse Canyon trail. Hikers can continue down the Horse Canyon trail to Hwy 88, cross the highway and continue up the abandoned old Hwy 88 to Martin Meadow. From there continue 1.2 miles up the Castle Point Trail (great views down into Caples Creek drainage and the high peaks of Presidential Wilderness) back to the parking area/trailhead.

5. THUNDER MOUNTAIN - Continued While this provides a long loop (9.5 miles), most hikers do just the Thunder Mountain or Castle Point portions; the old Hwy 88 is uninspiring.

6. LAKE MARGARET DISTANCE one way: 2.3 miles
ELEVATION GAIN: 220' Much of the elevation change is in 1st 0.5 mile.
TRAILHEAD: North side Hwy. 88 between Kirkwood Inn and Caples Lake dam/spillway. Easy to miss. Drive slowly.
DESCRIPTION: The trail goes down into a meadow system containing Caples Creek, a fly fishing favorite, crosses the creek then ascends to a large pond and continues 0.8 mile to Lake Margaret. Good hike for kids.

7. EMIGRANT LAKE DISTANCE one way: 4.3 miles
ELEVATION GAIN: 800' (all the gain is in the last 1.8 miles)
TRAILHEAD: Caples Lake dam/spillway just 0.2 mi. east of Kirkwood.
DESCRIPTION: Trail is flat for 2.5 miles along the southerly shore line of Caples Lake then starts to climb for a mile up to a junction, then go left, cross the stream and continue climbing to Emigrant Lake. Late snow on the trail in early summer after a big winter. This hike is not as easy as it looks. Emigrant is a spectacular lake set in a steep bowl with high granite walls on three sides. You meditate at this lake. A trail leads off to the left leading up to the saddle above 4th of July Lake and Round Top Lake.

8. SCHNEIDER COW CAMP TO MEISS RIDGE & SHOWERS LAKE ELEVATION GAIN: 800' to Meiss Ridge DIST. 1.0 mile to Meiss Ridge.
TRAILHEAD: 0.7 miles east of the easterly Caples Lake dam, turn left into the Cal Trans station, stay to the left, go through a cattle fence "gate" (make sure you close it) for 1.5 miles. There will be a barn off to the left, the road ahead impassable by car. Trailhead is to the right.
DESCRIPTION: In front of you is a huge bowl, 1 mile square, that tops out at Meiss Ridge. This bowl is quite possibly one of the premiere wild flower areas of the high sierra, early July through mid-August. The 1st 0.5 mile climbs gradually, the last 0.5 mile is steeper with switchbacks to the ridge. On the east side of the ridge is a descent down to Meiss Meadow, one of the great high meadows, the head waters of the Truckee River and home to Meiss Lake and Round Lake. At the ridge you can go to the right along the ridge line south to Meiss Col and descend to Carson Pass on the Meiss Meadow/Meiss Lake trail (see #12 below). Go left on the Ridge for 1.0 mile (great view of Tahoe) to Showers Lake. Return via same route or go around Little Round Top (Peak 9595) to Schneider's Cow Camp.

9. WINNEMUCCA LAKE FROM WOODS LAKE (ROUND TOP LAKE, ROUND TOP PEAK AND FOURTH OF JULY SADDLE) DISTANCE: one way: 1.9 miles (Woods Lake to Winnemucca)
ELEVATION GAIN: 750'
TRAILHEAD: Woods Lake Rd. 3/4 mile from Hwy 88. The first 1/10th mile of trail is shared with hike #10.
DESCRIPTION: The shortest route into Winnemucca Lake takes you up along the outflow creek from Winnemucca through a great field of Indian paintbrush. Return via the same route or go right at the west end of Winnemucca up 400' of elevation gain over 0.9 miles to Round Top Lake, another jewel. At the east end find the trail that steeply ascends Round Top Peak, the highest point for miles around. Steep trail that can be windy and a bit dicey at the top - go as high as you feel safe for spectacular views. The south face of Round Top Peak is an awesome 3000' plunge into Summit City Canyon. At the west end of Round Top Lake at its outlet, you can either return to Woods Lake via the Lost Cabin Mine trail (#10 below) or head south over to Fourth of July Saddle. The Saddle sits over 1000' above Fourth of July Lake, 1.0 mile down by trail, on the side of Summit City Canyon. From this saddle you can hike down to Emigrant Lake or west to Emigrant Peak and the top of the Horse Canyon Trail at Siskiyou Ridge.

10. ROUND TOP LAKE AND WINNEMUCCA LAKE FROM WOODS LAKE VIA LOST CABIN MINE TRAIL DISTANCE one way: 2.3 miles (Woods Lake to Round Top Lake)
ELEVATION GAIN: 1100'
TRAILHEAD: Woods Lake Rd. 3/4 mile from Hwy 88. The first 1/10th mile of trail is shared with hike #9.
DESCRIPTION: Relatively steep trail that goes up past the Lost Cabin Mine following the outlet stream to Round Top Lake. Late snow on the trail in early summer after a big winter. Return via the same trail or loop down to Winnemucca and return via the Woods Lake Trail (see # 9).

11. WINNEMUCCA LAKE FROM CARSON PASS DISTANCE: one way 2.3 miles. (Very popular hike)
ELEVATION GAIN: 500'
TRAILHEAD: South side of Hwy. 88 at Carson Pass
DESCRIPTION: Picture postcard lake with the area's highest peak rising 1400' above its southerly shoreline. The hike in is gentle after the first 0.5 mile and features great views and great wildflowers, especially lupine, in July and Early August. Frog Lake is off the trail to the left, less than 1.0 mile from the trailhead. At the east end of Frog Lake is one of the two easiest found wild iris patches near Carson Pass. An acre in size and a very short bloom window but if you hit it, wow! The trail continues along the westerly base of Elephant's Back, through fields of lupine up to Winnemucca a perfect picnic spot. This trail will continue up to Round Top Lake or down to Woods Lake as described above in # 9 and 10.

12. MEISS MEADOW FROM CARSON PASS DISTANCE one way: 1.4 miles up to Meiss Col and another 2.6 miles down to Meiss Lake.
ELEVATION GAIN: 300' (up) to the Col and 500' (down) to Meiss Lake.
TRAILHEAD: North side of Hwy 88, just west of Carson Pass.
DESCRIPTION: The wildflowers on the way up to Meiss Col, the saddle that separates the Meiss drainage from the Hwy. 88/Caples drainage, come in a couple of weeks earlier than over in the Winnemucca area. At Meiss Col is a cattle pond with a great iris patch if you catch it during its narrow window of bloom. From this saddle you can ascend Red Lake Peak to the right, hike over Meiss Ridge to the left and down to Showers Lake and Schneider Cow Camp or you can continue straight down into Meiss Meadow and the beginning of the Truckee River, Meiss Lake, Four Lakes, Round Lake or up to Showers Lake. This is a great meadow.

POPULAR DAY HIKES IN THE SILVER LAKE/CARSON PASS AREA
This concise guide is put together at the request of countless hikers over the years for a one sheet map/hiking guide to this area for popular day hikes. This guide does not cover miles of overnight hiking trails. Trail conditions and locations change over time. This map/guide is meant to be only a general locational aide and hikers are advised to exercise caution and to always be aware of where they are when hiking new areas. More detailed information on these and other hikes is available in various detailed hiking guides. Check with USFS information centers for latest trail information and regulations.

SURVIVAL TIPS

We all know to bring snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses and not to drink the water out of streams. Sometimes we get lazy on those hot days and hike with a false sense of security. The main reason that hikers die of exposure in the summer is because they get excessively cold and are not rescued quickly by those searching for them. A whistle and a pocket space blanket will save your life. Every hiker, even children, should carry them along with a waterproof jacket and water. Teach your child to stay put and hug a tree should he/she "discover" that he/she is lost.