



Boulder Creek Falls Trail (South Shore Drive access)



Boulder Creek Falls

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS (South Shore Drive access)

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center drive 7 miles west on Hwy 299. Turn left at the Carr Powerhouse, and follow the road all the way past the powerhouse itself. When the paved road ends take a sharp left onto South Shore Drive. Continue 2.7 miles to the trailhead which is located on the right side of the road. Limited parking is available across the road.

The same trailhead can also be approached from Kennedy Memorial Drive. From the dam, drive west 4.3 miles. Just before the gate at Dry Creek Group Campground, turn left. Follow South Shore Drive 2.7 miles to the trailhead.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The first mile of the trail follows a wide, exposed logging road through a thicket of white leaf manzanita, knobcone pine, red-bud, wild grape and poison oak. Near the creek this brushland transitions into a forest of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and canyon live oak.

FEATURES

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Length: 5.5 miles round trip
Elevation: 1,270 to 2,250 feet
Debris flows from Shasta Bally batholith
Suitable for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians

Look for ladybugs in a clearing just before the first creek crossing. Thousands have been seen next to the side of the trail on sunny days in fall, winter and early spring.

The trail follows the creek for the next half mile, crossing Boulder Creek and a seasonal creek four times. Bracken and sword ferns abound along the creek. Just past the third crossing, on both sides of the trail, are the deteriorating foundations of a residence last occupied in the 1960s. A little farther on, the trail forks; take the right fork. You will come to a nice stand of big leaf maples as you approach the final crossing.

Approaching the falls, the trail drops down into a cool watershed. The creek leading from the falls is visible, crossing the road.

The sign for the short side trail to the falls will be on your left. Follow the steps up the hill to a rocky



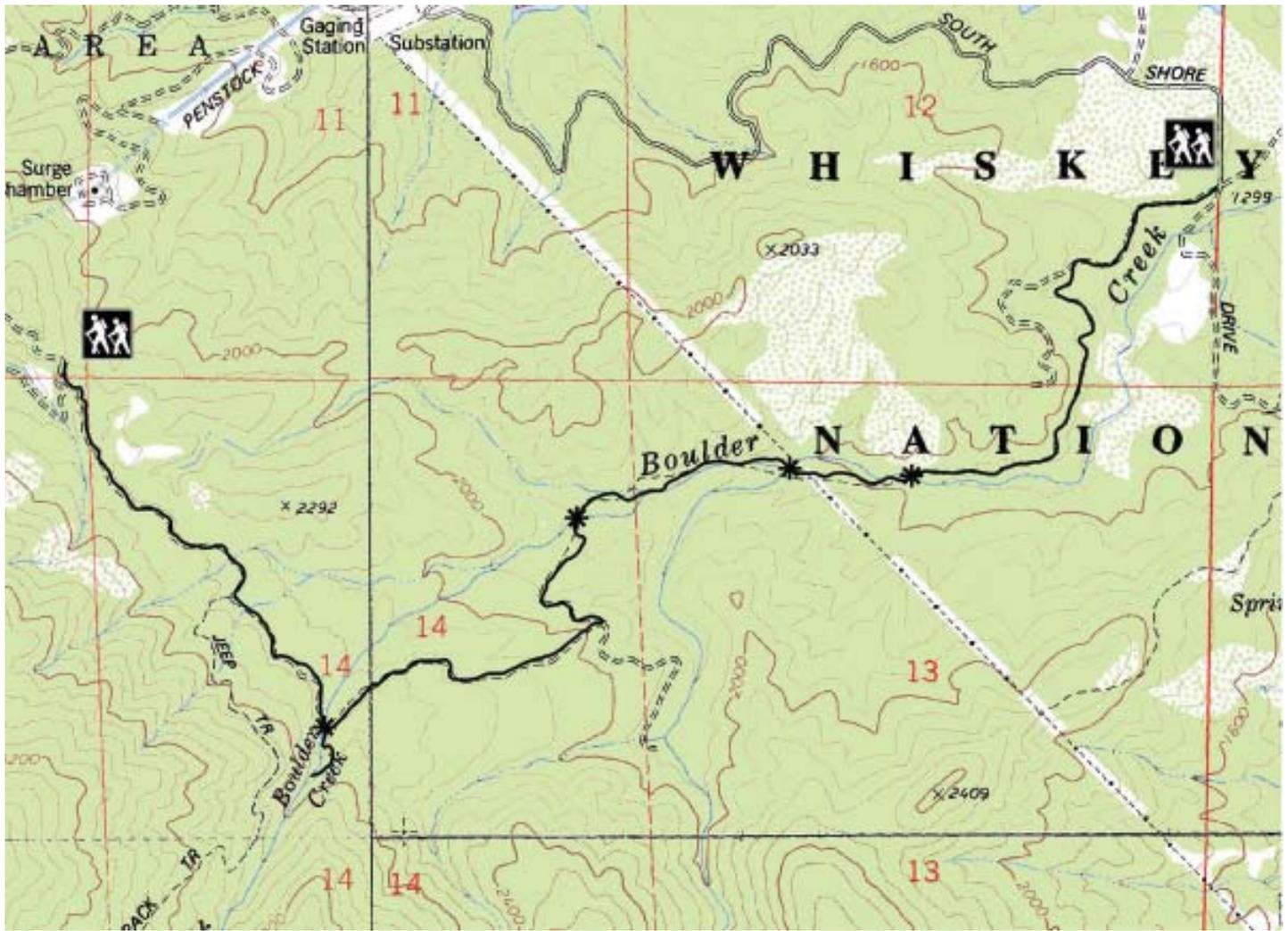
Lower Pool

vantage point where the main falls can be seen. The falls directly ahead are 81 feet tall with an additional 28 feet of cataracts above.

Plants that flourish in this riparian habitat are tiger lily, solomon seal and chain fern.

The trail continues on to Mill Creek Road. Turn right and walk to Carr Powerhouse, 1.7 miles distant. Or, return the way you came.

Wet and slippery stones make stream crossings dangerous most of the year. Never take long strides or leaps. It is advisable to find a shallow spot and wade across.



GEOLOGY

Boulder Creek cuts through Copley greenstone, a Devonian metamorphic rock of near-shore oceanic origin formed about 400 million years ago. It ranges in color from dull orange and light brown (weathered) to dark blue-green.

Along the trail and in the creek bed you will see numerous areas where the greenstone is capped with granitic boulders. These are debris flows from the Shasta Bally

batolith (Cretaceous, 133 million years) that from time to time have washed down the mountain into the creek valley. Several hundred yards above the falls, a particularly good example of this formation may be seen.

Across Mill Creek Road at the upper trailhead is a majestic ravine that follows the Hoadley fault through much of the park. The Hoadley is an inactive extensional fault, slightly older than the Shasta Bally Batholith.



The following plants can be found along the trail.

Smaller plants:

- White leaf manzanita
- California wild grape
- Bracken fern, sword fern
- St. John's wort
- Ceanothus
- Wild iris
- Wild ginger



Chainfern

Trees:

- Knobcone pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine
- Douglas fir
- Black oak, tan oak, canyon live oak
- Big leaf maple
- Western dogwood
- Redbud
- Incense cedar



Big leaf maple