

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAILS ON THE EBMUD MOKELUMNE WATERSHED

MCCT WEST -Camanche South Shore Staging Area

Location:	Rating	Distance	Notes
			10% fire-road, 90% narrow gauge . Potable water, trough and outhouse at staging area.
Camanche SS Staging Area (# 4 on the Mok Area map) WEST (start)	Easy		From the staging area the trail meanders southwest past some magnificent ghost pines, across Wade Lane and the aqueduct, then proceed through Manzanita Chaparral. Past a vernal pond and cross the old road once paved that led to the historic town of Camanche (now under water). Then through a wildflower covered meadow that has produced <i>Shooting Stars, Blue Dicks and Foothill Violets</i> . The vast expanse to the west of the trail should be filled with <i>Goldfields, Tidy Tips and Popcorn Flower</i> . At this point the trail crosses Camanche Creek and meanders through open grassland. Then heads west along an abandoned ditch, once used by gold miners, and onto grasslands that echo with the call of Western Meadowlarks. This segment ends on a section of aqueduct road. Wild turkeys are often seen nearby. March to May is the best time to see the wildflowers on this segment.
Camanche Creek			
50 feet west of the trail gate on the west side of aqueduct road			On the rock formation on the east side of the trail look for Bitterroot <i>Lewisia rediviva</i> March through July
West M.C.C.T. (to Trail End)	Easy	2.3 Miles	90% narrow gauge.

MCCT EAST -Camanche South Shore Staging Area

Location:	Rating	Distance From Staging Area (One Way)	Notes
			75% fire-road, 25% narrow gauge. Potable water, trough and outhouse at staging area.
Camanche SS Staging Area (# 4 on the Mok Area map) (start)	Easy to More Difficult		This section offer views of Camanche Reservoir, spring wildflowers, and a tour of the oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland typical of the low foothill country. Potable water, trough and outhouse at staging area.
EBMUD MW & R Office		3.0 Miles	Notice the tailing piles between the trail and the EBMUD MW & R Office is Chilli Gulch. A portion of the EBMUD MW & R Office was built by the Alan Mining Company. The building was used by the Alan Mining Company as a “clean up room” and at the time it housed a shaker table and furnace to burn off the mercury. Gold was then shipped to San Francisco. In the 1930’s the Alan Mining Company went broke and the Pacific Placer Company came in with a dragline and mined the Chili Gulch up to Chili Camp. The rock dam in Chili Gulch was most likely built to supply the Campo Seco to Poverty Bar ditch with seasonal water.
Finnerty Gulch Trail Bridge <u>235’elevation</u>	Easy	3.1 Miles	Notice the large button willow on the upstream side of the bridge. The rock formation under the bridge is Farmington chert. Chert of this type was used by the Native Americans that once inhabited this area to make tools and points.
Between Finnerty Gulch and the Lancha Plana Bridge <u>235’elevation</u>	Easy		The trail crosses over the Mokelumne Aqueduct which consists of 3 huge pipes (portions of each is underground) that deliver high quality water 90 miles to the Bay Area. The first pipeline was installed in the late 1920’s and the last in the 1950’s. Look for the first abandoned road north of the intersection of the MCCT and the Mokelumne Aqueduct. This was the road to the Westmoreland Bridge. This area was mined with a dragline and a dredge.
Lancha Plana Bridge	Easy	4.1 Miles	On the West side of the bridge is where Winters Bar was

			located. One mining company took out 42 ounces of gold in 6 wheelbarrows of dirt at Winters Bar, according to the San Francisco <i>Bulletin</i> , December 24, 1855. When the reservoir is low the abutments of the Westmoreland Bridge can be seen. One source says that the Westmoreland suspension bridge was built by John Westmoreland in 1852, an English immigrant A few 100 feet from the east side of the Lancha Plana Bridge are the stone building foundations from the gold rush site of Oregon Bar.
Between Lancha Plana Bridge and the Mine Adit	More Difficult	4.3 Miles	At one point the trail crosses over a bluff with deposits of crushed quartz. These tailings could have pumped up as “slurry” from nearby mining operations or were remnants of a stamp mill operation.
Lancha Palana & Poverty Bar Ditch		4.4 Miles	About a quarter of a mile from Oregon Bar part of the ditch is used for the trail alignment. The portion of this ditch from Oregon Gulch to Poverty Bar is shown in the 1855 Goddard map. The entire length from near Diamond Bar to Poverty Bar is shown in the 1869 GLO map.
Mine Adit	Easy	5.2 Miles	The mine adit at 325 foot elevation was built as a “crosscut” to ascertain the geologic formations in the area in 1880’s. A wooden tie for mine track was found in the adit. It was used for wooden rails that were faced with strap iron. This type of track was used for small scale or temporary work. Notice the olive tree growing out of the tailings pile. In 1862 copper was discovered near Campo Seco. North and across Oregon Gulch copper mining took place.
The Great Wall	Easy	5.4 Miles	Trailbusters labored 215 hours over 8 workdays to move and place 10 tons of building rock and 3 tons of drain rock to construct 40 linear feet of 4 foot high retaining wall near Oregon Gulch. This wall is to prevent soil from the cut slope from slumping onto the trail. The building rock was salvaged from material left from the blasting for the construction of Pardee Dam.
Copper Smelting Site	More Difficult	5.6 Miles	In 1859 copper was discovered in Calaveras County. The 1869 Government Land Office plat list this location as “old mines”. It is located southwest of the Satellite Copper Mine and northwest of the West Constellation Gold & Copper Mine.
Lancha Palana & Poverty Bar Ditch		5.8 Miles	A flume was located in Oregon Gulch to connect the portion of the ditch on the north side to the portion south side of the gulch.
Elderberry Gulch		5.9 Miles	The Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle is nearly always found on or near its host plant, Elderberry. This beetle is threatened and federally protected. To protect the habitat for this creature the soil can not be disturbed with mechanical equipment within 100 feet of an Elderberry. For this reason trail development within 100 of these shrubs was done by Trailbuster volunteers with hand tools. The trail crossing consisting of stone retaining walls were built by Trailbusters as was the armoring of the bank with stone. The 4-5 tons stone used in these structures had to be brought into the site.
Penn Mine West Boundary	Moderate	6.2 Miles	Always stay on the marked trail alignment and do not disturb the restoration sites or structures. This section of the trail is adopted and maintained by the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council. For more information contact the council at www.mc2ct.org
Penn Mine East Boundary	Moderate	7.2 Miles	In 1867 when copper prices fell and operations costs rose operations ceased. Between 1867 and 1919 copper mining became a viable business again. Penn Mining Company

			bought up adjacent mines totaling 1200 acres in 1867. The smelting of the ore was so caustic that it would deteriorate barbwire fences. The Penn Mine reopened for World War II and lasted until 1959.
Lancha Plana & Poverty Bar Viaduct	Easy	7.4 Miles	100% narrow gauge. See the cables and stone abutments on the Amador side. It was used to divert water from the Campo Seco Ditch to the Amador side of the River and to Lancha Palana. The bend in the river downstream is called Arkansas Bend. Between the Lancha Plana & Poverty Bar Viaduct and Arkansas Bend one can see the stone abutments for the historic Morrow Bridge.
Lancha Plana & Poverty Bar Ditch	Easy	7.5 Miles	Diverted water from Diamond Bar (Pardee Dam) to Poverty Bar. It was built sometime between 1853 and 1869. The portion of this ditch from Oregon Gulch to Poverty Bar is shown in the 1855 Goddard map. The entire length from near Diamond Bar to Poverty Bar is shown in the 1869 Government Land Office Plat (map).
Arkansas Ferry			Arkansas Ferry is recorded in the Bridges & Ferries on the Mokelumne in the in 1855 report by Wm. Patton Calaveras County Civil Engineer of having an estimated value of \$1,800
BLM West Boundary	Easy	8.9 miles	99% fire-road, 1% narrow gauge.
BLM East Boundary	Easy	10 miles	
Between BLM East Boundary & Vista Dos Lagos			95% fire-road, 5% narrow gauge.
Vista Dos Lagos	Easy	10.6 miles	Views of Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs and on a clear day Mt. Diablo and the cooling towers at Rancho Seco.
Between the Sandretto Road Crossing & Vista Dos Lagos	Easy	12.0 miles	This segment provides for a peaceful interlude among some classic California oak woodlands. Just west of the Sandretto road crossing a view of the Watertown Pond completed in October 1854 for the Mokelumne Hill Canal and Mining Company. Migratory waterbirds can be seen with binoculars from this location on the trail. Wildflowers Apr-May. The abandoned water ditch between the trail and the Watertown Pond is the Mokelumne Hill Canal which was used to convey water from the South Fork of the Mokelumne River near Glencoe through 41 miles of ditch and flumes to Camanche Diggings. 100% narrow gauge.
Between the Sandretto Road Crossing & the Campo Seco Staging Area	Easy		Just west of the staging area the trail is an abandoned railroad bed which was used to transport concrete and other materials to the Pardee Dam site during its construction in 1928-29.
Campo Seco Staging Area (# 9 on the Mok Area map)		12.4 miles	NON potable water, trough and outhouse at staging area.
			On the east side of the staging area entrance road and across Campo Seco Road notice the Osage Orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i> tree. The plants long thorns created a virtually impenetrable hedge. These trees were planted as frontier fencing.

			95% fire-road, 5% narrow gauge.
Wildermuth House	More Difficult	13.0 Miles	The Wildermuth House is an excellent example of the stonemasonry work of William A. Watt. The home was built for John H. Wildermuth in 1861. Hand-dressed sandstone blocks which were quarried from the hillside nearby were used in the construction. The Wildermuth House is situated near the old Campo Seco Road, which was heavily traveled between the mining centers of Campo Seco and Paloma, site of the famous Gwin Mine. Outhouse at Wildermuth House
Lawry Flat Corral	More Difficult	14.9 Miles	Nice 5 mile round trip hike to the Campo Seco Staging Area. Trough and outhouse at corral.
Between the Lawry Flat Corral and the Olive Orchard			On the west side of the road just past the east gate of Lawry Flat gate look for Bush Poppies <i>Dendromecon rigidi</i> , in the chaparral. They bloom in late spring. Farther on, on the southwest side of the road look for yellow Owl's Clover and Larkspur that blooms between April and May.
Olive Orchard	More Difficult	15.5 Miles	Notice the grove of Olives on the east side of the road.
Between the Olive Orchard & MacAfee Gulch	Rigorous		Creeping Sage, <i>Salvia sonomensis</i> forms a dense mats along the road edge.
MacAfee Gulch	Rigorous	16.5 Miles	A fire swept through the area between the Olive Orchard and MacAfee Gulch in the late 1980's. Notice the Jepson's Mahonia, <i>Berberis dictotota</i> , growing near the culvert where the road crosses the gulch. D.L. MacAfee operated the Ellingwood Mine in Valley Springs. A band of serpentine which forms on the western side of the gulch is associated with the occurrence of chromite, ore of chromium. Mining operations were conducted in Pardee and Valley Springs area of Calaveras and Amador counties from 1890 until the end of World War I and on a small scale during World War II. Some was used locally for furnace linings at the Campo Seco copper smelters.
Between MacAfee Gulch & the Kiln	More Difficult		Evidence of placer mining can be seen ¼ mile east of MacAfee Gulch where the road parallels Shad Gulch.
Kiln		17.5 Miles	With the adjacent limestone outcrops one can't help but wonder if this kiln was used to make cement.
Between Kiln & Gale Ridge			1 trough about 1 mile east of Kiln & 1 trough west of Gale Ridge
Gale Ridge	More Difficult	20.5 Miles	Near the intersection on the west side of Gale Ridge the most obvious evidence of the previous inhabitants of the area is the presence of some fig trees.
Fletcher Gulch	Rigorous	21.1 Miles	The grades of the segment of road east of Fletcher Gulch are a result of topography and the location of property boundaries.
			1 trough on trail between Fletcher Gulch & Patti's Point.
Patti's Point	Rigorous	22.0 Miles	One turn in the trail is named Patti's Point after John Garamendi's (former Deputy Secretary of the Interior and State Senator known for his work in environmental protection) wife Patti. Just west of Patti's Point below the trail Hop Tree <i>Ptelea crenulata</i> is growing. From Patti's Point on a clear day one can see Mokelumne Peak, Butte Mountain in Jackson, and the Crystal Range. Volunteers and trail crews working on this segment of trail have seen a Bald Eagles flying in the canyon in the winter.
"The Longest Mile"	Rigorous		Known to the volunteers and California Conservation Corps members who built it as " The Longest Mile ," it was carved and built into the steep canyon wall over a period of 10 years, in part on steps and in part on trail-bed of carefully stacked rocks. The route is very rugged and steep because of

Between Patti's Point and the Log Boom			property boundaries and topography. Stairs, landings, and retaining walls needed to be constructed to mitigate these steep grades. There is 550 ft. in elevation change in the 0.5 mile between Patti's Point & Spanish Gulch.
Spanish Gulch	Challenging	22.5 Miles	The deep cut in the stream below the bridge looks suspiciously like the result of mining activity. Notice the Rock Lettuce <i>Dudleya</i> clinging to the rocky sides of the stream upstream of the bridge.
Between Spanish Gulch and the Log Boom	Rigorous		East of Spanish Gulch and West of Gunsight Rock (near the base of the wooden steps) Glassy Onion, <i>Allium hyalinum</i> grows on the rock outcrop. Between Gunsight Rock and the Lower Log Boom notice the California Storax or Snowdrop Bush, <i>Styrax officinalis</i> var. <i>californica</i> , as the trail descends towards the Lower Log Boom and in one sharp bend in the trail notice the Oracle Oak, <i>Quercus morehus</i> .
Lower Log Boom	Rigorous	23.0 Miles	Views of Lake Pardee, wildflowers Apr-May Outhouse at Lower Log Boom.
James Bar		23.2 Miles	Early mining at James Bar produced large amounts of gold where 30 to 50 ounce nuggets were not uncommon. The area was originally called Lower Bar (or Sonorian Town because of the many Mexican miners) and in 1848 James Bar was a thriving regularly-arranged town with a population of about 300. However, their homes were only sapling houses, made without walls, and roofed with just loose oak boughs.
Rich Gulch Trail Access Point	Easy	23.4 Miles	Lower Rich Gulch and nearby Gwin Mine were mined for placer gold in 1849, and quartz was discovered in the area by J. Alexander in 1851. The mine was purchased by Wm. Gwin in 1867.
Poormans Gulch	More Difficult		The historic Garaventa Ranch and homestead was located in Poormans Gulch.
Jackass Gulch	Easy	23.6 Miles	If the mosquitoes were as bad then as they are today in the Jackass Gulch area, perhaps that is how it got its name; a miner working a claim in this gulch, under these conditions, would be considered one.
Middle Bar	More Difficult	25.7 Miles	Wide, shallow bends in the river like the Middle Bar stretch became popular crossing points during the gold rush. However, Middle Bar also became a trading center with a lively gambling scene, stores, an inn, and a school. The Grambis and Page Ferry carried people, freight, and mules across the river to access camps to the north and south. The ferry was replaced by the first toll bridge over the Mokelumne River in 1851, but when the bridge was swept away by a flood the following year, the ferry was back in business. The "new" bridge also succumbed to a flood during the winter of 1861-62. A third bridge was built some thirty years later to serve Gwin Mine; it collapsed in 1911 under the weight of a herd of cattle. The last of the four bridges, built a year later, still spans the river today.

These trails are not loops! It is the same trail – out and back

China Gulch Trail – Camanche North Shore

Location:	Rating		Notes
			100% fire-roads. Non potable water, trough and outhouse at staging area.
Camanche NS, China Gulch Staging Area (# 7 on the Mok Area map)(<i>start</i>)	Easy to More Difficult		This pastoral hike on Camanche Reservoir's north shore makes a 10.2-mile round trip on a dirt road through open, rolling countryside redolent of old California. A pleasant amble through oak savannah

			brings us to the now-vanished mining settlements of China Gulch and Lancha Plana. The latter town was flooded by the rising waters of Camanche, and today leaves only heaped and torn piles of earth to show that thousands once lived and toiled there. Hikers can opt to take a shorter, 3-mile loop that starts from the same trailhead, the China Gulch Staging Area.
3 mile optional loop	Easy		A portion of the trail is routed on an old water canal. On the southern most portion of the trail is a view of Horse Island in Camanche Reservoir. 60% narrow gauge and 40% fire-road.
China Gulch		2.7 Miles	The Daisy Miller Site (inundated by the reservoir) was home to Miwuk Indians prior to the gold rush.
Lancha Plana		4.5 Miles	The hummocks southwest of the trail left by hydraulic and dredge mining is where the gold rush town of Lancha Plana was. In 1848 it was a Mexican camp called Sonora Bar. Lancha Plana means flat boat. Audubon mentions the flat boat ferry in his journal, April 24, 1850. Kaiser and Winter established a ferry made of a raft of casks lashed together. In 1850 what is now the Buena Vista Store was built by John Fitzsimons. Chinese miners found gold under the foundations, a deal was struck and the building was moved 6 miles to the town of Buena Vista. The creeks were worked during the early part of the gold rush, and hydraulic mining of the terrace gravels followed. In 1858 the population grew to 1,000. Later, the Chinese mined the river and reworked the old tailings. On March 3, 1860 the <i>Lancha Plana Dispatch</i> was born in. In November 1860 the newspaper was moved to Jackson and later became the <i>Amador Dispatch</i> . From 1904-1923, the river was dredged on a large scale by the American Dredging Company. Dragline dredging was done during the 1930's and bucket-line dredging from then until 1951.
Trail End	More Difficult	5.1 miles	Evidence of gold mining activity in the area Views of Camanche Reservoir. 100% fire-roads.

Classification on the difficulty of the trails

Easy

Gently sloping or level terrain; trails are groomed or wide open; shallow or no creek crossings.

More Difficult

Moderate hills over consistent surface; possibly some narrow trails and short steeper slopes.

Rigorous

Easy to More Difficult for rider but physically challenging for horse such as on a level surface through deep sand

Challenging

Possible rocky, uneven surface, steep slopes, uncleared trails, faster flowing streams and other obstacles that lead to more difficult riding for rider and horse

Sources:

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Oral interview of Cyril & June Cook on September 24, 1993 by Ranger/Naturalist II Steve Diers at the Mokelumne Area Watershed and Recreation Division Office.

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Campo Seco to Poverty Bar Ditch information provided by Dean Decker, BLM Archeologist

Goddard 1855 map

GLO Plat 1869 Surveyed by J. G. Mather and A. B. Beauvais

J. J. Agostini 1904 map

War Department 1930's map