

GREAT SHASTA RAIL TRAIL

Courtesy of GSRTA. Visit their website for more information: www.greatshastarailtrail.org

- Distance: 40 Miles
- Elevation Gain: Varies
- Features: Multi-use, Historic, Seclusion

The Great Shasta Rail Trail is a rails-to-trails conversion of 80 miles of the old McCloud River Railroad line. Currently, 40 miles of this scenic trail are open to non-motorized multi-use activities, including biking, running, walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and equestrian.

Trail Access Points

Trailheads Linked on Google Maps:



Sections Not Open:

Certain segments of the GSRT are not open because they have unsafe bridges or have suffered major damage from winter storms. Lake Britton and Lake Overhead Bridges cannot be traversed. Lake Britton Bridge is 80 feet above water, then 462 feet across the lake, then 82 feet back up a cliff. Lake Overhead has barbed wire on fences, poison oak, etc. Do NOT attempt to cross these bridges on foot, bicycle, or horseback.

From McCloud (at Broadway)

Pilgrim Creek Road

Proceed 3 miles east on highway 89, turn left onto Pilgrim Creek Road (paved) and proceed 1 mile. There is space for off-road parking.

Esperanza Road

Proceed 4.8 miles east on highway 89, turn left onto Esperanza Road (dirt road) and proceed 1 mile. There is off-road parking area available.

Military Pass Road

Proceed 9.9 miles east on highway 89, turn left onto Forest Service road 43N19 (a narrow dirt road). (It's just opposite the McCloud River loop road). Proceed .3 miles from Highway 89. Few parking opportunities – could be a drop off point for users.

Sheepheaven Road

Proceed 13.7 miles east on highway 89, turn left onto Forest Service Road 40N11. It's a dirt road just opposite CalTrans' barn. There is limited parking.

Harris Spring Road (paved)

Proceed 17 miles east on highway 89, turn left onto Harris Spring Road (toward Medicine Lake). Proceed .3 miles to trail on this paved road. There is a "wye" in the trail east of this point. North trail goes for 12.2 miles to Hambone. South trail goes for 4.4 miles to Bartle Gap road 39N05, crossing highway 89 in route. Turn left at the trailhead onto the Bartle Gap Road (FS 39N05), go 1.68 miles to Highway 89 and turn left to return to the Harris Spring Road. (Trail beyond the Bartle Gap Road is closed at this time, awaiting bridge repairs and repairs to flood damage from the February 2017 storm events.)

Forest Service Road 42N04

Proceed 4.3 miles on Harris Spring Road, turn right on highway 49, travel .6 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 42N04 toward Bear Mountain Look Out (dirt road). It's just .1 mile to trail.

From Burney to Lake Britton (“Stand By Me”) Bridge

9.837 Miles:

From Highway 299, near Burney's east end, turn onto Black Ranch Road. Drive 2.4 miles to the trail entrance on right, just past Vedder Road. Trail section on left closed due to unsafe bridge.

The Burney trailhead is located near the intersection of Highway 299 and Black Ranch Road on the town's east side. Access the trailhead parking lot is off Black Ranch Road, parking is in the large area between the fenced building and the two power poles along Black Ranch Road.

Driving your motor vehicle on the trail is prohibited and unsafe because railroad spikes may be hidden just below the cinder surface.

Great Shasta Rail Trail Map

