

# Pacific Crest Trail Access Points: McCloud

McCloud Ranger District - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



## Brief history and background

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) extends from Canada to the Mexican border, a distance of 2,600 miles. It was one of two trails named to the national system of recreation and scenic trails when the National Trails System Act was passed in 1968. The Appalachian Trail, extending from Maine to Georgia was the second trail. A 154 mile section of the PCT runs in an east/west direction across the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The McCloud District section covers almost 60 miles. Although no formal trailheads for the PCT have been developed on the McCloud District, the trail crosses several forest roads providing good access and hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The trail passes through a variety of forest types and stream courses as it wanders through the District.

## About the Access points

### AH-DI-NA (2,200' elevation)

The PCT, running east from AH-DI-NA campground, parallels the McCloud River but remains well above it with only infrequent views of the river. The river has carved a steep, impressive canyon along this stretch of the trail. It is an enjoyable 2.5 mile hike to Ash Camp. Bald Mountain ridge is a 4.5 mile uphill climb to the west of AH-DI-NA Campground. The trail passes through an oak and Douglas fir forest and a variety of wildlife may be observed.

**Directions:** Follow the road signs to AH-DI-NA Campground 16 miles south of the town of McCloud. The trail crosses the road 0.5 miles north of the campground.

### Ash Camp (2,400' elevation)

AH-DI-NA Campground is a 2.5 mile hike to the west of Ash Camp. To the east, Grizzly Peak is a steady 10 mile uphill climb. This section passes through the Butcherknife Creek and Deer Creek drainages before it tops out along the Grizzly Peak ridge system at 6,000'.

Vegetation changes from an oak and Douglas fir forest to white fir and chaparral on the hike to Grizzly Peak. This system of ridges provides spectacular vistas and easy hiking for the next 10 miles.

**Directions:** Follow the signs to the Lake McCloud Dam, turn right on the Hawkins Creek Road (38N11) and proceed one mile to Ash Camp.

### Cabin Creek (3,000')

From the Cabin Creek Trailhead, it is a short 1/4 mile walk to its junction with the PCT. To the west of Squaw Valley Creek, the trail climbs steadily uphill to Girard Ridge (4,700'). From Girard Ridge, the trail descends into the Sacramento River Canyon. Castle Crags State Park is about 10 miles from Girard Ridge.

**Directions:** Follow the road signs, south from the town of McCloud 6.1 miles on Forest Highway 11 to its junction with the Squaw Valley Creek Road. Follow the Squaw Valley Creek Road for 3.1 miles to a concrete bridge. The parking lot for the Cabin Creek Trailhead is directly across the bridge. A short 0.25 mile walk down the Squaw Valley Creek trail brings you to a footbridge where the PCT crosses Squaw Valley Creek.

### Bartle Gap (5,000' elevation)

Although this area is the most difficult to reach, it is well worth the effort. The PCT attains its highest elevation within the district here, along the Grizzly Peak Ridge system. There are spectacular views of the surrounding country once you are on top of the ridge. After climbing west out of the Moosehead Creek drainage, the trail follows an open ridge system to Grizzly Peak about 15 miles away. Ten miles to the east, towards Red Mountain, the PCT passes through a White fir forest. From Red Mountain east, the trail is administered by the Lassen National Forest. Lake Britton is about 15 miles farther on.

### Be Alert

Poison oak is abundant along streams or in shady areas below 3,000'. Rattlesnakes can be found at almost all elevations.



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[www.fs.fed.us/r5/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/)

Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
[fs.usda.gov/stnf](http://fs.usda.gov/stnf)

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## Remember

Back country travelers may encounter a variety of dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to inform yourself about these inherent risks and take precautions.

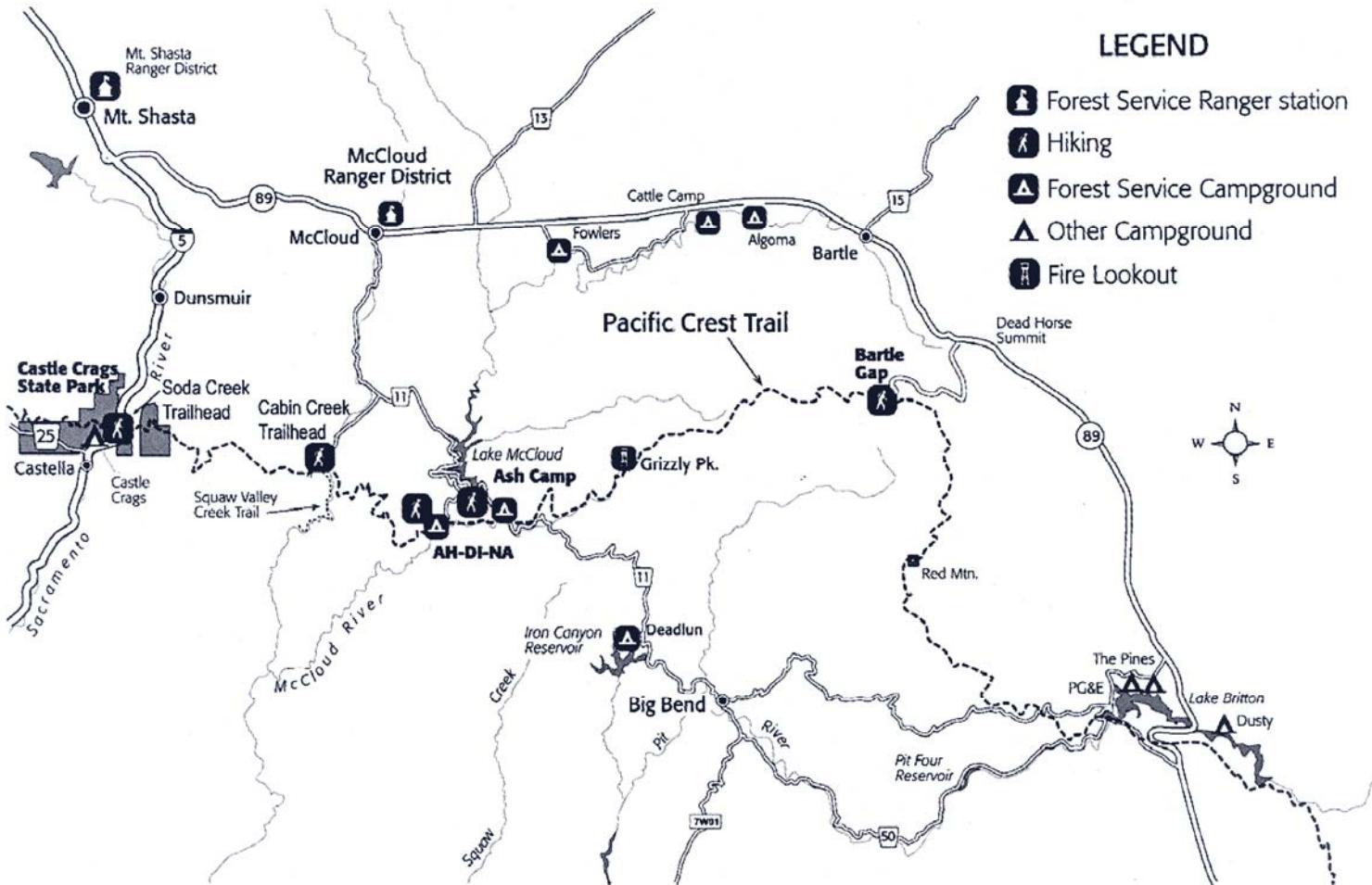
## Water Warning

Water is scarce along certain portions of the trail. Be sure to carry some with you. Although streams may

appear clear and pure, be sure and treat the water before using it.

## For more information

For additional information, contact the Shasta-Trinity National Forest at 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002, or call at (530) 226-2500 (voice), or (530) 226-2490 (TDD). You can also write the McCloud Ranger District at P.O. Box 1620, McCloud, CA 96057, or call at (530) 964-2184 (voice) or (530) 964-2692 (TDD).



Access Points along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

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