



Codfish Creek Falls Trail

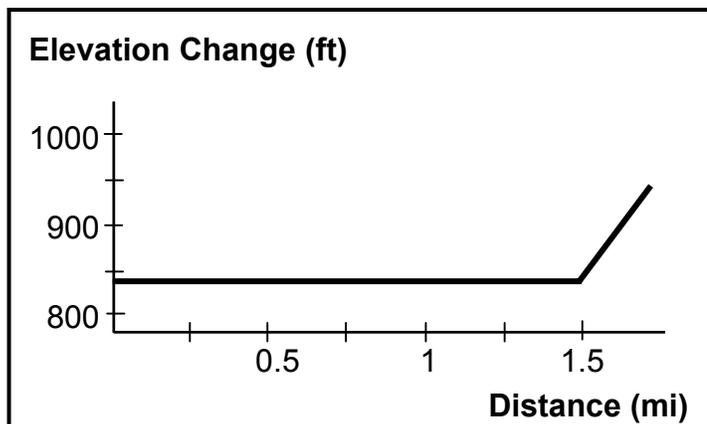
Distance: 1.7 miles to falls; ¾ hours
Difficulty: Easy, but trail is narrow at times with steep drop-offs to river
Slope: 0% avg; 10% max. (see below)

Trailhead / Parking

Trailhead is on Ponderosa Way, 6 miles south of Weimar. From Auburn, take I-80 east to 2nd Weimar exit (Weimar Cross Roads) and turn right on Canyon Way. After about ½ mile, the road turns left and becomes Ponderosa Way. Proceed to parking area on right just before Ponderosa bridge over the North Fork American River. Trailhead is beyond parking area. Allow 50-minute travel time from ASRA Park Headquarters. **Caution: Ponderosa Way is recommended for high clearance vehicles for the last 2½ miles. Passage during winter can be difficult after rains.**

Description

Although difficult to reach by car, this easy trail provides beautiful views of the North Fork (NF) American River and leads to an impressive 40' waterfall. An excellent brochure that details the flora and fauna on this trail is available at a discovery marker located ¼ mile from the trailhead across the sandy beach. The pamphlet was written and illustrated by Heather Mehl for her 2001 Senior Project at Colfax High School.



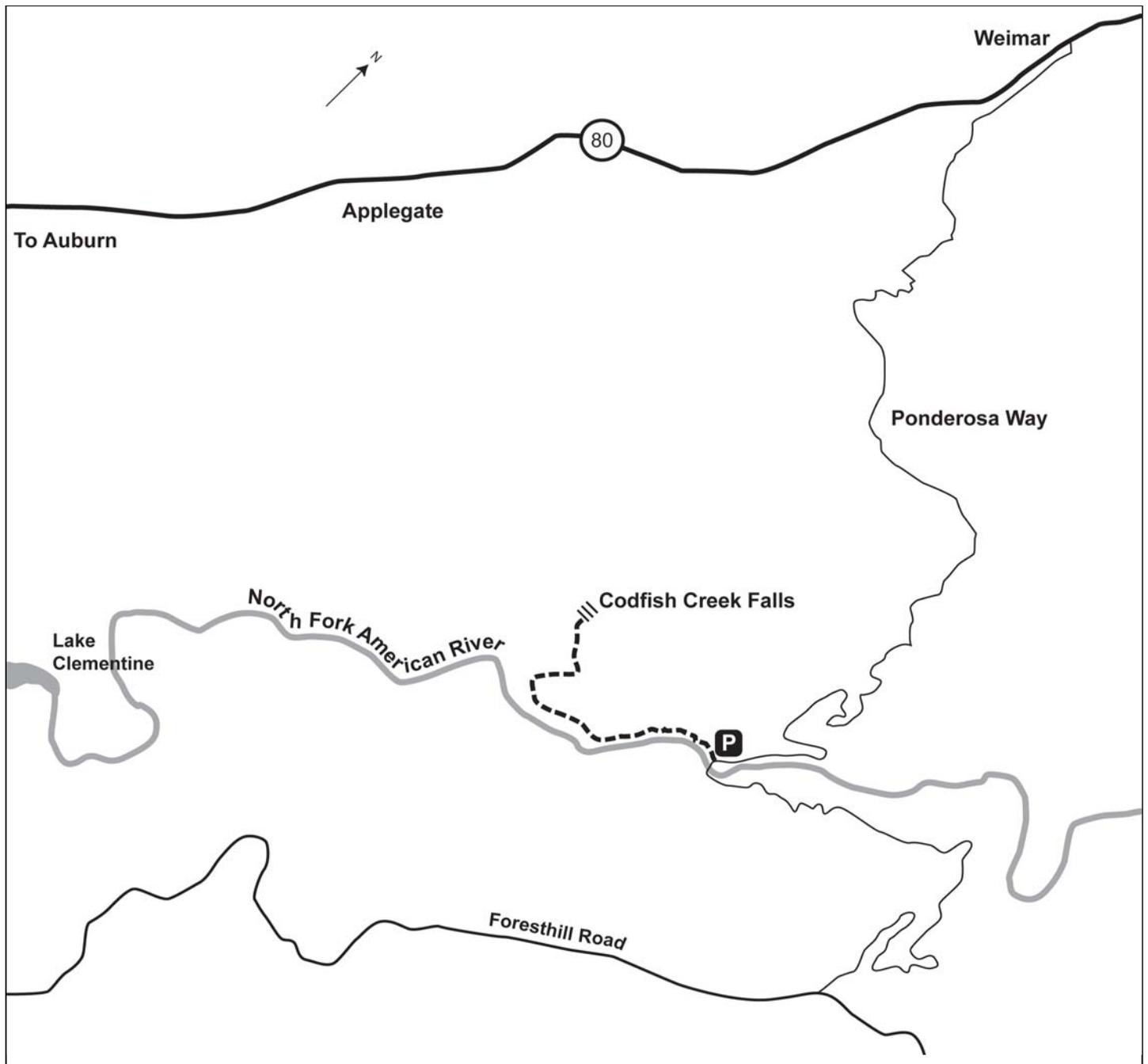
Codfish Creek Falls Trail provides an excellent opportunity to experience some beautiful river canyon scenery. In the spring, many species of wildflowers can be spotted along the trail, and a profusion of butterflies enjoy the cool, moist morning air around the falls. In the summer, the falls can be dry and the trail can be hot in the afternoon, so morning hikes are recommended. You may want to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the falls. Watch for poison oak, as it thrives along the trail.

The trail starts at the parking area where Ponderosa Way crosses the NF American River. It parallels the river downstream (river-right) for the first mile and then heads up Codfish Creek to the falls. The first mile is relatively flat, and there are many side trails down to the river for those interested in cooling off on hot summer afternoons. If you look closely, you may spot Dippers (also known as Water Ouzels) in the river. They are small, brownish-gray birds about the size of a Robin, and they can often be seen bobbing up and down, and then suddenly diving below the water. Also, you can often spot Merganser ducks in the river, hunting for fish.

The North Fork American River was commercially mined for gold from the mid-19th century until well into the 20th century. Remnants of the dredge mining operations can still be seen in this area. Look for the large, uniform mounds of dredged cobble tailings on the opposite bank.

Many species of plants native to a riparian woodlands ecosystem can be seen on this trail. Look for three species of oak: Canyon Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, and Black Oak. Two often-confused trees, Manzanita and Pacific Madrone (both known for their reddish-brown bark), can also be seen along the trail. Many fine examples of Ponderosa Pine, Grey Pine (also known as Foothill Pine), and Douglas Fir can also be seen along the trail.





Thank you for visiting the Auburn State Recreation Area. Please take care to preserve and protect the trails, plants, and historic artifacts for other visitors (and for the wild residents of ASRA) by staying on the trail and by packing out all garbage to the trailhead. Some trails are very popular and may be crowded at times with hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Trail courtesy requires that bikers yield to hikers and equestrians, and that hikers yield to equestrians. In order to reduce conflicts and increase everyone's enjoyment, park visitors are required to act in a safe and courteous manner, obeying all park rules and speed limits, and respecting trail designations. **Not all trails are open to all uses. A large print version of this trail guide is available at ASRA Park Headquarters.**

This trail guide was created by ASRA Canyon Keepers, volunteers who assist the professional Park Rangers by providing information and assistance to ASRA visitors. Canyon Keepers conduct monthly hikes and meetings (open to the public) to learn more about the history and natural beauty of the American River Canyon. They also help maintain and improve hiking trails in ASRA. To learn more about Canyon Keepers, please call 530-885-3776 or click www.psyber.com/~asra/asrack.htm