



Forest Service

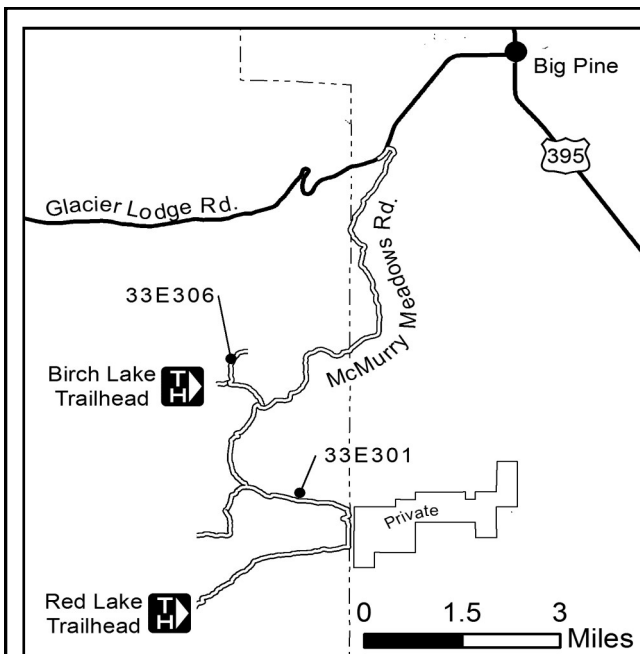
Inyo National Forest



Red Lake & Birch Lake Trails

Infrequently traveled, Red Lake and Birch Lake trails are steep, rugged and un-maintained. At times they are difficult to locate, Visitors should be prepared to navigate with the aid of a topographic map. There is minimal water or shade along Red and Birch Lakes Trails. So, a pre-dawn start is recommended during the summer. The alpine lakes at the ends of these trails and various nearby peaks are popular with mountaineers. The trailheads are accessed by rocky dirt roads, 4WD and high-clearance vehicles are recommended.

Note: You cannot reach Red Lake Trailhead via Tinemaha County Campground. The road beyond travels through private property and is gated. Do not trespass.



Season:

Relatively snow free approximately June through October.

Trailhead Facilities:

Water: No

Campgrounds: The nearest developed campgrounds are in the Big Pine Creek Area towards the end of Glacier Lodge Road or Baker Creek County Campground in Big Pine.

On The Trail:

Food Storage: Food, trash and scented items must be stored in bear-resistant containers or counter-balanced 15 feet above the ground and 10 feet horizontally from a tree trunk. Because there are few trees suitable for hanging food, bear-resistant containers are strongly recommended.

Camping: Use existing campsites. Camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the trail and within 100 feet of water.

Human Waste: Bury human waste 6'-8' deep in soil, at least 100' from campsites, trails, and water.

Campfires: Campfires are prohibited above 10,400 ft.

Pets: Pets must be under control at all times.

Additional Regulations: Information about Kings Canyon National Park regulations is available at www.nps.gov/seki or at Inyo National Forest visitor centers.

Permit & Quota Information:

Permits are required for overnight trips. Obtain permits at any Inyo National Forest ranger station or visitor center.

Between May 1 and Nov 1, overnight use is limited to 8 people per trail per day. Permits may be reserved up to 6 months in advance at www.recreation.gov.

Access:

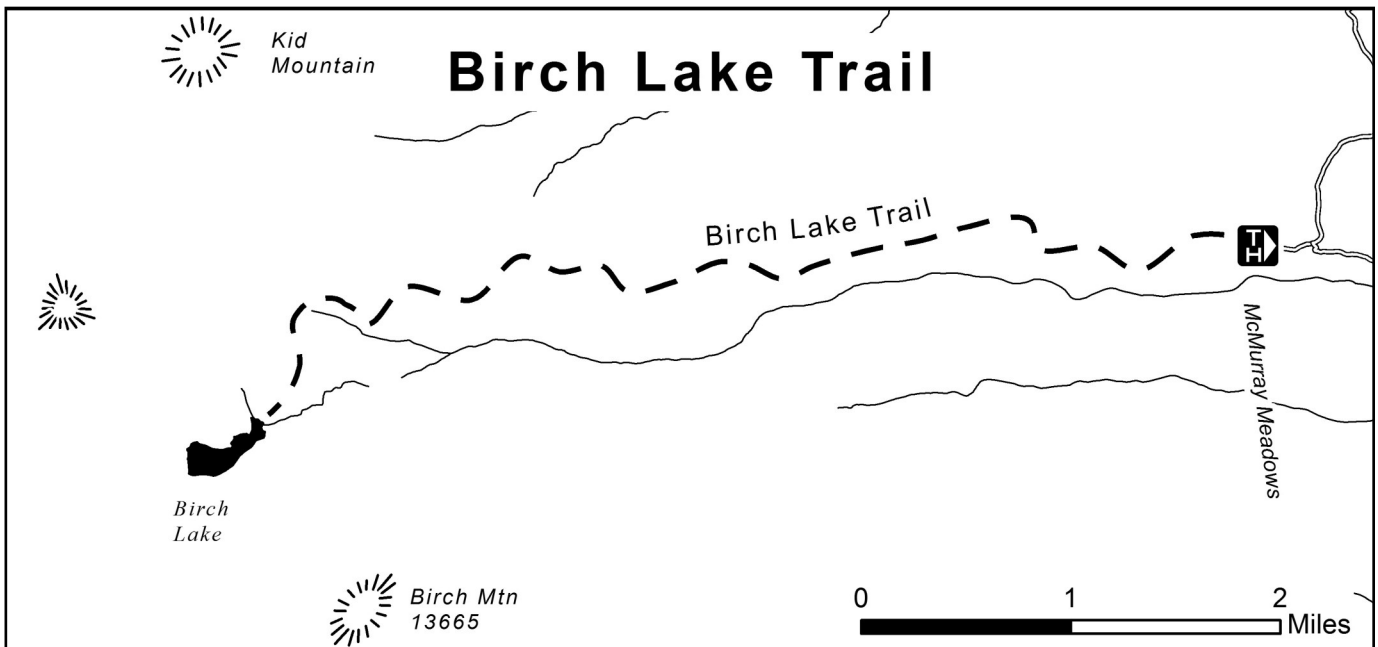
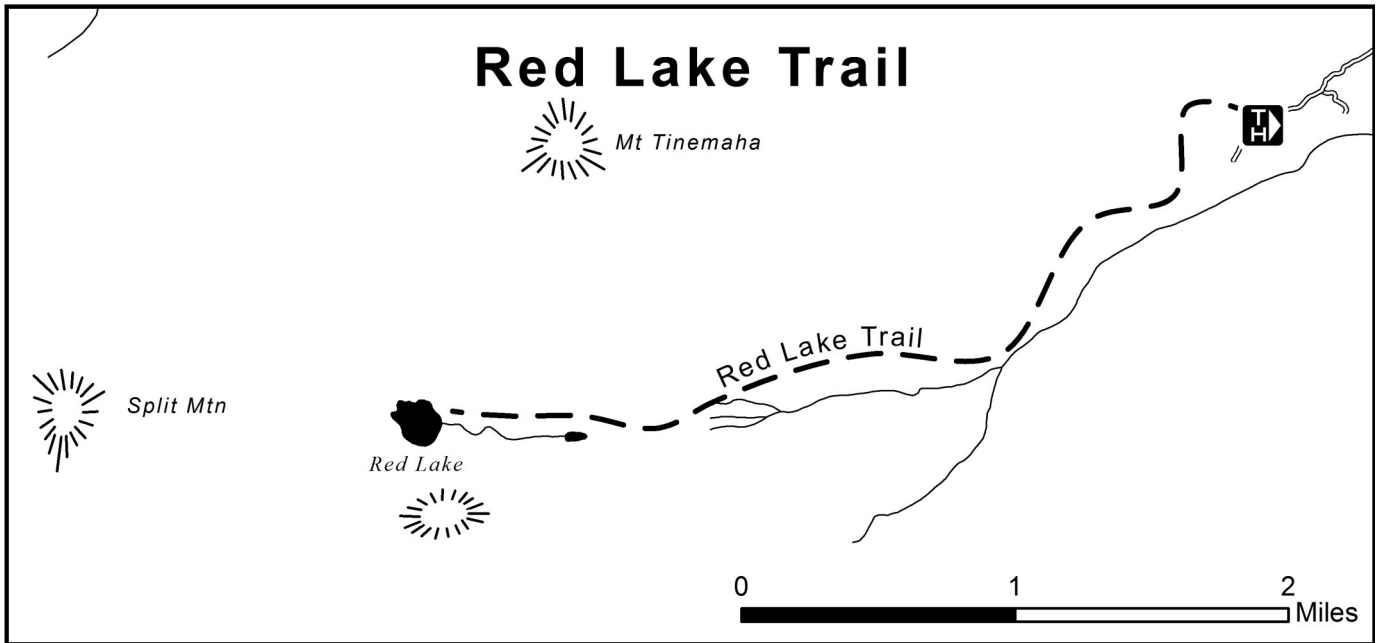
From US Highway 395 in Big Pine, CA, turn west on to Crocker St. (Glacier Lodge Rd.)

- In 2.5 miles turn left onto McMurry Meadows Road.
- For Birch Lake, follow the road for 5.9 miles, turn right. From here 4WD is recommended. In .6 miles, turn left at the sign for Birch Lake. Just beyond, a gate marks the trailhead and end of the passable road.
- For Red Lake, drive McMurry Meadows Rd. for 7.6 miles and turn left (east) at the junction. From here 4WD is recommended. The road continues for 1.5 miles before curving south. After .6 miles, turn right (west) and reach the trailhead in 2.3 miles.



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Elevation</u>
Birch Lake Trailhead	0 miles	6,600 ft
Birch Lake	5.0 miles	10,800 ft
Red Lake Trailhead	0 miles	6,500 ft
Red Lake	5.0 miles	10,500 ft

Maps:

USGS Quad: Split Mountain and Fish Springs

National Geographic: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Tom Harrison: Kings Canyon High Country; Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Need more information?

On the web at:
www.fs.usda.gov/inyo

Mt Whitney Ranger District
 P.O. Box 8
 Lone Pine, CA 93545
 760-876-6200



Printed on recycled paper

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

