

Hodges Cabin

Trinity Alps Wilderness • Weaverville Ranger Station • Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Hodges Cabin, as it appears today

Hodges Cabin is located about 4 miles up the North Fork of Coffee Creek Trail inside the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The cabin and other buildings on the property were built in 1923 by Walter Leander Hodges, and include the two story cabin, a horse barn and corral, a blacksmith shop, a generator shed and Pelton wheel, a cement swimming pool and a treehouse!

Mr. Hodges and his wife Agnes Yenez, made their money in the sand and gravel business in Los Angeles before looking for a country residence in Northern California. Prior to the start of World War I, Walter and Agnes purchased property in Trinity Center so they could raise horses. At this time, Walter began exploring the Coffee Creek Area and something about the North Fork of Coffee Creek caught his eye. Sometime during World War I Walter began visiting and camping near the present cabin site, and subsequently decided to buy the land for a vacation spot.

Work on the cabin began in 1920 and was completed in the winter of 1923. Frank Schlomberg, a German cabinet maker, built furniture for the cabin, and took care of it during the winter months while the Hodges were away (Frank Schlomberg's tiny stucco cabin sits farther up the trail just past its junction with the Saloon Creek Trail). That same year, Walter finalized the purchase of five mining claims from T.B. and Edith Williams and Jesse and Tiny Carter of Shasta County. On this property, Walter acquired a small sawmill where he manufactured all of the lumber needed for his building project. The materials that could not be made with the sawmill were hauled in by pack mule, since the nearest road was ten miles away at the time.

Walter built the cabin of incense cedar logs in a unique blockade style, sawing the logs on three sides for a snug fit and leaving the bark on and facing to the outside. The 2,000 square foot cabin was built with a large kitchen and great room on the ground floor, a sleeping porch, four bedrooms and a dressing room/bathroom on the second floor. The place was heated with a large native stone fireplace, and cooled in the summer with a set of six french doors facing each other across the great room on the north and south sides. Opening the french doors allowed the cooling up, and downcanyon breezes to move unimpeded through the house. The surrounding buildings were built of dimension lumber and roofed with tin.

After Walter's death in 1930, Agnes, daughter Marion and her husband Robert Warrum, spent their summers at the cabin until 1940. Sometime in the mid fifties Agnes sold the cabin to her niece and nephew, George and Edith Doss. They kept the cabin for several years with the help of Dr. Herman Gross, a long time friend of the Hodges. In 1963, Dr. Gross bought Hodge's's Cabin from the Doss' and held it until 1968 when he sold it to William Pearson.

Unfortunately, through all the years this cabin was used, the property, in fact, belonged to Southern Pacific Railroad. A fraudulent land survey around the turn of the century led to this conflict. It was not until the 1980s that the legal maneuvering between Southern Pacific and Pearson was made moot by a land exchange between Southern Pacific and the USDA Forest Service. This exchange was part of the Forest Service's effort to consolidate public ownership within the Trinity Alps Wilderness. In 1984 the entire area was incorporated into the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

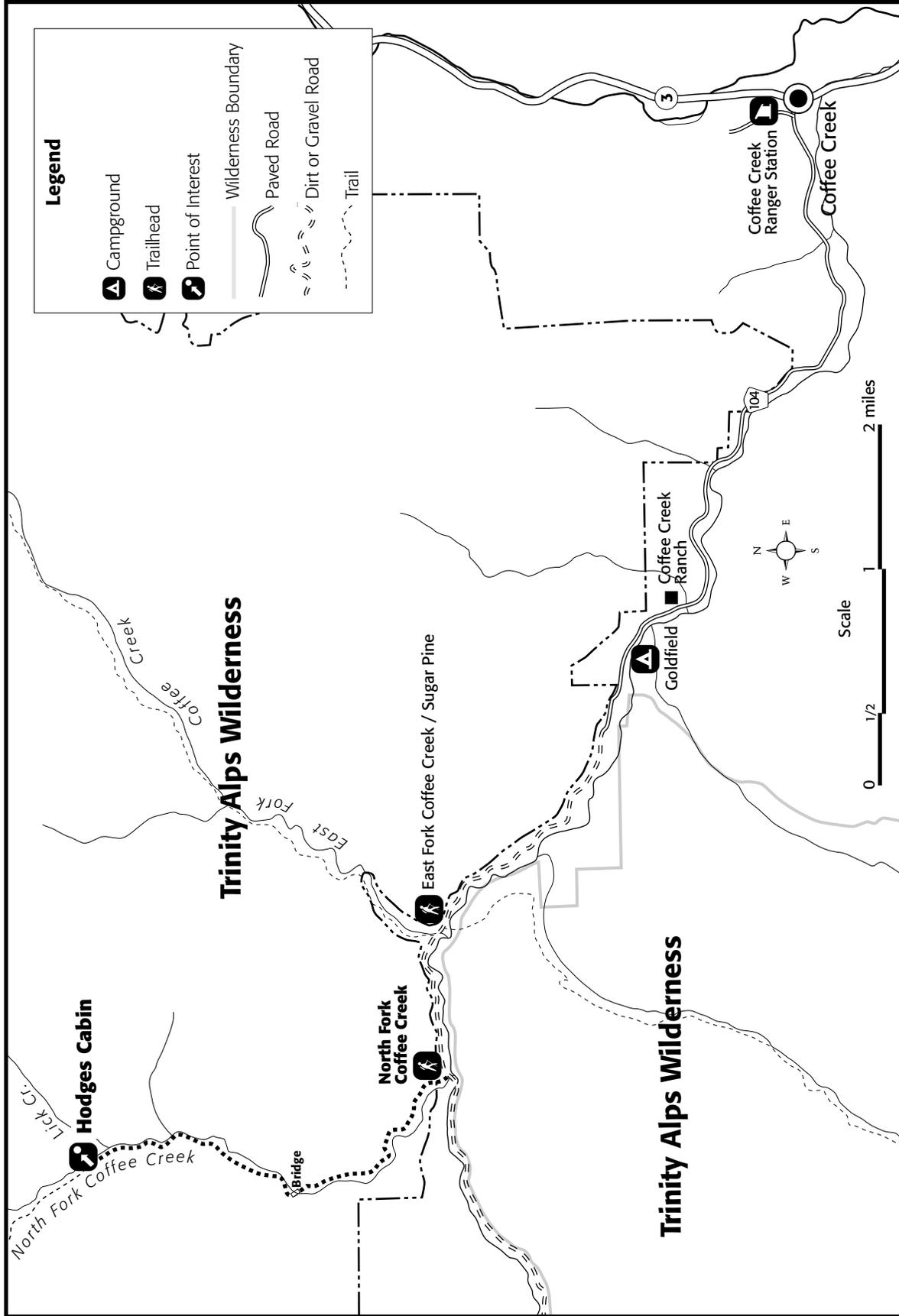
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



Shasta-Trinity National Forests

4/2003



to Big Flat

Trail Description...

The North Fork Coffee Creek Trail is an easy to moderate trail that climbs relatively gently from the trailhead to your destination at Hodges Cabin 4 miles away. The trail climbs away from the trailhead on Coffee Creek Road, crosses a low shoulder of a ridge and then follows the North Fork of Coffee Creek which runs at the bottom of the canyon below. The trail stays high for approximately one mile before it drops down to the creek. Approximately 1 1/4 miles from the trailhead you will cross the only bridge before you get to the cabin. From the bridge, the trail follows the west side of the creek, occasionally climbing away from the creek and then dropping back down. It follows this up and down course until you reach the low ridge directly across the canyon from Little Lick Creek. From here it drops to creek level and stays there until you reach

the creek crossing to the cabin. The cabin, barn and other outbuildings sit across the creek on a long flat and come into view well before you reach the creek crossing. The trail offers fine views of forested ridges, distant peaks, and the North Fork of Coffee Creek. It passes through or close to several flats along the creek where you can take a break and relax next to the water. In July, azaleas are a common sight and their sweet smell can be intoxicating. Other wildflowers grow profusely along the trail as well. Crossing the creek to the cabin can be tricky when it is high with spring runoff. Look farther upstream for crossing logs... they are usually not hard to find.

For safety's sake purchase and carry a topographic map of the Trinity Alps Wilderness when hiking.