

Meadow View Guard Station and Equestrian Camp
Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District

This year was our horse club's 6th year work day and camp out at Meadow View Camp, up the Doyle Grade in the Plumas National Forest. Six of us ladies camped Wed-Sat. Sept 18-21, 2013 with our horses; Diane Uchtyl, Debbie DeSelle, Liz Durham, Judy Moore, Kris Parton, and Melissa Hood. Marylyn McDonald came up on Thursday for a day ride. We rode each day except for Sat. the work day and then it rained on Sat. cutting our work day short. We were going to paint the picnic table. We did clean up debris and garbage and checked fences and fire pits the days before the rain. All was in good shape and this year the water well was completed with a beautiful big hand pump, pumping potable water.

In 2007 High Mountain Riders of Quincy, CA partnered with the US Forest Service and built 6 historic wooden corrals at the guard station location at Meadow View Campground. The guard station building is still there and may be on the short list for restoration sometime in the near future.

The horse riding is great from the camp. To the South West of the county road 101 lies the Dixie Mountain State Game Refuge. Along many of the creeks you will see big groves of aspen trees, very beautiful. We rode down FS road 26N01 about ½ mile, then went west toward Artray Creek and found wonderful trees. The rock out croppings and big boulders are interesting in the area. You feel like you are in an old west movie set with the various peaks and rocks. On Friday we rode to the top of Meadow View Peak, elevation 6965' from the campground of 6588'. It takes about 2 hours RT, including some time at the top for pics. To do this ride, go up (North) behind the guard station on a dirt road about a mile, maybe more, go through the small green gate next to the ranch gate, then continue up the dirt jeep road. In about 15 minutes you see a lone Ponderosa Pine in the grass hill side on your Right. Leave the jeep road at this point and switch back up the grassy hill to the saddle you will see looking North west. (you are approaching Meadow View Pk from the SW). Look for a gap in the rocky ridge line along the saddle. It takes another 15 mins or so to climb up. Then follow the barbed wire fence line a bit, you will see a huge downed tree, go around it on the north side, then turn East toward the Peak summit. Use common sense to find your way to the top (takes about 20 mins). Near the top stay far to the right to go around some steep rocks. There is no real trail at the top, and you have to pick your way across some rocks. I had easy boots on the front and bare feet in the back. My horse did OK, but got a little ouchy on the hind.

It was extremely windy Friday at the top. The most wind I have ever experienced horse riding, I dismounted to take some pics and I had a hard time standing straight. My horse handled it like a champ, so that was reassuring. It was his first camp trip ever, and a new horse to me, I just got him in January 2013.

Directions to Meadow View Camp:
Lassen County Plumas National Forest

Take Hwy 395 North of Hallelujah Jct 18 miles
Pass the Doyle Loop Exit
In one mile from this exit,
Go Left on the Doyle Grade Exit (West) There is a left hand turn lane off 395 for this exit
Go approx. 6 miles up to the camp.
Paved all but last 2 miles. Dirt road is wash boardy
Road goes right through camp.
See horse corrals on left, and gate into a small meadow.

We camp going through the gate and park in the meadow to left of corrals.

If you continue on road, the regular campground is on the right just up the road pass the guard station. Pit toilet and potable water well. You can camp there too, but horses are to be in corral area. You can lead your horse to your trailer at the campsites and tie to trailer for tacking up etc. if you want. We enjoy camping right next to the corrals with our horses, and with the gate shut, we took turns letting them graze in the enclosure.

This is a no fee Forest Service Camp. No reservations. Cell phone service is spotty. High elevation, so cold at night especially late Sept. Our dog water froze.

Also excellent area for quad riding and dirt bikes and jeeps, OHV's. Many historical sights to see. Important note: this is open ranch cattle country. Close all gates you go through that are closed, leave open gates open.

You can read more about it on the Plumas National Forest Web site, click on equestrian camps