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An unnamed lake on the Eastern side of the Diamond Mesa

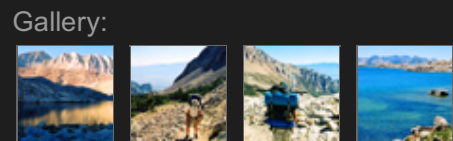
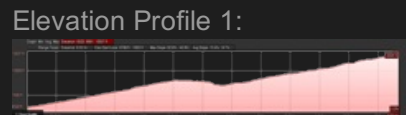
Fishing:
4/10

Hiking:
9/10

Scenery:
7/10

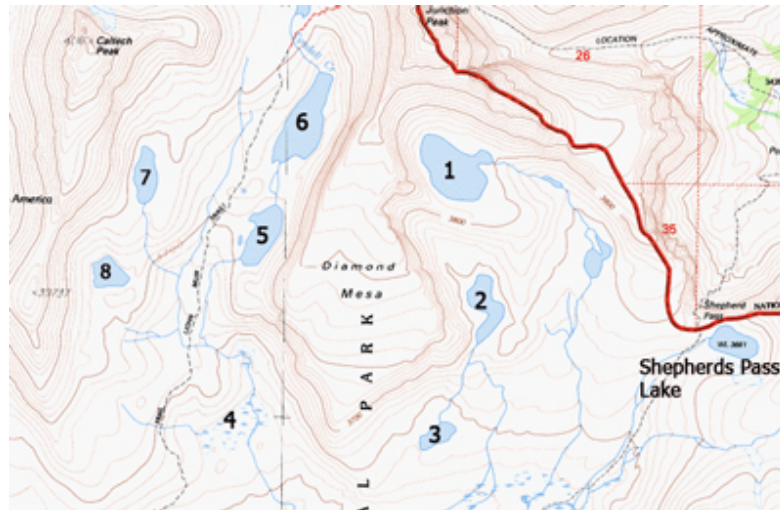
Solitude:
9/10

Distance:
9.53
mi 1-way



Diamond Mesa - (Tulare County) Sequoia National Park

Like 0



A Visual Reference

I have added numbers to this image to reference the unnamed lakes surrounding the Diamond Mesa. The lake at the top of Shepherd Pass is simply named "Shepherd Pass Lake", while the others are named numerically starting from the NorthEastern side and wrapping South and around to the NorthWest.

These are not the official names of these lakes.

Getting There

The trek to the **Diamond Mesa** started for us at the [Shepherd Pass Trailhead](#) which can be reached by traveling to Independence, California and taking Foothill Rd west.

The Hike

The Shepherd Pass Trail is a very difficult hike with many, many switchbacks. We found it to be difficult for us, especially after driving for more than 6 hours and then hiking until sundown. We reached Anvil Camp just after dusk. Beyond Anvil Camp, you will find the steep uphill climb to the summit. There is a snow patch near the top which may make you wish you had crampons and a pick. We found the footholds of a previous traveler to suffice for steady footing during this stretch. There is 6,000 feet of elevation gain between the trailhead and the pass. If you are unsure of yourself as a hiker, do not use this route.

The Fishing

Shepherd Pass Lake

We made camp on our second night at the lake which sits at the top of Shepherds Pass. A snow bank feeds the Southwestern side with fresh ice-melt and we found the fishing to be quite good. The water was a little murky but the fish were biting. Pheasant tails stripped quickly just below the surface produced fish shortly after arrival. In the evening, we landed many Rainbows using Hare's Ears and Pheasant Tails, some of them reaching 14".

Lakes #1 and #2

We did not have any luck in these lakes. They are worth the hike up to if you are looking for a good view. We did not see any fish rising nor did we have any luck with our flies and lures.

Lake #3

This lake has a great view of the Sierras off to the west and offers fast action for Golden Trout in the 6-11" range. Using a small Mepps (gold) spinner, mostly on the West side, Steve was able to land many fish. We found that the North end required longer casts to reach the fish holding near the drop-off. The West side provides

plenty of good access as there are no backcasting restrictions and it is close to the drop-off under the water where the fish are cruising.

Lake #4

This lake provided fast action fishing for Brook Trout in the 5-9" range. We found the action to be rather slow on the Eastern side but productful near the lakelet on the Northeastern side. The entire Southern shoreline produced fish for us. The wind was a factor here as well as shallow shorelines which required longer casts. We did not explore the West side of the lake as we had caught many fish and we were anxious to see what the other lakes to the Northwest had to offer.

Lake #5 and #6

The water clarity of these lakes is amazing. Both lakes offer stunning High Sierra views but no fish. We found that both of the lakes on the Northwestern side of the **Diamond Mesa** yield no fish; according to our skills. We saw no fish rising, no baitfish in the shallows, and insignificant amounts of biomass in general at these lakes.

Lake #7 and #8

These lakes nestle up to the ridge that lies West of the **Diamond Mesa** and west of the PCT. We did not have any luck at these lakes even though they appeared to have significant biomass. There may be fish in these lakes, perhaps we could not catch them.

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