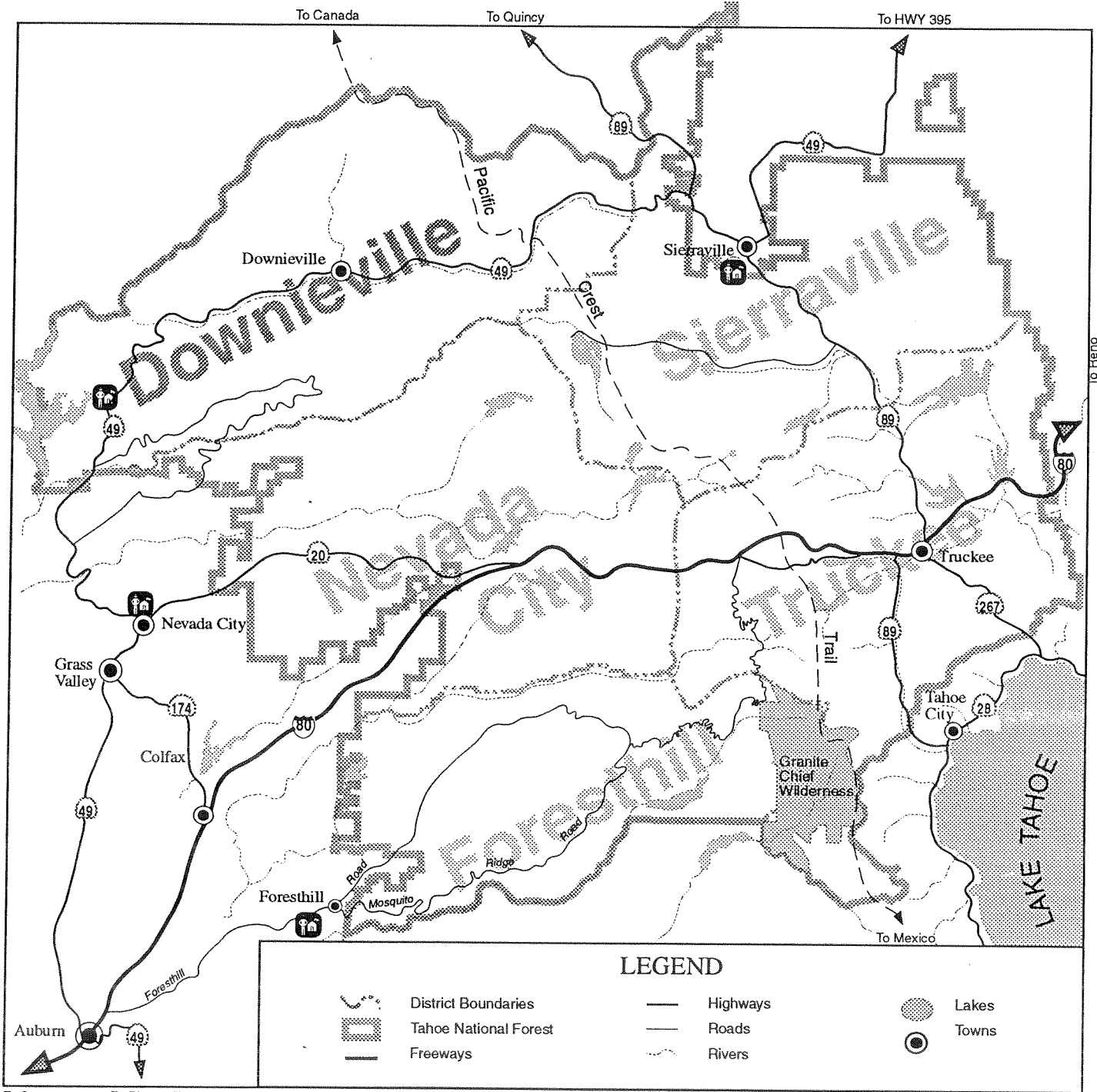


# Trails - Downieville Ranger District

## Tahoe National Forest



**LEGEND**

	District Boundaries		Highways		Lakes
	Tahoe National Forest		Roads		Towns
	Freeways		Rivers		



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
[www.r5.fs.fed.us/](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/)

Tahoe National Forest  
[www.r5.fs.fed.us/tahoe/](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/tahoe/)

## Welcome

From the heights of the Sierra Buttes to the solitude of the American River Canyon, visitors to the Tahoe National Forest will be rewarded with beautiful scenery, occasional glimpses of wildlife, and trails suited to every taste and ability. Some of the trails have been used for thousands of years by Indians and, in more recent times, by miners traveling to and from their claims. The trails have been built and maintained to help you explore and enjoy the Tahoe National Forest - but please do so with care.

## Keep the Back Country Beautiful

Over five million visitor days are spent exploring the Forest each year, so it is important to minimize impacts while using the trails.

- Remember the motto: **Pack-it-in pack-it-out.** It takes from four months to thirty years for trash to decompose. Littering has always been a problem in the Forest and currently the Forest Service has few personnel to manage our trails. There are no trash bins in the back country, so please carry out what you bring in.
- Stay on trails and don't cut switchbacks.
- Pets must be kept under control.

## Seasons of Use ... Be Prepared

Summers in the Forest are hot and dry, and campgrounds are frequently full. Spring and fall are ideal times to beat the heat and the crowds. However, the cooler temperatures also bring occasional snow or rain showers.

Plan properly, even for short day trips. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Always take the "ten essentials" - extra food and water, clothing, map, dark glasses, compass, first aid kit, waterproof matches or lighter, flashlight, and knife. Since weather in the mountains is so changeable, you should have clothing that will keep you warm and dry. Bring along a waterproof poncho and warm outer clothing. Although the valley swelters in summer, nights in the Sierra can be very cold.

## Maps and More Maps

Recreation maps of the Forest can be purchased at any Ranger Station. For backcountry travel, topographic maps are recommended. They can be purchased from most sporting goods stores in the area.

## If Lost

If you are lost: take it easy, keep calm, and don't panic. Sit down and try to figure out where you

are. Use your head - not your legs. As you hike try to be aware of prominent landmarks. These will help you find your way back. Carry a whistle for emergency use. Three of anything (shouts, whistles, etc.) are a sign of distress.

## Trail Wise

It is never wise to travel alone, but if you must - stick to frequently used trails in case you become sick or injured. An illness which is normally minor can become serious at higher elevations. If you get sick, try to get out of the mountains, or at least to a lower elevation, while you can still travel.

Poison oak grows most often in wooded canyons up to about 5000 feet in elevation. It is a beautiful green plant in summer, turns red in the fall, and loses its leaves in the winter. Learn to identify its changing appearance throughout the year.

Rattlesnakes, an important predator in the mountain ecosystem, may be found up to 9000 feet in elevation.

## Smokey Says

At certain times of the year the danger of wildfire is high. During these times building campfires and smoking may be restricted in some areas. Before you leave, check with a Forest Service Ranger Station for current fire danger conditions. Beginning around May 1 a campfire permit is required for all campfires and stoves outside developed campgrounds. The permits are valid until the end of the year issued.

If you wish to smoke, stop and clear an area three feet in diameter down to bare mineral soil before lighting up. Crush out your smoke completely in the bare soil. Be sure to pack the remains out.

## The Water May not be Safe

For day trips, carry sufficient water from home. Water from Sierra streams or lakes may be contaminated with an organism called "Giardia lamblia." Drinking untreated water can make you quite ill. If you do drink water from streams or lakes, be sure to boil it for three to five minutes.

## Private Land

Many parcels of private land will be found within the National Forest boundary. Please respect the rights of landowners.

Persons of any race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or with any handicapping condition are welcome to use and enjoy all facilities, programs, and services of the USDA. Discrimination in any form is strictly against agency policy, and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.