

Tinker's Cut Off (#38 on the ASRA Topo Map)



Distance: 0.3 miles one-way; ¼ hours (hiking)

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult
Both top and bottom sections have been severely rutted by unauthorized bicycle use.

Slope: 20% avg; 23% max. (see below)

Trailhead / Parking (N38-54-969; W 121-02-431)

The trailhead is 1 ¾ miles south of ASRA Park Headquarters in the confluence area. Take Hwy 49 from Auburn south to Old Foresthill Road at the bottom of the canyon. Park as close to the Hwy 49 Bridge to Cool as allowed.

This unmarked trailhead is almost directly opposite the Hwy 49 Bridge on the Placer County or north side of the river. Looking uphill a clear, sharp cut in the bank is visible.

The trail may also be accessed off of Stagecoach Trail. The upper trailhead for Tinker's Cut Off is just a little less than 1 mile from the confluence via Stagecoach Trail. (N38-55-049; W121-02-557)

Description

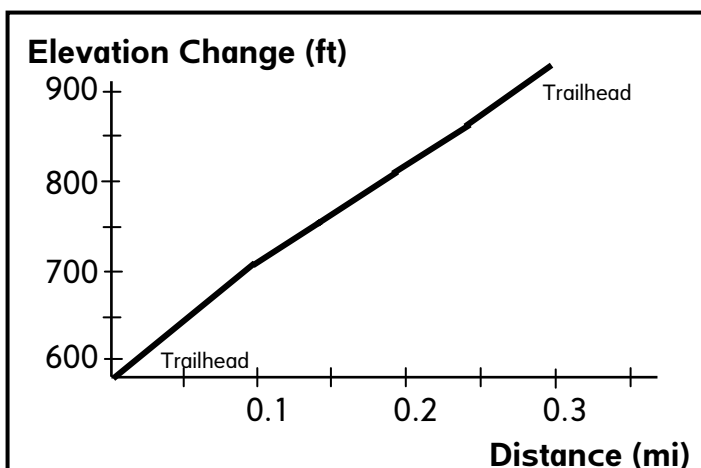
This single file trail offers an alternate route to and from Stagecoach Trail from the confluence area. It follows a creek drainage through a tree-lined riparian area with a small pool and waterfall that lasts year round. It is a popular cut off for hikers in the summer months, providing welcome shade that is not always found on Stagecoach Trail.

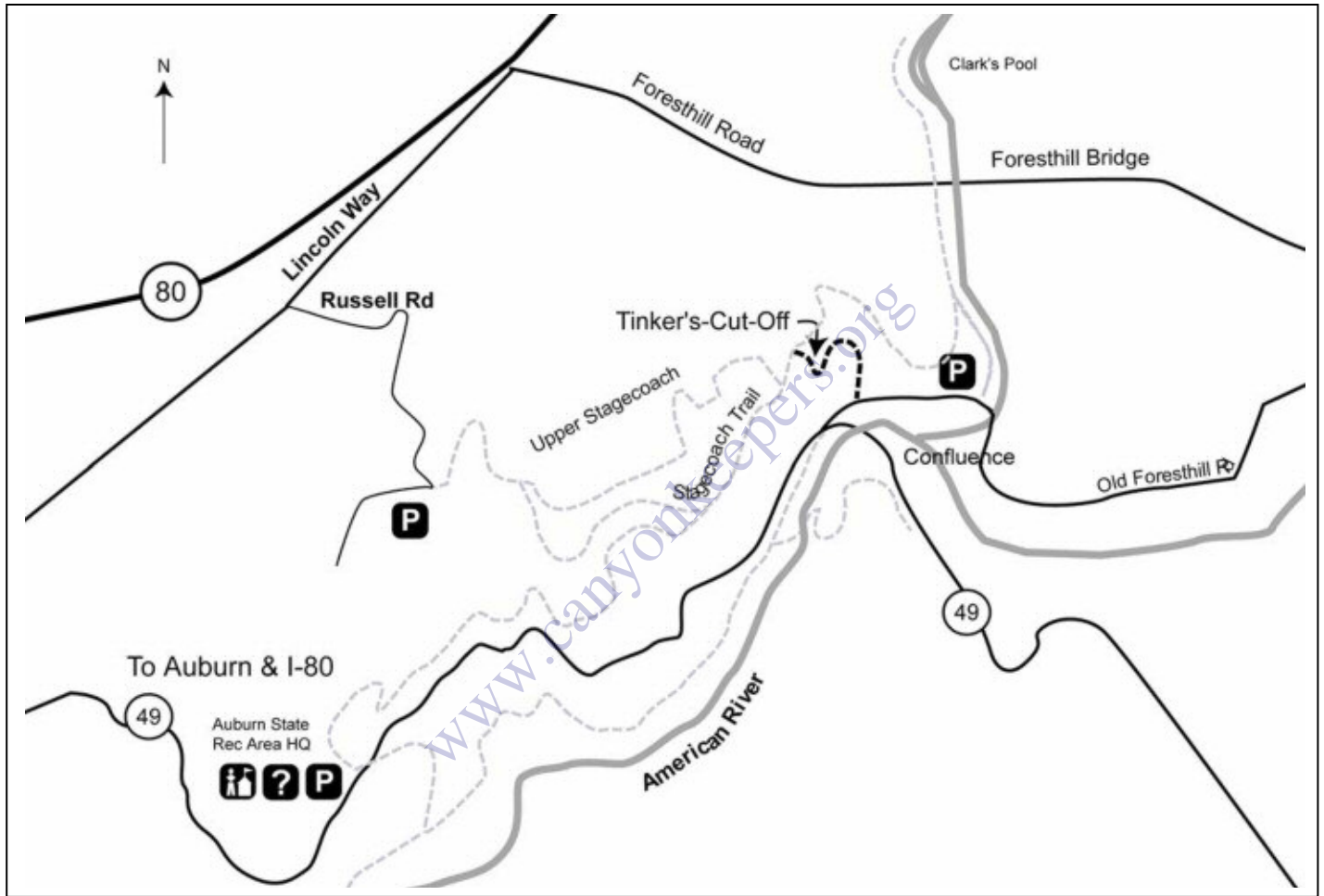
Tinker's Cut Off may be hiked up and back, but most people use it to either go up to Stagecoach Trail from the confluence or as a cut off from Stagecoach back to the confluence area. The bank at the bottom has been badly torn up by unauthorized biker use and there are now two paths visible on the right to loop around the steepest, narrowest portion. Take the one to the right (facing the hill) and then take the first turn to the left to return to the trail.

Going straight up the hill, the trail immediately divides again, with the main path continuing straight and another trail to the right. Both rejoin after crossing a gully carrying water on a seasonal basis. The right hand section crosses through the gully and then goes up the far side to rejoin the trail. The original trail continues straight up and crosses the gully via a wide, thick wooden plank.

As you continue up through the tall trees and dappled shade, moving water may be heard and seen bubbling over the rocks and boulders in the creek bed on the right. Just before the trail turns sharply left and away from the creek, not far below Stagecoach Trail, there is an opening on the right where there is a small, pleasant waterfall in the creek. This riparian oasis is a favorite spot for a break on a hot day.

As you leave the creek, the trail begins a series of switchbacks leading to Stagecoach Trail.





Upon reaching Stagecoach Trail, (see separate trail guide) the choices are to return back to the start; turn right and return to the confluence area via the slightly longer but less steep Stagecoach Trail, or go left and continue up Stagecoach Trail before returning to the confluence area.

Did You Know? – All new trails in ASRA must be environmentally approved and built under state park supervision. In the past, many trails were built and maintained by individuals. One local couple, Bob and Harriet Stephens, using their own tools, cleared and created several of the popular routes in use today. Tinker's Cutoff is named for Harriet, (Bob's nickname for his wife).