



Fuel Break Trail (#14 on the ASRA Topo Trail Map)

Distance: 1.5 miles One way ; ¾ hour (hiking)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Slope: 2.3% avg; 13% max. (see below)

Trailhead / Parking (N 38-55-400; W121-01-876)

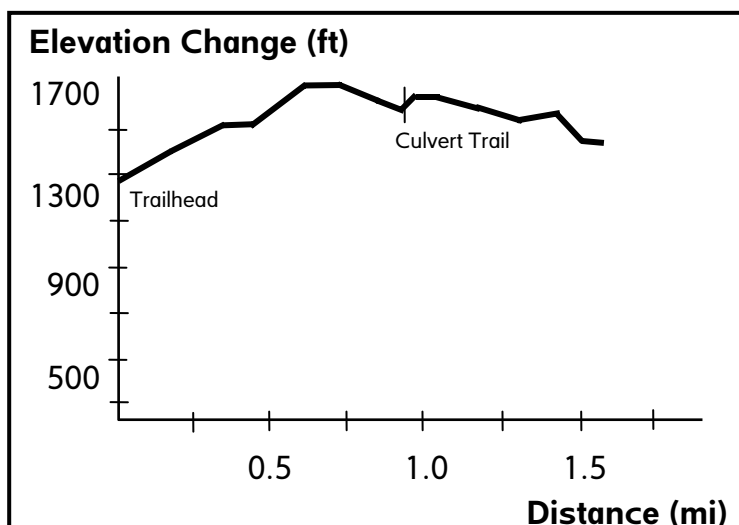
Trailhead is off Foresthill Road just past the Foresthill Bridge.

Take I-80 to the Foresthill Exit. Drive towards Foresthill, and in less than a mile, cross the Foresthill Bridge. **Just** after the bridge, the trailhead parking area is visible on the **left** side of the road. The trailhead is behind the green gate at the end of the parking strip farthest from the Foresthill Bridge.

There is very limited parking at the terminus in a dirt turnout off the Lake Clementine Road.

Description

This wide, easy trail passes oak meadows, foothill chaparral and woodlands and provides several nice ridge top views. It connects with the Lake Clementine Rd, the Culvert Trail and the Lakeview Connector Trail. It is often used in conjunction with them for longer excursions.



The Fuel Break Trail begins in the woodland meadow behind the green gate at the end of the parking strip farthest from the Foresthill Bridge (see sidebar). Before or after the hike, walk out onto the bridge for a bird's eye view up and down the North Fork American River.

The trail begins by climbing to the ridgeline. The steepest portion of the hike is the first ½ mile. After reaching the ridgeline, the trail levels off and then begins a gradual descent, to the paved Lake Clementine Road.

As you reach the ridgeline, look right across the Divide to the ridgeline opposite, which is above the Middle Fork American River. The limestone quarry, near Cool, which has been in use since the 1880's, is clearly visible.

Several small oak meadows are passed along the way. These areas host nice wildflower displays in the spring.

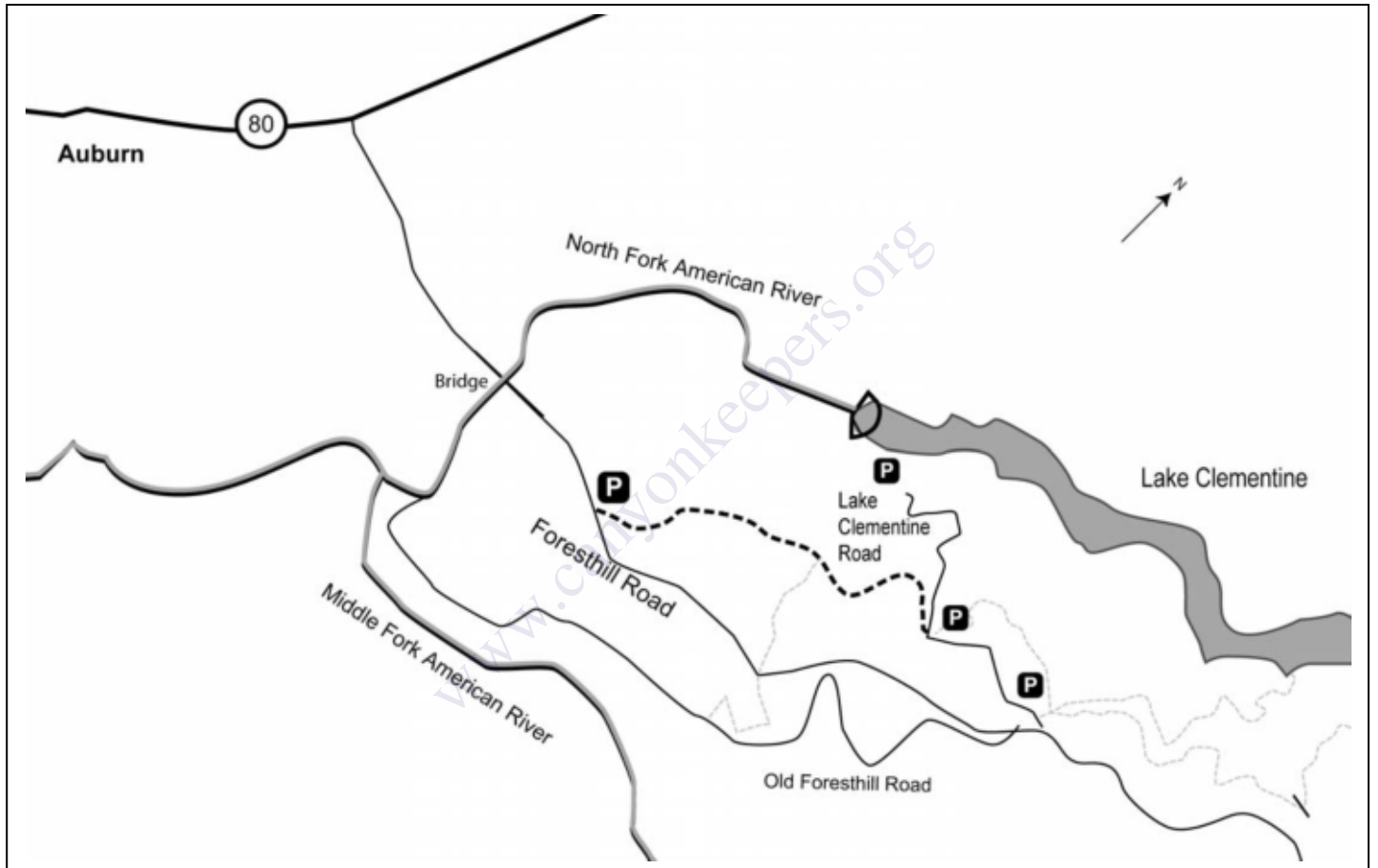
In addition to hikers and bikers, the trail is popular with the local wildlife. They frequently use it in the early mornings and evenings, especially when the manzanita trees that line several areas of the trail are loaded with fruit. They are seldom seen but their tracks show that this is a busy roadway for both large and small animals. This is an ideal place to practice reading the signs of their passage.

After a mile, the Culvert Trail (see separate trail guide) branches off to the right. A few other paths will branch off along the way for short distances. Stay on the main trail that continues straight ahead.

The trail ends at the paved Lake Clementine Road, on the left by the large boulders marking the end of the trail. From here, two short cutoffs head toward the Foresthill Road.

The Lakeview Connector Trail (see separate trail guide) begins a few feet across and up the road.





Did You Know? – The Foresthill Bridge is 2,248 feet long and connects Foresthill and Auburn. Designed to span the reservoir that would have resulted had the Auburn Dam been completed, it was opened in 1973 with much fanfare. Water was expected to reach the top

of the cement piers, but today the bridge towers 730 feet above the river, making it the tallest bridge in California. It has been featured in numerous movies and commercials, and it has been the site of many stunts – both legal and illegal.