

7 - Booth

Description: Steep/Obscure, 1.2 miles, +/-1650'

Map: 17

Rather than building a trail that traverses or switchbacks down a slope to the river, early miners learned that it was sometimes easier to build a trail down the spine of a ridge to the river. On the spine of the ridge the slope was often a little less steep and easier to cut the trail into the hillside. This allowed for quick construction but resulted in a steep and tightly switchbacked trail. The Booth Trail is a fine example of one of these types of miner's trail. It is also probably one of the steepest trails in the canyon.

Starting from the Old Iowa Hill Cemetery, follow the dirt road along the west (left) side of the cemetery to the back of the cemetery. This area was recently masticated and is fairly open. As you near the back of the cemetery angle to the left down the crown of the slope. Walk down the crown of the slope to the bottom of the clearing. Here, angle over toward the shallow ravine and continue down the slope, the trail is just below the clearing about 200 feet. Turn right when you intersect the trail. Here the trail is still gently traversing out of the side canyon. Soon you are on the ridge and begin the steep switchback descent to the river.

The trail drops down to a terrace just above the river that has been used for camping. A short path leads down to the river bar. For additional adventure there is a faint trail that goes up river about 0.3 miles to a steep ravine and another miners camping terrace.

Getting There: The top part of the original trail crosses private property near the Iowa Hill School. To avoid the private property start the hike from the Old Iowa Hill Cemetery.

To get to the cemetery follow the directions to the Iowa Hill Store in the Stevens from Iowa Hill description. Continue on past the store heading east for 0.3 miles, staying left along the road, to the cemetery on the left. Park by the road.

From the Foresthill Divide the cemetery is on the right 5.1 miles past Elliot Ranch Rd. See the Green Valley from Elliot Ranch description for directions to Elliot Ranch Rd.

