

36 – Little Bald Mountain Loop

Description: Easy, 4.0-5.0 miles, +870/-870'

Map: 58

First, this trail is not in the North Fork drainage. But it is right next to a couple of the North Fork trails and with fabulous views it's a hike not to miss. It is a moderately easy 4.0 mile loop hike with views of the North Fork and Middle Fork drainages as well as the Sierra Nevada crest and other far off peaks. Add another mile and take in the Duncan Peak Lookout for more views and a visit with the lookout. The lookout was moved from Little Bald Mountain to Duncan Peak in 1917 then a new lookout was built on Little Bald Mountain in 1943.

This hike starts at Robinson Flat where there is a restored Forest Service guard station and a nice short loop trail around the meadow. Hiking the loop in a counter-clockwise direction the two loops share a short section of trail across a bridge before the trails split. The bridge can be seen out in the forest a little ways to the right of the buildings. This part of the trail is also part of the Western States Trail. The trail gently climbs from Robinson Flat up Little Bald Mountain. Once on top of Little Bald Mountain the views open up and a trail to the right goes .5 miles to the lookout. Well worth the side trip. The main trail continues traversing the top of Little Bald Mountain and in a little ways the Western States Trail will fork off to the right. Stay left and continue traversing along the top of the mountain where the views only get better. At the eastern end of Little Bald Mountain the trail begins a gradual descent into Little Robinson Valley where it crosses the stream. Shortly after crossing the stream is the intersection with the Western States Trail coming from Duncan Canyon. Turn left onto the WST and climb gradually back up to Robinson Flat. At Robinson Flat the trail goes through the campground before turning left toward the day use area.

Getting There: Go east from Baker Ranch about 23 miles on Foresthill - Soda Springs Rd. to Robinson Flat. At the intersection go straight then turn right and park in the day use area by the restrooms.

