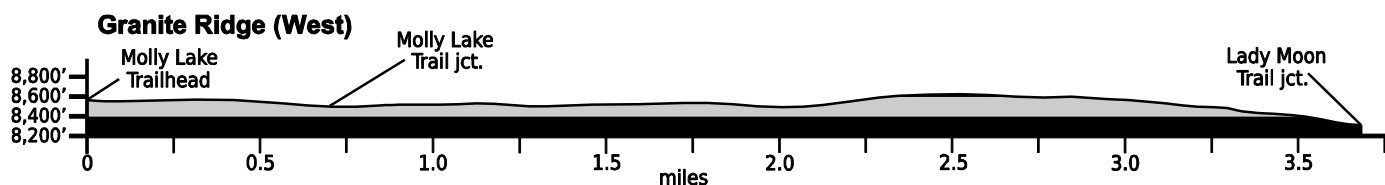


Feb. 7, 2021

Public Trail Information: Granite Ridge (West)

Trail(s): western portion of Granite Ridge #991 (#174); Molly Lake #991-1	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers - Easy Stock Riders - Easy Bikes allowed only from Jul. 1 thru Oct. 31 See complete REGULATIONS below DESCRIPTION
Cautions:	Bicycles on trail
Typically accessible:	Year-round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	3.7 miles (+0.1 mi for Molly Lake Trail)
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	8,591 / 8,648
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	128 / 403 / -275
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#111 Red Feather Lakes Glendevey
Map(s) - USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Red Feather Lakes



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Red Feather Lakes Area: From Ted’s Place, drive north on US-287 for 10.5 miles to “The Forks” at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E) and drive to the community of Red Feather Lakes. Just west of the Pot Belly Restaurant, turn south onto CR-69, which is gravel. Proceed 2.1 miles south to the Molly Lake (aka Granite Ridge) trailhead. The trailhead and gravel parking area are on the east (left) side of the road just north of the access road to Bellaire Lake Recreation Area campsites #6-12.

Toilets and stock trailer parking at the Molly Lake Trailhead, but no water. The small circle parking lot will accommodate small to medium size stock trailers.

TRAIL: The Granite Ridge Trail is on an old roadbed, so the trail is wide and easy to see and follow. This trail is open to foot and horse traffic. Bikes are only allowed on this trail from July 1 through October 31.

WATER: **Limited** Water available at Molly Lake, but **dry** along the Granite Ridge Trail.

CAMPING: There are many opportunities for dry camping in the area, as it is quite flat and there are open places. Be sure to camp at least 100 ft from trail and water, including Molly Lake.

SEASONAL: Accessible in winter. The parking lot is not plowed. With little elevation change, the trail is good for skiing or snowshoeing, snow conditions permitting. The trail is not marked for travel in snow, but the old road is moderately easy to follow. The path to Molly Lake may be difficult to navigate.

DESCRIPTION: The Granite Ridge trail is quite level (no steep ascents or descents) because it follows an

old roadbed. The roadbed is variously sandy, gravelly, and rocky, and it is well drained (with several metal culverts along its length). This trail is generally quite walkable from mid-April until the end of October in most years. It passes through an open, mixed forest consisting primarily of ponderosa pine with quaking aspen and some Douglas-fir, and considerable lodgepole pine along the initial (western) portion of the trail. Shrubs along the trail include wax currant, shrubby cinquefoil, and woods rose.

The first 0.5 mile or so of the trail has at least a couple of minor, unnamed trails branching off to the north and one branching off to the south. At 0.7 mile from the trailhead the trail junctions with a spur trail leading north to Molly Lake (which is about 0.1 mile off the Granite Ridge Trail). You may wish to follow this spur trail to the lake (actually not much more than a shallow pond, about two acres in size), to view this small, shallow lake and associated rock outcroppings. Note that the northern part of Molly Lake is on private property. Don't go off trail or camp on this non-USFS land.

About 100 yards east of the jct. with the spur trail to Molly Lake, the Granite Ridge Trail passes under a large power line. About another 0.5 mile east (1.4 miles from the trailhead), the trail arrives at a signed junction with the NW end of the Elkhorn Creek Trail. This trail leads SW for 1.6 miles before dead-ending at a fence. This junction of the Granite Ridge and Elkhorn Creek trails is about 0.25 mile west of a large 8,700 ft elevation granite outcropping just north of the Granite Ridge Trail. Shortly beyond this junction (at about mile 1.5) there is a large metal vehicle gate across the trail.

The Granite Ridge Trail continues to meander through open ponderosa pine and quaking aspen forest and several small meadows. There is a second large metal vehicle gate across the trail at mile 2.3, with a nice granite outcrop nearby. At about 3.2 miles there is a well-defined but unmarked trail leading off to the south. At about 3.8 miles, just about 50 yards

beyond a third metal gate across the trail, the Granite Ridge Trail intersects the Lady Moon Trail.

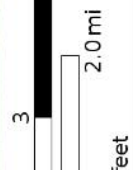
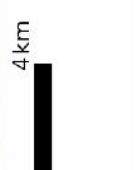
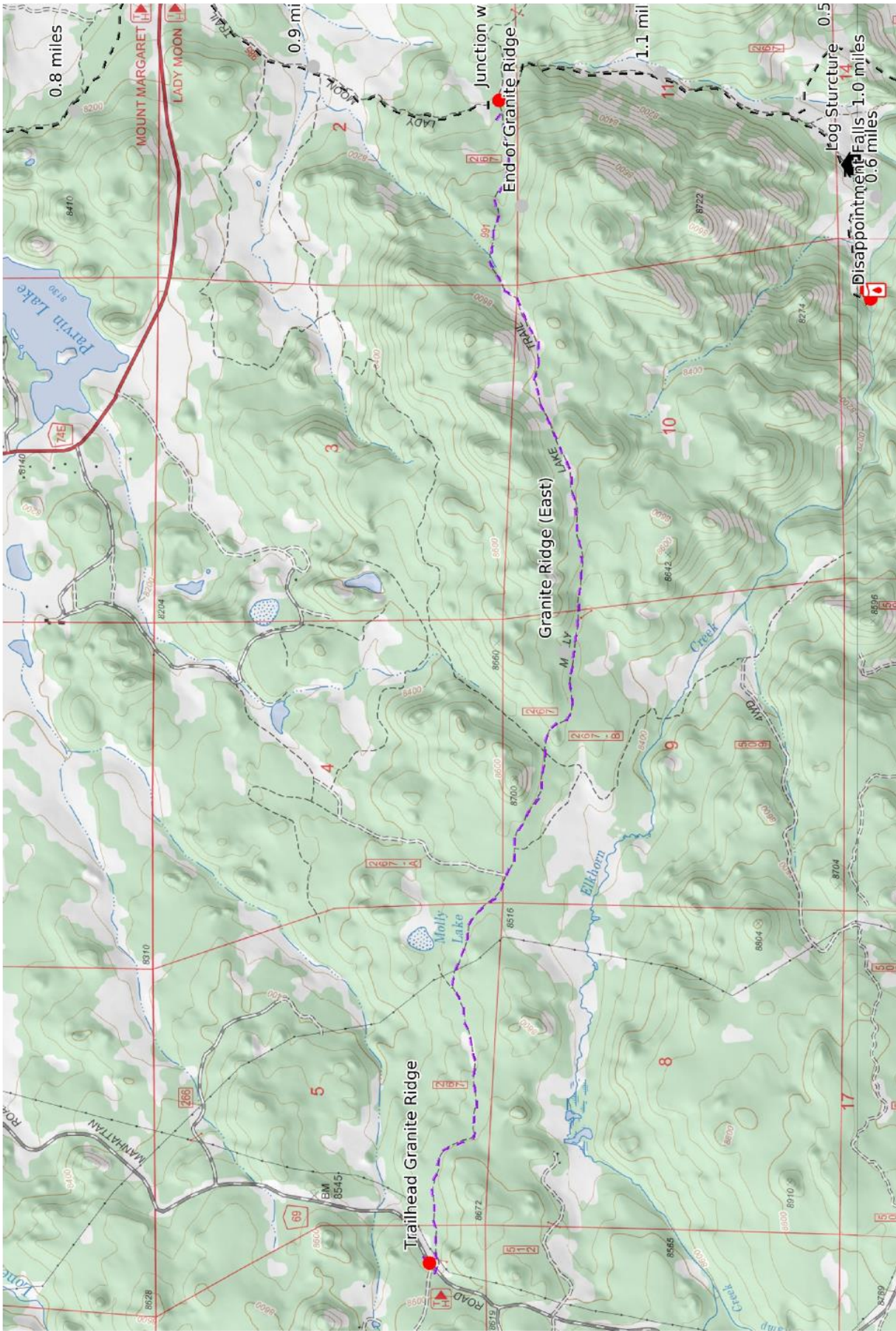
Mileages provided are approximate.

REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires - Prohibited within ¼ mile of trailhead except in designated camp sites. Recommend at least 100 feet from water and trail.
- Dogs - Must be under voice control at all times.
- Stock - To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours prior to the ride, stock should be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay. Required: throughout the trip, stock *must* be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay.
- Bicycles and Other Wheeled Conveyances - Prohibited November 1 through June 30. Otherwise allowed.
- Motorized Transport - Prohibited.
- Group Size - A single group of more than 74 people must have a USFS permit.

Mileage	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0	Molly Lake Trailhead	N40°46.07' W105°36.56'	448 ⁵⁷⁴ m	451 ³¹⁶³ m
0.7	junction with spur trail to Molly Lake	N40°46.03' W105°35.62'	449 ⁸⁹⁶ m	451 ³⁰⁸⁰ m
0.8	Molly Lake	N40°46.08' W105°35.52'	450 ⁰³⁷ m	451 ³¹⁷¹ m
3.7	junction with Lady Moon Trail and Granite Ridge Trail	N40°45.91' W105°32.64'	454 ⁰⁸⁶ m	451 ²⁸³¹ m

(See next page for map of trail.)



Scale 1:24616 1 inch = 2051 feet

Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDF
 CalTopo

Granite Ridge (West): 3