

## Spine Trail

The Spine Trail is a proposed route to connect the A-frame with Upper Lake and Treanor's Grave. We are currently working on a route to connect Silva Lodge with the Conference Center and Upper Lake.

### Silva Lodge to Upper Lake and Treanor's Grave route

There are two trails that leave the Silva Lodge Area. The main trail comes around the north side of Silva Lodge and contours south from the multi-trail junction on the NE side of Silva Lodge. After about 10 yards it crosses the trail that descends from Parker Dining Hall and the Baden-Powell Campfire area to Silva Lodge. After about 30 yards it crosses a trail that comes down from the Staff Lounge to the Trading Post. After another 40 yards it comes to the junction behind the Trading Post of a side trail which connects the Spine Trail with the Silva Deck. You can find the Silva Deck Trail underneath the guy wire for a phone pole. It climbs slightly to the Spine Trail.

From this junction the trail contours around the hill to cross the Cardiac Hill Trail. In another 75 yards a trail drops down to the Quail campsite. The Spine Trail continues to contour around to the outhouse near the Coyote Campsite. Here one can turn uphill to the Bob Cat and Mountain Lion campsites. Just past the outhouse a major path descends to other campsites. Cross this open area and pick up the Spine Trail as it descends slightly to a trail junction.

The trail that crosses at this junction is the 3 Mile Loop Trail. Our route turns left on to this trail. The trail that continues straight ahead descends to the paved road across from the Beaver Campsite. Just to the left of this campsite is a dirt road that leads to the Kumeyaay campsite and the ranges. Turning right on the 3ML would eventually take you the bike shack. We want to turn left and contour through the old Mountain Boarding Course to the main paved road.

Cross the paved road and the wash and climb to a use trail. Eventually the Spine Trail will contour around the hill here. But for now it follows the temporary 3ML loop. These signs will lead you up to some Blackfoot Campsites. The trail

wanders past several campsites and then climbs up to an unmarked junction with the trail between Pawnee and the Blackfoot Fort Bridge. (There is a 3ML sign that points straight ahead. This is where you want to turn right onto the temporary Spine Trail and drop down to the Blackfoot Fort Bridge. The 3ML climbs to the Blackfoot dirt road and the left branch of that road would take you to the Nature Den.

From the Blackfoot Fort Bridge take the trail that continues south and climbs around the creek side of the Blackfoot Pool. At the southwest corner of this pool find a path that drops into a flat and wanders through a wooded area. Eventually this path goes over a rise and drops down to the Matagual Creek.

Currently you have to hop across the creek via some large blocks of wood. Eventually we would like to either put a bridge across the creek or install a large pipe to carry the creek under the trail. Climb up the temporary trail to the lower end of the rockwall supported trail. Up this new trail about 100 yards you will come to the junction with the Slant Bridge Trail. Turning left on this trail will take you down to the Slant Bridge. Across that bridge and up the hill you would come to the Blackfoot Fort Reservoir and be on a trail to the Nature Den.

Instead of turning, continue up the hill past junctions with the future extension of the Mataguay Connector Trail and the trail to the center of Mountain Man Meadow. Eventually this segment of our trail tops out at the main paved road through camp. The Hog Barn is straight ahead and the old Commissary (ComSci) building is behind it. The horse Barn is up the dirt road from this junction.

If you want to continue on to the Conference Center and Upper Lake go as follows: Cross the dirt road just right of the log and climb halfway to the Hog Barn and turn right up a use road to the significant dirt road from the paved road past the Hog Barn. Cross this road and continue about 40 feet to the new 3ML trail just to the left of a pipe. Turn left and climb across the paved road to the "Slow" and "5 Mile" speed limit signs.

The 3ML trail parallels the paved road past the future trail down to the barn. Just past an oak tree the trail begins to climb steadily up to the lower road around the old Caretaker's Cabin. Follow this road up to a junction with the upper road and follow the joint road as it contours to a wash and climbs up to the parking lot in back of the Conference Center Dining Hall.

Turn right and follow the paved road around to the back of Casita #3. Here two dirt roads leave the pavement. The right fork takes you through the COPE course to Upper Lake. The left fork drops down and climbs to a hairpin curve. At this curve a trail leads straight ahead up the canyon to the north end of the Upper Lake Dam. At the dam, turn left for about 20' to another junction. The trail to the right leads up to Treanor's Grave.

As you approach Treanor's Grave the trail goes over a saddle and climbs to a wide spot where an old jeep road use to come up the hill. Turn up this bare spot and climb to the spectator area for the Treanor's Grave program.

### Treanor's Grave and Upper Lake to Silva Lodge route

From Treanor's Grave follow the trail, that is signed "3ML", down to the HALTT Trail and turn left. Just before the bridge that goes over the Upper Lake Spillway, turn right and follow the trail down the canyon to the back of camp road. Continue on this road to the paved road at the back of the Conference Center. The road from the COPE course joins the Spine Trail Route here.

From the start of the pavement follow this road to the left of the buildings. It will take you just past the conference center dining hall. Look for a number of rails sticking out of the ground to protect a propane tank. Just past these look for a dirt road that leaves the pavement to the left. Follow it as it crosses a wash and curves around the hill to a junction. The upper road leads past the Caretaker's Cabin to a great view of Palomar Mountain. But from this junction take the lower road down to a trail, which drops past the Barn.

Across the road from the Barn we are in the process of building a new trail to access the Barn and the Barn Bridge Trail. The Spine Trail continues on the 3ML trail as it crosses the paved road for the first time. It will pass a small oak. Just before it comes to a raised section of the trail, turn right and parallel the paved road to the dirt road from the Barn. Take turn left on this dirt road to a junction with the Paved Road. Here you can find a trail leading to the right into the canyon.

Descend this trail past the MMM trail, the Mataguay Connector Trail and the Slant Bridge Trail to a rockwall. At the end of the rockwall switchback down to the Matagual Creek and cross it on the planks that are currently there. On the other side of the creek the trail goes over a rise and wanders through open woods to the Blackfoot Pool. Continue along the creek side of this pool and descend to the east end of the Blackfoot Fort Bridge.

Continue past the bridge and climb up the trail towards Pawnee to a trail that crosses it. On the right side of this trail there is a 3ML marker. Turn left and follow the route past several campsites. At the end of these campsites the trail drops down the hill. Look for blue flags on the left side. Where this line of flags crosses the current trail, turn right and cross a wash and climb up to the paved road through camp.

Cross this road and the old Mountain Boarding course to reach a trail junction. The trail that goes straight ahead drops down to parallel the road past Parker Campsites. The Spine Trail turns right at this junction and climbs past the Coyote Campsite. Just beyond the outhouse, pick up the trail as it contours around the hill across a few sides trails.

When you reach the backside of the Trading Post there is a trail junction. The left fork drops to the Silva Deck and to a trail that drops down to the Trading Post. The trail going straight ahead goes to the NE corner of Silva Lodge. There you can find trails going to the Squirrel and Jackrabbit Campsites, the Staff parking lot and up to the Staff Lounge. The Spine Trail concept may be extended to the Indian Rock parking and the A-Frame. But for now this is the end of this trail.

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