

CURRENT PEPPER BRIDGE TO TREANOR'S GRAVE LOOP ROUTE

The following is a description of a **3-mile loop hike through MSR** that starts at the bridge over the inlet end of Lake Henry. This is the Pepper Bridge. On the south side of this bridge are the ranges. From the Bridge look north to see a sign that announces the beginning of the 3 Mile Loop Trail. From this point follow the "3ML" signs. The main trail off the north end of the bridge goes around the right side of the Bike shack to a place where there was a gap in the yellow rope. Climb over the rope and cross the road and go through the gap on the other side of the road.

Turn right and follow the rope to a wide dirt path. Look for the 3ML sign that points across this path and in half a block it will go around the right side of a large dead tree. Then it climbs to a trail junction with the Spine Trail below the Coyote Campsite. The right fork goes down to the road near the white gates. The trail to the left goes to Silva Lodge. Instead go straight ahead and contour through the mountain board course and cross the paved road. Eventually there will be a bridge across this gully, but a temporary path crosses the gully to the left of the flag line and climbs back to the flag line. Follow this flag line for a few feet to a path that climbs up the hill into Blackfoot.

Leave the flag line and turn up hill on this trail to a campsite. Drift right; our route works its way around the lower side of these campsites. Eventually you will cross the Blackfoot Fort Bridge trail. Continue straight ahead on a faint path which climbs up to the Blackfoot dirt road at a fork.

Take the left fork and climb around the Nature Den (0.4). Follow the dirt road up to the Crow Campsite sign (0.15). Leave the dirt road and turn UP here, staying about 30' to the right of the fall line, walk about 170' to the North-Side Trail. It drops, right, across a major gully and contours to the junction of the future North Side Trail and the Nature trail. (0.15) Take the right branch and follow the nature trail as it drops to the Mataguay Connector Trail and follows it to the Barn Bridge Trail Jct. (0.3). You have traveled 1.0 mile from the Pepper Bridge.

Continue up the canyon past the horse trail, which goes left to the old dump site. Our route continues up the canyon to a place where the trail turns away from the creek. Here you come to a junction with the south side trail (0.25). Jog right and contour around the slope to a wash. The trail goes right and

climbs across a dirt road and up to the HALTT trail just before the COPE course zip-line. When the zip-line is in use you may have to wait here for permission to cross under the line towards Upper Lake. (0.25).

Just before you come to Upper Lake there is a trail junction with a trail that climbs to the left. It is signed "3ML Outbound". To get the 3 mile mileage, we need the side trip up to Treanor's Grave.

Turn left and follow this trail up to a place where it crosses a saddle. Here we continue up new trail that takes us to the west of Treanor's Grave to an old telephone pole road. At this old road site turn right and scamper up to the flat on the east side of the grave site (0.2). This new route will help direct the audience into the seating side of the area where the Treanor's Grave program takes place during summer camp.

From the Grave go out the stage side of the grave area. Here a use trail will take you back down to the main trail which will carry you back down to the Upper Lake Trail junction with a sign that says, "3ML Inbound". Turn left towards the Upper Lake and the approach to a bridge (0.2). DO NOT cross this bridge above the spillway, but turn right down the canyon on the north side of the bridge. This path will take you down to a dirt road. Continue straight ahead on the road out to the Conference Center Parking Lot. Continue straight at the pavement and follow the barbwire fence past the Conference Center dining hall (Where you can sometimes get water or use the restrooms) to a dirt road that goes left just past a propane tank that is protected by some rails. (0.25).

This dirt road goes across a wash. Then it turns to contour around the hill to a fork in the road. Take the lower branch, which goes below the old Care Taker's cabin. At a large dead oak look for new trail that goes off the road to the right. This trail leads around the slope and eventually down to a future side trail to the barn. Continue straight ahead to the road at the entrance to the old Commissary (The renewed ComSci building) (0.3). You have traveled 2 miles. Angle across the paved road and walk through an oak grove to a second crossing of the paved road.

Now look for the flag line as it passes along a cleared route through the brush on the left hand side of the meadow. It stays close to the brush as it goes under some trees to reach an old road grade. Follow this road grade as it swings around the

south side of Mountain Man Meadow and fades into a power line trail that leads you to a crossing of the paved road. Our trail continues through the back of the chapel to the Blackfoot Fort Bridge. Turn left (away from the bridge) and go clockwise around the Blackfoot Fort to its front gate (0.5).

Now cross the paved road and walk down an old dirt road for 100' to a point where the OA path goes left. Turn right on the old road, past the future Fun House Trail reroute, to the Kumeyaay restroom with a drinking fountain (0.1) (often times the water is off here in the cooler months). From here the access road continues 100 yards and descends to a junction with another road near a pond.

Turn left and follow this road toward the ranges (0.2). Just before you arrive at the ranges, jog right and go straight to the Pepper Bridge trail. Turn right to get to the Pepper Bridge Trail. (0.03)

(A total of 3.2 miles)

28 August 2017