

ITALIAN BAR ROAD AREA



Hiking Distance: This is a drive and stop outing
Difficulty: Easy
Start Elevation: About 2200 feet
Elevation Change: About 500 feet
Location: 2 miles north of Columbia
Map: USGS

Area's Blooming Season	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	
	Early	E	Mid	M	Late	L	Very Late	V

Description:

This area begins about 1.5 miles from the center of Columbia along both sides of Italian Bar road. After the first mile or two the road becomes dirt and gravel with the surface (as of April 2007) smooth enough for a regular sedan to travel without danger of dragging. You continue until the bottom of the canyon where the road is very near the South fork of the Stanislaus River. It is here that you can find the rare Tuolumne Fawn Lily (the end of March to the first week of April is a good time to see these blooms.) There are spots where the road is wide enough to pull over and get out look at spots on the drive to the bottom. You will be rewarded with potentially 90+ different species blooming in the area depending on the time of the year that you visit. If you have the time, this road will continue all the way to Twain Harte and wind its way through parts of the Stanislaus National Forest. You should plan on 3-4 hours if you decide to make the complete circuit. In a normal weather year the blooming period begins typically in early to middle March and continues with good variety until about the end of May with a few species that are earlier bloomers and several that are relatively later in blooming after the area has gotten quite dry (early to mid summer).



Trailhead Directions:

There is no trailhead as this is basically a “driving” outing. The survey area begins about 1.5 miles from the center of Columbia and continues down to the bottom of the canyon.

