

# PINECREST LAKE AREA



**Hiking Distance:** About 4.5 miles  
**roundtrip**  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Start Elevation:** About 5600 feet  
**Elevation Change:** Less than 100 feet  
**Location:** Stanislaus National Forest  
**Map:** USFS Pinecrest Quadrangle 473-2

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

## Description:

This is a heavily traveled trail around Pinecrest Lake. The lake is a PG&E storage reservoir used to provide water for hydroelectric power downstream on the South Fork of the Stanislaus. It is normally full by Memorial Day and begins to empty after the Labor Day holiday. The trail passes in front of many private summer cabins. You can begin the loop trail at the Marina or at the opposite end of the beach-picnic area. The meadow at the signed junction with a trail to Cloe's Baths usually has an abundance of wildflowers. A large patch of the uncommon Cut-leaved Monkeyflower can be found a little ways east of the dam at a seep over a granite cliff.

## Trailhead Directions:

From SR 108 you take the Pinecrest Lake turnoff. There is plenty of parking at the lake although it can be crowded on summer weekends. The trail begins next to the marina and is signed or you can start the loop trail at the east end of the lake's picnic area which is also signed.



