Ramshaw Meadow Wilderness Fence Removal

SWCFFI and the Inyo National Forest will be hosting a Wilderness Week in the Golden Trout Wilderness from July 16-21, 2023. Volunteers will work on dismantling an obsolete livestock exclosure fence in Ramshaw Meadow, located along the South Fork of the Kern River. This fence was erected in 1985 to help encourage streambank recovery along the river and improve stream habitat conditions for the golden trout. Livestock have not been present in this meadow since 2000, so the fence is no longer serving a purpose and has been deteriorating in the wilderness. This not only impairs the wilderness character of the area and impedes recreational access to the river, it also presents an entrapment hazard for wildlife.

Volunteers will spend 4-5 nights camped along the South Fork of the Kern River in a lesser-travelled portion of the Sierras with miles-long expansive meadows.

Project details:

The group will depart from Cottonwood Pass Trailhead at 8am on Sunday, July 16. All gear will be dropped off with the Forest Service Pack Team at the trailhead prior to starting the hike in. There will be an approximately 10-mile strenuous hike into the meadow. At the end of this, we will set up a camp for the work week.

Fence removal will be done over three days. Work will be steady, with plenty of breaks, and time to enjoy the wilderness area and fly fishing in the S Fork Kern River and tributaries as well. Work days will mostly be from 8:30am - 4:30pm. All tools will be provided by the Forest Service, but volunteers will be expected to have sturdy hiking boots, work gloves, long sleeves and long pants, and appropriate gear for potential rain. Tasks will involve cutting and rolling up barbed wire, pulling up t-posts, and digging out and/or sawing wooden corner braces. The materials will be stashed at a nearby location to be hauled out by stock over the summer and following year.

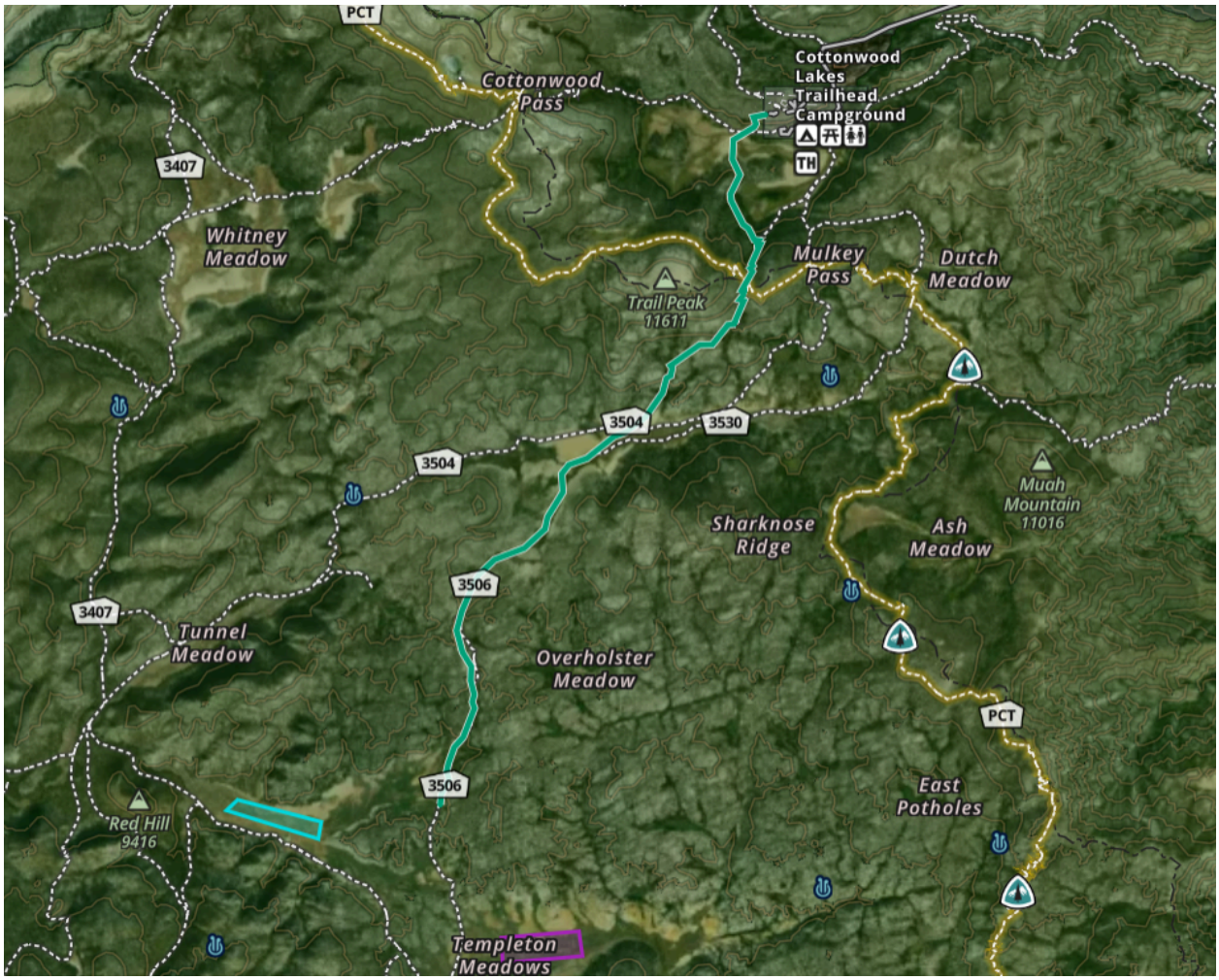


Work will be completed by Wednesday, July 19th, with an optional extra day to relax and fly fish on Thursday, July 20th. We will hike out early and expect to be back at the Cottonwood Pass Trailhead by 5pm on July 21st.

Volunteers should bring their own camping gear, food and cookware. Bear resistant canisters will be provided. There may still be snow over Trail Pass, and the meadow will likely be saturated in places, so waterproof boots are strongly recommended.

Project Location:

The 10-mile hike in is shown in solid green on the map, and the fence location is marked in turquoise. Camp will be above the meadow in the upland area between the trail and fence.



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Barbed wire fence in Ramshaw Meadow



Wooden Fence Braces around Ramshaw Meadow