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Upper Rock Lake - Tahoe National Forest

Fishing:
0/10

Hiking:
 3/10

Scenery:
 6/10

Solitude:
 8/10

Distance:
 2.96 mi 1-way

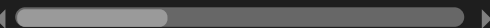
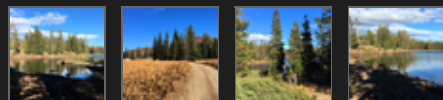
Map:




Elevation Profile:



Gallery:



 See a short video of this lake.

Upper Rock Lake - (Nevada County)

Tahoe National Forest

September 23, 2016



Getting There

To reach Upper Rock Lake in Nevada County, drive to the [Lindsey Lakes trailhead](#) by taking Highway 20 from [Highway 80 at Yuba Pass](#). Take Highway 20 west until you can turn right on Bowman Lake Road. From Bowman Lake Road, follow the signs to the turnoff for Lindsey Lakes Road. This road is an unimproved dirt road that is moderately rough but still manageable in a 2-wheel drive vehicle with modest clearance. We were the only car in the parking area on a Friday morning.

The Hike

The hike to Upper Rock Lake starts in the parking area just below Lower Lindsey Lake and makes its way past Lower Lindsey Lake and the campground on the north side. This is a 4WD road that passes several lakes along the way including Upper Lindsey Lake and Culbertson Lake. The hike is moderate with only a few hills to hike up. Construction crews were repairing the dam at Culbertson Lake when we were there and the lake had been drawn down significantly. The road leads to the Rock Lakes where, at Upper Rock Lake, it ends and a maintained trail begins. Following this trail leads you to Shotgun Lake or Penner Lake if you take the right turn just past Upper rock Lake. An excellent camp site exists on the west side which has plenty of space for a large group and/or livestock.

The Fishing

We are pretty confident in saying that Upper Rock Lake has no fish. We fished throughout the afternoon from the west side and didn't even get a bite. We saw no signs of fish at all, even when the sun had gone down and the midges began their journey to the water's surface causing tiny ripples on an otherwise glassy lake. The next morning we kept our eye on the water to see if there were any fish rising but we saw nothing. The lake was like glass. So, we left Upper Rock Lake without seeing any action at all. By 9:30 am we were back on the trail on our way nearby Penner Lake where we knew we would see some trout action for sure.

On a side note, we did stop by Lower Rock Lake on our way up the hill and it looked to be fishless at first glance. However, after returning home, I watched the [video](#) that I customarily take of each lake and I spotted a fish jump out of the water that I didn't notice when I was there. There is a magnificent camp site at Lower Rock Lake that I would love to visit again. So, next time we go this way we will stay at Lower Rock where we might have a shot at catching a fish.

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About

This site was created to provide information on fishing the lakes and streams in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains.

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