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Upper McCabe Lake - July 2011

Fishing:



Hiking:



Scenery:



Solitude:



Distance:



Map:



Elevation Profile:



Gallery:



## Upper McCabe Lake - (Tuolumne County)

Yosemite Wilderness



### Getting There

If you are going to stay at **Upper McCabe Lake** be sure to get a Yosemite Wilderness permit! We chose to launch our trip to **Upper McCabe Lake** from the [Saddlebag Lake Area](#). There is a trailhead by the campground with plenty of parking. This is a very popular place due to the 20 Lakes Basin on the north side of Saddlebag Lake. There is a store with tackle and supplies and a restaurant for that great hamburger you're gonna crave when you come back out of the woods. And best of all, they have a water taxi to take you across Saddlebag lake. This will save you about 2 miles of hiking.

### The Hike

It is a moderate to difficult hike to **Upper McCabe Lake** in Yosemite. After exiting the water taxi, we enjoyed a mile or so of easy hiking as we headed toward Cascade Lake. Passing between Cascade and Tower Lakes, we headed up the trail north towards a lake called Secret Lake. This lake is usually unnamed on maps. We turned left and headed south towards North Peak to make a large switch back and head back to the top of the ridge. We followed this ridge line searching for areas to climb down to **Upper McCabe Lake**. This was tricky hiking in the class 3 arena. There are better routes to **Upper McCabe Lake**, we are sure. The boulder hopping got us there.

### The Fishing

We had a hard time fishing that evening sight-casting to rises and bubbles, and trust me, there were quite a few. A few takes and nothing more. The next morning I headed out early over to the southwest shore of **Upper McCabe Lake**. Here I found many fish and by mid morning we had collectively landed more than 20. The fish in **Upper McCabe Lake** are really nice Rainbows in the 1-3 pound range. I've seen them husky in the past at **Upper McCabe Lake**.

We used a variety of techniques at **Upper McCabe Lake**. Steve and Alex used Panther Martin spinners and had good action around the southwestern shoreline. I used black ants, adams and beadhead nymphs in darker colors. Grasshoppers were uninteresting. A beadhead wooly bugger landed one as well.

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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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