



The stamp mill was a remarkable feat of engineering. It involved a number of gravity-fed ore crushers and a battery of "stamps", which were 600-950-lb. rods that raised 8 1/2", and dropped down 80 times a minute to crush the rock into a floury powder. The Mohawk Stamp Mill was powered completely by water most of the year, and by steam when the water levels were too low. The mill still stands across the way from the museum, and contains much of the original equipment. Take a short walk to it, and imagine the thunderous noise it must have made when in operation.



Johnsville was originally built in 1872, and was presumably named after mining superintendent William Johns. The town prospered for more than 40 years during the heyday of the Plumas-Eureka and Jamison Mines. The fourth major fire in the town's history, coupled with low morale due to decreased yield from the Plumas-Eureka Mine, precipitated the decline of the town in the 1920s. Today, Johnsville is composed of private homes, one business (the Iron Door restaurant), and the old Johnsville Cemetery.

Please Remember...

DOGS must be kept on a leash at all times. They are not permitted on park trails. They must be in a vehicle or tent at night.

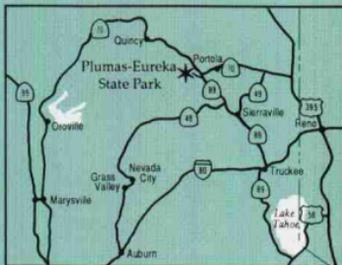
VEHICLES must be parked on the paved parking pad when parked at the campsite.

PEACE AND QUIET time is between the hours of 10 PM and 6 AM; **GENERATORS** may be operated only between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM.

FIREARMS must be unloaded, stored in a case, and rendered temporarily inoperable while in the park.

ALL FEATURES are protected. Do not feed animals, pick wildflowers, pan for gold, or otherwise disturb, collect, harm, or injure any natural or cultural feature of this park.

DEAD OR DOWNED WOOD may not be used as firewood, or otherwise collected. Wood may be brought in from other areas, or purchased from the park staff.



Plumas-Eureka State Park
310 Johnsville Road
Blairsden, CA 96103
916/836-2380

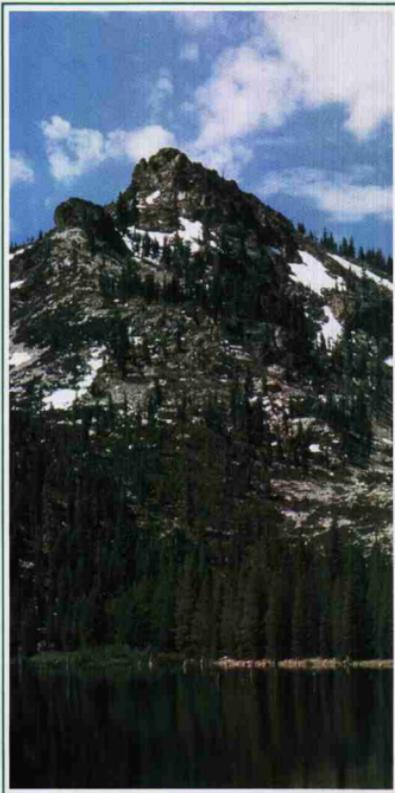


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PLUMAS-EUREKA State Park



High in the northern Sierra Nevada, Plumas-Eureka State Park blends the history of California's hard-rock gold mining period with the beauty and serenity of granite peaks and quiet mountain meadows and lakes. The park is about 60 miles north of Lake Tahoe, near the beautiful Lakes Basin Recreation Area, and features spectacular mountain scenery in the headwaters country of the Yuba and Feather Rivers. Within park boundaries, the historic mining town of Johnsville and the partially restored Plumas-Eureka stamp mill vividly recall the time when placer and hard-rock gold mining was the primary activity in this region, and an important part of the state's economy.

Established in 1959, Plumas-Eureka has become an increasingly popular place to visit during the warm summer months. Interpretive events, such as campfire programs, nature walks, history tours, and the like are offered during the summer season. Hiking, fishing, picnicking, and other similar outdoor activities are quite popular with visitors.

The park sits between elevations of 4,720 and 7,447 feet, and has an abundance of plant and animal life. The forest canopy includes white fir, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and incense cedar, with red fir, mountain hemlock, and western white pine at the higher elevations. Willow, alder, and black cottonwood populate the wet areas in the park. Dry, rocky chaparral regions are covered with manzanita, chinquapin, ceanothus, and buckthorn. Wildflowers, including leopard lilies and columbines, are among the park's most colorful flora.

Wildlife is abundant in the area. Black bears and foxes live in the more remote areas of the park, golden eagles and mountain lions can occasionally be seen along the slopes of Eureka Peak, and many deer, weasels, porcupines, bobcats, and other mammals are spotted in the unit. Bird watchers come to Plumas-Eureka to see pileated woodpeckers, calliope hummingbirds, and saw-whet owls, among a variety of delightful Sierran birds.

Madora Lake and Eureka Lake are both in the park, and a number of other lakes are located on U. S. Forest Service land just outside the park boundary. Trails, many of them actually old mining-era roads, reach out from Plumas-Eureka to these lakes, and to other outstanding High Sierra features.

In the wintertime, when the park is blanketed with snow, it is transformed into a winter paradise. The park museum is open year-round. Visitors drive the well-cleared roads up to the unit to enjoy the various cross-country ski loops. Those with a preference for alpine skiing head up into the Eureka Bowl to enjoy the groomed downhill skiing and poma lifts operated by the non-profit Plumas Ski Club.

History

The lure of gold brought many people to California after the initial discovery at Sutter's sawmill on the American River in 1848. Prospectors didn't find their way up to the area we now call Plumas-Eureka until 1851, when a couple of them - part of a larger group - discovered an exposed quartz ledge rich with gold high on the slopes of Eureka Peak. Thirty-six mines formed the Eureka Company and the rush was on. Seventy-six claimants formed the Washington Company (better known as the Seventy-Six). Forty miners claimed the Rough-and-Ready, and about 80 more filed claim to the Mammoth.

With the mines came families and development. Jamison City sprang up in 1853 as a tent city, and eventually grew to include twelve buildings, six of them saloons. This town was located on the banks of Jamison Creek, about a mile downstream from the present-day museum. Johnsville, a more sober and business-like community, came into being in 1872, and a similar community, Eureka Mills, was formed on the slopes of Eureka Peak in 1873.

While highly productive, these early operations tended to "boom and bust." Ownership changes were frequent until a British company, the Sierra Buttes Mining Company, Ltd., stepped in and consolidated all of the mines in this vicinity. With the aid of improved technology, this mining operation continued to operate profitably until the turn of the century. Another operation, the Jamison Mine, which started in 1887, also continued to prosper until 1919.

After these mines began to slow down, there were occasional periods of excitement, and renewed prosperity always seemed just around the corner. But little by little, mining operations tapered off, until they were finally discontinued in 1943. By then, some \$25 million in gold had been taken

out, and about 65 miles of tunnels had been carved into Eureka Peak.

Today, there are still many visible reminders of the area's colorful history both in and around the unit. These include the long-silent, sealed-off mine shafts and tunnels, and the Plumas-Eureka mill, where \$8 million worth of gold is said to have been processed. The building that houses the park headquarters and museum was once a bunkhouse for one of the mines. Part of the old tramway is still standing. It is believed to have served as the world's first ski lift.

The Birthplace of Winter Sport

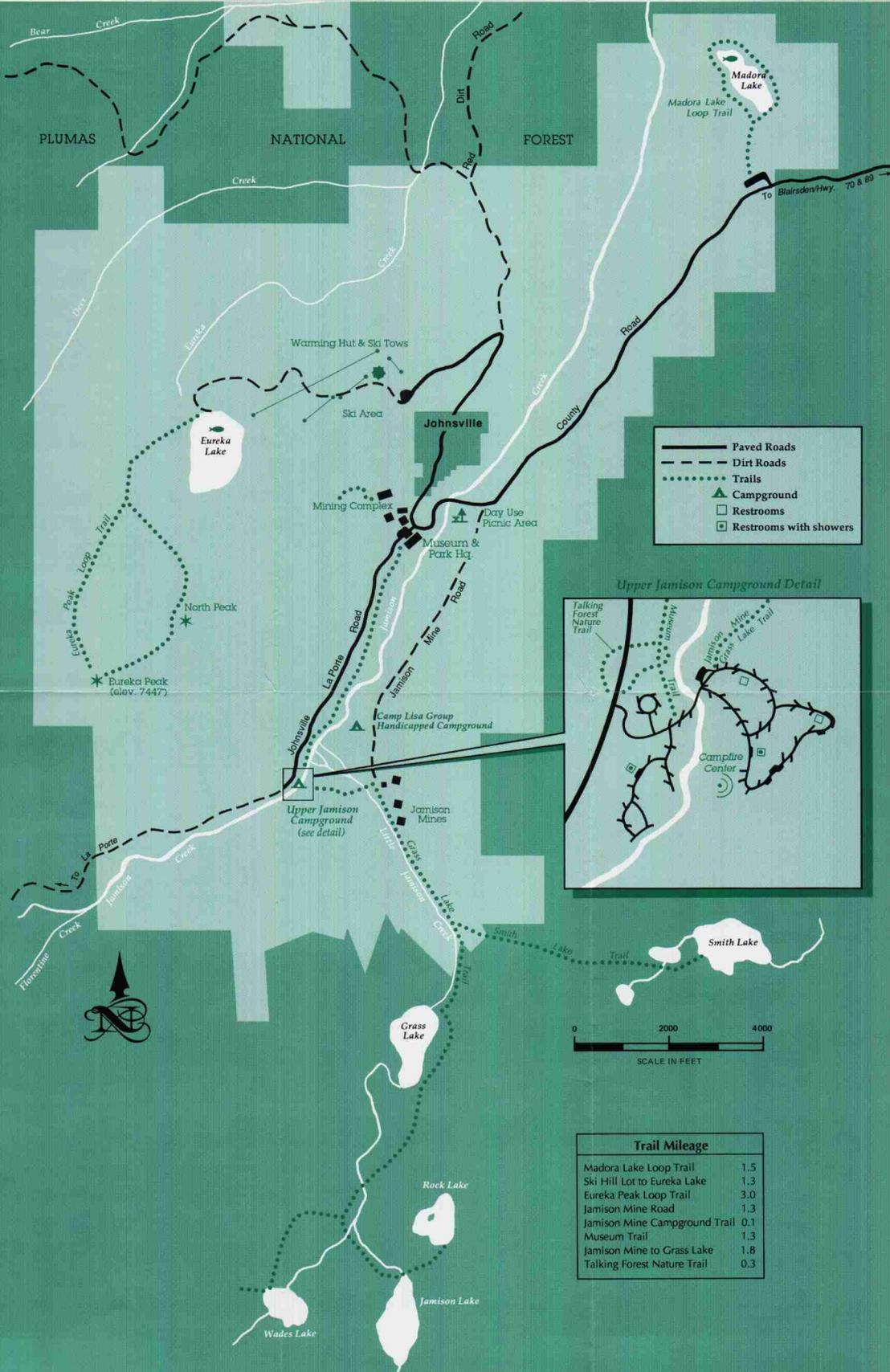
In the winter, mining operations slowed, and the miners found themselves with free time on their hands. It was in this area that competitive downhill ski races were held, possibly for the first time in North America.

Racers started above Eureka Lake, and travelled the 1,700-foot run with speeds up to (and sometimes more than!) 80 miles per hour. They moved on what they called "long boards" or "snowshoes". Today, we call them skis. These longboards measured up to twelve feet in length, and often weighed as much as 20 pounds. They also had one long, large ski pole which was carried between the legs, and served as a brake (although they did little braking!). Prize money for the winners ran as high as \$250.00.

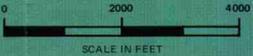
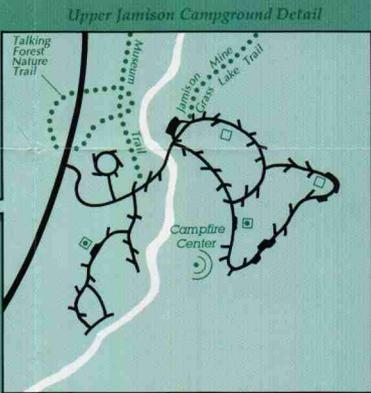
Facilities

Plumas-Eureka State Park is a popular place to camp during the warm, dry summer months. There are 67 campsites in the forested canyon along Jamison Creek, with tables, stoves, and food lockers. Piped drinking water and combination buildings with restrooms, hot showers, and laundry tubs are located nearby. Campsite reservations can be made up to eight weeks in advance by calling MISTIX at 1-800-444-7275, and using your Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Reservations are strongly advised during the summer (mid-June through Labor Day).

Because of very cold weather and heavy snowfall, the campground is closed after about October 1. Park headquarters and the mining history museum remain open all year.



— Paved Roads
 - - - - - Dirt Roads
 Trails
 ▲ Campground
 □ Restrooms
 ◻ Restrooms with showers



Trail Mileage	
Madora Lake Loop Trail	1.5
Ski Hill Lot to Eureka Lake	1.3
Eureka Peak Loop Trail	3.0
Jamison Mine Road	1.3
Jamison Mine Campground Trail	0.1
Museum Trail	1.3
Jamison Mine to Grass Lake	1.8
Talking Forest Nature Trail	0.3