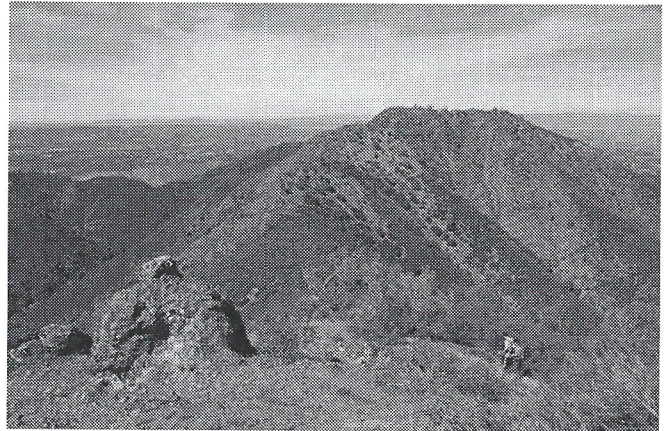


Eagle Peak – Back Creek Loop

Distance, difficulty: 6.5-mile loop – moderate
Estimated hiking time: 2.5 to 4.5 hours
High point, elevation gain: 2,369 feet, 1,775-foot gain
Terrain: Unsuitable for wheelchairs

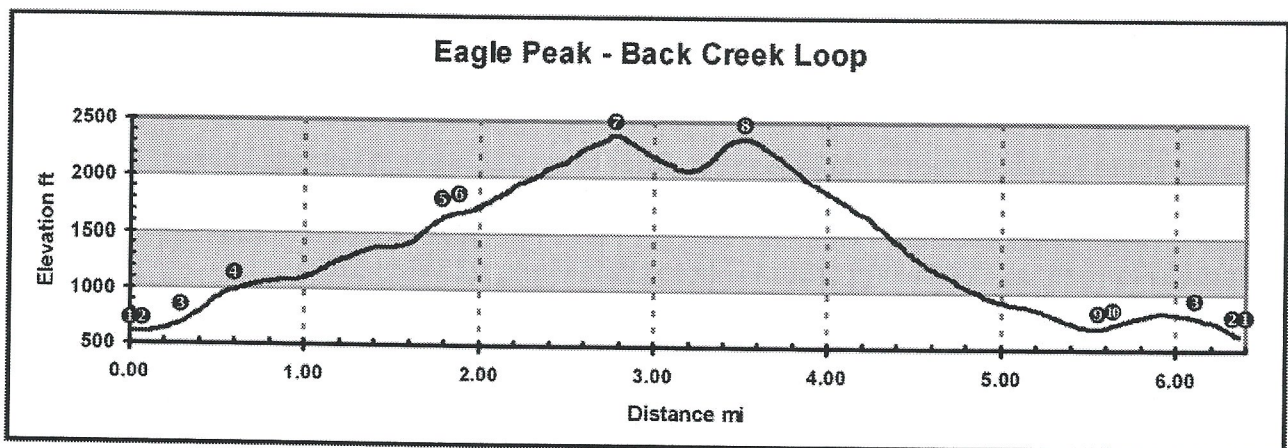
Trailhead: End of paved part of Mitchell Canyon Road, north entrance to park, near the town of Clayton. Drinking water and rest rooms. Park in staging area. Day use fee.



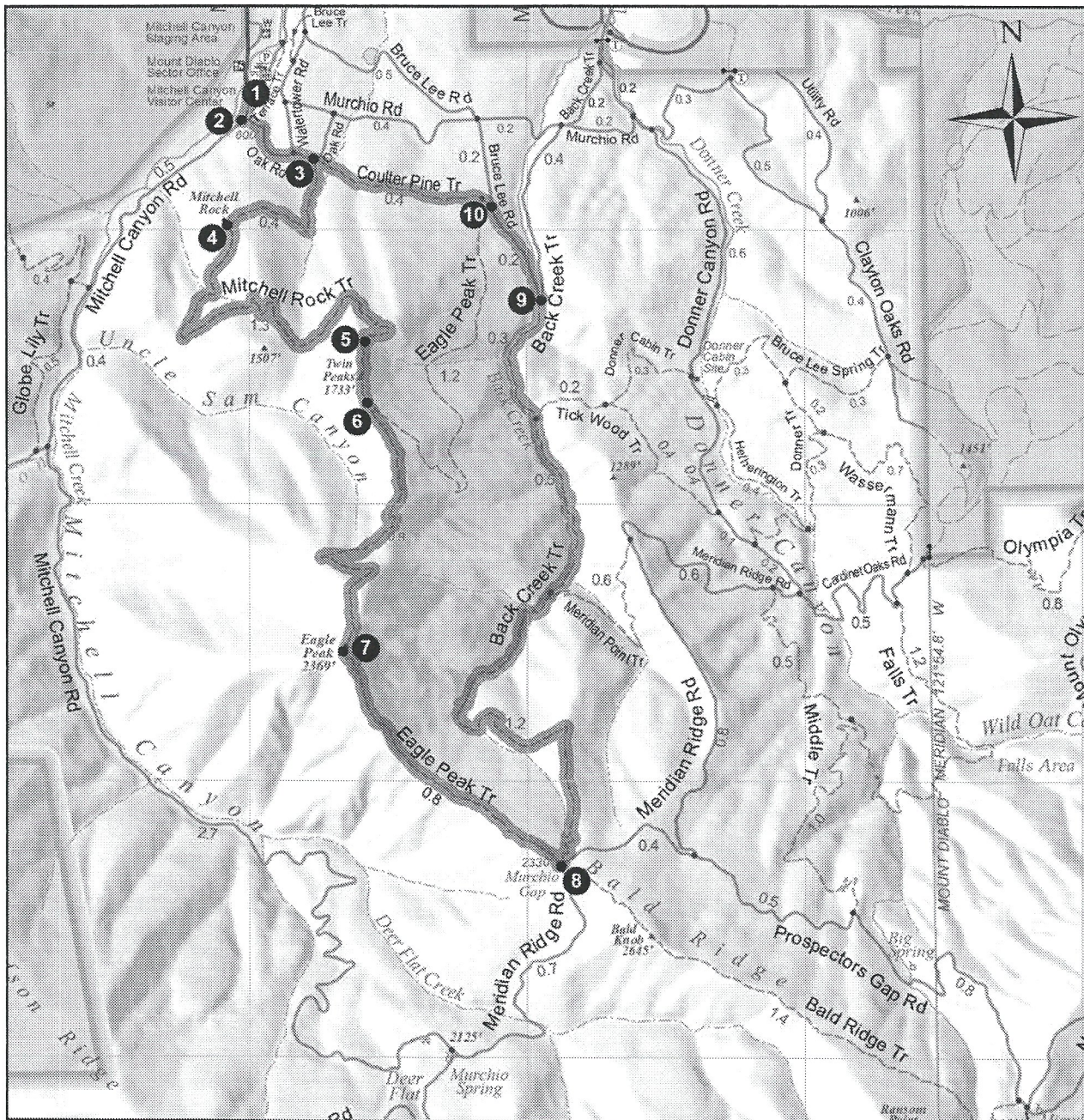
Description: This loop follows ❶ Mitchell Canyon Road to ❷ Oak Road, which takes off to the left where the split rail fencing ends. This initial short climb up the fire road is very steep. Once you reach the meadowy plateau at the top, be on the lookout for ❸ the Mitchell Rock Trail, the first posted single-track trail to your right. This will take you past ❹ Mitchell Rock and ❺ Twin Peaks, to ❻ Eagle Peak Trail, an exciting hogback, often only a few feet wide, with sharp drop-offs on each side. This trail leads, of course, to ❼ Eagle Peak. Eagle Peak is a rocky belvedere from which to admire the expanse of Contra Costa's "Central Valley" before you, and a good place to pause for a break.

Continue on to ❸ Murchio Gap, and take Back Creek Trail to the left. Follow Back Creek Trail down until it intersects with ❾ Bruce Lee Road and then ❿ Coulter Pine Trail. Take the Coulter Pine Trail to the left until it joins Oak Road, which will take you back to Mitchell Canyon Road and the trailhead. Your return via the sometimes shady Back Creek Trail offers a welcome relief during the heat of the summer afternoon sun.

Another return route from Eagle Peak: At Murchio Gap, take Meridian Ridge Road to the right to reach Deer Flat. Deer Flat is one of the mountain's loveliest spots, a symphony of bird song, a restful place for a picnic. From Deer Flat, take Mitchell Canyon Road to the right to return to the trailhead. Returning via Mitchell Canyon also offers welcome shade from the hot summer afternoon sun.



Eagle Peak – Back Creek Loop



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891 (Bay Sector Office) or 925-837-6129 (Junction Ranger Station); 711, TTY relay service. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891.



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