

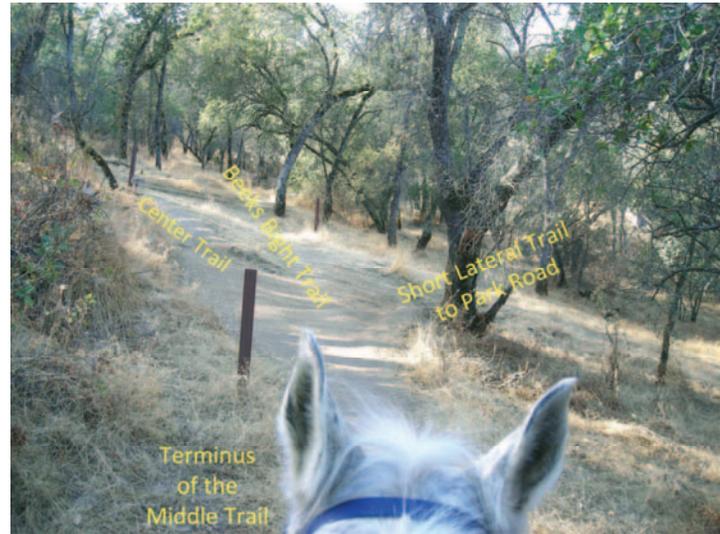
The Beeks Bight Trail

Granite Bay area, Folsom Lake SRA

by Robert H. Sydnor, LBHA trails committee; M-AERC

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The Beeks Bight Trail is a delightful trail that undulates, ascends, and descends for a splendid workout for your horse. The Beeks Bight Trail is located northeast of the Granite Bay Equestrian Assembly Area and it leads from the hilltop to the parking lot at Beeks Bight. It is slightly more than one mile in length. This is an interconnected multi-use trail in conjunction with the Center Trail and the (main) Pioneer Express Trail. The southern end of the Beeks Bight Trail is a four-way junction of the Center Trail, the Middle Trail, and a short spur trail that leads to the paved park road. Please refer to the sketch map and the photograph of the 4-way trail junction.



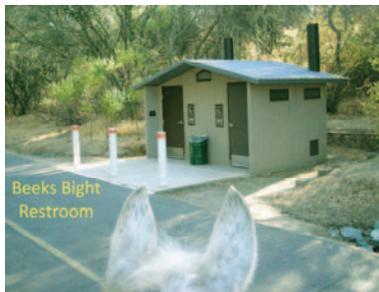
The Beeks Bight Trail has many inflections (reversing S-shaped curves) and is heavily used by both equestrians (because it connects to the Pioneer Express Trail), and also by mountain bikers (because it connects to the large parking lot at Beeks Bight). It does not have the scenic vistas of the Center Trail because it is continually on the undulating flank of a ridge that is heavily covered by mature oak trees. The trail bed is moderately-drained colluvial soil derived from the underlying granitic bedrock (= quartz diorite of the Penryn Pluton of Cretaceous age). In the winter months, there are two muddy spots along the trail bed; and in the dry summer months the trail bed can be dusty. There are two significant wet spots along the Beeks Bight Trail during the winter months at crossings of small drainages. There is no water that is suitable for a horse. The vegetation is a well-drained oak savannah with California buckeye, poison oak, ceanothus (=white buckthorn), and a few pine trees. From February through April, there is abundant grass and a variety of wildflowers, so there are many deer in this vicinity.



Heavy planks have been laid across one soft muddy drainage, but be aware that several of these planks are loose and are not spiked-down. Your horse will falter on this teeter-totter, so use the equestrian detour on the west side (as shown in the photograph). Further down the trail, you will notice the arch tree; give it proper leeway since it could hurt the rider.



At left, there is a natural bike jump on this quartz diorite boulder that is frequently used by mountain bikers. It is also on a blind curve, so you cannot see ahead. As you slowly approach this outcrop, be prescient and loose in the stirrups and adroit with your reins. Do not be naïve or vulnerable. At right is a large natural outcrop of quartz diorite that is close to the Beek's Bight parking lot. It is typical for enthusiastic happy children from families that are hiking to climb this natural outcrop because it has an eastward view of Folsom Lake. Particularly on summertime weekends (=heavy visitor usage), be aware and anticipate a predicament that could spook your horse. 99% of the time, there are no issues here, but be prescient and aware.



There is a convenient restroom at Beeks Bight parking lot (at left). This is also the trailhead for the Doton's Cove Trail. Notice that this special trail is for wheelchairs and hikers only.

