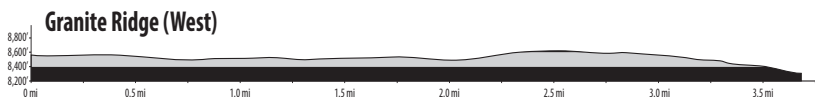


Granite Ridge 991 (West) (formerly Molly Lake 174) & Molly Lake 991-1

PRIORITY	HIGH (patrol methods: ride stock; day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Easy; Stock Riders – Easy
Open For Summer Patrol:	May 15th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio Channel: 02, then 03, then 01; Priority 3, Good reception)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	3.7 miles (+0.1 mi for Molly Lake Trail)
Beginning Elevation:	8,591
Peak elevation:	8,648
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	128 / 403 / -275
USFS Regulations:	National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#111 Red Feather Lakes, Glendevy
USGS 7-½ Quadrangle:	Red Feather Lakes



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

From Ted's Place, drive north on US-287 for 10.5 miles to the "forks" at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E) and drive to the community of Red Feather Lakes. Just west of the Pot Belly Restaurant, turn south onto CR-69, which is gravel. Proceed 2.1 miles south to the "Molly Lake" (Granite Ridge) trailhead. The trailhead and gravel parking area are on the east (left) side of the road near the access road to Bellaire Lake Recreation Area campsites #6-12. Facilities at the trailhead, but no water or stock trailer parking.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°46.087' W105°36.302'

jct. spur trail to Molly Lake:

N40°46.031' W105°35.621'

Molly Lake: N40°46.078' W105°35.516'

jct. Granite Ridge and Lady Moon trails:

N40°45.913' W105°32.642'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

The Granite Ridge trail is quite level (no steep ascents or descents) because it follows an old roadbed. The roadbed is variously sandy, gravelly, and rocky, and it is well drained (with several metal culverts along its length). This trail is generally quite walkable from mid-April until the end of October in most years. It passes through an open, mixed forest consisting primarily of

ponderosa pine with quaking aspen and some Douglas-fir, and considerable lodgepole pine along the initial (western) portion of the trail. Shrubs along the trail include wax currant, shrubby cinquefoil, and Woods' rose.

This trail is open to foot and horse traffic. Bikes are only allowed on these trails from July 1 through October 30. The first 0.5 mile or so of the trail has at least a couple of minor, unnamed trails branching off to the north and one branching off to the south. At 0.7 mile from the trailhead you will encounter the spur trail (0.1 mi long) leading north to Molly Lake (which is about 0.1 mile off the Granite Ridge Trail). You should patrol this spur trail to the lake (actually not much more than a shallow pond, about two acres in size), both to view this small, shallow lake and associated rock outcroppings along its western shore and to inspect the shoreline for campsites and/or fire rings that are less than 100 ft from the lake's shoreline. If you do not patrol the Molly Lake spur trail please make note of this in the *COMMENTS* section of your patrol report.

After returning from the lake to the Granite Ridge Trail you will pass under a large power line just about 100 yards to the east of the spur trail to the lake. After walking another 0.5 mile (1.4 miles from the trailhead), you will encounter a signed junction with the NW end of

Granite Ridge 991 (West) *(formerly Molly Lake 174)* & Molly Lake 991-1

the Elkhorn Creek Trail. This section of trail leads SW for 1.6 mi before dead-ending at a fence. This junction of the Granite Ridge and Elkhorn Creek trails is about 0.25 mile west of a large 8,700 ft elevation granite outcropping just north of the Granite Ridge Trail. Shortly beyond this junction (at about mile 1.5) there is a large metal gate across the trail.

The Granite Ridge Trail continues to meander through open ponderosa pine and quaking aspen forest and several small meadows. You will encounter a second large metal gate across the trail at mile 2.3, with a nice granite outcrop

nearby. At about 3.2 miles there is a well-defined but unmarked trail leading off to the south. At about 3.8 miles, just about 50 yards beyond a third metal gate across the trail, the Granite Ridge Trail intersects the Lady Moon Trail. This patrol ends at this point.

If you also intend to patrol the eastern portion of the Granite Ridge Trail, you must schedule and report this patrol separately (Granite Ridge Trail (E) & Box Hollow Trail). Remember to start your notes for this second patrol over (time on trail, observations, etc.) at the jct. with the Lady Moon Trail.