

Piru Gorge/Slide Peak Lookout

March 24, Irene Adam

These are 2 distinct hikes which start at the same place. We take I 5 to Templin Highway and park at the barrier a few miles further than Jim Nelson's hike of a few years ago. We will have refreshment at your preference either in the parking lot or at Verdugo Oaks as Jim Nelson did.

The hikes: Both continue on barricaded Templin Highway along Lower Piru Creek. Those going to Slide Peak Lookout will take a narrow dirt road still in use by the Forest Service beginning at Culvert #5. The Culvert sign is on the right. The narrow road on the left.

Those going to the bridge that crosses Piru Creek will continue. From the bridge we can look down Piru Gorge, a very beautiful view and worth at least one picture. It is possible to walk a little further beneath the Pyramid Lake dam. This 5 mile round trip hike passes spots where fly casting fisherman catch and release fish. We also pass a small secluded pond where migratory ducks as well as other birds abound. This hike is recommended for those who need a flat surface (i.e., Dorothy Lillback & Hazrat Adam or those who want to watch birds).

Intermediate hikers may do this hike and return to Culvert #5 starting up the road until Pyramid Lake and its lovely panorama comes in view. Kermit Corner is a suggested turn around. The intrepids can rush to the summits of Slide Mountain. There are 2 of them. The highest has the lookout with its fantastic views. That will be a 12 mile round trip hike but on a nice dirt road without poisonous plants.

I will try to get a key to unlock the gate barricading the highway. However, I cannot promise it will be available. If it is most people will want to do the intermediate hike. Also be warned that bears are heavy users of this area. Do not hike alone at the lower elevations. The 12 mile hike has a 2,200 foot elevation gain, the gorge hike perhaps 100 unnoticeable feet. Please join me at 9:30 on these beautiful hikes.