

## Cliff Lake, Marble Mountain Wilderness, Backpack Trip, June 17-19, 2020

We took separate cars from Ashland to the Shackleford Trailhead arriving there shortly before 11 am. After donning our backpacks, we took the customary group photos.



**Figure 1** Tysen, Elisabeth, Mike & Denise at Shackleford Trailhead

Our plan was to hike to Cliff Lake via Log Lake and spent two days there. The second day, we would take a hike to Summit Lake. On our third day we would return back to the Trailhead via Campbell Lake. This counter-clockwise loop was partially motivated by the fact that elevation gain would be more uniformly distributed than the clockwise route.

As we approached the junction of the trail from Log Lake (Figure 2) with Campbell Lake, Cliff Lake and Summit Lake, Tysen inadvertently selected the Summit Lake trail. He didn't discover this for about a mile. Since we planned to visit this lake the next day, we continued on to Summit Lake and spent the first night there. This trail had numerous downed trees and even a few patches of snow.

The second day, we backpacked to Cliff Lake. Finally on the third day, we returned to the Trailhead via Campbell Lake as originally planned.

The actual routes taken are shown in Figure 2. We took the red route the first day for a distance of 5.7 miles (1,530 ft elevation gain). On the second day, we took the yellow route for a distance of 2.1 miles. Finally, on the third day we took the purple route for a distance of 4.5 miles. Overall, we backpacked a total distance of 12.3 miles. Figures 3-5, show the elevation profiles for each day.

With temperatures at night down to 40 deg and up to the 70s during the day, we were comfortable. While he encountered mosquitoes at all of the lakes, they did not dampen our enjoyment of the beautiful scenery.

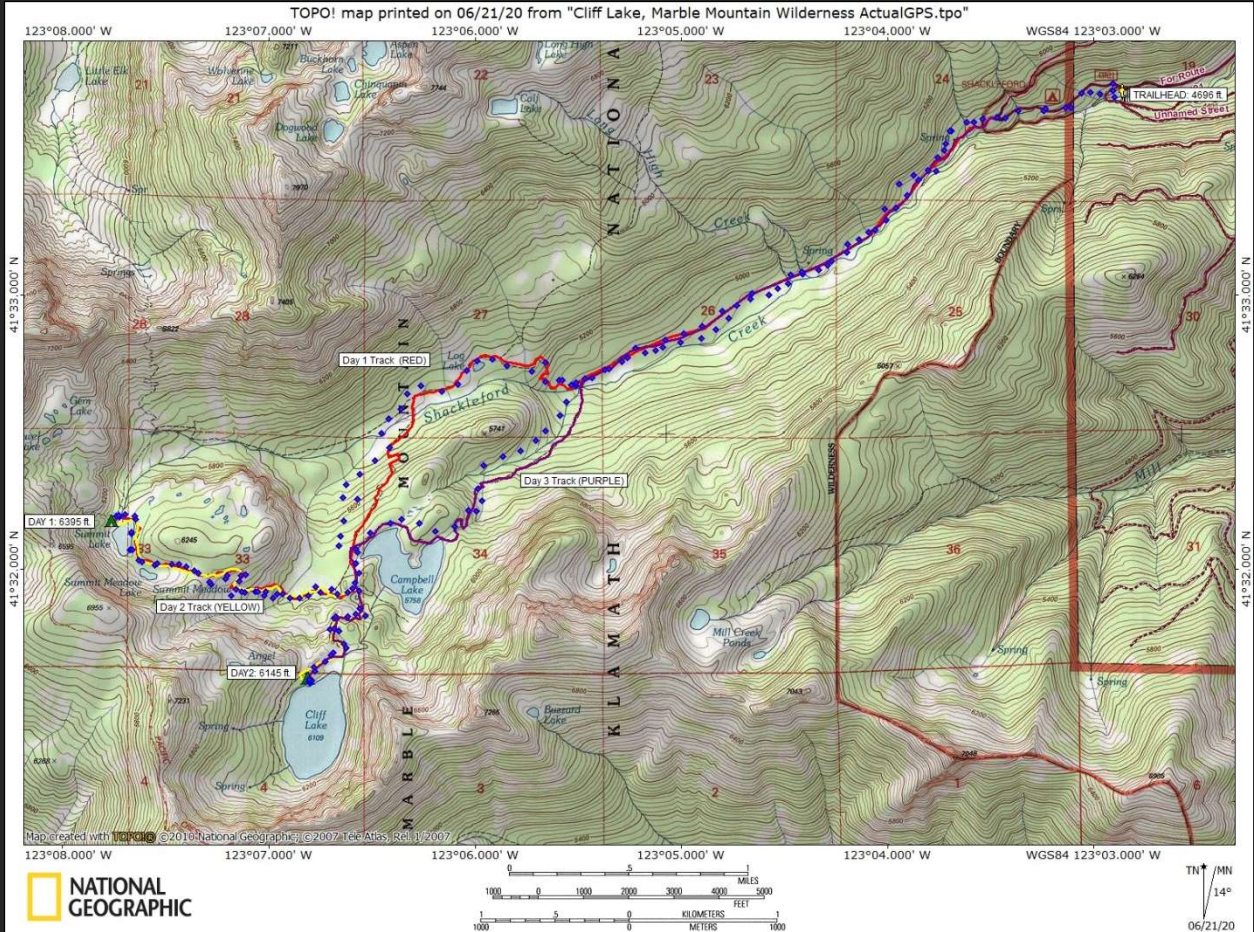


Figure 2 Cliff Lake Backpack Trip Topo Map (GPS waypoints in blue)

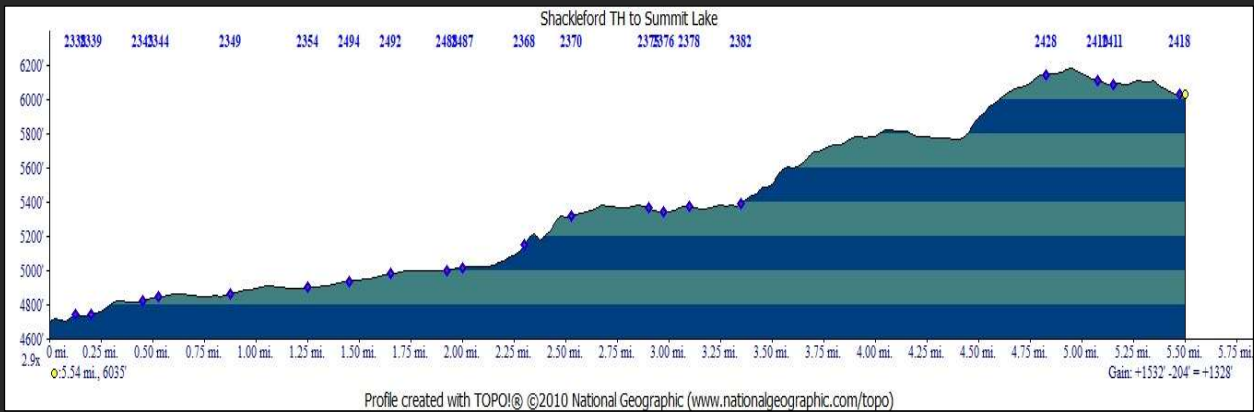
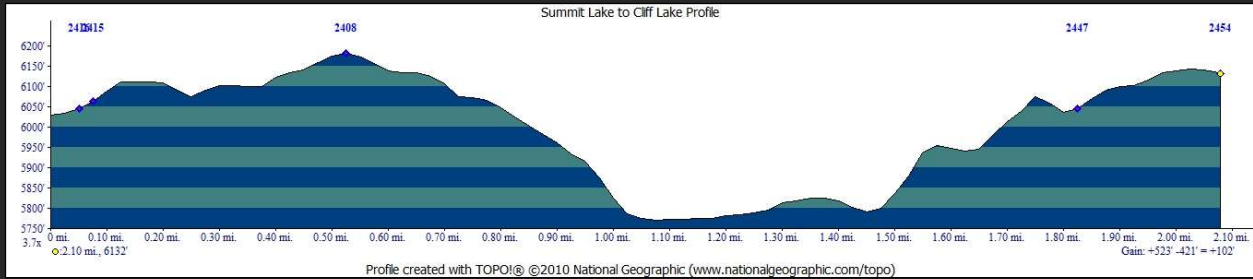
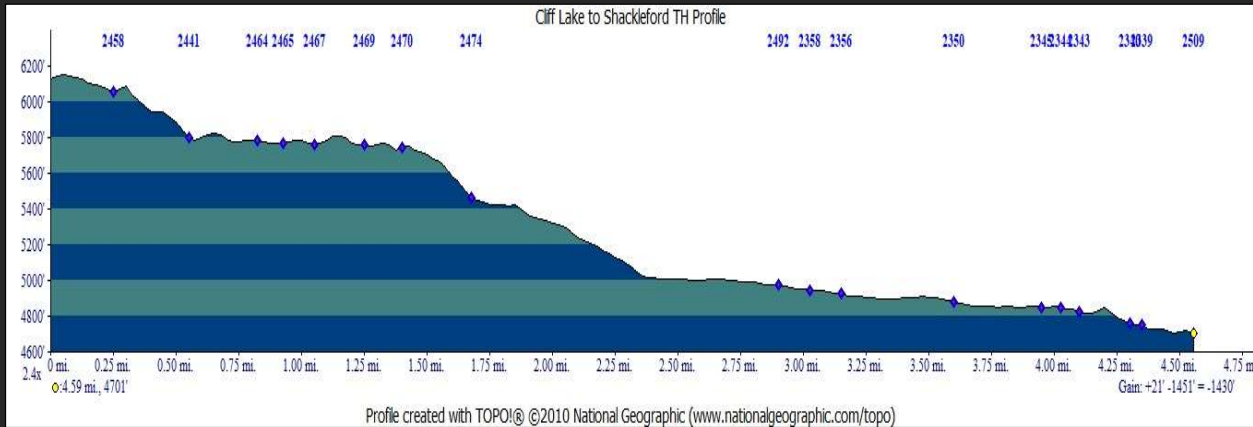


Figure 3 Shackleford TH to Summit Lake Profile (5.7 miles, 1,530 ft elevation gain)



**Figure 4 Summit Lake to Cliff Lake Profile (2.1 miles, 520 ft gain & 420 ft loss)**



**Figure 5 Cliff Lake to Shackleford TH Profile (4.5 miles, 1,450 ft loss)**



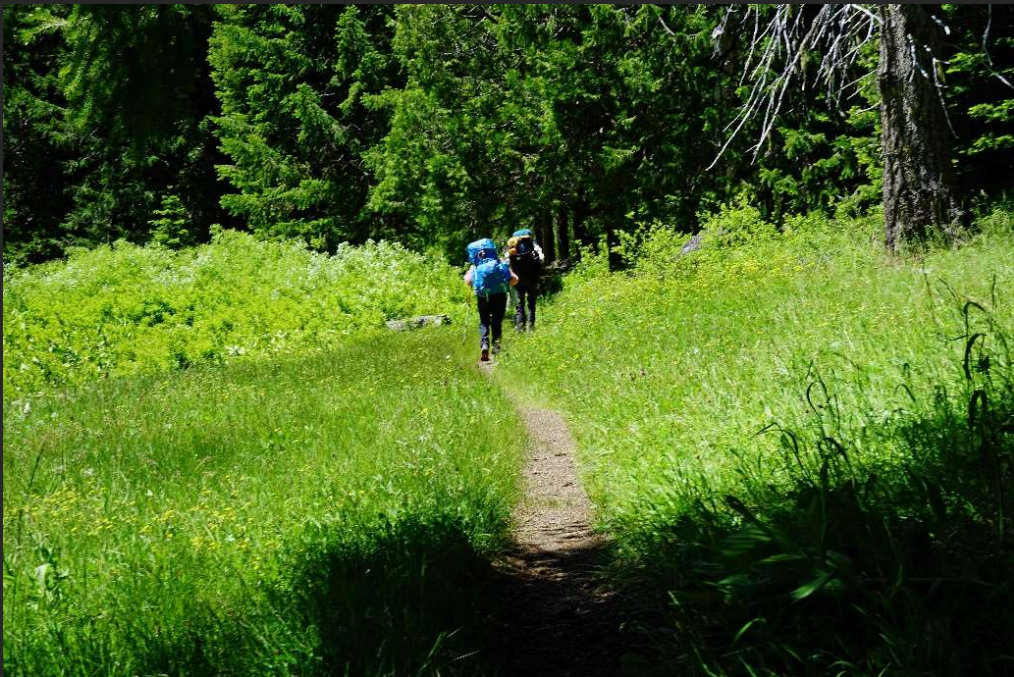
**Figure 6 Tysen, Elisabeth, Mike & Denise at Shackleford Trailhead (Unofficial Photo)**



Elisabeth crossing a Stream



Mike crossing Stream



On the trail through flower-covered meadows



Tysen enjoys the company of a Butterfly



Elisabeth passing Log Lake



Log Lake



South end of Campbell Lake, looking north



Leaving Campbell Lake



Mike at Summit Lake Campsite



Mike, Denise & Elisabeth at Summit Lake



Summit Lake, looking SE



Summit Lake, looking East



Summit Lake, looking West



Crossing Stream from Summit Lake



Elisabeth, refreshed after a Night's Sleep



Another Stream Crossing



Cliff Lake below our Campsite



Life's Good, with 2 Butterflies on Tysen's Boots

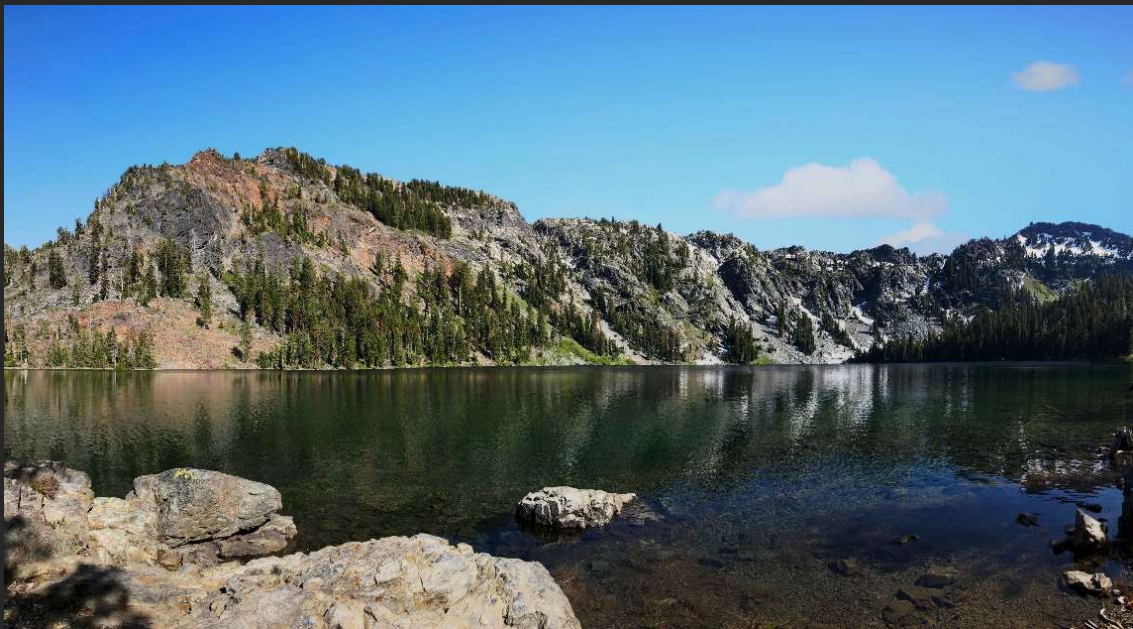




Cliff Lake, looking East



Cliff Lake, looking South



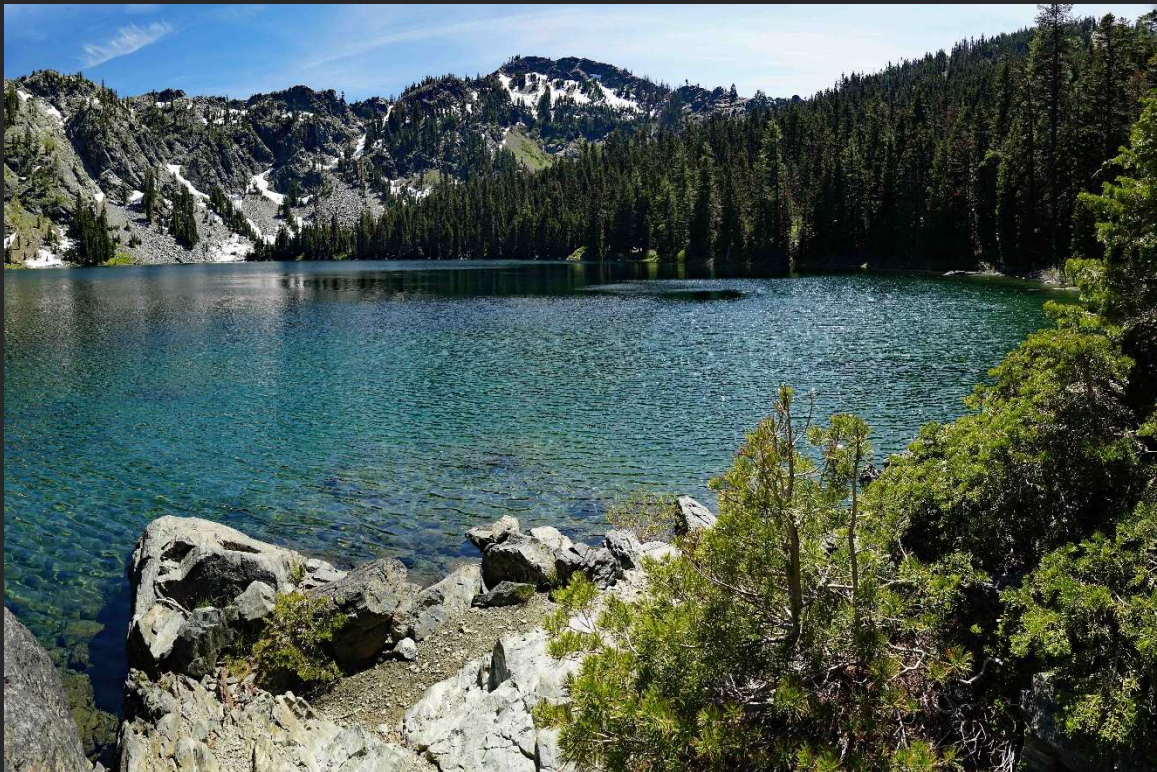
Panoramic Shot of Cliff Lake



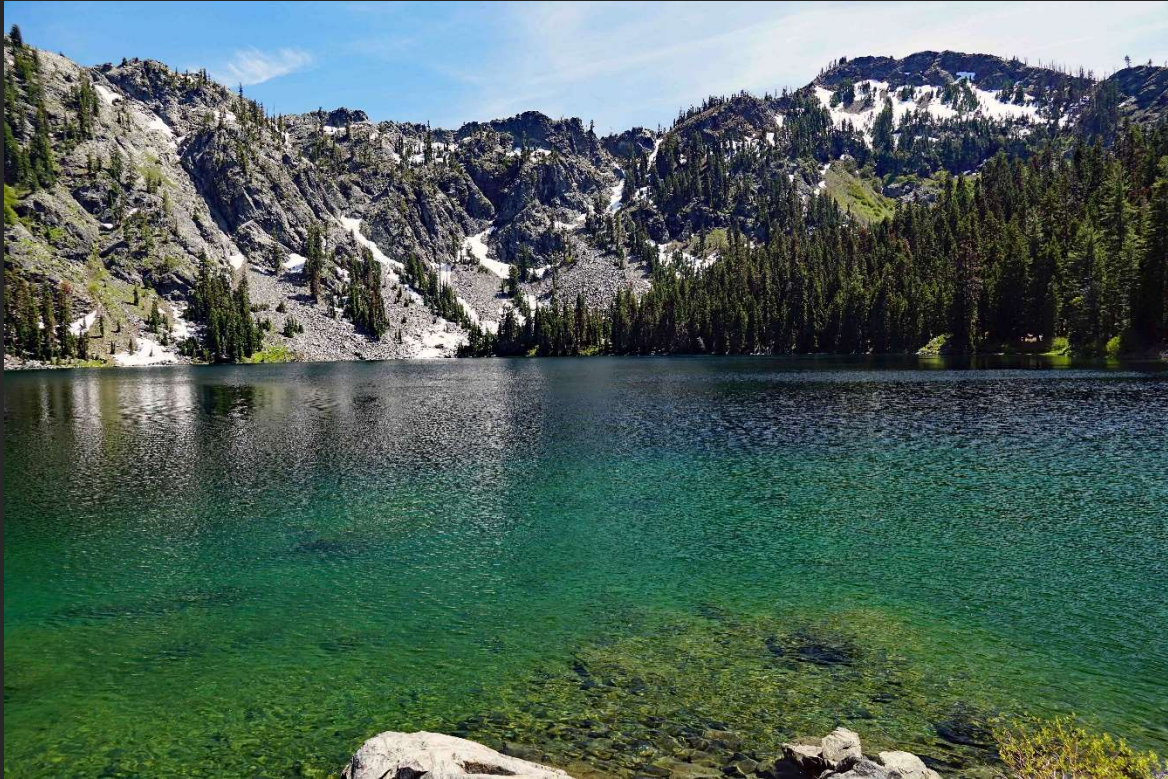
Flowers at edge of Cliff Lake (*Siskiyou Lewisia*)



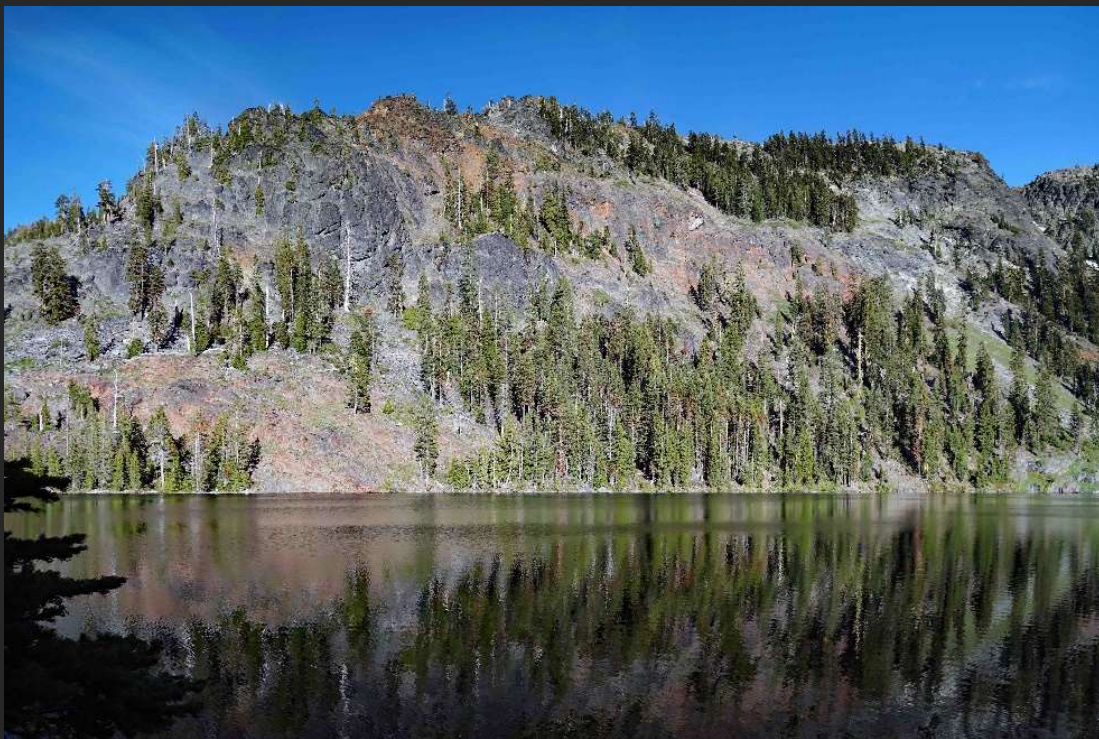
Cliff Lake



Cliff Lake Afternoon



Clear water of Cliff Lake



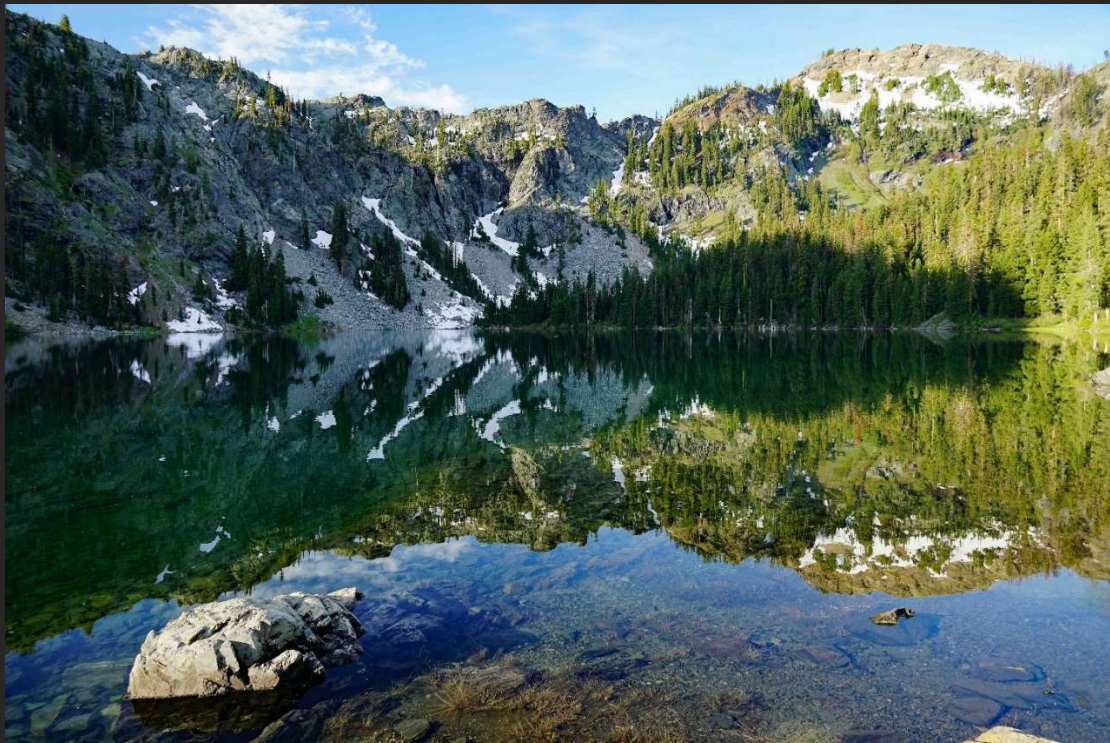
Cliff Lake in Evening Light (View East)



Breakfast at Cliff Lake (Note: Social Distancing)



Cliff Lake Morning



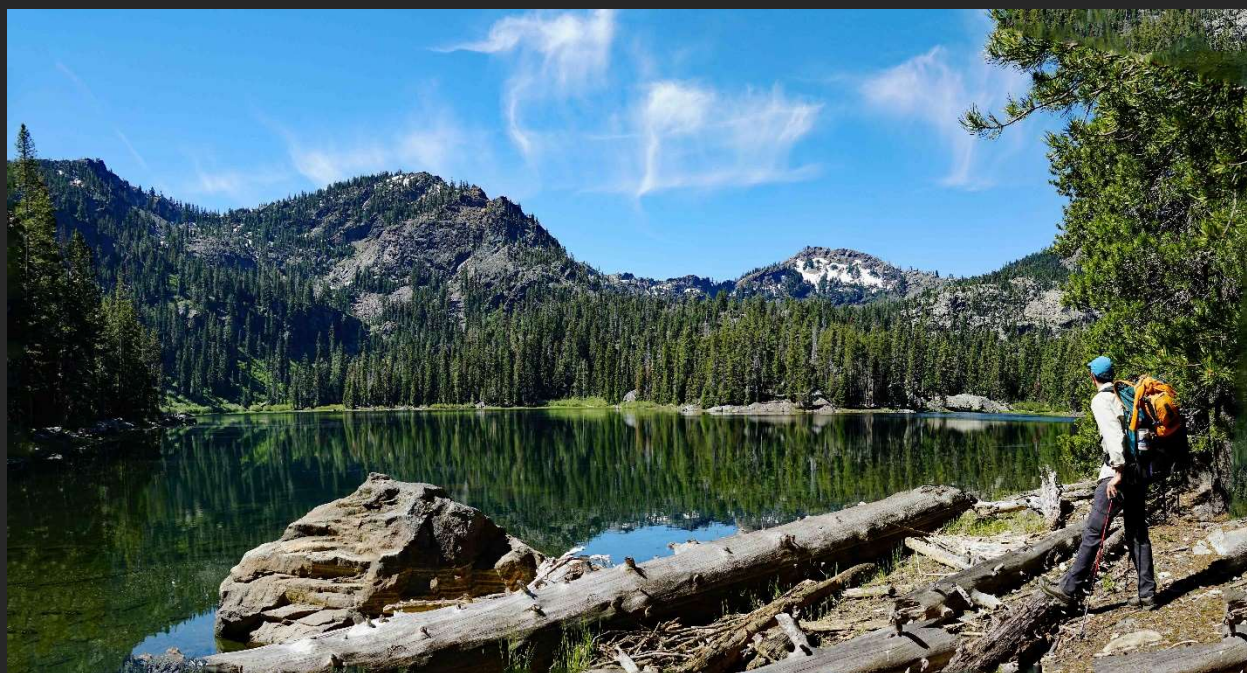
Cliff Lake



Elisabeth, Happy to be at Cliff Lake



Salamander in Cliff Lake



Campbell Lake Panorama (View South)



Tysen & Elisabeth use Log to cross over Shackleford Creek



Heading back to the Trailhead



Flowers along the Path