

Newlin Creek - Florence

Direction to trailhead: From Florence, turn south on State Hwy 67 for 4.3 miles to County Road 15. Turn west and follow CR 15 for 6.3 miles to trail head. You will pass the entrance sign for Florence Mountain Park and a house on the left. The road is very rough with deep ruts from the house to the trail head, a distance of about 0.4 miles. Shortly before you reach the trail head and the end of CR 15, there is a small parking area to the left and a pond just beyond. There also is a small parking area to the left of the trail head. About 22 miles one way.

Length of hike: 6.2 miles (round trip)

Beginning elevation: 6,750 ft.

Elevation gain: 1,360 ft.

Difficulty: Difficult

Description: The Newlin Creek trail parallels and crosses the creek at 18 locations as you climb about 1,360 feet in elevation from the trail head to the top of the ravine and the end of the trail. The first crossing is made across a wooden bridge. The rest have to be done by walking across logs and rocks and possibly also by stepping into water. The crossings become easier as you proceed upstream. Crossing will be difficult and probably dangerous during the rainy season when the water level is the highest and the flow is the fastest.

The trail is very scenic as it takes you through a forest dominated by large Douglas firs (Figure 2). There also are Ponderosa pines scattered along the trail and white firs mainly at the lower elevation and aspens mostly at the higher elevations. Scrub oaks, small cherry trees (pin cherries?), dogwoods, prostrate Junipers, wild roses, gooseberries and mountain maples also are seen along the trail. Depending on the time of year, wild flowers add a lot of color also. Waterfalls (Figure 3), large interesting rocks that have fallen from the cliffs that narrowly bracket the creek, and the high rugged cliffs themselves all make the hike very scenic and rewarding.

The upper part of the trail widens and ultimately opens up into a meadow environment. At the end of the trail sits an old steam boiler and fly wheel (Figure 4). They were transported here in 1887 by Nathaniel Herrick after he cleared and graded a road. His intent was to establish a saw mill. He died that year so his dream died and the old steam boiler and flywheel were abandoned. The current trail is all that is left of the road and the rusted boiler and fly wheel are monuments to his dream.

This is an excellent location for a picnic lunch before beginning the hike back down to the trail head and parking lot

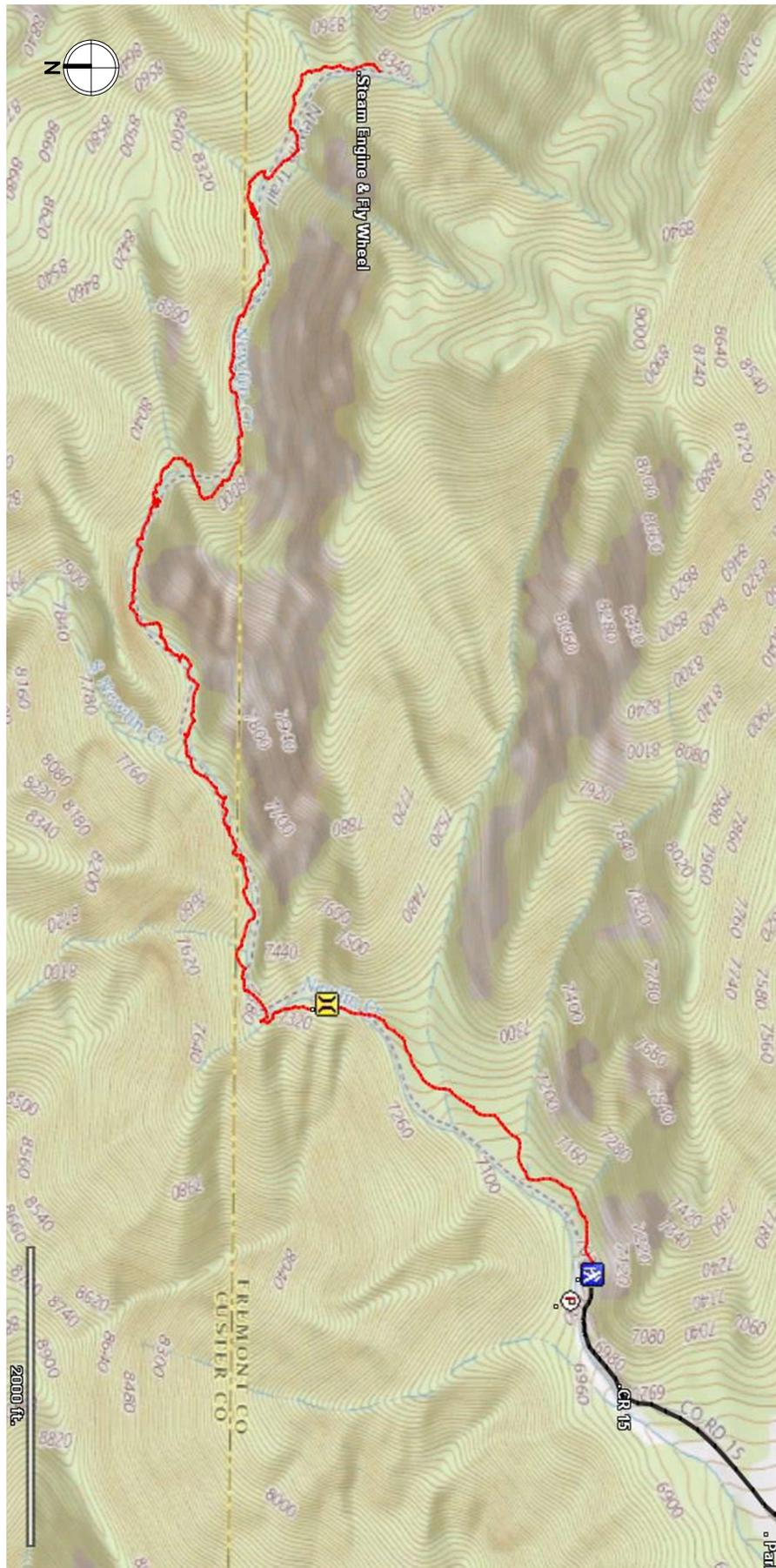


Figure 1. Map of Newlin Creek Trail

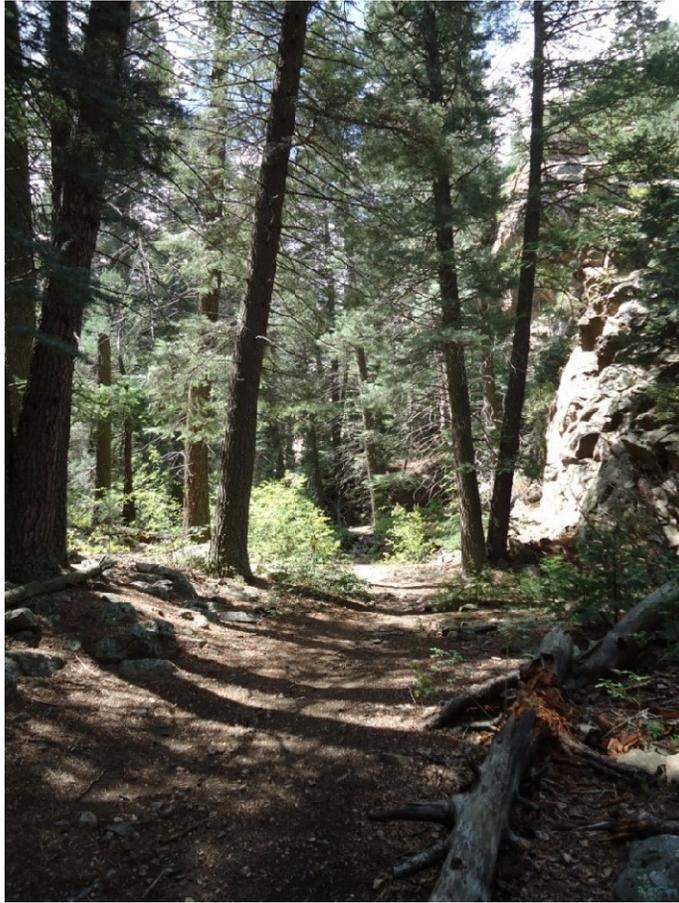


Figure 2. View of Newlin Creek Trail



Figure 3. Waterfall seen along Newlin Creek



Figure 4. Old steam boiler at end of Newlin Creek trail