

Horse Campground at Robinson Flat

Foresthill Road, Tahoe National Forest

by Robert H. Sydnor, AERC Trail Master and Engineering Geologist

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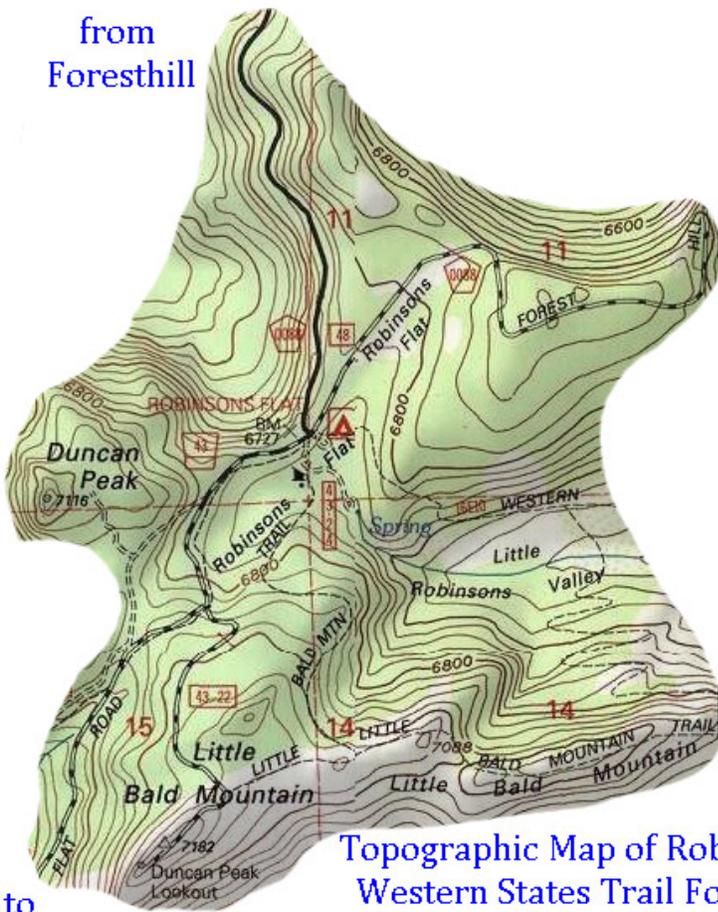
Introduction

Robinson Flat is a U.S. Forest Service campground within the American Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest. Access is along the paved Foresthill Road, numbered as Placer County Road #88 and also as USFS Road #10. Drive 27 miles steeply uphill past Foresthill to reach Robinson Flat.

There are two separate campgrounds at Robinson Flat:

- ① on the southwest side is a campground with **seven sites for equestrians**, plus space for day-use horse-trailer parking on a logging landing; and
- ② a **family campground** with seven sites on the northeast side. As of February 2015, both campgrounds are free of charge. Bring your own trailer high-tie or portable corral, equestrian water, manure fork, and trash bags. There is no dumpster, and equestrians need to clean-up their own site.

from
Foresthill

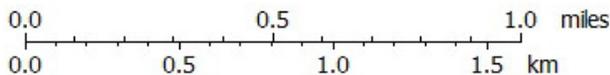


to
Red Star
Ridge



Topographic Map of Robinson Flat
Western States Trail Foundation
100-mile Tevis Cup

to
Dusty
Corners



7 equestrian campsites at Robinson Flat, Tahoe Nat. Forest



Restrooms at Robinson Flat



Equestrian Campsite #7 has a convenient pull-through. It has one table, one bear-box, and one fire-grate.

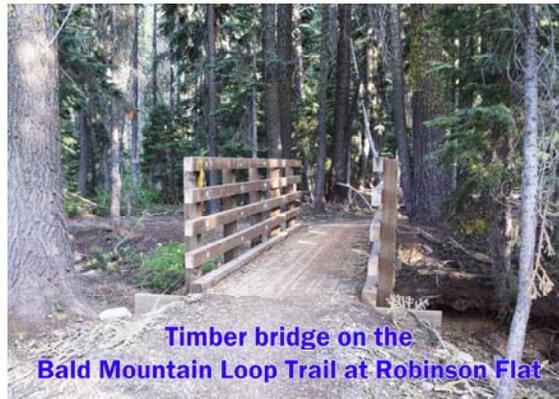
These are typical views of the equestrian campground at Robinson Flat. The first four campsites are fully shaded which is an advantage during hot summer days. The other sites are more open, and campsite #7 has a convenient pull-through driveway (as shown at left). There is one vaulted toilet. There is no cell phone coverage in the campground itself, until you walk up to the crest of the ridge.

Trails in the Robinson Flat area

There are several trails used by horsemen who are camped at Robinson Flat.

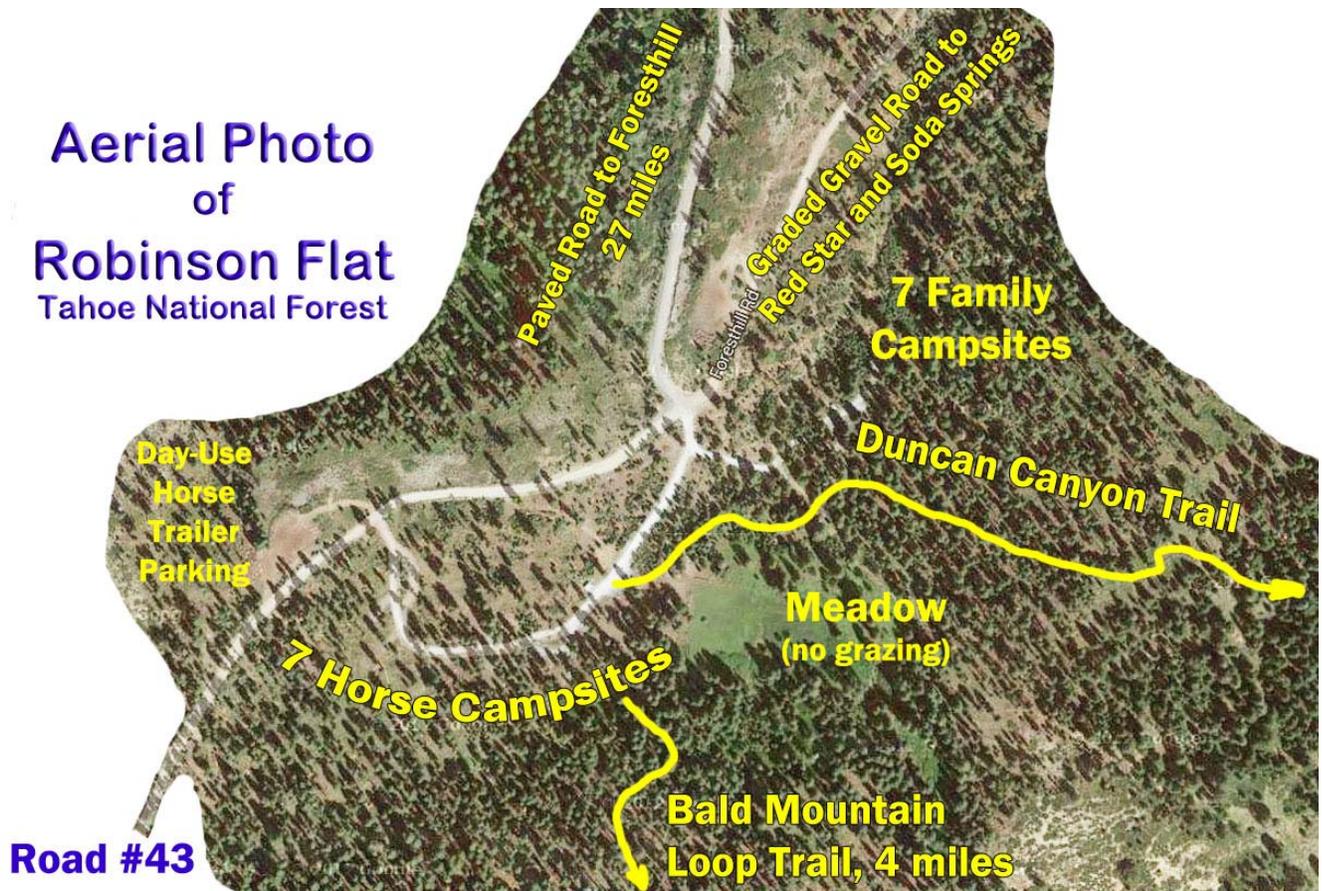
During the annual Tevis Cup, riders enter Robinson Flat using the full-width gravelled road from Red Star. After a 60-minute Vet-Check and rest, Tevis riders then exit Robinson Flat to the south-west along USFS Road #43, and head for Dusty Corners.

The **Little Bald Mountain Loop Trail** is 4 miles long. A short spur trail leads to the Duncan Peak Fire Lookout that is operated by the Tahoe National Forest in the summertime when forest-fires are possible. The Bald Mountain Loop Trail has several sections where the trail is on the brink of a steep cliff in volcanic rock. It is best to ride this loop counter-clockwise, so that horses will ascend on a trail-bed that is earthen, and descend on volcanic rock with no soil. There are two timber bridges of modern construction on the Bald Mountain Trail where it crosses a creek that flows into Duncan Canyon. The Bald Mountain Loop Trail connects into the steeply descending **Duncan Canyon Trail**.



Timber bridge on the Bald Mountain Loop Trail at Robinson Flat

Aerial Photo of Robinson Flat Tahoe National Forest



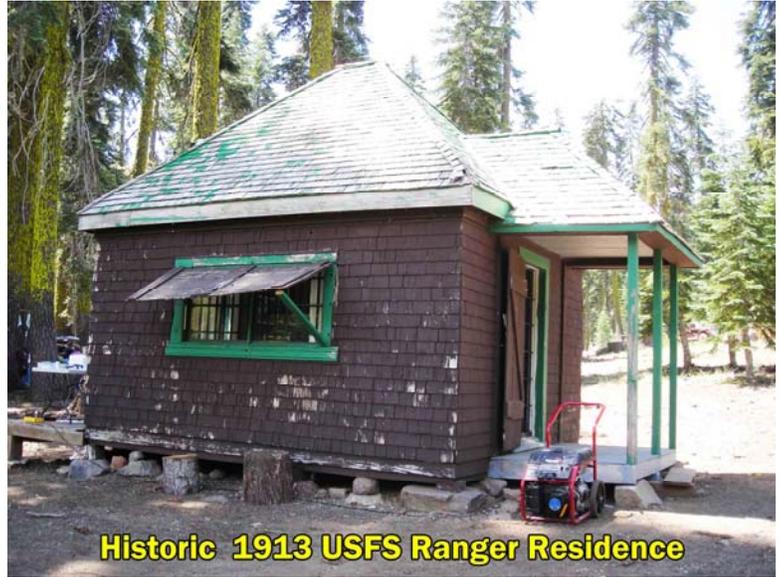
One Century of U.S. Forest Service History at Robinson Flat

The logistical importance of Robinson Flat is that it had a water-well for hydrating horse and mule-teams, plus a grassy meadow for horse feed. The Foresthill Road, then a dirt wagon-road, was a key link on the road over the Sierras. (This was long before Interstate 80 was constructed over Donner Summit.) In 1913, a U.S.F.S. guard-station was constructed for the seasonal ranger staff. It has a steeply pitched roof to withstand the heavy winter snowfall.

The historic meadow is a fragile habitat, and there is **no grazing** permitted.

The historic 1913 U.S.F.S. guard-station (called "The Residence"), the water-well in the meadow, and small storage buildings are located in the middle of the topographic saddle (elevation 6,727 feet), between the two campgrounds. There are several historic plaques and signposts that describe the history of Robinson Flat one century ago.

In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, there were work-crews stationed here from the Civilian Conservation Corps. They helped to construct trails and the Duncan Peak Fire Lookout on Little Bald Mountain (elevation 7,182 feet).



Robinson Flat is the 36-mile mark and Vet-Check for the 100-mile Tevis Cup

From sunrise until about Noon on the Saturday of the annual Tevis Cup, Robinson Flat is congested with about ±400 crew, ±200 horses and riders, a dozen AERC Veterinarians plus a dozen UC Davis vet students, ±40 Tevis Volunteers and Cup Committee officials, a dozen horse-transport vehicles, plus Ham Radio operators. Visitors and crew have to park at Sailor Flat, then use a shuttle bus.

