



**TRAIL AT-A-GLANCE:**  
**QUARRY ROAD TRAIL TO MAINE BAR**

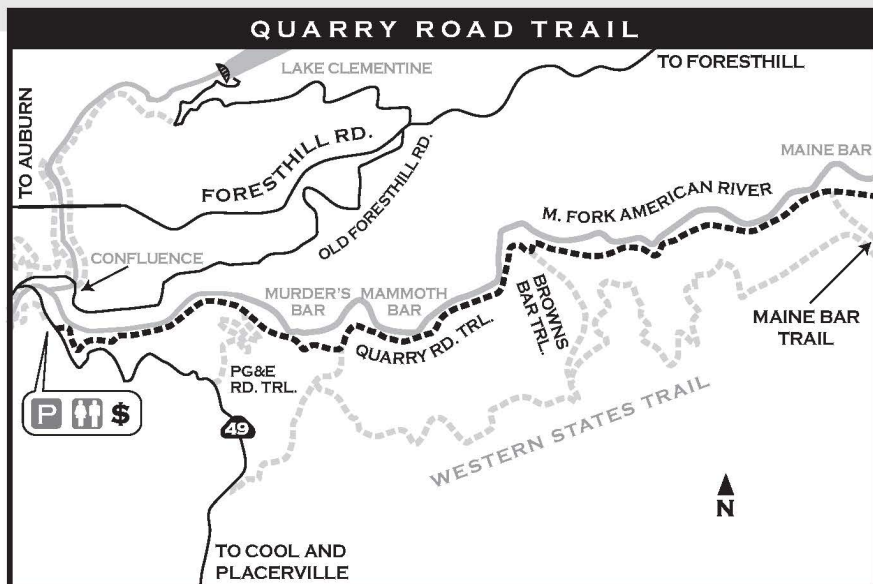


**DISTANCE:** 5.6 miles one way; 2¼ hours each way (hiking)



**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**ELEVATION CHANGE:** +/- 210'



Note: Bicycles are allowed on the Quarry Road Trail from the Hwy. 49 trailhead to Poverty Bar, although the last 4 miles of this trail is WST.

## Quarry Road Trail

### TRAIL SNAPSHOT

The Quarry Road Trail popular with hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders takes in expansive views and interesting mining history along the Middle Fork. The popular Hawver Cave, Limestone Quarry picnic area and Cave Valley rock climbing area are just a little over a mile from the trailhead. Maine Bar less than 6 miles from the trailhead was at the heart of the 1850s Grand Flume—a 13 mile long wood and canvas flume built by private mining companies to control river flows so miners could pick and shovel gold from the river bed. The trail has moderate climbs and drops, but stays close to the river for blackberry picking and swims on hot summer days.



Ringtail cat tracks

### Fee Trailhead Parking (N38-54.713; W121-02.095)

Trailhead is 2 miles south of ASRA Park Headquarters. Take Hwy. 49 south from Auburn, turn right across the American River towards Cool. Turn left on a small dirt road ¼ mile south of the river crossing. Trailhead is beyond the fee parking area at green gate #151.

### QUARRY ROAD TRAIL

The Mountain Quarries Railroad used the first 1¼ miles of this road-trail in the early 1900s to transport limestone from the quarry up to Auburn. After 1¼ miles, the trail bears right up a short hill above the picnic area. Remnants of a large limestone-loading platform for the rail cars can still be seen on the left. At the top of the hill, a separate unmarked trail, known as the PG&E Road Trail, takes off uphill from just above the ruins of the limestone-loading platform.



Canyon wren

### The PG&E Road Side Trail (bikers and bikers only)

This trail offers fascinating views into the now abandoned quarry. A short uphill trek and a couple of switchbacks bring you to an open amphitheater in the quarry—well worth the





### C.R.A.G.S.:

*In 2012 Climbing Resource Advocates of Sacramento, CRAGS, put in the successful bid to reopen the Cave Valley Rock Climbing Area. The area has spectacular vertical limestone rock faces left over from the continuous limestone mining operations that originally began in the late 1800s. Currently it is open for year-round climbing Friday, Saturday and Sunday.*

detour. For those with enough stamina to take this 1¼ mile trail to the top, it offers some awesome viewing spots of the river canyon and quarry. It comes out at a gate and tiny parking area on Hwy. 49 at the top (N38-54.628; W121-01.114).

Returning to the Quarry Road Trail and continuing upriver, the trail meets the historic Western States Trail (WST) at the 2 mile point. In the river below, you can hear the Murderer's Bar Rapids, named for a deadly skirmish between miners and Native Americans that occurred here in 1849. Mammoth Bar Off-Highway Vehicle Area is just beyond Murderer's Bar across the river.

At the 3½ mile point, the trail intersects with Brown's Bar Trail, which heads uphill to the runners WST. The Quarry Road Trail continues parallel to the Middle Fork American River for another 2 miles. Just before reaching Maine Bar, the trail intersects with Maine Bar Trail. Like the earlier Brown's Bar Trail, this too heads very steep uphill along a creek and intersects at the top with the higher WST. The Quarry Road Trail ends one mile upriver at Poverty Bar where the horseback riders ford the river in the Tevis Cup.

### HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT:

#### Hawver Cave or Mountain Quarries Mine

The Mountain Quarries Mine, that contains some remnants of Hawver Cave, is readily visible just off the Quarry Trail. It is just beyond the tall concrete remains, about 1¼ miles from the trailhead.

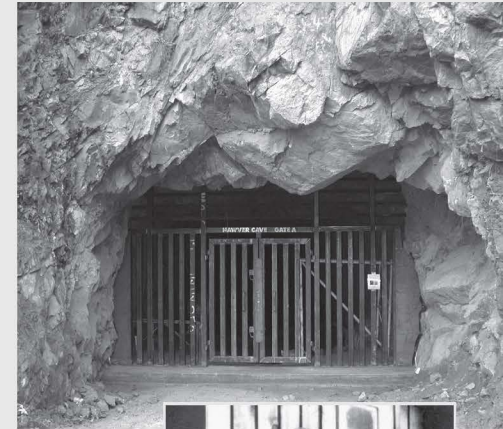
The cave was named after Auburn dentist and amateur paleontologist, Dr. J. Hawver, who brought the cave's importance to light. Between 1906 and 1912, Hawver with the assistance of U.C. archaeologists, found and preserved many remains from the cave.

These included 10,000-year-old fossils of the dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, a giant ground sloth, glyptodon, woolly mammoth and other prehistoric animals. The limestone mining operation, which started in 1911, eventually destroyed all but a few tiny remnants of the original Hawver Cave.

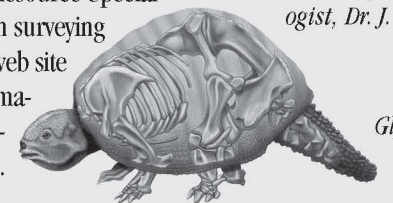
The limestone formed from coral reef 250 to 300 million years ago. Over time the reef metamorphosed into limestone. 150 million years ago the meta-sedimentary rock surrounding the limestone turned into greenstone. When the tectonic plates shifted over millions of years formations of limestone and greenstone became a part of California's geology.

It is anticipated that the underground portions of the mine will be open to public tours. There are two local displays featuring Hawver Cave, one at the Placer County Courthouse Museum and the other at the Sierra College Library. State Parks Resource Specialist, Caveman Gene Lorange, has been surveying the mine/cave for several years. His web site [hawvercave.org](http://hawvercave.org) has the latest information about the cave's geology, paleontology and history (see page 225).

*Hawver Cave or Mountain Quarries Mine entrance. State Parks plans to open the cave to public tours in the future.*



*Auburn dentist and amateur paleontologist, Dr. J. Hawver*



*Glyptodon*

