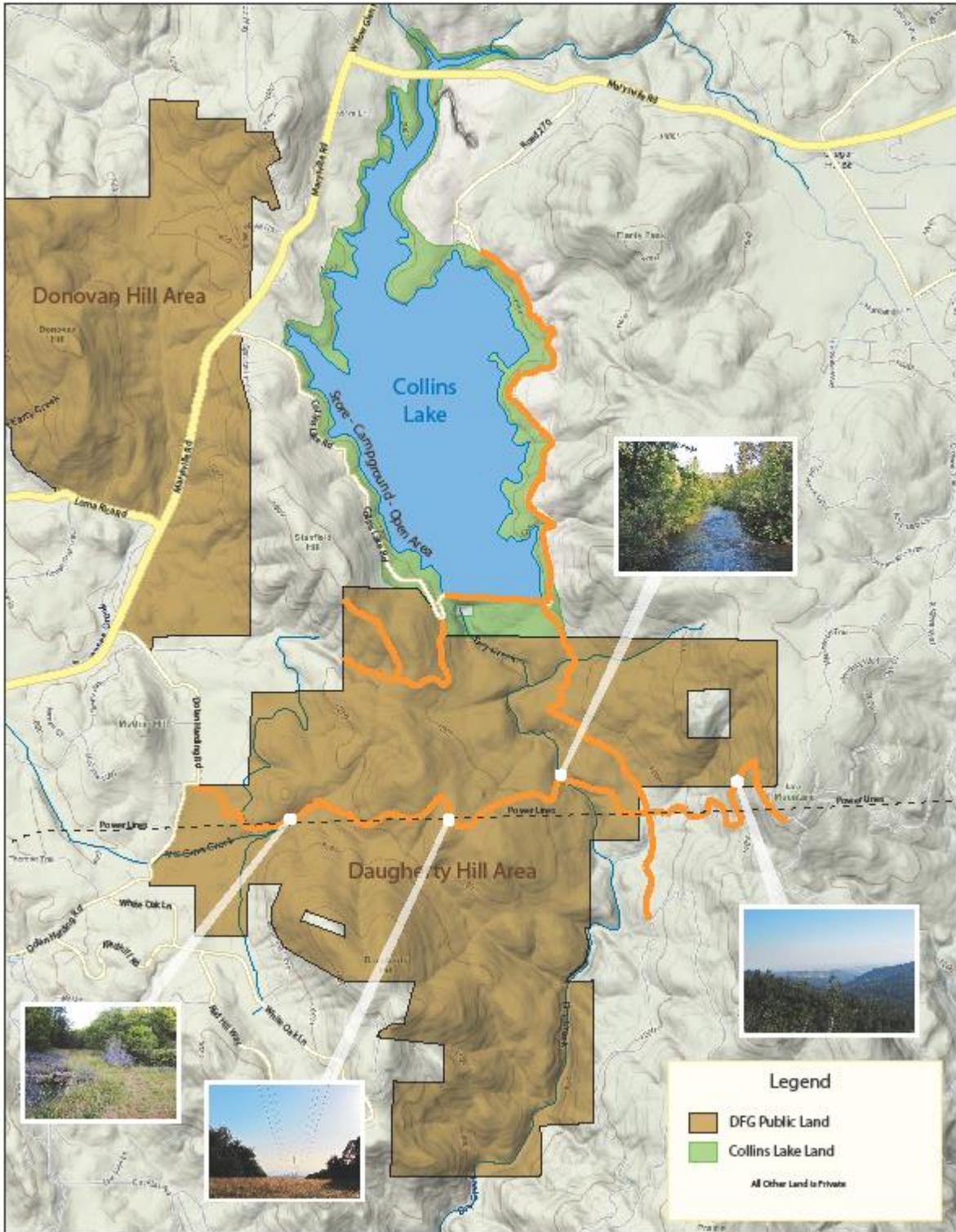


Hiking & Mountain Biking at Collins Lake



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Enjoy hiking or mountain biking on the many trails around our 1600 acre Collins Lake Recreation Area and throughout the neighboring 4400 acre Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (DFG) & Donovan Hill Wildlife Area (DFG). It is a great way to get away from the crowds and see some great wildlife. It is not unusual to spot deer, wild turkeys, dove or red-tailed hawks along the way, or see a bald eagle or osprey hunt fish out of the lake. Be watchful for rattlesnakes, but they are usually not aggressive if you don't get too close to them or try to harm them. Although very rare, other wildlife that has been spotted from these trails include foxes, skunks, bobcats, mountain lions & bears. Please remember that this is their home and that they are wild animals & should not be approached if seen. Please view them from a distance quietly and respect their need for privacy in their natural habitat. Typically, once they are aware that you are near, they will want to move away from you if you let them.

1. The easiest trail starts by going across the dam to the East side of the lake and then turning North (left) as the trail wanders around the perimeter of the lake. This is an easement road for several of our neighboring property owners, so please respect their private property by staying on the road or below the road to the lake. You should watch for traffic, but it is very seldom traveled since the access to the road is gated at the North end to just the residents. The trail ends at the gate and then doubles back the same way you came back to the dam. Total trail length is 2.5 miles one way = 5 miles total length.
2. Another easy trail starts on the west side of Collins Lake. Starting at Road 10, proceed South around a green gate and past two fenced RV storage yards on the right side. You will then enter the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area after the 2nd fenced storage yard. The trail isn't marked, but it goes on an old jeep road into the wildlife area with beautiful views of the Sacramento Valley.
3. A more challenging trail is to go across the dam to the East side of the lake and then turning South (right). The road will almost immediately split again and turn left at the split following the trail into the canyon below the lake on an old jeep trail. Most of this trail is on the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area. This trail continues South until it reaches a High Voltage power line. The trail continues to the right following the power line down to Dry Creek coming out of Collins Lake. In the summer, you may be able to cross the creek and continue following the power line all the way to the DFG parking lot on Dolan Harding Road. You can then re-trace your steps or follow Dolan Harding Road to the right to Marysville Road to the right to Collins Lake main entrance.
4. Many other trails are available within the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (DFG) & Donovan Hill Wildlife Area (DFG). Their map shows all of the parking areas, which each have unmarked trail going into the wildlife area.

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region2/docs/daugherty/Daugherty_Hill_Detail_WA.pdf

On last word of caution... poison oak is natural in the area. It would be a good idea to know what it looks like to avoid the uncomfortable repercussions of not knowing. They grow in varying size bushes or vines with leaves that are typically shiny green in spring & early summer and turn red in the late summer & fall. The leaves grow in clusters of 3 leaves, each leaf about the size of an egg. <http://www.poisonoakandpoisonivy.com/poisonivypoison.html>