Snow Mountain Rockcress  RPTH
Snow Mountain Wilderness, Mendocino National Forest

Saturday, July 11th to Sunday, July 12th
Join CNPS for a car camping trip at Snow Mountain, a hotspot of rare plant diversity in a remote part of California’s North Coast Ranges. We’ll be on the hunt for many different rare plants, such as the marsh checkerbloom (Sidalcea oregano subsp. hydrophila), and scabrid alpine tarplant (Anisocarpus scabridus), but our primary targets will be two tiny mustards: Snow Mountain rockcress (Boechera ultraalsa), which is only known from a single population on Snow Mountain, and Pinzi’s rockcress (Boechera pinzliae), which is only known from only a few spots in California. This trip is an important scientific endeavor to better understand the taxonomy of these extremely rare mustards! In addition to surveying, we will be collecting voucher specimens as part of the California Phylogeny Project, and possibly collecting seeds as part of the California Plant Rescue project. This is a great opportunity for participants of recent trainings to hone their collecting skills!

We’ll embark on this hunt from our start at Summit Spring Trailhead, which is about a 4-hour drive from nearby major population centers (the Bay Area and Sacramento). Meet at the Deafy Glade Campground on Saturday morning at noon. We’ll rendezvous there and carpool to our campsite at Summit Springs Trailhead. The rest of the day will be spent botanizing, hiking, and collecting, in this general area. On Sunday morning, we’ll rise early to start our moderately strenuous hike before it gets too hot. Depending on time, we’ll hike between 5 and 8 miles on Sunday, and gain around 1500-2000’ in elevation. Temperature highs will likely be in the 90s. Bear cans or bear hangs for food are required in this area. Please RSVP to dslakey@cnps.org no later than Tuesday, July 7th, and state: 1) where you’ll be coming from, and 2) what type of vehicle you’ll be driving and if you’re interested in carpooling. Directions are listed below.

http://www.summitpost.org/snow-mountain/151659
Getting to Snow Mountain is half the adventure! Much of Snow Mountain’s appeal comes from the solitude and lack of crowds found there- a lot of this is likely due to the limited access. While the peak seems a stone throw away from the interstate, this is not quite the case. Though of generally good condition and particularly fun to navigate if one enjoys sporty driving, the roads from Maxwell (the easiest initial access point from I-5) to Stonyford (the last real outpost of civilization before the mountain) are narrow and twisty- not good for those susceptible to car sickness. These roads will seem like freeway after starting down the county road onto which one turns at Stonyford, however (county road M10). Not too bad initially, the quality of this ‘road’ deteriorates with every mile until one’s desired trailhead is reached. Beware, also, of navigating the M10 after dark- numerous foolish rabbits (and possibly a stupid cat) will dart in front of your vehicle, and likely try to outrun you using the beams of your headlights. Also, if your fuel level is questionable, gas up in Stonyford (your last option for petrol’!) at the general store * note: closes early * Despite all of this transportational mayhem, however, Snow Mountain is a delightful mountain, and the access deficiencies are but a small price to pay. So here we go:

· From the W (directions obtained from internet): Take the 101 to CA 20; take CA 20 E towards Upper Lake/Williams; after ~70mi, hang a L onto Leesville Rd; after 13.6 mi (portions unpaved), take a R onto Leesville-Lodoga Rd; take a L onto Lodoga-Stonyford Rd after 7.7 mi; from Stonyford, take a L onto Fouts Springs Rd (aka M10); at this point, follow directions as given below, subtracting 31.1 mi from mileages indicated (to compensate for drive from Maxwell to Stonyford)
From the N (Redding, Red Bluff, etc.): go S on Interstate 5 until Maxwell; follow further directions below

From the S (Bay Area, etc.): take I-80 to the cow town of Vacaville; take I-505 N to I-5; take I-5 to Maxwell; see further directions below

Once Maxwell has been attained, take L onto Maxwell Rd, going W (start odometer/trip meter @ 0.0 here):
- 9.4 mi: take a R at the 'T,' onto the Sites-Lodoga Rd
- ~22: go through Lodoga (is that a funky name or what?!)
- 23.2: take a R at the 'Y' where the road splits, onto the Lodoga-Stonyford Rd
- 30.8: after attaining Stonyford, take a L at the 4-way intersection, where the corner sign indicates "< Market"
- 31.1: take a L onto Fouts Springs Rd (later to be known as county road M10), which runs into the road you're on from the L (making a 'T' intersection)
- 35.2: here you'll pass an unmanned visitors' centre; most of the information given here is useless for hiking and mountain climbing purposes (it's there mostly for the off-road vehicle trail users), but the site does have a picnic table, as well as a bathroom
- 43.1: the Dixie Glade drive-in campground is encountered on one's R
- 43.6: the 'pavement' ends; DEAFY GLADE TRAILHEAD ON THE RIGHT
- TO GAIN THE SUMMIT TRAIL TRAILHEAD- continue along the M-10: at approximately 1 ½ miles from the Deafy Glade trailhead/end of pavement, stay R where the Letts Lake turnoff branches off L; after another 6.5 mi, bear R at a sign pointing towards Bear Creek and Summit Spring; take a R after 2 mi onto road 24N02 (who thinks of these road names?!), where a sign indicates Summit Spring; after reaching a four-way junction at the Lake-Colusa county line 1.8 mi later, go straight for another 1.7 mi up steep road 17N06, where you'll finally reach the Summit Spring trailhead