

This tree appears to have lost its top at some point, and two nearby branches both grew upwards.



Looking across at Second Falls from here.



This is where the trail forks. Our route switchbacked and continued towards Second Falls. The trail on the right here is the trail we took back. The trail on the left goes over this ridge to the north, towards places labelled "Logging Flat" and "High Meadows" on the TOPO map.



Looking back down the valley from here. Notice the trail we took up to here in the valley below. We have certainly gained some elevation.



This is the fork of the trail which goes on to the Big Pine Lakes.



Looking across at Second Falls again. The trail crosses the hillside seen in the center of this photo.



We continued along the trail to the hillside mentioned in the previous photo. This panorama is looking down the valley and out towards where our hike started.



Up ahead, there were more yellow flowers alongside the trail.





This panorama is from near Second Falls, looking back at where the trail forks (notice the "X" seen in the center of the photo, where the trail over the ridge to the north splits off, as does the two trails back).



Looking down from the top of Second Falls.



This sign tells us that we are now entering the John Muir Wilderness.



This is the upper part of Second Falls.



Here, the canyon enters a narrower gorge, and the trail follows right alongside the raging creek, so hikers must be careful not to slip and fall in.



Looking up-canyon. Notice there are now more big pine trees again.



The trail passes through some small bushes (I'm not sure what kind of plant these are).





Looking across at a nearby peak; I think this is probably Mt. Alice.



The trail continues through a more dense patch of trees.



We are encountering less pine trees now, and more aspen trees.



We spotted this nice rock after we'd had lunch; it would be a great place to stop for a break.



Continuing on, the trees are beginning to thin.



Here we have reached the cabin mentioned at the beginning of this report.



This is a very nicely constructed cabin.



Notice the stone- and wood-work of this structure, especially how nicely these oddly shaped stones have been fit together.





Looking out at the North Fork of Big Pine Creek from near the cabin.



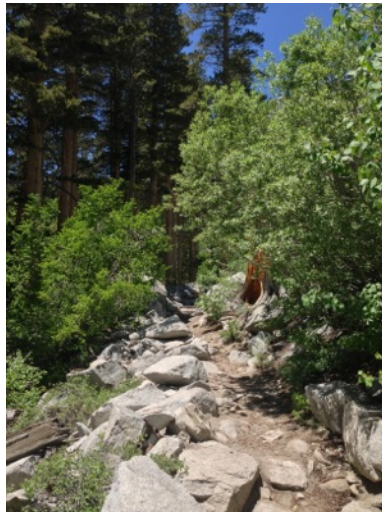
Now continuing along the trail again, we encounter a stretch with few trees and get a nice view looking up the valley and at the surrounding peaks.



Looking ahead, we are starting to get a view of Temple Crag (background left), above the First, Second, and Third Lakes.



The trail enters the trees again and is very reminiscent of other trails in the eastern Sierras.



There were some of these nice flowers alongside the trail in places.



As it was starting to get quite warm, the patches of shade provided by the trees was welcome.



Looking across the North Fork of Big Pine Creek at a nearby peak, between Mt. Alice and Temple Crag.





Here is another flowering plant we spotted, near a small stream.



The trail steepens again as it follows the creek more closely.



Notice how the creek goes through a narrower gorge here and flows down some rapids.



Interesting pine branches; I'm not sure if these are pine nuts.



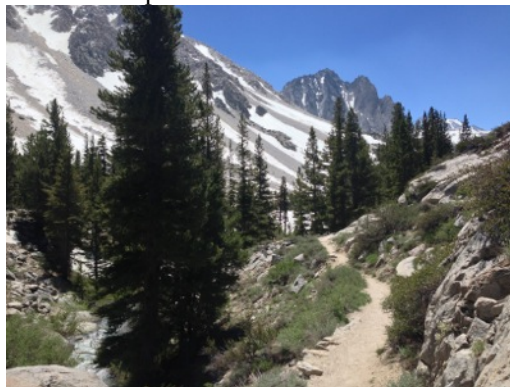
We are starting to get increasingly good views of the peaks up ahead.



Notice how much less snow is on these peaks than the ones in the Bishop Creek area.



Temple Crag is now visible, to the right of center in this photo.

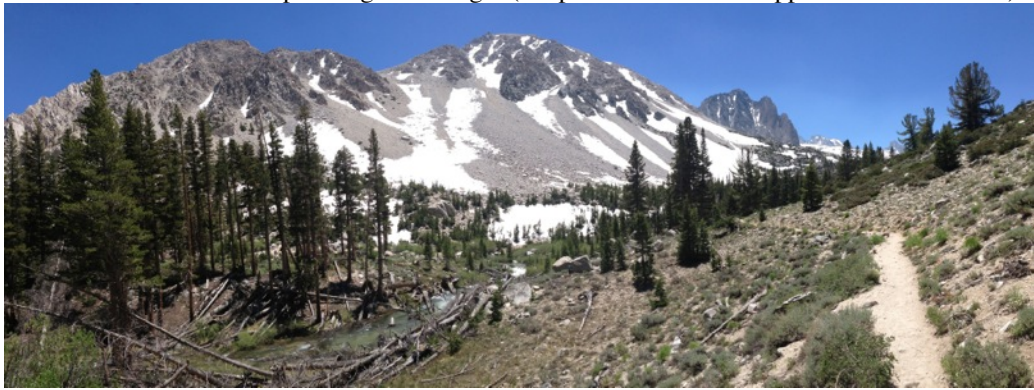




Looking down at the creek again, before where it goes through the rapids, and the tall trees near it.



Panorama with Mt. Alice on the left and Temple Crag on the right (the peak in the middle appears to be unnamed).



This stretch of the trail was nice, easy walking, but it was also quite hot, even in mid-June.

