

Looking down at the creek again. This would be another nice spot to have lunch.



The trail got steep again, and we began to follow a small tributary of the North Fork of Big Pine Creek, draining from Black Lake and Summit Lake, rather than from the seven Big Pine Lakes.



Panorama looking back down the canyon at all the trees from near the start of this steep stretch. Mt. Alice is the peak in the center.



This was the only water crossing we had to navigate on this trail. I didn't find it at all difficult. The water was over 2 feet deep on the left side in this photo, although it was much shallower where the rocks are, so the rocks were helpful, as were waterproof hiking boots.



Panorama with Temple Crag in the center. Notice how more peaks are starting to become visible to the right in this photo.



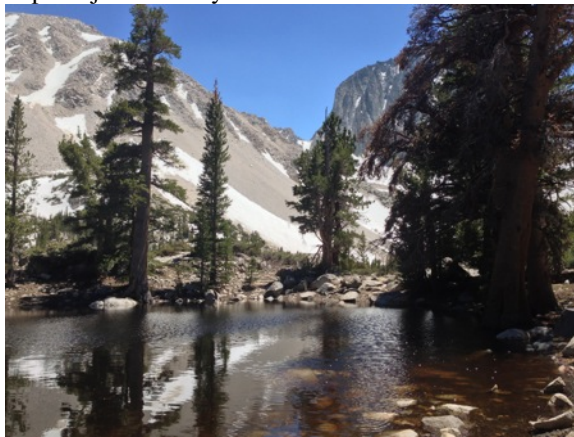
Looking at the steep hillsides to the north of where we have been hiking; I think what is seen here is a false summit, as TOPO maps indicate the ridge should be much higher than it appears here.



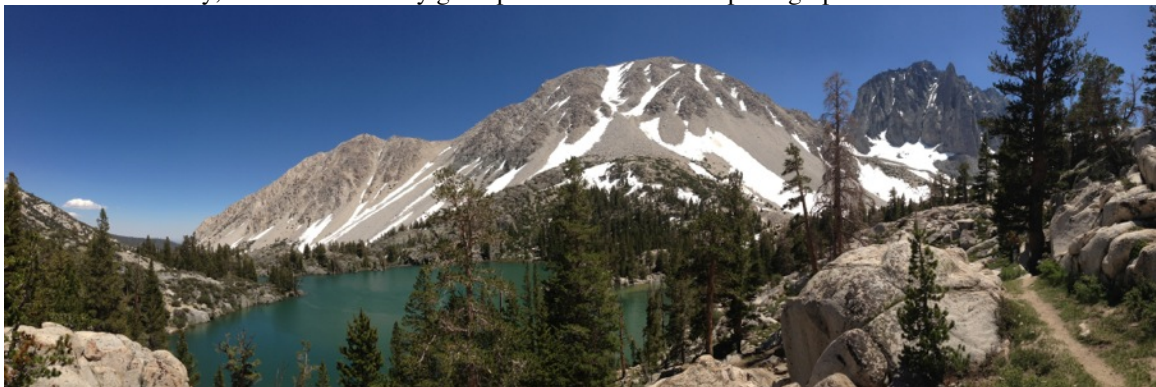
This is the main fork in the trail, with the seven Big Pine Lakes to the left, and Black Lake to the right.



I am calling this "Lake 0.5" as it is a small pond just before you reach First Lake.



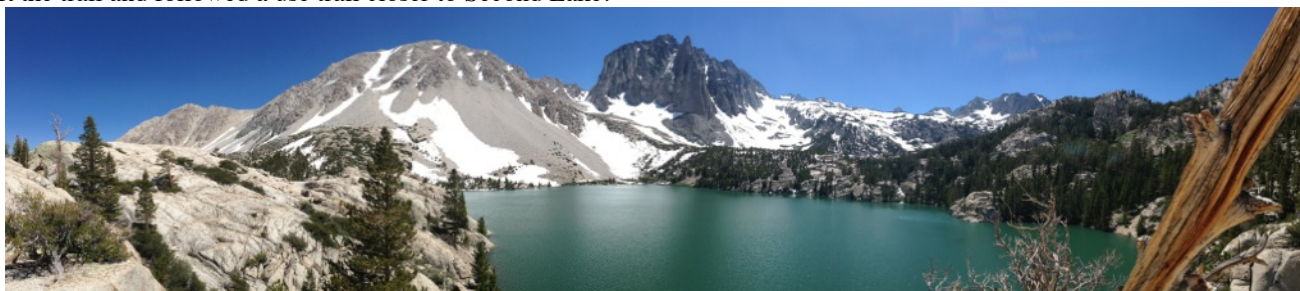
This is First Lake. Unfortunately, there weren't many good places from which to photograph this lake.



This is Second Lake, which is right beneath Temple Crag.



We left the trail and followed a use trail closer to Second Lake.



Looking across the lake at the impressive Temple Crag from here.



Looking straight down at the lake. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like either First Lake or Second Lake would be easy lakes to swim in.



Looking at the ridge north of these lakes, which isn't as rocky or impressive as the peaks to the south.



This is the view southwest towards the Palisade Glacier. I think hikers can access this glacier.



Across the lake, we spotted this interesting flattened-out cut in the hillside, which almost looks like it could have been part of an old road, but I doubt it is. It could be related to the old stone dam mentioned at the beginning of this report, which I read about after we did this hike.



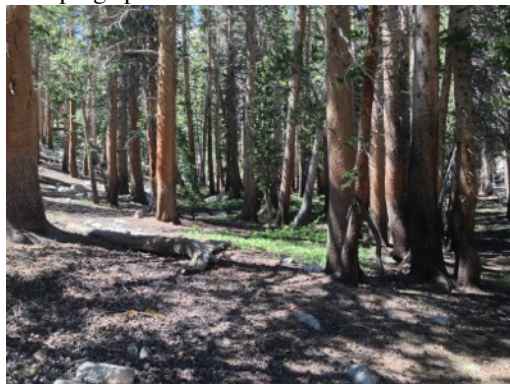
From here, we returned to the main trail. The trail continues on to Third Lake, but we didn't have time to check it out.



Heading back down the trail towards First Lake. Notice how the outlet of this lake looks relatively impassible.



This nice patch of trees looks like a popular camping spot.



Panorama of the view on our way back down the trail, below the fork, with Temple Crag to the right.



Looking across at the North Fork of Big Pine Creek cascading down the hillside from where it leaves First Lake.



The trail has a couple of more exposed sections where it follows a cliff edge, but fortunately the trail is quite wide there.



Looking down at one of the sections of creek rapids we'd spotted on the way up.



It was still relatively hot on the hike back, so these patches of shade near small streams were welcome, although the mosquitoes seemed to like them too.



Entering a small grove of aspen trees.



Here we have reached the big pine trees just above Second Falls.



Looking down Second Falls from the top.



This is the uppermost part of Second Falls, which seems to be the most photogenic.



This interesting conglomerate rock alongside the trail caught my attention.





This is a different photo angle of the pine tree which must have lost its top some time ago, which I'd photographed with a different sun angle on the hike up.



From here, we took the higher trail back. This is looking down on the lower trail, where it starts to switchback up the hillside.



Looking across at Second Falls (left of center) from here. Notice the lone tall pine tree in the lower center of this photo.



Another photo of Second Falls (center) from further down the trail (this photo turned out better with the afternoon sun angle than the previous one because I was able to shade the lens of my iPhone camera).



The peaks above the South Fork of Big Pine Creek became visible as we continued down the trail.



I was very surprised to see a blooming cactus here.



Panorama of the trail we are hiking on, with the peaks to the south of the South Fork of Big Pine Creek becoming more visible now.



Looking out towards Big Pine and the White Mountains, from just past First Falls.



One last view up the South Fork of Big Pine Creek. I hope to visit this area someday, as the scenery looks very nice.



Small pink flower I spotted near the trail on the way back to the parking area.



View looking out towards the White Mountains on the drive back down Big Pine Canyon to the town of Big Pine. Notice all the pine trees visible in the lower part of this photo.



Looking up at the White Mountains on our drive back to Bishop. There is still a lot of hiking I hope to do in this area someday.

