

Location: Kern County, about 5 miles east of Weldon
175 miles from Los Angeles

Maps: Auto Club: Kern County
Forest Service: Sequoia National Forest
Topo: Woolstalf Creek 7
HPS Topo: SST-4, SST-4A

Nearby Peaks: Nicolls Peak

ROUTE 1

Distance: 10 miles r.t. on trail & cross-country
Gain: 3500'
Time: 7-8 hours r.t.
Rating: Class 1; Strenuous

Original: Paul A. Lipsohn/Dick Akawie Aug 1974

DRIVING ROUTE 1

- From the junction of Hwy. 178 and the Kelso Valley Road at Weldon, drive west on Hwy. 178 for _ mile past a KOA campground on the north to a road on the south with signs: 'Hillview Acres' and 'El Rancho Poco'.
- Turn left (south) on this road, and then turn left (east) immediately across a cattle guard. The road which continued south had a wire gate across it.
- Drive east for about _ mile.
- Drive south for about _ mile.
- Drive east again for about _ mile.
- Then drive south passing a trailer park on this road.
- Continue south for about 2_ miles.
- From here there is a maze of roads. You want to continue due south. Try these:
- At 2.7 miles, fork. Go right, then immediately left.
- At 3.0 and 3.1 miles, forks. Go right.
- At 3.4 miles, several forks, one of which goes down into a prominent wash and disappears, reappearing on the other side of the wash. Park here.

HIKING ROUTE 1

From the parking area (3412'), go across the wash and pick up the road on the other side. Hike up it 1/3 mile to a gate marking the National Forest Boundary. Continue up the road 400' farther to the junction with trail 34E15 to the right, at a sign "Dry Meadow - 4". Follow the trail about 3 miles to elev. 6500', on the ridge southwest from Heald. Leave the trail here and go east, contouring around the north side of elev. 6850'+ to get on the ridge going to the east from elev. 6850'. Continue east along the ridge to the saddle at 6160'+. Then hike ~~northwest~~ ^{IV - east} and north along the ridge to the summit.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The peak is named for the founder of the Hundred Peaks Section, Weldon F. Heald. A dedication climb was led April 27, 1974, at which time a plaque was placed just below the summit boulder.

ROUTE 2

Distance: 3 miles one way cross-country from
Nicolls Peak

Gain: 2200'

Time: 2_ hours

Rating: Class 2; Strenuous

Original: Paul A. Lipsohn/Dick Akawie Aug 1974

DRIVING ROUTE 2

- See the Nicolls Peak Guide.

HIKING ROUTE 2

From the summit of Nicolls Peak, follow the ridge south-southwest over bumps 5207', 6023', & 6808' to the summit of Heald. There is a steep section of class 2 just north of bump 6808'.

Nicolls & Heald are often combined as a single long dayhike since the driving route is almost identical for both.