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Sixteen-to-One Creek

**Coordinates****Trailhead:**

N 44° 29.131'
W 115° 43.376'

Unnamed Creek:

N 44° 27.763'
W 115° 45.974'

Distance: 6.6 miles out-and-back

Total Elevation Gain: 1,500 feet

Difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation Range: 5,300 to 6,700 feet

Topographic Map: Wild Buck Peak, Bull Creek
Hot Springs

Time: 3 to 4 hours

Season: June through October

Water Availability: Sixteen-to-One Creek, many
side streams

Cautionary Advice: None

Information: Boise National Forest, Cascade Ranger
District (208) 382-7400

Pit Latrine: No

Sixteen-to-One Creek

Odds are if you venture into the Sixteen-to-One Creek drainage south of Stolle Meadows in June, you'll discover countless wildflowers, ambling creeks and exceptional solitude. Butterflies and other pollinators scurry from flower to flower while songbirds flutter among the jungly forest. It is a place that is simultaneously tranquil and stirring.

Unlike many hikes, this trail starts at its high point and descends to its destination. The narrow trail stays on the west side of Sixteen-to-One Creek and continues south through dense woods. In late spring and early summer, wildflowers are a constant, especially at higher elevations. The route crosses several scenic creeks, and at lower elevations, weaves through grassy meadows with towering ponderosa pines. A few rocky knolls dispense great views allowing you to get a good perspective of this rugged topography.

The Sixteen-to-One Creek drainage is a classic V-shape. There are only a handful of quality campsites until you near the end of the hike. Here though, several small meadows with old-growth forest invite an isolated backpack outing and it is doubtful you will encounter another visitor—wild animals excluded. The hike can be extended as the trail continues south

another 3.5 miles to a confluence with Bull Trout Creek and other trail systems. You will need a high-clearance vehicle for the last 0.6 mile to the trailhead. Otherwise, add 1.2 miles to the out-and-back hiking distance.

Trailhead Directions

From Cascade, drive north 0.9 mile on ID 55, and turn right onto paved Warm Lake Road. Continue another 22.7 miles to a sign on the right hand side of the road “Stolle Meadows 6.” Turn right onto gravel Stolle Meadows Road (FR 474) and drive 7.2 miles to a sign “Cupp Corral 7,” and turn right staying on FR 474. Follow this rocky road 5.9 miles—passable with a passenger car—to a parking area on the right side of the road. If you have a high-clearance vehicle proceed another 0.6 mile, the first quarter-mile of road is the most rocky, to the marked trailhead “16:1.”

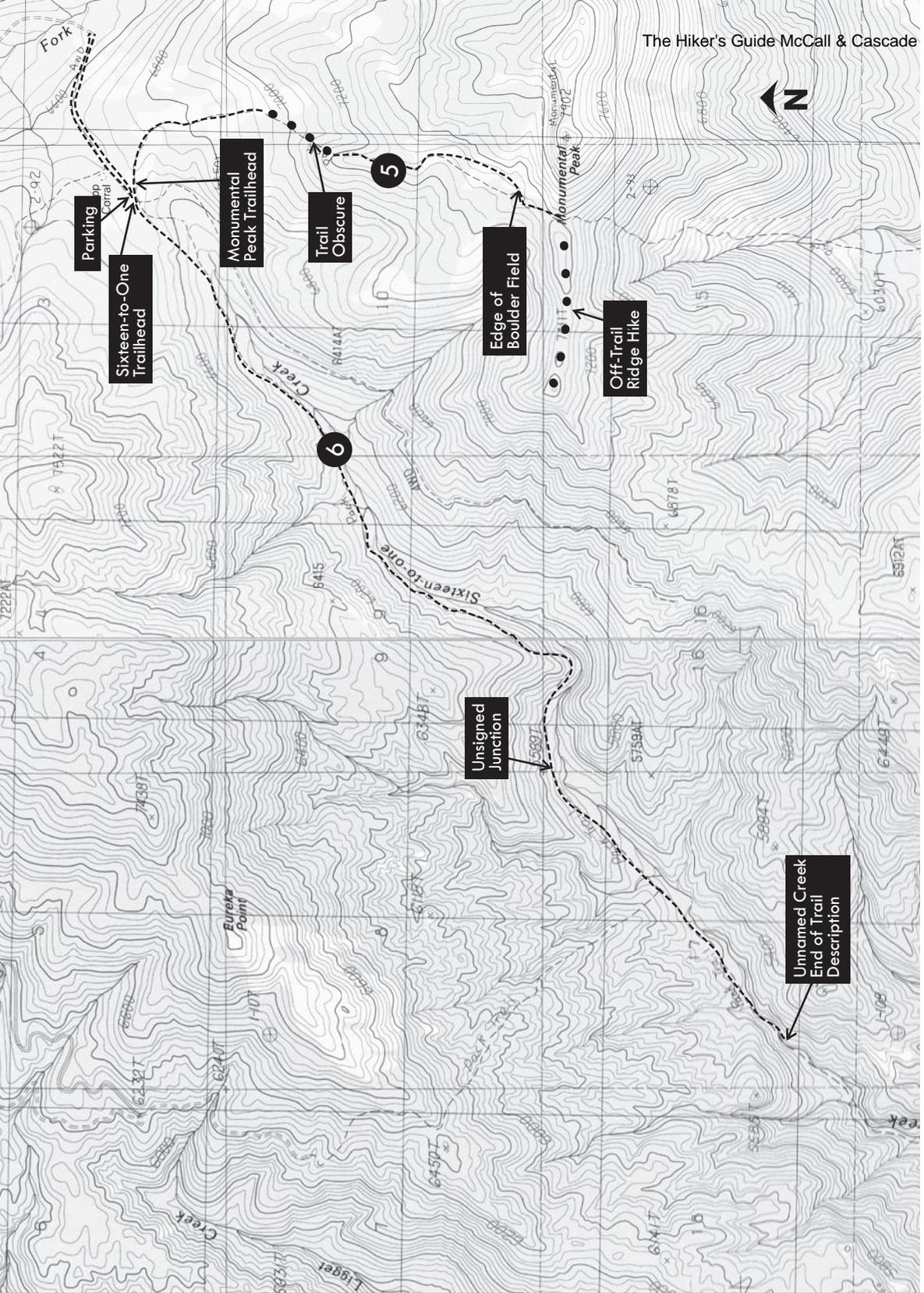
The Hike

The trail heads south in open forest and soon weaves between half-buried granite talus. White-colored phlox is prolific in June and a beautiful complement to the granite talus. At 0.2 mile, begin a gradual descent into the Sixteen-to-One Creek drainage. Looking southeast, there are good views of the rounded, granite summit of Monumental Peak (see hike 5). At 0.5 mile, cross a bridge over a small creek, and continue through open forest with hillside wildflowers.

At 1.2 miles, look west for a series of granite benches extending up the canyon face. This is an interesting place to explore off-trail and would be a fine destination for a short hike. Beyond here, the trail makes a short but steep descent to a bridge at 1.4 miles over a unnamed creek. There is room for a small tent or two on a little knoll before crossing the bridge and another possible campsite—to the west of the trail in a little grassy area—about 500 feet beyond the bridge.

Continue south along a modest decline, fording several tiny streams. Once you pass below 6,000 feet, you see many huge ponderosa pines. The trail soon fords a wide, shallow creek and at 2.4 miles crosses a rocky knoll high above Sixteen-to-One Creek. There are stellar views looking south into the drainage. Continue another quarter-mile to an unsigned junction.

From here, the trail descends another 100 feet to where it levels near a large grove of aspen at 3.0 miles. Continue through another dense stand of forest and into a small meadow where you could establish a tent site. At 3.3 miles, ford a wide, unnamed creek in a wooded area. This is the end of the hike description. To find another campsite, continue past the creek another quarter-mile into dense forest to a level area near Sixteen-to-One Creek.



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