

Sugar Creek Ranch

Greetings Those who have experienced Sugar Creek Ranch at its best over the last 20 years will recall the property's unique 114 acre landscape with its tailing piles of river rock dug up from the adjacent Scott River during the gold mining days. When the gold miners broke through the water table, these eight picturesque ponds – mostly hidden from view as small jewels in a rocky desert – started bubbling up from newly exposed cold-water springs. This cold, gin-clear water provides ideal habitat for the large rainbow trout that call these lakes home. Sugar Creek itself winds through the property and each lake, further infusing cool, oxygen infused water into the ponds, as well as spawning habitat for the resident rainbows. Set at 3,000 feet, the ranch remains relatively cool in the summer, the lakes remain ice-free and fishable all winter, and the climate and fishing is simply majestic during the spring and fall season.

Location Sugar Creek Ranch is located at the confluence of Sugar Creek and the Scott River in the Scott Valley of Northern California's Siskiyou County.

The Property There are 8 lakes and ponds on the ranch; the north and south lakes being the largest, the middle ponds smaller. There are trails around each body of water, and dirt roads provide easy access to the north and south ponds from Highway 3. Those with a 4 wheel drive vehicle can also navigate the rocky road that connects both ends of the ranch.

The Lodge The 2-story lodge is clean and comfortable. The main floor is comprised of a nice kitchen, half bath, living room and sunken reading room. The top floor has two standard rooms with two single beds each and individual heating units. These two rooms share a bathroom located between the rooms. There is also a deluxe bedroom on the top floor with two full size beds, full bath, and private balcony.

Fishing Opportunities With such a great variety of water to access, Sugar Creek Ranch is a Stillwater angler's dream come true. All of the lakes and ponds can be fished from the shore, while the larger lakes also are wonderful for float tubes, pontoon boats, or even kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. Thanks to the individual character of each lake, you will encounter unique angling situations as you move from one body of water to the other. Some lakes provide excellent dry fly sight fishing while others might require a sinking line and large streamer presentation.

Other Anglers Although the ranch has eight lakes and ponds, it is possible to have up to twelve fishing guests at one time. Please exercise respect and courtesy with your fellow anglers. Should your preferred pond be occupied, there are many locations to explore elsewhere on the ranch. You never know when you may find a new favorite place to fish!

Note: Wi-Fi is available at the lodge. We recommend using an app such as “Viber” or “What’s App” while staying at the lodge. There is also consistent, mostly reliable Cell Phone coverage both at the lodge and around the ranch property.



Sugar Creek Ranch Procedures

- Arrival & Departure** Lodge check-in is **no earlier than 3:00 p.m.** This is to allow the staff to prepare the lodge for your arrival.
- Please check out of the lodge no later than 11:00 a.m. You may fish until 2:30 p.m. You may put your bags downstairs and the bathroom is available for use.
- Smoking** Smoking is allowed outside of the lodge and the deck areas. Do not smoke near any grassy areas. Please police your butts and dispose of them appropriately.
- Pets** Pets are welcome on property, but ***no pets are allowed inside the Ranch Office or the Lodge.***
- (Clean up after your pets! Please don't let them bother other guests).**
- Lodge Amenities** The kitchen and BBQ are yours to use. You may want to bring your own charcoal and starter fluid. Pots, pans, silverware and dishes are available. Laundry facilities are in a closet by the front door. Cleaning supplies, pellet stove fuel, etc. are located in the NW closet of the kitchen. The switch for the garbage disposal is the button on the front face of the sink. Please load any dishes and cooking dishes you haven't hand washed into the dishwasher and run it before you leave. For your entertainment and those who need to catch up, the lodge has WiFi and cable.
- Float Tubing** Float tubes may be used in the North Ponds, Lone Bear and Twin Deer, but really aren't necessary. The other ponds are small enough to be fished from shore. No regular boats or motors are allowed.
- Waders & Boots** Waders and Boots are not needed when fishing from shore. You will want to wear waders in the colder months when float tubing. PLEASE: No wading boots or muddy gear allowed on the decks or inside the lodge.
- Precaution** The elevation of this ranch is 3,000 feet. Unfortunately, there is some poison oak and poisonous snakes, so please be aware and on the lookout. Mosquitoes seem to be around most evenings, especially early in the summer. Bug spray is recommended.
- Fishing** Sugar Creek Ranch is private, however, you are still required to have a current CA fishing license.
- Rods & Leaders** 5 and 6 weight rods are perfect for these large, hard fighting rainbows. 9ft leaders tapering to 3x,4x and 5x will get the job done. Carry spools of 3x, 4x, 5x tippet as well.
- Wading** Please do not wade in the edges of the lakes. You may have to get your feet wet when landing one of the larger fish, but otherwise try to avoid wading. The edges of the lakes can be very steep, and coupled with the moss and algae, can cause you to fall into the ponds. It can also be difficult to get out once you have fallen in. For this reason, we do not recommend wading.



Sugar Creek Ranch Procedures (Cont.)

Nearby Groceries It is advisable to purchase your groceries prior to departing for your stay. If you are coming from the south, Redding has many large grocery stores including the Safeway located at Churn Creek Rd and Cypress St. The nearest grocery store is Ray's Food Place in Etna, about 10 miles north on HWY 3. Ray's is small, but has a deli and bakery, and is open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Restaurants In Etna **Bob's Ranch House** - American fare, burgers and steaks. Good breakfast! Open Monday to Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 am to 9:00 p.m.

Dotty's Korner Kitchen – Burgers and Beer with BBQ Dinner Specials
Open Monday to Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 am to 7:00 p.m.

Etna Brew Pub – Thursday to Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Denny Bar Co. Distillery – Great meals and craft liquor. Open Wednesday to Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Service Stations The nearest service station is in Etna. Callahan has no service stations.

Guide Service Although the fishing can be spectacular, for those anglers who are unfamiliar with still water trout fishing, would like to improve their angling skills or just plain want a jump start on how to target the waters on Sugar Creek Ranch, our guide staff is intimately familiar with the ranch's ponds. To reserve a guide, please contact The Fly Shop's Outfitter staff at (800)669-3474, or send an email to info@adventuresinflyfishing.com.

Travel The Scott River Valley is nestled among the Scott and Salmon Ranges. Winter weather in this area can be somewhat unpredictable. The Gazelle-Callahan Rd. travels up a steep, winding mountain valley to the pass just east of its junction with HWY 3. During the winter it is advisable for all guests, including those coming from the south, to travel through Yreka on HWY 3. It is a wide, well-maintained roadway adding a mere 15 minutes to your trip.

Contact Information

Lodge and Ranch Caretaker- Isis Hayden (530)598-9096

The Fly Shop: 800-669-3474 / (530)-222-3555



Sugar Creek Ranch Fishing Information

- Fishing:** A valid fishing license for the ponds on the ranch is required. All of the ranch fishing is fly fishing with barbless hooks, catch and release!
- Tackle:** Rods of 5 to 6 wt are ideal. Leaders 9-10' to 4x or 5x will be best. Tippet spools of 4X, 5X, and 6X are necessary.
- General:** In the lakes there is an abundance of damselflies, dragon flies, callibaetis mayflies, caddis, and midges. Around the edge and in the overhanging foliage ants, beetles, and grasshoppers make their annual appearances, especially in the summertime. Floating lines are usually all you need, but an intermediate or full-sinking line can be advantageous when stripping streamers or even damselfly and dragonfly nymphs.
- Emergers:** Expect a lot of activity from just underneath the surface with a variety of midges and mayflies working well. Many of our regular guests fish some type of dry or emerger with a dropper, short or long, and a nymph or midge pupa attached.
- Mayflies:** The most prevalent mayfly will be the Callibaetis. This grey bodied insect with the speckled wings will start appearing in late May and continue almost all season. They will be larger (#14) early in the season and gradually get smaller (up to #18) in late season. You may see a variety of small mayflies from time to time, but the Callibaetis is king. A parachute Adams is a great imitator, but don't forget those cripple patterns.
- Midges:** You can count on some type of midge hatch almost every day of the season. Most fishermen use nymph or emerger patterns for these hatches, but sometimes you can have a lot of fun with dry patterns like a Griffiths Gnat, a Befus Midge or a Quigley's Midge. Make sure the rise forms indicate the take of a dry fly and not a surface film take. Usually using emergers or something just beneath the meniscus is the ticket.
- Terrestrials:** Beetles & ants are effective much of the season, especially beginning early summer. They can take fish anywhere on the lakes, but are quite effective along grassy banks, lakeside willows or tules.
- Streamers:** Damsselfies and dragonflies usually start to show in late spring or early summer. They like to crawl up lakeside foliage and hatch out. Slow retrieves punctuated with short twitches are the order of the day. In addition, many of the big trout at Sugar Creek are carnivores, and stripping large woolly bugger or other streamer/baitfish patterns on a sinking or intermediate line can be very effective.



Recommended Flies

Dries:

Parachute Adams #16 - #20
Chernobyl Ant #8 - #12
Foam Beetles #14 - #16
Hopper Grande (tan) #12
Callibatis Cripple #16
Mercer's Missing Link #16-20

Nymphs:

Beaded Micro Buggers (black, olive and brown) #12
Prince Nymph #14-16
Poxyback Callibatis #16
ZT Slow Water Emerger (black, gray) #12
Zack's Zallibaits, #14-16
BH PT Nymphs #14 - #20
Micro Mayfly (olive,black) #16 - #18
BH Golden Stone #10 - #14
Jumpers Cable Midge, #16-18
Zebra Midge (red) #18 - #20

Streamers/Leechs:

Balanced Leech, #10
Pyramid Minnow Tui Chub, #6
ZT Swimming Leech (black, olive, brown/olive) #8
ZT Zack Attack (olive, olive/burnt orange) #14
Wolly Buggers (all colors), #8-10
ZT Damsleech (olive/burnt orange) #12-14
TAK's Mini Minnow (rainbow, olive/white)#8

This is by no means an all-inclusive list of flies. There are many other patterns that will work as well. However, this is a list of flies that represent patterns that any fisherman should have in their vest. Going to our private ranches or to public water with three or four patterns will mean you stand a great chance of not having the right fly at the right time.

Special Note: You must bring all your own fishing tackle & supplies to Sugar Creek Ranch. This should include, but is not limited to, waders, boots, rods, reels, flies, leaders, tippet, etc. The lodge does not sell flies and does not have extra equipment. If you think you need it bring it! It is an hour's drive to the nearest shop. Call The Fly Shop if you need help with this list.

