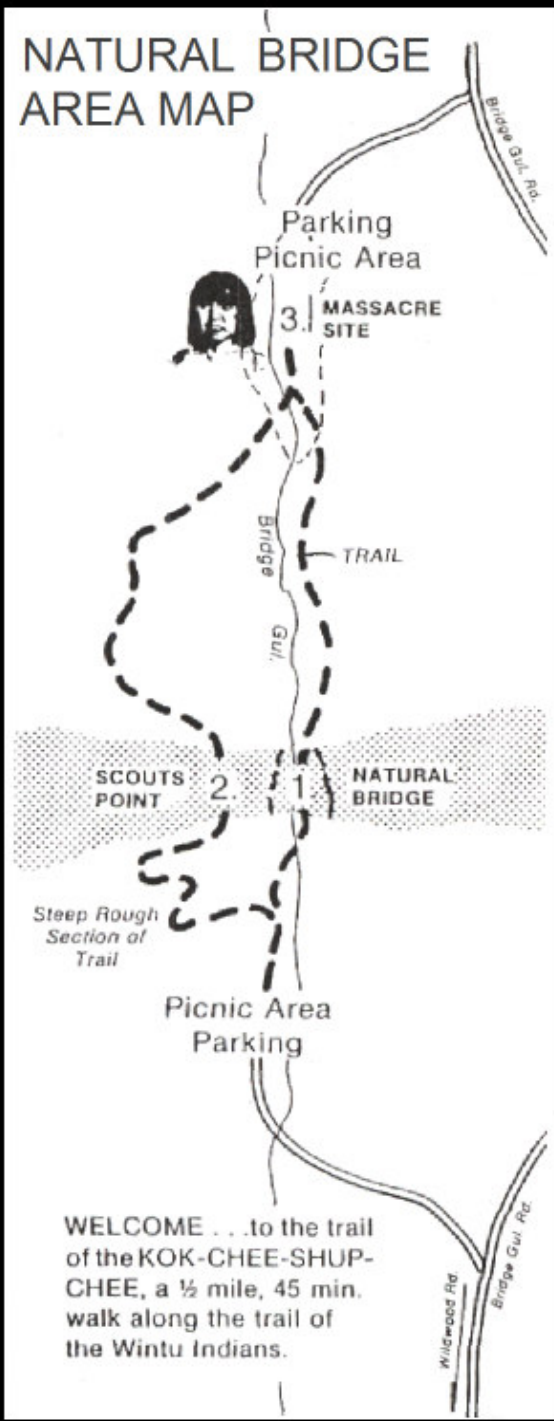
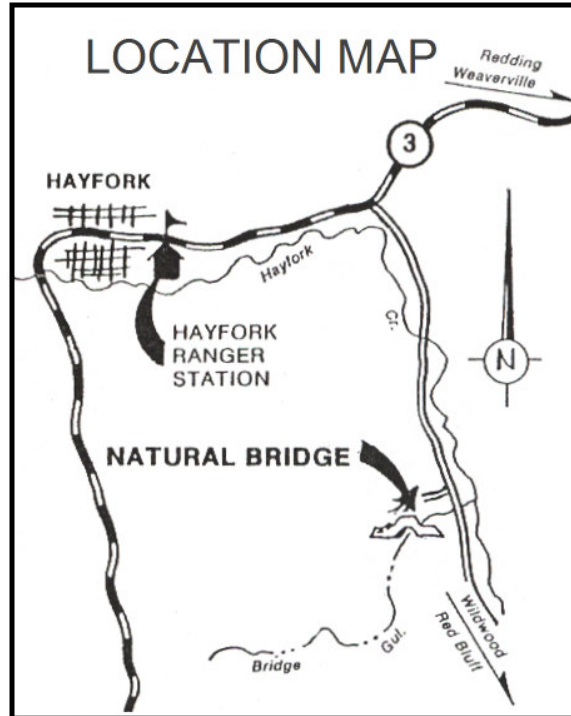


NATURAL BRIDGE AREA MAP



WELCOME . . .to the trail of the KOK-CHEE-SHUP-CHEE, a ½ mile, 45 min. walk along the trail of the Wintu Indians.

LOCATION MAP



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...

TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BRIDGE AREA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- Do not damage Natural or Historical Features
- Leave the area as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- Crush all Smokes

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



NATURAL BRIDGE

Trail of the
KOK-CHEE-SHUP-CHEE
(BUNDLE OF HIDES)



SHASTA-TRINITY
NATIONAL FOREST



HELPFUL HINTS . . .

- Before visiting the area, take a few minutes of time and read through this brochure.
- The numbers in the text and corresponding numbers on the map refer to points of interest along the trail.
- Wear hiking shoes because of the uneven surface in the archway and on the trail.
- A flashlight is helpful for investigating the interior of the archway.
- Please stay on the trail and be careful since sections of the trail are steep and winding.

1 Natural Bridge

GEOLOGICAL . . .

Natural Bridge is a natural limestone arch thrown across this narrow ravine by nature. The exterior opening of the front section measures about 100 feet wide and 50 feet high. The archway spans over 200 feet.

The exterior mass of the Bridge was solid until water in the course of time forced itself through the soft limestone creating the passage before you.

MYTHICAL . . .

The Wintus had many myths and still do today. According to the Wintus, Natural Bridge was formed when a mystical man, packing a huge bundle of hides, came down Bridge Gulch. Tired and hungry, he slipped the bundle from his back and it rolled into the creek. The Indians called the bridge, "Kok-Chee-Shup-.Chee," or "Bundle of Hides."

Look at the inside of the arch as you walk through. Can you see the texture and color of the hides?

HISTORICAL . . .

The early pioneers of Hayfork Valley frequently used Natural Bridge as a picnic site. This is borne out by their names and dates engraved in the limestone rock.

Please do not damage the Natural or Historical features of the Natural Bridge Area.



Bridge Gulch Massacre

In 1852, a well known citizen of Weaverville, J.R. Anderson, was killed and a small herd of his cattle driven off by a band of Wintu Indians. A few hours after the killing, Sheriff Dixon and a number of men from the surrounding area were in pursuit.

After several days tracking the elusive Indians through the rough Trinity County mountains. Sheriff Dixon's party set up camp on Hayfork Creek. Numerous scouts were sent out in an attempt to locate the Indians.

In late afternoon, a scout reported sighting an Indian rancheria. From his vantage point, on Natural Bridge, he could see smoke from the Indian campfires a short distance upstream and even described seeing children playing. This was but a few miles from where Sheriff Dixon was camped.

2 You are at the approximate spot where the Indian scout looked up the canyon. Can you hear the Indian children playing — the dogs' barking? Can you see the smoke curling up through the trees?

Under the cover of darkness, the party quietly made their way up the narrow draw, known as Bridge Gulch. Nearing the Indian rancheria, Sheriff Dixon quickly divided the men into small groups and surrounded the encampment. As the sun broke through the trees, the camp began to stir. The Indians — men, women and children had gathered to hear their leader's words. As he began to speak, a shot rang out and he dropped to the forest floor. Chaos broke out as the men surrounding the camp began firing at anyone they could line up in their gunsites.

Soon, all was quiet. Sheriff Dixon and his party carefully made their way down the mountainside and through the Wintu camp. Smoke from burning teepees curled in the sky. — The smell of gunpowder permeated the clean mountain air. Three children were the only survivors of the 150 Wintus that had inhabited the camp. (Accounts vary.)

3 You are standing on the site of the Bridge Gulch Massacre. As your eyes wander to the steep, wooded slopes surrounding the small flat, it is easy to visualize how Sheriff Dixon's party was able to surround the Wintu rancheria leaving no room for escape or defense.

The above description of the Bridge Gulch Massacre was compiled from early settler's letters and papers in which accounts varied.

