

Spanish Creek Run

By Israel Jones



View of Spanish Creek

Spanish Creek Photo By: Carrie Hawthorne

Spanish Creek

History: Located in Quincy, CA, this section of Spanish Creek, along with others, was heavily mined for gold during its early settlement in the 1850s. Located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, this area is known for its protected national forest, impressive landscapes, and awesome recreational activities.

Description: This gorgeous section of Spanish Creek features beautiful scenery, water features, wildflowers, ranches, and a diverse bird population, all in a local environment. What makes this section of Spanish Creek really great is your ability to view all these great features without having to leave the Quincy area.

Directions: Put-in is on the Feather River Campus. To the left of the football field, about a five minute walk from the ORL gear room.

NAME: Spanish Creek Run from FRC to Oakland Camp: 3 stars

Time Needed: 2 hrs

Sun Exposure: All day

Elevation: 3,521

Rating: No experience necessary

Gear Needed: Synthetic clothing, Sun protection, PFD, Paddle, Stand-up Paddleboard

Directions: Walk from the ORL gear room towards the FRC football field. Following the road towards the football field, once the field is directly to your right you should see a gated area on your left. You will have to push your SUP under the gate and jump over it. From here, Spanish Creek is visibly straight ahead and about a 50 foot walk.

Description: This 4.5 mile run features about half flat water and half class 1 rapids with an even gradient. However there are features in the creek that should be avoided, including willows, rocks,

and blackberry bushes. Additionally, there are three areas where barbed wire fences are stretched across the creek. The first two, you will have to push your SUP underneath and then swim under yourself. The last one is easily avoidable because it hangs about five feet in the air. The run also features intense swirls, distinctive eddy's, and snake like passages, which are very fun, but can also make navigating difficult so make sure to learn the correct SUPing techniques. The run offers views of Gansner Park, Quincy Airport, and 360 degree views of Plumas County's mountain ranges. This run also ends at a popular swimming hole in Quincy, so at the end you can go for a swim and chat with the locals.

Risks/Pitfalls: Barbed wire fences are stretched across two sections of this run. One barbed wire fence is also stretched across, but is held about five feet above the water. There's also several willows placed on ideal lines that can work as a strainer and should be avoided.