

# T123 Monument Canyon Trail Sacramento Ranger District

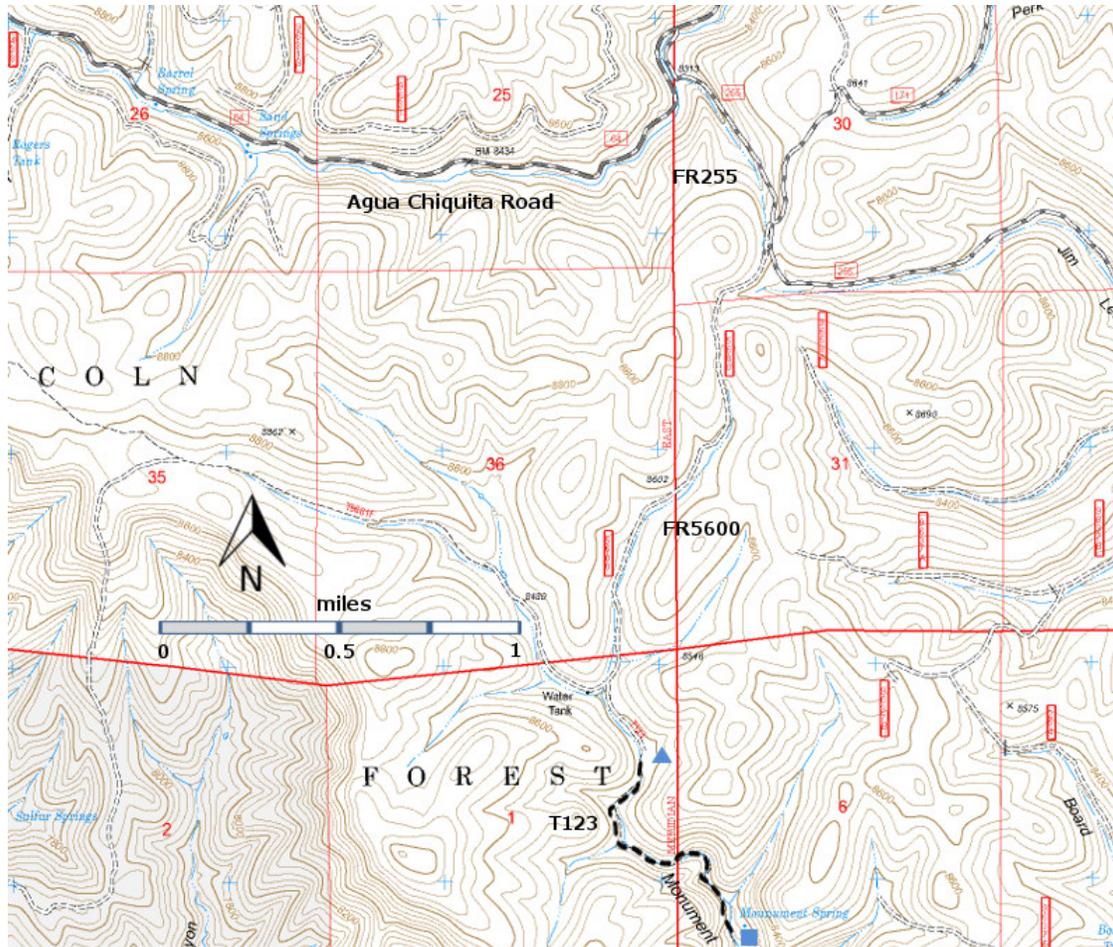


**T123**  
GPS Track (as .GPX)

Left click to open in your browser; then save from browser.

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
0.9 miles	8120 - 8380 ft 260 ft difference	Moderate	3

Allowed Usage				



[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

T123 is shown as a black dashed line on the map.

**DESCRIPTION:** The vicinity near the trailhead is used for primitive camping. After leaving the upper trail terminus, the canyon narrows and the sometimes rough path steepens in places, but is easy to follow. At mile 0.7 from the trailhead is an impressive, 5 foot diameter Douglas-fir, just where the massive travertine mound becomes visible further down the trail. The path disappears after ascending the grass-covered mound. Continue to walk across the mound to a stream that comes from Monument Spring at the base of a cliff, an interesting sight.

The extraordinary feature is a huge, half-moon shaped mound, about two acres in size! Estimated to be 400 feet wide, the straight side of the formation joins the base of the cliff and extends outward about 275 feet to the steep outer edge of the mound. To reach the outer base around the mound, begin at the low point in the trail, at the north edge of the mound; then hike down canyon along the mound. Small, scattered streamlets cascade down a 15 foot face of soft travertine. A stemless species of Monkey flower (*Mimulus sp.*) grows near the small pools.

The best time to arrive at the mound is before noon, to witness Monument Spring in sunlight and see the active portions along the edge of the mound. The narrow canyon takes on interesting shadows in early afternoon.

Note: LM first hiked T123 after a very wet summer. The face of the travertine mound glistened as water poured from many underground channels. The sight was beautiful, but FR5600 was very muddy!

The former trail continues another 1.4 miles down canyon. Currently, it is not signed or maintained, but does follow at least a vague path in most places. Two choices exist for passing the mound. (1) Walk over the mound and encounter a plastic pipe coming from the spring; follow the pipe and/or a trail down the south side of the mound. (2) Go around the base of the mound on its right side to the pipe where the same trail leads from the top of the mound.

Head down canyon paralleling the pipe and immediately pass through a muddy area. Highlights of the trail below the mound are large natural travertine dams (most are dry), beginning at the base of the travertine mound. Another set of travertine dams are 0.4 mile down canyon from the large mound. Some of the dams are more than two feet high.

Cattle trails, and then an old road on the right side of the canyon continue to descend. Water may reappear in the stream bed below the mound.

Do not enter the private property at the mouth of the canyon. There is no access to the trail through this property, so return to the trailhead.

**ACCESS:** Visit the area when roads are not wet, and use a high clearance vehicle. Begin in Cloudcroft at the intersection of US82 and NM130, and drive NM130 south 1.8 miles. Turn right on NM6563, Sunspot Highway and follow the pavement 14 miles to milepost 14. Drive another 0.2 mile to the Sunspot junction, the turnoff for the Sunspot Highway (ending at Sunspot), and the beginning of paved County Road C002, also known as Sacramento Drive and FR537. Continue 7.5 miles on C002 to the signed FR460 intersection. Turn left on FR460 and follow the graveled and steep road (up to 15% gradient) 4.0 miles to its end at FR64. Turn right and follow FR64 3.8 miles to FR255, on the right at the junction signed for Perk Canyon and Jim Lewis Canyon. Turn right on FR255 and in 0.2 miles, make a sharp left turn up a rather steep hill. At 0.8 mile from FR64 is the junction with FR5600, Monument Canyon Road. Angle right on FR5600 and drive 1.7 miles to the trailhead.

The junction of FR64 (Agua Chiquita Road) and FR255 may also be reached by driving on Agua Chiquita Road 13.4 miles from the intersection of Agua Chiquita Road and NM24, near Weed. This route does not have steep climbs.

#### **GPS Coordinates for Key Points**

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Trailhead	N32 41 07.4 W105 39 43.8	437925 3616604
Trail End	N32 40 37.3 W105 39 27.6	438341 3615675

#### **Links to Other Resources**

[Graveyard Canyon Topo Map](#)

[Map showing long version of T123](#)

Last Hiked: 2015

Updated 1/17/2016