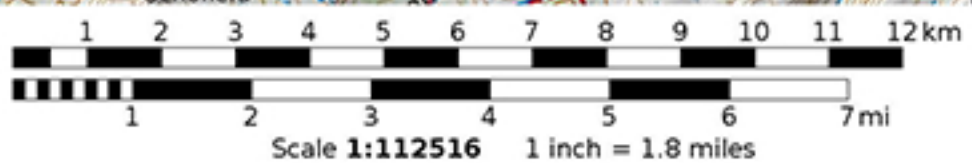
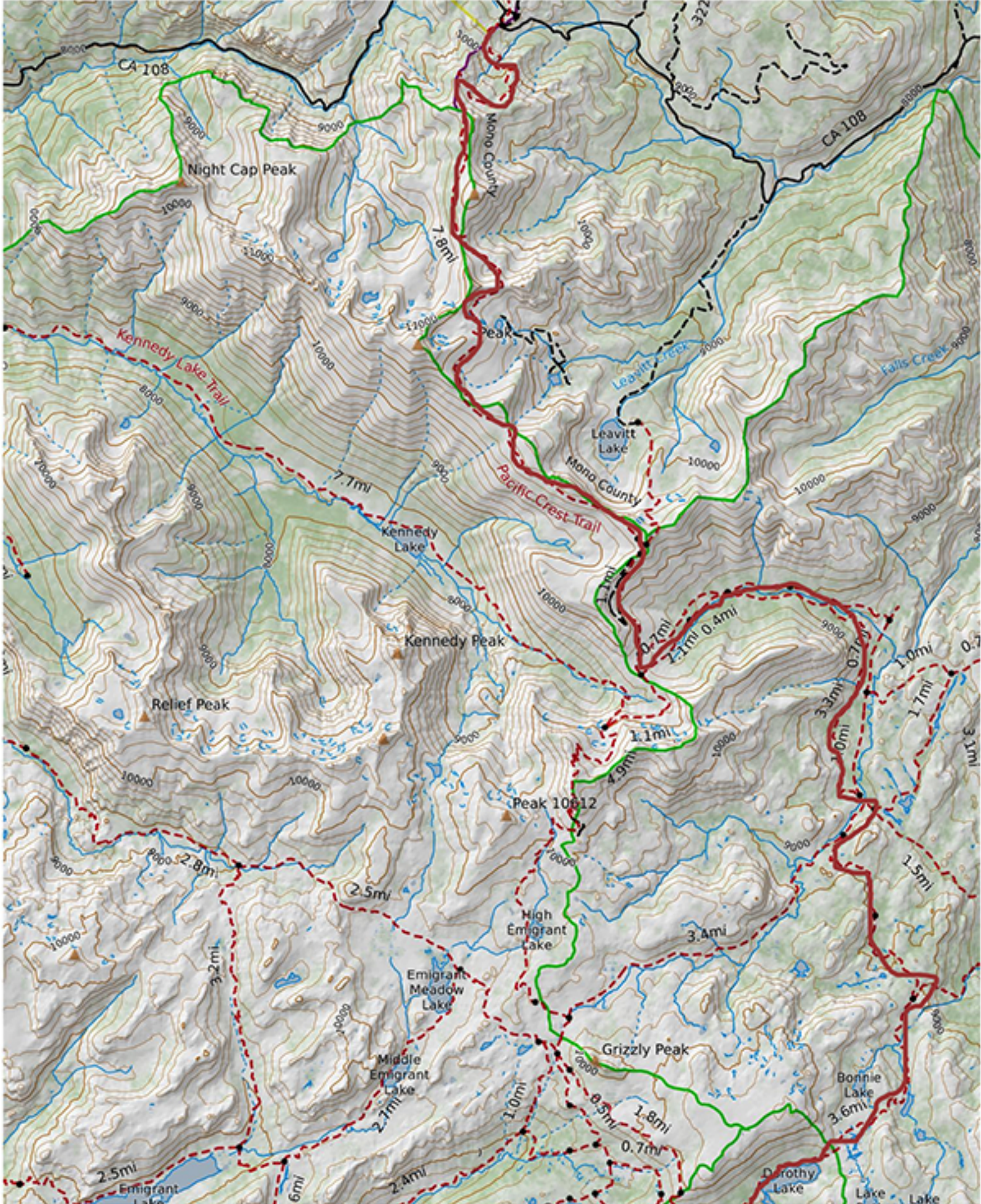
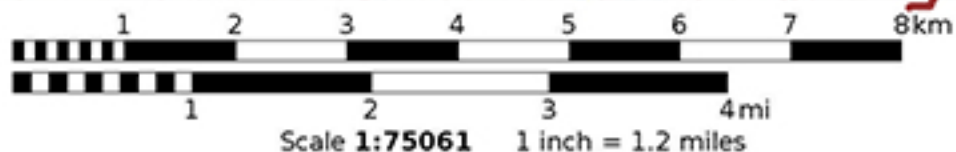


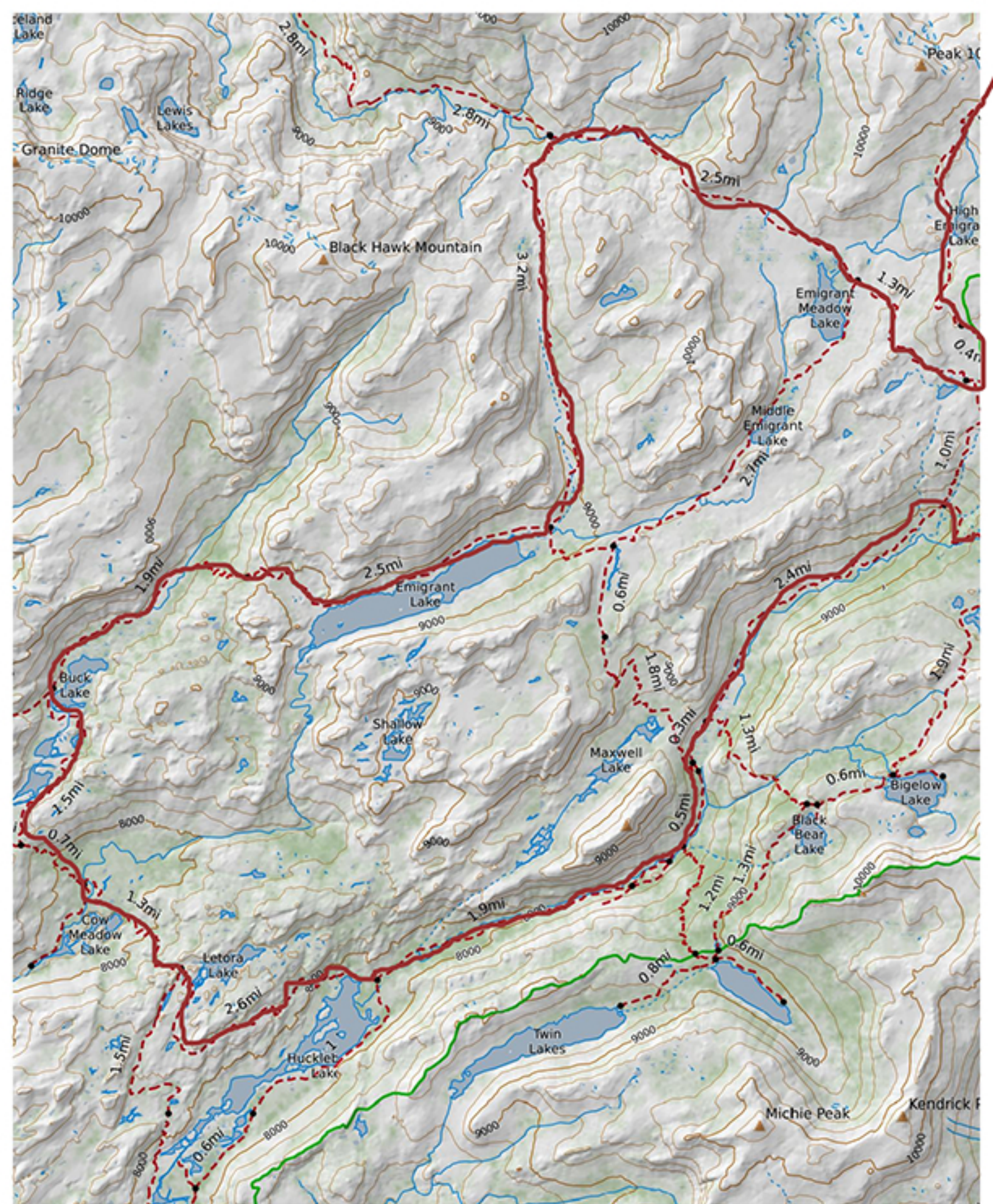
Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 11SKC
 CalTopo.com





Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 11SKC
 CalTopo.com





Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 11SKC
 CalTopo.com



Emigrant Wilderness fastpack

Distance:

75 miles

Elevation Gain/Loss:

13000'

Altitude Range:

7300' - 11550'

Location:

PCT South t/h at Sonora Pass, Emigrant Wilderness

Suggested Map:

Tom Harrison Maps 'Emigrant Wilderness'

Time Of Year:

Summer/Fall

Directions From Bishop:

395 N through Bridgeport to left on Hwy 108 to Sonora Pass, t/h is right at the pass with parking either along the roadside or just down the west side of the pass on the right

Route Description:

This route is all trail except for the optional class 1 scramble up Leavitt Peak and starts by heading south on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) for 22 miles. From the trailhead off the 108/Sonora Pass you will quickly climb up above treeline for 8 miles of sweeping views rolling along mostly mellow ridgelines. At 10 miles the PCT jogs east, descending into Kennedy Canyon before recurving south through Walker Meadows and slowly ascending back up to treeline at Dorothy Lake Pass. Just below Dorothy Lake (within a ½ mile or so) there is an obscure trail junction at 9360' for Bond Pass (a right turn). This trail is easy to miss (I don't remember it being signed.) and if you do you will continue down the PCT into long and gradual Jack Main Canyon. After a short climb up to Bond Pass you will make a short descent to Summit Meadow then continue downstream to NE end of spectacular Huckleberry Lake. Another somewhat obscure trail and junction take you around the NE side of the lake and ascends up and out of the drainage through mixed vegetation and granite slabs before several miles of rolling and winding around past Letora Lake, then Cow Meadow Lake, eventually reaching the south end of the Buck Lakes. You are now traveling through the heart of typical Emigrant Wilderness country, a vast intermingling of forest and granite outcrops with lakes that seem to have endless hidden coves and rock islands and peninsulas, filling every nook and cranny of a given drainage floor. This region receives very little foot-traffic relative to the PCT corridor and as such the trails, although for the most part obvious, are sometimes more difficult

to follow. There are also many trail junctions (the circuit I'm describing here can be added on to or shortened easily, in numerous several mile chunks), most of which are signed; but some aren't so paying attention and consulting the map frequently is essential. After winding along the east, then west, shores of the Buck Lakes the trail climbs up to spectacular Emigrant Lake, the liquid crown jewel of the Emigrant Wilderness. At the far NE end of the lake head north over Mosquito Pass, descend briefly to 9000' then head east to Brown Bear Pass. The geology of this area is surreal as you can see clearly the contact zone between the light-colored granite that defines the Sierra and the darker-colored country rock that the granite pushed up through. From Brown Bear Pass you descend through the Emigrant Meadow Lake Basin before a short, gradual climb to Emigrant Pass (The trails form a big V here and you can cut off some mileage by heading cross country to High Emigrant Lake, but the views are so incredible in this area you'll want to linger anyway.) From Emigrant Pass (not much of a distinguishable pass) the trail bombs north, climbing at first gradually, then steeply, over Big Sam to descend quickly back down to reconnect with the PCT. From here retrace your steps the 10 miles north on the PCT to Sonora Pass trailhead. It is a straightforward class 1 hike up the SE ridge from the PCT to the 11570' summit of Leavitt Peak for exceptional views.