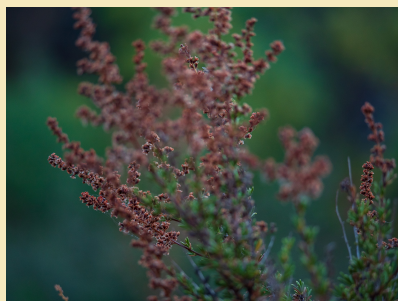


# Guided Hike: Gabbro Soils and Chapparal Habitat



Free to FOLFAN members  
\$5 for nonmembers



Date: April 15, 2023

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Skunk Hollow Parking  
Lot (South Fork of the American  
River, El Dorado County)

Distance: approximately 3.5 miles

Elevation gain: approximately  
250 feet

Duration: 2.5 hours

Difficulty: 4\*

\*Difficulty rankings are on a 1 to 5 scale. Distance, trail conditions, and elevation gain are taken into account in the ranking. Typically, 1 = easy; 2 = easy, with some moderate sections; 3 = moderate; 4 = moderate with some difficult sections; and 5 = difficult.

Did you know an “Ecological Island” exists here in the park?  
Come join FOLFAN naturalists Eric Webb and Eric Buell as we explore this unique ecosystem made possible by gabbro soils. We will discuss what makes the chaparral such a biodiverse place including fire, rare plants and wildlife. This is a fascinating hike that will take you through chaparral and oak woodland habitat types.

Given the starting elevation of about 500 feet, you will have an opportunity to see plants that occur at higher elevations than those that you may be used to seeing around Lakes Folsom and Natoma. The panoramic views of the South Fork of the American River are beautiful!

Any Questions Email: [ewebb1724@gmail.com](mailto:ewebb1724@gmail.com)

This out and back hike starts at the Skunk Hollow parking lot, off of Salmon Falls Road in El Dorado County. Hikers will travel along the Darrington Trail and along the Skunk Hollow Trail.

Both trails have steep inclines and declines with lots of exposed cobble and rock.

The Darrington Trail is narrow in places, with a sharp drop-off, and requires traversing exposed granite in some areas.

Both trails move in and out of oak woodland (shady) and chaparral (very sunny) habitats.

When hiking, it is always best to dress in layers and wear a hat and sturdy hiking shoes (a MUST for this hike). Don't forget to bring sunscreen and plenty of water.

Trekking poles are recommended.

Bring a lunch to enjoy by the river after the hike!!

This is a State Parks fee area. Restrooms are available in the parking lot.

These trails cannot accommodate wheelchairs or strollers.

Dogs are not allowed on FOLFAN guided hikes.

As with all areas of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, poison oak and ticks are present, sometimes immediately adjacent to trails.

Please pack out all trash. Garbage receptacles are available at the start/end of the hike.

Signup for this hike here:

<https://signup.zone/aBDcKLZPEgMPNFyKa>