



*Showy tarweed (Madia elegans) lights up the meadows on the approach to the imposing Youngs Rock.*

## Youngs Rock

### Location & Map

T23S.R3E.S36, Warner Mountain

### Distance

3.7 miles round trip to Youngs Rock, 6 miles round trip to intersection of Moon Point trail.

### Elevation Gain

1400 feet to Youngs Rock (3200' – 4600'), 2000 feet to Moon Point trail

### Bloom Period

early May to late July, peak in June

### Highlights

old growth Ponderosa pines, numerous dry meadows, 300' pillar rock

### Directions

Take Highway 58 2 miles east past Oakridge to Kitson Springs County Rd. After .5 mile turn right onto Rd 21. Follow Rd 21 for 18.7 miles around the reservoir then turn left on Rd 2129 (Youngs Creek Rd). For access to the middle of the Youngs Rock trail follow this for 3.2 miles. Turn right onto the rough, but short spur road 435 and in just .1 mile you'll come to where the trail crosses the road. There is a small parking area on the right (hike uphill to the left).

**W**hile Youngs Rock is more famous as a mountain biking trail, it is an exciting botanical area as well. The middle section of the trail passes through old growth Ponderosa pines and numerous dry meadows before reaching the base of the imposing 300' pillar of Youngs Rock. In June the meadows are colored with bright yellow patches of showy tarweed. In July, the uncommon royal rein orchid blooms under the conifers, followed in August by the even rarer chaparral rein orchid. The woods also hold many non-chorophyll plants like indian pipe, fringed pinesap and pine broomrape. The south side of the rock has dry climate plants like rabbitbrush and silverback luina, while the cool, north side is one of the southernmost sites for cliff paintbrush and also shelters 4 species of saxifrages. Another uncommon plant on the vertical rock faces is the beautiful Merriam's alumroot. The upper section of the trail beyond the rock is moist and shady, with a number of creeks and an entirely different selection of plants including broad-lip twayblade and leopard lily.



*Royal rein orchid (Piperia transversa), a rare orchid of dry woods, has white flowers and long straight spurs. It is common along the middle of the Youngs Rock Trail where, surprisingly, it is joined by the even rarer chaparral rein orchid (Piperia elongata), whose green flowers have long spurs which point in all directions.*