

Helena National Forest Hiking Trails

Trail	Elevation Change	Description	Directions	Distance
Townsend Ranger District				
Boulder Lakes Trail #142	920 ft.	Trail #118 from Duck Creek is steep as is Trail #142, which descends into Boulder Lakes. The area is rugged and scenic. Best to plan an overnight trip. There are suitable campsites near the Lakes.	Big Belt Mountains Take highway 12 east of Townsend for 2 miles and turn left onto Highway 284 (Canyon Ferry Road). Follow this road for 11 miles and turn right onto the Duck Creek Road #139. Follow the Duck Creek Road for approximately 11 miles to Trail #118. Take trail #118 for 6 miles to the junction of Trail #142.	9.0 miles
Cedar Bar/Faulkner Trail #105	1407 ft.	This trail is mainly used during hunting season but does allow for short outings since the trailhead is along Highway 12 and accessible by passenger vehicle	Big Belt Mountains From Townsend take Highway 12 east for approximately 16.5 miles to the trailhead.	4.0 miles
Eagle Interpretive Trail #101	700 ft	This trail has 13 stations depicting different features of the landscape and animals that inhabit the area, as well as man's influence of the area. Animals you could see are bear, elk, deer, moose, and small animals such as squirrels, rabbits, and birds. Motorized travel on the trail is restricted yearlong; road access is closed to all motorized use Dec 2 to May 15th. All other uses welcome. The cabin is not available for rent from September 1 to November 30.	Elkhorn Mountains From Townsend, go south on Highway 287 approximately 8 miles to Toston. Turn right at the Bunkhouse Bar on County Road #285 toward Radersburg. At Radersburg the pavement ends. Stay on the gravel road until you reach the forest boundary. At that point the	The short loop is 1.5 miles (2.4 km) and long loop is 3.5 miles

			road becomes Forest Road #424. Follow it for 5 miles. Turn right on #405. Cross Crow Creek and follow the signs to Eagle Station.	
Longfellow/Clear Creek Trail #112	2100 ft	<p>Scenic overlooks of both Crow Creek and Crazy Creek are breathtaking on the divide. Small meadows dot the upper Crazy Creek drainage offering a good chance to see elk, deer, black bear, and moose. There are a few dispersed campsites along the trail. In the spring wildflowers abound in the small parks. Fall brings the rutting season for elk where you may hear four or five bulls bugling at the same time. The trail is well blazed and signed. Trailhead #112 and trail #101 are a shared trail for about 1 mile. When you cross Eureka Creek veer to your right and continue until you drop down into a grassy park. Turn left and cross Longfellow Creek and turn right at the old corrals. In 1 mile you will be at the junction with Trail #133. Turn right and cross Longfellow Creek again. Turn left and start the climb to the divide between Crow Creek and Crazy Creek. At the divide you will drop into Crazy Creek. Follow the ridge toward Clear Creek. A loop opportunity is possible. From the upper junction of #112 and #133, take #133 and return to Eagle Station. At this point if you wish to continue toward Tizer Station, it is approximately 3 miles. Motorized travel on the trail is restricted yearlong; road access is closed to all motorized use Dec 1 to May 15th</p>	<p>Elkhorn Mountains From Townsend take Highway 287 south to Toston. Turn right at County Road #285 toward Radersburg. At Radersburg the pavement ends. Stay on the gravel road for the next 5 miles. At the forest boundary the road becomes Forest Road #424. Follow this until you come to the junction with Forest Road #405. Turn right and cross the Crow Creek bridge. Continue on Forest Road #405 until the junction with Eagle Station. Turn left and go past the Eagle Station 1/3 mile to the trailhead and parking area</p>	10.5 miles one-way to Tizer Station

Pole Creek Trail #117	2240 ft.	This trail accesses the Beaver Creek and McClellan Creek areas and is mainly used by hunters. It does offer opportunities for hiking and camping. This area also lets the visitor see the effects of fire on the landscape. The burn that affected this area was the Warm Spring fire of 1988. Motorized travel on the trail is restricted yearlong.	Elkhorn Mountains Take Highway 287 north of Townsend for 14 miles to the Pole Creek Road #491. Follow this road for 4 miles to the trailhead.	3.6 miles
Tizer Poe Park Trail #110	50 ft.	This trail provides access into Tizer Basin and the interior of the Elkhorn Mountains. It offers opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting and camping. The trail, closed to motorized use yearlong, is most popular during the fall big game hunting season. Motorized access to the trail from the Crow Creek Road is restricted from December 1st to May 15th.	Elkhorn Mountains Take Highway 287 north of Townsend for 11 miles to Highway 285. Turn west on Highway 285 and follow for 9 miles to the town of Radersburg. Here the road changes to the Crow Creek Road #424. Follow this road approximately 17 miles to the trailhead.	2.5 miles
Lincoln Ranger District				
Arrastra Creek Trail #482	828 ft.	This trail begins off the Beaver Creek Road #4106. The route, which parallels the creek, does have several steep inclines but the entire trail is generally well maintained. There are no bridges at the two Arrastra Creek crossings so please use caution. Because the trail transitions through talus slopes and closed canopied Douglas fir trees, it is a scenic route. There are two meadows that offer excellent camping and picnicking opportunities, with views of the surrounding mountainsides. A short distance prior to the Wilderness Boundary is a small pond that frequently attracts wildlife. Just before the second creek crossing, the	Arrastra Mountain From Lincoln travel west on State Highway 200 turn north on the Beaver Creek Road #4106. You will come to a junction, turn left and follow the Beaver Creek Road northwest approximately nine miles to Reservoir Lake and the signed trailhead. Reservoir Lake is a barren lake; so don't look for any fishing here	3.5 miles to the Wilderness Boundary

		<p>Porcupine Basin Trail #488 intersects with the Arrastra Creek Trail. Trail #488, which provides access to Huckleberry Pass, is not routinely maintained. This is Grizzly Bear country and both black and Grizzly bears visit the lake. Arrastra Creek is in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE); Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Please comply with the Food Storage Special Order LC00-18, and store your attractants and food in a bear resistant manner. A copy of the order is available at the Lincoln Ranger District or on the Helena Forest Website</p>		
CDNST Trail #440	<p>From Flesher Pass to the highest point you gain 1086 ft. From Rogers Pass to the highest point you gain 1607 ft.</p>	<p>This is a non-motorized trail with spectacular views and a variety of terrain. Mountain bikers, stock users, backpackers, and day hikers commonly use the trail. Look for many varieties of wildflowers from spring into July. You will need to pack your own water, and be prepared for drastic changes in climate during the hike; wind speeds of 60+ mph are not uncommon. The trail transitions through thick timber environment to above tree line and offers spectacular views both east and west of the Continental Divide. All types of wildlife including grizzly bears frequent the area.</p>	<p>Lewis and Clark Mountain Range Flesher Pass is located between HWY 200 and Helena on HWY 279. A new trailhead will be constructed on Flesher Pass in 2004.</p> <p>Rogers Pass is located on HWY 200 between Lincoln and Great Falls. There is some parking on both sides of HWY 200.</p>	<p>13.1 miles from Rogers Pass to Flesher Pass</p>
Heart Lake Trail	812ft	<p>Heart Lake is in the Scapegoat Wilderness, and group sizes are limited to 15 people to help preserve the Wilderness character. During the warm summer weekends you may encounter 50 people on the trail. The campsites near the lake are limited and for the most part are heavily impacted. There is a permanent hitch rail near the lake and we ask stock users</p>	<p>Scapegoat Wilderness From HWY 200 turn north on the Copper Creek Road #330 and travel approximately to 8 miles to the junction with the Indian Meadows road #1882 turn right and travel</p>	2 miles

		to please use the hitch rail when visiting the lake area. There are great views of Red Mountain, the highest mountain in the Bob Marshall Complex. This is Grizzly Bear country and both black and Grizzly bears visit the lake. Heart Lake is in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE); Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. Please comply with the Food Storage Special Order LC00-18, and store your attractants and food in a bear resistant manner. A copy of the order is available at the Lincoln Ranger District or on the Helena Forest Website	approximately 1 mile to the trailhead. Take the Mainline Trail #481 to the junction with the Heart Lake Trail #424, and follow the trail to the lake	
Sauerkraut Trail #401	1000 ft.	Sauerkraut Trail is one of the original accesses to the Lincoln View Mine, which is located near the end of the trail. As with many trails built on Forest Service land, this one was constructed for purposes other than recreation. However, it is an excellent hiking trail, especially for a family day trip, because of its short length, and also for the cultural aspect. The trail follows the creek the entire way through a closed canopied forest of Douglas fir and lodge pole pine. You may even be lucky enough to hike this trail during berry season when there are huckleberries galore. Please be careful around the mine. There are many unseen hazards. Once past the mine the trail turns into an old road. This road continues up to the intersection with Trail #404, where you will find a few other hiking options.	Ogden Mountains From Lincoln, follow Highway 200 west for a distance of 3 miles. Turn south on Dalton Mountain Road #329 and follow it approximately 4.5 miles to the junction of the Sauerkraut Road #1892. Turn right (west) proceed for approximately 3 miles where the road is gated. The trail is located on the south side of the gated road. Please note there is no sign that marks the trailhead.	4 miles round trip
Stonewall Ridge Trail #417		The walk is a beautiful ridge hike with outstanding views of the Blackfoot Valley. The junction of Trail #418 and Trail #417 is not well marked but it is located on top of the ridge.	Stonewall Mountain 1st Access is from Highway 200, turn north onto Copper	5.5 miles from Snowbank Lake 6.7 miles

		<p>Caution is advised on Stonewall Mountain due to high winds. Clouds often engulf the top of the Mountain; keep an eye out for quick changes in weather. Once past the meadow it is a steady gradual climb through a closed canopy environment. There are a few glimpses of the Lincoln Valley, but none that can compare with the view you receive once on top of Stonewall Mountain. On a clear summer afternoon the hikers can see the Garnet and Flint Mountain Ranges, which are a breathtaking sight. The ridge top is dry, so be sure to carry some water. Campsites are available throughout the trail, but the most popular is the meadow where the trail began.</p>	<p>Creek Road #330, and follow to the Snowbank Lake parking area. Follow Trail #418 to trail junction with the Stonewall Trail #417.</p> <p>2nd Access is from Highway 200, turn north onto Sucker Creek Road #1800 and follow 2.5 miles to the trailhead The trailhead sign off to the left and the parking and hitch rail is to the right.</p>	<p>from Sucker Creek</p>
Helena Ranger District				
<p>Blackfoot Meadows Trail #362</p>	<p>1420 ft.</p>	<p>This trail is located within the proposed Electric Peak Wilderness. Popular uses include hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking; motorized travel is prohibited. If the area is designated as wilderness in the future, mountain biking will be prohibited. Much of this part of the Helena National Forest is well roaded from past years of timber harvest and mining activities, however the headwaters of the Little Blackfoot provide a large roadless area with opportunities for day rides and camping sites. Two main access points will get you into this area. One is the trailhead just beyond the Kading Campground. Here there is room to turn a horse trailer around and park. The other access point is off the Ontario Creek road near the Monarch mine. A small meadow there provides trailer parking. The Larabee Gulch trail #359 has</p>	<p>Little Blackfoot Area</p> <p>Access is via Highway 12 near Elliston, turn south and travel on the Little Blackfoot Road 227 to a parking area south of Kading Campground.</p>	<p>7.50 miles</p>

		<p>no parking or turn around space. This area south of the Little Blackfoot River road is heavily timbered and trails are low gradient making it easy on the horses. The Blackfoot Meadows trail #329 follows the Little Blackfoot River into the Blackfoot Meadows. From Blackfoot Meadows you can ride southward to Cottonwood Lake or Thunderbolt Mountain on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, to the Monarch Mine trailhead or Larabee Gulch. The loop from the Kading area to Blackfoot Meadows, to Larabee Gulch and back up the road makes a good day ride. The Kading Cabin is available for rent from the Forest Service. This is an old Forest Service Guard Station used by the early day Forest Rangers. There are corrals here as well as a creek. This area is good starting point for an enjoyable weekend of day trips. Remember that certified weed seed free hay is required when feeding livestock on Forest Service land</p>		
Hanging Valley Trail #247	1360 ft.	<p>This National Recreation Trail is one of the most unique and spectacular trails in the Helena area. Hikers will want to take plenty of water on this hike. There is an elevation gain of approximately 1400 feet in the first 3 miles to trail junction #248. Then an additional 440 feet before the trail starts its' descent to the scenic overlook. At several locations along the trail, there are opportunities to enjoy outstanding scenic views. The ten switchbacks located near the end of the trail guide you down 1,000 feet to a moist valley of giant Douglas fir trees and towering limestone cliffs. As you continue down the valley, the canyon narrows</p>	<p>Big Belt Mountains Take county road 280 (otherwise know as York Road) to York. Continue approximately 7 miles past York to Vigilante campground. Proceed to the back of the campground to access the trail; a sign shows where the trail begins in a heavily timbered draw at the northeast side of the campground</p>	5.83 miles

		and the maintained trail ends. At this point only those in extremely good physical condition should proceed the last 100 yards down the steep path to the scenic overlook. The final 100 yards contains several steep (3-4 foot) drops through crevasses in the rock wall.		
Missouri/Beaver Creek Trail #254	150 ft.	This scenic trail follows the water's edge where the Missouri River winds its way through sheer cliffs. Although the trail grade is generally level, there are a few steeper sections under 100 yards long. Please note also, a portion of this trail proceeds over rocky terrain. Hikers should stay on the developed trail to avoid the dangers of rolling rocks. This trail can be accessed from the Beaver Creek Road and at Hauser Dam. The trail provides fishing access and some excellent bird-watching opportunities. Osprey, great blue heron, American white pelican, golden eagle, California and ring-billed gulls and a few species of ducks such as mergansers, may be encountered. Mammals are harder to see, but hikers may catch a glimpse of beaver, river otter, mountain goat, mule deer, elk or black bear. Hikers occasionally meet rattlesnakes on the trail, so be careful where you step.	Big Belt Mountains Take county road 280, otherwise known as York Road. At the York Bar, turn left onto a gravel road and head north about 8 miles to Nelson. At Nelson, turn left heading west toward Beaver Creek, to the Missouri River. Although this road is narrow and quite rough, especially between Nelson and the river, a passenger vehicle can usually make the trip, and it's well worth the drive	1.8 miles
Mount Helena Ridge Trail #373	800 ft.	This non-motorized 6-mile trail begins at the Park City Trailhead and ends at the Mount Helena City Park. The trail offers vistas to distant mountains, and wildflowers in season, but does have several very steep segments.	Elkhorn Mountains Access is via Grizzly Gulch Road #137 approximately 5 miles to the Park City Trailhead	5.7 miles
Refrigerator Canyon Trail #259	1760 ft.	This trail passes through a 10-foot wide, 200-foot high canyon that was carved through limestone rock by a small mountain stream. The	Big Belt Mountains/Gates of the Mountains Take county road 280, otherwise	9 Miles

		<p>canyon in appropriately named; evaporative cooling is caused by breezes blowing over the stream and through the rock walls. The canyon is only about ¼ mile from the trailhead. The beginning of the trail passes through a luxurious, shaded forest. All of the area's large mammals are known to live in this region; one can occasionally see whitetail deer and mountain goats on this hike.</p> <p>Refrigerator Canyon Trail provides hikers and horseback riders access to Bear Prairie as well as the eastern end of the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. This trail is gentle and well shaded with an open stand of timber. There is no water on the lower portions of this trail.</p>	<p>known as York Road. At the York Bar, turn left onto a gravel road and head north about 8 miles to Nelson. At Nelson, turn right heading east toward Hogback Mountain approximately 5 miles. The trailhead sign is large and easily seen from the road. For those with horses, there is a roadside turnout here with a hitching rack, but you may need to go up the road a mile or so to turn around.</p>	
<p>Trout Creek Canyon Trail #270</p>	540 ft.	<p>The trail through Trout Creek Canyon was once part of the Figure 8 Scenic Route; this three-mile segment was destroyed during a spring flood in 1981 and has been maintained as a trail ever since. It features some spectacular viewing opportunities of magnificent limestone formations. Although the entire trail surface is graveled or native material, the first mile is accessible. An information kiosk with interpretive brochures is located a short distance from the trailhead. The first mile trail segment also features a bench and picnic table.</p>	<p>Big Belt Mountains Take county road 280 (otherwise know as York Road). Continue approximately 8 miles past York to Vigilante Campground. Parking for this trailhead is provided at the campground entrance</p>	3 miles