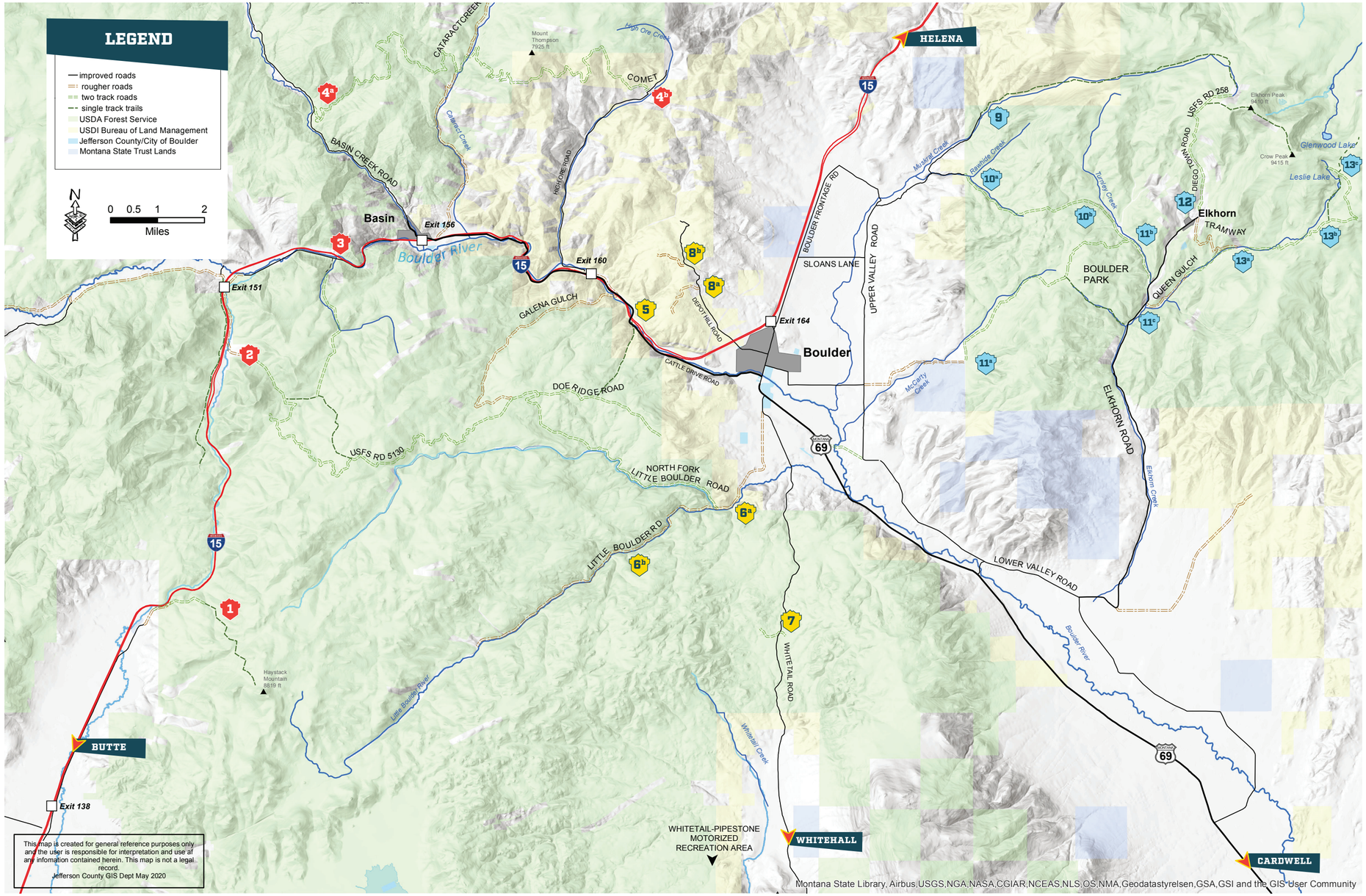
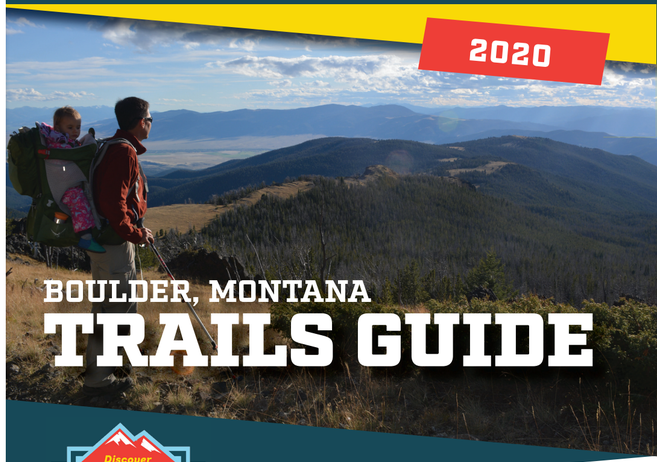


Trail Etiquette

- Know your right of way. Hikers coming uphill have the right of way. Bicyclists yield to hikers and horses or other pack stock. Hikers yield to horse, other pack stock and cattle.
- Make yourself known. When you encounter other hikers and trail users, offer a friendly "hello" or a head nod. This helps create a friendly atmosphere on the trail.
- Do not disturb wildlife. They need their space, and you need yours, too. Keep your distance from the wildlife you encounter
- Many of the trails traverse open range land. Be aware that you may encounter cattle especially when ranchers are moving cattle.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles. Leave rocks, vegetation, and artifacts where you find them. Be careful when stepping off the trail as going off trail can damage or kill certain plant or animal species.
- Be mindful of trail conditions. If a trail is too wet and muddy, turn back. Using a muddy trail can be dangerous, damage the trail's condition, and the surrounding ecosystems.

Visit *jeffersoncounty-mt.gov/trails.html* for:

- Regulations and guidelines for recreation on public lands
- Extended trail descriptions
- Local geography



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JEFFERSON COUNTY MONTANA

jeffersoncounty-mt.gov/trails.html

1 Haystack Mountain (USFS)

Distance: 3.0 miles one-way
Net Elevation Gain: 2100 ft

Highest peak in Boulder Mountains (8819 ft) and National Recreation Trail with remnants of fire lookout. Singletrack ascends steep, rocky grade through forest past huge boulder mounds to exposed summit of granite slabs with panoramic views of multiple mountain ranges and drainages.

From Boulder take I-15 south 26 miles to Elk Park (Exit 138). On east side of I-15 follow frontage road north 4.6 miles and turn right, then immediately left 0.7 miles to dead end and gated road on right. Road from here not suitable for two-wheel drive. Park and hike or continue through gate 1.2 miles to TH; be aware of possible deadfall across road.

2 Bear Gulch (USFS)

Distance: 5 miles one-way to Sullivan Gulch TH; 3.5 miles one-way to Upper Bear Gulch Meadows; or 7.7 mile loop
Net Elevation Gain: 1200 ft (above Sullivan Gulch); 1400 ft (Upper Bear Gulch Meadows)

Narrow motorized track follows Bear Creek up mild incline funneling between Sullivan Mountain and Bear Mountain into clearing at 1 mile, where track connects to other trails and roads. Keep left, either to link to Sullivan Gulch or wind up gully through lodgepole forest to Upper Bear Gulch Meadows and beyond, with option to loop back to clearing.

From I-15 Exit 151 (Bernice) take Bear Gulch Road south then east 1.7 miles to TH. Small parking area with ATV unloading structure, large enough for most horse trailers to turn around.

3 Sullivan Gulch (USFS)

Distance: 2.0 miles one-way to Swede Park; 5.0 miles one-way to Bear Gulch TH;
Net Elevation Gain: 850 ft (Swede Park); 1400 ft (above Bear Gulch)

Keep left along base of hill to avoid wet meadow. Non-maintained trail follows creek along gentle incline into narrow gulch bounded by high slopes of scree before intersecting with motorized trail in 1.25 miles. At 1 mile stay right to climb to Swede Park, or at 2 miles stay right to climb steeply to link to Bear Gulch.

From I-15 Exit 156 (Basin) take Cattle Drive Trail west 2.8 miles to TH. Or, from I-15 Exit 151 (Bernice) take Cattle Drive Trail 2.3 miles east to TH. Sign at TH not readily visible; look for pull-out on north side wide enough to turn large horse trailer around.

4 Basin Creek to Comet (USFS, BLM)

Distance: 15 miles one-way
Net Elevation Gain: 550 ft point-to-point, but up to 1700 ft (east of Mount Thompson)

Point-to-point ride on rolling, winding OHV roads skirting wooded gulches and high points with views. Roughly follows powerline to climb generally from Basin Canyon Campground to mining remnants of Comet Ghost Town with minimal net elevation gain, but terrain presents recurring climbs and descents for more substantial total gain.

From I-15 Exit 156 (Basin), on north side of I-15, follow frontage road west 0.5 miles into Basin and turn right onto Quartz Avenue. Proceed 0.3 miles and keep right across narrow bridge onto Basin Creek Road (USFS 1723). Continue 3.2 miles to park in large pull-out at Saul Haggerty Gulch on right **(4a)**. Basin Canyon Campground and Picnic Area offers a few undeveloped campsites within 0.25 miles best suited for tents or small camping trailers.

To shuttle from Comet: From I-15 Exit 160 (High Ore), on north side of I-15, follow frontage road 0.5 miles west, curving right onto High Ore Road. Continue 4.0 miles, past Comet Ghost Town, to park in slim pull-out on right where narrow dirt road descends from first left just past town structures **(4b)**.

5 Kilborn Gulch (BLM, USFS)

Distance: 2.0 miles one-way or continue on Doe Ridge Road.
Net Elevation Gain: 1200 ft to Doe Ridge Road

Non-maintained track follows wooded gulch up moderate incline across BLM Big Game Winter Range before climbing more steeply to ridge road that leads to meadow views.

From Boulder drive south on Main Street and turn right on Cattle Drive Road. Continue 2.8 miles to TH. Pull up 8-foot incline to park in small clearing visible from road. Or, from I-15 take Exit 160 (High Ore) and drive east on Cattle Drive Road 1.6 miles to TH. Limited locations to turn a horse trailer around.

6 Little Boulder River (BLM, USFS)

Distance: Variable
Net Elevation Gain: Variable

Hike, bike, or ride roads tracing Little Boulder River or its North Fork, climbing gently to moderately on mixed-use trails linking to Doe Ridge, Galena Park, Galena Gulch, Berrys Meadows, McGinley Gulch, Mount Pisgah, Little Boulder Park, and others. Most destinations at least 5 miles one-way.

From Boulder take Hwy 69 south 0.5 miles. Turn right on Whitetail Road near fairgrounds. In 0.5 miles stay straight onto Little Boulder Road (USFS RD 86). Proceed 2.5 miles to junction with North Fork Road (USFS 638) and small parking area **(6a)**, or continue to park at Elder Creek Picnic Area at 5.2 miles **(6b)**. Road past North Fork junction not suitable for two-wheel drive, becoming increasingly rutted past Elder Creek.

7 Whitetail-Boulder Divide (USFS)

Distance: Variable
Net Elevation Gain: Variable

Hike, bike, or ride through forest and high sage meadows, winding past rocky outcroppings on mixed-use roads and trails with sweeping views of surrounding ridgelines. Options to begin or link from various TH pull-outs north along Whitetail Road.

From Boulder take Hwy 69 south 0.5 miles. Turn right on Whitetail Road near fairgrounds. In 0.5 miles turn left and continue 4.8 miles to top of divide where road flattens and opens into sagebrush park. Park in pull-out on right, or large parking area on left that leads to dispersed camping.

8 Depot Hill (BLM)

Distance: Variable
Net Elevation Gain: Variable

Routes close to town ramble and fork along roads and tracks through sage flats or lightly wooded hills from parking near radio tower.

From Main Street in Boulder drive west 0.7 miles on Second Avenue to cross beneath I-15 where road transitions to Depot Hill Road.

8a: From I-15 underpass drive 1.3 miles on Depot Hill Road and turn left just past Free Enterprise Radon Health Mine (Snow Road) to park on BLM beneath radio tower. Continue hiking dirt road through dappled juniper, fir, and sage, or explore non-maintained and often obscure tracks that climb, braid, and loop across broad knob southwest of tower.

8b: From underpass drive 2.0 miles on Depot Hill Road and turn left just past radio tower (dirt road may be rutted past Free Enterprise Radon Health mine at 1.3 miles). Proceed 0.1 mile uphill. To park, fork left into pull-out beneath tower; to hike, fork right for notable route following gentle 1-mile climb one-way through open sage and fir on clear motorized track with views, to vantage above Boulder and ridgeline vista of Elkhorn and Crow Peaks. Options to branch off along grassy ridges.

9 Muskrat Creek (BLM, USFS)

Distance: 6.0 miles to junction with USFS Trail No. 111 (Tizer Lakes Trail/Iron Mine Trail); 6.75 miles to Iron Mine then 0.5 mile climb to Windy Point and another 0.5 mile climb to Elkhorn Peak.
Net Elevation Gain: 2800 ft to junction Trail No. 111; 3200 ft to Iron Mine; 3650 ft to Windy Point; 4050 ft to Elkhorn Peak

Trail follows Muskrat Creek, climbing steadily from meadow-studded Ponderosa pine forest with high rocky rims before narrowing up through lodgepole woods. Traverse high, boggy slopes toward views of Elkhorn Peak and junction with USFS Trail No. 111. From junction, dip down 2.4 miles into basin to meet Tizer Lake Road #164 and continue to Tizer Lakes, or resume ascent to Iron Mine and climb to Windy Point or Elkhorn and Crow Peaks.

From north end of Boulder take Boulder Frontage Road 1.5 miles and turn right on Sloans Lane. After 1.3 miles bear left on Upper Valley Road. Continue 1 mile then turn right onto Muskrat Road. Proceed 2.3 miles and cross shallow water passable by two-wheel drive under most conditions. Continue 0.1 miles to small parking area at TH accommodating most horse trailers.

10 Rawhide-Ninety Cent Gulch (USFS)

10a FROM RAWHIDE

Distance: 2.2 miles one-way to meadow summit
Net Elevation Gain: 1300 ft

Two-track along wooded gulch climbs past granite outcrops to meadow view. Link to Ninety Cent Gulch.

From north end of Boulder take Boulder Frontage Road east 1.5 miles and turn right on Sloans Lane. After 1.3 miles bear left on Upper Valley Road. Continue 1 mile and turn right onto Muskrat Road, then right again in 0.6 miles. Drive from here may require high-clearance; park in pull-out and hike wooded road or drive 0.8 miles to TH.

10b FROM NINETY CENT GULCH

Distance: 2.0 miles one-way to meadow summit
Net Elevation Gain: 700 ft

Two-track climbs from confluence of creeks at head of Turnely Meadows along trickle through lower wetland clearings into lodgepole forest to meadow view. Link to Rawhide.

From Boulder follow Highway 69 south 7 miles and turn left at Elkhorn sign onto White Bridge Lane. Cross Boulder River and continue right 3 miles, keeping left at your first junction then left again onto Elkhorn Road. Drive 7.5 miles to unsigned left turn. Two-wheel drive not recommended from here. Cross immediate shallow creek then turn right. Proceed 1.5 miles to TH.

11 Boulder Park (USFS)

11a BOULDER PARK FROM MCCARTY CREEK

Distance: 3.1 miles one-way
Net Elevation Gain: 1110 ft

Rocky jeep trail follows McCarty Creek, rolling gently through meadows and groves with minor water crossings before mounting moderate ascent through trees including short, narrow, boulder-studded pitch. Route summits into Boulder Park and links to other trails.

From Boulder take East Fourth Avenue 0.5 miles, curving right onto Muskrat Lane. In another 0.7 miles cross Upper Valley Road at yield sign and continue straight onto McCarty Creek Road. After 0.5 miles cross cattle-guard with large pull-out and curve left. Proceed 1.8 miles to dead end with large parking area and turn-around (final ruts may require high-clearance vehicle).

11b BOULDER PARK FROM TURNLEY MEADOWS

Distance: 2 miles one-way
Net Elevation Gain: 600 ft

Boulder-studded OHV trail winds up through lodgepole forest to Boulder Park and links to other trails. Be aware of possible deadfall across trail.

From Boulder follow Highway 69 south 7 miles and turn left at Elkhorn sign onto White Bridge Lane. Cross Boulder River and continue right 3 miles, keeping left at your first junction then left again onto Elkhorn Road. Drive 7.5 miles to unsigned left turn. Two-wheel drive not recommended from here. Cross immediate shallow creek then turn right. Proceed 1 mile to TH on left.

11c BOULDER PARK FROM TWENTY-ONE GULCH

Distance: 2.0 miles one-way
Net Elevation Gain: 850 ft

Track along creek follows wet meadow corridor 0.5 miles then climbs through lodgepole forest past wooded stretches of boulder scree to Boulder Park and links to other trails. NOTE: Route may be obscure, especially through lower meadow and deadfall across upper trail. Deadfall after 1 mile requires extended navigation until gate, then route-finding for final 0.5 miles.

From Boulder follow Highway 69 south 7 miles and turn left at Elkhorn sign onto White Bridge Lane. Cross Boulder River and continue right 3 miles, keeping left at your first junction then left again onto Elkhorn Road. Drive 6 miles and cross bridge, hooking immediately left down brief hill to TH with space to turn horse trailer.

12 Elkhorn and Crow Peaks (USFS)

Distance: 3.5 miles one-way to Windy Point; 4.0 miles one-way to Elkhorn Peak; 5.5 miles one-way to Crow Peak

Net Elevation Gain: 2500 ft to Windy Point; 2760 ft to Elkhorn Peak; 2790 ft to Crow Peak

Steep jeep road with rocky footing climbs 2.8 miles to track on right. Track narrows as it ascends to Windy Point with distinctive white marble outcropping and stunning views including Elkhorn town. Keep left through rocky alpine meadow to find faint trail marked by cairns leading up through scree to exposed Elkhorn Peak (9381 ft). NOTE: No defined route from here. Ridge across scree saddle with loose footing through stunted whitebark pine leads to Crow Peak (9414 ft) with views into Tizer Basin of Hidden Lake, Tizer Lakes, and Glenwood Lake.

From Boulder follow Highway 69 south 7 miles and turn left at Elkhorn sign onto White Bridge Lane. Cross Boulder River and continue right 3 miles, keeping left at your first junction then left again onto Elkhorn Road. Continue 8 miles to Elkhorn. Keep left through town 0.4 miles then curve right to sign at T junction. Turn left and climb short hill past old railroad water tank to park.

13 Leslie Lake, Glenwood Lake, Elkhorn Skyline Mine (USFS)

Distance: 3.3 miles one-way (Leslie Lake); 4.0 miles one-way (Glenwood Lake TH); 4.4 miles one-way (Elkhorn Skyline Mine);
Net Elevation Gain: 1700 ft (Leslie Lake); 2100 (Glenwood Lake TH, with 325 ft drop to Glenwood Lake); 1925 ft (Elkhorn Skyline Mine);

From parking spot **(13a)**, steep jeep road with rocky footing and shallow water crossings climbs 3 miles to junction **(13b)**. From junction, follow gentler track left 0.8 miles with high cliff views across gully to arrive at Leslie Lake ***OR*** bypass junction 13b to continue on jeep road past sweeping valley views to second junction at 4 miles **(13c)** then follow Glenwood Lake Trail 2.5 miles along forest ridge dropping into Tizer Basin; ***OR*** bypass both junctions 13b,c to continue on jeep road to 4.4 miles to explore Elkhorn Skyline Mine with option to loop back past Leslie Lake. For experienced navigators, drop down to Glenwood Lake from Glenwood Lake Trail through steep lodgepole deadfall ***(WARNING: No trail down to lake, abundant deadfall, route-finding required).***

From Boulder follow Highway 69 south 7 miles and turn left at Elkhorn sign onto White Bridge Lane. Cross Boulder River and continue right 3 miles, keeping left at your first junction then left again onto Elkhorn Road. Continue 8 miles to Elkhorn. Keep left through town 0.4 miles then curve right to sign at T junction. Two-wheel drive not recommended beyond here. Take right 0.4 miles, curving left uphill and continuing left on Tramway (sign says Designated Route) to drop gently another 1.5 miles. Park beside creek with very limited space at junction with Queen Gulch **(13a)**.