

HIKING TRAILS NEAR RED LODGE

Face of the Mountain Trail (new 2011!)

From Highway 212 on the south edge of Red Lodge, turn left onto Meetetse Trail Road; drive 3.3 miles on this dirt, (seldom maintained) county road to the signed trailhead on your right. The trail crosses private, open sage land for 1 ¼ mi., then BLM land to lazy switchbacks of the old Black & White Road (the original road to Beartooth Pass). Atop the ridge, (after a 1700' gain) with great views of Red Lodge to the north, you are overlooking North Fork Grove Cr. Canyon. Hike another 1 ½ mi. down & up through lodge pole pine forest and you are on another ridge overlooking South Fork Grove Cr. Canyon. Both these canyons have wonderful views of limestone spires. The trail continues south to the Wyoming border (Robertson Draw and Line Cabin); eight total miles possible.

Hikes up the West Fork of Rock Creek

Willow Cr. (a.k.a. Palisades Campground) Trail

From Highway 212, turn right/west near the south end of Red Lodge on West Fork Road toward Red Lodge Mountain Resort; go one mile on pavement, turn right onto Palisades Campground Road, then another 1 ½ miles on gravel to the Campground. The trailhead is at the far west end of the campground. This is a pleasant, forested, streamside, steady uphill trail about two miles and 800' elevation to the Red Lodge Mtn. parking lot. Nice mountain biking.

Nichols Cr. Trail

Turn right/west off Highway 212 on the south edge of Red Lodge onto West Fork Road. Proceed 2.7 miles; turn left at the fork, staying on pavement; go 1/4 mile and turn right down a short turn off and park. This two-track is about 2 miles and 1000' uphill in

lodge pole forest, following the creek half way and eventually dead-ending. It is a quiet place close to town. Good mountain biking.

Silver Run Trails

Turn right/west off Highway 212 on the south edge of Red Lodge onto West Fork Road and proceed 2.7 miles; turn left where the road forks (right is Ski Run Rd.) and continue on pavement another 1 ½ miles. Turn left at the sign for Silver Run Road, cross the West Fork of Rock Creek bridge and park. The trails begin about ¼ mile west of the parking lot. Loop 1: 2.4 miles; loop 2: 3.4 miles; loop 3: 4.5 miles; loop 4: 5.1 miles. All are in lodge pole pine forest and all return along the river. All are slightly up hill at first. Loop 4 connects to the Basin Lakes Trail. Nice mountain biking.

Another option here is the Ingles Creek Trail which branches south off loop 2 past the bridge, and continues uphill about 2 miles and 1600' to the ridge, meeting the Silver Run trail, then a mile down to the trailhead.

[The Silver Run Trail begins at the same parking lot as the Loop trails, or you can drive up that Silver Run road (high clearance vehicle) two miles to the trailhead to begin/end that hike. The distance from the Silver Run trailhead to the plateau is 2+ miles and 2000' elevation.]

Basin Creek Lakes Trail*

Turn west off Highway 212, south side of Red Lodge, onto West Fork Road and continue 2.7 miles; turn left at the junction of Ski Run Rd., continuing on pavement 4.2 miles; turn left at the Basin Cr. Lake trailhead. This trail is uphill 2 ½ miles and 1400' to the lower lake, and another 1 ½ miles and 700' to the upper lake, all in lodge pole pine forest. (No horses except during hunting season).

Timberline Lake Trail*

Four miles past Basin Lakes trailhead on the left is Timberline L. Trailhead. The Timberline L. trail is four miles and 2,100' through forest, near the stream (in burned forest much of the way). The lake is at the foot of 12,500' Silver Run Mountain. You pass Lake Gertrude about ½ mile below Timberline L. [A junction at 2 ½ miles takes you left up to Silver Run Lakes (1 ½ mi. and 700') and the switchbacks up to Silver Run Plateau, which continues on as the Beartrack Trail over the Plateau. (No bikes)].

Senia Creek Trail* (new trailhead 2010)

The Senia trailhead is at the end of West Fork road. This trail is a steep uphill, about 2.5 miles and 2,000' to the Red Lodge Cr. Plateau. It connects to the Red Lodge Cr. Trail (north east) and to the Spread Cr. Trail down to East Rosebud Lake.

West Fork Trail *

At the end of West Fork Road (12.7 miles from Red Lodge) is the trailhead for the West Fork Trail. This pleasant 4 mile hike gaining 1,000' and passing Calamity Falls and Sentinel Falls, takes you to Quinnebaugh Meadows. The trail continues up to Lake Mary or on to Sundance Pass.

*Note: Basin, Timberline, Senia and West Fork Trails are all in some burned timber from the 2008 Cascade fire.

Hikes off Hwy. 212, the Beartooth Highway

Mount Maurice Trail

Four miles south of Red Lodge on Hwy. 212, turn left/east onto the East Side Road (or park at the Rock Creek Resort and walk across the footbridge to the East Side Road). About ½ mile from the highway, on the gravel East Side Road, turn left on a dirt road and park as soon as possible. Walk up this road a short way and open the gate...you are on the trail. It is a pleasant uphill hike through open and forested land,

(Hikes off Highway 212 cont.)

and continues 3,000' over more than three miles to the Line Creek Plateau. There are nice destinations along the way, and the lower section has great views of the valley.

Corral Creek Trail

Four miles south of Red Lodge on Highway 212, turn left on the East Side Road, drive three miles along the East Side Road to the Corral Cr. Trailhead. This parking lot and trail sign are on your left, across the road from Rattin Campground. Take the trail behind the small sign and continue directly across the driveway. About ¼ mile on the trail you will cross another driveway...look for small "Trail" signs in the immediate area to again get you on the trail. This pleasant uphill walk follows the creek to the Line Creek Plateau (over 3,000' and three+ miles), with several nice destinations along the way; great views of the 2000 Willy Fire down valley.

Beartrack Trail (a.k.a. Sheep Creek Trail)

This trailhead is eight miles south of Red Lodge on Highway 212, on the right side of the road, signed "Beartrack Trailhead". It is about three miles and 3,000' up to the Silver Run Plateau. The first 1,500'/one mile are through open hillsides with great views of the Rock Creek valley. On the Plateau, the trail connects with the Silver Run Trail and the continuation of the Beartrack Trail to Silver Run Lakes and the Timberline L. Trail.

Lake Fork Trail

Eight and a half miles south of Red Lodge, turn right/west off Highway 212 at the "Lake Fork" sign. This paved road goes two miles to the trailhead. It is a pleasant uphill grade along the creek and in the forest, three miles/800' to Broadwater Lake; four miles/1,300' to Lost Lake; 5½ miles/ 2,000' to Black Canyon Lake; or six miles/ 1,500' to Keyser Brown Lake. The trail continues up to September Morn Lake

and Sundance Pass.

There is also a 1 mile+/300' trail from Lions Camp to the Lake Fork trailhead on the east side of Lake Fork Creek. Less than one mile in on the Lake Fork road is the Lions Camp turn-off on your left; continue past this turn-off about ¼ mile, park beside the road on your left, and look for a foot bridge below the road, crossing the creek to that short trail.

Hikes up the Main Fork of Rock Creek

Parkside Recreational Trail

Ten and one-half miles south of Red Lodge on Highway 212, turn right/west at the "campgrounds" sign; turn right again less than ¼ mile in and park in the first parking lot; look for the Parkside Recreational Trail sign on the south side of the lot. This trail is less than two miles of gentle, mostly open terrain, paralleling Rock Creek. Another short hike (1/4 mile) goes from nearby Greenough Campground to Greenough Lake.

Glacier Lake Trail

Ten and one-half miles south of Red Lodge on Highway 212, turn right/west at the "campgrounds" sign; continue on this paved road about ½ mile, across Wyoming Creek bridge, past the Limberpine campground, then left on the gravel road where it forks. Drive 7 ½ miles on this very rough road to the Glacier Lake trailhead. It is 1 ½ miles/ 1,100' to Glacier Lake through rocky, alpine terrain with high, granite cliffs in the background. (No bikes, no horses).

Notes: # indicates trails in designated Wilderness where bicycles are prohibited.

Horses are allowed on all these trails except where noted. When encountering horses, hikers should step 10'-15' off the downhill side of the trail to let them pass; speak normally to the horse and rider. Always **control your dog** (leashes recommended) to protect your dog, yourself, others, and wildlife.

These trails are on **US Forest Service** public land. The *Alpine-Mount Maurice* topographical map by Rocky Mtn. Surveys is a good reference for these hikes. Day Hikes in the Beartooths by Robert Stone will define these and many more hikes in the area. Call the Beartooth Ranger District, USFS, **406-446-2103** for specific, up-to-date information about trail conditions and restrictions. Their office is located on the south edge of Red Lodge on Highway 212.

