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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

HIKING TRAILS IN SNOWMASS VILLAGE

GOVERNMENT TRAIL EAST: This trail is about 6 miles (9.6 km) in length. The trail is steep at both ends and there are several short, steep sections along the way. Mountain bikers will find that this trail requires strong technical riding abilities because of the stream crossings, rocks and other obstacles that are along the way. It crosses Snowmass Mountain, Buttermilk Mountain and ends at Maroon Creek Road in Aspen near the public schools. You can reach the trail from the top of Wood Road. There is a parking lot several hundred feet beyond the end of the pavement. From the parking lot the road runs east across the ski slopes. Follow the Elk Camp Work Road up to a well marked intersection. It then drops from the Tiehack side of Buttermilk Mountain down to Maroon Creek, crossing a footbridge, and climbs back to Maroon Creek Road.

GOVERNMENT TRAIL WEST: This trail starts either off of the Ditch Trail or at the trailhead intersection with the Government Trail East and the Elk Camp Work Road. This trail is more easily done from east to west. The single track starts off of the Elk Camp Work Road, traverses across several ski runs, crosses the High Alpine Work Road, and then descends to the several Brush Creek Crossings. These streams are difficult to cross until July. Then you climb up to the Burlingame Lift and then continue over to the Campground area and finally descend to the Ditch Trail.

DITCH TRAIL: This trail starts at the top of Divide Road, across from Krablooniks Restaurant and Kennels. From the parking lot the trail follows an irrigation ditch. After about a mile you will find panoramic views of the Snowmass Creek Valley and Mount Daly. The trail is 1.7 miles (2.7 km) in length. It is an easy trail for bikers or hikers. From there you can access the West Government Trail (a steep, uphill climb) and the East Snowmass Creek Trail which is in the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness Area. **No bikes are allowed in the Wilderness.**

FOX RUN TRAIL: Begins near the Fire Station. It passes through the aspen trees, uphill from Owl Creek Road. In the meadow below Fox Run you can either follow the trail down to the Little Red School House, where you can catch the Owl Creek Trail, or you can continue to Fox Run Drive. Follow the road down to the Owl Creek Trail.

MOUNTAIN VIEW TRAIL: Follow the Parcours Trail to the top of the draw located west of the Snowmass Center. From there the Mountain View Trail continues west along the hillside. This is a short and easy trail. There are excellent views of Snowmass Village and the ski area.

NATURE TRAIL: This trail begins near the Snowmass Village Mall. This is an easy and pleasant one mile hike to the Snowmass Divide. About a quarter of a mile up the trail is a picnic area. Along this trail you will see many types of mountain vegetation. A self-guided nature walk brochure, which can be found at the trailhead, will be useful. Please observe bike closures.

OWL CREEK TRAIL: This is the major trail between Snowmass Village and Aspen. It is very popular with bikers, joggers, and walkers. The trail begins in Snowmass Village behind the Fire Station. The trail crosses the golf course to Owl Creek Road near the Little Red School House. After crossing the road, continue to follow the path along Owl Creek Road to Sinclair Divide. The trail then descends through the Owl Creek Valley to Highway 82. Cross the highway. There the trail goes left to the Aspen Airport Business Center or right into Aspen.

SLEIGHRIDE TRAIL: This trail begins at the top of upper Snowmelt Road. The trail crosses the base of the ski slope, ending at the Divide. It is a gravel trail and easy for hikers and mountain bikers.

BIG BURN WORK ROAD: This trail can be accessed from either the top of Wood Road or from the Divide. It crosses under two lifts, following the hillside to a large meadow. Continue across the meadow, passing under the Big Burn Lift. About 200 feet past the lift the work road turns right and begins to meander uphill. It rises to an elevation of about 11,700 feet.

ELK CAMP WORK ROAD: The Elk Camp Work Road begins at the top of Wood Road. The road climbs gradually to the intersection with the Government Trail. Along the way it passes the High Alpine work Road. The road continues to wind its way uphill, passing the top of the Funnel Lift and then along the base of the Hanging Valley Wall, a favorite run for expert skiers. At the top you will find outstanding views of the Maroon Bells and the Snowmass Wilderness Area.

GRACIE'S TRAIL: From the parking lot near the Owl Creek Road/Fairway Drive intersection, you climb the fence at the back of the parking lot. Follow the dirt road through the meadow to Gracie's cabin. Uphill from the cabin follow the unimproved dirt trail along the east edge of a meadow. At the upper end of the meadow the trail continues up the mountain passing through the trees. After two miles Gracie's Trail joins the Government Trail.

HIGHLINE TRAIL: This is a short and fun hike. You gain access at several locations, including either Highline Road or Owl Creek Road. If you wish to drive to the trail, you can park you can park next to the Rodeo Arena on Brush Creek Road. The Highline Trail is a beginner to intermediate trail. There are two short but somewhat steep sections, one on the south side of Hidden Valley (Cemetery Lane) and the other near Owl Creek Road. The trail provides many spectacular views of Snowmass Village, Mt. Daly and Capitol Peak.

RIDGE RUN TRAIL: This trail is a little over one mile in length. It originates at the Snowmass Village Mall and is an easy hike. Follow the path down Fanny Hill, proceed on the downhill side of Wood Road to the bridge. After crossing over Wood Road follow the ski trail uphill. About 1/2 mile (.8 Km.) from the bridge there is a short, steep climb up to Ridge Run. There the trail passes through aspen trees, ending at Faraway Road. This is a very pleasant walk.

RIM TRAIL: The Rim Trail is five miles in length and is a great walking trail. It begins near the Rodeo Parking Lot. At the back of the parking lot climb over the fence which separates the parking lot from the meadow. **(Please do not take dogs on this trail!)** Begin walking north toward the upper end of the meadow. (This is an irrigated meadow - be careful where you walk). Part way up the meadow you will be required to climb another fence. Follow the dirt road on the east side of the meadow. Please avoid any horses grazing in the pasture--they are not as tame as they may seem! At the back of the meadow the trail begins to climb to the rim. If you wish to avoid the meadow you can begin hiking this trail at the top of Sinclair Road where parking is also available. This hiking trail, because of its length and several steep sections, is intermediate to advanced. It is very difficult for even the best mountain bikers. From this trail there are magnificent panoramic views of the valley.

SAM'S KNOB WORK ROAD: This is the same as the Big Burn Work Road. When the Big Burn Work Road reaches the meadow, however, the Sam's Knob Work Road continues up the meadow, known as Max Park. At the top of Max Park the road loops around the hill. It then climbs gently to the top of the Sam's Knob Lift. There are excellent views from this point.