



Trail rules:

- Always practice Leave No Trace. Visit <https://lnt.org/> for more info.
- Every trail on the list is multi-use in some capacity. That means you could see other hikers, bikes, and horses. It is important to know that bikers should yield to hikers/runners and hikers/runners and bikers yield to horses. That being said, this link is a helpful link:
<https://www.rei.com/blog/hike/trail-etiquette-who-has-the-right-of-way>.
- Please make sure your dogs are under command recall or leashed when intersecting with other users. Always pick up their poop -especially at the trailhead!
- We highly recommend you recommend carrying (and knowing how to use) bear spray on all the routes. Although some are more popular with human activity, they are all in bear country.

Disclaimers:

- This is for fun. Pure and simple. If you don't like fun, don't sign up. Our motto is LOW KEY, HIGH ELEVATION and this little trail series is as low key as it gets. Enjoy!
- Distances vary depending on what source you look out. Heck, we could wear 3 watches on one wrist and still get different numbers. So relax, go with the flow and complete the trail as described. If you're feeling anxious about distance, see above bullet.
- If you are not familiar with a trail, we highly recommend using the trail forks links provided (this resource won't work for trails in the Wilderness because you can't

bike in the Wilderness) to look at satellite maps. Trail forks is an awesome free app you can download on your phone too! If you have any questions about a route, don't hesitate to reach out!

- A photo album will be created shortly that includes images of the start/finish point of each route.
- GPX files will be created of each trail as soon as they melt out and we can get out to run them.

1. Willow Creek Trail

- a. Distance: 4 miles round trip, 2 up, 2 down
- b. Starting Info: Start at the juncture of the Willow Creek Trail and Palisades Trail. Basically, walk past the bathroom and information kiosk until you see the sign for the Palisades Trail. Don't turn onto the Palisades Trail (trail to the right) but start and finish your watch here.
- c. Turn Around Point: At approximately 2 miles, you'll pop out of the trail and onto the Ski Run Road. Touch the pavement and head back the way you came.
- d. Directions to Route: Turn off of US 212 onto the West Fork Road and drive 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Palisades Campground Rd. Drive 1.5 miles to Palisades Campground. Enter the campground and drive for another .3 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead is at the far end of the western loop (turn left after the bridge):
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/willow-creek-105/>
 - ii. https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/recarea/?r_ecid=61431&actid=50
 - iii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/willow-creek-trail-no-105>
 - iv. Dogs are permitted on the Willow Creek at all times, but are not allowed on Palisades Trail from December 1-July 1.
 - v. 3-4 spots for water for dogs on this trail.

2. Silver Run Outer Most Loop

- a. Distance: 5 miles round trip, loop
- b. Starting Info: Start from the parking lot at the open gate, take a right onto the trails and run the loop clockwise.
- c. Turn Around Point: This is a looped route. Follow the juncture signs and look at the links below to ensure you follow the correct route. You want to be on the outer most, longest route.

- d. Directions to Route: Turn west onto the West Fork Rd and drive 2.8 miles. Stay to the left (follow signs) and continue on the West Fork Rd. Drive 1.6 miles and turn left into the Silver Run parking lot. Cross the bridge and park in the parking lot. Walk up forest road #2476 for a short distance until you see the trail, on your right.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=61433&actid=50>
 - ii. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=16.0&lat=45.15591&lon=-109.37865&m=satellite>
 - iii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/silver-run-loop-trail>
 - iv. One of the most popular trails in the area primarily for hiking/running.
 - v. Plenty of water for dogs.

3. Parkside Trail

- a. Distance: 4.6 miles round trip, 2.3 out, 2.3 back
- b. Starting Info: Park at the Main fork parking lot (first right when you turn of 212). Trail begins right next to the vaulted toilets. Note that the first part of the trail is a little light. It will weave through the woods and then cross the paved road and regain the trail.
- c. Turn Around Point: Turn around after 2.3 miles as you poke out to the M-K Campground.
- d. Directions to Route: Drive south on US Hwy 212, towards Cooke City, for 10.7 miles. Turn right onto the Main Fork Rd (Forest Road 2421) and park in the main parking lot.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/recarea/?recid=61425&actid=50>
 - ii. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=15.8&lat=45.05444&lon=-109.41197&m=satellite>
 - iii. <http://www.beartoothtrails.org/trails/hiking-trails-near-red-lodge/>
 - iv. 1-2 spots for water for dogs on this trail.
 - v. THE TRAIL HAS SEEN SOME DAMAGE SO DO YOU BEST!

4. Palisades Trail

- a. Distance: 7ish miles round trip, 3.5 miles out and 3.5 miles back
- b. Starting Info: You must start from the Palisades Campground side. Start at the juncture of the Willow Creek Trail and Palisades Trail. Basically, walk

past the bathroom and information kiosk until you see the sign for the Palisades Trail on the right. Start your watch here.

- c. Turn Around Point: Run all the way down to the parking lot,
- d. Directions to Route: Turn off of US 212 onto the West Fork Road and drive 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Palisades Campground Rd. Drive 1.5 miles to Palisades Campground. Enter the campground and drive for another .3 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead is at the far end of the western loop (turn left after the bridge):
- e. Other Info:
 - i. Due to wintering moose habitat, dogs are not allowed on the Palisades Trail between Dec. 1- July 1, except for dogs used for legal hunting purposes.
 - ii. <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/palisades-85817/>
 - iii. <http://www.beartoothtrails.org/trails/hiking-trails-near-red-lodge/>
 - iv. This trail is HEAVILY used by bikes, horses, and hikers. Please be aware and follow trail etiquette.
 - v. This trail is in a wildlife corridor. Please carry bear spray, be alert, and run with a friend when possible.
 - vi. No real water for dogs on this trail, bring your own.

5. Nichols Creek Trail

- a. Distance: 8.5 miles round trip, 4.25 up, 4.25 down
- b. Starting Info: Park in the lower lot of Red Lodge Mountain. The trail will be up the access road (to the left of the stairs). Start at the little wooden trailhead sign.
- c. Turn Around Point: Run to gate at the bottom of the trail, turn around and be prepared to suffer with a big climb back to the car!
- d. Directions to Route: Turn right/west off Hwy 212 on the south edge of Red Lodge onto West Fork Road. Proceed to the base area of the ski area. Park in the lower lot. Or take a left at the West Fork rd/Ski Run rd juncture, it is the first right.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=13.9&lat=45.17524&lon=-109.33916&m=satellite>
 - ii. <http://www.beartoothtrails.org/trails/hiking-trails-near-red-lodge/>
 - iii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/nichols-creek-trail>
 - iv. This is a HEAVILY used trail, especially with downhill mountain bikers. Please be aware. Even though you have the right of way, it can be awfully hard for a biker going downhill to stop or maneuver

around you so consider hopping out of the way. You will not win in a collision with a bike.

- v. 2-3 spots for water for dogs on trail.
- vi. Parking is tight, we recommend you do the trail starting from Red Lodge Mountain for ample parking.

6. Beartrack Trail

- a. Distance: 10 miles round trip, 5 up, 5 down
- b. Starting Info: Start at the information Kiosk in the parking lot.
- c. Turn Around Point: Turn around at the entrance of the meadow, at 5 miles.
- d. Directions to Route: If starting at the Beartooth Ranger District office (just south of Red Lodge) Drive south on US Hwy 212 towards Cooke City for 8.4 miles. Turn right into the Bear Track Trailhead parking lot. There is ample parking and room for horse trailers.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/recarea/?recid=61359&actid=50>
 - ii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/beartrack-trail-to-silver-run-plateau>
 - iii. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=13.5&lat=45.10022&lon=-109.38333&m=satellite>
 - iv. Because Bear Track is on a south facing slope and in direct sunlight as you climb to the Silver Run Plateau, the trail often is free of snow at higher elevations than other trails in the area.
 - v. Spots for water early on for dogs and one small spring ½ way up, bringing water is suggested, this trail can get HOT!

7. Basin Lakes Trail

- a. Distance: 8 Miles
- b. Starting Info: Start at the information kiosk
- c. End Point: Touch the 2nd lake and turn around. You can stop you watch and enjoy a rest at the lake, you earned it -just don't forget to turn it back on for the descent!
- d. Directions to Route: Turn west off Highway 212, south side of Red Lodge, onto West Fork Road and continue 2.7 miles; turn left at the junction, continuing on pavement 4.2 miles; turn left at the Basin Cr. Lake trailhead.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=14.6&lat=45.14988&lon=-109.41493&m=satellite>
 - ii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/basin-lakes-trail-no-61>

- iii. <http://www.beartoothtrails.org/trails/hiking-trails-near-red-lodge/>
- iv. Plenty of water for dogs on this trail!

8. Mt Maurice Trail

- a. Distance: 10 miles
- b. Starting Info: Start your watch at the gate you have to manually open (don't count opening/closing the gate)
- c. Turn Around Point: At mile 5, the trail will open up to a plateau, there is a cabin (the only one in the immediate line of sight), turn around.
- d. Stopping info: Stop your watch at the gate where you started.
- e. Directions to Route: From the Beartooth Ranger District, drive south on US Hwy 212 towards Cooke City for 3.9 miles. Turn left onto the East Side Road. Drive 0.5 miles to the trailhead, on the left.
- f. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/recarea/?recid=60977&actid=50>
 - ii. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3831476.pdf
 - iii. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=13.9&lat=45.10919&lon=-109.29612&m=satellite> (note, you're only looking at the last 7 miles of the trail displayed).
 - iv. <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/montana/maurice-creek-trail-to-line-creek-plateau>
 - v. There is a manual wire gate you must open and close to access the trail. Please remember to close the gate after you enter.
 - vi. Three spots for water for dogs on this trail.

9. Lost Lake Trail WILDERNESS TRAIL

- a. Distance: 10 miles, 5 out, 5 back
- b. Starting Info: Start your watch at the bridge.
- c. Turn Around Point: Touch the lake and turn around
- d. Directions to Route: From the Beartooth Ranger District drive south on US Hwy 212 towards Cooke City, MT for 9.1 miles. Turn west (right) onto the Lake Fork Rd. Drive 1.9 miles to the trailhead.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/recarea/?recid=61439&actid=50>
 - ii. <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/montana/lost-lake-trail--2>
 - iii. <http://www.beartoothtrails.org/trails/hiking-trails-near-red-lodge/>

- iv. This is a heavily used trail by people (especially on the first mile) and horses, please use appropriate trail etiquette.
- v. Plenty of water for dogs on this trail.
- vi. PLEASE NOTE YOU HAVE TO START AT LOWER LAKE FORK WHICH NOW ADDS 4 MILES ROUND TRIP.

10. Timberline Trail WILDERNESS TRAIL

- a. Distance: 9
- b. Starting Info: Start your watch at the trailhead sign⁹
- c. Ending Info: Touch Timberline lake (4.5 miles) and turn around.
- d. Directions to Route: From the Beartooth Ranger District, drive north on US Hwy 212 towards Red Lodge for 0.3 miles. Turn west (left) onto the West Fork Rd and drive 2.8 miles. Stay to the left (follow signs) and continue on the West Fork Rd. Drive 8.3 miles to the trailhead on the left. There is ample parking with limited room for horse trailers. There is a vault toilet at the trailhead.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/fishing/recarea/?recid=61367&actid=42>
 - ii. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3831482.pdf
 - iii. Some water for dogs.

11. Lower lake fork

- a. Distance: about 4 miles
- b. Starting info: Park at the lower lake fork/Richel Lodge lot. Start where the trail (2-track) goes up the short hill with rocks blocking the trail.
- c. Turn around point: Turn around at the juncture for the regular Lake Fork Trail (where the bridge has washed out).
- d. Ending info: End where you started.
- e. Directions to route: Head south on 212 and make a right at the Lake Fork sign. Take your first left after the bridge to the parking area.
- f. Other Info:
 - i. Lots of water for dogs.
 - ii. Very busy trail
 - iii. Bike friendly

- iv. You have to cut through a camp to stay on the trail.
- v. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/fishing/recarea/?recid=61427&actid=50>
- vi. <https://www.mtbproject.com/trail/7037008/lower-lake-for-k-trail-2a>
- vii.

12. Ingles Creek Loop

- a. Distance: about 6.5-7 miles
- b. Starting info: Start at the gate of the main Silver Run Parking Lot. Head up, on the road, for 1.5ish miles until you get to the trail head. Go on the trail and follow it until the juncture and take a hard right onto the fireline. Follow the trail down to where it meets Silver Run. Take the fastest way back (loop one) by staying right at the juncture, going over the bridge, and back to the parking lot.
- c. Ending info: This is a loop, stop and start your watch at the main gate of the Silver Run parking lot.
- d. Directions: Turn west onto the West Fork Rd and drive 2.8 miles. Stay to the left (follow signs) and continue on the West Fork Rd. Drive 1.6 miles and turn left into the Silver Run parking lot. Cross the bridge and park in the parking lot. Walk up forest road #2476 for a short distance until you see the trail, on your right.
- e. Other Info:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/custergallatin/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=61433&actid=50>
 - ii. <https://www.trailforks.com/region/red-lodge/?activitytype=1&z=16.0&lat=45.15591&lon=-109.37865&m=satellite>
 - iii. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/montana/silver-run-loop-trail>
 - iv. One of the most popular trails in the area primarily for hiking/running.
 - v. Plenty of water for dogs.
 - vi. Great loop for biking!

13. Senia Creek

- a. Distance 11 Miles
- b. Starting Info Start where the trail starts from the parking lot.

- c. Turn around point Turn around at the junction for Red Lodge Creek Trail (5.5 miles)
- d. Ending info Out and back, stop your watch where you finish it.
- e. Directions to Route: Drive the West Fork Road until it dead ends in a parking lot.
- f. Other Info
 - i. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3831481.pdf
 - ii. Be aware of MARMOTS at this trail head. They like to eat the wires of cars. We suggest bringing dryer sheets and tucking them around your car and under the hood...remember to take them out before driving home.
 - iii. Not a lot of water on this trail for dogs.
 - iv. Popular horse trail

14. **Connector Trail**

- a. Distance: 4 Miles
- b. Starting Info: Start on the Palisades/Willow side at the wooden post.
- c. Turn around point: Turn around at the wooden post where the trail meets Nichols Creek.
- d. Ending info: Out and back trail, end your watch where you started it
- e. Directions to Route: Turn off of US 212 onto the West Fork Road and drive 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Palisades Campground Rd. Drive 1.5 miles to Palisades Campground. Park your car BEFORE the gate and look for the wooden post to start the trail.
- f. Other Info:
 - i. Very popular trail
 - ii. Crosses Ski Run Rd so make sure your dogs/kids are in control and look both ways.
 - iii. No water on trail, but water close by the start and turn around point
 - iv. Great views!

15. **Nichol-Back Loop**

- a. Distance: 8.5 Miles
- b. Starting Info: Start at the trail head sign for Willow Creek/Palisades. Run up Willow, stay on the paved road until the bottom lot of Red Lodge Mountain, head onto the Nichols Creek trail, before the end of the Nichols Trail there will be a juncture on your left that looks like an old road with a wooden sign, turn here. Continue on the Connector Trail until you pop out at the gate of Palisades Campground Rd. Run the road back to the starting point.

- c. Turn around point: Looped route.
- d. Ending info: Stop your watch where you started it.
- e. Directions to Route: See Willow Creek Directions
- f. Other Info
 - i. Very popular trails
 - ii. Willow has plenty of water, Nichols has some water, Connector has no water. Please bring water for your dogs. E
 - iii. Parking can be limited.

16. **Airport Loop**

- a. Distance: 3 Miles
- b. Starting Info: This is a loop with plenty of spots to park on the perimeter or you can walk from town. Wherever along you the loop you start your watch and whichever direction you go, it does not matter.
- c. Turn around point: Looped route.
- d. Ending info: Stop your watch where you started it.
- e. Directions to Route: Park at the Red Lodge Dog Park and head south on the gravel footpath.
- f. Other Info
 - i. Dogs need to be leashed.
 - ii. About half of the loop runs along a ditch.

17. **Red Lodge Mountain Loop**

- a. Distance: 3.5 Miles
- b. Starting Info: Start at the top the main base lodge and head out to the parking lot. Before you get to the shop buildings take a left on a small trail. Follow the trail to the top of Miami Beach and head towards Columbine. Look for a trail on the left. Follow that until it pops out at the top of the Stache Lift. Head up towards the top of Palisades Lift and Tipi Trail. Take a left on the Scrimps Trail and take that all the way back to the base area.
- c. Turn around point: Looped route.
- d. Ending info: Stop your watch where you started it.
- e. Directions to Route: Red Lodge Mountain. Park in the Lower Lot and walk up the stairs to the base area.
- f. Other Info
 - i. GPS <https://www.strava.com/routes/3217973863694115536>
 - ii. Popular trails for biking.
 - iii. There is a creek that runs by the portable toilet in the lower lot and some small openings for water by the bottom of the Willow Creek lift, but otherwise, pretty dry.

- iv. Watch for Red Lodge Mountain working crews, employees and general operations. Adhere to all posted signage.

18. Silver Run Plateau Trail

- a. Distance: 6.5 or 10.5
- b. Starting Info:
 - i. Option A: Start in the Silver Run parking lot and run up the road to the Silver Run Plateau Trailhead. This is 1.87 miles and will give you a total of 10.5 miles.
 - ii. Option B: Drive up the road to the Silver Run Plateau Trailhead and start there. This will give you a total of 6.5 miles.
 - iii. Both: Follow the trail there is a large meadow in the first mile -make sure to stay right going into a steep uphill. There is also a fireline/trail juncture -go straight and keep going uphill. You'll pop out on the plateau and can turn around here.
- c. Turn around point: At the plateau once you get out of all the trees and can see the big meadow.
- d. Ending info: Stop your watch where you started it.
- e. Directions to Route: See Silver Run directions. If you'd like to shorten the route, take your first right in the parking lot and head up the road until it stops at the trailhead (1.87 miles).
- f. Other Info
 - i. Very popular trails
 - ii. Willow has plenty of water, Nichols has some water, Connector has no water. Please bring water for your dogs. E
 - iii. Parking can be limited.