

Bozeman Senior Center
Hiking Program 2009
June 2 – September 29



This packet is an itinerary for each hike that is scheduled for the summer. Enclosed, you will find more detailed information about each particular trail and directions on how to get to those trails. All hikes will always take place on Tuesday and the meeting place will be at the Bozeman Senior Center. It is acceptable if you prefer to meet the group at the trailhead. You will be required to drive your own vehicle to the start of the trail; however carpooling is encouraged. **Water bottles are required** and please dress appropriately for the weather. The air can get cooler as the altitude gets higher. Be prepared for unpredictable weather by wearing layered clothing. A rain poncho, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and hiking stick are highly recommended. Pay close attention to proper footwear. We will meet at the Senior Center at 8:30 a.m. and leave as soon as possible.

We will always be back at the Senior Center by 12:00 noon, with exception of a few of the longer hikes and those indicated to bring a packed lunch. If you decided to continue hiking longer than the group as a whole, please keep in mind that you are responsible for yourself at this point. This will be considered the advanced hiking group.

This is a hiking program so some of the terrain will be rough and steep. Adults are only allowed and adult children, over the age of 20 may be guest hikers. No one under the age of 20 may go on the hikes. Regina Demis will be the coordinator for the hiking group.

Departure time for all hikes is 8:30 a.m. from the Senior Center. You may meet at the trailhead if that is more convenient.

Note: Hikes will be cancelled if the weather is uncooperative i.e. rain, snow, wind and cold.

Suggested items to have along: extra pair of socks, changes of shoes, camelback, and sunscreen.

Hike 1 - June 2

South Cottonwood Creek

Hiking Distance: 3.2 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Elevation Gain: 250 feet

Summary of Hike: The South Cottonwood Creek Trail follows the creek upstream into beautiful Cottonwood Canyon through meadows and a forest. The South Cottonwood Creek Trail connects with the Langohr Trail at 2.4 miles and the History Rock Trail at 6 miles.

Driving Directions: From Bozeman, drive 4 miles west on Highway 191 to Cottonwood Road on the left. Turn left and continue 7.6 miles to Cottonwood Canyon Road on the left. Turn left again and drive 2.1 miles to the trailhead parking area at road's end.

Hike 2 - June 9

History Rock Trail

Hiking Distance: 2.4 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1 hour

Elevation Gain: 300 feet

Summary of Hike: The trail to History Rock is a short uphill hike to an impressive rock formation carved by pioneers with names dating back to the 1800s. Aside from the names with historic significance, you can also find "Juan loves Sylvia 1994".

Driving Directions: From Main Street and 19th Avenue in Bozeman, drive south on 19th Avenue, which becomes South 19th Road, 7 miles to Hyalite Canyon Road on the left – turn left. Continue 8.8 miles to the History Rock turnoff on the right. Turn right and park 100 feet ahead in the trailhead parking area.

Hike 3 - June 16

Stone Creek Trail

Hiking Distance: 4 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Elevation Gain: 400 feet

Summary of Hike: The Stone Creek Trail winds through a beautiful rolling mountain and meadow landscape. It is more of a stroll through mountains than a backcountry hike, as the trail is a vehicle restricted logging road. The road heads up the drainage along the north bank of cascading Stone Creek.

Driving Directions: From Main Street in downtown Bozeman, head north on North Rouse Avenue. The road curves right and becomes Bridger Canyon Drive (highway 86). Stone Creek Road is on the right side of the road 12 miles from Main Street. Turn right and continue 1.2 miles to the Forest Service Gate. Parking pullouts are located on both sides of the road.

Hike 4 - June 23

Triple Tree Trail

Hiking Distance: 4.5 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours or so

Elevation Gain: 800 feet

Summary of Hike: Triple Tree Trail winds up a ridge, down through trees and up a second ridge. Follow trail signs through a meadow and up into Montana State Lands. A State Land Permit will allow you to continue up the scenic overlook trail. Please stay on the main trail to avoid trespassing on private land located adjacent to the trail on the south and west. This is a wildfire rich area and animals like deer, moose, elk, grizzly and black, and mountain lions may be observed along the trail.

Driving Directions: Go south on Church and cross Kagy Blvd., at which point South Church becomes Sourdough Road. Continue south past Goldenstein Lane and the old water tank on the left until you come to the Triple Tree Development. Go several hundred feet past the turn-off until you reach a small parking lot on the left.

Hike 5 - June 30

Middle Cottonwood Creek

Hiking Distance: 2.8 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 450 feet

Summary of Hike: Middle Cottonwood Creek is a scenic creek with cascades, small waterfalls and pools. As the canyon narrows, there are colorful rock formations amid lush vegetation. The trail includes several creek crossings.

Driving Directions: From I-90 and the 7th Avenue overpass, drive 2 miles north on 7th Avenue, which becomes West Frontage Road, to Springhill Road. Turn right (north) and continue 3.4 miles to Toohey Road in the right. There is a sign for Middle Cottonwood Creek. Turn right and drive 1.7 miles to Walker Road. Turn right again and continue 3.2 miles to the trailhead parking area at road's end.

Hike 6 – July 7

Goose Creek Trail

Hiking Distance: 2.5 – 3 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Summary of Hike: The Goose Creek Trail is an old logging road. The first half-mile is gradual uphill slope.

Driving Directions: Drive out I-90 east to trail creek road which is approximately 9 miles. Turn on Trail Creek road and go approximately 5 miles to Goose Creek road and then turn right and go 3 miles to the trailhead.

Hike 7 – July 14

Truman Gulch

Hiking Distance: 4 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Elevation Gain: 750 feet

Summary of Hike: Truman Gulch trail is found in the Bridger Mountains, a beautiful range which runs north and south to the north of Bozeman. The Truman Gulch Trail parallels the Truman Gulch drainage up the canyon to the canyon to the Bridger National Recreation Trail. Forested rolling mountains and beautiful views surround the trail. The hike stays close to the trickling sound of the stream and has several stream crossings.

Driving Directions: From I-90 and 7th Avenue overpass, drive 2 miles north on 7th Avenue, which becomes West Frontage Road, to Springhill Road. Turn right (north) and continue 8.5 miles to Springhill Community Road on the right. There is a sign for Truman Gulch. Turn right and continue 1.6 miles to Walker Road. The Springhill Church is on the corner. Turn right and drive 1.1 mile to Forswell Road and turn left. Continue 3 miles to the trailhead parking area at road's end.

Hike 8 – July 21

Cascade Creek to Lava Lake Trail THIS IS AN ALL DAY HIKE, PACK LUNCH!

Hiking Distance: 6 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 3.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 1,600 feet

Summary of Walk: The hike to Lava Lake is a steep, uphill trail through a narrow, forested canyon of pine, spruce and fir trees. Lava Lake sits in a small valley surrounded by granite walls with the Spanish Peaks rising in the distance. The lake was formed by a landslide that dammed Cascade Creek. It is the only lake in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness that was not glacially formed. The trail crosses several tributaries and parallels the scenic, cascading whitewater of Cascade Creek. If continued past Lava Lake one may hike to Table Mountain.

Driving Directions: From Four Corners, 9 miles west of Bozeman, take Highway 191 south towards the Gallatin Canyon. Drive 20.3 miles to the Lava Lake Trailhead parking area on the right. The turnoff is located just north of the Gallatin River Bridge. Turn right and continue 0.2 miles to the parking area.

Hike 9 – July 28

Grotto Falls

Hiking Distance: 2.5 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1.15 hour

Elevation Gain: 250 feet

Summary of Hike: Grotto Falls is a wide and magnificent waterfall that is easy to hike to. The forested trail to Grotto Falls is a wheelchair accessible, gravel path. The surrounding

mountains tower above the trail throughout the hike. Log benches have been placed at beautiful stopping points along side Hyalite Creek.

Driving Directions: From Main Street and 19th Avenue in Bozeman, drive south on 19th Avenue, which becomes South 19th Road, 7 miles to Hyalite Canyon Road on the left-turn left. Continue 11.7 miles, crossing to the east side of Hyalite Reservoir, to a road fork. Take the right fork two miles to the Grotto Falls parking area.

Hike 10 – August 4

Drinking Horse Mountain Trail

Hiking Distance: 4 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

Summary of Hike: From the trailhead, follow the Drinking Horse Mountain trail along a low ridge behind the Fish Technology Center, drop down one switchback to the cottonwoods and willows along Bridger Creek, follow the signs for the creek and Fish Hatchery Road crossings, then climb 700 feet up moderate switchbacks through pine forest and meadows to the summit. A figure-eight loop gives several options for climbing and descending with a variety of spectacular views.

Driving Directions: Starting at the Senior Center take a right onto Tamarack St. Take a left onto N. Rouse Ave (which turns into MT-86, Bridger Canyon Road). Continue on this road for approximately 3.6 miles. Turn into the Fish Technology Center parking lot on the south side of Bridger Canyon Road across from the “M” trailhead to hike the new trail to the summit of Drinking Horse Mountain.

Hike 11 – August 11

Emerald Lake

Hiking Distance: 9 miles round trip

Hiking Time: Approximately 2.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 3,000 feet

Summary of Hike: The trailhead lies at 7120'. Emerald Lake is just under five miles away, at 9000', and Heather Lake about a half mile further at 9200'; both cradled in a

gorgeous alpine basin between Mount Chisholm and Overlook Mountain. The trail ascends through the timber until you start to enter the cirque at the head of the valley, at about the 8400' level, at which point the views open up.

Driving Directions: Emerald Lakes lies at the head of the East Fork Hyalite drainage, in the Gallatin Range south of Bozeman. To reach the Hyalite area, go south out of Bozeman on South 19th Avenue. After reaching the foothills of the Gallatin Range it makes a sweeping turn toward the west, and about a half mile past that corner you'll see the signs for the Hyalite Road. Turn south and proceed up Hyalite Canyon; the drive is an enjoyable thing in itself. Continue past Langohr Campground, and in another few miles you'll reach the dam that backs up Hyalite Reservoir. Cross the dam and turn onto the gravel road that leads along the east side of the Reservoir. A short way past the head of the lake the road crosses the East Fork of Hyalite Creek, and immediately thereafter the road forks. Take the left fork, and you've got about two increasingly rough miles to go to reach the trailhead to Emerald and Heather Lakes. Halfway to the trailhead you'll pass the parking area for Palisade Falls.

Hike 12 – August 18

New World Gulch Trail

Hiking Distance: 12 miles round trip (will not hike to the lake, will hike about 2 to 3 miles)

Hiking Time: 1.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 1500 feet

Summary of Hike: Wide pull-off is easy to find. Trail splits but best trail is obvious to left. Either fork is fine. 3 mi to the divide (big signs announcing you are in the Bozeman water drainage), then 1.5 mi where a trail goes right and around the lake to the cabin. Or you can continue straight until you hit the road and go right down to the cabin, or left to Bear Lakes. Not a real pretty trail but good for a change of pace and fairly ski able in winter.

Driving Directions: New World Gulch to Mystic Lake (driving 25 min, 14 mi). East on Main to I-90, then 3 miles to Bear Canyon exit, through small community of Ft Ellis on Bear Canyon Rd another 5 mi.

Hike 13 – August 25

Blackmore Trail

Hiking Distance: 3.3 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Summary of Hike: The Blackmore Trail leads to Blackmore Lake at an altitude of 7,300 feet and continues up to Mount Blackmore. The lake is surrounded by a dense pine forest, a meadow and the surrounding mountains of Mount Blackmore and Elephant Mountain. The trail begins at the west shore of Hyalite Reservoir.

Driving Directions: From Main Street and 18th Avenue in Bozeman, drive south on 19th Avenue, which becomes South 19th Road, 7 miles to Hyalite Canyon Road on the left –turn left. Continue 9.9 miles to the trailhead parking area on the right. Hyalite Reservoir is to the left.

Hike 14 – September 1

The “M”

Hiking Distance: 1.6 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1.5 hour

Elevation Gain: 850 feet

Summary of Hike: There are two trails to the "M": one, to the right from the parking lot, has a steeper ascent but a shorter trail; the second, to the left, is a more gradual climb, snaking through a fir and juniper forest before arriving at the 250' whitewashed rock "M". The beautiful view from the “M” includes Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley.

Driving Directions: Starting at the Senior Center take a right onto Tamarack St. Take a left onto N. Rouse Ave (which turns into MT-86, Bridger Canyon Road). Continue on this road for approximately 3.6 miles. The parking lot for the “M” will be on the left-hand side of the road across from the Bozeman Fish Technology Center.

Hike 15 – September 8

Pine Creek Trail THIS IS AN ALL DAY HIKE, PACK LUNCH!

Hiking Distance: 2 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 1 hour

Elevation Gain: 350 feet

Summary of Hike: The trail to Pine Creek Falls is located in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The trail follows Pine Creek upstream to the falls through a spruce, fir, aspen, and maple forest. When the creek is out of view, it can still be heard cascading downstream. Pine Creek Falls is a tall, narrow waterfall that spreads out as it plunges over rock outcroppings. It is a great place to spend some time and have a picnic lunch.

Driving Directions: From Bozeman, take I-90 east towards Livingston to the I-90 and Highway 89 junction (Exit 333), drive 9.6 miles south on Highway 89 to Pine Creek Road on the left. Turn left, cross the Yellowstone River, and continue 2.4 miles to East River Road. Turn right and drive .7 miles to Luccock Park Road on the left. A sign is posted for the Pine Creek campground. Turn left and drive 3.1 miles on the paved road to the trailhead parking area at road's end.

Hike 16 – September 15

Crescent Lake and West Shore Loop Trail

Hiking Distance: 6 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 3.5 hours

Elevation Gain: 1,600 feet

Summary of Hike: The trail to Crescent Lake is an easy meander through the forest to a small crescent shaped lake. The return trail follows the shoreline of Hyalite Reservoir. This is a large recreational area surrounded by picturesque mountains in every direction.

Driving Directions: From Main Street and 19th Avenue in Bozeman, drive south on 19th Avenue, which becomes South 19th Road, 7 miles to Hyalite Canyon Road on the left – turn left. Continue 9.9 miles to the trailhead parking area on the right. Hyalite Reservoir is to the left.

Hike 17 – September 22

South Cottonwood Creek Trail

Hiking Distance: 3.2 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Elevation Gain: 250 feet

Summary of Hike: The South Cottonwood Creek Trail follows the creek upstream into beautiful Cottonwood Canyon through meadows and a forest. The South Cottonwood Creek Trail connects with the Langohr Trail at 2.4 miles and the History Rock Trail at 6 miles.

Driving Directions: From Bozeman, drive 4 miles west on Highway 191 to Cottonwood Road on the left. Turn left and continue 7.6 miles to Cottonwood Canyon Road on the left. Turn left again and drive 2.1 miles to the trailhead parking area at road's end.

Hike 18 – September 29 Last Hike

Odessa Eddie's House – Corbly Gulch Road – ALL DAY HIKE

Hiking Distance: 4 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 2 hours

Summary of Hike: This is the annual hike that we look forward to throughout the season. We will go on a beautiful hike behind Odessa's house looking up at the mountains and over the incredible Gallatin Valley. *Please bring a potluck dish for lunch after the hike.* More information will be given out as the time approaches.

