

# Hannagan Meadow Lodge

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## FAVORITE TRAILS NEAR HANNAGAN MEADOW

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Contact the Forest Service (Alpine District Office 928-339-4384)  
for the latest trail and outdoor conditions before taking any of these hikes.  
Wear proper clothing, take adequate food and water and use common sense.  
All information below believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed.  
USFS Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Map (highly recommended)  
available at Hannagan Meadow Lodge General Store

The beautiful areas near Hannagan Meadow boasts the state's highest rainfall and provides three seasons of hiking, and even snow hiking in the winter. With over 200 miles of trails in settings that range from high country forests to rocky desert canyons, the Alpine District offers hiking opportunities for just about any level of conditioning and any area of interest. These trails cover a variety of settings, including two wilderness areas, the nation's only National Forest Primitive Area, and a mountain river canyon known as one of the most scenic in the Southwest.

### Alpine District Trails - Bear Wallow Wilderness Area (south of Hannagan Meadow)

- Grant Creek Trail (10 miles with great views, beautiful trees and year-round streams). US 191 on the south end of Hannagan Meadow, east on Forest Road 29A, to Steeple/Foote Creek Trailhead.
- Paradise Trail (4 miles of heavily-forested trail that follows a portion of Grant Creek). Access is via Grant Creek Trail above.
- Bear Wallow Trail (7.6 miles of a picturesque and fairly secluded hike along Bear Wallow Creek) US 191 south approx. 6 miles to Forest Road 25; west 3 miles to the parking lot and trailhead. Trail ends at San Carlos Indian Reservation; do not continue without a permit. Campgrounds along the way; creek stocked with trout.
- Gobbler Point Trail # 59 (2.7 miles, strenuous, with good views of the Black River drainage and San Carlos Indian Reservation provide a scenic send-off for this trail into the Bear Wallow Wilderness) Drive south on US 191 approximately 6 miles to Forest Road 25. Head west on Forest Road 25 about 7 miles to Gobbler Point Road, #8154, on the left (south) side of Forest Road 25. Follow this road left at the first forks and right at the second forks 3 miles to the end of the road. The trail begins at the trailhead poster board.
- Reno Trail # 62 (1.9 miles, moderate, into the rich streamside habitat and tall forests of the Bear Wallow Wilderness) Drive south on US 191 approximately 6 miles to Forest Road 25. Head west on Forest Road 25 approximately 5.2 miles. A pullout on the left takes you to the Reno Trailhead and parking lot across from the road to the Reno Lookout. The trail is also accessible from the Bear Wallow Trail #63.
- Rose Spring Trail # 309 (5.4 miles, moderate to strenuous, with some of Alpine District's most outstanding vistas travelling this relatively easy walk with its moderate gradient and pleasantly forested surroundings.) Drive south on US 191 approximately 7 miles to Forest Road 54. Head west on Forest Road 54 approximately 6 miles to a fork in the road. Proceed through the gate along the right fork about 0.6 miles to the end of the road. The trail begins 50 yards below the parking area at a signed gate in the fence.
- Schell Canyon Trail # 316 (2.8 miles, moderate to strenuous, with marvelous scenery along the access route to the trailhead, and a rugged canyon, native trout fishing and picturesque campsites.) Drive south on US 191 approximately 7 miles to Forest Road 54. Head 5.9 miles west on Forest Road 54 to a fork in the road. Proceed through the gate along the right fork about 0.6 miles to the end of the road. The Rose Spring Trail begins 20 yards below the parking area at a signed gate in the fence. Follow this trail about 3 miles to the junction marked by a sign where the Schell Trail branches off to the north.
- Raspberry Trail (9.5 miles through thick pines and aspen groves, a remote hike with sweeping views) US 191 south approx. 10 miles, toward the Strayhorse Campground (past Blue Vista), where the trailhead is located at the back end. The seasonal wild berries along Raspberry Trail are edible.

### Alpine District Trails - Black River Area (north of Hannagan Meadow)

- Lower Fish Creek Trail (5.5 miles, moderate, that drops into the narrow forested canyon from a high bench that overlooks both the Black River and Fish Creek drainages, past pools, riffles, and stepping-stone stream crossings to the point where this tributary and the Black River join. Travelers along this trail should know that they have the Arizona Chapter of the Sierra Club to thank for the considerable sections of it that are in good to excellent shape.) Take FR 576 (.1 mile north of

- Hannagan Meadow) about four miles west to FR 24 and turn right. After about 1 miles, bear left onto 24/83. Drive about 5 miles to 83A and turn left. Travel 1.3 miles and turn left again on to the signed road to the trailhead, about .4 mile.
- **Black River Mainstem (19 miles, easy**, below Buffalo Crossing the Black River and the road part company as the stream begins to drop more steeply toward its confluence with the White River deep within the Fort Apache and San Carlos Apache Indian Reservations) Drive north on US 191 approx. 7.5 miles to Forest Road 26, then about 9.5 miles to Forest Road 24. From this point you can turn left (southwest) about 1.5 miles to Bear Creek for that access route, or turn right (northwest) 3 miles to Forest Road 25 where you'll turn left 1.5 miles to Buffalo Crossing and access to the un-maintained trail that follows the river downstream. Forest Road 25 continues west 12.8 miles to Wildcat Bridge.

#### **Alpine District Trails - Escudilla Wilderness Area (north of Hannagan Meadow)**

- **Escudilla National Recreation Trail # 308 (6 miles roundtrip, moderate**, to the top of Arizona's third highest mountain is such an outstanding trail that it has been given recognition by Congress as a National Recreational Trail) Go 27.5 miles north from Hannagan Meadow on US 191 to Forest Road 56. Turn right on Forest Road 56 and follow it 3.6 miles to Terry Flat. Take the left fork past Tool Box Draw 0.5 miles to the trailhead. Climb the steps of the Escudilla Lookout tower at the top for a panoramic view.
- **Government Trail # 119 (2.9 miles, strenuous**, to get to know Escudilla Mountain from the bottom to the top) Drive north from Hannagan Meadow approximately 27.5 miles to Forest Road 56. Turn right (east) and continue up this dirt road for 1.6 miles to a road which branches to the left and is closed by a "Wildlife Area" sign. Park here and follow the closed road 1.9 miles to the point where the Government Trail branches off and heads up the mountain.

### **Blue Range Primitive Area**

In 1933 the Secretary of Agriculture proclaimed the Blue Range should be managed for primitive uses to maintain the wildness of that area. Its 173,762 acres are indeed wild and it is the last designated Primitive Area in the United States. The Blue Range remains one of Arizona's untouched and little known jewels. This is a land of rugged mountains, steep canyons, and stark ridges that is at the same time remote and accessible through an extensive trail system. Trails are open to non-motorized and non-mechanized use only within the primitive area. A new map of the Blue Range Primitive Area is available at local Forest Service offices. **No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) permitted in Primitive Area.**

#### **Blue Range Primitive Area - East Side of Blue River (northeast of Hannagan Meadow)**

- **Largo Trail # 51 (5.6 miles, moderate to strenuous**, serving as a primary access route into the eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area. In addition to serving as a route into scenic Largo Canyon, it offers access to a number of other trails which form a connected network in the extremely remote part of the primitive area east of the river.) Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 23 miles to the Blue Administration Site and a trailhead marked Lanphier, Foote Creek and S Canyon Trailhead. From the trailhead, head to the right through two gates to the Blue River. About 100 yards downstream on the other side of the river is a corral that marks the mouth of Lanphier Canyon. The Largo Trail begins about 0.5 mile up the Lanphier Trail #52.
- **Telephone Ridge Trail # 42 (0.9 miles, strenuous)** This is a steep, connector trail that serves as a shortcut between the Largo Trail #51 and the portion of the Sawmill Trail #39 that runs along the top of Telephone Ridge. It effectively cuts one mile off the more frequently used route via Largo Trail and the WS Lake Trail #54 by making it possible for hikers to climb out of Largo Canyon and head up the mountain via the more direct Sawmill Trail. This trail has no direct road access. The Telephone Ridge Trail may be accessed via the Largo Trail #51.
- **Lanphier (5.6 miles, moderate to strenuous**, providing a scenic access route through Lanphier Canyon into the northeastern section of the Blue Primitive Area.) Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 23 miles to the Blue Administration Site and a trailhead marked Largo Canyon. Backcountry Access: Lanphier Trail is accessible via Largo Trail #51 and Cow Flat Trail #55.
- **Cow Flat Trail # 55 (12.5 miles, moderate to strenuous (long)**, through mature park-like stands of ponderosa pine alternating with pinon-juniper woodlands on the high plateaus of Cow and Campbell Flats and connecting with several other backcountry trails that offer almost comprehensive access to this diverse area.) Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232) and east 4.7 miles to the Bonanza Bill Trailhead.
- **Bonanza Bill Trail # 23 (12.1 miles, moderate**, offering access to the remote eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area and serving as a connector between several other trails leading into this beautiful, wild country.) Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232). The Bonanza Bill Trailhead is 4.7 miles east on this dirt road just before it crosses the New Mexico state line. A wood fenced corral serves as a landmark.
- **Bear Valley Trail #55 (12.1 miles, moderate)**. The Bear Valley Trail starts at the junction of Trail # 23 near Bonanza Bill Flat and stays relatively level as it crosses Cow Flat until it drops into the canyon near Franz Spring. There is a spring and an line cabin used by the grazing permit holder in his operation and it is a good port in a storm for hikers. Via Trail #23, Bonanza Bill Trail or from the Blue River.
- **Franz Spring Trail # 43 (3 miles, moderate**, traversing some of the higher country in the East Blue. There is even a stand of aspen near the point where it joins the WS Lake Trail. This trail adds a number of possibilities for loop hikes or shortcuts to just about any trip in this area, or it's worth a visit for its own merits. The Franz Spring Trail continues into Bear Canyon in New Mexico after leaving Arizona and the Alpine District.) There is no direct road to this trail.

Backcountry Access: Franz Spring Trail is accessible via the Bonanza Bill Trail #23, the WS Lake Trail #54, and the Lanphier Trail #52.

- Hinkle Spring Trail # 30 (4.5 miles, moderate to strenuous), with good views of the Blue River Canyon and the mountains that surround it, combined with the moderate length of this trail, make it an excellent day hike into the remote eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area.) Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 21.3 miles to the Hinkle Springs Trailhead on the left (east) side of the road.
- Tige Rim Trail # 90 (5 miles, easy to moderate) The Tige Rim Trail provides a "scenic route" alternative to the more direct Bonanza Bill Trail into the eastern reaches of the Blue Range. Nearly continuous long range vistas serve as its main attraction. This trail makes a good day hike when combined with the Bonanza Bill Trail. The 8.7 mile loop provides a good sampling of what the eastern reaches of the Blue have to offer. Drive 22 miles north on US 191 to Alpine; 3 miles east on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232). The Bonanza Bill Trailhead is 4.7 miles east on the dirt road just before it crosses the New Mexico state line. A wood fenced corral serves as a landmark.
- Tutt Creek Trail # 105 (4.2 miles, moderate) Here's a scenic trail that starts out from the bottom of the Blue instead of from the top. Actually, you can hike any of the rim-to-river Blue Trails from the canyon floor as well as from the rim, but this one is made for it. Starting out at the bottom means you're in a desert environment right from the beginning. A good part of this trail is actually in a riparian or streamside habitat rather than a desert. Drive 7.5 miles north on US 191 to Forest Road 567 (Red Hill Road). Turn east and follow this very scenic back road 11 miles as it descends to a jeep road that branches off to the right. This junction is about 1/2 mile before you reach the Blue River. If you have a sturdy high clearance vehicle you can drive the 0.8 miles to the Blue Primitive Area Boundary. If not, you'd better hike it.

### **Blue Range Primitive Area - West Side of Blue River (southeast of Hannagan Meadow)**

- Footo Creek Trail # 76 (16 miles, strenuous) Footo Creek follows one of the most prominent side drainages of the Blue River as it takes you all the way from canyon rim to canyon floor, a long and scenic path. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) on Forest Road 29A to the Steeple /Footo Creek trailhead and parking lot. For lower access: Drive Forest Road 281 for 22.7 miles to Blue Administrative site and trailhead on right (west).
- Grant Creek Cabin Shortcut Trail # 306 (0.9 miles, moderately steep) Grant Cabin Shortcut, and the nearby portions of the trails it connects, winds through a variety of upland habitats. Relatively solid canopy of mixed conifers, broken intermittently by small cienegas and occasional ponderosa pine stands, covers the highlands. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple/Footo Creek trailhead. Hike Footo Creek Trail #76 about 3.5 miles to Grant Creek Trail #75 just beyond P-Bar Lake. Follow Grant Creek Trail for approximately 1.5 miles to the Grant Cabin Shortcut.
- Grant Creek Trail # 75 (10 miles, strenuous) Grant Creek Trail is a major travel route between the rim and the floor of Blue River Canyon. Along the way, it offers a good sampling of some of the best the Blue country has to offer, from lush alpine forests to deep red rock canyons. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) of Forest Road 29A to the Steeple/Footo Creek Trailhead and parking lot. Access the Grant Creek Trail #75 via the Footo Creek Trail #76 to P-Bar Lake. Or, drive 3 miles east of Alpine (22 miles north of Hannagan Meadow) on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 26.5 miles to the Blue River Road trailhead for Grant Creek Trail.
- Long Cienega (Steeple Shortcut) Trail # 305 (3.3 miles, strenuous) The moist environs of this pleasant forest grassland support a diverse community of wildflowers and provide a good place to see just about any species of wildlife that lives in the Blue Country uplands. Elk, mule deer, black bear, and other animals known to inhabit the Alpine District are seen here about as regularly as anywhere on the district. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple/Footo Creek Trailhead. Hike Steeple Creek Trail about 2.9 miles to Long Cienega Trailhead.
- Paradise Trail # 74 (4.2 miles, moderate) Ponderosa rimmed mountain meadows, good views of Steeple Creek and Grant Creek, and access to a clear forest stream provide the major attraction for this trail. As you wander through the varied forest landscape, you'll also get a good look at several of the different habitats that form just part of the broad diversity for which the Blue Area is well known. Just south of Hannagan Meadow turn left (east) to the Footo Creek and Steeple Trailhead. Hike the Footo Creek Trail 3.5 miles to Grant Creek Trail #75. Follow trail #75 about 2.4 miles to its junction with Paradise Trail #74.
- Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 (4 miles, strenuous) One of its most attractive features is that it opens up so many possibilities for loop hikes, most of which can be covered in a day. Other Forest trails accessible via Upper Grant Creek include Steeple Trail #73, Long Cienega #305, Grant Creek Trail #75, Paradise Trail #74 and Grant Cabin Shortcut #306. With a little creative pathfinding you can turn this network of trails into a number of varied and enjoyable day hikes. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple Trailhead. Hike this trail about 1 mile to Upper Grant Creek Trail.
- Steeple Mesa Trail # 73 (13.2 miles, strenuous) Once you complete the full 13 miles of this trail you'll have an excellent idea of just how broad a diversity of habitats there are to be found on the Alpine Ranger District and the Blue Primitive Area. Drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) on Forest Road 29A to the Steeple/Footo Creek trailhead and parking lot. Or, drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 30.0 miles to the Blue River Road access to Steeple Trail.
- Blue Cabin Trail # 321 (2.9 miles, strenuous but short) This short trail provides access to one of the Blue Range's better known wild west landmarks. It leads to the burned out remains of an old cabin that was once used to house personnel to man the lookout tower at the top of Blue Peak. It was also once used as a hideout by a fellow who allegedly held up a bank in McNary in 1921. Drive south from Hannagan Meadow approx. 7 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 84, the Blue Lookout Road. This is the first left after the road to the Salt House Trail and it is signed "Dead End." Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to an open flat where the road is closed and there is a dirt parking lot. From this point the Blue Cabin Ruins Trail heads northeast down a steadily deepening drainage toward KP Canyon.

- **Blue Lookout Trail # 71 (2.9 miles, strenuous)** Unsurpassed panoramas, a touch of wild history, and access into one of the Blue Area's largest side canyons are some of the attractions offered by this steep, high country trail. Drive south from Hannagan Meadow approx. 7 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 84 (Blue Lookout Road). This is the first left after the road to the Salt House Trail and it is signed "Dead End." Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to an open flat where the road is closed and there is a dirt parking lot. From this point follow the McKittrick Trail #72 one mile to its junction with the Blue Lookout Trail. Backcountry Access: You can also access the blue Lookout Trail via the KP Trail from KP Cienega Campground. It's a 5 mile hike from the campground to the junction of KP and Blue Lookout Trails in KP Canyon.
- **KP Trail # 70 (9.4 miles, moderate to strenuous)** From KP Cienega, with its stately spruces and emerald grasses, this 9 mile long trail traces the wandering course of the South Fork of KP Creek as it drops toward the Blue. As the trail switchbacks from meadow to stream, upland vegetation gives way to riparian community of Douglas fir and moisture loving hardwoods. About 3 miles into the trip, the trail drops sharply into a picturesque canyon where the South Fork and the North Fork join to form KP Creek. Each tributary celebrates this get-together with its own ten foot waterfall. Drive south from Hannagan Meadow approx. 6 miles on US 191 to the 1.3 mile road leading to KP Cienega Campground and the trailhead marked by a parking area and a posterboard.
- **KP Rim Trail # 315 (2.9 miles, easy)** Scenic overlooks into KP Canyon and a day hike that can be stretched into a loop of moderate length are two of the prime features offered by KP Rim Trail. The area through which this trail and connecting Steeple Creek Trail pass is a good place to see elk and mule deer, especially if you travel quietly and keep a sharp eye on open areas ahead. This trail is also a good place to see some of the bird species that inhabit the highlands of the Alpine District, including the Stellers jay that is blue colored but not a blue jay. From Hannagan Meadow, drive south on US 191 approximately approx. 3 miles to the North Fork KP/KP Rim Trailhead sign. This trailhead is generally plowed open for winter use.
- **McKittrick Trail # 72 (5.9 miles, strenuous)** Excellent views, a variety of trailside habitats and close encounters with some of the most notable landmarks in the Blue Primitive area provide highlights for a hike along this unique trail. Drive south from Hannagan Meadow approx. 7 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 84, the Blue Lookout Road. Forest Road 84 is the first left after the road to the Salt House Trail and it is signed "Dead End." Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to an open flat where the road is closed and there is a dirt parking lot. Hike the closed road as it becomes a trail about 0.5 miles to the McKittrick Trailhead. Don't forget to walk another 100 yards to the top of the mountain to take in the views.
- **North Fork KP Trail # 93 (2.4 miles, moderate)** This trail leads to one of the most scenic areas in the Blue Primitive Area, the confluence of the north and south forks of KP Creek. This spot is marked by steep, rocky outcrops and a couple of ten foot waterfalls. You'll want to spend some time here, so remember to pack a picnic lunch along with your camera and bird book. Drive south from Hannagan Meadow approx. 3 miles on US 191 to the North Fork KP/KP Rim Trailhead. This trailhead is generally plowed for winter use. The North Fork KP Trail is also accessible via the KP Trail #70.

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### **Popular Mountain Biking Trails Near Hannagan Meadow**

In this region you'll experience crisp air mingling with vast stands of aspen, steep mountains draining shimmering ribbons of clear water and **hundreds of miles of breath-taking mountain-biking on developed trails and Forest Service roads**. Don't forget the support equipment you'll need to make sure your ride is a pleasant one. Recommendations include a helmet (mandatory!), small tool kit, food, plenty of water, sunscreen, extra clothes for warmth, rain gear, and sunglasses at a minimum.

Many of the roads that crisscross the Forests are made to order for these sturdy all-terrain bicycles that have evolved as a hybrid of the old balloon tired cruiser and the sleek ten-speed racer. There are jeep tracks, logging roads, and little used forest roads where motorized traffic is infrequent enough not to interfere with bike riding. The best way to find these unmarked bonanzas is to get a Forest Service map (available at Hannagan Meadow Lodge General Store) and start looking for the double dotted lines or unshaded double solid lines that indicate primitive roads or dirt roads. The next step is to pick out the ones which lead to places that look to be of interest to you.

#### **Hannagan Meadow Loop (5.5 or up to 17 miles)**

This is a great route for encountering wildlife and cruising on a pleasant ride along mountain meadows, through tall-treed forests and groves of aspen. Opportunities for more biking are close at wheel on the Ackre Lake Trail. At just about any time of the year you'll have a good chance of seeing some of the area's resident wildlife which includes wild turkey, Aberts squirrels, and hatrack antlered elk. Black bear are also regularly sighted here. The route does follow a power line for part of the ride but the majority of the loop is along primitive two-track and little traveled dirt and graveled forest roads. (From Hannagan Meadow, drive a quarter mile north to FR 576. The ride begins here and in a short distance turns right along a power line. A longer 17 mile loop is possible in this same area by incorporating sections of FR's 24 and 25 into the ride, and 5 miles of riding along US 191 to return to the trailhead.)

#### **Ackre Lake Trail (3.5 miles)**

Mountain bikers will find this single-track trail especially enjoyable since it was designed with bikers and skiers in mind. This winding path meanders through aspen stands, broad cienegas as well as thick conifer forests. Opportunities to spy elk and deer are endless as well as a quick glimpse of a bear or woodland hawk. There is also an interpretive brochure for the trail. While it may raise your adrenaline level to go fast, you may want to slow down a little and learn about mixed-conifer ecology and forest management in a high elevation forest. This 3.5 mile trail offers delightful

scenery as well as an interpretive brochure to learn about the ecology of the area. (Southwest of Hannagan Meadow. The singletrack that heads north to form the Hannagan Meadow Loop heads south into Ackre Lake Trail.)

#### **Terry Flat Loop (6 miles)**

High mountain meadows surrounded by wavering stands of aspen and thick forests of spruce and fir will keep your interest. Also, don't overlook the ample opportunities for vista-viewing off into the "Punchbowl" and New Mexico. Deer and elk are common in the area, as well as large raptors and bears. If the bike loop and high elevation is not enough to wipe you out, then take a walk on the wild side and stroll to the top of Arizona's third highest peak, Escudilla Mountain; remembering of course, that bikes get left behind at the trailhead because Escudilla Mountain is a wilderness! This beautiful ride rolls along over a little-used forest road that loops around the high meadows of Arizona's third highest mountain. There's a lot of wildlife to see, plentiful wildflowers, and great scenery. Huge stands of aspen make this an exceptionally scenic ride through September and into early October. If you're a beginner, or a little out of shape, this is a great place to warm up for some of the more strenuous rides on the district. If you're a stump jumping veteran, you'll want to come here too because of the magnificent scenery. (Drive 27 miles north of Hannagan Meadow on U.S. 191 to FR 56. Turn right on FR 56 and follow it 4.5 miles to Terry Flat. Take the left fork past Tool Box Draw 0.5 miles to parking lot at the Escudilla National Recreation Trail trailhead.)

#### **Williams Valley Loop (5 miles)**

During the winter, Williams Valley is covered with a fluffy blanket of snow that makes this one of the Southwest's premier winter recreation areas. After the snow melts away, the established skiing trails are used as one of Alpine's best mountain biking areas. This non-motorized area is prime for exploring large meadows and some of the finest aspen forests in the state. Most of the trails are smooth and rolling, but there are two hills which will make you grunt on the way up, and scream all the way down! Trails generally skirt the edge of the area's picturesque meadows or wind their way through the trees that rim those meadows. Trails are well marked, gently rolling, wide, and smooth (as mountain bike trails go), with plenty of scenic surroundings to catch your interest. There are a few hills but no lung-busters. This area is excellent for riders of all skill levels. (Drive 23.5 miles northwest of Hannagan Meadow on US highway 191 and turn west 4.5 miles on FR 249 to Williams Valley. There are two parking lots here, one at the crest of the hill that marks the divide between the San Francisco and Black River drainages, the other at the west end of the valley on the south side of the road.)

#### **Georges Lake Loop (4.5 miles)**

The Georges Lake Loop has a few fairly hard uphill grunts and some quick descents. Although the trail is located on a bumpy old logging road, the scenery is quite wonderful. George's Lake is a good location for lunch or a quick breather and, if you are lucky enough, some waterfowl might be seen at the quiet little lake. Even though this trail begins right outside of Alpine, it has the reputation for being the least used route. This short ride starts in Alpine and leads through variety of surroundings as it loops out from and back to town. Along its course you'll ride on everything from the paved shoulders of broad two-lane highways to rough and rocky forest roads. At the intersection of FR 275F and FR 275 you can either choose to head back to Alpine to complete the Georges Lake Loop or you can continue on around the Luna Lake Loop for a longer ride and more forest scenery. (From intersection of US 191 and 180 in Alpine, go northwest on those combined routes to Forest Road 8200. Turn right (east) on that road, and follow the blue diamond ride markers past the motorized vehicle barrier. About 2 miles up the road you'll come to a gate (please close it) then it's 2.5 more miles to the junction with FR 275. Turn right (south) on FR 275 to US 191 and continue 2 miles back to your starting point.)

#### **Luna Lake Loops (2.5 miles or up to 15 miles)**

The trailhead is a short distance from the Luna Lake Campground, and two ponderosa pine clad loops offer fantastic opportunities for watching out-of-water wildlife. The two loops are also located adjacent to the Georges Lake Trail, which allows for an adventurous bicycling route to and from Alpine. A moderate length and easy rating make it a popular diversion for campers at the Alpine District's largest campground. The Luna Lake Loop will take you for an easy-going tour of forest backroads, open grasslands and suburban ranches in the vicinity of the lake and village of Alpine. (Drive 22 miles north of Hannagan Meadow on US 191, and turn onto US 180. Go 5 miles east from Alpine and turn north (left) on the Luna Lake Entrance Road just east of the Lake. This graveled all-weather road leads 1 mile to the bike trailhead marked by an international bike symbol near the campground entrance.)

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## **Hannagan Meadow Lodge**

Located on the historic Coronado Trail since 1926

HC 61, P.O. Box 335 -- Alpine, AZ -- 85920

928-428-2225 -- [www.hannaganmeadow.com](http://www.hannaganmeadow.com)

Email: [info@hannaganmeadow.com](mailto:info@hannaganmeadow.com)