

BLUE CANYON TRAIL, #976

User Groups: Hikers and Horses

Difficulty:  /  Moderate to Difficult

Length: 5.1 miles

Season: June through Oct.

Level of Use: Heavy

Elevation: 6200 to 6000 feet

Connecting: Cat Hill Way, Pacific Crest Trail

Description This trail is very heavily used. By midsummer, the trail is extremely dusty. Mosquitoes in the basin are quite numerous until mid-August. The Cat Hill Way Trail begins just a few hundred feet from the trailhead and provides an excellent opportunity for a 5.6-mile day loop. A longer 12.5-mile loop is possible using the Cat Hill Way Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Blue Canyon Trail. Your best bet is to avoid the Blue Lake-Meadow Lake area due to large numbers of visitors.

Water in the area consists of lakes and ponds. Visitors should be aware that water in the wilderness and backcountry areas may not be safe to drink. Water is not tested and should be purified before drinking.

ACCESS #1: From Butte Falls, follow Highway #821 out of town for approximately 8.5 miles until you reach the junction with Forest Service Road #37. Drive north on road #37 for 8.5 miles until you reach road #3770. Head south on road #3770 for approximately 5 miles until you reach the trailhead. Allow at least an hour and a half of travel from Butte Falls.

ACCESS #2: From Prospect, take the Prospect-Butte Falls Highway south for 16 miles until you reach Forest Service Road #34. Continue east on road #34 for 8.5 miles until you reach Forest Service Road #37. Turn right and head south until you reach road #3770. Follow directions above.