

Easy Hiking/Alpine Area
Directions are from the Alpine, AZ Post Office

Hikes from Road to Escudilla:

Drive on US 191/180 north & turn right on Escudilla Road FR 8056 – Drive for 1.9 miles to the first steel gate (it is on your left). Sign on the gate is “Wildlife Habitat Area” Park & walk beyond it to your left. Follow the dirt road. Before you get to the cattle loader, there will be a dirt road on your right. You can take that as far as you wish. You will cross Milk Creek. Return the same way you came.

Drive on US 191/180 north & turn right on Escudilla Road FR 8056 – Drive to the second steel gate (which is .6 miles from the first steel gate). Park & walk beyond it following the dirt road. This road ends as you cross Hulsey Creek.

Big Lake Visitor’s Center (Fall Colors) - – Drive north on US 191 & turn left on FR 249 (Big Lake Rd) (and continue to Big Lake. Park in the fisherman’s parking lot. There is a stairway on the left side of the parking lot. Climb up the stairway and turn right to start walking. Walk along the road lined with aspen trees. EASY.

Big Lake Area

Rainbow Campground Entrance – Easy Walking

Cutthroat Campground Entrance – Easy Walking

FR8706 : Drive on US 191/180 north & turn left at the Big Lake Rd (FR 249). Drive 14 miles and on the right side there is FR 8706. Turn right onto FR 8706 and park further in where you see some primitive campsite areas. Hike along the road as far as you wish.

Lee Reservoir: Walk around the Reservoir.

Drive on US 191/180 north & turn left at the Big Lake Rd (FR 249). When you reach Big Lake, the road becomes SR 273. Drive an additional 8.3 miles and turn left into the Lee Reservoir. There is a parking area. Elevation: 9400 ft USGS Topo Map- Big Lake North

East Baldy Trail-(Fall Colors)- Take FR 249 (Big Lake Road) and continue as the road becomes SR 273. There will be a sign & parking lot on the left for the East Baldy Trailhead. **Beginning part of the trail is EASY, but later becomes strenuous.** Elevation at trailhead – 9,400 ft - USGS Topo Maps: Mount Baldy & Big Lake North

Mt. Baldy Crossover Trail: Start at the East Baldy Trailhead.

Drive on US 191/180 north & turn left at the Big Lake Rd (FR 249). Take FR 249 (Big Lake Rd) until it turns into SR 273 and look for the sign for the East Baldy Trail. Soon after you start the trail, there is a sign for the Crossover Trail. The Crossover Trail will be on the right side. Walk the beginning part of it and then turn back the way you came. Elevation: 9,300 ft. USGS Topo Maps: Mount Baldy & Big Lake North.

Sheep Crossing – Drive north on US 191 & turn left on FR 249 (Big Lake Rd) and it becomes SR 273 at Big Lake. Continue driving along SR 273.

Pass the East Baldy Trailhead. The next small parking lot on the left is Sheep Crossing. Walk along the West Fork of the Colorado River. There is a beaver dam there.

Elevation: 9,000ft

Indian Spring Trail 7.5 miles

Drive north on US 191/180 & turn left on FR 249 (Big Lake Rd) Take the Big Lake Road (FR 249) and turn left onto FR 249E (the sign will say Sprucedale).

Drive down FR 249E until you see the sign for Indian Springs.

Parking is on the left. Cross the street to start on the Trail. **EASY**

USGS Topo Map – Big Lake South

Meadow Walk

Drive on US 191 north & turn right on FR 8056 (Road to Escudilla).

Drive .9 miles to just past the gray rock earthen dam and park on the right side of the road. USGS Topo Quad- Nutrioso.

Hike to Crackerjack Tank

Drive along US 191 north of Alpine past Tal-Wi-Wi

Just beyond the Alpine Divide, slow down and turn right at the first road on the right. Drive in and park on the left side.

Take the road to the left to Cracker Jack Tank

For Easy Walking – Take the road to the right for an easy hike. Elevation: 8894 ft. USGS Topo Map - Alpine

Paddy Creek

Drive on US 191 north and turn right on FR 8056 (Road to Escudilla). Turn right & drive .4 miles and turn right onto FR 8065. Hike along Paddy Creek. It is uphill but listening to a babbling stream in the shade is lovely. USGS Topo Quad- Nutrioso. Elevation: 8172 ft.

Thompson Trail: (Excellent wildflower viewing & views of the West Fork of the Black River.)

Drive north on US 191/180 & turn left on FR 249E (sign for Sprucedale). Continue on FR 249E and turn left on FR 116. There is parking next to the sign on the right side of the road.

Elevation: 8800 ft. USGS Topo Map – Big Lake North/Big Lake South

Williams Valley –Drive north on US 191/180 & turn left on FR 249 (Big Lake Road). Drive 4.5 miles. At the restroom, park and hike up the valley. Elevation: 8700 ft.

San Francisco River

US 191 north to FR 249 (Big Lake Rd)- Turn left

Drive .9 miles and turn left onto FR 8854 (You will see the back of a stop sign)

Drive along for .4 miles. Park your car (on the right side) & walk along the road towards the San Francisco River. Walk until you reach the river. EASY

If you continue on the road to the left, it is also an EASY walk.

East of Alpine - Improved Forest Rd Walk

Drive east on US180. After milemarker 432, you will see CR 2310 on your right.

Drive 2 miles in and you see a gravel road on your right. It will be FR 10. Park close by and walk along an improved dirt/gravel road. Note, you will be walking slightly downhill and will have to walk uphill coming back. **EASY**

