



## Lightning Ridge Trail

**Length:** 13.4 miles (21.6 km)

**Use:** Light

**Difficulty**

**Horseback:** More Difficult

**Hiking:** More Difficult

**USGS Maps:** Boiling Springs, Deadwood Reservoir, Lightning Ridge, Pyle Creek

**Recreation sites nearby:** Onion Valley Trail, Alley Trail, Airline Trail, Lightning Basin Trail, Tie Creek Campground

### Attractions and Considerations

As the trail ascends Lightning Ridge, it provides views of Scott Mountain, Onion Valley, Garden Valley, Crouch, and the surrounding mountains and valleys. Short stretches of the trail are steep, rocky, and boggy. In August 1986, the Lightning Creek drainage and the last few miles of trail near the west trailhead were the northern edge of the 18,500-acre Anderson Creek Fire. This lightning-caused fire was the largest one in Idaho that summer and cost over \$6 million to suppress.

From the south end of Deadwood Reservoir, the first 5 miles of the trail are open only to non-motorized traffic from September 15 to June 15.

Bordered by huckleberry bushes, the trail begins in a lodgepole pine and Douglas fir forest. Within 1½ miles, the trail crosses Daisy Creek. It parallels Trail Creek for about 3 miles, and then ascends sharply to Lightning Ridge. The ridge is topped with weathered granite outcrops and offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. The trail descends steeply to Onion Valley, crosses Onion Creek and soon afterward intersects with the Onion Valley Trail. The Lightning Ridge Trail ascends once again, offering views of Scott Mountain and its lookout, and passes through the area burned by the Anderson Creek Fire. After following the ridge for several miles it descends to National Forest Road 611 (NF-611), where it ends.

### Trail Beginning

**Elevation:** 5440 ft

The trail begins at the south end of Deadwood Reservoir where the Lightning Ridge Trail intersects the Westside Trail.

### Trail Ending

**Elevation:** 4560 ft

The trail ends at its intersection with NF-611 (Lightning Creek Road).

### Access 1:

Start about a half-mile northeast of the South Fork Lodge in Lowman on State Highway 21 at the intersection of the Banks-Lowman Highway. Travel west on Highway 17 for 9 miles to the intersection of NF-555 (Scott Mountain road) and travel north on NF-555

about 25 miles to the signed Westside trailhead. Go west about one mile on the Westside Trail to the signed Lightning Ridge Trailhead. Vehicles with trailers are not recommended on NF-555 due to its steep and rocky sections.

**Access 2:**

Start at the Crouch turn-off on the Banks-Lowman highway and travel north through Crouch on NF-698. At the intersection of NF-611 (Lightning Creek road) go southeast on NF-611 about 5 miles to where an earthen barrier blocks the road.

