

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Butte Area - #87, Homestake/Pipestone

Managed Use(s): Hike, horse and mountain bike

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with some steep sections.

Trail Length: 8.5 and 4 miles (see narrative below)

Attractions and Considerations

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) has several segments around Butte that provide visitors with panoramic vistas, unique geological formations, historical features, and vegetation. The first segment begins at Homestake Pass on Interstate 90 on the south side of the Interstate. The trail is constructed for 5 miles to the 7400 foot elevation, from there the trail is not constructed for 1.5 miles until it meets with the Beaverponds Trail #105 junction. At the junction the trail continues south for 2 miles to Pipestone Pass. At Pipestone Pass the trail continues south for 4 miles to the head of Limekiln Hill.

From Homestake Pass trail users will travel through a forested area to the top of the continental divide. Along the way you will see old stumps reminiscent of past logging activities to support the Butte mines. Old roads are visible that were used to haul lumber and other material. Along the ridge top visitors will see an old cabin and old mine workings. Panoramic vistas include views of the Butte valley, Fleecer Mountain Range, Tobacco Root Mountains, Pioneer Mountains and the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness area.

Trailhead Directions

Homestake Pass Trailhead: From Butte, take Interstate 90 east toward Billings. Exit at Homestake Pass and turn right at the stop sign. The trailhead parking area is located just to the right of the exit ramp. A green gate on a small hill is the start of the trail.

Pipestone Pass Trailhead: From Butte take Harrison Avenue south to Montana Highway 2 to Whitehall. Pipestone Pass is approximately 10 miles from this intersection. The parking area is on the right side of the road when you reach the Pass.

For more information, contact the Butte Ranger District.