

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) Madison Ranger District Section

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

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with some steep sections.

Trail Length: (see narrative below)

Attractions and Considerations

The Continental Divide Trail on the Madison Ranger District starts just off State Hwy 87, at the jct. with the Antelope Basin Road #230, about one mile north of Reynolds Pass. Hikers will follow road #230 for about a mile and then junction with Trail #352, the Continental Divide Trail, at the top of the rise overlooking Antelope Basin. Trail #352 was constructed in 1990. It is a single track trail, 2 miles long, passing through grasslands, open stands of Douglas fir, and aspen. In places, grass has grown over the constructed tread, so keep alert for blazes and CDT assurance markers on trees to stay the course. This route closely follows the actual Continental Divide, dipping in and out of the Montana/Idaho border. Terrific vistas of the Madison and Centennial Ranges come into view along this relatively easy hike. In the spring there is an abundance of wildflowers, and beginning in September, fall colors adorn the aspen and willow thickets to evidence the changing seasons and provide a prelude to winter. At the end of the trail portion of this route, hikers will encounter the 056 road, which follows the divide, winding seven miles through the Henry's Lake Mountains, to Red Rock Pass. Road 056 is a fairly low standard jeep road which does not receive a lot of vehicle traffic outside of the fall hunting season.

From Red Rock Pass, hikers cross the Centennial Road and follow the signs for the CDT which now begins its' reach across the Centennial Mountains. Wildlife is some of the usual suspects for this part of Montana, with good opportunities to view elk, badger, deer, and antelope. Bears, both grizzly and black bears, may be found as well, and wolves have been seasonally established in Antelope Basin. Raptors and song birds are commonly seen.

For more information, contact the Madison Ranger District.