General Description: Short day hike through mixed conifer, aspen forests, and meadows to two scenic reservoirs.

Mileage: 3.3 miles round-trip to both reservoirs.
1.5 miles to Long Willow Bottom, one way.
1.8 miles to Round Willow Bottom, one way.

Difficulty: Foot: easy/moderate
Bike: easy/moderate
Horse: easy
OHV: not permitted

Trailhead access: Graded dirt road
Elevation loss / gain: 400 feet
Water availability: Water is available at Long and Round Willow Bottom reservoirs and other nearby lakes. The trail crosses over some small streams. Bring your own water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated before drinking.

Hazards / obstacles: Sections of the trail through the meadows and pine forests can be difficult to follow. Keep an eye out for cairns and blazes. Mosquitoes can be prevalent in spring and early summer, wear a long sleeve shirt and pants and use insect repellent. Weather can change quickly. Be prepared for cold weather year-round. Ridges, saddles, view points and open meadows are dangerous during thunderstorms.

Topo maps: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Barker Reservoir

The Trailhead: From Escalante drive west on Hwy 12. Turn right on the gravel road between milepost 55 and 56 and cross the creek. After a short distance, make a right on the road signed “Barker CG.” This is forest road 149 (FR 149). Continue of FR 149 for 16.5 miles to the Upper Barker Reservoir parking area where the road dead ends.

The Trail: The Round Willow Bottom trail begins on the east side of the Upper Barker Reservoir parking lot. The trail passes through a fence where it comes to a junction with the Dougherty Basin Trail. Continue straight on the trail. The trail begins its gradual climb. At 0.33 miles the Griffin Top Trail comes in on the left. At 0.46 miles the Great Western Trail (GWT) comes in on the right and joins the trail. At 1.1 miles take the trail to Round Willow Bottom. The other trail is where you will come back. At 1.83 miles you will reach Round Willow Bottom reservoir. There is a campsite here with a fire pit and bear box. Continue on the trail around the north side of the reservoir. When you reach the long narrow meadow the trail will climb steeply to the right. At 1.91 miles the trail reaches the GWT and Long Willow Bottom Reservoir comes into view. Turn right on the GWT and descend down to the dam. Continue downhill, at 2.23 miles the trail to Round Willow Bottom comes in on the right (this is the junction you were at before). Turn left. From here it is 1.1 miles back to the trailhead.