

Blanco Ranger District
220 E Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641



BIG RIDGE TRAIL # 1820

Open To: HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING Please be respectful of others

Length: 9.5 miles

Difficulty: More Difficult

TRAIL USE: Moderate

BEGINNING ELEVATION: 7,571 feet

ENDING ELEVATION: 9,936 feet (highest point 10,163 feet)

ELEVATION GAIN: +2,787 feet – 426 feet = +2,361 feet

Access:

- The Big Ridge Trail is located 30 miles east of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 28 miles.
- Turn south at Fritzlans Guest Ranch, cross the bridge, and turn east on the Marvine Creek Road (Rio Blanco County Road 12) for 1 mile to the Big Ridge Trailhead.

Trail Highlights:

The trail starts from the Marvine Road and climbs Big Ridge. Once onto the ridge, the view to the southeast reveals the Marvine drainages, Rat Mountain, and the Little Marvine Peaks. Three miles from the road you drop into a saddle with Red Springs on your right about 100 yards below the trail. In addition to the aspen and sagebrush parks you've been traveling through, scattered lodgepole pine may be seen along the trail to the north. One and one-half miles beyond Red Springs, you enter a stand of lodgepole from which the Wild Cow Park Trail branches to the south. Once past this stand of pine you enter the grassy meadows of Big Park for about two miles. Sable Point is the dominant land mass in front of you as you cross Big Park. Once again you enter the forested area which has changed from aspen and lodgepole pine to Englemann spruce and alpine fir. Nine miles from the start of the trail, you arrive at Sable Lake. From Sable Lake, the Mirror Lake trail is 3 miles to the east. The trail enters the Wilderness about 1 1/2 miles past Sable Lake where the trail starts to drop into the Mirror Creek drainage.

Important Information

- **THIS TRAIL IS USED FOR MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HIKING AND HORSEBACK RIDING.**
- **DOMESTIC CATTLE MAY BE GRAZING IN THE AREA. PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS!**
- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.
- Above tree line camp stoves with a shut-off valve are the only fire sources allowed. Do not plan on using a campfire for cooking or warmth! Pack accordingly.

