

## Trail Highlights



One section of the Deerfield trail follows along and crosses Slate Creek 34 times with bridges similar to the one shown above. Volunteers from the Norbeck Society and with support from the South Dakota National Guard assisted in the construction of the bridges.



Lake Loop Trail- No reason to be hot on this trail. The cool water of Deerfield Lake beckens you.

## Trail Descriptions

### Deerfield Trail

**Elevation:** 4600 to 6200 feet  
**Length:** 23 miles  
**Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult  
**Location:** Between Deerfield and Pactola Lakes

Moderate Difficult

**Deer Creek Trailhead**  
 From Rapid City take Highway 44 to Highway 385. Turn north and travel 1.4 miles to county road 299. (Silver City Road) Take 299 for 0.2 miles to a short road to the trailhead. This trailhead also serves the Centennial Trail.

**Silver City Trailhead**  
 From Rapid City take Highway 44 to Highway 385. Turn north and travel 1.4 miles to county road 299. Take 299 for 4.4 miles to FSR 141. Turn right just before the Rapid Creek bridge and go 0.5 miles to the trailhead at a gate which blocks a bridge over Rapid Creek.

**Daughterly Trailhead**  
 From Hill City take Forest Highway 17 for 5.3 miles to FSR 231. Take FSR 231 for 5.6 miles to the trailhead.

**Kinney Canyon Trailhead**  
 From Hill City take Forest Highway 17 for 10.2 miles to FSR 188. Take FSR 188 for 2.8 miles to the trailhead.

### Lake Loop Trail

**Elevation:** 5800 to 6200 feet  
**Length:** 11 miles  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Location:**

Moderate

**Gold Run Trailhead**  
 From Hill City take Highway 17 (FH 17) for 14.6 miles to FSR 465. Travel north on FSR 465 for 0.2 miles to the trailhead.

**North Shore Trailhead**  
 From Hill City take Forest Highway 17 for 18.8 miles circling around the inlet of Deerfield Lake to FSR 461. Travel south on FSR 461 for 1.4 miles to the trailhead. Or from Rochford take FSR 231 for 0.6 miles west to FH 17. Turn to the south and follow FH 17 for 10.4 to FSR 461. Travel south on FSR 461 for 1.4 miles to the trailhead.

**Custer Trails Trailhead**  
 From Hill City take Forest Highway 17 for 20.2 miles circling around the inlet of Deerfield Lake to FSR 417. Travel south on FSR 417 for 1.5 miles to the trailhead. Or from Rochford take FSR 231 for 0.6 miles west to FH 17. Turn to the south and follow FH 17 for 9 miles to FSR 417. Travel south on FSR 417 for 1.5 miles to the trailhead.

# Deerfield & Lake Loop Trails

## Trail Numbers 40 & 40L

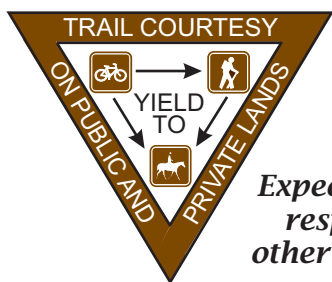


**Black Hills National Forest**



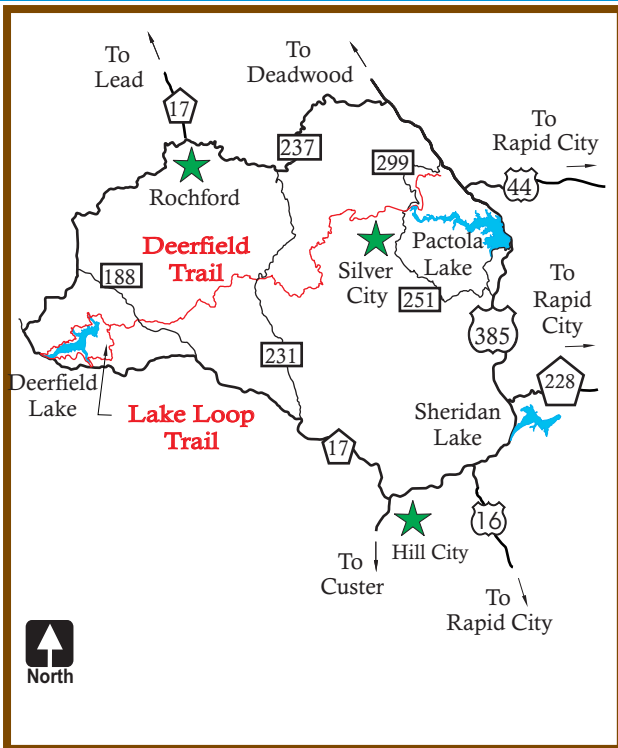
## General Information

-  **Trail Ethics**  
Please do not cut across switchbacks or pioneer new trails.
-  **Extreme Weather**  
Clear, sunny days can quickly turn into afternoon thunderstorms. Start trips early in the day and carry raingear.
-  **Stream and Spring Water**  
Do not drink it! Each trail user should carry at least one quart of water.
-  **Fire Safety**  
In accordance with the Black Hills Fire Protection District regulations and South Dakota state law, open fires are prohibited throughout the forest.
-  **Motors and Machines**  
These trails are not maintained for the use of motorized vehicle traffic.



*Expect and respect other users.*

*Enjoy the National Forest, but please TREAD LIGHTLY and DON'T LITTER.*



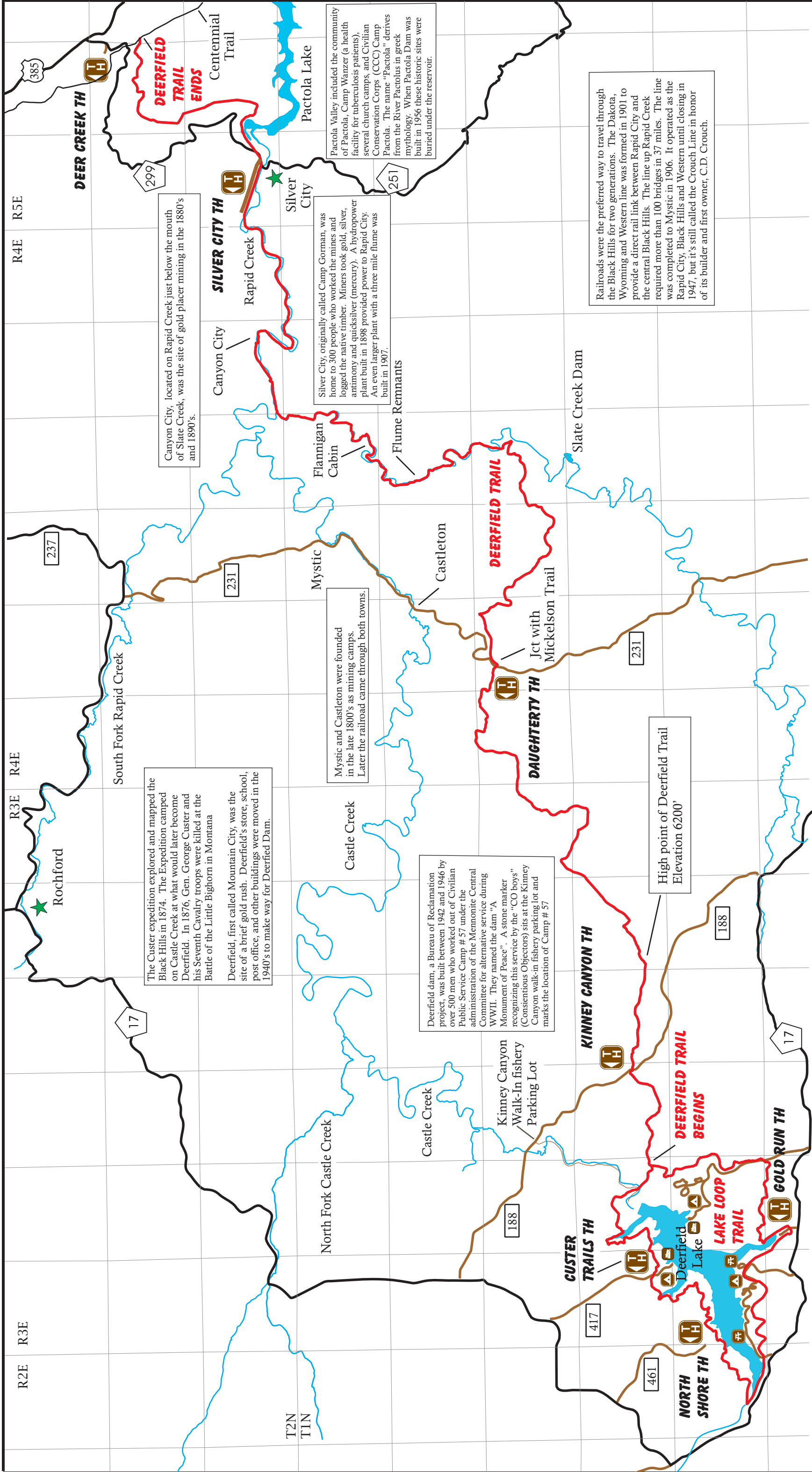
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 Rapid City, SD 57702  
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 Custer, SD 57730  
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[www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills)

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The Custer expedition explored and mapped the Black Hills in 1874. The Expedition camped on Castle Creek at what would later become Deerfield. In 1876, Gen. George Custer and his Seventh Cavalry troops were killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

Deerfield, first called Mountain City, was the site of a brief gold rush. Deerfield's store, school, post office, and other buildings were moved in the 1940's to make way for Deerfield Dam.

Mystic and Castleton were founded in the late 1800's as mining camps. Later the railroad came through both towns.

Silver City, originally called Camp Gorman, was home to 300 people who worked the mines and logged the native timber. Miners took gold, silver, antimony and quicksilver (mercury). A hydropower plant built in 1898 provided power to Rapid City. An even larger plant with a three mile flume was built in 1907.

Pactola Valley included the community of Pactola, Camp Wanzer (a health facility for tuberculosis patients), several church camps, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Pactola. The name "Pactola" derives from the River Pactolus in greek mythology. When Pactola Dam was built in 1956 these historic sites were buried under the reservoir.

Deerfield dam, a Bureau of Reclamation project, was built between 1942 and 1946 by over 500 men who worked out of Civilian Public Service Camp # 57 under the administration of the Mennonite Central Committee for alternative service during WWII. They named the dam "A Monument of Peace". A stone marker recognizing this service by the "CO boys" (Conscientious Objectors) sits at the Kinney Canyon walk-in fishery parking lot and marks the location of Camp # 57.

Railroads were the preferred way to travel through the Black Hills for two generations. The Dakota, Wyoming and Western line was formed in 1901 to provide a direct rail link between Rapid City and the central Black Hills. The line up Rapid Creek required more than 100 bridges in 37 miles. The line was completed to Mystic in 1906. It operated as the Rapid City, Black Hills and Western until closing in 1947, but it's still called the Crouch Line in honor of its builder and first owner, C.D. Crouch.

**MAP LEGEND**

- Trail
- Creek

- County Road or Forest Highway
- USFS System Road
- Trailhead
- Campground

- Picnic Area
- Boat Launch

Note: Some parts of the Deerfield trail follow existing Forest Service roads which are open for motorized use.

Scale - Each box is a 1 square mile section

