General Description: This trail follows the Blue Springs drainage and accesses the

Great Western Trail from the Hells Backbone Road (FR 153).

Mileage: 1.5 miles

Difficulty: Foot: moderate

Bike: moderate

Horse: easy/moderate

OHV: not permitted, including E-bikes

Trailhead access: Graded dirt road

Elevation loss / gain: 700 ft

Water availability: Blue Spring Creek and Nettle Spring Ranch. Bring your own

water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated

before drinking.

Hazards / obstacles: 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: Posy Lake

The Trailhead: From Escalante, turn north on the Hells Backbone Road/Pine Lake Road (300 E.). At 0.7 miles the road will fork, stay right. After 3.5 miles the road will turn to dirt and is now called Forest Road 153 (FR153). At 13.6 miles the road will fork, turn right following the sign to "Hells Backbone Bridge" (FR 153). The trailhead is located 4.0 miles after this junction. Park in a pull-out along FR 153.

The Trail: The Blue Springs Trail begins on FR 153 near Blue Spruce Campground. The trail climbs continuously for 1.5 miles and ends at a junction with the Great Western Trail. About one mile after passing by Blue Spring Creek, the trail comes to a junction on an old road. One fork of the trail turns north and then northwest along the old road before reaching the Great Western Trail at Nettle Spring Ranch. The other fork of the trail turns west for about 0.5 mile where it also ends at a junction with the Great Western Trail.

