



Great Western Trail (GWT)

Horse Creek Section TR. NO. 001.3

Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District

General Description: The Great Western Trail is a continuous trail system that extends from Canada to Mexico and crosses through Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. The trail is marked by the Great Western Trail symbol and has sections open to hikers, bikers, horseman, and Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Approximately 80 miles of the Great Western Trail traverses the Escalante Ranger District, utilizing existing trail systems.

Mileage: 7.8 miles one way

Difficulty: Foot: Moderate

Bike: Difficult

Horse: Moderate

OHV: Not Permitted, including E-bikes

Trailhead access: Graded Dirt Road, 2-wheel drive

Elevation loss / gain: 1290 feet

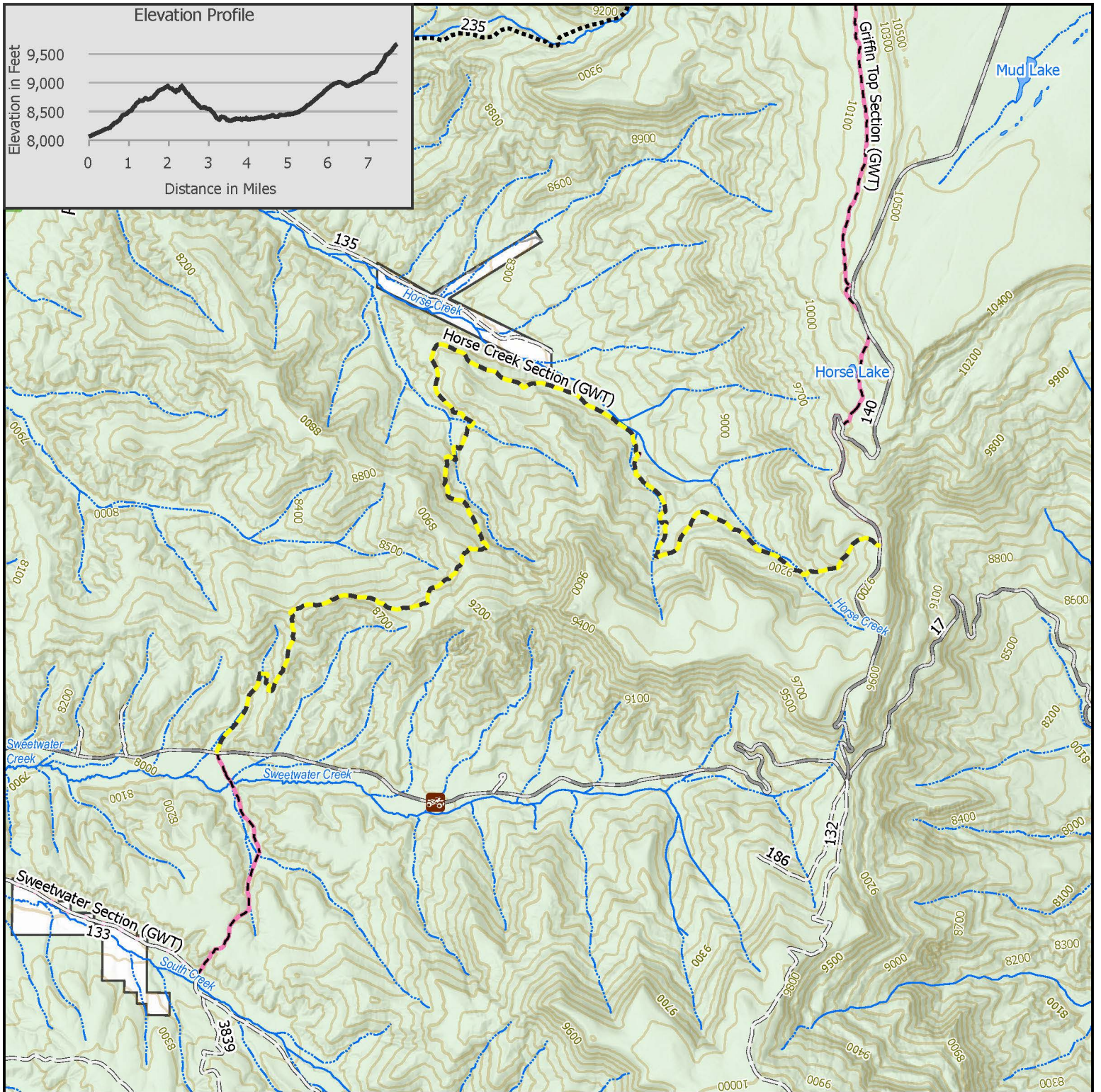
Water availability: Water may be available in Horse Creek. Bring your own water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated before drinking.

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, viewpoints and open meadows are dangerous during thunderstorms. Sections of the trail may be difficult to follow, keep an eye out for rock cairns and blazes.

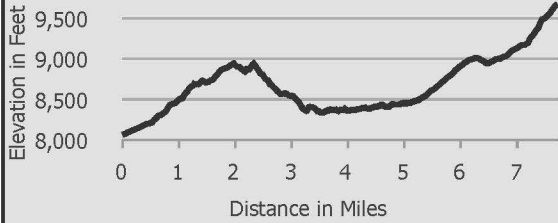
Topo maps: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Sweetwater Creek

The Trailhead: From Tropic drive 7.4 miles west on Hwy 12 to the Bryce Canyon / Antimony intersection. Turn north (right) toward Antimony. This is county road 1660 locally know as Johns Valley Road. 13.4 miles down Johns Valley Road turn right on FH 17 (Widtsoe Junction).”

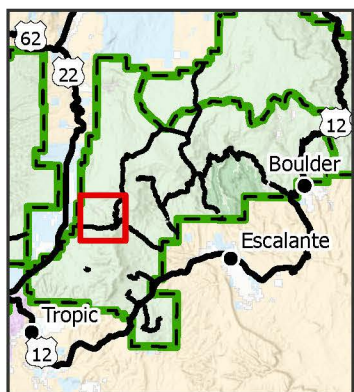
The Trail: From FH 17 the trail follows a road north east. At .5 miles the trail turns right at the sign. Still following an old road the trail climbs steeply for .25 miles where the trail then leaves the road to the left. The trail begins a steep climb to the top of the ridge. The climb to the top of the ridge and the section of trail along the ridge has very scenic views. At about 2 miles the trail reaches a saddle and begins to descend towards Horse Creek. This saddle makes a good place to turn around for those looking for a shorter hike. At 3.5 miles the trail enters a drainage. Look for rock cairns to cross the drainage. From here the trail gently descends until it reaches the junction of FR 135 at 6 miles. Turn right (NOTE: if you are traveling this trail in the opposite direction this turn off can be easy to miss. When you get to the road junction just above the red “16” section number on the map look for the trail leaving to the left. If you cross over Horse Creek you went too far!) Just after turning right you will come to a fork in the road. Either fork will work but the one to the south is more scenic and less steep. At 7.75 miles the trail enters a meadow then begins an extremely steep climb up to FR 140 where the trail terminates.



Elevation Profile



Vicinity Map



GWT: Horse Creek Section

Escalante Ranger District, Dixie National Forest

- OHV Staging Area
- GWT Horse Creek
- Improved, Gravel
- Unimproved Road (4WD)
- Trail Motorized
- Trail Non-Motorized
- Non-Forest Road
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- National Forest
- Private
- State
- Forest Boundary



Scale: 1:47,520



The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.

Date 2/25/2025

