

TRAILS

RESERVATION DIVIDE TRAILS



**Lolo
National Forest**


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RESERVATION DIVIDE

*THE TRAILS, SIGHTS
AND POINTS OF
INTEREST ALONG THE
DIVIDE IN THE
NINEMILE RANGER DISTRICT.*



The Reservation Divide consists of 16,000 acres of backcountry along the divide between the Lolo National Forest and the Flathead Indian Reservation. Close to Missoula, this area provides excellent opportunities for day hikes or overnight trips to high-elevation vistas.

Hiking trails abound and surround these peaks. You'll be enlightened with history, geology and wildlife, and exercised by a variety of elevations.



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THE PEAKS

The views from 7,994-foot **Squaw Peak** are a 360-degree delight. To the northwest there's the Cabinet Range, due north it's Flathead Lake and the Bison Range, and to the northeast there's a breathtaking view of the Mission Mountains – on a clear day you can see Glacier National Park. The Rattlesnake Wilderness is to the east, the main Bitterroot Range is to the south and southwest, and the Sapphire Range, Flint Creek, the Anaconda-Pintlers and the city of Missoula are all to the southeast.

Besides Squaw Peak, three other peaks feature excellent views—**McCormick, Josephine and Three Lakes**. As you follow the Divide west from Josephine Peak, the country opens up with beargrass meadows and scattered groups of sub-alpine fir and lodgepole pine.

WILDLIFE

Look for birds of prey, such as goshawks, sparrow hawks, redtail hawks and golden eagles.



PIKA

Pikas inhabit talus slopes above the timberline. If you see small piles of fresh hay, or hear a series of peculiar squeaks, a pika is nearby.

NATIVE PLANTS

The seeds of the whitebark pine are much in demand. They're gathered by wildlife such as the Clark's Nutcracker, who can collect up to one-third of its weight—up to

28 seeds at a time—under their beaks. Native Americans used to journey to Squaw Peak to gather the edible nuts.



WHITEBARK PINE

Look for beargrass in bloom from late June through July. Beargrass is a lily, not a grass. Its flowers are a favorite food for elk, but its grasslike leaves make poor forage.



BEARGRASS

Both wildflowers and huckleberries are pleasant summer attractions in this area. Other flowers you'll see are lupines, paintbrush, glacier lilies and spring beauties. The peak season for wildflower viewing is late June through early August. For huckleberries, the prime picking season is mid-July at lower elevations through August at higher elevations.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Along with the well-maintained trails, there are many points of interest in the Ninemile Area.

• **THE NINEMILE RANGER STATION AND REMOUNT DEPOT** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, because of the station's architecture and its role supplying horses and mules for fire fighting and back-country work.

- **THE GRAND MENARD PICNIC AREA** picnic facilities and an interpretive trail.

- **KREIS POND** is an eight-acre pond where you can cool off, picnic, fish and boat.

When traveling the upper portions of the divide, you pass through the Ninemile mining district, a good example of the “boom or bust” mining industry in the west during the late 1800s. Three towns once thrived here on mining and timber operations—Martina, Stark and Old Town. All that remains of them are a few cabins.

TRAILS

- **THE RESERVATION DIVIDE EAST TRAIL** (No. 98.3) is the primary access trail to Squaw Peak, located on the Reservation Divide 4 miles from the trailhead. This trail climbs 1,836 feet and connects with trails No. 707 and No. 746. A high-use trail, it is 10 miles northeast of the Ninemile Ranger Station via Edith Peak Rd. No. 476.

- **THE SQUAW PEAK TRAIL** (No. 707) provides a shorter route to Squaw Peak (2.8 miles) with more elevation gain (2,296 feet). This trail gets moderate use. The trailhead is 11 miles from the ranger station and can be accessed via Edith Peak Rd. No. 476, Butler Loop Rd. No. 456 and Stony Creek Rd. No. 2178.

- **THE KENNEDY CREEK TRAIL** (No. 746) connects with the Reservation Divide and Squaw Peak Trails. This 8-mile trail gets low use with an elevation gain of 1,900 feet. The trailhead is 14 miles from the ranger station via Ninemile Rd., Butler Rd. No. 456 and Rd. No. 5507.

- **THE MCCORMICK PEAK TRAIL** (No. 708) offers a relatively easy route to the 7,200-foot McCormick Peak. The

1.5-mile trail climbs 1,400 ft. from the trailhead to the peak. The trailhead is about 12 miles from the Ninemile Road via McCormick Creek Rd. No. 392 and Josephine Ridge Rd. No. 4213. At McCormick Peak, the trail ties into the Reservation Divide West Trail (No. 98.1), and leads to Josephine Peak.

- **THE BURNT FORK PINNACLE TRAIL**

(No. 418) in the 1930s was used as a sheep drive from the Flathead Valley to the Idaho State Line. It is a short, steep access to the Reservation Divide, Burnt Fork Pinnacles and the Three Lakes Peak area. A Forest Service lookout was perched on Burnt Fork Pinnacle from 1932 until 1950. The trail gains 3,300 feet in elevation, covers 2.5 miles and experiences low use. The trailhead is 18 miles from the ranger station via Ninemile Rd. and Foothills Rd. No. 5498.

- **THE RESERVATION DIVIDE WEST TRAIL**

(No. 98.1) follows the Reservation Divide between Siegel Pass and McCormick Peak, and offers many fine vistas of Western Montana. This 15-mile-long trail is the longest in the area, and its elevation varies. The trail has low use. The trailhead is 27 miles from the ranger station via Ninemile Rd., Foothills Rd. No. 5498 and Rd. No. 5572.



When hiking the Reservation Divide bring binoculars, flower and bird guides, a jacket and some basic emergency equipment. There is very little water available, so be sure to bring plenty with you. For more information contact the Ninemile Ranger Station.

