

Carson National Forest

Lost Lake Trail 91

Location: Questa Ranger District

Trail Beginning: 10,300 feet

Trail Ending: 11,495 feet

Access:

Travel south approximately six miles on State Highway 578 (old Hwy. 150) to the junction of Middle Fork and East Fork. The pavement ends here. Take the road to the right, Forest Road 58, for a distance of approximately 1.5 miles to a parking area. No turnaround or parking is available beyond this point.

Attractions and Considerations:

Foot and horseback travelers begin at the parking area along the jeep road to Middle Fork Lake. Both sides of the road are fenced in this area. (approximately 1/4 mile) to prevent trespass on the surrounding land.

Visitors must stay on the road. The road forks at the creek crossing. The fork going straight is gated and closed to the public. Take the fork to the left and cross the creek at the footbridge. The elevation at the creek crossing is 9,650 feet. For approximately one mile you will follow the trail along the east side of the creek. At times you follow the jeep trail as it switches back and forth on its way to Middle Fork Lake. Middle Fork Lake is not in the wilderness.

Foot and horseback travelers should note that this road is heavily used by motorcycles and four-wheel drive vehicles during the summer months. You will reach the trailhead to Lost Lake at the river crossing. The trail is signed and is to your left. It weaves through Douglas-fir and white fir stands and goes up the slope to some breathtaking vista points. After traveling about two miles, the trail leaves the forest and crosses a saddle on the ridge. The country opens up into small meadows with some aspen and scattered stands of spruce. Continue up through these lovely openings across several rock outcroppings.

About one-half mile before Lost Lake you will cross the wilderness boundary. It is four miles from the trailhead to Lost Lake which is at an elevation of 11,495 feet. Fishing is permitted and a state license is required. Lost Lake is stocked by helicopter with native cutthroat fry. Camping and campfires are not permitted along the lake shore. Please pick a campsite at least 300 feet from the lake.

Length: 4 miles **Use:** Moderate-Heavy **Recommended Season:** July - October

Difficulty: Intermediate to Expert. **Elevation:** 1,195 feet **USGS QUADS:**

