



Big M

Manistee Ranger Station
412 Red Apple Road
Manistee MI 49660
Voice (231) 723-2211
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The Big M Cross Country Ski and Mountain Bike Trail is located deep in the heart of the hardwood and pine forest of the Udell Hills. The trails offer a variety of terrain to challenge every biking and skiing experience level. The hills receive an average of 130 inches of snow from December through March, providing excellent cross country ski conditions. From April through September the hills offer a lush green canopy with many scenic vistas. During the winter the trail system is operated by the Manistee Cross Country Ski Council (e-mail address: skibigm.org), a non-profit volunteer organization, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service and volunteers maintain the trails during the summer season.

LOCATION

Big M is located between the communities of Manistee and Wellston in Manistee County, Michigan.

ACCESS

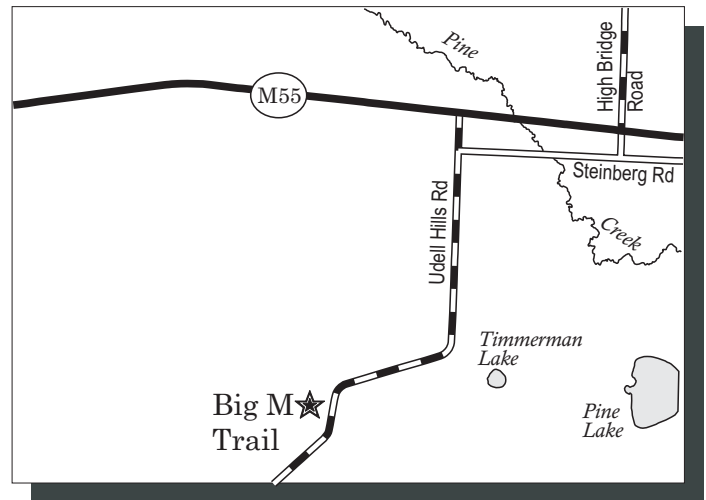
From Wellston, travel west on M-55 for about 4 miles to East Udell Hills Road, then south 3 miles to the Big M entrance and parking area.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

There are 30 kilometers of well marked trails available. The trails are groomed during the winter and maintained during the summer. The trail system offers a Chalet open during the weekends, a plowed parking lot, and a vault toilet building. The Chalet may be closed during the summer months. A single-track mountain bike trail completed in 2002 offers a 26 mile loop around the other Big M trails.

FEES

There are no fees required for the use of the Big M Cross Country Ski trail system. Big M is operated by a non-profit group of volunteers and contributions can be placed in donation pipes located at the start of the trail system. A Huron-Manistee NF vehicle pass is required from April 1st to November 1st. For the latest information regarding fees and conditions, please contact the Ranger Station at Manistee.



SEASON

The ski trails are groomed when snow conditions warrant and grooming usually starts in mid to late December through March. The best snow conditions are in January and February. The bike trail is open from April 15 to September 30. For more information, call the Manistee Ranger Station at 231-723-2211 or TTY 231-723-0124.

CONSIDERATIONS

Most trails are one-way (clockwise) and are extremely dangerous if skied or biked backwards.

Care should be taken to keep the trail system clean and in the condition it was found, so visitors are asked to please pack out what they pack in.

Dogs Must be Leashed on groomed trails.

“USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” This information is available in large print upon request.