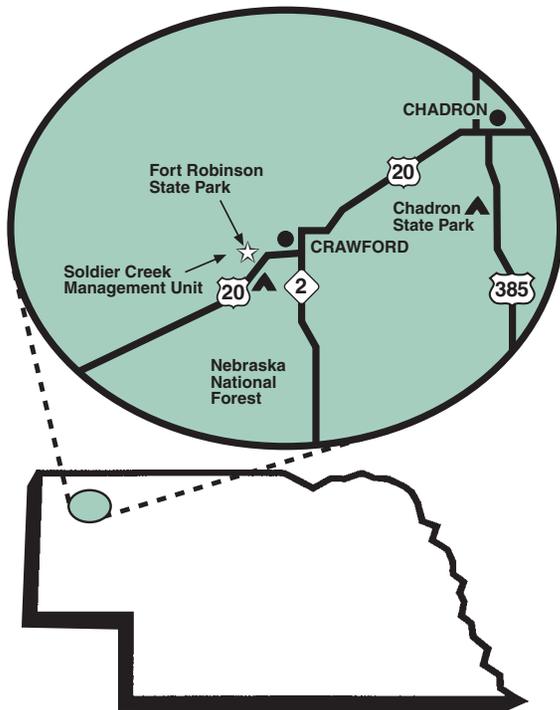


Fort Robinson State Park

With over 22,000 acres of rugged pine-covered hills, buttes and open prairie, Fort Robinson State Park is an outdoor dream. Activities and services include trail rides, fishing, natural and human history, cabins, camping, restaurant and a broad expanse of country waiting to be explored by horseback or on foot.

Some 20 miles of waterways course through the park. Some trails are marked with white diamonds. Inquire about difficulty at the Park Office.

Hike or horseback across country and explore the beautiful Pine Ridge. Hike to the top of the buttes. The bighorn sheep keep to the high country near the buttes. Explore the rugged hills above the James Ranch and look to the north for a glimpse of the vast Oglala National Grassland. The Fort Robinson Fire of 1989 burned many acres of pine forest in the park. Be cautious of falling trees when hiking in the burn areas. Enjoy the sounds of gurgling Soldier Creek and the breeze rustling the cottonwoods or whistling among the pines. Fort Robinson offers something for everyone. Strike out on your own and experience this vast natural area for yourself.



The Pine Ridge

Nebraska's Pine Ridge scribes a ragged arc across about 100 miles of the northwest Panhandle. Ranging up to 20 miles wide, administration of these lands lies in many hands. Some 51,000 acres of the central Ridge is managed by the Pine Ridge Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest. A smaller area of pine and grassland is part of the Oglala National Grassland, also under Forest Service management. State lands, managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, include Chadron and Fort Robinson state parks and numerous wildlife management areas.

The easy-to-follow trails accommodate both hikers and horseback riders. No motorized vehicles are allowed on or within 30 feet of Pine Ridge trail. Two blazes cut in pine trunks and unpainted posts mark the path through the trees, while cream-topped posts point the way across the meadows. Signs identify individual trails at intersections. Camping is allowed on Nebraska National Forest lands. Backpackers and horse campers should pack out their trash.

Open fires are permitted on the national forest lands, unless prohibited by special order. Build them on mineral soil, away from grass and trees. Make sure they are dead out when you leave. Warm, windy weather can produce explosive fire hazards, so use a compact stove during extreme danger periods. During high winds, be on the watch for possible falling snag trees in the burned over areas. Water is available at some springs and windmills, but these are not reliable sources and cannot be recommended for human consumption. Creek water should be boiled and purified before drinking.

Please keep all gates closed. Although the Pine Ridge has an arid climate, summer rainstorms can be violent. Flash floods are common, so avoid camping or parking vehicles on creek floodplains.

U.S. Forest Service -- Nebraska National Forest

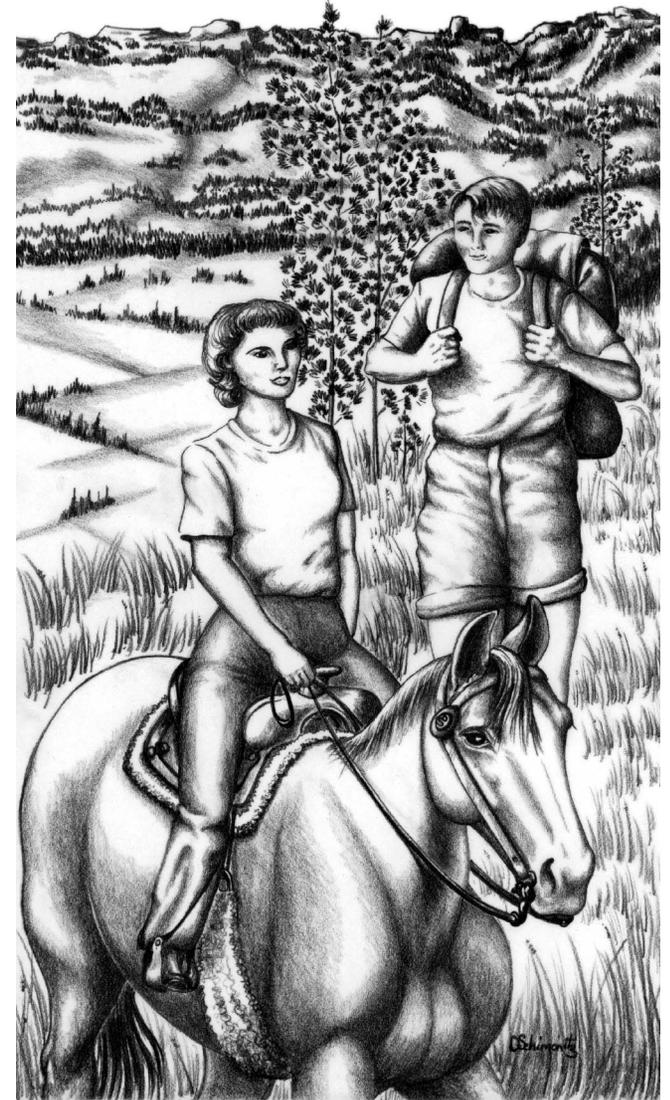
Supervisor's Office
125 North Main
Chadron, NE 69337
Phone: 308-432-0300

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Fort Robinson State Park
P.O. Box 392
Crawford, NE 69339-0392
Phone: 308-665-2900

Chadron State Park
15951 Hwy. 385
Chadron, NE 69337-9312
Phone: 308-432-6167

Pine Ridge Trails



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST TRAILS

Pine Ridge Trail

The Great Plains' ocean of rolling, grassy swales and farmland erupt abruptly into the rugged country called the Pine Ridge. This unexpected region owns an uncommon diversity of plant and animal life. The timbered canyons and open parks mix western and eastern plants, grazed pastures and sprawling timberlands. While the Ridge is not wilderness, it is still wild. The Pine Ridge Trail gives hikers and horseback riders panoramic views of the varied terrain, flora and fauna. No motorized vehicles are allowed on Pine Ridge Trail.

The Roberts and East Ash trailheads are access points to the Pine Ridge National Recreation Area, which is managed for non-motorized recreation.

Roberts Trailhead

This trailhead is located on an old homestead site on land once owned by the Roberts family. The area has picnic tables, stock water, horse corrals, accessible rider ramp and toilet. The trail heads straight south from the corrals for half a mile, then intersects the Rock Butte Trail. Roberts Trail stays low and follows a drainage to the southeast. Rock Butte Trail winds upward, offering intriguing views of sandstone rock faces. In less than a mile, the two trails meet again and travel southwest to join the Pine Ridge Trail. There is a fee for over-night camping from Memorial Weekend to late November.

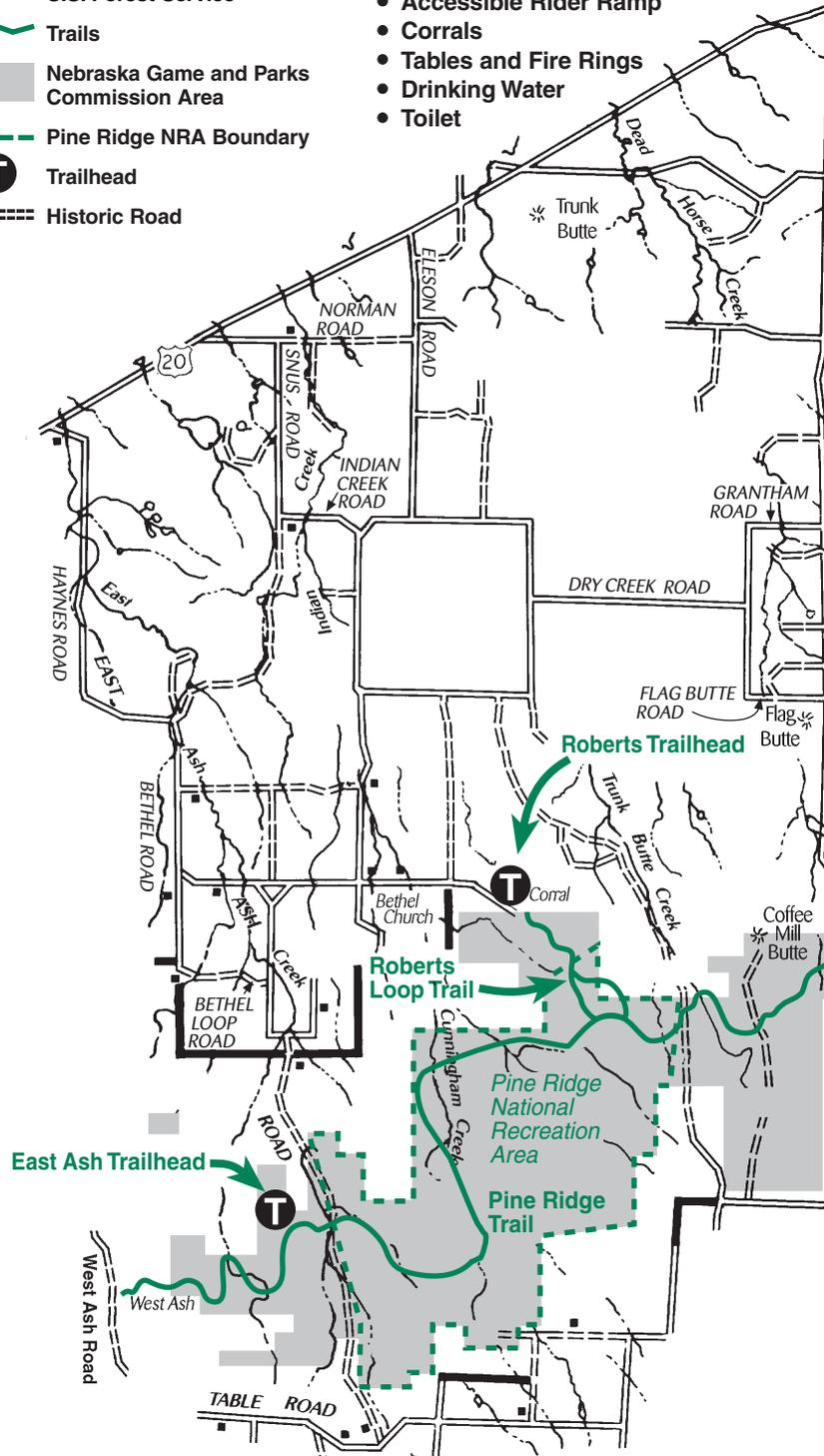
East Ash Trailhead

The west end of the Pine Ridge Trail lies amid the meadows of East Ash Creek. The trailhead is on the east side of East Ash Creek Road, just south of the creek crossings. The path follows a drainage for a brief distance, climbs to a large meadow and then drops into the pines near the headwaters of Cunningham Creek. At one point along the creek, the trail passes a stand of bur oak trees . . . a rarity in the Pine Ridge, which is near the western limit of the bur oak's range. Leaving the creek, the trail continues east through the site of the Cunningham Creek Fire of 1976. While forest fires can have beneficial effects on plant and animal communities, a wild fire is still a threat to life and property. The stark, blackened tree trunks stand as mute reminders of what nature can do when unleashed by a moment of human carelessness. From the burn, the trail descends into the Indian Creek drainage, where it meets the Roberts Trail.

-  Nebraska National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
-  Trails
-  Nebraska Game and Parks
Commission Area
-  Pine Ridge NRA Boundary
-  Trailhead
-  Historic Road

OTHER FACILITIES

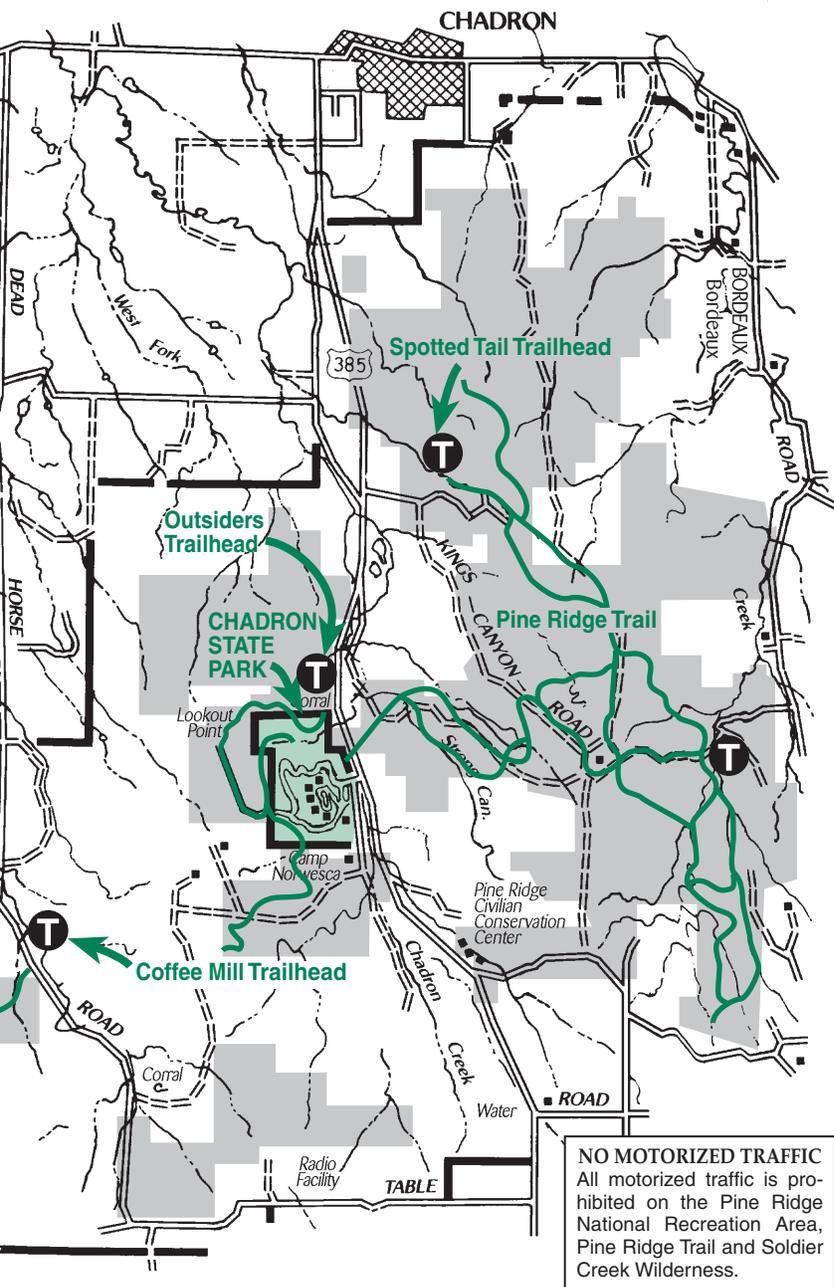
- Accessible Rider Ramp
- Corrals
- Tables and Fire Rings
- Drinking Water
- Toilet



Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or want more information, contact the Affirmative Action Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-0641; the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-2024, TTY / TDD 402-471-4693. USFWS, Division of Bird Habitat and Conservation, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CHADRON STATE PARK



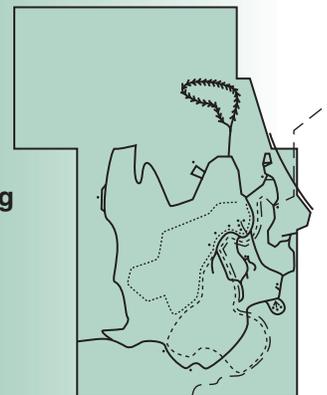
Coffee Mill Trailhead

This trail starts out from a meadow at the foot of the Pine Ridge, just west of Dead Horse Road. The path gradually ascends a timbered ridge that boasts a good view of Coffee Mill Butte to the northeast. It then drops into a hardwood-timbered bottom. There, rustic pine poles fence in Turkey Track Spring. From the spring, the trail climbs again to a primitive road and follows it a short distance before heading to Trunk Butte Creek. Skeletons of trees killed by Dutch elm disease protrude along the creek. Although a valuable resource was lost, the dead wood provides needed nesting and feeding sites for many wild animals. From the creek, the trail runs through meadows and timbered draws before meeting the Roberts Trail. Parking only.

Chadron State Park encompassed 973 acres of picturesque pine-covered hills, 8 miles south of Chadron on U.S. 385. Established in 1931, it is Nebraska's first state park. With its peaceful, idyllic setting, Chadron offers a wide range of recreational opportunities. Visitors will find modern housekeeping cabins, a modern campground, swimming pool, horseback trail rides and the Chartran Trading Post. There's a large group camp, and for winter sports buffs, there are cross-country ski trails. No private horses are allowed in the park. However, hiking trails bisect the park, angling southwest near the park headquarters through meadows and dense ponderosa pines. A mountain bike trail begins near the park campground. Inquire about difficulty at the park office. The trails are well marked with tree blazes or posts. Restrooms and water are available in the park.

ACTIVITIES

- Camping
- Swimming
- Horseback Trail Rides
- Outdoor Lore
- Chartran Trading Post Activities Center
- Paddleboating
- Hiking
- Backpacking



Outriders Trailhead

Corrals with water lie north of Chadron State Park. Camp at the park and corral your horses on Forest Service land.

Spotted Tail Trailhead

Named for the Sioux Indian chief, this trail begins on a high ridge, 5 miles south of Chadron on U.S. 385 and 1 mile east on a gravel road. It offers a spectacular view of Round Top Peak some 30 miles to the west. The trail winds south and east through sparsely timbered hills and intermittent creek bottoms. After 4½ miles, it crosses Kings Canyon and climbs from the wooded canyon to a large rolling meadow. As imagination sweeps away the windmills and fences, the land looks much as it did a century ago . . . just grass and sky. Now, the trail skirts the meadow and follows a primitive vehicle trail down to Strong Canyon, finally meeting U.S. 385 near Chadron State Park. Parking only.

Soldier Creek Management Unit

Nebraska National Forest/U.S. Forest Service

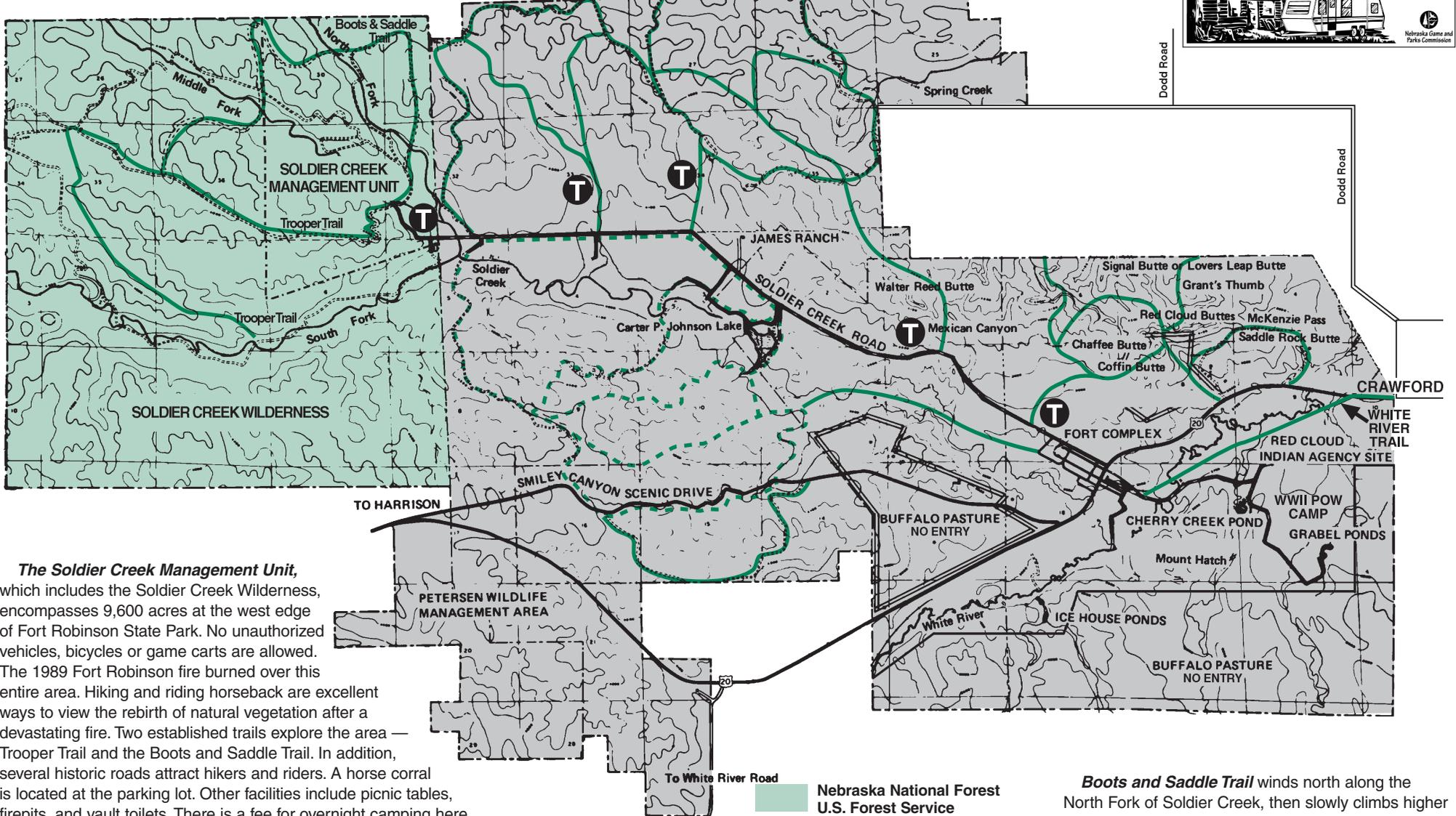
Fort Robinson State Park

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

It's EASY to make RESERVATIONS for your favorite
NEBRASKA STATE PARKS
 online at www.outdoornebraska.org
 or by calling: 402-471-1414



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



The Soldier Creek Management Unit, which includes the Soldier Creek Wilderness, encompasses 9,600 acres at the west edge of Fort Robinson State Park. No unauthorized vehicles, bicycles or game carts are allowed. The 1989 Fort Robinson fire burned over this entire area. Hiking and riding horseback are excellent ways to view the rebirth of natural vegetation after a devastating fire. Two established trails explore the area — Trooper Trail and the Boots and Saddle Trail. In addition, several historic roads attract hikers and riders. A horse corral is located at the parking lot. Other facilities include picnic tables, firepits, and vault toilets. There is a fee for overnight camping here from Memorial weekend through late November.

Trooper Trail extends along the ridge above the Middle Fork of Soldier Creek, where brown trout lurk among lush beds of watercress. It switchbacks up a steep ridge and follows the gentle crest of the ridge for about 3 miles through grassy parks and past old fire-killed pines. Near two windmills, the trail turns south and east and drops to the South Fork of Soldier Creek. One can follow the South Fork back to the corrals and parking lot.

-  Nebraska National Forest U.S. Forest Service
-  Hiking and Equestrian Trails
-  Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Area
-  All-Purpose Trail
-  Trailhead
-  Historic Road

Boots and Saddle Trail winds north along the North Fork of Soldier Creek, then slowly climbs higher to the northeast corner of the unit. From there, it turns west and again crosses the North Fork drainage at the site of the old Officers Club. Only foundations remain to remind visitors of the gala military parties once held there. About a mile to the west/southwest, the trail drops to the Middle Fork. It joins Trooper Trail on the ridge to the south. The loop combining both trails covers about 8 miles.