

# General Information



## Trail Ethics

Please don't cut across switchbacks or pioneer new trails.



## Extreme Weather

Clear sunny days can quickly turn into afternoon thunderstorms. Start trips early in the day and carry raingear.



## Stream and Spring Water

Do not drink it! Each trail user should carry at least one quart of water.



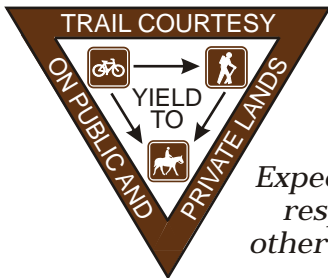
## Fire Safety

The State of Wyoming allows open fires only if they are contained and not left unattended. Be sure that the fire is completely extinguished before leaving.



## Motors and Machines

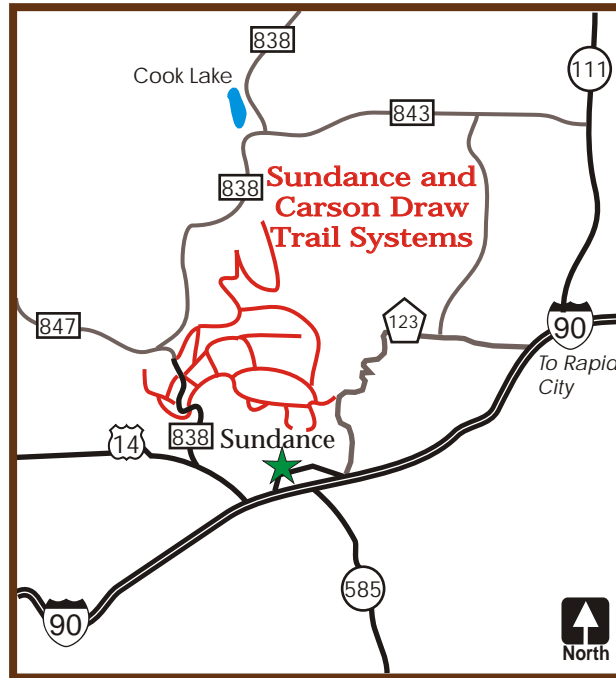
This trail is not maintained for the use of motorized vehicle traffic.



Expect and respect other users.

Enjoy the National Forest, but please TREAD LIGHTLY and DON'T LITTER.

## Location Map



MORE INFORMATION

→ Bearlodge Ranger District  
121 South 21st Street  
PO Box 680  
Sundance, WY 82729-0680  
(307) 283-1361

→ Supervisor's Office  
1019 N. 5th St.  
Custer, SD 57730  
(605) 673-9200  
TTY (605) 673-9227

# CARSON DRAW & SUNDANCE TRAILS

## Trail Numbers 87 & 93



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# Black Hills National Forest



# Trail Highlights

# Trail Descriptions



The Carson Draw and Sundance Trail systems provide the opportunity to explore the distinct beauty of the Black Hills of Wyoming, known as the Bearlodge Mountains. The 54.1 miles of trails pass through rugged canyons and rise out onto scenic ridge tops.

Hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders may find great enjoyment on both systems from spring through fall. The Carson Draw Trails are groomed to allow winter use for cross country skiers.

Trail access is provided by trailheads conveniently located along roads. Some of the trails have been used for over a hundred years, making them an integral part of the rich history of the Sundance area.

When passing through the Bearlodge Mountains, be aware of the presence of hazards such as poisonous snakes, mountain lions and poison ivy.

## Carson Draw Trails

Easy	Moderate
Elevation: 5,400 to 6,200 feet	
Length: 6.8 miles total	
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate	
Location: Three miles north of US 14 and Sundance on FDR 838.	

The Carson Draw Trails are four-season, non-motorized trails that wind through Carson Draw. They are “off the beaten path” and offer solitude to those searching for a more primitive trail experience. Pine, aspen and oak stands surround the trails and provide habitat for the abundant wildlife that uses the area.

Cross country skiers have become major users for the area’s winter activities. They find smooth, fast and fairly steep descents as well as tranquil level stretches. The nearly seven miles of trail are groomed weekly as weather permits, in cooperation with the Wyoming State Department of Parks and Historic Places.

From spring to fall, the trails are busy with multiple types of users, including hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders. The trails are a pleasant diversion into the peaceful back woods. Users may find that the trails are much like the Sundance system in their beauty and serenity, and offer an even greater level of solitude.

## Sundance Trails

Easy	Moderate	Difficult
Elevation: 4,600 to 6,200 feet		
Length: 47.3 miles total		
Difficulty: Easy to Difficult		
Location: Three and a half miles north of US 14 and Sundance on county road 123.		

This trail system weaves through the network of densely-forested canyons and winding open ridges that form the Bearlodge Mountains. From some ridge tops you can see such sites as the Custer Expedition Route, Devil’s Tower and the Twin Missouri Buttes. Elk, deer and turkey are among some of the abundant wildlife.

This rugged but serene country is ideal for horseback riding. The secluded trails provide one of the most primitive recreational opportunities in the Black Hills. Water for horses is normally available along many of the trails.

The Sundance Trails system is well-recognized for excellent mountain biking because of the rough topography. Be sure to look for bypasses designed specifically for more challenging mountain biking, especially South Fork Tent and Edge Trails.

Other area attractions include Devil’s Tower, Inyan Kara Mountain and Warren Peak Fire Lookout tower.



# Individual Trail Information

# Trail History

Trail Name	Length	Elevation Points			Elevation Profile
		Start	Peak	End	
Ogden Creek <b>A</b>	4.8 miles	5,985	5,985	4,898	
Sand Pit <b>B</b>	1.6 miles	6,370	6,370	5,347	
Upper Ogden <b>C</b>	1.5 miles	6,360	6,360	5,981	
Carson Cut-Across* <b>D</b>	0.7 mile	6,222	6,313	6,000	
Carson Draw** <b>E</b>	3.8 miles	5,480	5,688	5,583	
Carson Draw Spur 1** <b>F</b>	1.0 mile	5,596	5,596	5,500	
Carson Draw Spur 2** <b>G</b>	2.0 mile	5,680	6,213	6,213	
East Fork Quarry <b>H</b>	1.2 miles	5,348	5,348	5,133	
Ogden Ridge <b>I</b>	4.3 miles	4,860	6,305	6,305	
Reuter Springs <b>J</b>	3.0 miles	5,471	6,367	6,367	
Richardson Fire <b>K</b>	5.2 miles	5,620	6,087	5,723	
Sheepnose <b>L</b>	5.8 miles	4,890	5,715	5,570	
Sheepnose Mountain <b>M</b>	2.3 miles	5,826	5,826	5,570	
Tent Canyon <b>N</b>	1.5 miles	5,353	5,353	4,900	
Tent Canyon Ridge <b>O</b>	4.1 miles	4,890	6,057	6,057	
West Fork Quarry <b>P</b>	0.5 mile	5,587	5,587	5,391	
Whitetail <b>Q</b>	0.5 mile	5,308	5,491	5,224	
Edge <b>R</b>	2.6 miles	5,676	6,184	6,127	
South Fork* <b>S</b>	2.8 miles	5,010	6,033	6,033	
Sundance <b>T</b>	1.9 miles	4,816	5,455	5,348	

The Carson Draw and Sundance Trails have been developed to provide the recreationist with the opportunity to enjoy the Wyoming Black Hills. However, parts of the trail system have existed since the 1800's. They were the routes to reliable water, the only access to some parts of the mountains and a key part of the rich mining history of the Bearlodge Mountains.

In the late 1800's the early 1900's, miners and homesteaders made their way into the Bearlodge Mountains and settled. Three of the trails have been named for some of those first families, the Carsons, Ogdens and Reuters. The Ogdens had settled in the mouth of what is now Ogden Canyon in 1881. In 1893, a German immigrant, Emil Reuter, also made his way into the canyon to spend the rest of his life prospecting. The miner loved the Bearlodge Mountains so much that he never left them in the 32 years before his death. He was buried in the heart of the Bearlodge Mountains and his grave can still be found to this day along the Ogden Canyon Road, FDR 839.

Not only were the trails access to the homesteads and mining claims, they were the way to the reliable water sources. Ranchers used many of the trails to bring

their livestock up into the mountains to reach the water. With each homestead came a set of water rights to some of the springs and streams up in the mountains. The homesteaders forged trails to access those, including the Sand Pit Trail.

The Carson Draw and Sundance trails also follow paths that were the only access for fire fighters as they attempted to reach otherwise inaccessible areas of the mountains. The Richardson Fire Trail was one of those key routes.

As trail users wander through the southern Bearlodge Mountains, they might notice old fire scars. They are remnants of the great Sundance Fire of 1936 which burned 8,200 acres and threatened the town of Sundance.

\* Trail not recommended for horse users due to terrain, slope and/or difficulty.  
 \*\* Carson Draw area ski trails difficulty ratings are rated for cross-country skiers. Other users may find the trail easier.

