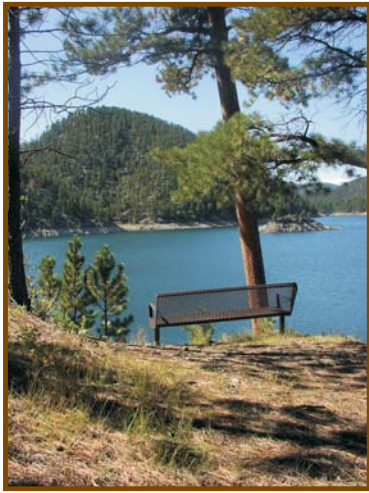







## Trail Highlights



Along the trail you will find two comfortable benches. Sit back and enjoy the spectacular view while you read a book, write a letter, or just get lost in your favorite thoughts.

## General Information

-  **Trail Ethics**  
Please do not 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.
  -  **Motors and Machines**  
This trail is not maintained for the use of motorized vehicle traffic.
  -  **Fire Safety**  
In accordance with the Black Hills Fire Protection District regulations and South Dakota state law, open fires are prohibited throughout the forest.
- § This recreation facility charges a day-use fee for parking at the trailheads.

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

## Location Map



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**Mystic Ranger District**  
8221 South Highway 16  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
(605) 343-1567

**Supervisor's Office**  
25041 North Highway 16  
Custer, SD 57730-7239  
(605) 673-9200

# Osprey Trail

Trail Number 58



**Black Hills National Forest**



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# Osprey Trail

Easy

Elevation: 4,600 feet

Length: Loop A 0.7 miles  
Loop B 1.5 miles  
and Overlook

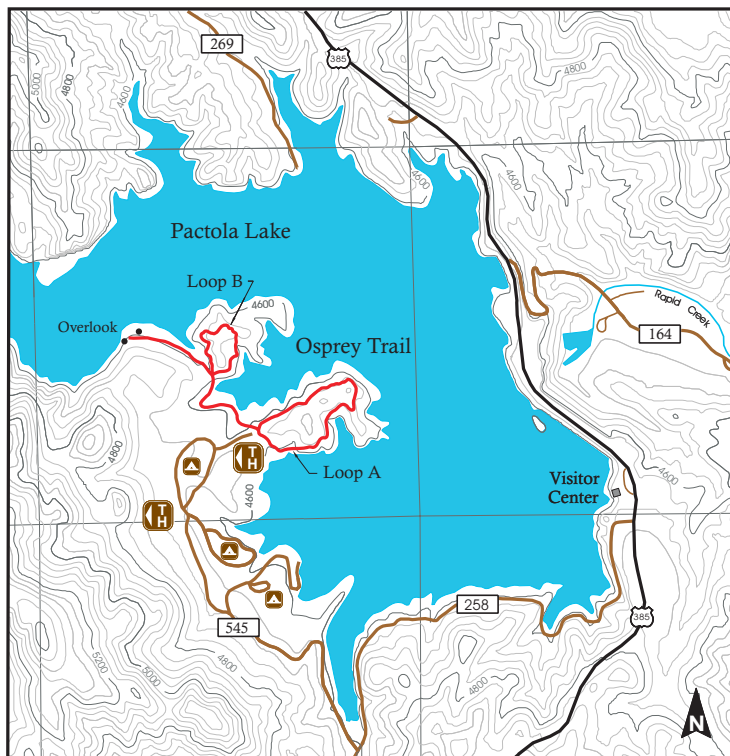
Trail lengths shown represent the distance from the trailhead, around the loop, to the overlook, and back to the trailhead. Total length of both trails is 2.2 miles.

Difficulty: Easy

**Location:** From Rapid City take Highway 44 west to the junction with Highway 385. Turn to the south and travel 2.8 miles to the junction with FSR 258 just past the Pactola Visitor Center. Travel west on FSR 258 for 1.4 miles to junction with FSR 545. Take FSR 545 for one mile to the trailhead.

There are two trailheads for the trail. The closer one is located just past the fee station to the left of the road. If parking here it will be necessary to walk on the road to get to the beginning of the trail. The other trailhead is located off the end of the Loop A camping area. Trail mileages are measured from the second trailhead.

Visitors need to purchase a day-use fee in order to park at the trailheads during the summer season.



<b>MAP LEGEND</b>	Trail	Scale - 3" = 1 mile	Trailhead
	Creek	Forest Service Road (FSR)	Bench Locations



The Osprey Trail was appropriately named because osprey are often seen in the Pactola Lake area. Osprey, also known as fish hawks, are fish-eating specialists, with live fish accounting for about 99 percent of their diet. Osprey are spectacular divers. Once they have sighted their prey, they fold their wings tightly, descend swiftly and enter the water feet first, often submerging completely. Long sharp talons and barbed pads grip the slippery fish. The fish will be carried back to the nest headfirst to make it as aerodynamic as possible.

Osprey often build their nests on telephone poles. Scott Weins took these photos in the Pactola Lake vicinity.

