

Lumberjack – Seneca Creek Loop

Description: This is a pretty moderate 10.7 mile circuit hike using a short section of FR 112, the Lumberjack Trail, Huckleberry Trail and Seneca Creek Trail. The Lumberjack trail is a rather mundane walk in the woods with the sole purpose of getting the hiker to the heart of this backcountry area quickly. Marc Shaffer of www.trailpixie.net described it quite aptly ... "pedestrian". The balance of the outing more than makes up for what is lacking in the Lumberjack Trail. You'll be rewarded with expansive views from at least two High Meadows along the Huckleberry trail, even more if you care to explore the High Meadows Trail further north. Then there are all of the numerous waterfalls and chutes along Seneca Creek! If you wish to visit the main falls add an additional 1 mile onto the trip. It's well worth it!

Warning: There are at least 5 creek crossings. Some will be over the boot tops. Be prepared.

Directions From the intersection of US 33 and US 55 in Seneca Rocks:

1. Take US 33 south through the town of Riverton.
2. Turn right onto Briery Gap Rd and climb up Spruce Mountain. In a few miles Briery Gap Rd will become gravel FR 112. Continue on.
3. At the intersection of FR 104 that goes to Spruce Knob continue straight on FR 112. FR112 will descend and switchback a bit down the mountain. Pass the Lumberjack Trailhead on the right just past the switchback. In less than 0.5 miles come to the trailhead and parking lot for Seneca Creek Trail.

Trail Notes: Walk up FR 112 retracing your drive a bit. In 0.6 miles arrive at the Lumberjack Trailhead (TR 534). Turn left onto the trail following the blue blazes. Parts of the trail might be wet. Look for side trails on top of the beams that parallel the old RR grade.

At 3.6 miles reach the junction with the Huckleberry Trail (TR 533). Turn left proceeding downhill on Huckleberry Trail. Look out on the left for open High Meadows with great views of the mountains surrounding the valley. Judy Spring Trail will be on the left. Continue on Huckleberry Trail. Pass the junction of High Meadows Trail on the right. There are more expansive views up there.

In 0.7 miles from the High Meadows Trail junction, after crossing a small stream, arrive at Seneca Creek Trail (TR 515). To visit the main falls of Seneca Creek turn right and walk downstream for less than 0.5 miles. This is a great lunch spot!

Retrace your steps, passing Huckleberry Trail on the left and continue south walking up Seneca Creek. Soon come to the first of 5 crossings. (I'll not describe the rest of the crossings but they are there and unavoidable.) Pass Bear Hunter Trail on the right and Judy Spring Trail on the left. There is a

bridge that crosses the Creek at the southern end of Judy Spring Camp area. Do not cross. This leads to Judy Spring Trail. Continue straight following the Creek.

Continue up Seneca Creek, crossing it several times. Pass Swallow Rock and Tom's Lick trail on the right. Towards the end the grade will increase a little and you will walk through an ever-encroaching Red Spruce thicket and cross a couple of small feeder streams. Soon arrive back at the cars.