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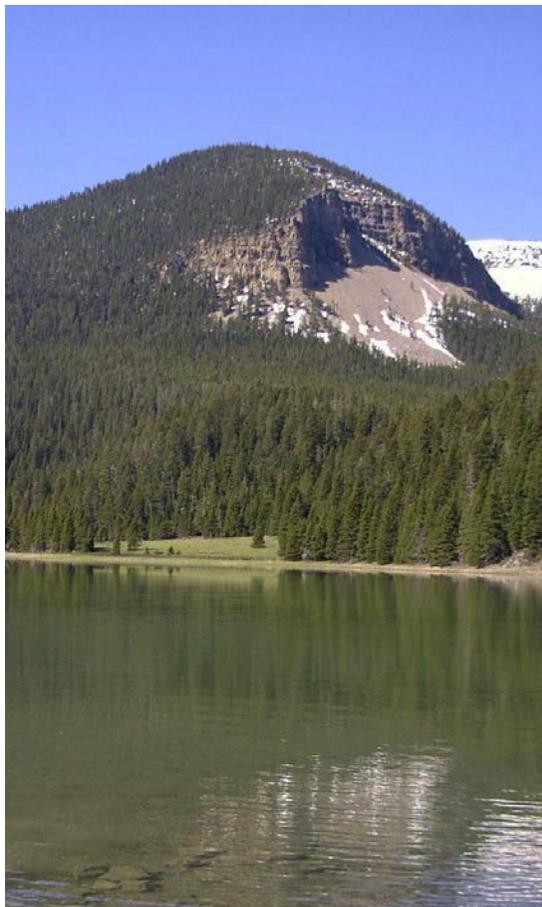


Crystal Lake Area Trails

Welcome to the Crystal Lake area of the Big Snowy Mountains! This island mountain range in central Montana features peaks reaching to 8,600 feet and long, high ridges from which vistas of the prairies and mountain ranges of south and central Montana can be viewed.

There are fishing streams and Crystal Lake offers trout fishing opportunities. You can spend your time watching birds, looking at wildflowers, or out on a trail.

The area around Crystal Lake provides opportunities for all ability levels for horseback riding and hiking, and even mountain biking. From canoeing on a quiet lake to fossil hunting in 400-million-year-old limestone, this area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest provides many chances for adventure. Open this brochure for some ideas on where to explore.



Lewis and Clark National Forest



Judith Ranger District
Stanford, MT 59479
(406) 566-2292

GETTING THERE

From Lewistown, Montana, take US Highway 87 west 8.7 miles to the Forest Access sign (Crystal Lake Road). Turn south onto Crystal Lake Road (dirt) and go 5.3 miles to a Y intersection. Bear left and go 3.9 miles to the Recreation Area sign. Turn left (east) at the sign, continuing on Crystal Lake Road, and go 12.7 miles to campground. Crystal Lake Road varies from a narrow two-lane road to single-lane. The last 6 miles are paved, but the road is single lane and has sharp curves in places. On December 1, the road is gated for snowmobile and other winter uses at the Forest boundary.

CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

Crystal Lake Campground is located at 5,700 feet near the shore of Crystal Lake. Twenty-eight large and secluded campsites are tucked into thick stands of spruce trees. A group site is available for large groups, with reservations.

Fee: \$10 per night per unit • Number of sites: 28 single sites, 3 accessible

Water: Pump facility with potable water • Rest rooms: 3 accessible toilets

CRYSTAL LAKE

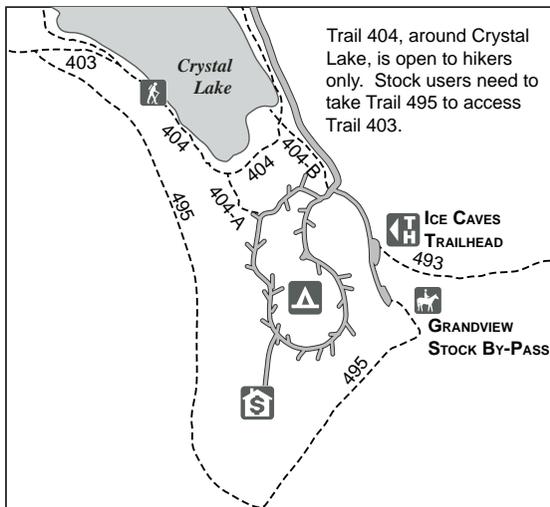
Crystal Lake is closed to gas-powered motors. It provides for a number of water-related activities, including canoeing, kayaking, wading, floating and fishing. The lake is stocked annually with trout, and people with a current Montana fishing license can fish during the summer months. A boat launch is located on the north end of the lake.

CRYSTAL LAKE CABIN

Crystal Lake Cabin is one-room cabin sometimes available for rental by the public. Please check www.recreation.gov for specific cabin rental information.

CRYSTAL LAKE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Trail 404 around Crystal Lake is a hiker-only interpretive trail. A brochure that explains the interpretive points is available at Forest Service offices.



CRYSTAL LAKE SHORELINE LOOP TRAIL #404

Length: 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ miles Start: Anywhere along the lake shore. Note: Hiker Only Trail

This interpretive trail is an easy hike for almost anyone. It follows the shoreline of Crystal Lake and gives access to the entire shore, with opportunities for sunbathing, swimming, fishing, picnicking and more. Be sure to pick up an interpretive brochure from the campground host so you can follow the interpretive posts along the trail.

GRANDVIEW TRAIL #403/STOCK BY-PASS #495

Length: 5- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles Start: Campground Site #4 - Trail #404 to Trail #403 Destination: Grandview Peak/West Peak

Trail #403 climbs from Crystal Lake to Grandview Point, gaining 1,000 feet in elevation in 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The trail then follows the ridge another 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to West Peak on the Snowy Crest. The trail climbs steadily at a mild grade, with switchbacks making the climb easier. A short trail to VJ Spring leads off to the east about halfway to Grandview Point, and a spur trail leads to a viewpoint at Grandview Point.

Note: Stock users need to take the Stock By-Pass Trail #495 from the Ice Caves Trailhead

PROMONTORY PEAK TRAIL #491

Length: 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ miles Start: Ice Caves Trailhead Destination: Grandview Peak

Trail #491 climbs 400 feet in elevation from Crystal Lake to the top of Promontory Peak. The trail is a short, easy hike, with several steep and narrow switchbacks near the top. Along the way you can view evidence of past wildfires and enjoy views of Crystal Lake and the Snowy Crest.

ICE CAVES TRAIL #493/490

Length: 4- $\frac{3}{4}$ miles Start: Ice Caves Trailhead Destination: Ice Caves

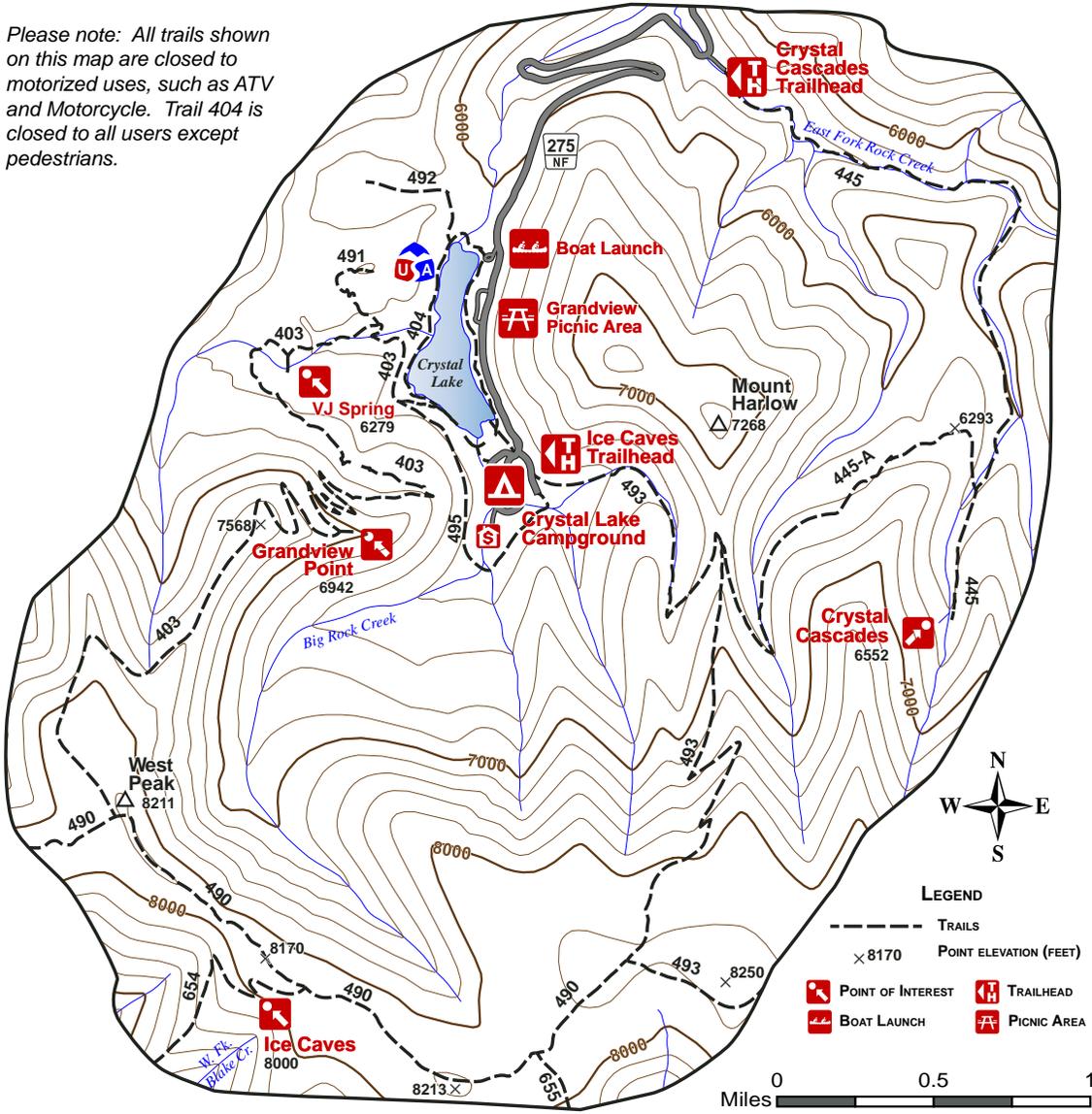
Trail #493 climbs almost five miles to the permanent ice caves on the Snowy Crest. Drinking water should be carried on this moderately difficult hike. The first 3 miles is steep, gaining 2,200 feet in elevation to the Snowy Crest ridge, where you meet Trail #490. Trail #490 then follows a line of cairns along the open ridge for two miles to the Ice Caves.

CRYSTAL CASCADES TRAIL #445

Length: 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles Start: Crystal Cascades Trailhead Destination: Crystal Cascades

This easy trail follows the drainage for 3 1/2 miles from the Crystal Cascades Trailhead, gaining 1,000 feet in elevation. Crystal Cascades is a scenic waterfall that emerges from a cave about 10 feet deep and cascades 100 feet down a stair step ledge to the trail below.

Please note: All trails shown on this map are closed to motorized uses, such as ATV and Motorcycle. Trail 404 is closed to all users except pedestrians.



Crystal Cascades Trailhead

Boat Launch

Grandview Picnic Area

VJ Spring
6279

Ice Caves Trailhead

Crystal Lake Campground

Grandview Point
6942

Mount Harlow
7268

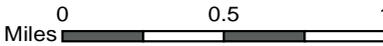
Crystal Cascades
6552

West Peak
8211

Ice Caves
8000

LEGEND

- TRAILS
- × 8170 POINT ELEVATION (FEET)
- POINT OF INTEREST
- TRAILHEAD
- BOAT LAUNCH
- PICNIC AREA



CONTACT INFORMATION

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Supervisor's Office
1101 15th Street North
Great Falls, Montana, 59401
(406) 791-7700

Judith Ranger District

109 Central Avenue
Stanford, Montana 59479
(406) 566-2292



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