

# Hiking Trails on Edgemont Ranch

## General Rules

**Nordic Skiing** - When the snow allows, various trails are groomed for cross-country skiing. Notices are posted by the mailboxes noting when and which trails have been groomed.

**Bicycling** - Bicycling is allowed on all but the Deer Valley Trail. Bicyclists are required to yield to hikers in Edgemont Ranch. Please sound off when approaching blind spots.

**Dogs** - **DOGS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ON LEASHES ON ALL EDGEMONT RANCH TRAILS AT ALL TIMES.** Dog walkers are required to remove ALL dog droppings deposited during walks. Waste stations are located at numerous trailheads for disposal of your bags. PLEASE NOTE: The Florida River trail, the Spring Ranch Road trail and BLM property are not Edgemont Ranch trails; we simply have an easement to hike these trails. County ordinances apply so you may encounter loose dogs on these trails.

## Trails

1. **Florida Road Trail** - This is a pleasant trail through the woods paralleling Florida Road. The western trailhead is approximately 20 feet south of The Copper Belle entrance while the eastern trailhead is 150 feet south of The Silver Queen entrance. The trail meanders behind private homes for 0.6 miles, with a cutoff halfway connecting to The Eagle Pass road and the Deer Valley Trail.

2. **Deer Valley Trail** - Cutting through the heart of the ranch, this trail gets its name from the large number of deer that historically bed down in the tall grass next to the creek. It is also known as the *Exercise Trail* because there are 8 exercise stations located along the 0.7 mile trail.

The north entrances are 1) from The Eagle Pass road, directly across from the *Florida Road Trail* cutoff, and 2) from the south side of the tennis courts. Stone pillars mark The Eagle Pass road trailhead (1) approximately 0.2 miles west of the tennis courts.

Halfway down the trail from The Eagle Pass trailhead is the uphill approach to the tennis courts and playground. Two thirds of the way down the trail there is a fork up and to the left that heads towards the Farmhouse West Condos while down and to the right follows the creek to the trails end at The Golden Dipper road.

3. **Farmhouse Trail** - This trail begins at a gate adjacent to the Retreat I, south of the Farmhouse East Condos off The Silver Queen and The Golden Dipper intersection. Just past the gate, the trail heads to the right, away from the dirt access road, and reaches a fork. It continues to the left to the picnic grounds and the Pavilion Overlook Trail (after .5 miles) or turns right at the beginning of the *Rim Ridge Trail*.

4. **Rim Ridge Trail** - This trail may be accessed from the *Farmhouse Trail* (see above) or from The Golden Dipper road, opposite the *Deer Valley Trailhead*. The trail also extends further west along The Golden Dipper to the stone pillars immediately north of the *Victorian Village*.

As you proceed down the trail (from The Silver Queen) you will pass a concrete bridge on your right over the irrigation ditch. Staying left and returning up the ridge leads to an overlook of the Florida River valley. Continuing away from the ridge, this trail eventually joins the *Farmhouse Trail* and *Pavilion Overlook Trail* after 0.4 miles.

Crossing the bridge over the irrigation ditch to the right leads to County Road 234. The trail continues on the other side of the road through the pasture on a small access road, and joins the *Florida River Trail* just past a small coral open barn. Please stay on the access road when going through the pasture. There may be horses present on or near this road. Use caution.

5. **The Wilderness Trail** - This trailhead is located between residential lots 223 and 241 El Diente Drive. It takes you through undeveloped parts of the ranch and can lead to BLM lands. Winding through pines it intersects the *Sandstone Trail*, then ascends to a private drive, where it meets the *Mountain View trails* on the other side of the asphalt driveway, approximately 0.5 miles. It may also be reached from the *Mountain View trails*.

6. **The Upper and Lower Mountain View Trails** - The southern entrance to these trails is from the *Wilderness Trail* as noted above, or from the access road leading to the water tower between 655 and 683 The Eagle Pass. Each trail is approximately 0.5 miles long and provides panoramic views of Edgemont Ranch and the Upper Florida River Valley. A wonderful view of the La Plata Mountains is best seen from the upper trail.

7. **The Sandstone Trail and the Lonesome Loop** - Midway along the *Wilderness Trail* is the trailhead for these paths. The *Sandstone Trail* heads up the ridge to a lookout with a bench. There is a fine panoramic view of the Florida River valley to the south. The *Sandstone Trail* proceeds steeply up the ridge from the bench, crosses a private drive and reaches the crest of the ridge at the communication towers after approximately 0.5 miles.

The short *Lonesome Loop* heads west from the lookout bench then soon forks to the left and downhill, before

returning to the lookout bench or the *Sandstone Trail*. This fork is easy to miss so watch for the stone pile on your left. Past the turn you will reach an old logging road. Following the road to your left will lead you into BLM land where several game trails and footpaths wander for miles. Access back to Edgemont Ranch requires you to retrace your steps to the Wilderness Trail.

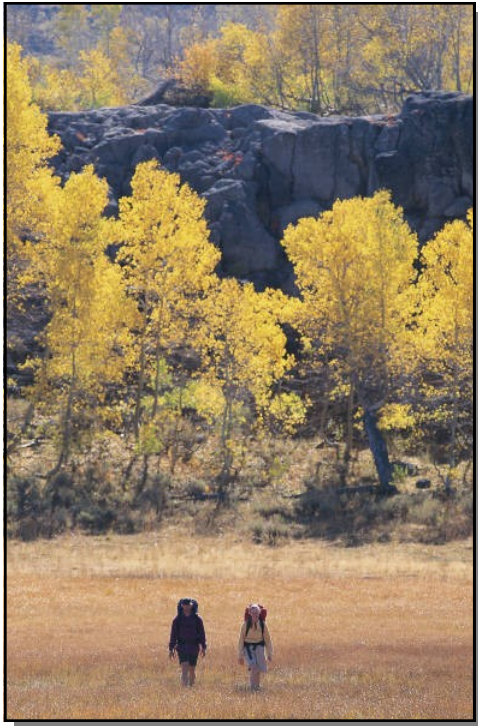
8. **Pavilion Overlook Trail** - The stone pillars 200 feet south of The Silver Queen entrance, on the east side of the road, mark this trailhead. Traveling east through the woods, the trail reaches a large meadow after crossing a dirt access road. Due east through the meadow the trail intersects another dirt road leading to the picnic grounds and Pavilion area, which are located to the right. From the trailhead to the picnic area is a flat 0.4 mile walk.

To the east of the picnic grounds, behind the horseshoe pits, is a trail descending to County Road 234. Across the road are the Edgemont offices that access the *Spring Ranch Road trail* and the *Florida River trail*.

9. **Florida River Trail** - This is a pleasant trail following the banks of the Florida River. It begins at the gate northeast of the Edgemont offices and may also be accessed from the *Rim Ridge Trail*, or from the *Pavilion Overlook Trail* past the picnic grounds. It wanders for approximately 1.5 miles to the border of the Edgemont property. Please obey the "Keep Gate Closed" signs. You may encounter unleashed dogs.

# EDGEMONT RANCH

Property Owners Association



Trail Map

