

~ Upper Falls Driving & Hiking Instructions ~

There are two ways to access the Upper Falls Wilderness Camp: The first is a 2½ hour hike that originates at the Ranch. The other is a scenic alternative from the Jackson Hole area, involving a 1½ hour drive (from Jackson) followed by a 4 hour hike.

Here are your instructions for the second alternative.

MAPS

The DRIVING PORTION of this trip is on the Jackson Ranger District in the northern half of Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Forest Service tourist offices in the Greater Yellowstone Visitor's Center at the north end of town can provide you with a road map of the Gros Ventre River valley.

The HIKING PORTION of the trip starts at the Cow Creek trailhead. The first hour is depicted on the USGS Ouzel Falls Quadrangle map. The remainder is on the USGS Darwin Peak Quadrangle map. These maps are also available at the Visitor's Center or can be bought at any of the outdoor recreation stores in Jackson.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

The total DRIVING time to the trailhead from the Jackson Town Square is about 1 ½ hours.

Drive 6.8 miles north of the Town Square to the Gros Ventre Junction. Turn right and drive 7 miles to Kelly, continue another mile to the Gros Ventre Road on the right.

Cumulative mileages from the beginning of the Gros Ventre Road past Kelly are as follows:

Miles	Directions
0.0 miles	Gros Ventre Road leaves the highway 1 mile north of Kelly.
6.0 miles	The pavement ends. Atherton Creek campground is on the right. Continue straight ahead.
10.8 miles	Bridge over the Gros Ventre River.
12.5 miles	Crystal Creek Bridge.
13.0 miles	A road goes left to Slate Creek. Stay right (straight ahead).
18.8 miles	An information display on Trumpeter Swans is on the left.
19.5 miles	A fork. Do not take the left branch, which crosses the River and goes to the Goosewing Ranch. Stay right (straight ahead).
23.6 miles	A sign on the right says "Soda Lake". Stay left (straight ahead).
28.3 miles	The Cow Creek trailhead. There are corrals and barns on the left, an outhouse on the right. Park your car here. (If you are using a Ranch walkie-talkie you can notify us that you are at the end of the road.)

HIKING INSTRUCTIONS

The trail takes off about 200 feet up the road from the corrals. A sign says "Cow Creek Trail". (The mileage on the sign says 9 miles to the Gros Ventre River. Actual mileage is probably closer to 8.)

Estimated times are from one reference point to the next and are figured for a moderate pace. Total hiking time at this moderate pace should be around four hours (not including stops, or the optional and difficult side trip to Bear Cabin Creek Falls). Some hikers may take longer.

From time to time over the first hour of this trail you will come to unmarked forks that simply come back together a little further on. It