



# Flathead National Forest

Swan Lake Ranger District  
Bigfork, Montana  
406-837-7500



## Elk Ridge Trail #301 also known as Mollman Lakes

Distance: This trail is 11 miles long. This trail is not maintained past 6 miles.

Difficulty: Difficult– route finding skills needed

USGS Quad: Mt. Harding, Hemlock Lake, and Peck Lake

Beginning Elevation: 3,817 ft

Ending Elevation: 6,920 ft

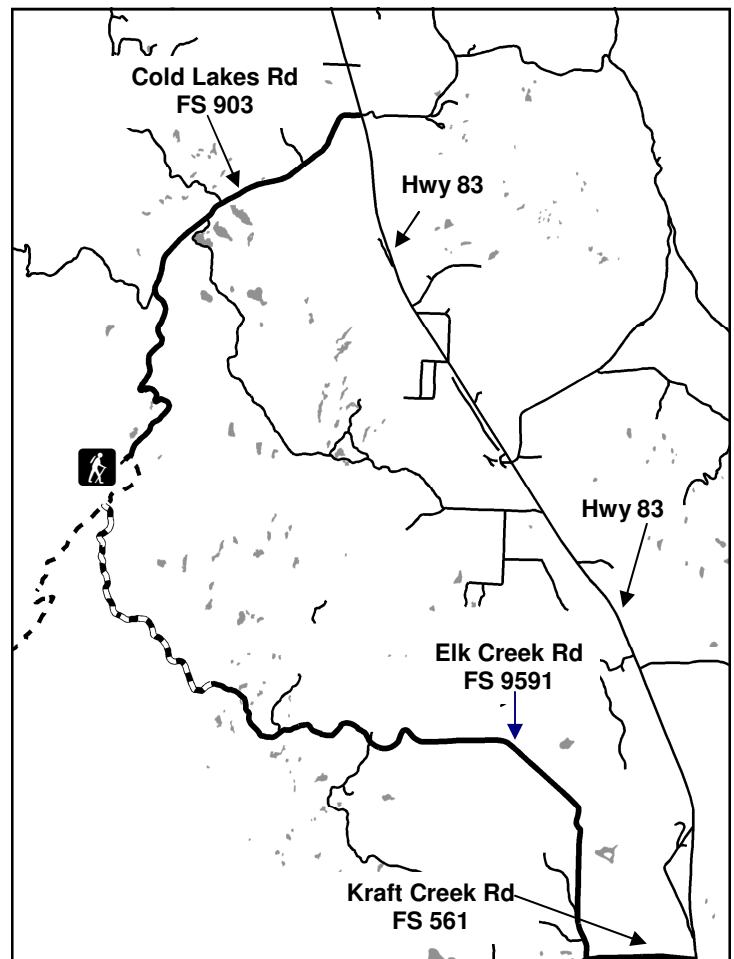
Directions: From Hwy 83 turn west onto Cold Lakes Rd also known as Forest Service Road #903 near mile marker 47. Follow 903 for 5.25 miles and park on the right near Rd. #9591, Road #903 ends near here too. The trailhead starts behind the lower gate- following Road #9591.

Alternatively, from 12/1-10/14, parking is available off of road 9591 from the south. From Highway 83, turn west onto Kraft Creek Rd also called Forest Service Road #561. After 1.2 miles turn right onto Elk Creek Rd also called Forest Service Road #9591 and continue for 9.3 miles to the end.

Season: This trail is usually free of snow by late July.

Regulations: Most of this trail is in the Mission Mountains Wilderness which allows both hiking and horse riding, but prohibits motorized vehicles and mechanized transport which includes mountain bikes. Mountain biking is allowed to the Wilderness Boundary which is approximately 4.8 miles up from the lower trailhead.

Trail Description: The first 3.3 miles of trail follows an old logging road. When you come to a large, flat road junction, continue right for another mile to where the trail leaves the logging road. The trail climbs along the crest of a ridge through western larch stands and dense underbrush. Six miles from the lower TH there is a trail junction. Go straight to get to Mollman Lakes, or right to drop down to South Cold Lake. Neither trail is maintained past this junction. If continuing on towards Mollman Lakes, the trail continues to gain elevation before dropping down some really steep sections towards the North Fork of Elk Creek. The trail then crosses several seasonal creeks, as well as 2 large year-round creeks that do not have walk-logs, and must be waded at certain times of the year. There are several areas on the trail where game trails and multiple people trails braid together and away, and can be extremely confusing and disorienting to find the correct trail for first time users of this route. After crossing the North Fork of Elk Creek at a grassy meadow, the trail then quickly gains steep, rocky elevation to Mollman Lakes. The views until the last mile before Mollman Lakes are extremely limited, but are outstanding around the lakes.



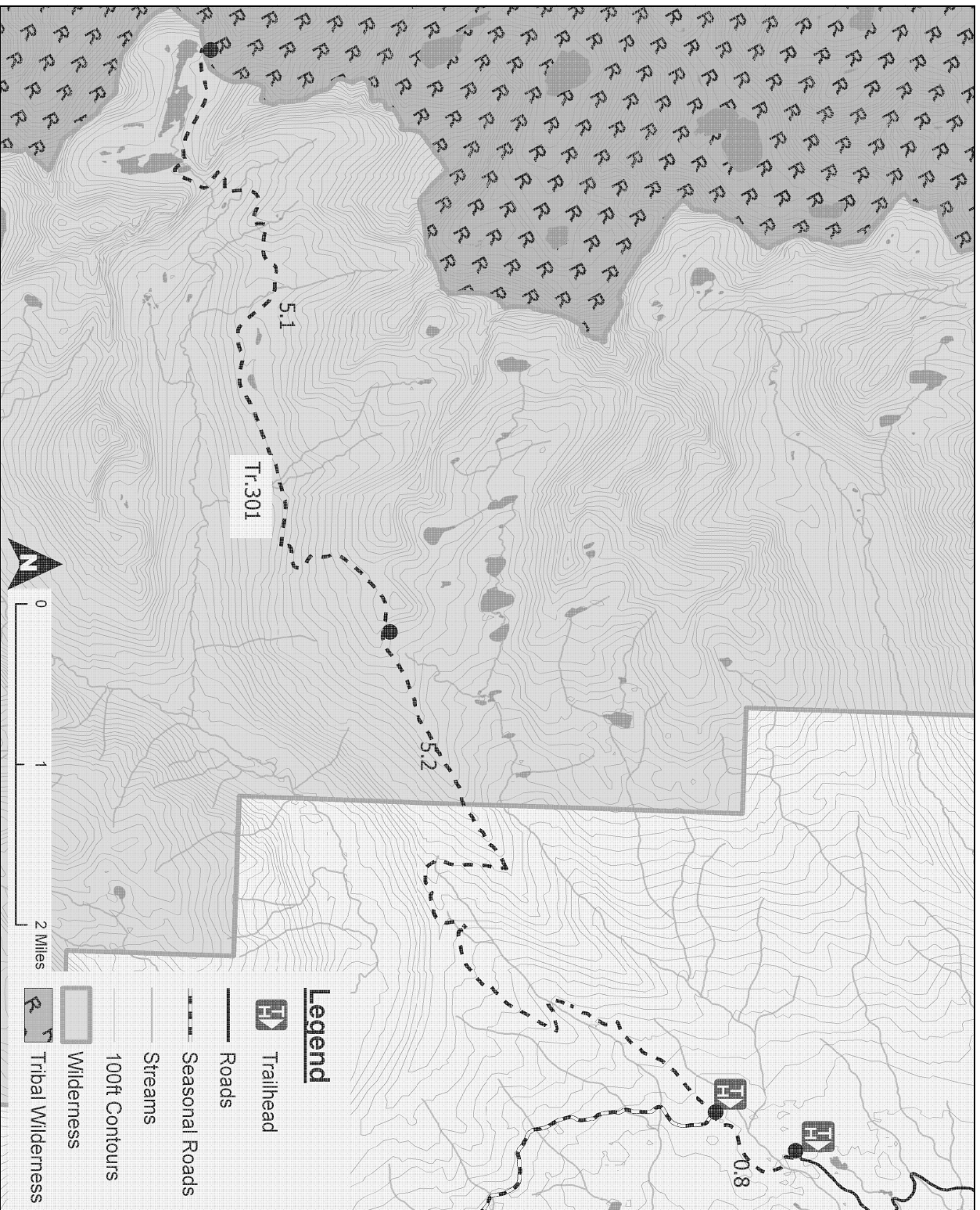
Note: Many roads are not displayed.

PACK IT IN — PACK IT OUT

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE USE



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RESPECT OTHERS

RESPECT WILDLIFE

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY