

Big Timber Trail #95

Miles: 4 miles long, but you need to travel on other trails to reach the start. It's about 3 miles from Rocky Canyon Campground.

Why this trail: A great walk through large ponderosa pines and down a wide canyon to Apache Creek, where the trail dead ends on FS maps and off-trail exploring begins! Walking through the large ponderosa forests creates a unique feel, and photos don't fully capture why this trail is worth exploring.

Directions to Rocky Canyon Campground from Silver City: It's about a 1.5-hour drive. Take Highway 180 east to Highway 152, then to Highway 35. Head north on Hwy 35 until just past mile marker 15. Turn onto Forest Road #150. Travel 12 miles on this dirt road. Turn left into Rocky Canyon Campground. Be cautious during or after heavy rains in the high country, as the road crosses Rocky Canyon several times just before the campground.

Trail to Big Timber: You can access this trail through Rocky Canyon Campground and then hike towards Brannon Park on the CDT.

Some maps show many trail options to get from the campground to Big Timber, but most aren't real. See the correct route on this map: [Big Timber Trail Project - CalTopo](#). Also, the trail down Slick Rock Canyon doesn't exist either. However, if you like off-trail travel, it's a nice route down to the lower part of Big Timber.

The Big Timber Trail: This trail has suffered from over 30 years of deferred maintenance. Because future trail users probably won't keep the tread in good shape, trail markers were added. Look for cairns or blazes along the trail for guidance. There are over 100 old blazes marking the trail. Do you know what an old blaze looks like on a tree? Here are some [photos of old tree blazes](#) from the Big Timber Trail, trail #96, and other spots. Can you spot the blaze in each photo?

As the trail nears Apache Creek, the canyon narrows with some rock walls here and there.

Water: Water is usually available in spring and after monsoons in certain spots along Big Timber Canyon and where it joins Apache Creek. But at the time of writing, the lack of monsoons has left some dwindling muddy pools. Add this to your bucket list for future years, when you can camp along the way and spend more time exploring the area. If you visit and see enough water to camp, please [submit a water report here](#).

