

# Flying V Trail # 706

**Map:** <https://caltopo.com/m/PQQBNBC>

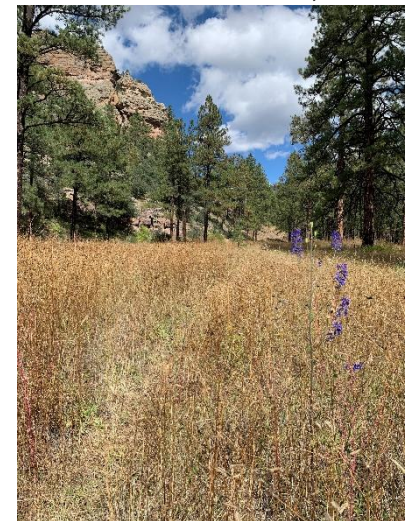
**Getting there:** The trailhead is located about 3.25 miles via road from the Aeroplane Mesa Trailhead and Campground. Two of these miles are on a road requiring a high clearance vehicle. It becomes quite slick when wet. This drive is not recommended for horse trailers. Instead, equine riders can ride the road part from Aeroplane Mesa Campground.

**The Trail:** The Flying V trailhead has a large wooden sign and a green gate. For the first 2 miles, the trail passes through open grassland with occasional juniper or ponderosa trees. It's a beautiful spot to be under a full moon, with the moonlight illuminating the open landscape. After the first mile, you will come to a signed trail



junction. Stay right to stay on the Flying V Trail. The trail through the gate is the Canyon Creek Trail #31. Note the trail location change on the map as you proceed down the Flying V Trail. This section of the trail is well-worn, marked by large cairns guiding the way through the grass. Then, the trail switchbacks steeply down into Flying V Canyon, mostly following an old 2-track that led to the Flying V cabins once located along the Middle Fork. This steep section still needs the rocks cleared and drains installed, so expect slow progress here. Hiking poles may be helpful for hikers. Currently, the rocks slow the water flow, helping prevent further erosion. Once in Flying V Canyon, the trail passes through ponderosa forests until it arrives at the junction with the Middle Fork Trail and the Middle Fork River.

To continue on the Flying V Trail, cross the river and follow the trail up the hillside. Be aware of numerous elk and deer trails in this area; look for small cairns to stay on the right path. The trail ascends to the mesa top, sometimes gradually and sometimes steeply, mostly following an old 2-track. On the mesa top, the trail winds through more ponderosa forests. Stay aware of blazes and cairns as the tread on this rarely used trail can be faint during certain times of year. It ends at Trotter Trail #30, at which point, you have some options:



return the way you came, venture further into the wilderness via Trotter Trail, or make a loop by taking Trotter Trail north to the Middle Fork and then downstream on the Middle Fork Trail for about a mile back to the Flying V Trail.



**Options:** Many variations can be made if you are camping along the Middle Fork, or if you are hiking in via the Aeroplane Mesa Trailhead and Trail #705, which is easier to access via a medium-clearance vehicle.