

NORTHWEST TOUR

GENERAL INFO: This tour begins in Montana City or Clancy and is entirely on gravel roads. This route travels along the north and west sides of the Elkhorn Mountains and offers many opportunities for recreation. Several trailheads can be found along the route, but no facilities. A large portion of this route is designated open during the winter but is not maintained. Many wildlife species can be found here and include elk, moose, fox, snowshoe hare, and porcupine.

DIRECTIONS: From I-15 take the Montana City exit. Turn east and travel 1/10 mile to John's Street (first right) and continue on after it becomes McClellan Creek Road for approximately 4.3 miles to the intersection of Forest roads #226 and #294. Road #294 continues to the Casey Meadows trail or out to Hwy. 12 just east of East Helena. Turning right on #226 takes a visitor south to Alhambra, passing the road to Strawberry Butte Lookout and Willard Creek.

HABITATS: The primary portions of this route travel through montane forests while the northern portions (heading toward Hwy. 12) cross the Intermountain/Foothill Grasslands. Typical montane vegetation includes Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and Englemann spruce trees. The grassland species include sagebrush, juniper, and mixed grass/sage parklands.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS: Roads open year-round but may not have been plowed during the winter. Some montane birds over winter.

FACILITIES: None.



MacGillivray's Warbler

RECOMMENDED HIKES:

Casey Meadows, Strawberry Lookout, Willard Creek Interpretive Trail

CONTACT: Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest. 2001 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601.

NORTHWEST TOUR MAP

