

SOUTHWEST TOUR

GENERAL INFO: This tour begins near the town of Boulder and is entirely on gravel roads. This route travels around a loop on the south end of the Elkhorn Mountains and offers a diversity of habitats, a State Park, and a developed picnic area. The road to the town of Elkhorn is open year-round, but, some of the roads are closed to motorized use from October 1 to January 1.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy. 69, turn north and follow signs to the town of Elkhorn. The developed picnic site, with outhouse, is located on the south side of the town site. Follow Forest Road 9366 south east, passing the historic cemetery,. Follow Road 8579 south, passing Deadman Spring, then return to Hwy. 69 on Road 517.

HABITATS: The northern portions of this route travel through montane forests while the southern portions cross the Intermountain/Foothill Grasslands. Typical montane vegetation includes Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and Englemann spruce trees. A majority of this route is through the grasslands, home to species including sagebrush, juniper, and mixed grass/sage parklands.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS: May to September, but roads open to Elkhorn year-round.

FACILITIES: Developed picnic site with outhouse at the town of Elkhorn.

CONTACT: Jefferson Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 3 Whitetail Road, Whitehall, MT 59759. (406) 287-3223

SPECIES: General species on these routes will be sagebrush/grassland birds; riparian-associated, and montane species.

Highlighted species: Long-billed Curlew, Clark's Nutcracker, Hermit Thrush, Green-tailed Towhee, Wilson's Snipe, American Dipper, Vesper Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Dusky Grouse, Hammond's Flycatcher, Western Meadowlark, Red-naped Sapsucker, Rock Wren, Brown Creeper, and MacGillivray's Warbler

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