

Blodgett Canyon (Moderate to Strenuous)

Blodgett Canyon is one of the most picturesque and scenically varied of the Bitterroot Canyons. A good up & back trail which runs the entire length of Blodgett Creek offers excellent opportunities for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The trail follows the creek and is relatively easy for the first four miles. There are excellent views of the sheer, towering rock walls of the canyon and good access to some deep wide pools in the creek. There are some charming waterfalls located 4.4 miles up the trail and Blodgett Lake is located 12.5 miles up the trail. Moose are commonly seen along the trail and Mountain Goats may be viewed high on the canyon walls.

Directions to the Trailhead:

From Triple Creek's driveway, turn left and proceed to the Conner Cutoff. Turn right on the Conner Cutoff to Hwy. 93. Turn left onto Highway 93 and follow 93 for 24-miles until you come to Hamilton. At the second traffic light make a left onto Main Street. Continue down Main St. until you cross the bridge on the Bitterroot River. 1/4-mile past the bridge make a right onto Ricketts Road. Drive 1/2-mile and make a left onto Blodgett Camp Road. Follow this road (it will turn to gravel following a 90° right hand turn after approx. 2-miles) and signs to the Blodgett Canyon Trailhead. There is a lovely campground and other facilities at the parking area.

Trail Description:

The trail starts on the south side of the creek at the mouth of Blodgett Canyon. The first few miles are mostly in forest offering occasional views of the sheer, towering walls of the canyon. The grade is gradual with a few short, steep climbs. About 300 yards from the road there is a granite memorial next to the trail. The trail crosses the creek on a good bridge at about 3.1 miles. Looking to the south and slightly west from the bridge, one can see a natural stone arch on the ridge top. At about 4.4 miles the creek goes through a narrow canyon, creating a small waterfall and deep pool below there is a second waterfall about another 1/2 mile up stream. The trail continues up the canyon to Blodgett Pass 10.5 miles and to Blodgett Lake 12.5 miles from the trailhead.

Have Fun and ENJOY!