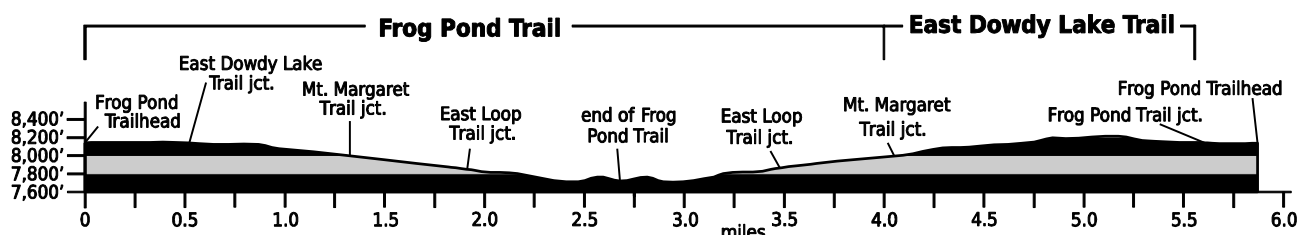


Dec. 7, 2020

Public Trail Information: Frog Pond & East Dowdy Lake

Trail(s): Frog Pond #973; East Dowdy Lake #973-1; West Loop #973-2; East Loop #973-3	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers – Easy Stock Riders – Easy See complete REGULATIONS below DESCRIPTION
Cautions:	Cattle graze in this area at times; Bicycles on trail
Typically accessible:	Year-round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	5.6 miles (one-way on all four trails: Frog Pond, East Dowdy Lake, East Loop, and West Loop); 6.9 miles for a round-trip loop of all 4 trails starting and ending at Dowdy Lake
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	8,172 / 8,177
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	514 / 514 / 0
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#111 Red Feather Lakes Glendevy
Map(s) - USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Red Feather Lakes



TRAILHEAD LOCATION: Red Feather Lakes area; this patrol can be accessed in two different ways:

Via the western end of the Frog Pond Trail (from the Dowdy Lake Day Use Area): From Ted’s Place, follow US-287 north for 10.5 miles to “The Forks” at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E). At mm 23.0, turn north on Dowdy Road (CR-67A) and drive until the pavement ends. Turn east (right) onto Dowdy Lake Campground Road. Turn north (left) toward the Day Use Area and drive to the parking area at the end of the road. **Note that parking here between Memorial Day and September 30 requires displaying a permit obtained at the kiosk. If you have a National Parks / USFS pass, write the number of your pass on the permit; if you do not have a pass, you will need to pay a day use fee.**

Toilets and limited stock trailer parking with a small turnaround available at Frog Pond Trailhead. No water at trailhead

Via the Mt. Margaret Trail: From Ted’s Place, follow US-287 north for 10.5 miles to the “forks” at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E). At mm 20.8 you will see the Mt. Margaret parking lot and trailhead on the right (north) side of the road.

Toilets and stock trailer parking with good pullthroughs available at trailhead. No water at trailhead

TRAILS: These trails follow old roads for nearly the entire length, making them easy to follow. However,

there is a short section in the vicinity of its jct. with the East Loop Trail where the trail can be a little difficult to see and follow.

WATER: Scarce, but the eastern mile of the Frog Pond Trail crosses two intermittent streams that usually have flowing water until late in the season.

CAMPING: No camping is allowed within 300 ft of the eastern shore of Dowdy Lake. There are 2 USFS established campsites near the eastern end of Frog Pond Trail (designated 9 and 10; however, as of June 2018 the sign at campsite 9 reads “7”). Both campsites are nice camping locations, although #10 is some distance from water (and the small intermittent stream near #9 [7] may well be dry, especially in mid to late summer). There are also numerous potential (dry) camping sites located along the trail. See the Northern Red Feather Area map for the locations of campsites #9 [sign reads 7] and #10. Additionally, USFS established campsites #5, #4, and #3 on the Mt. Margaret Trail are readily accessible just south of the 3-way junction of the Frog Pond, Mt. Margaret, and East Dowdy Lake trails.

SEASONAL: Accessible in winter. Follow Dowdy Lake Campground Road to the Day Use Area at the north end of Dowdy Lake to park, or come in from the Mt. Margaret trailhead. With little elevation change, and the appropriate snow conditions, the trail is good for skiing or snowshoeing. However, the trail may be more difficult to find and follow if there is snow.

ISSUES: There is a fence line with a gate that is wired shut, a few hundred yards past Dowdy Lake; hikers

may find it necessary to climb over or crawl through. Stock riders should be prepared to dismount to unwire and open this gate to access the Frog Pond Trail; alternatively, they can go onto East Dowdy Lake Trail since there is gated access on that trail. A second gate, which once blocked the trail near its end (2.6 miles from the trailhead), is no longer in place as of June 2019, facilitating access to campsite #10 for both hikers and stock riders.

The unbridged crossing of an unnamed creek just west of established campsite #9 [7] (about 1.9 miles from the trailhead) may be challenging during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

Cattle may range in this area in spring and summer.

DESCRIPTION: This patrol includes two trails that may be patrolled together as a loop trip – Frog Pond and East Dowdy Lake. Two nearby short-cut trails, West Loop & East Loop, may also be included. If you start from the Dowdy Lake Day Use Area, Frog Pond Trail begins by traveling along the top of the earthen dam about 200 yards until reaching an open, concrete spillway. Note the junction with the western end of the East Dowdy Lake Trail at this point. Follow the Frog Pond Trail as it turns (left) toward the east. Note that this may require a wet crossing of the lake's outlet stream early in the season. About 0.35 mile from the trailhead, Frog Pond Trail crosses a fence-line through a vehicle gate. The gate is often locked, requiring that you climb over or crawl through the fence.

The trail then climbs gently toward the NE for about 0.9 mile, passing a pond surrounded by a log fence near its high point. This log fence was built to allow cattle to drink without destroying the majority of the riparian area. The trail then descends gently toward a 3-way junction with the Mt. Margaret and East Dowdy Lake trails at 1.3 miles, passing the junction

with the West Loop Trail along the way. The trail continues eastward past this junction, descending steadily but gently and passing the junction with the East Loop Trail and then crossing a small intermittent stream just before reaching established campsite #9, on the south side of the trail at 2.0 miles. This campsite, currently marked by a sign labeled "7", includes a bench and an enclosed metal fire pit with a grill.

From this point the trail turns NE, crossing the small drainage two more times, before it climbs uphill for a short distance. About 100 ft after crossing another fence line through an open gate, there is a fork in the trail/road. Take the northern (left) fork downhill about 0.1 mi to the "End of Trail" sign. Note that campsite #10 is just off the trail toward the east, near the "End of Trail" sign at private property. Campsite #10 has no bench or fire pit. Don't go off trail or camp on the non-USFS land near this campsite. From this point, turn around and return to the 3-way trail junction with the Mt. Margaret and East Dowdy Lake trails, and you may return to the Frog Pond trailhead via either the East Dowdy Lake Trail or the Frog Pond Trail.

An alternative starting point is 2.4 miles up the Mt. Margaret Trail at the 3-way junction of the Mt. Margaret, East Dowdy Lake, and Frog Pond Trails.

The Frog Pond and East Dowdy Lake trails offer an easy and scenic trip along old roadbeds through meadows and an open, mixed ponderosa pine/quaking aspen forest, with occasional Rocky Mountain juniper and Douglas-fir trees.

These trails can be hot and dry in the summer months, so carry plenty of water.

All mileages shown are approximate.

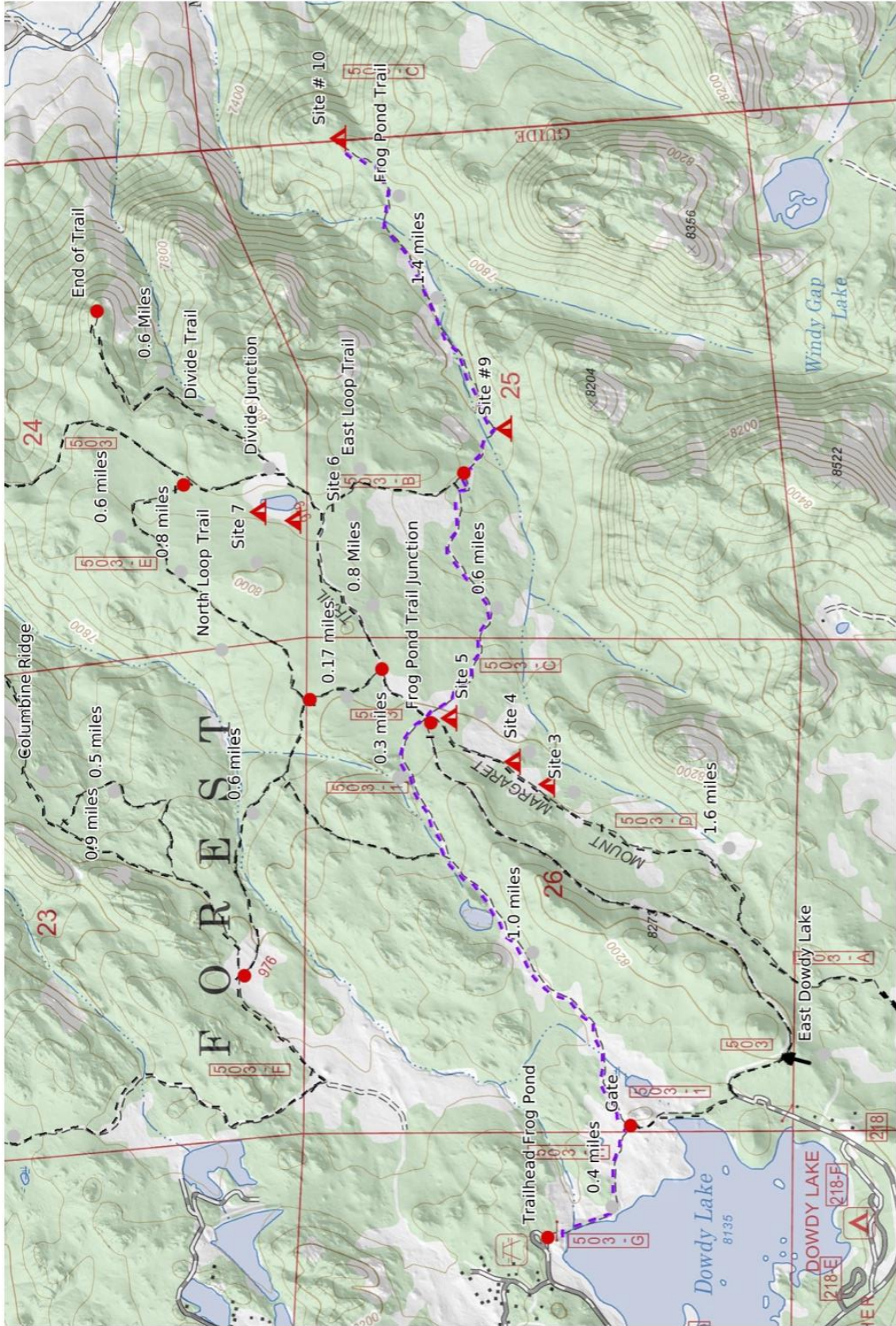
REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires - Prohibited within 200 feet of trailhead and parking area. Prohibited within 300 feet of Dowdy Lake. Recommend at least 100 feet from water and trail. Please use designated sites where possible.
- Dogs - Must be under voice control at all times.
- Stock - To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours prior to the ride stock feed should only be pellets or certified weed free hay. Required: throughout the trip, any feed *must* be pellets or certified weed-free hay.
- Bicycles and Other Wheeled Conveyances - Allowed.
- Motorized Transport - Prohibited.
- Group Size - More than 74 people in a single group must have a USFS permit.

Frog Pond Trail

Mile	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0.4	Gate near Dowdy Lake	N40°47.94' W105°33.21'	453309mE	4516592mN
1.0	Junction with West Loop Trail	N40°48.23' W105°32.62'	454141mE	4517123mN
1.3	Junction with Mt. Margaret and East Dowdy Lake Trails	N40°48.28' W105°32.31'	454578mE	4517213mN
1.9	Junction with East Loop Trail	N40°48.21' W105°31.75'	455364mE	4517079mN
2.0	Campsite 9 (marked as 7 at site)	N40°48.14' W105°31.64'	455518mE	4516948mN
2.6	Fence line (open gate) near end of trail	N40°48.35' W105°31.07'	456322mE	4517332mN
2.6	Left turn to end of trail	N40°48.35' W105°31.04'	456367mE	4517336mN
2.7	Campsite 10 and end of trail	N40°48.42' W105°30.99'	456435mE	4517461mN

(See next page for map of trail.)



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDF

Scale 1:16709 1 inch = 1392 feet
 0.5 1.0 1.5 mi
 1 2 3 km

MN
 8°

Frog Pond & East Dowdy Lake: 4