

Pocahontas County West Virginia Birding Trails Tea Creek to US219



County Region- South

Ownership- USDA Forest Service-

Management- Monongahela National Forest, Telephone- 304-456-3335

Habitat and Site Description- This is a 21-mile scenic highway that runs parallel along the ridges of Cranberry, Black and Tea Creek Mountain with overlooks that give spectacular views of evergreen and deciduous mountain forests of the Allegheny Highlands. This section begins at the Cranberry Nature Center and ends at US219. The elevation of the Scenic Highway varies between 2980' and 4,500 feet.

Point of reference- The intersection of SR150 and FR86 which is 13.3 miles from the Cranberry Nature Center.

Point of reference- Latitude/Longitude- LA 38.18384N/LO 80.25345W Elevation- 3600'

Directions to the Point of Reference- From Elkins take US219 south and turn right onto SR150 at the top of Elk Mountain and proceed down to the Williams River. From Marlinton, take SR39/55 west to the junction of SR150 and proceed 13.3 miles to the intersection at the Williams River. . From Richwood, take SR39/55 east to SR150 junction. Turn left on SR150 and proceed 13.3 miles to the Williams River.

Trail descriptions-Section 2-

Tea Creek Campground (38.203000N/80.135042W) is accessed by turning west (under the bridge) on FR86 from SR150 and proceeding to the Tea Campground on the right.

1. Williams River Trail (TR487) is a pleasant upstream 2.7-mile walk on a forest road from the Tea Creek parking lot along the north side of the Williams River with a starting elevation of 2980' to the end point at Handley Wildlife Management Area at 3160'.

2. Tea Creek Mountain (TR452) is accessed from TR-487 along the Williams River. The scenic trail is a steep 4.6 mile 1370' climb from the river up to the ridge of Tea Creek Mountain ending at Little Laurel Overlook.

3. Tea Creek Trail (TR454) is accessed at the junction of TR-487 and TR-452. It is a strenuous 6.8-mile hike, ascending 1,420'. The first part along the descending Tea Creek is hardly a noticeable grade. Elevation at the end of the trail at FR-24 is 4400'.

4. Bannock Shoals Trail (FR-446) is a scenic moderate up hill 4.6-mile hike on a forest road that ends at TR-449. Access is at the end of the campground at the gate, upstream along Tea Creek.

5. Tea Creek Interpretive Trail (LO-80.948.744/LA-38.2028.36) exposes you to substantial habitat diversity. It is accessed across SR150 from the Little Laurel Overlook. Half mile in length, it begins on a graveled wide surface (Motorized wheel chair accessible) through a meadow with a variety of grasses and wildflowers, down an 8% grade with switchbacks and a wetland boardwalk to an open swamp with wildlife blinds (Possible motorized accessible).

6. Red Spruce Knob Trail (TR-405) (LO-80.914.58/LA-36.2021.372) is accessed on the right just 0.9-miles east of the Little Laurel Overlook on WV150, (17.7-miles from the Cranberry Nature Center). This exceptional scenic leisurely 1.2-mile trail begins at 4320' and ends at 4703' at the base of an old fire tower.