

Pocahontas County West Virginia Birding Trails- Cranberry Mountain Nature Center to Tea Creek The Highland Scenic Highway- Section 2- South



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 the Williams Bridge. The elevation of the Scenic Highway varies between 2980' and 4,500 feet.

Point of reference- The Cranberry Nature Center

Latitude/Longitude- (LO-80.1510.252W/LA-38.110.534N), **Elevation-** 3600'

Directions to the Point of Reference- From Elkins, take US219 south and turn right onto SR150 at the top of Elk Mountain. The Cranberry Nature Center parking area is located at the junction of SR39/55 and SR150. From Marlinton, take SR39/55 west to the junction of SR150. From Richwood, take SR39/55 east to SR150 junction.

Trail descriptions-

Section 1-

1. High Rocks Trail (TR409) begins at the parking lot on SR150 3.3 miles from the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. This 1.6-mile leisurely walk through oak, beech, maple and other hardwoods with abundant wildflowers and ferns, ends at a spectacular view of the Greenbrier River Valley. The trail varies from 4440' to 4350'

2. Back Mountain Trail (TR412) is a 4.8-mile loop trail between Williams River Valley Overlooks, and Big Spruce Overlook. The trailhead S terminus parking lot is 6.2-miles from the Nature Center on SR150. The counter clock-wise trail leaves the parking lot and quickly descends on switchbacks to a generally level grade through rhododendrons, birch, beech and red spruce

forest before climbing back up to the Big Spruce Overlook. The Big Spruce Overlook N terminus is 7.9-mile from the Nature Center. Crossing WV150 accesses the counter clockwise trail that takes you south through red spruce forests and deciduous woodlands, descending gradually on a rocky narrow trail.

3. Forest Road (FR461) is on the right, a few miles further north on WV150. It is a gated wide lovely forest road that winds down from the scenic highway to FR86. In breeding season, one can hear Swainson's Thrushes on one side and Hermit Thrushes on the other side of this road.