

## **BOOGER RED HILL - Eastern Plateau**

**Direction to trailhead:** Take US 50 west from Canon City to State Highway (SH) 9. Drive north on SH 9 to County Road (CR) 11. Drive west for 14.75 miles on CR11 to Road 5808 on South side of CR11. (There is a large cross on top of a small hill just before you reach Road 5808.) You will pass through an open (BLM) green gate after 0.1 miles. Continue past the gate for 0.9 miles where you will encounter another gate. You will have to open this gate. Close it after you pass through. Continue for 0.26 miles to a grassy parking area. The unmarked trail head begins at the gate west of the BLM information sign (Figure 1). You will have to open his gate. Close it after you pass through. About 33.9 miles one way.

**Length of hike:** 4.7 RT

**Beginning elevation:** 7,784 feet

**Elevation change:** 120 feet

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Description:** Booger Red was named after a famous bronco rider, Samuel Thomas Privet. According to the Texas State Historical Association, when he was a young man he suffered severe injuries to his face as the result of an accidental explosion involving dynamite. A young boy who saw him after the accident said “Gee, but Red is sure a booger now”. That nick name stuck with him for the rest of his life. He used the name to his advantage, advertising himself as, “Come and see him ride, the ugliest man dead or alive, Booger Red!” As he travelled throughout the west, he offered \$500 to anyone who could bring him a horse he couldn’t ride. Legend is he was never thrown by a horse. One in particular, Montana Gynt, which he claimed he could ride but never tame, became his riding companion for 23 years.

The old two track trail goes uphill for a short distance through an open forest of scrub oak and scattered pinion pines. It then enters a large mountain meadow with panoramic views of the surrounding mountains (Figure 2). In the late spring wild flowers including Indian paintbrush, ragwort, daisy and western wall flower add color to the meadow.

As the trail continues south you will see a trail marker where the trail splits, with one trail going along the plateau to the east and the other continuing along the plateau to the south (WP1). Follow the eastern trail. After about 0.26 miles from WP1, the trail reaches its highest elevation of 7,906 feet. As it leaves the meadow, it enters a thin strip of open forest then enters into another long meadow (Figure 1). The trail follows the eastern edge of this meadow close to the border of a pinion and ponderosa pine forest. At the southern end of the meadow, the trail enters the forest and continues southeast along the edge of a deep ravine. There are open locations along his section of the tail with magnificent views of the canyon and mountains beyond (Figure 3). The trail becomes obscure after a surveyor’s marker, about 1.34 miles from the trail head. There are

more splendid views from open locations beyond the surveyor's marker and at the southern end of the plateau (Figure 4). Return along the edge of the plateau to the surveyor's marker and trail then return to the trail head and parking area.

If you want to hike the short spur down to the historic log cabin, take the trail east from the parking area. You will pass through two gates that need to be opened and closed near the beginning of the trail. Follow it east as it descends along the western side of a ravine. After about 0.15 miles from the trailhead you have two options. You can descend southeast through an open forested area then continue southeast down the side of the ravine to Little High Creek located below (Figure 1). You can't miss the creek. It flows mostly in a north to south direction and appears as a green ribbon at the bottom of the ravine. Follow the creek southeast. As you approach the cabin, the creek makes a sharp turn to the southeast, then a sharp turn to the southwest and then a sharp turn back to the southeast. The cabin (Figure 5) is located on the eastern side of the creek just before the creek makes the second turn to the southeast and enters a rugged ravine. You can walk a short distance from the cabin down to the creek and a picturesque pool of water.

The other option is to continue descending to the east (Figure 1) and continue east until you reach the creek. Follow it southeast until you reach the cabin located up above on the east side of the creek.



Figure 1. Map of Overlook Trail



Figure 2. View of Mountains from mountain meadow



Figure 3. Rocky outcropping on side of plateau



Figure 4. Trail along eastern side of plateau



Figure 5. Historic Cabin