



Trail 35--Broads Fork

Duration: 3 hours

Distance: 6 miles out-and-back

Difficulty: Difficult

Trailhead: Mill B South Fork

Elevation: Mill B South Fork trailhead 6190'; Broads Fork at Beaver Pond 8300'

Avalanche: High

Map: Mount Aire 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates Trail forks--12 T 0438518/4497024

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: Broad's Fork is stunningly scenic, particularly once you get through the first half of the climb which is more closed in. The trail indeed climbs --consistently, but because it does, one will find more solitude. Beginning at the base of the S-curves in Big Cottonwood Canyon, it shares a trailhead with Lake Blanche, and frankly, most people head to Blanche without realizing the Broad's Fork trail is sitting quietly, with a small sign, in the southwest corner of the parking lot. This trail's high points are dramatic scenery, a great work out, and solitude.

How to get there: The trailhead for Lake Blanche and Broad's Fork sits 4.3 miles from the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, just below what is known as the S-curves (the road makes a sharp curving 'S' here) at Mill B South trailhead. The trail begins from the southwest corner of the gated summer parking lot/trailhead. During winter one must park on the main road.

Trail Description: The trail starts with a 10-minute climb to the west, out of the south west corner of the lot. Look for a small wooden sign that sits just barely above the snow in that corner of the summer parking area. Once at the top of this climb the view opens and you can see down canyon to Salt Lake below. The trail then curves to the east and may forks, depending upon snow depth and previous traffic. If it forks, you must take the left fork that heads up hill rather than the path, well worn as it may be, that continues straight and curves right. You will enter Twin Peaks Wilderness area within .2 of a mile after starting on this fork. A sign marks your entry. The trail climbs up this mountain, heading predominantly south. At 7090' you hit a small bridge with a stream running beneath.

From here the trail continues south and east. Continue up the mountain until you stand on top beneath rugged beautiful slopes. A meadow opens to the east. Though it appears this could be the destination, in reality one must continue across the meadow, and up and over the ridge on the other side. Cross the meadow and for safety purposes, climb along the ridge rather than below.

After making your way up and across the ridge, continue to climb farther east until you will finally find yourself at the base of steep and wild avalanche chutes. The beaver pond is usually covered with snow, but it sits at the base of the chutes. You can tell there is a stream. The solitude is divine. The rocky cliffs and steep chutes are gorgeous. This trail, once you break from the climb to the top of the first mountain, deserves a sunny, blue-sky day to punctuate the surrounding grandeur. Heli-skiers may brave some of these known avalanche chutes, so don't be surprised to see tracks.

Options: Some shorten the trail by ending at the bridge. Others are satisfied to turn around at the meadow.