

Blowhard Trail Offers Great Scenic Vistas

by Jay M. Jones

One of the local trails that provides a wealth of scenic vistas away from large crowds is the Blowhard Trail in Cedar Canyon.

Starting at an elevation of about 7,600 feet at the Moots Hollow Trailhead near milepost 10 on Utah Highway 14, the trail winds its way to the top of the nearby cliffs.

Soon afterwards, the trail crosses a jeep road coming from the area of the SUU Mountain Center which leads to Ashdown Creek.

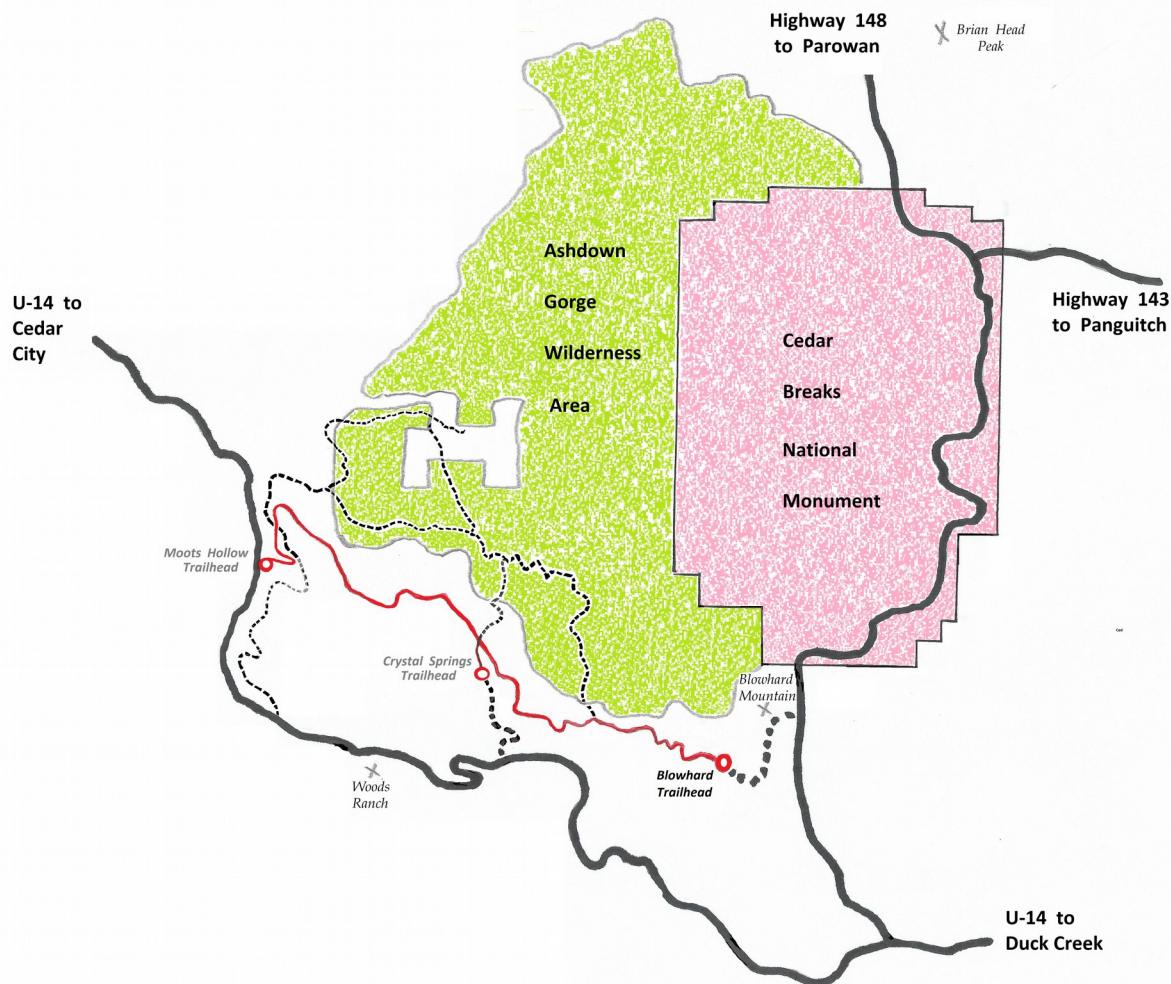
About midway on its seven mile path, the Blowhard Trail crosses the Crystal Springs Trail a few hundred yards north of the Crystal Springs Trailhead. The Crystal Springs Trail leads into the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area, and intersects with a network of trails in the wilderness.

Before reaching the elevation of

10,650 feet at the Blowhard Trailhead near Blowhard Mountain, the trail passes by a ridge offering spectacular views of the colorful cliffs of Cedar Breaks National Monument. A number of Bristlecone Pine trees line the ridge to add character to the views.

The hike from the bottom to the top is just over 7 miles, with 3,000 feet in elevation gain. Portions of the trail are steep, and a walking stick will be helpful to some. With access from three trailheads, the hike can be broken down and enjoyed in shorter segments.

In addition to hiking, the trail is popular for mountain biking, especially starting from the top. A rock climbing area is accessed from the bottom, near the Moots Hollow Trailhead. Several of the Ashdown Gorge area trails are suitable for horseback riding.



Sketch of the Blowhard Trail, highlighted in red, with access from three trailheads. The trail passes through National Forest land, and is close to the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area.



Moots Hollow trailhead of the Blowhard Trail, near milepost 10 on Utah Highway 14 in Cedar Canyon.



The trail quickly climbs to the top of the cliffs above the Moots Hollow Trailhead before turning east and continuing on toward Blowhard Mountain.



View from the Blowhard Trail, midway between the Moots Hollow Trailhead and the Crystal Springs Trailhead. The Ashdown Gorge is to the right, and Cedar Valley is in the distance.



A Bristlecone Pine clings to a ridge about a mile below the Blowhard Trailhead. Brian Head rises above Cedar Breaks in the distance.

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