

# HIKING

## Baldface Circle Trail/Bicknell Ridge Trail



USDA Forest Service  
White Mountain National Forest  
Evans Notch Ranger District



*The most magnificent loop, but 9.5 miles and difficult.*

### BALDFACE CIRCLE TRAIL

**TRAIL BEGINNING:** 500 ft. elevation. The trail leaves Route 113 just north of AMC Cold River Camp and 1.5 miles south of the Basin Recreation Area access road, at the Baldface Circle trailhead Parking Area.

#### TRAIL ENDING:

North Baldface (3591 ft. elevation)

South Baldface (3569 ft. elevation)

**LENGTH:** Route 113 to South Baldface 3.6 miles (5.8 km)

Route 113 to North Baldface 4.7 miles (7.6 km)

**ACCESS:** U.S. Route 2 to Route 113 south, then follow Route 113 south 11 miles to the Baldface trailhead. From the south, follow Route 113 thirteen miles north from Fryeburg, Maine. The Baldface trailhead is 0.2 mile north of the Cold River AMC Camp on the west side of the road.

#### ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The Baldfaces (North and South) are perhaps the most challenging mountains on the Evans Notch District. These mountains were swept by fire in 1903 and the destruction was so widespread that the fire burned into Jackson, New Hampshire. The fire remained out of control for a week before rain subdued it. Because of this large burn, the trail today offers incredible views and is a favorite of

hikers and photographers. Additionally, the Baldface routes provide access to longer hikes on the White Mountain National Forest, if desired. A point of interest is the Chandler Gorge, only 1.1 miles from the highway on the Baldface Circle Trail. For the overnighiter or those who wish a rest stop, the Baldface Shelter is approximately a 2 hour hike from the highway. Hikers should carry their own water along the entire Baldface route as there are no tested or reliable sources. Between Baldface Shelter and the South Baldface summit are granite block ledges, which are very challenging, but the hiker is eventually rewarded with 360 degree views along the ridges.



**NARRATIVE:** The Baldface Trail starts at the trailhead parking area along Route 113 just north of AMC Cold River Camp. The first reference point that will be reached is the Baldface Circle Trail "Junction". The Slippery Brook Trail begins 0.1 mile from this point. At the Baldface Circle Trail Junction the hiker may go right or left on the Circle Trail.

The left route, via South Baldface travels southwest as it follows an old logging road. At 0.4 mile the turn off to Chandler Gorge will be reached. The loop trail to the Gorge is a 0.3 mile side trip worth taking. The Baldface Shelter is located near the trail at approximately 2100' elevation. This shelter is available on a first-come, first-serve basis free of charge and can accommodate about ten persons at a time. Other facilities include fireplace and toilet. Leaving the shelter area, the trail follows ledges and becomes very steep for 0.5 mile. Prior to reaching the summit of South Baldface, the trail junctions with the Baldface Knob Trail to Slippery Brook. Upon reaching the South Baldface summit, the trail bears right, follows a broad ridge to the east, and again follows open ridges to Eagle Crag after passing the junction with the summit.

The Bicknell Ridge Trail provides a scenic route to the valley. Along the Baldface Circle Trail, other intersections are Eagle Link (to Wild River) and Meader Ridge (to Eagle Crag and Mt. Meader). The descent from North Baldface to Route 113 is 4.8 miles. The entire round trip for the hiker on the Baldface Circle route will take approximately 7 to 8 hours.

#### **Baldface Circle Trail Mileages:**

Trailhead, Route 113 - 0 miles  
Baldface Circle Trail Junction - 0.7 miles

Turning left on Circle Trail (mileages from Route 113)

Slippery Brook Trail Junction - 0.8 miles  
Side Trail Junction to  
Chandler Gorge - 1.1 miles  
Baldface Shelter - 3.2 miles  
South Baldface - 3.6 miles  
North Baldface - 4.7 miles  
Bicknell Ridge Trail Junction - 5.6 miles

**Total length - Route 113 to South Baldface to North Baldface to Route 113 - 9.5 miles**



## BICKNELL RIDGE TRAIL

**TRAIL BEGINNING:** 900 ft. elevation. Trail begins 1.3 miles from Route 113 on the Baldface Circle Trail.

**TRAIL ENDING:** 3500 ft. elevation. Trail ends at the junction of the Baldface Circle Trail 0.9 mile from the summit of North Baldface.

**LENGTH:** Baldface Circle Junction to Baldface Circle Trail junction, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)

**ACCESS:** Same as to Baldface Circle Trail.

### ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The Bicknell Ridge Trail follows numerous broad, open ledges and offers scenic views of the Cold River Valley, Kezar Lakes Area, and Evans Notch. Because so much of this trail is open, it is the preferred route by many hikers to the summit of North Baldface, though very steep.

**HIKING SAFETY:** Harsh weather is common in the Baldface region. Visitors are advised to carry extra clothing, food, and shelter for protection.

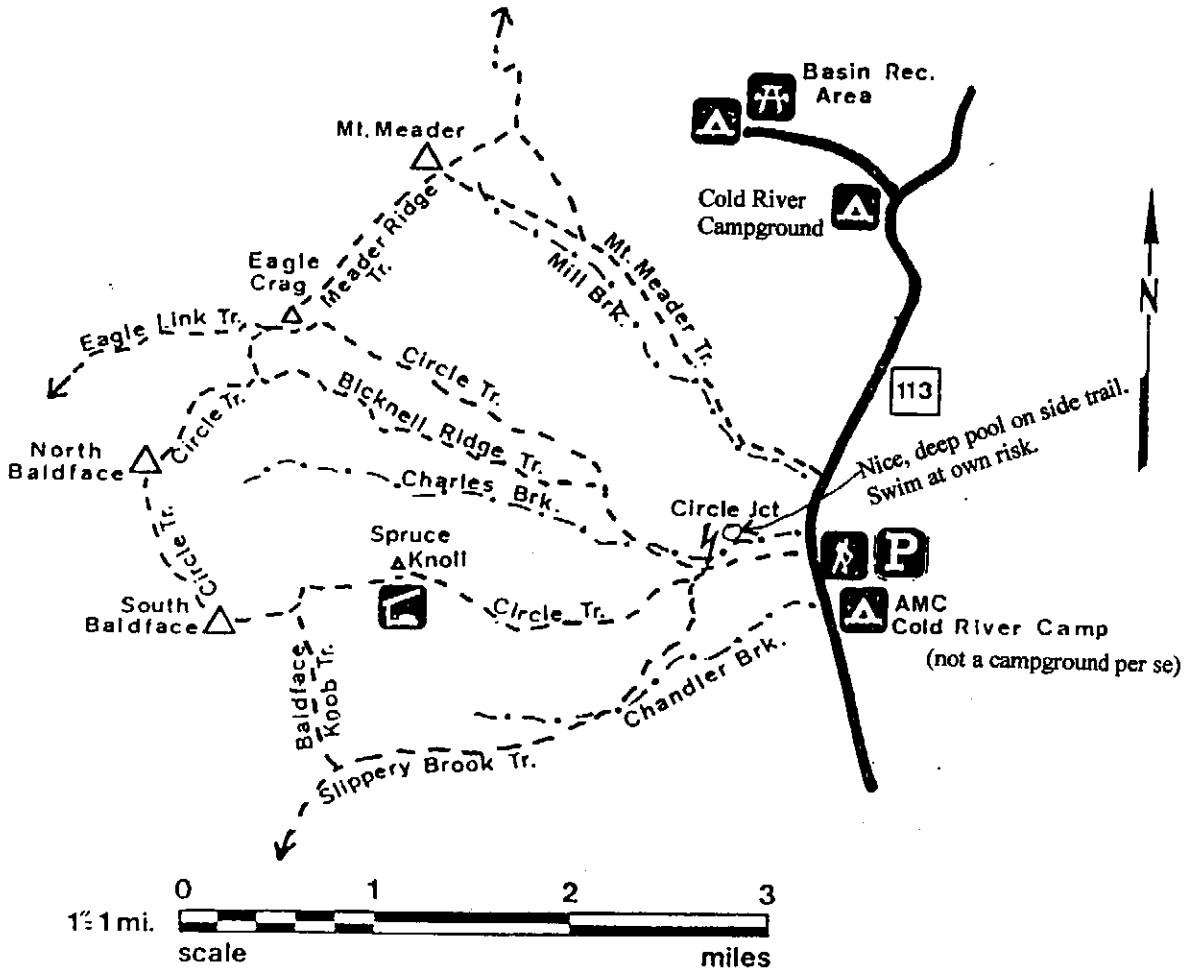
**NARRATIVE:** The Bicknell Ridge Trail is reached by following the Baldface Circle trail toward North Baldface. At about 0.4 mile from Circle Junction the trail leaves to the left and crosses Charles Brook. The trail then goes through hardwood stands, turns west and rises along the south side of Bicknell Ridge. The trail comes out onto open ledges prior to reaching the Eagle Cascade Trail at 1.3 miles. Travel to the junction of the Baldface Circle Trail is on broad open ledges providing excellent views of the Presidential range, Evans Notch, and Speckled Mountain areas. The Baldface Circle Trail is reached 0.9 mile below the summit of North Baldface and 0.3 mile south of Eagle Link. At the Baldface Circle Trail junction, the visitor has the option of turning left to the summits of North and South Baldface or right and returning to Route 113 both via the Circle Trail. In either case a pleasant loop trip is offered.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is a diverse organization committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. USDA prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political affiliation and familial status. Persons believing they have been discriminated against should contact the Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice), or 202-720-1127 (TTY).



# TRAIL MAPS

This map is for general information only and should not be used as a trail guide. Please bring a topographical map with you.



Printed On Recycled Paper

This publication is available in large print from the Evans Notch Ranger District Office