

Great Western Trail 11: **House Rock to Jacob Lake (US 89A)**

The scenery along Highway 89 from GWT 10 to GWT 11 through the Painted Desert is spectacular. A bentonite clay that swells when wet and erodes away when dry, makes up the Chinle Formation. Few plants can grow here, but colorful lavender, blue, green, and gray hills make up for what the area lacks in vegetation.

Highway 89 continues to Page, but you will turn onto 89-Alt and drive over the Navajo Bridge that crosses the Colorado River in Marble Canyon. The highway runs along the south side of the Vermilion Cliffs. Navajo Sandstone, a pale, salmon-colored formation with slanting layers, is prominent in this area.

This trail begins at House Rock and its bison herd, with a difficult ascent after a drive through miles of unmarked grasslands. Much of it traverses forested lands, some of which burned in a recent fire. Dead trees are now falling across the trail, creating an obstacle course that changes from day to day. If you cannot drive around them, you will have to saw or hack through them.

This is a difficult, remote trail, and a sign at the beginning of a long, steep, and slippery ascent warns you not to try the climb in a 2-WD vehicle.

How to Get There:

Waypoint 1: Turn south on FR 8910, House Rock, between mileposts 559 and 560 on US 89A.

Waypoint 27: Turn south on FR 225 at milepost 576 on US 89A (3.2 miles before Jacob Lake).

Roads Comprising Trail: FR 8910 – FR 284C – FR 284 – FR 224 – FR 225.

Open months/Best Travel: Mid-May to November. It may be closed because of snow or rain between December and May.

Permits: none at this time.

Elevation Min/Max: 4924'/8528'

Unpaved (total) Mileage: 27.6 miles.

Time: 3 hours.

Difficulty: Difficult.

Remoteness: 4/4

Services: none. Fuel, food and lodging are available at Marble

Canyon and Jacob Lake.

Driving the Trail: The trail begins on a graded road at House Rock, FR 8910, between mileposts 559 and 560 on US 89A. The information board at the entrance to the trail explains the history of the area.

At waypoint 2, turn right into a pasture 50 yards before the cattle guard sign. There may be no visible tracks through the grassland from waypoint 4 to waypoint 6, so follow the GPS coordinates carefully.

Do not pass waypoint 8 if you are not driving a 4-WD vehicle. A long ascent begins here, needing careful wheel placement, and ends at waypoint 10.

Enter FR 284C at waypoint 11. Stay on this very rocky, sometimes off-camber road until you pass a water tank on the left. Follow the road downhill and bear left. At waypoint 13 turn right over the cattle guard and then turn left. Continue on FR 284 and cross FR 220 at waypoint 14.

At waypoint 15 the trail climbs for the next 5.5 miles. Burned trees are still falling in this area, and you may have to find your way around them. Wildlife abounds, and deer and other animals scamper through the burned-out forest, chased by their hunters in October.

The road levels out at waypoint 19. At waypoint 20 turn right onto FR 225. Stay on this road until you exit the trail at US 89A, south of Jacob Lake. There are many areas to camp along this trail, which apart from FR 225, is very remote.

Trail Information: North Kaibab Ranger District (Appendix B).

Restrictions: none at this time.

Map References:

USGS:

1:24,000: Emmett Hill, House Rock, Jacob Lake.

1:100,000: Fredonia, Glen Canyon dam.

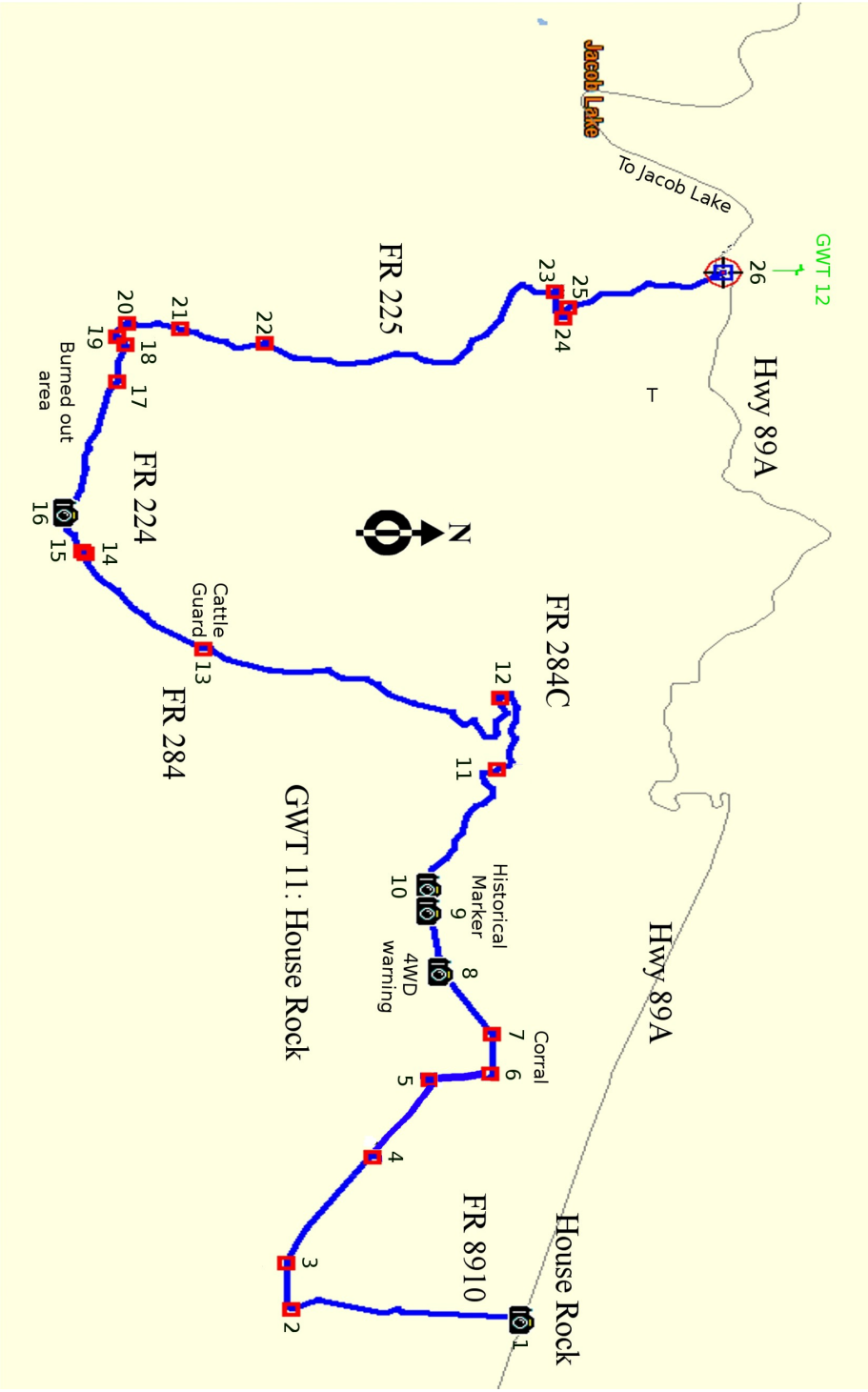
1:250,000: Marble Canyon, Grand Canyon

Terrain Navigator: Arizona North (AZ9)

Arizona Road & Recreation Atlas: p. 28, 62.

USDA Forest Service Map: Kaibab National Forest North Kaibab Ranger District; Great Western Trail Kaibab National Forest.





GWT 11: House Rock to US 89a

- 11-1** N 36° 42.2896' W 111° 56.7648'
2.3 ▼ 0.0 ▼ Turn south onto FR 8910, House Rock
between mileposts 559 and 560.
27.3 ▲ *Exit at US 89A. Turn left for Jacob Lake,
right for Marble Canyon.*
- 11-2** N 36° 40.3499' W 111° 56.9068'
0.6 ▼ 2.3 ▼ Turn right, 50 yards before cattle guard sign
25.0 ▲ *Turn left on wide road.*
- 11-3** N 36° 40.3074' W 111° 57.5205'
1.5 ▼ 2.9 ▼ Bear right.
24.4 ▲ *Turn left.*
- 11-4** N 36° 41.0273' W 111° 58.9113'
1.3 ▼ 4.4 ▼ Go straight.
23.9 ▲ *Go straight.*
- 11-5** N 36° 41.6559' W 111° 59.9974'
0.4 ▼ 5.7 ▼ Turn right.
22.6 ▲ *Turn left.*
- 11-6** N 36° 42.0260' W 112° 59.9964'
0.5 ▼ 6.1 ▼ Turn left.
21.2 ▲ *Turn right.*
- 11-7** N 36° 42.0280' W 112° 0.5158'
0.9 ▼ 6.6 ▼ Bear left.
20.7 ▲ *Bear right.*
- 11-8** N 36° 41.5979' W 112° 1.3272'
0.8 ▼ 7.5 ▼ Four Wheel Drive only sign. Begin ascent.
19.8 ▲ *Four Wheel Drive only sign. End descent.*
- 11-9** N 36° 41.5084' W 112° 2.1291'
0.3 ▼ 8.3 ▼ Historical marker of Expedition of 1776.
19.0 ▲ *Historical marker of Expedition of 1776.*

- 11-20** **N 36° 38.9734' W 112° 9.8447'**
0.5 ▼ 20.4 ▼ Turn right onto FR 225.
6.9 ▲ *Turn left onto FR 224.*
- 11-21** **N 36° 39.4096' W 112° 9.7718'**
0.9 ▼ 20.9 ▼ FR 205 on left. Go straight on FR 225.
6.4 ▲ *Go straight onto FR 205.*
- 11-22** **N 36° 40.1226' W 112° 9.5843'**
3.4 ▼ 21.8 ▼ Stay on FR 225. FR 205B on left.
5.5 ▲ *Stay on FR 225. FR 205B on right.*
- 11-23** **N 36° 42.5574' W 112° 10.2592'**
0.4 ▼ 25.2 ▼ Bear right. Campsite on left.
2.1 ▲ *Bear left. Campsite on right.*
- 11-24** **N 36° 42.6365' W 112° 9.9086'**
0.1 ▼ 25.6 ▼ Turn left on FR 225.
1.7 ▲ *FR 225A straight ahead; Turn right on FR 225.*
- 11-25** **N 36° 42.6715' W 112° 10.0545'**
1.6 ▼ 25.7 ▼ Go straight on FR 225. FR 258BK is on the left.
1.6 ▲ *Go straight on FR 225. FR 258K is on the right.*
- 11-26** **N 36° 43.9711' W 112° 10.5059'**
Arrive 27.3 ▼ Exit at US 89A. Turn left for Jacob Lake, right for Marble Canyon.
0.0 ▲ *Turn south from US 89A onto FR 225 at milepost 576.*



11-1 Entry to House Rock



11-8 Warning Sign



11-9 Historical Marker



11-16 Fallen Tree Area



11-10 Long Descent to House Rock