

Photos of Willow Creek Hike
Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge (USFWS)

June 10, 2012



The hike begins at the "Road Closed" marker near a grassy swale, with Willow Creek in the distance.



The route follows a faint jeep track up the grassy swale to the mouth of Willow Creek.



Once in the Willow Creek canyon, there is a good game trail along the south bank of the creek.



Where the canyon widens, the route leaves Willow Creek (at right) and climbs to Notch 6615 (at left).



From Notch 6615, it's an easy cross-country hike up the tributary canyon (at left) to reach the top of the plateau — bypassing the thickly-treed main Willow Creek canyon (at right).



At the top, it's an easy 1.5-mile hike to the rim (in distance) across the wet swale of Upper Willow Creek.



From the rim, there are sweeping views southwest over the Warner Valley wetlands...



...and across the pothole lakes to the north. Look for rare bighorn sheep below the rim here.