



Roy/Bullhead/Four Mile Lakes Kayak/Canoe Trails

Location: Marshall County, South Dakota, 1.5 miles south of Lake City

Directions: From Hwy 10 turn south on 438th St. approximately 1 mile to Roy Lake State Park entrance.

Park entrance license is required to access the trail thru Roy Lake State Park. Look for the canoe/kayak launch in the parks north loop road. There are several canoes and kayaks to rent from the park at the access site. There is a small dock at launch site and a small parking area, however better parking is located near the picnic shelter to the southwest especially if you have a trailer.

The Roy Lake trail travels west into several shallow bays that do not get much recreational boating other than some fishing boats. Some weedy areas of aquatic macrophytes are present but nothing dense enough to impede travel. Suggested route is approximately five miles long and much of this route is protected from the wind. Usual amenities are found in the state park including a privately managed resort with modern cabins. The park also has heated/air conditioned sleeping cabins. See <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/roy-lake/> for more information.

The paddler can portage from the Roy Lake trail into Bullhead Lake utilizing a mowed trail. Look for the blue portage signs. The portage is approximately 500 feet long. Bullhead Lake does have a public access with boat ramp, dock, and pit toilet (no state park entrance license required at this site). From Bullhead Lake the paddler can make a short portage across a concrete low water crossing into Four Mile Lake (named for the fact it is located approximately four miles from Fort Sisseton).

The majority of these trails are located along undeveloped shoreline and cross between several wooded islands teeming with birds and other wildlife. Rarities like the common loon and osprey are often observed in these backwaters.