

Hiking

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
White River National Forest
Sopris Ranger District

Date-1997
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EAST CREEK/GIFT CREEK TRAIL, #1963: IN MAROON BELLS/SNOWMASS WILDERNESS

Length: 8.0/12.8 mi/km
Elevation Gain: 3,800 ft.
Beginning Elev: 7,700 ft.
USGS Map(s): Redstone

Difficulty: Very Difficult
Use: Light
End Elev: 12,100 ft.

ACCESS: Travel south on Hwy 133 for 17 miles past Carbondale to Redstone. Drive through Redstone to the north edge of town, and take the 4WD road to the east besides the last house on the right side. If you don't have a four wheel drive you must park here and walk the extra half mile to the trailhead.

NARRATIVE: This is one of the most challenging of our trails in the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness. It follows East Creek and much of the Gift Creek and rises to a spectacular pass of over twelve thousand feet. Because of its difficulty this is a seldom used trail increasing the hiker's chance of seeing a large variety of wildlife. Water is readily available but should be treated before drinking. This makes an excellent, but challenging way of returning from a hike to Avalanche or Capitol Lakes. The trail ends at the junction with the Avalanche Creek trail.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Wilderness areas are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not a renewable resource. Any careless act can upset this natural balance and result in destruction. By following these ethics and regulations you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits. **Please respect the land and rights of others!**

- **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of respect for other visitors and wildlife
- Trash - **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!**
- Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 - 8 inches in the soil.
- No fires above 10,800 ft. Lightweight campstoves are recommended
- Camp 100 feet from water and trails, and use existing sites when possible.
- Do not wash or bathe in lakes or streams. Use biodegradable soap far from water source.
- Stay on trail and do not shortcut switchbacks, which cause erosion.
- **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors. Approved bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (food, toiletries, dog food, garbage, etc.) and should be stored on the ground, out of sight and no less than 100 ft. away from any camp.