

Hiking

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
White River National Forest
Sopris Ranger District

Date-1997
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NORTH FORK CUTOFF TRAIL, #1976 IN MAROON BELLS/SNOWMASS WILDERNESS

Length: 1.1/1.8 mi/km

Elevation Gain: 90 ft.

Beginning Elev: 10,400 ft.

USGS Map(s): Snowmass Mtn.

Difficulty: very difficult

Use: heavy

End Elev: 11,300 ft.

ACCESS: From Carbondale travel south on Hwy 133 for 25 miles to the Marble turnoff. Turn left onto County Road 3 to the town of Marble, and past Beaver Lake. One half mile past Beaver Lake the road becomes 4WD and heads uphill and across shale rock. After another 1/2 mile, take the right fork, or Road #314. This road heads immediately downhill. It is about 5 1/2 miles to Crystal City. Pass through Crystal City, uphill approximately 1/2 mile and take the sharp left turn towards Lead King Basin. This is a fairly difficult 4WD road with some steep drop offs. Park at the Geneva Lake trailhead in Lead King Basin. Hike 1/4 mile, taking the right fork towards the North Fork trail. Hike for approximately 2 miles. Take the left fork at the sign to get on the North Fork Cutoff.

NARRATIVE: This trail starts at the junction with the North Fork Trail and winds with the junction to the trail which connects with Geneva Lake and continues over Trail Rider Pass. It has a nice view of the north fork of the Crystal River Valley and Lead King Basin. It is a short cut for travelers going to Snowmass Lake, but it is very steep. The trail is heavily used by horses and backpackers. Please give horses the right-of-way to prevent erosion near the trails.

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!**

- Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- 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.