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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

WEST SNOWMASS TRAIL #2187

Length: 7 miles one-way (11.3 km)

Difficulty: More difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,600 feet (2621 m)

Ending Elevation: 11,600 feet (3536 m)

USGS Map(s): Capitol Peak

PERMIT INFORMATION: In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. **Each party overnighiting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: This trail connects the Maroon-Snowmass and Capitol Creek Trails. It climbs steeply for 4 1/2 miles to the top of the ridge separating the Snowmass and Capitol Valleys, passing through the low spot between Mt. Daly and Haystack Mountain, before plunging another 2 1/2 miles to Capitol Creek. The view from the top is magnificent, several 14,000' plus peaks are visible, and wildlife is abundant. You must be in good shape to hike this trail with a backpack.

ACCESS: Drive 6 miles west of Aspen on Highway 82 and turn left onto Brush Creek Road. Continue on Brush Creek Road 5.5 miles then turn right onto Divide Road. Divide Road turns into a gravel road and passes Krabloonik Restaurant and Kennels. The road descends steeply to the valley bottom where it forks. Take the left fork. You will pass the East Snowmass trailhead on the left. The Maroon-Snowmass Trailhead, which is the starting point for the West Snowmass Trail, is at the end of the road. A high clearance vehicle is recommended.

NARRATIVE: Hike 1-1/4 miles along the Maroon-Snowmass Trail to the junction with the West Snowmass Trail (about 1/4 mile past the second gate). The West Snowmass Trail then switches back towards Snowmass Creek. Cross Snowmass Creek. This can be a cold and swift crossing well into the summer months. Sandals are a must! After crossing the creek, climb through stands of Aspen for 1-1/2 miles. At higher elevations the trail journeys through stands of Spruce, Fir and flower-filled meadows, passing below Mt. Daly, until it finally emerges above the timberline where deer and elk are often seen. From the pass, the trail descends very quickly as it carries you through undisturbed meadows and forests where few people visit. The trail ends at its junction with Capitol Creek Trail.

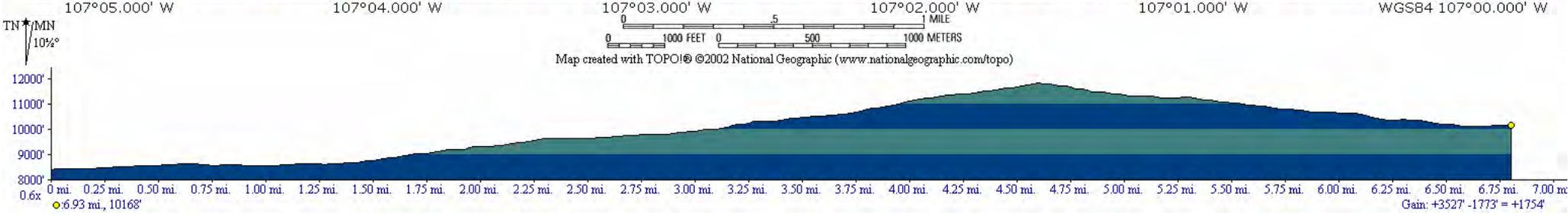
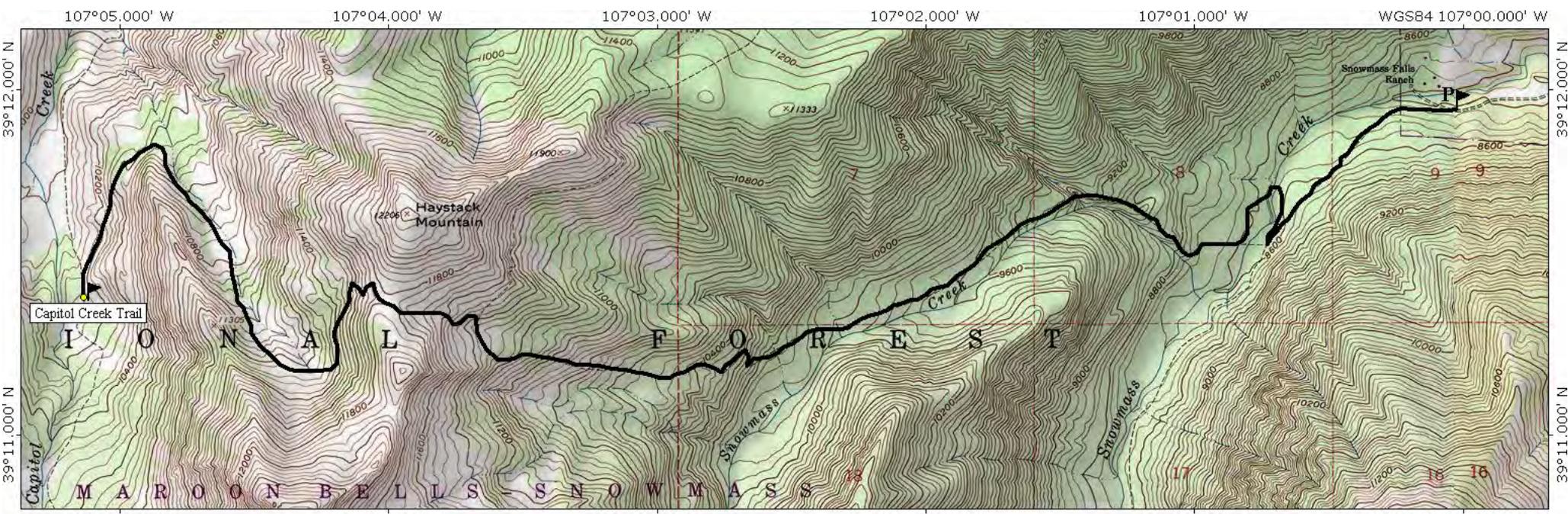
ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The West Snowmass Trail is located in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. Please educate yourself on Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- * **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.
- * **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both other people and wildlife.
- * Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- * **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * **No fires above 10,800 ft.** Lightweight campstoves are recommended.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST WEST SNOWMASS TRAIL #2187



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