



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest  
Service

Pike and San Isabel  
National Forests  
Cimarron and Comanche  
National Grasslands

Leadville RD  
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Leadville, CO 80461  
(719) 486-0749  
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## Mount Sherman

### ATTENTION: LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

**(Please respect any boundary signs and leave this area as you find it so the public may continue to enjoy access)**

Mount Sherman, centered in the north to south-trending Mosquito Range, is a rounded 14,036 foot high (4,278 meters) peak that rises above the western edge of broad South Park in central Colorado. The mountain, usually considered one of the easiest of Colorado's 54 Fourteeners, is an excellent hike for visitors and beginning mountaineers, but basic mountaineering rules still apply. The peak is named for the Union General William Tecumseh Sherman who served under General Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War. General Sherman was both praised for his brilliant command of military strategy, and criticized for his dispassionate "scorched earth" policy while marching to Atlanta in 1864.

Sherman, Colorado's 46th highest peak, is a quick hike for a reasonably fit person since it is possible to park as high as 12,000 feet, leaving only a couple thousand feet of elevation gain to the summit and a round trip of just over five miles. Like all Fourteeners, Mount Sherman should be treated with respect. Thunderstorms brew over the Sawatch Range to the west and move in quickly and Sherman's upper ridge and summit tend to be windy. Get an early start, carry rain gear and keep an eye on the weather for thunderstorms and lightning. Keep in mind that this is NOT public land...the mountain is on a mining claim owned by the Day Mine Company in Leadville. Misuses of the trail could lead to closure.

### Trails

#### **Iowa Gulch – 2.5 miles (one way); 2100 feet gain**

From Leadville, take US 24 to the southern end of town, then turn east onto Monroe Street and drive 0.2 miles. Turn right (south) on Lake County Road 2 (Toledo Street). Follow CR2 down a paved road for approximately 3.8 miles to a fork in the road. Turn left at triangular ROUGH ROAD sign onto a 2WD dirt road. Continue another 3.0 miles up into Iowa Gulch to the Mount Sherman trailhead. The trailhead is unmarked – park in front of the concrete blocks. The trail is visible from the road and is through a black tailings pile up the side of a hill to the saddle between Mt. Sheridan (to the south) and Mt. Sherman. Both of Sherman's main routes (Iowa Gulch and Fourmile Creek, from the southeast) come together on Sherman's narrow south ridge and follow a good trail for 1 mile to its large summit.

### Maps

**USGS:** Mt. Sherman/Leadville South

**Trails Illustrated:** #10 Leadville/Fairplay

### For More Information

*The Colorado 14ers: The Standard Routes* By: Colorado Mountain Club

*14ers.com:* Use "starred" routes these are the standard routes

For more information on Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics go to <http://lnt.org>





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## ***Climbing a Fourteener? Know Before You Climb!***

**Temperature:** Expect temperatures to decrease 5 degrees (F) with every 1000 foot gain in elevation.

**Wind:** this is a high wind environment. Alpine winds have been recorded at over 200 mph, with 75 mph gusts common. Combine decreasing temperature with high wind and a beautiful sunny day can become a health risk if you are not properly prepared.

**Sunlight:** there is twice as much ultraviolet radiation and 25% more light than at sea level. Therefore, a wide brim hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses are all highly recommended.

**Research the route.** Land managers recommend the standard route on any mountain. These routes are constructed and maintained to provide for protection of the natural resources. Three good sources of information: [www.14ers.org](http://www.14ers.org), [www.14ers.com](http://www.14ers.com), Colorado Mountain Club Guidebooks "The Colorado 14ers" available online. Carry a map & compass and know how to use them. Don't rely on cellular signal.

**Have an emergency plan.** Let someone know your location and when you plan to return. Make sure you call them as soon as you have phone coverage.

**Prepare yourself.** This will not be a walk in the park! Prepare yourself physically and mentally. A high level of fitness is necessary for even the easiest fourteener. Get an early start (pre-dawn in most cases) and be off the summit by noon to avoid exposure to afternoon thunderstorms.

**Prepare your Pack.** Have a good comfortable backpack. Pack plenty of water, high energy snacks, first aid kit, rain gear, warm clothing, eye protection, sun protection, lightweight shelter, human waste disposal bag.

**Carry human waste disposal bags and take your waste out with you.** Do not use catholes, the soil bacteria necessary for breaking down human waste does not exist at high altitudes.

**Proper footwear.** Fourteener trails are designed as Most Difficult hiker trails, sturdy hiking boots are essential! To protect the surrounding plants, stay on the constructed trail, even if there is snow, mud, or gravel. To protect your public lands, stay on the constructed trail. Alpine plants are extremely fragile; as few as 5 footsteps can kill plants leading to soil erosion.

Snow gaiters and an ice axe are essential when you are travelling across snowfields. Practice using your ice axe to self-arrest before you are in an emergency situation.

**Taking your dog?** Some mountains are better for dogs and some are very hard on your dog's pads. Do your research. To protect your dog, wildlife, and the enjoyment of others, keep your dog on a leash. Don't forget to carry extra water, a water container, and high energy dog treats.

**Going out overnight?** Have material to construct a bear hang and a waterproof container for your food. Hang food from tree limbs 12 feet off the ground, 6 feet from the tree's trunk, and 6 feet below the supporting limb.

***Camp in an already impacted area at least 200 feet from the trail and water.***





## **Climbing Ethics**

*Climbing Fourteeners is a popular activity, the mountains are crowded. Do your part to protect your lands.*

### **Plan Ahead and Prepare**

- Be physically and mentally prepared for a challenge. A high level of fitness is necessary.
- Educate yourself before your trip. Research the area, know what to expect.
- With your climbing companions discuss and agree upon your goals. Never get separated.
- Know the signs and symptoms of altitude sickness and heed the warning. Get off the mountain.
- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area. If possible, avoid weekends and holidays.

### **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

- Stay on the trail. Walk single file. Wear hiking boots. Protect trailside plants, stay in the center of the trail, even when muddy to prevent eroding the sides of the trail.
- Don't "scree". Avoid steep loose slopes prone to erosion and vegetation loss.
- Use already established campsites that are at least 200 feet from water & the trail.
- Do not camp above treeline. It is not safe and kills fragile alpine tundra.
- Anticipate a shared experience and cluster camps in popular areas.
- Take breaks off the trail on a safe and durable surface.

### **Dispose of Waste Properly**

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Leave nothing behind, even organic waste.
- Pack out your poop. Carry human waste disposal bags and take your waste out with you. Do not leave your waste in catholes, the soil bacteria necessary for breaking down human waste does not exist at high altitudes.
- Pack out toilet paper and feminine hygiene products.
- Pack out your dog's waste.

### **Leave What You Find**

- Do not take flowers, berries, or rocks.
- Preserve our past. Do not take cultural artifacts. Do not touch historical structures.
- Do not build cairns, dig trenches, or build camp structures.
- Respect the summit. Memorabilia left is litter to other visitors.

### **Minimize Campfire Impact**

- Use a camp stove to cook meals. Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry.
- Know the rules and regulations around fires and do not have a fire above treeline.

### **Respect Wildlife**

- Keep your dog on a leash or leave them at home.
- View wildlife from a distance. Never feed or disturb them.
- Expect bears. Store food and toiletries properly. Use a bear canister or hang food from a tree (12' up and 6' out from the trunk or nearest branch)

### **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

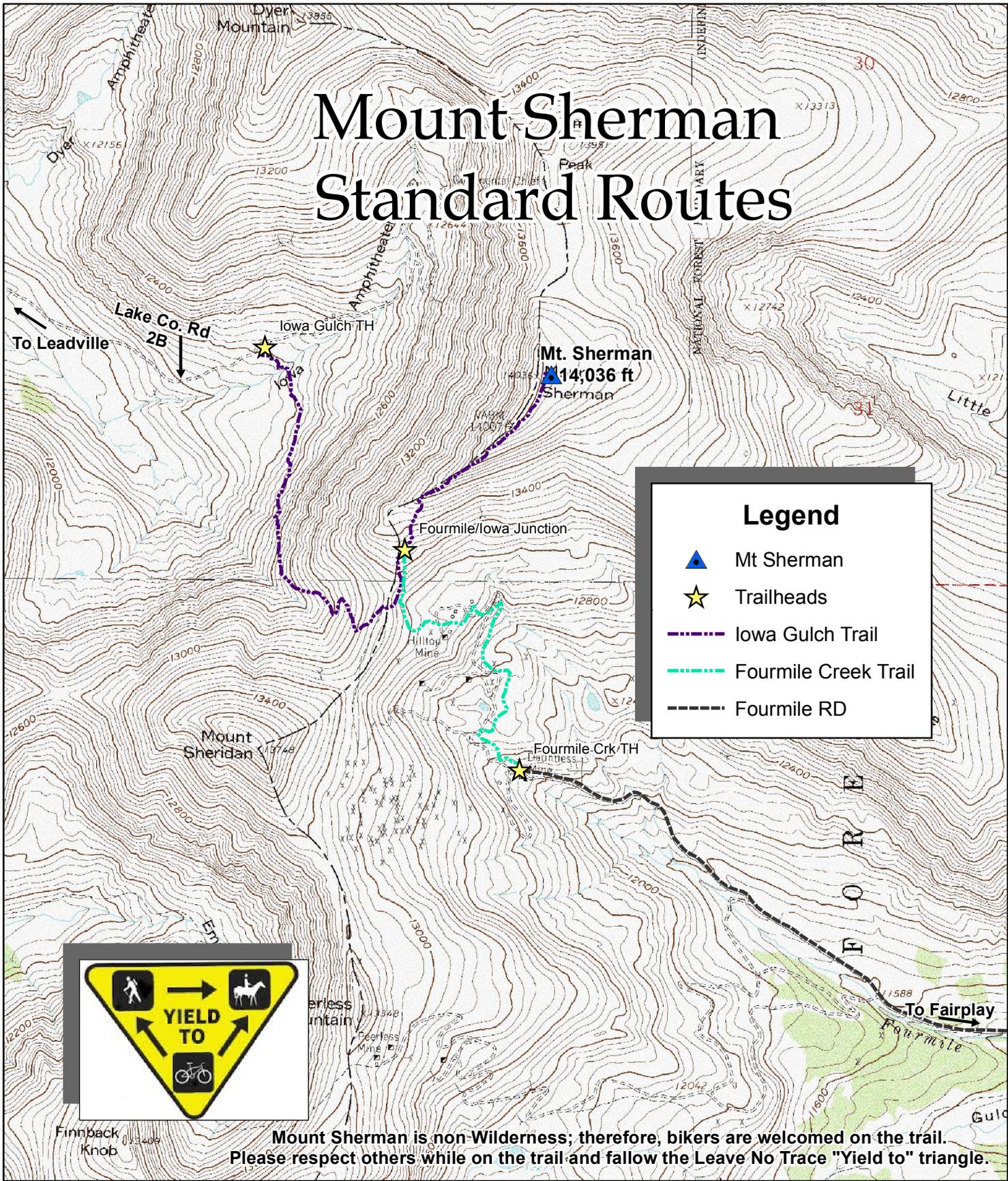
- Keep group size small (2-4 people).
- Let nature's sound prevail. Avoid loud voices. Use earphones for music.
- Give the right of way to uphill climbers.

Updated: 8/21/2015





# Mount Sherman Standard Routes



**Legend**

-  Mt Sherman
-  Trailheads
-  Iowa Gulch Trail
-  Fourmile Creek Trail
-  Fourmile RD



Mount Sherman is non-Wilderness; therefore, bikers are welcomed on the trail. Please respect others while on the trail and follow the Leave No Trace "Yield to" triangle.



# 1:24,000

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The San Isabel National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic trail map and compass prior to beginning a hiking trip.