

Boulder Ranger District
2140 Yarmouth Avenue
Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 541-2500
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United States Department of Agriculture



Sourdough Trail # 835

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Trail Use: Moderate

Length: Sourdough Trailhead (TH) to Red Rock TH - 5.8 miles; to Beaver Creek TH – 12.6 miles; to Buchanan Pass TH – 14.7 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 9,200 feet at Sourdough TH; 10,080 feet at the Red Rock TH; 9,200 feet at Beaver Bog TH; 9,160 feet at Beaver Creek TH; 8,500 feet at Buchanan Pass TH.

Open To: Hiking

Access: There are four main trailhead locations for accessing the Sourdough Trail.

- *Sourdough TH:* From Nederland, travel seven miles north on Colorado Highway (CO) 72. Turn west onto gravel National Forest System Road (NFSR) 298, signed as the turnoff for the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station. A parking area is not far on the left.
- *Red Rock TH:* From Ward, follow signs for Brainard Lake (County Road [CR] 102). Red Rock Trailhead is three miles up this paved road before the entrance fee station.
- *Beaver Creek TH:* About 15 miles north of Nederland, turn west onto gravel CR 96 at the Boy Scout Camp sign. The Beaver Creek TH is just east of the private Beaver Reservoir.
- *Buchanan Pass TH:* About 18 miles north of Nederland, turn west on paved NFSR 114. Continue beyond Camp Dick Campground to the trailhead parking area.

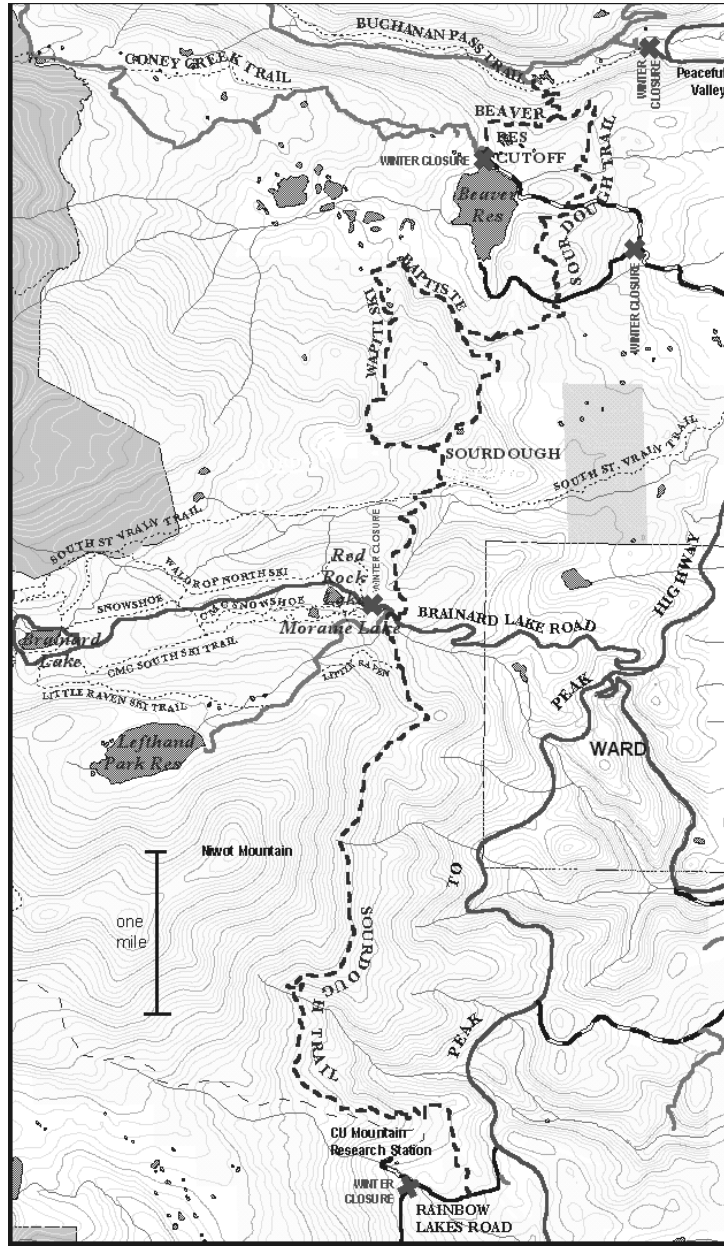
Trail Highlights

- The first section of trail heads north from the Sourdough TH and climbs gently, sometimes on old roads. It gains 1,000 feet in this first three miles past Fourmile Creek and is fairly level for another two miles. It climbs a couple switchbacks to the trail's highest point.
- The Sourdough Trail dips down to the Red Rock TH, and passes the Little Raven Ski Trail. From the Brainard Lake Road, the trail continues to drop elevation by about 500 feet in two miles. It crosses South Saint Vrain Creek on a wide bridge, and intersects with the South Saint Vrain Trail #909 on the other side. The Sourdough Trail drops to cross NFSR 113.
- The final mile of trail drops 400 feet to the Middle Saint Vrain. The trail continues on the other side of the Beaver Reservoir Road. It then joins with Buchanan Pass Trail near Camp Dick.

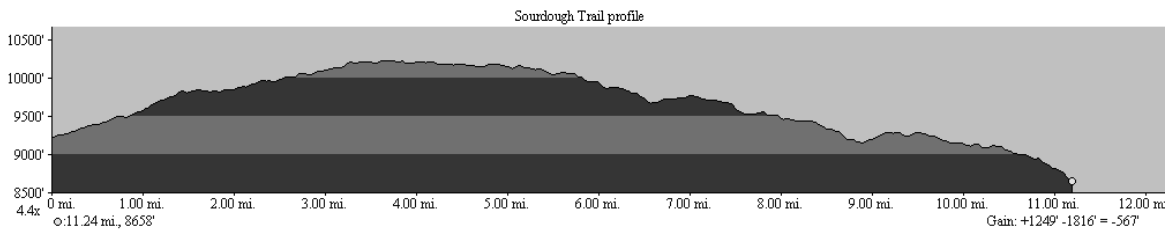
Important Information

- The Sourdough Trail is popular for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. Please watch for other users.
- Dispersed camping is allowed in the area and no permit is required.
- Campfires are permissible. If you are planning to build a campfire during the dry summer months, it is advisable to contact the Boulder Ranger District (303-541-2500) before your trip in regards to fire bans.

Trail Map & Profile



This map is intended as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation.



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For More Information:

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