



Aspen-Sopris Ranger District  
620 Main St.  
Carbondale, CO 81623  
(970)963-2266



## CONUNDRUM CREEK TRAIL #1981

**Length:** 8.5 miles one-way (13.7 km one-way)

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,700 feet (2652 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Hayden Peak, Maroon Bells

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Ending Elevation:** 11,200 feet (3414 m)

**OVERNIGHT PERMIT INFORMATION:** Permits are required year-round for overnight camping in the vicinity of the Conundrum Hot Springs. The permit area includes all of Conundrum Creek Valley from Silver Dollar Pond to Triangle Pass. Overnight campers are required to reserve, in advance, and camp in designated sites. Each designated campsite has an individual maximum number of people allowed to camp at the site (from 2-6 people). Permits are only available from [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). Ranger stations do not issue permits. Permits must be printed out, carried by the trip leader, and presented to Wilderness Rangers upon request. For more details about overnight camping at Conundrum Hot Springs visit <http://bit.ly/ConundrumPermit>. For overnight camping in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness outside of the Conundrum Hot Springs permit zone, visitors are required to fill out required registration at the trailhead.

**TRAIL OVERVIEW:** The distance to Conundrum Hot Springs from the Conundrum Creek trailhead is approximately 8.5 miles (one-way) with an elevation gain of approximately 2,500 feet. The trail crosses Conundrum Creek three times before the hot springs. Primitive log bridges span the first and the second crossings. The third crossing requires wading through the creek. This crossing can be hazardous, especially during spring runoff, and is noteworthy for trip planning. *Conundrum Creek Trail above Silver Dollar Pond is not recommended for pack and saddle stock due to challenging trail conditions.*

**TRAILHEAD ACCESS:** Drive ½ mile west of Aspen on highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Drive approximately 5 miles up Castle Creek Road and then turn right onto Conundrum Road. Continue 1.1 miles to a parking lot at the trailhead. Be careful not to stray onto the numerous private driveways found along the road. Trailhead parking is limited. Parking is prohibited on Conundrum Road. This narrow road is on a county right-of-way over private property. Vehicles are towed.

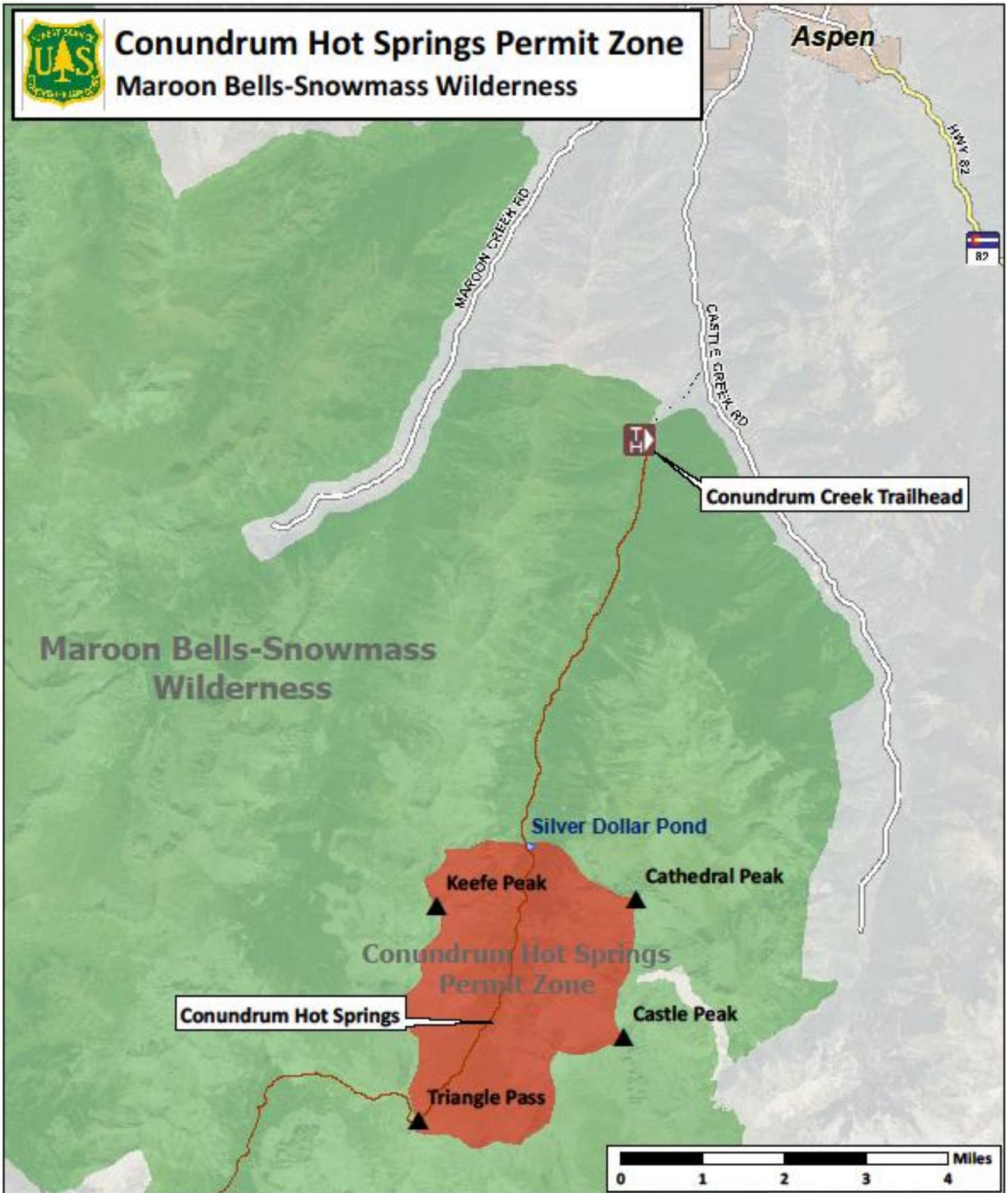
**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** The Conundrum Creek Trail is within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. To minimize the impact of your travel and to assure that these Wilderness lands are protected for future generations, please abide by the following regulations and practice [Leave No Trace](#):

- OVERNIGHT PERMIT REQUIRED for Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Zone
- BEAR RESISTANT CONTAINERS REQUIRED for all overnight visitors. [IGBC approved](#) bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (including toiletries, garbage, dog food, etc.)
- HUMAN WASTE: Human waste bags (WAG) bags are highly recommended and are available free of charge at the trailhead. WAG bags must be packed out. [Learn how](#) to use a WAG bag. If a WAG bag is not used, visitors are required to deposit solid human waste in holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet (70 paces) from water, camp and trails
- NO DOGS beyond the second stream crossing at the Silver Dollar Pond
- DOGS MUST BE LEASHED out of consideration for both other people and wildlife
- MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is 10 people. Each designated campsite in the Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Zone has an individual maximum number of people allowed to camp at the site (from 2-6 people).
- CAMPFIRES ARE PROHIBITED at all designated sites at Conundrum Hot Springs and above 10,800 feet. Lightweight camp stoves are recommended



# Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Zone

## Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness



### Legend

- Conundrum Hot Springs Permit Zone
- Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness
- Peaks and Passes
- Conundrum Creek Trail #1981

