

Boulder Ranger District  
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United States Department of Agriculture



## Saint Vrain Glaciers Trail # 917

**Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult

**Trail Use:** Heavy to Extremely Heavy

**Length:** From the Buchanan Pass Trailhead (TH) to: Middle Saint Vrain 4X4 TH - 3.8 miles; Saint Vrain Glaciers - 8.4 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

**Elevation:** 8,600 feet at Buchanan Pass TH; 11,200 feet at Gibraltar Lake.

**Open To:** Hiking (once this trail crosses into the wilderness, pets must be on leash at all times)

### Access:

- From Nederland, travel approximately 18 miles north on Colorado Highway 72. Look for signs for Peaceful Valley and Camp Dick Campgrounds.
- The Buchanan Pass TH is at the west end of the Camp Dick Campground. Limited parking is available in the lot at the west end of Camp Dick.
- Experienced drivers with a high-clearance 4WD vehicle can continue 3.6 miles further to the Middle Saint Vrain 4X4 TH. This is a rough 4WD EXTREME road that is open seasonally.

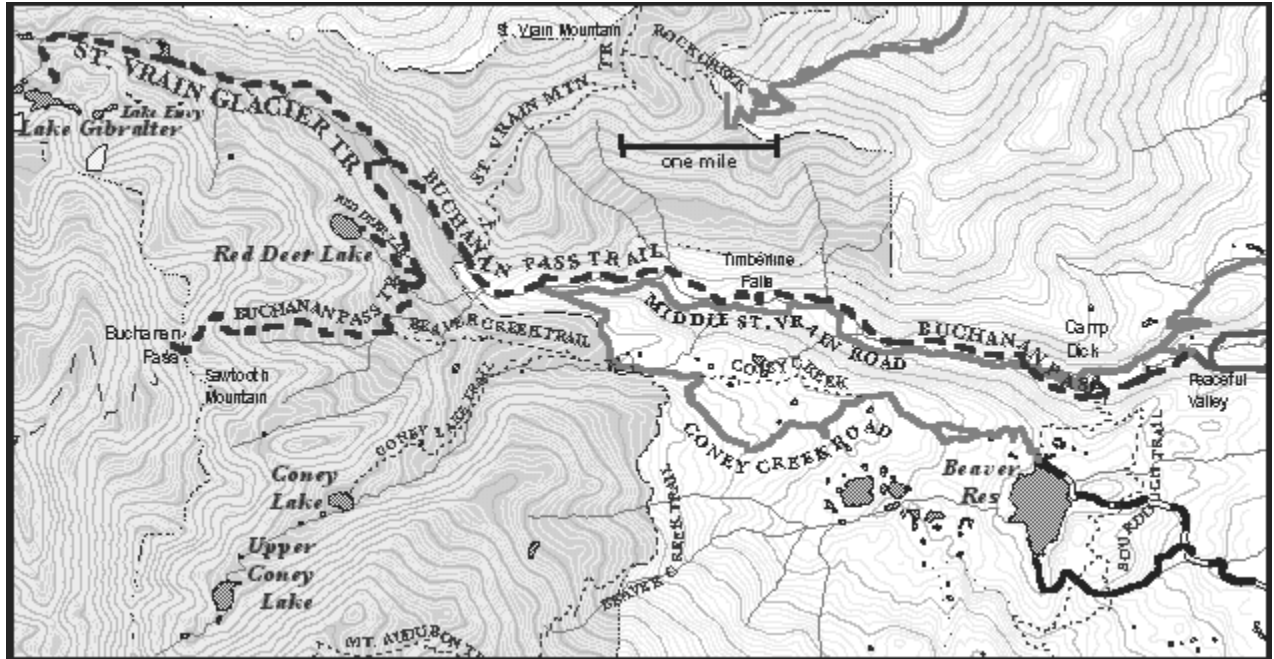
### Trail Highlights:

- From the Buchanan Pass TH, the Buchanan Pass Trail parallels the north side of the Middle Saint Vrain Creek. It is a gradual climb to the Middle Saint Vrain 4x4 TH.
- The trail picks up the old road that follows the creek on a gentle uphill grade. At the Indian Peaks Wilderness boundary, this trail intersects with the Saint Vrain Mountain Trail.
- The Buchanan Pass Trail continues up-valley for 0.9 miles to intersect with the Saint Vrain Glaciers Trail. Here, the Buchanan Pass Trail #910 makes a sharp switchback to the east. This junction is 5.3 miles west of the Buchanan Pass TH, 3.6 miles west of the Coney Flats TH, and 7 miles west of the Beaver Reservoir TH. Gibraltar Lake is 3.1 miles.
- The Saint Vrain Glaciers Trail continues west. There are two crossings of Middle Saint Vrain Creek which can be difficult, especially in early summer. In a field of boulders, even the trail gives up, leaving the hiker to wind through the rocks. Before the small lake in the bottom of the valley, a faint path climbs the hillside to Gibraltar Lake. The Saint Vrain Glaciers Trail ends in a cirque basin, with a half-dozen delicate lakes, craggy rock walls, and glacial remnants.

### Important Information:

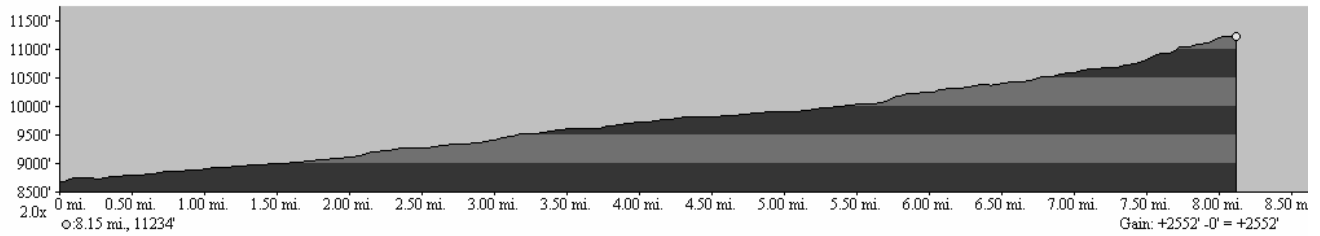
- CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN MOST AREAS. PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS INSIDE THE WILDERNESS FROM JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 15.
- Additional permit requirements exist for large and organized groups. Packstock restrictions apply. The first 0.5 miles of trail is day use only. The next three miles is open to dispersed camping and no permit is required. Campfires are allowed in this area only.
- The road between Peaceful Valley Campground and the trailhead is open seasonally.

# Trail Map & Profile



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

Saint Vrain Glaciers Trail from Middle Saint Vrain Trailhead



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**For More Information:**

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