

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



Rainbow Lakes Trail #918

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy

Length: Rainbow Lakes Trailhead (TH) to the last Rainbow Lake – 1.2 miles ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 10,000 feet at the TH; 10,250 feet at highest Rainbow Lake.

Open To: Hiking in groups of 12 or less (pets must be on leash at all times)

Access:

- From Nederland, continue north on Colorado Highway 72 for approximately seven miles.
- Look for the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station sign and turn west onto National Forest System Road (NFSR) 298. This route is gated during the winter.
- This road is a five-mile native-surfaced road. A high clearance vehicle is recommended.

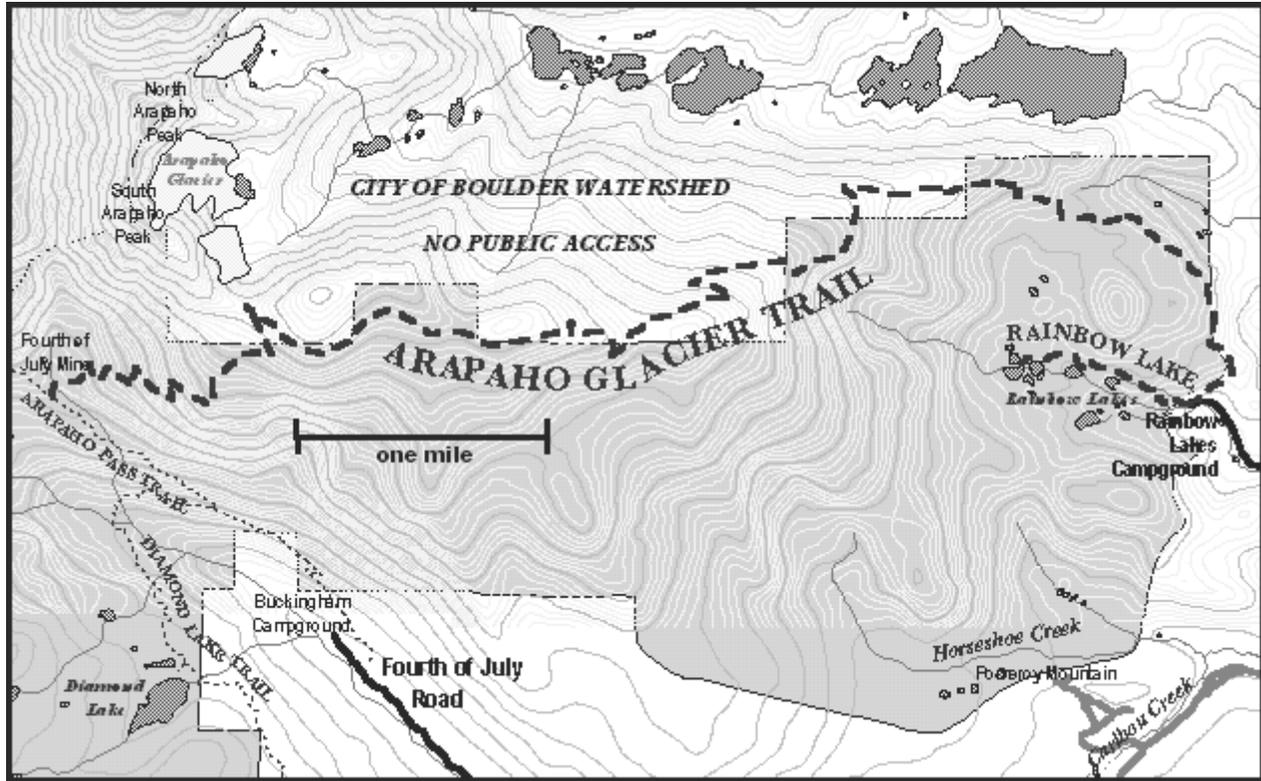
Trail Highlights:

- Rainbow Lakes Trail, #918, heads west from the Rainbow Lakes TH. It soon enters the Indian Peaks Wilderness.
- The trail is an easy hike up to the Rainbow Lakes, a series of small lakes and beaver ponds.

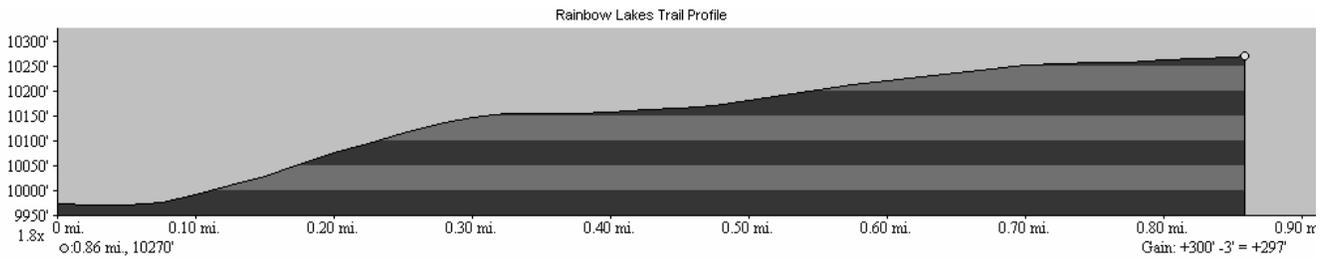
Important Information:

- CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS AREA OF THE INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS. PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS FROM JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 15.
- Additional permit requirements exist for large and organized groups.
- Packstock restrictions apply.
- Camping is also available outside the wilderness boundary at the Rainbow Lakes Campground, located near the trailhead.
- NFSR 298 and the Rainbow Lakes Campground are open seasonally.

Trail Map & Profile



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



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For More Information:

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