

Boulder Ranger District
2140 Yarmouth Avenue
Boulder, CO 80301
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United States Department of Agriculture



Mitchell Lake Trail #912

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Extremely Heavy

Length: Mitchell Lake Trailhead (TH) to Mitchell Lake - 0.9 miles; Blue Lake – 2.5 miles.
DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 10,500 feet at the TH; 10,700 feet at Mitchell Lake; 11,300 feet at Blue Lake.

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

Access:

- From Nederland, drive 13 miles north on Colorado Highway 72 to the town of Ward.
- Look for a sign for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and turn west onto County Road 102.
- Travel to the fee station and past Brainard Lake. A signed side-road leads to the Mitchell Lake TH parking area. The Mitchell Lake Trail begins on the west side of this lot.

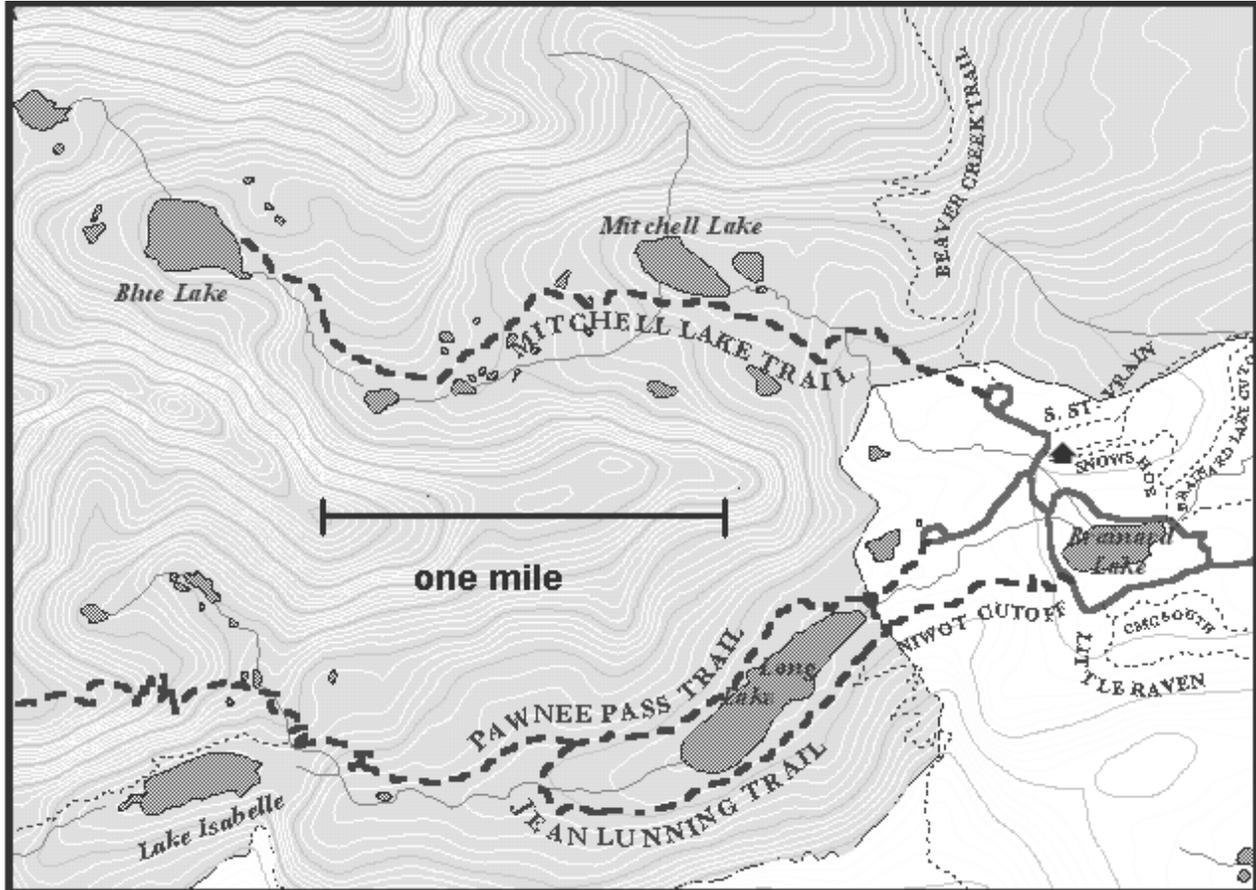
Trail Highlights:

- The wooded Mitchell Lake Trail enters the Indian Peaks Wilderness near the bridge across Mitchell Creek. It continues on a good trail for 0.5 miles to Mitchell Lake and crosses a bridge over the inlet.
- Another 1.5 miles of trail takes you up a steep slope, then along the creek in an open valley to Blue Lake. This lake lies at tree line below Mount Toll (elevation 12,979 feet), a cone-shaped pinnacle on the Continental Divide. When snowy, it is very easy to lose the trail and close attention is necessary.

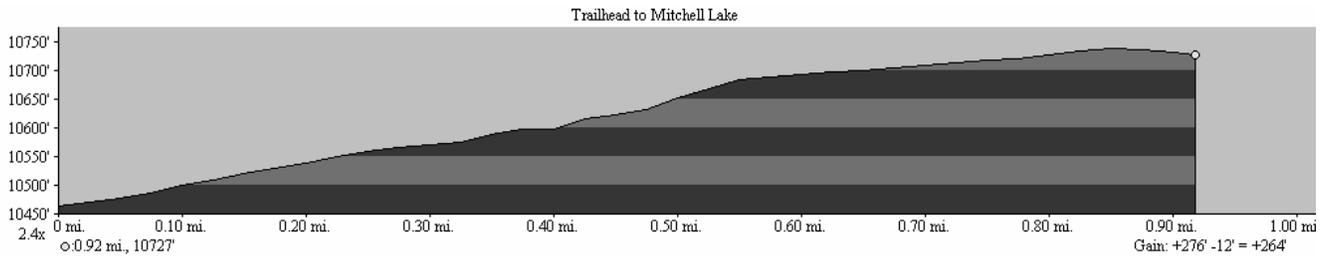
Important Information:

- CAMPFIRE ARE NOT ALLOWED.
- CAMPING IS ONLY PERMISSABLE IN THIS ZONE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 AND APRIL 30. FROM MAY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, THIS AREA IS DAY-USE ONLY. Additional permit requirements exist for large and organized groups. Packstock restrictions apply.
- The Brainard Lake Road is open seasonally. During these months, a vehicle fee applies for trailheads located within the Brainard Lake Recreation Area.

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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