

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



Jean Lunning Trail #907, Niwot Cutoff Trail #907, & Niwot Ridge Trail #906

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy

Length: Niwot Cutoff Trailhead (TH) to Jean Lunning - 0.6 miles; to Pawnee Pass Trail - 1.9 miles; Niwot Ridge - 3.2 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 10,300 feet at the TH; 10,521 feet at Long Lake; 11,442 at Niwot Ridge.

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.
- The Niwot Cutoff TH is on the west side of Brainard Lake, past the turnoff for the Mitchell and Long Lake Trailheads, near the Niwot Mountain Picnic Area.

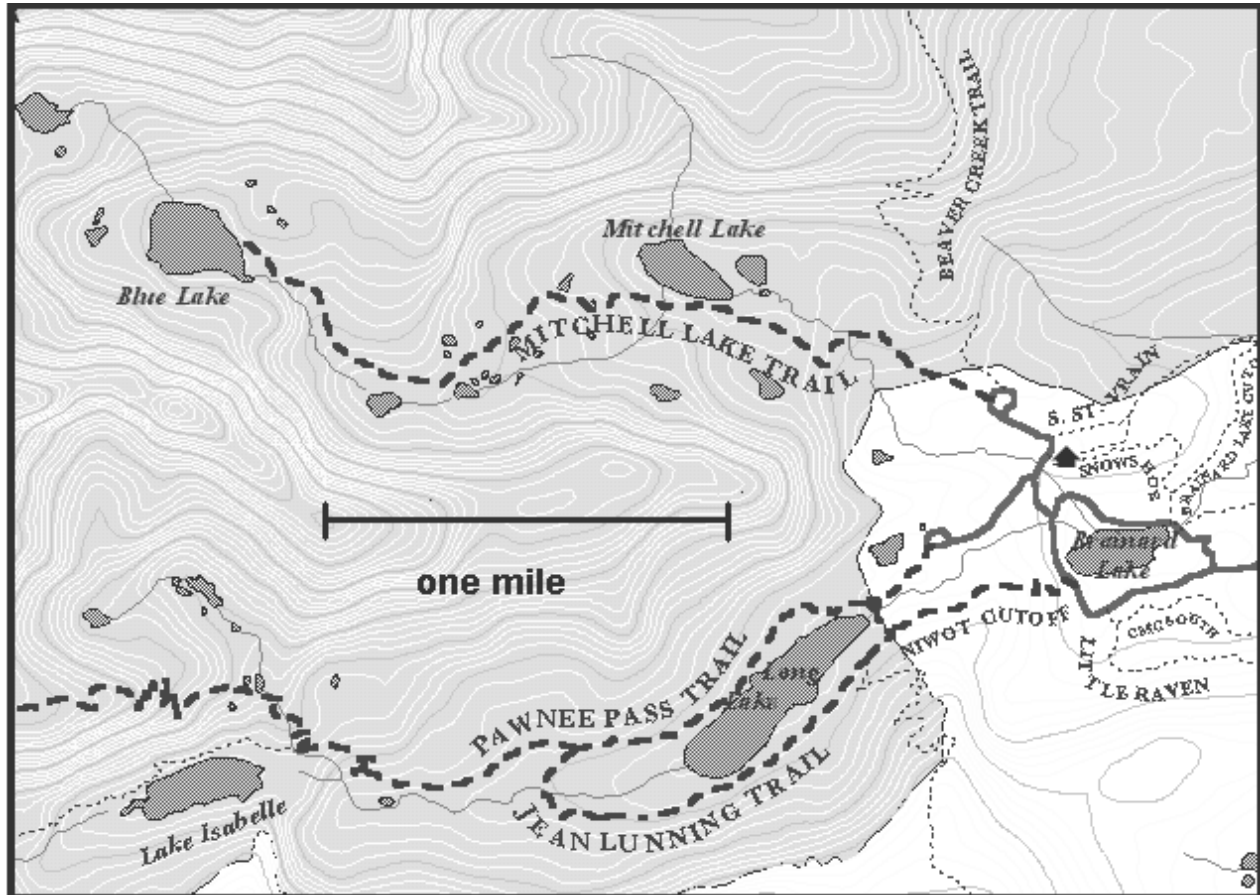
Trail Highlights:

- From the Niwot Cutoff TH, a 0.6-mile hike leads west up a small slope and through the woods to Long Lake. The Jean Lunning Trail enters the Indian Peaks Wilderness and continues west along the south side of Long Lake on a wide, gentle trail with several bridges. A 4.1-mile loop from the trailhead travels around Long Lake.
- The Niwot Ridge Trail (unsigned) heads south from the Jean Lunning Trail after a few hundred yards beyond the intersection with the Niwot Cutoff. To hike up Niwot Ridge, follow the Niwot Ridge Trail up the hill. The trail passes through alpine forest and climbs into the alpine tundra.
- Niwot Ridge has been designated by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve for arctic and alpine research. Please remain on the trail.

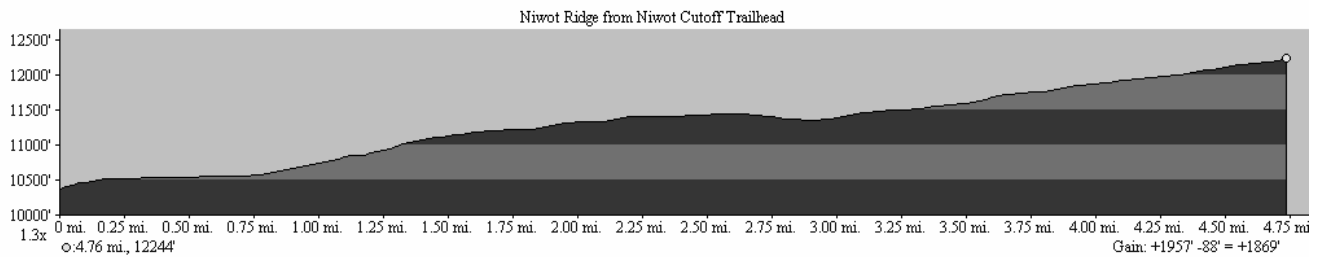
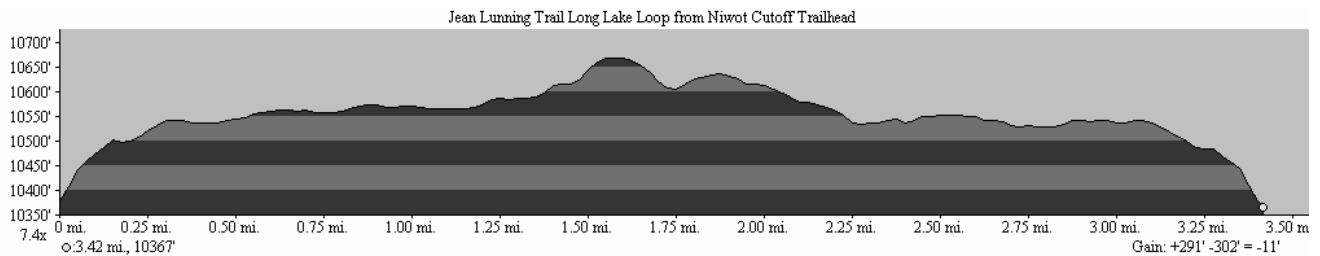
Important Information:

- WITHIN THE NIWOT RIDGE BIOSPHERE RESERVE: NO CAMPING OR CAMPFIRES.
- WITHIN THE INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS: 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, not for actual land navigation.



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For More Information:

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