

Boulder Ranger District
2140 Yarmouth Avenue
Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 541-2500
FAX: (303) 541-2515



United States Department of Agriculture



Buchanan Pass Trail #910

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; Red Deer Lake - 6.9 miles; Buchanan Pass - 9.1 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 8,600 feet at the TH; 10,372 feet at Red Deer Lake; 11,837 feet at Buchanan Pass.

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.

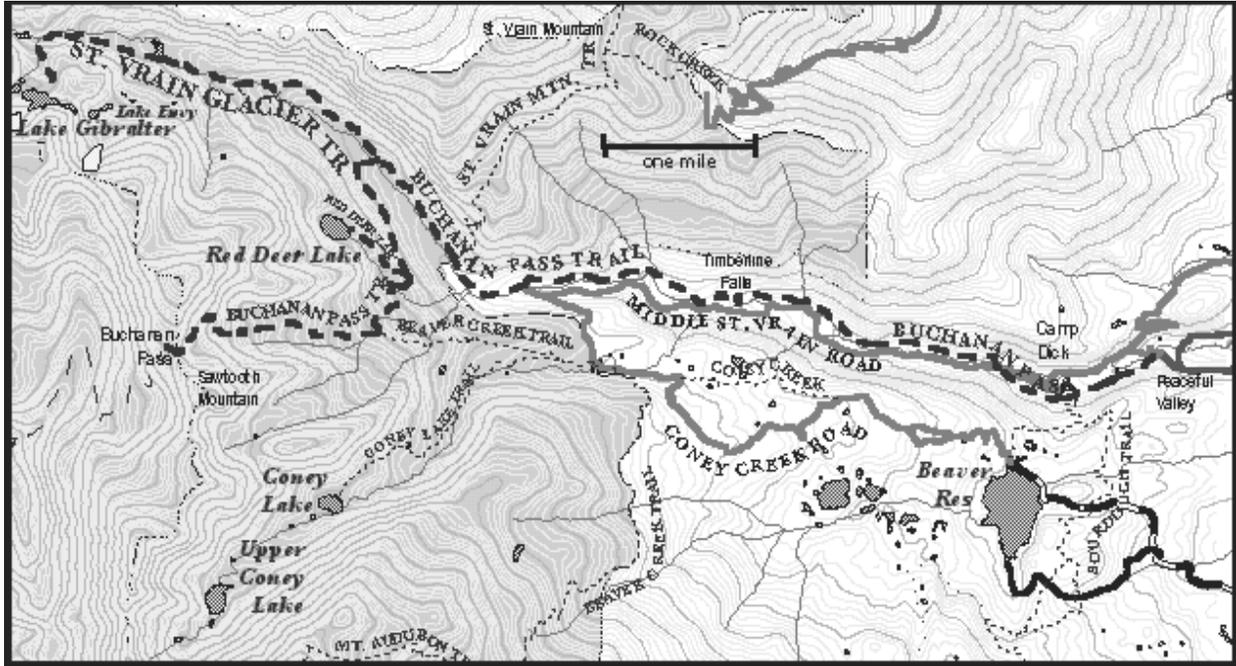
Trail Highlights:

- 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 Trailhead.
- The trail picks up the old road that follows the creek on a gentle uphill grade. In a short distance, it comes to a large meadow with fine views of Elktooth. Near 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 Glacier Trail.
- Heading down-valley on an old pack trail, the Buchanan Pass Trail next crosses the creek and hooks to the south. The 0.6-mile spur trail to Red Deer Lake can be found after ascending the slope for 1.1 miles. Another 0.8 miles beyond this spur, the Buchanan Pass trail meets with the Beaver Creek Trail #911. From here, it is 1.6 miles east to the Coney Flats TH.
- The Buchanan Pass Trail climbs steeply west to the Continental Divide at Buchanan Pass (elevation 11,837 feet). There have been years in which this pass is never clear of snow.
- From the pass, ten miles of trail continues west and connects with the Cascade Creek Trail.

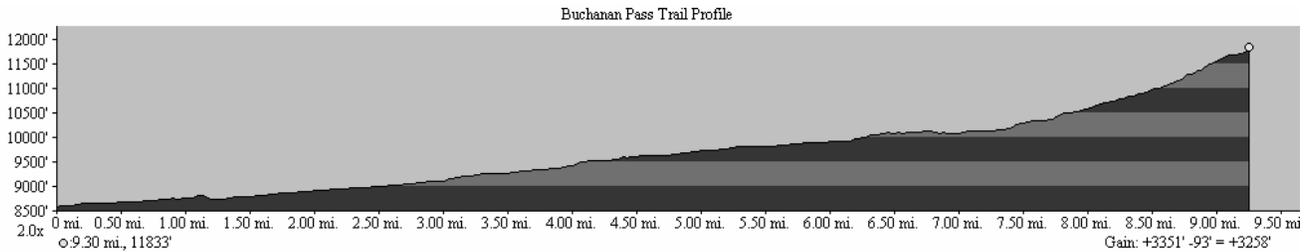
Important Information:

- 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.
- The road between Peaceful Valley Campground and the trailhead is open seasonally.

Trail Map & Profile



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



For More Information:
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