South Platte Ranger District
19316 Goddard Ranch Ct
Morrison, CO 80465
(303)275-5610 Voice
(303)275-5642 Fax
http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/psicc/sopl

RIDING

HIKING

Lost Creek Wilderness Trails

1. Ben Tyler Trail #606
2. Brookside/McCurdy Trail #607
3. Colorado Trail Segment 4, #1776 / Rolling Creek Trailhead to Long Gulch Trailhead
4. Colorado Trail Segment 5, #1776 / Long Gulch Trailhead to Kenosha Pass
5. Craig Park Trail #608
6. Goose Creek Trail #612
7. Hankins Pass Trail #630
8. Lake Park Trail #639
9. Lizard Rock Trail #658
10. McCurdy Park Trail #628
11. Payne Creek Trail #637
12. Rolling Creek Trail #663
13. Ute Creek Trail #629
14. Wigwam Trail #609

Each Wilderness has its own set of regulations in addition to the following three regulations, established under the Wilderness Act of 1964, which apply to all Wilderness areas.

- Motorized equipment is prohibited, including chain saws, battery powered tools, generators, etc.
- Mechanized transportation is prohibited, including bicycles, hang gliders or carts.
- Aircraft, including helicopters, are prohibited from landing, or dropping off/picking up any materials, supplies or persons.

Additional regulations for each Wilderness on the Pike National Forest can be found by calling the managing District Office. Additionally, The Lost Creek Wilderness is divided among two management districts. For detailed information, please contact one of the offices listed.

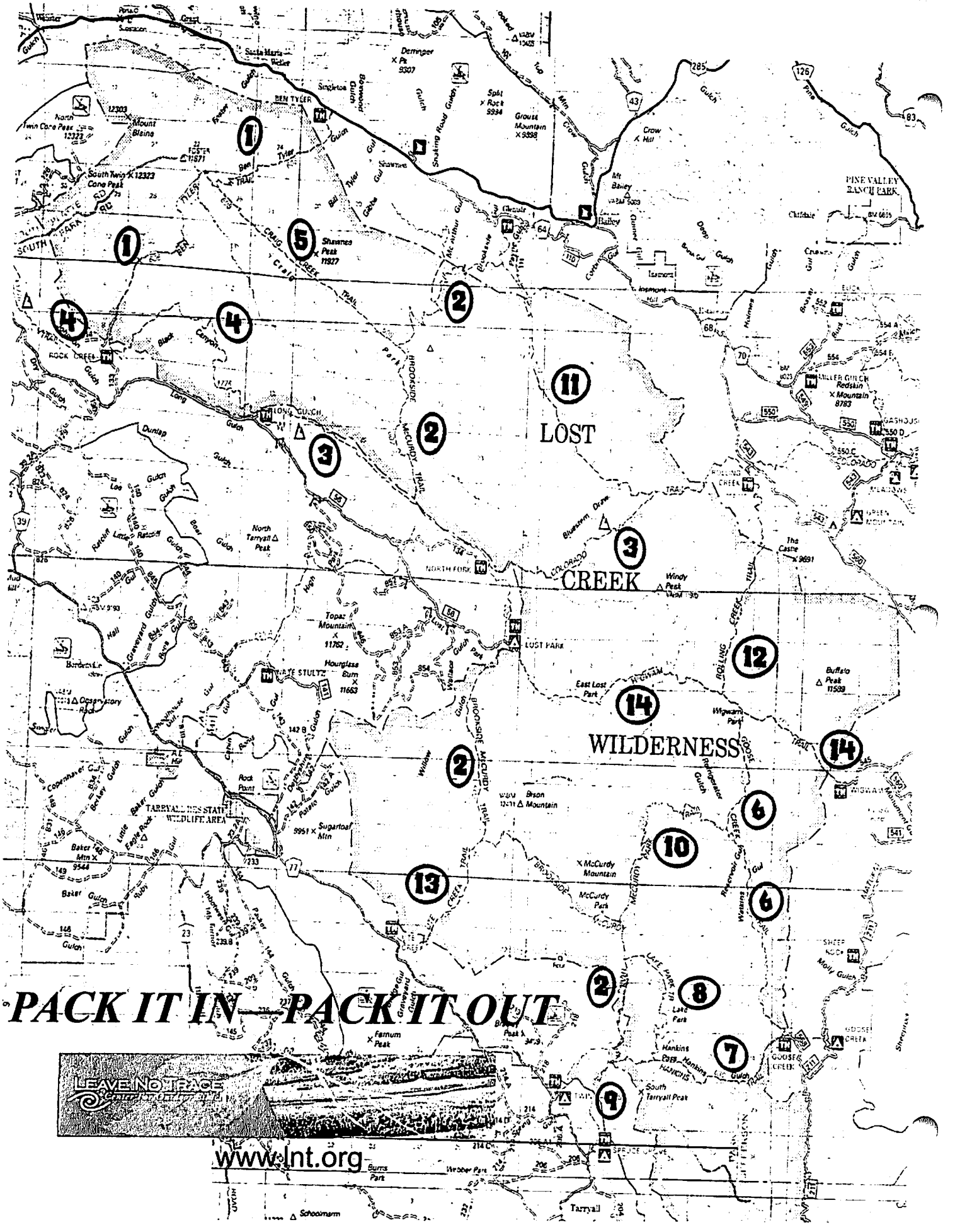
Pike National Forest
South Park Ranger District
320 Hwy 285
Box 219
Fairplay, CO 80440
719-836-2031

Pike National Forest
South Platte Ranger District
19316 Goddard Ranch Ct
Morrison, CO 80465
303-275-5610

Required Registration

Beginning in the spring of 2005, the Forest Service is implementing a mandatory self-issuing permit system in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses to enable us to better manage these heavily visited Wildernesses. The same type of system is already in place in other Wildernesses. The intent is to use the data obtained through this permit system to more accurately assess the amounts and types of existing Wilderness use. This will enable us to better preserve their natural condition for future generations, balanced against the pressures of growing populations and increased use.

These permits have no quotas associated with them nor will there be any fees required to obtain them. They will be available free at each trailhead. As you enter the Wilderness, fill out the provided permit and deposit the white paper copy in the slot in the lower front of the register box. Keep the yellow tag in your possession and please follow the Wilderness regulations found on the back. You are encouraged to contact us with questions and comments at the Ranger District office local to each Wilderness.


LOST
CREEK
WILDERNESS
PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT
LEAVE NO TRACE
www.lnt.org

1 - Ben Tyler Trail #606

Difficulty : more difficult to most difficult
Use: heavy
Length: 11.4 Miles (18.3 Kilometers)
Elevation: Starts at 8,260 Feet (2518 Meters); ends at 9,550 Feet (2911 Meters); highest point at 11,650 Feet (3551 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: Shawnee, Mount Logan, Observatory Rock

Access

- Ben Tyler Trailhead (8,260 ft. elevation): The Ben Tyler Trail runs southwest up Ben Tyler Gulch.

  Go 6.8 miles west of Bailey on US 285 and the trailhead on the left (south) side of the highway. This roadside trailhead has limited parking. There are plans to build a new trailhead just west of Shawnee on US 285 within the next few years.

- Rock Creek Trailhead (9,750 ft. elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes west towards Kenosha Pass and east towards the Long Gulch trailhead. The Ben Tyler Trail goes north from the Colorado Trail at a junction just east of the trailhead.

  From US 285, go 7.3 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 133. Go left (north) 1 mile to Rock Creek Trailhead. You can also continue 1 mile further to a second, smaller trailhead on the Ben Tyler trail. Road is narrow and rough, and parking is very limited.

Connecting Trails

- Craig Park Trail (see #5)
- Colorado Trail - Segment 5 (see #4)

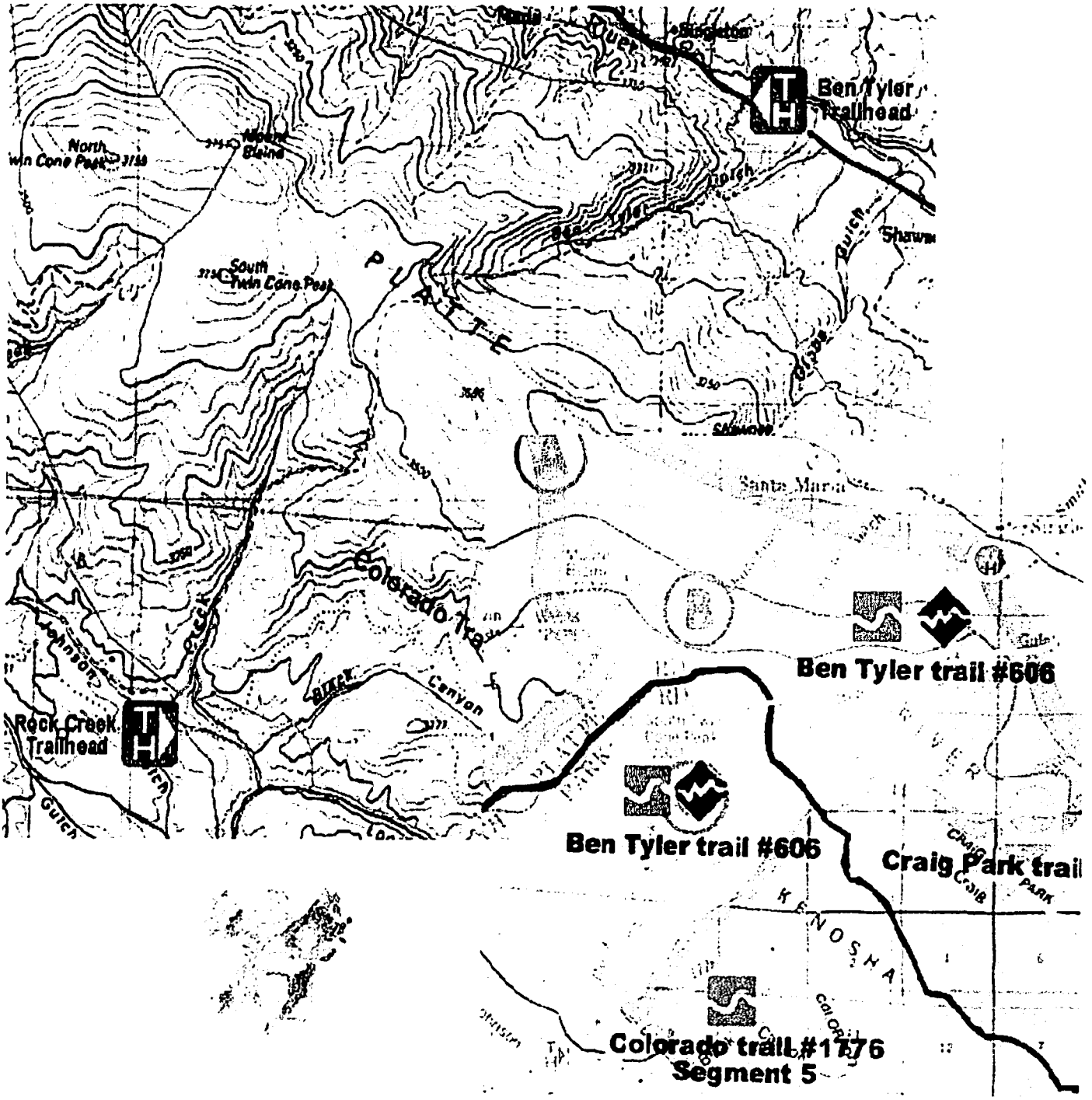
Trail Description

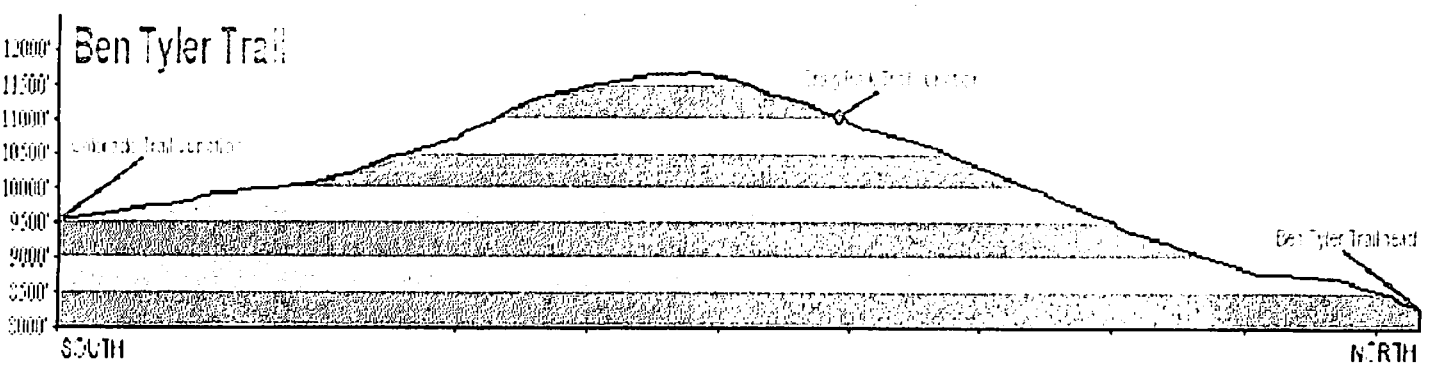
Beginning at the North Ben Tyler Trailhead, the trail climbs steeply in a series of switchbacks. Please do not cut across these switchbacks. After the last switchback, the trail becomes less steep up to a crossing of Ben Tyler Creek. At this point the trail gradient increases and the valley tightens. There are few areas along this section of trail suitable for camping. The final section up to the Craig Park Trail junction is a series of long switchbacks that, when traversing east, offer spectacular views down Ben Tyler Gulch. The Craig Park Trail junction is marked by a sign indicating the Craig Park Trail to the left (east), and the Ben Tyler Trail to the right (west). The trail continues to climb, crossing Ben Tyler Creek again, to a high saddle above tree line, which offers some spectacular views. From here the trail descends to the south into the Rock Creek drainage. As you near the trailhead, you pass the remains of an old lumber camp. At the small South Ben Tyler Trailhead, you can continue hiking down the road and, where the road leaves the creek, continue following the trail down along the creek to join the Colorado Trail a short distance downstream.

Additional Information

This popular trail is named for Ben Tyler, who lived with his family in the gulch that bears his name. He operated a lumber mill during gold rush days, hauling the sawed timber over the ridge and into Fairplay. In 1903 a 3,000 acre fire burned up and out the end of Ben Tyler Gulch and is responsible for the huge aspen grove dominating the valley.

Major attractions include the numerous and colorful wildflowers in late spring and early summer. The trail also offers spectacular views to the north and south from its high point, and the changing colors in September, particularly in the large aspen groves in Ben Tyler Gulch, are outstanding. Because the trail is almost entirely in designated wilderness except for about a mile at each end, Wilderness regulations apply.





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2 -Brookside/McCurdy Trail #607

Difficulty: more difficult to most difficult
Trail Use: heavy
Length: 32.6 Miles (52.4 Kilometers)
Elevation: Starts at 8,040 Feet (2450 Meters); ends at 7,560 Feet (2304 Meters); highpoint is 11,880 Feet (3621 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: Shawnee, Topaz Mountain, Farnum Peak, McCurdy Mountain

Access

- Payne Creek/ Brookside Trailhead (8,040 ft. elevation): The Payne Creek Trail and the Brookside/McCurdy Trail share tread for about a mile before splitting and going their separate ways to Craig Meadows and Craig Park.

  From US 285 in Bailey, go south across the South Platte river on County road 64 between the Post Office and Moore Lumber. After 0.45 miles take a left at the Y. Go 2.2 miles to the trailhead on the left (south) side of the road.

- North Fork Trailhead (10,190 ft elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes east towards the Rolling Creek trailhead and west towards the Long Gulch trailhead. Also, the Brookside/McCurdy Trail goes south towards Lost Park and follows the Colorado Trail west about 2 miles before turning north into Craig Park.

  From US 285, go 14 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 134. Turn left (north) and go one mile to trailhead. This road is best suited to high clearance vehicles.

- Lost Park Trailhead (9,960 ft elevation): The Wigwam Trail leads to East Lost Park, the Brookside/McCurdy Trail south to Bison Pass and McCurdy Park and north to the Colorado Trail and Craig Park.

  From US. Hwy 285 north of Jefferson, go 16 miles east on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to the trailhead. There is a fee for parking at the trailhead.

- Twin Eagles Trailhead (8, 560 ft. elevation): The Brookside/McCurdy Trail leads into the southwest side of the Tarryalls and to the McCurdy Park and Hankins Pass trails.

  Located on the Tarryall Road 25 miles southeast of Jefferson. Includes horse unloading and holding facilities.

Connecting Trails

- Payne Creek Trail (see #11)
- Brookside AG Trail (yet to be opened)
- Craig Park Trail (see 5)
- Colorado Trail-Segment 4 (see #3)
- Wigwam Trail (see #14)
- Ute Creek Trail (see #13)
- McCurdy Park Trail (see #10)
- Lake Park Trail (see #8)
- Hankins Pass Trail (see #7)

Trail Information

The Brookside-McCurdy Trail is the major north-south artery through the middle portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness. Its northern terminus is the Payne Creek/Brookside Trailhead near Bailey and its southern terminus is the Twin Eagles Trailhead, southeast of the Tarryall Reservoir. About midway between these two trailheads the Brookside-McCurdy Trail passes through the Lost Park Trailhead. Along the way it connects with nine other trails, providing numerous opportunities to create loop trips of various lengths. Throughout its length, this trail presents the hiker with a wide variety of the different landscapes found in the Lost Creek Wilderness, including different forest types, wide-open parks, wild formations of red Pikes Peak granite, and the tremendous views found along the ridge between Bison Peak and McCurdy Park. Deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are some of the wildlife that can be seen along the trail. Because the trail is almost entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

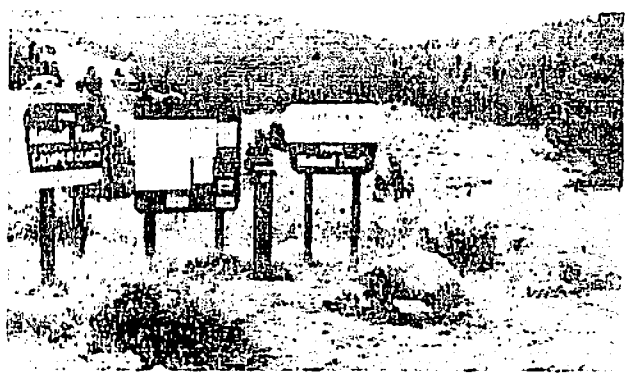
Description

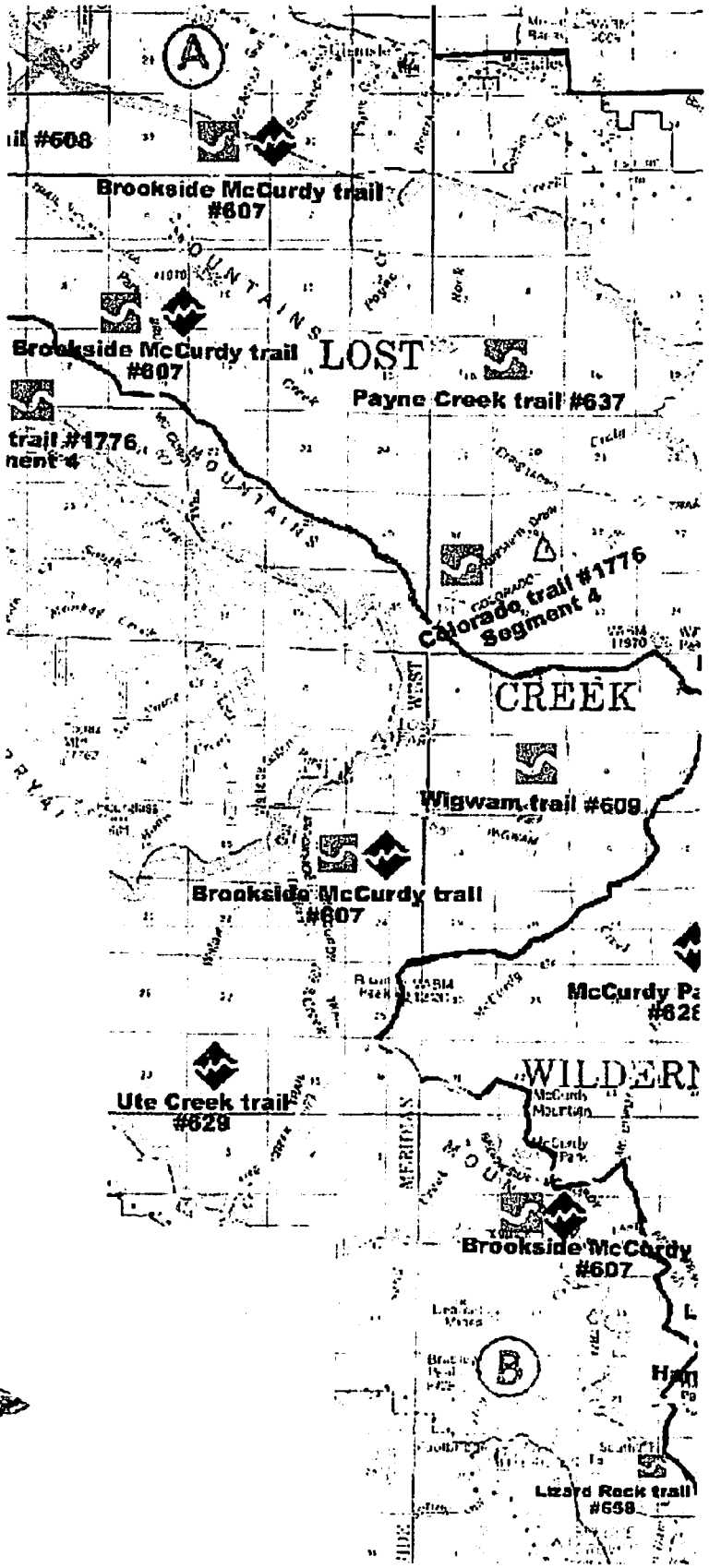
Starting from the Payne Creek/Brookside Trailhead, the trail rises gently and soon reaches the junction at which the Payne Creek and Brookside-McCurdy trails diverge. The Payne Creek Trail goes left, and then swings southeast on its way to join the Colorado Trail. The Brookside-McCurdy continues south, climbing gradually at first, and then steepening as it climbs the Platte River Range. After crossing the boundary of the Lost Creek Wilderness the trail eventually meets the Brookside AG Trail, which rises up from the west after leaving MacArthur Gulch. As of 2001, this trail is in place, but has not yet been opened while a new trailhead for the Ben Tyler and Brookside AG trails is constructed. Check with the South Platte District office for current information. From the junction, the Brookside trail continues to climb up and over into Craig Park, where it intersects with the Craig Park Trail.

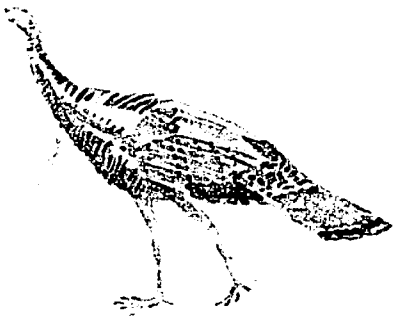
The next segment rises south out of Craig Park over a saddle, and then descends into North Lost Park, where it leaves the Wilderness and joins the Colorado Trail. A couple of miles down valley from this junction, the North Fork Trailhead is reached, where the two trails part. The Colorado Trail runs east and north to the Rolling Creek Trailhead on the northeast side of the wilderness and the Brookside-McCurdy veers south following North Lost Creek to the Lost Park Trailhead.

From Lost Park the trail goes south across Lost Creek to a junction with the Wigwam Trail. The Wigwam Trail goes left (east) through the Wilderness to the east side at the Wigwam Trailhead. The Brookside-McCurdy continues south and soon re-enters the Wilderness, then follows Indian Creek upstream to a high saddle between the Lost Creek and Tarryall Creek drainages, where it meets the Ute Creek Trail climbing up from the south. Here the trail swings southeast, continuing to climb for a short distance to its high point on the southwest shoulder of Bison Peak. From the high point the trail follows a ridge to the southeast through the remnants of an old burn. This stretch has tremendous views to the south and west, particularly in the fall, but be aware of your exposure to lightening from summer afternoon storms. Eventually the trail drops down to the pass at the south end of McCurdy Park and meets the McCurdy Park Trail, coming up from the north.

On the last segment of the Brookside-McCurdy Trail, it descends a short distance to another junction, this time with the Lake Park Trail. The Lake Park Trail rises to the east, and then drops south to Hankins Pass. The Brookside-McCurdy drops steeply south, leaving the Wilderness, to a junction with the Hankins Pass Trail, which extends east toward the Goose Creek Trailhead. One last gentle downhill leg brings you out at the Twin Eagles Trailhead.







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3 -Colorado Trail #1776
Segment 4 - Rolling Creek Trailhead to Long Gulch Trailhead

Difficulty: more difficult
Use: heavy
Length: 15.2 Miles (24.5 Kilometers)
Elevation: Starts at 8,360 Feet (2550 Meters); ends at 10,140 Feet (3090 Meters); high point 10,880 Feet (3320 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking (outside of Wilderness)
USGS Maps: Windy Peak, Topaz Mountain

Access

- Rolling Creek/Colorado Trail Trailhead (8,360 ft. elevation): From the trailhead the Colorado Trail goes west toward the North Fork Trailhead and the Rolling Creek Trail goes south to join the Wigwam Trail.

  From Bailey, go east on County Road 68 which becomes Forest Road 560. Go right at the Y onto County Road 543. 7.8 miles from Bailey park at a small Parking area on the south side of the road (large enough for trailers) or go right (south) a short distance to the Colorado Trail/Rolling Creek trailhead.

- North Fork Trailhead (10,190 ft. elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes east towards the Rolling Creek trailhead and west towards the Long Gulch trailhead. Also, the Brookside/McCurdy Trail goes south towards Lost Park and follows the Colorado Trail west about 2 miles before turning north into Craig Park.

  From US 285, go 14 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 134. Turn left (north) and go one mile to trailhead. This road is best suited to high clearance vehicles.

- Long Gulch Trailhead (10,100 ft elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes east towards the North Fork trailhead and west towards the Rock Creek trailhead.

  From US 285, go 10.9 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 817. Turn left (north) and go 0.2 miles to the trailhead.

Connecting Trails

- Colorado Trail-Segment 3 (description not in this handout)
- Rolling Creek Trail (see #12)
- Payne Creek Trail (see #11)
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)
- Colorado Trail-Segment 5 (see #4)

Trail Information

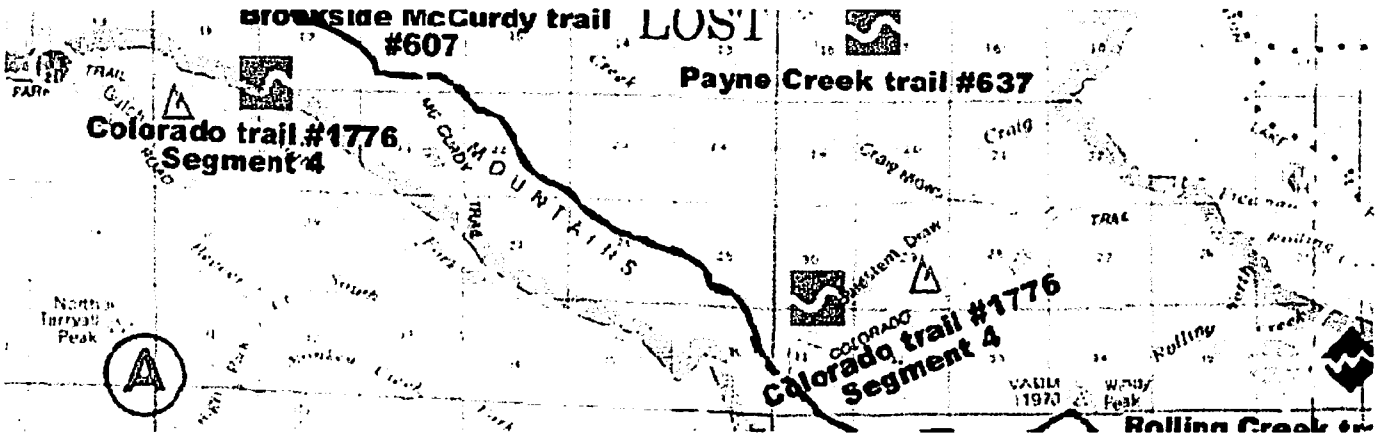
Segment 4 of the Colorado Trail brings the hiker up out of the Ponderosa pine forests north of the Lost Creek Wilderness and into the open parks and Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir forests to the west. This section of the Colorado Trail closely follows the old Hooper Trail, a logging road built in 1885 by W.W. Hooper and two others to their millset at the highpoint between Craig Creek and the North Fork of Lost Creek. They later moved the mill to a point just southeast of the North Fork Trailhead. Shortly thereafter the operation was closed down by Department of the Interior agents (pre-Forest Service) for timber trespass. A few years later, after the creation of the Forest Service, Hooper became the District Ranger out of Bailey.

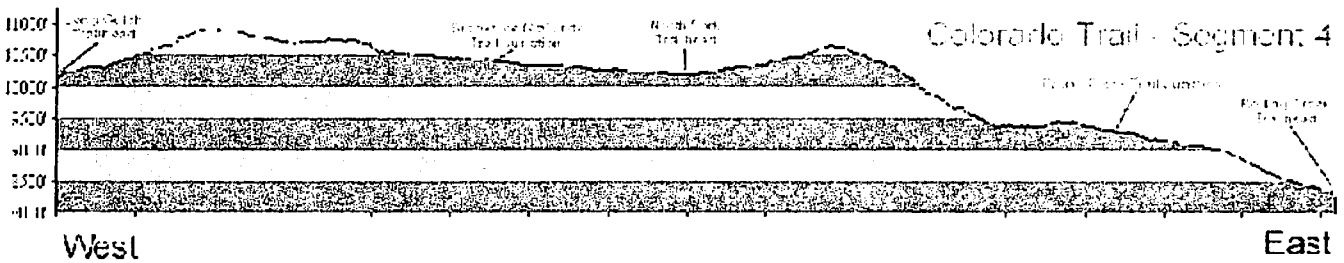
Most of the first half of this section is within designated wilderness. Mountain bikes are prohibited and Wilderness regulations apply.

The second half, from the North Fork trailhead to the Long Gulch trailhead, is outside of the Wilderness. It is frequently mountain biked as part of a loop from the Long Gulch trailhead, east to the North Fork trailhead, south on the Brookside McCurdy Trail to the Lost Park trailhead, and back west on Park County 56 (Lost Park Road) to the point of beginning.

Description

From the Rolling Creek Trailhead the Colorado Trail heads west a short distance, then joins the old Hooper Trail logging road and turns southwest. The old logging road that is very distinct and its gentle grade makes for pleasant hiking. A short distance after crossing the Wilderness boundary, the trail meets the south end of the Payne Creek Trail, which goes north toward Bailey. The Colorado Trail continues rising to the southwest, but before reaching the saddle it leaves the old road and begins to climb rather steeply to the south to avoid some large bogs. At the top of the saddle it rejoins the old road and begins to descend into the North Fork Lost Creek drainage. Upon reaching the creek, the trail joins the Brookside-McCurdy Trail at the North Fork Trailhead. From here the two trails follow the same route up North Lost Park for roughly 2.5 miles. When the two split the Colorado Trail continues up North Lost Park to its west end and then descends to the Long Gulch Trailhead.





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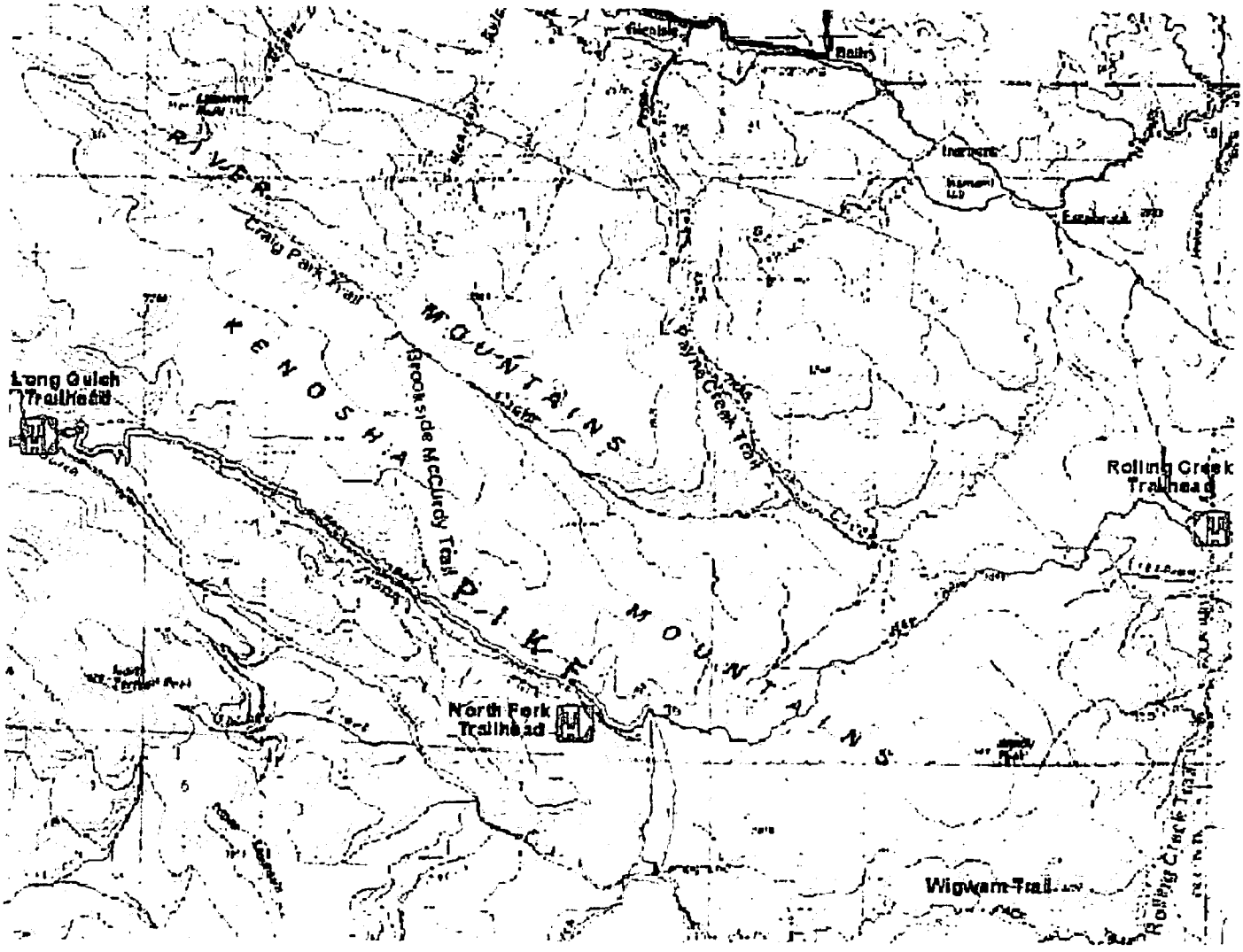

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4 - Colorado Trail #1776
Segment 5 - Long Gulch Trailhead to Kenosha Pass

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: heavy
Length: 14 Miles (22.5 Kilometers)
Elevation: Starts at 10,140 Feet (3090 Meters); ends at 10,000 feet (3050 Meters); high point 10,880 Feet (3215 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking (outside of Wilderness)
USGS Maps: Topaz Mountain, Observatory Rock, Mt. Logan, Jefferson

Access

- Long Gulch Trailhead (10,100 ft. elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes east towards the North Fork trailhead and west towards the Rock Creek trailhead.

  From US 285, go 10.9 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 817. Turn left (north) and go 0.2 miles to the trailhead.

- Rock Creek Trailhead (9,750 ft. elevation): From the trailhead, the Colorado Trail goes west towards Kenosha Pass and east towards the Long Gulch trailhead. The Ben Tyler Trail goes north from the Colorado Trail at a junction just east of the trailhead.

  From US 285, go 7.3 miles on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to Forest Road 133. Go left (north) 1 mile to Rock Creek Trailhead. You can also continue 1 mile further to a second, smaller trailhead on the Ben Tyler trail. Road is narrow and rough, and parking is very limited.

- Kenosha Pass Trailhead: No information on this trailhead at this time.

Connecting Trails

- Colorado Trail-Segment 4 (see #3)
- Ben Tyler Trail (see #1)
- Colorado Trail-Segment 6 (no information in the hand out)

Trail Information

Segment 5 of the Colorado Trail winds gently westward from the Long Gulch Trailhead through pine and fir forests, gradually emerging into grassy, open stretches with intermittent aspen stands and Bristlecone pine toward Kenosha Pass.

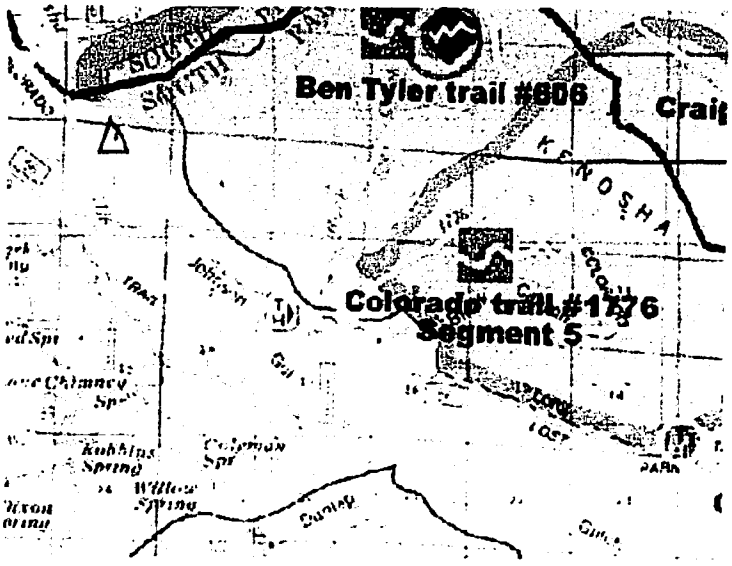
Most of the first half of this section (Long Gulch to Rock Creek) is within designated wilderness. Mountain bikes are prohibited and Wilderness regulations apply.

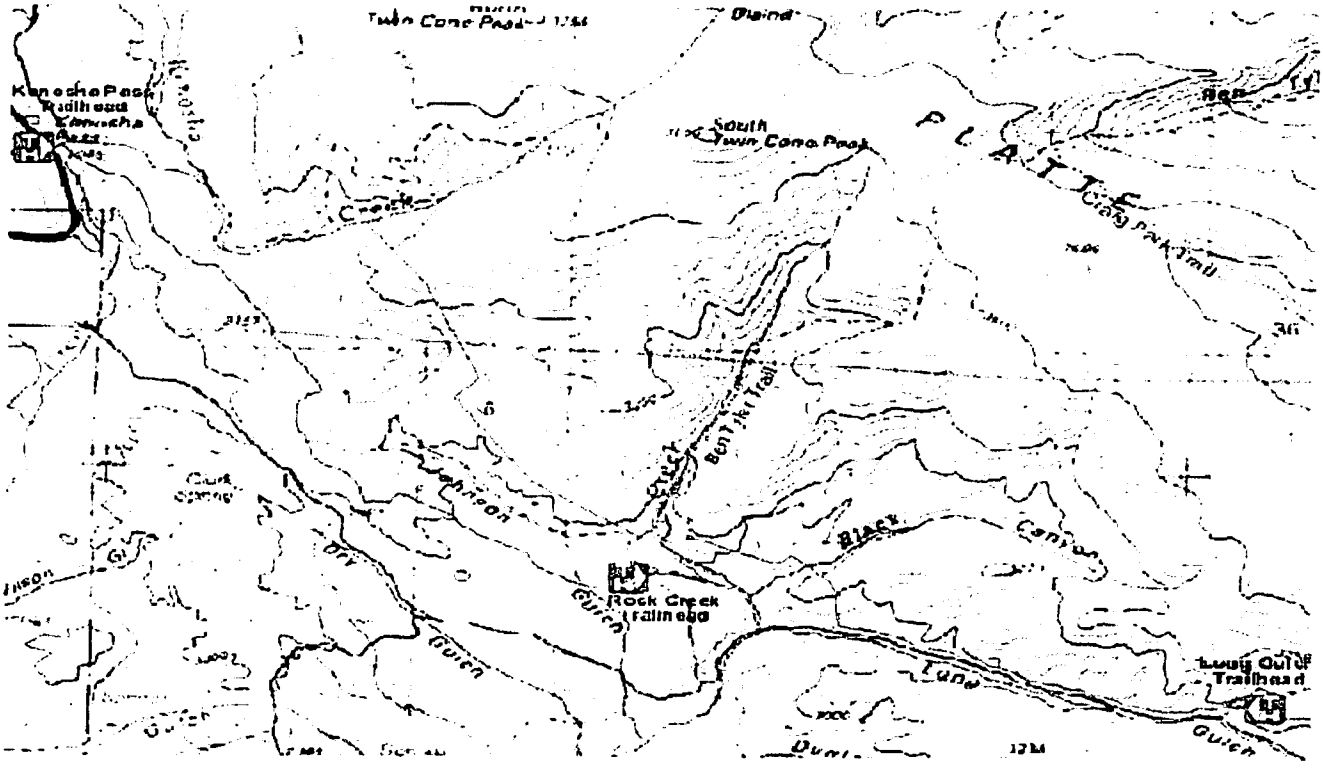
The second half, from the Rock Creek trailhead to Kenosha Pass, is outside of the Wilderness. It is often mountain biked and offers some expansive views across South Park to the Mosquito Range and beyond.

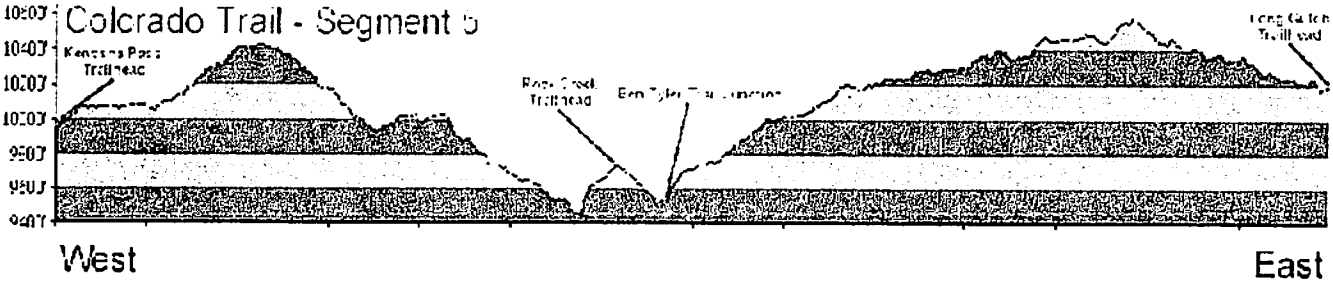
Description

From the Long Gulch Trailhead, two short spur trails connect with the Colorado Trail. The Lost Creek Wilderness boundary is crossed just west of the trailhead a short distance. The trail winds westerly across a saddle at about 10,550 ft., then gradually descends along the north side of the Black Canyon to Rock Creek, and a junction with the south end of the nortbound Ben Tyler trail.

Beyond Rock Creek, the trail begins its ascent toward Kenosha Pass. A short climb up from Rock Creek brings the trail to the Rock Creek Trailhead. West from the trailhead, the trail first follows Johnson Gulch, then traverses along the edge of South Park to reach Kenosha Pass and US 285.







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5 - Craig Park Trail #608

Difficulty: easy (once you get there)
Trail Use: moderate
Length: 6.0 Miles (9.6 Kilometers)
Elevation: Starts at 11,100 Feet (3383 Meters); ends 10,940 Feet (3335 Meters); high point is 11,580 Feet (3530 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: Mount Logan, Shawnee, Topaz Mountain

Access

This trail has no trailhead. It is reached from either the Ben Tyler Trail or from the Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

Connecting Trails

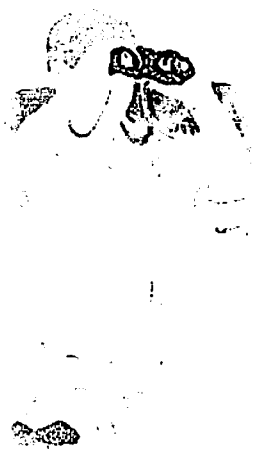
- Ben Tyler Trail (see #1)
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)

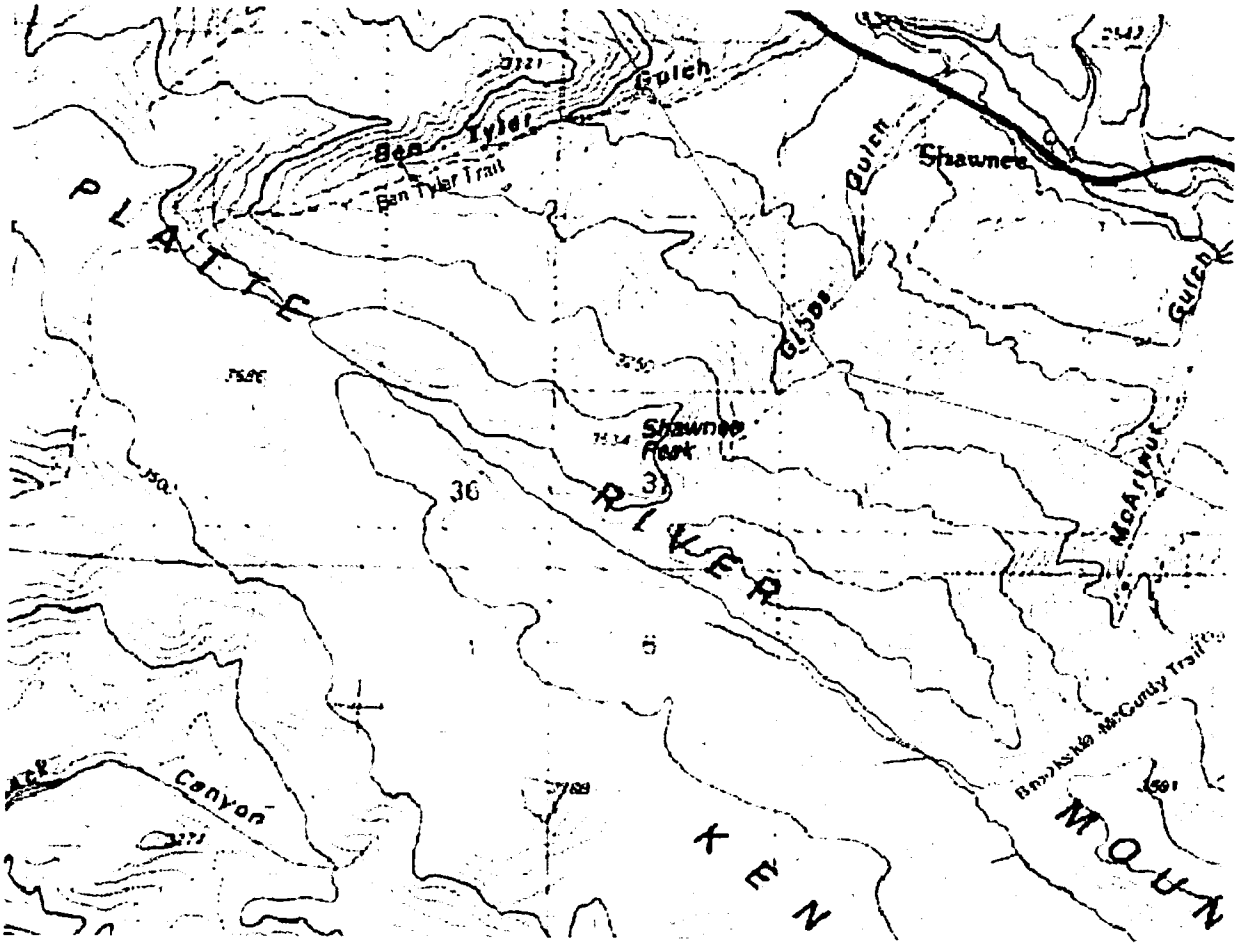
Trail Information

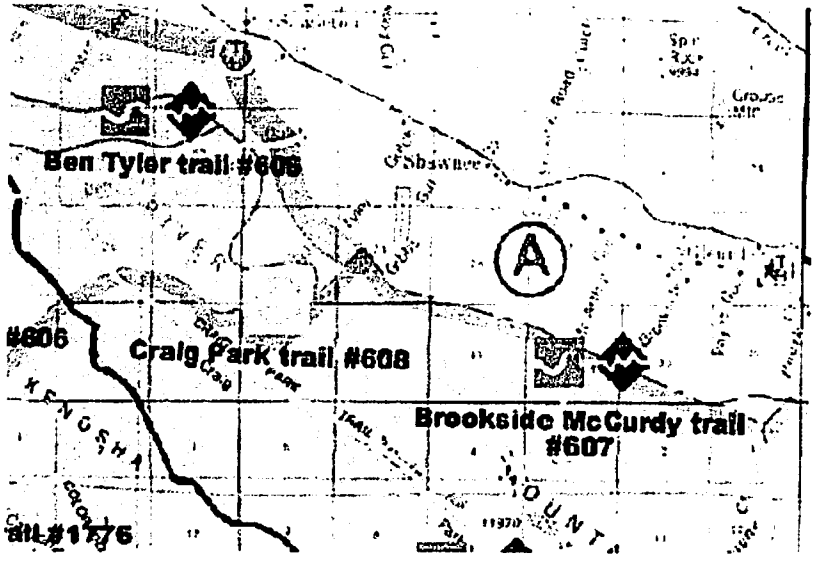
The Craig Park Trail lies in a long, high mountain valley between the Kenosha Mountains and Platte River Mountains. This open east-west valley is the beginning point of Craig Creek, and the trail follows along the north side of the Creek. The western terminus of the trail is a junction with the Ben Tyler Trail and its eastern terminus is a junction with the Brookside/McCurdy Trail. The Craig Park Trail itself is a very gradual and easy hike. However, to reach the trail you must hike up either the Brookside/McCurdy Trail or the Ben Tyler Trail. Craig Creek offers very good opportunities for fishing for brook trout. Because the trail is entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

From the junction of the Ben Tyler and Craig Park trails, bear left and hike east to a ridge on the northwest corner of Craig Park. Upon reaching the ridge, the valley of Craig Park will unfold below you to the east. The trail begins a gentle descent from this point, always staying north of the stream. There are numerous sites for camping along the edge of the trees from the head of the park to the junction with the Brookside/ McCurdy Trail.







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6 - Goose Creek Trail #612

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: very heavy
Length: 9.4 Miles (15.2 Kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,220 Feet (2505 Meters); ends at 9,500 Feet (2895 Meters); high point at 10,140 Feet (3090 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: McCurdy Mountain, Windy Peak

Access

- Goose Creek Trailhead (8,220 ft. elevation) :From the trailhead, you can ascend to Hankins Pass on the Hankins Pass Trail or up the Goose Creek Trail past the Shafthouse into the heart of the Wilderness Area.

  Reach via by Forest Road 211 at the south end from Tarryall Road (Cty Hwy No. 77) near Lake George or from the north end near Deckers. Includes a parking area and horse loading and unloading facilities.

Connecting Trails

- Hankins Pass Trail (see #7)
- McCurdy Park Trail (see #10)
- Wigwam Trail (see #14)

Trail Information

The popular Goose Creek Trail provides access into the southeast portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness. The trail winds north and eventually ends in Wigwam Park at a junction with the Wigwam Trail. The Goose Creek Trail offers primitive camping, fishing in Goose Creek, and spectacular views of formations of red Pikes Peak granite. A popular day hike is up the lower Goose Creek Trail to a side trail leading to several historic buildings and the remains of a shaft house. These old buildings and machinery date back to the late 1800's/early 1900's when a company attempted without success to create a reservoir by sealing the underground channel of the Lost Creek. Above the shafthouse, the creek is Lost Creek, but it emerges from underground just south of the shafthouse as Goose Creek.

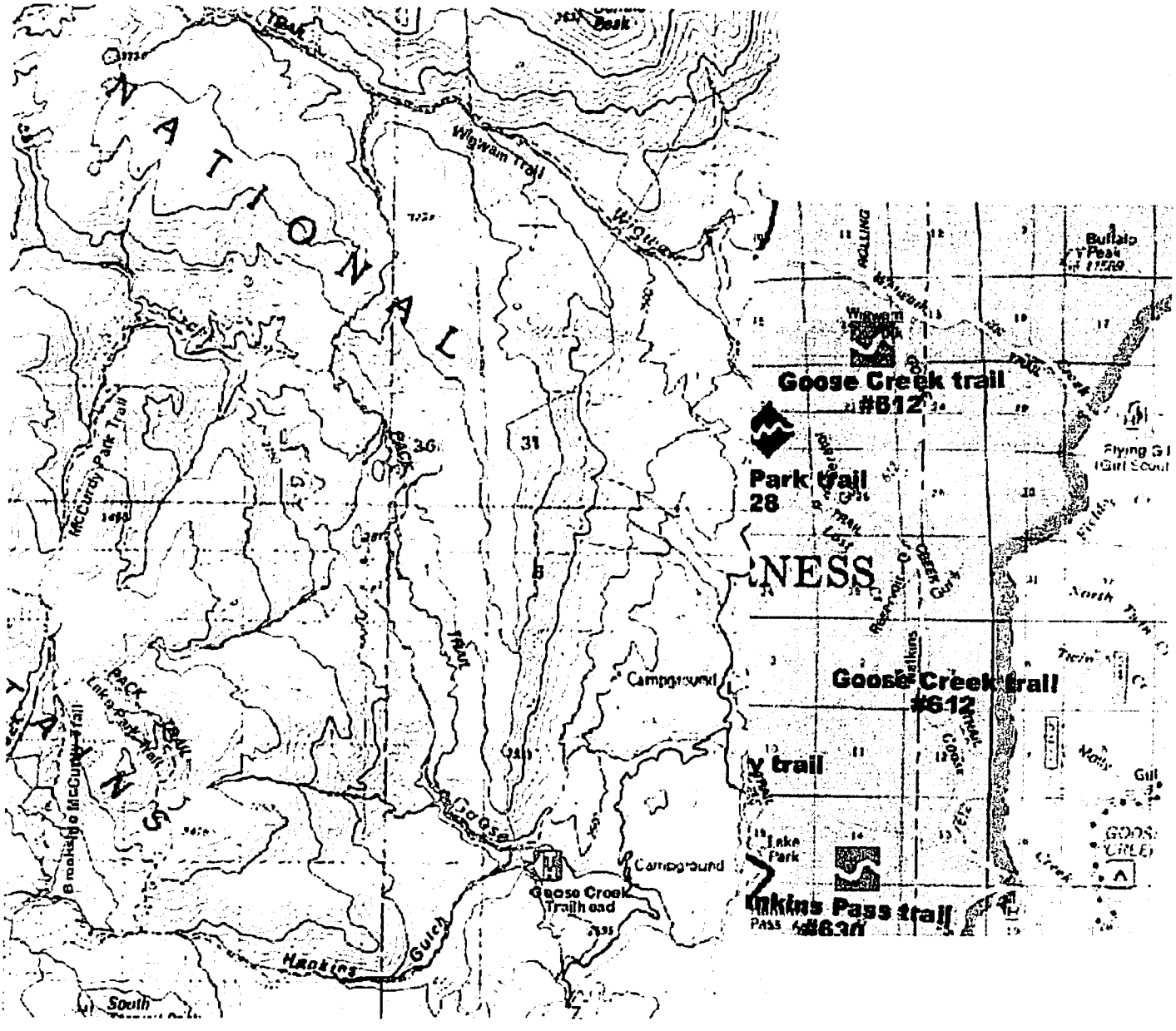
The McCurdy Park Trail intersects the Goose Creek Trail where it begins to climb north out of the Lost Creek drainage. A popular loop hike is to hike the Goose Creek Trail up to the McCurdy Park Trail and follow the McCurdy Park trail to its intersection with the Brookside Trail. Then hike south a short distance to the Lake Park Trail. Follow the Lake Park Trail to Hankins Pass, and then hike east on the Hankins Pass Trail to the Goose Creek Trailhead.

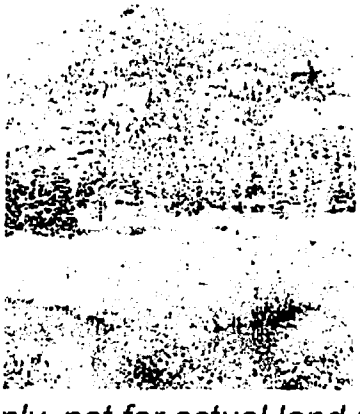
There are horse corrals near the trailhead that are available for public use. The lower part of the valley is rather tight and good, legal campsites (at least 100' from water and trail) are scarce, so plan to begin hiking from the trailhead early enough to find a good campsite. This area sees heavy use, so do all you can to keep your impact to a minimum. Because the trail is entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

From the trailhead sign near the parking area follow the trail a short way down to a wooden footbridge across a Hankins Creek. Just across the bridge is a trail junction. The Hankins Pass Trail heads left (west) and Goose Creek Trail heads right (east). After reaching Goose Creek, the trail follows the creek upstream, crossing over on a large metal footbridge. The valley gradually opens up revealing the domes and spires characteristic of the area. The trail soon begins to gain elevation, rising up away from the creek.

A sign marks the turn off to the historic buildings and shaft house remnants. At this point the trail begins to gain elevation rapidly before dropping down into Watkins Gulch. The trail then begins to head up again in a general northwesterly direction, reaching the McCurdy Park Trail junction at a high point overlooking the valley. The McCurdy Park Trail heads west from the junction, dropping down to eventually cross Lost Creek and then turns south up a steep valley to intersect the Brookside McCurdy Trail in McCurdy Park. The Goose Creek Trail bears right (north) up to a saddle east of a granite tower with a distinctive leaning pinnacle before dropping down into Wigwam Park to end at its intersection with the Wigwam Trail.





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7 - Hankins Pass Trail #630

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: heavy
Length: 6.5 Miles (10.5 Kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,200 Feet (2500 Meters); ends at 8,960 Feet (2730 Meters); high point is 10,000 Feet (3050 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Map: McCurdy Mountain

Access

- Goose Creek Trailhead (8,220 ft elevation) : From the trailhead, you can ascend to Hankins Pass on the Hankins Pass Trail or up the Goose Creek Trail past the Shafthouse into the heart of the Wilderness Area.

  Reach via by Forest Road 211 at the south end from Tarryall Road (Cty Hwy No. 77) near Lake George or from the north end near Deckers. Includes a parking area and horse loading and unloading facilities.

- Spruce Grove Trailhead (8,520 ft elevation): The Lizard Rock Trail leads north to Wilderness boundary and the Hankins Pass Trail.

  Located at the Spruce Grove Campground on Tarryall Road 3 miles southeast of the Twin Eagles trailhead. Hiker parking is located at a small lot outside the campground gate.

- Twin Eagles Trailhead (8,560 ft elevation): The Brookside/McCurdy Trail leads into the southwest side of the Tarryalls and to the McCurdy Park and Hankins Pass trails.

  Located on the Tarryall Road 25 miles southeast of Jefferson. Includes horse unloading and holding facilities.

Connecting Trails

- Goose Creek Trail (see #6)
- Lake Park Trail (see #8)
- Lizard Rock Trail (see #9)
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)

Trail Information

The Hankins Pass Trail is the southernmost trail in the Lost Creek Wilderness. From the east, the trail gives the hiker a gradually rising climb up Hankins Gulch through dense forest to pleasant open meadows and aspen groves. From the junction with the Lake Park Trail at the top of Hankins Pass, the trail drops down the west side of the Tarryall Mountains to a junction with the Lizard Rock Trail coming up from the Spruce Grove Trailhead, and then continues to descend to meet the Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

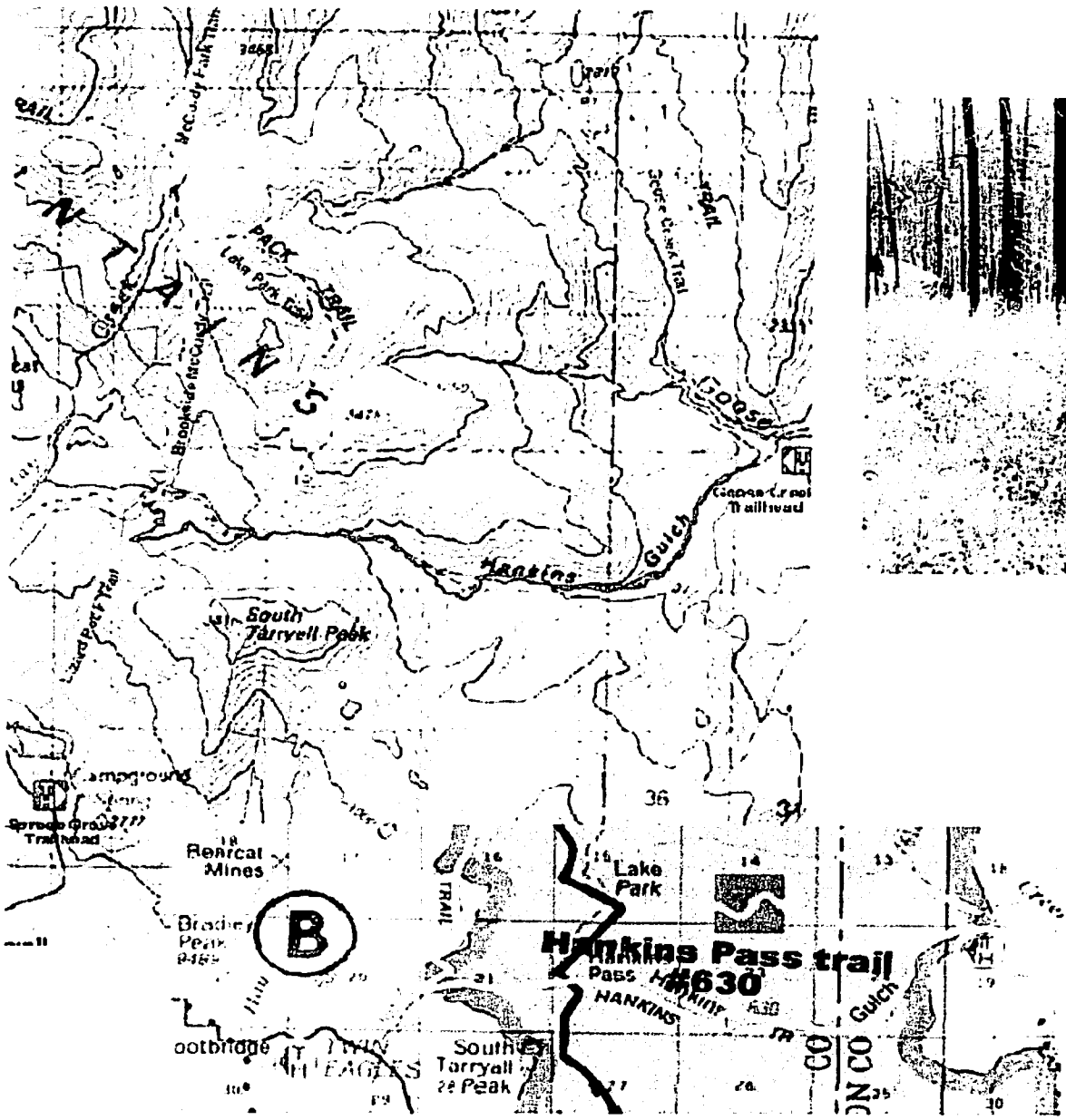
The trail is easy to follow and heads in a general westerly direction. There are horse corrals near the Goose Creek Trailhead that are available for public use. There are a number of campsites between the trailhead and Hankins Pass. However, there are few areas suitable for camping west of the pass due to the steep gradient of the trail.

Because the trail is entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

From the Goose Creek Trailhead, hike downhill to a footbridge across Hankins Gulch. Just across the creek the Hankins Pass Trail heads west, while the Goose Creek Trail goes east (right). Climbing at first up through a forested valley, the trail eventually reaches a series of open meadows surrounded by aspen groves. The trail from here to the pass is very gorgeous in late September when the aspen leaves are changing color. At the top of Hankins Pass is a junction with the Lake Park Trail. That trail heads north (right) toward Lake Park, while the Hankins Pass Trail begins it's descent to the west.

The grade on the west side of the pass is quite a bit steeper than the gradual rise up to the pass from the east. After a short descent, the trail reaches the wilderness boundary and the junction with the Lizard Rock Trail. The Lizard Rock Trail leads south to the Spruce Grove Campground, while the Hankins Pass Trail continues down in a northwesterly direction to its end at the junction with the Brookside-McCurdy Trail. If you head south from this junction on Brookside-McCurdy Trail you will reach the Twin Eagles Trailhead.



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8 - Lake Park Trail #639

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: moderate
Length: 4.6 Miles (7.4 kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 10,000 Feet (3050 meters); ends at 10,750 Feet (3275 meters); high point at 11,560 Feet (3525 meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Map: McCurdy Mountain,

Access

This trail has no trailhead. It is reached from either the Hankins Pass Trail or the Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

Connecting Trails

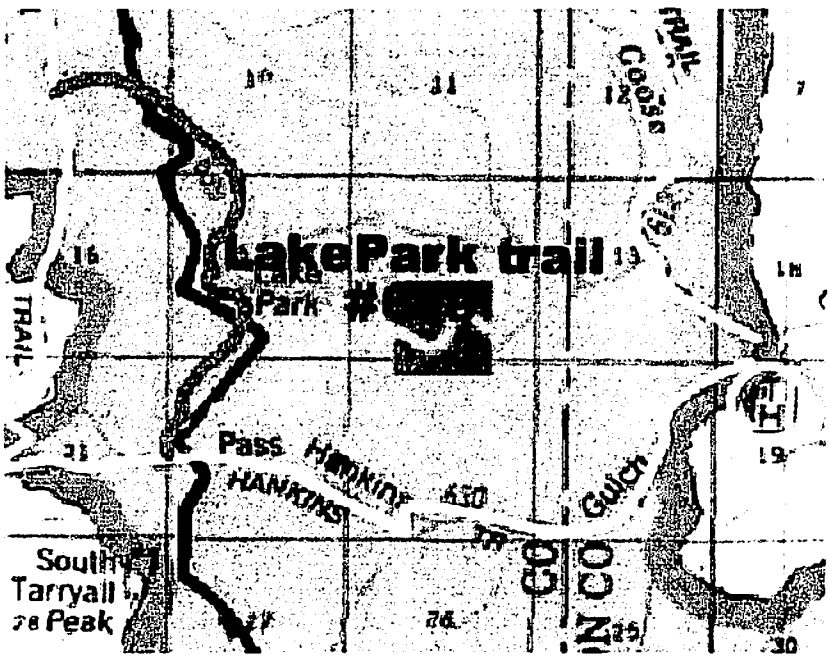
- Hankins Pass Trail (see #7)
- Brookside McCurdy Trail (see #2)

Trail Information

The Lake Park Trail accesses the high country west of Goose Creek. From the top of Hankins Pass it winds up through formations of red Pikes Peak granite and offers long views to the south and west. Lake Park itself a small open park at almost 11,000' surrounded by granite formations and the snags of a ghost forest from a fire long ago. This is also a great area for viewing alpine columbine, a high-altitude miniature of the state flower. The trail is often hiked as a part of a larger loop hike incorporating the Hankins Pass, Brookside-McCurdy, McCurdy Park, and Goose Creek Trails. Because the trail is entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

The trail climbs north from the top of Hankins Pass through fairly open rocky country into Lake Park. Skirting the west side of the park, it continues to rise between granite walls to its high point. From there it drops down to the north and west to join the Brookside-McCurdy Trail above Hay Creek.



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9 - Lizard Rock Trail #658

Difficulty: easy/ more difficult
Trail Use: moderate
Length: 2.3 Miles (3.7 Kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,500 Feet (2590 Meters); ends at 9,500 Feet (2895 Meters); high point at 9,500 Feet (2895 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: McCurdy Mountain

Access

- Spruce Grove Trailhead (8,520 ft. elevation): The Lizard Rock Trail leads north to Wilderness boundary and the Hankins Pass Trail.

  Located at the Spruce Grove Campground on Tarryall Road 3 miles southeast of the Twin Eagles trailhead. Hiker parking is located at a small lot outside the campground gate.

Connecting Trails

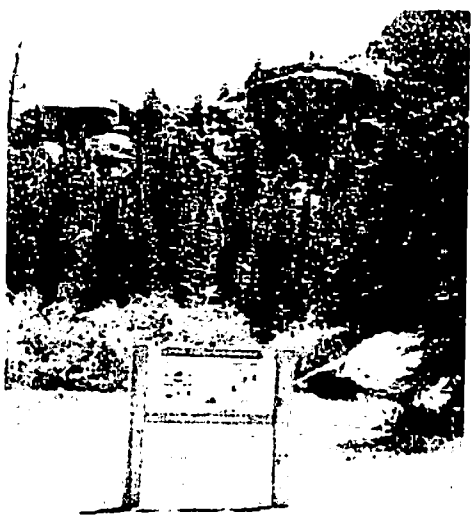
- Hankins Pass Trail

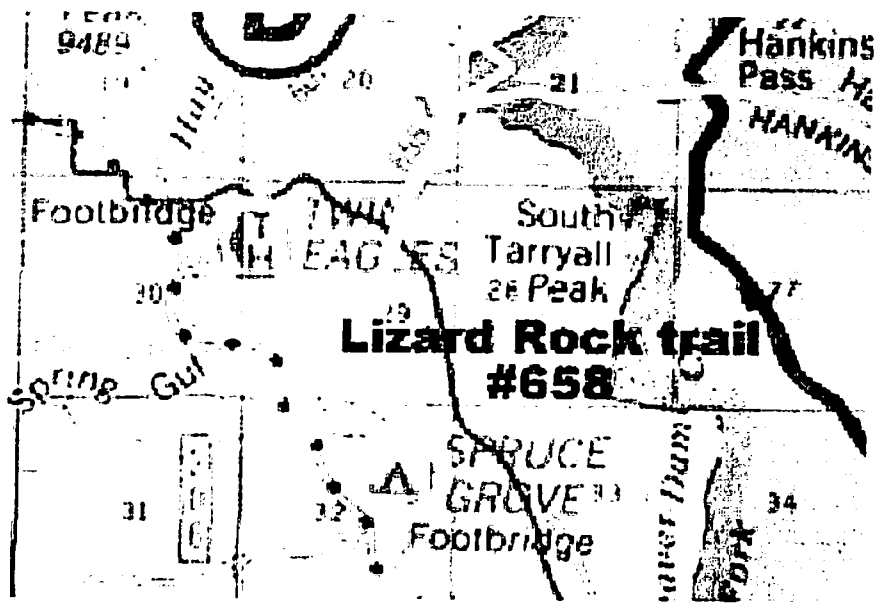
Trail Information

Near the top, this trail approaches a rock formation that resembles a lizard, thus the name "Lizard Rock Trail". Several loops, some large, can be made from the end of the Lizard Rock Trail. Some of the loops might include the Lake Park, Brookside/McCurdy, Hankins Pass, Goose Creek, McCurdy Park, and Ute Creek trails. The Lost Creek Wilderness boundary is located at the end of the Lizard Rock trail. Ensure that you are familiar with Wilderness regulations if you continue into the Wilderness.

Description

Park at the trailhead parking, outside the Spruce Grove campground, if you are not staying in the campground. Walk through the campground (stay right on loop), past the outhouse and across the bridge over Tarryall Creek. Make a hard left, passing through a boulder tunnel, to start on the Lizard Rock Trail.





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10 - McCurdy Park Trail #628

Difficulty: most difficult
Trail Use: moderate
Length: 7.3 Miles (11.7 kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 9,420 Feet (2870 meters); ends at 10,900 Feet (3320 meters); high point is 10,900 Feet (3320 meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking
USGS Maps: McCurdy Mountain

Access

This trail has no trailhead access. It is reached only via the Goose Creek or Brookside-McCurdy Trails.

Connecting Trails

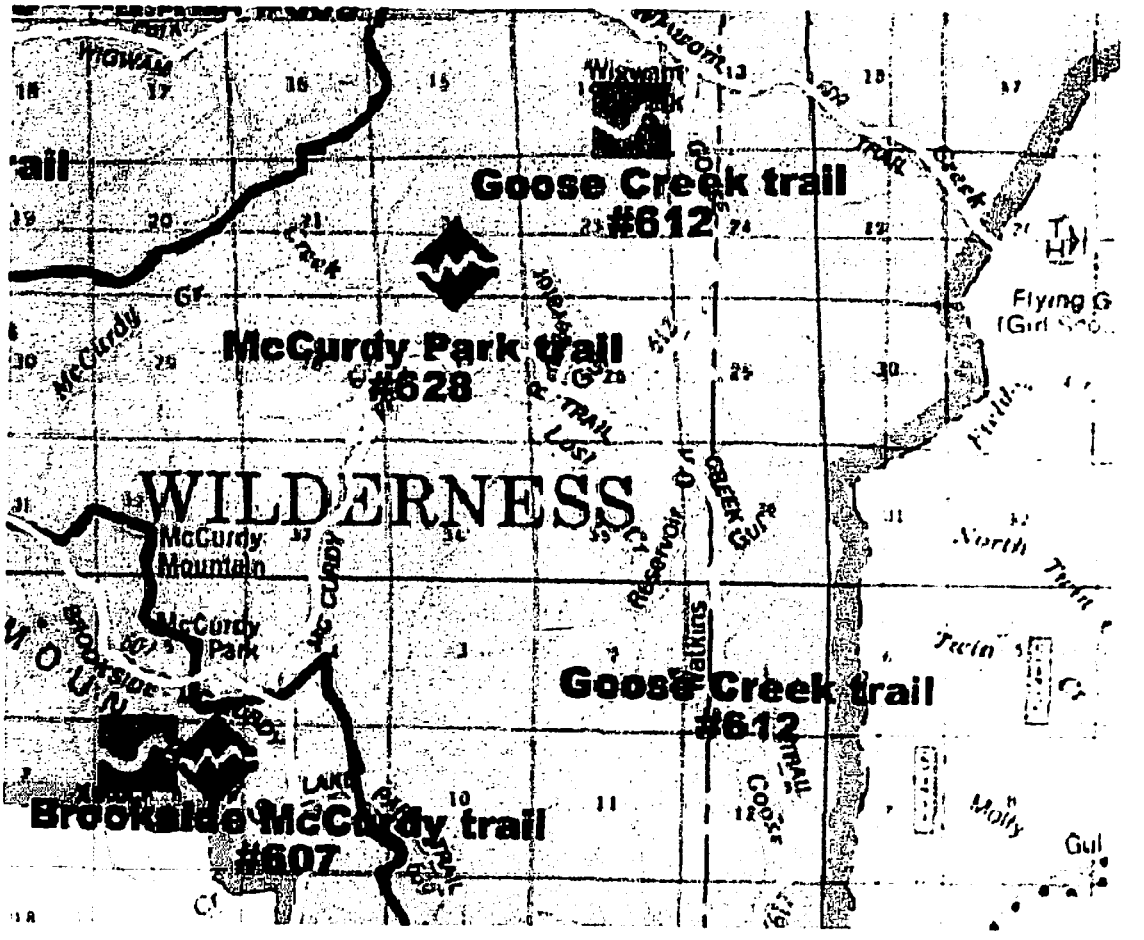
- Goose Creek Trail (see #6)
- Brookside/McCurdy Trail (see #2)

Trail Information

One of the most remote trails in the Lost Creek Wilderness, the McCurdy Park Trail traverses some of the more spectacular country in the Wilderness. Near where it crosses Lost Creek, you can see entrances to some of the creek's underground passages, which give it its name. The McCurdy Park Trail is most often hiked as part of a larger loop, which incorporates parts of the Goose Creek, Brookside/McCurdy, Lake Park, and Hankins Pass Trails. Due to the tight rugged terrain, it takes a little time and skill to locate a good legal campsite (at least 100' from streams and trail). Leave yourself a little daylight for the task. Because the trail is entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

From the north end at its junction with the Goose Creek Trail, the trail drops rapidly down into Refrigerator Gulch, then climbs back out and winds among the granite outcrops before dropping again to Lost Creek. Although the McCurdy Mountain quad map shows the trail crossing the creek and following it on the south side, the trail remains on the north side until it crosses and leaves the creek. As the trail climbs up the side drainage toward McCurdy Park, it passes the small lake shown on the map. This lake comes and goes depending on how active the beaver population is. A long uphill climb brings you at last to McCurdy Park, a high, open valley surrounded by granite crags. To the east is the McCurdy Park Tower, which yields some moderate technical rock climbs. At the south end of the park, the trail meets the Brookside/McCurdy Trail and ends.



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11 - Payne Creek Trail #637

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: moderate to heavy during fishing season
Length: 9.8 Miles (15.8 kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,040 Feet (2450 meters); ends at 9,300 Feet (2835 meters); high point 9,890 Feet (3015 meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking
USGS Maps: Shawnee, Bailey, Windy Peak

Access

- Payne Creek/ Brookside Trailhead (8,040 ft. elevation): The Payne Creek Trail and the Brookside/ McCurdy Trail share tread for about a mile before splitting and going their separate ways to Craig Meadows and Craig Park.

  From US 285 in Bailey, go south across the South Platte river on County road 64 between the Post Office and Moore Lumber. After 0.45 miles take a left at the Y. Go 2.2 miles to the trailhead on the left (south) side of the road.

- Rolling Creek/Colorado Trail Trailhead (8,360 ft. elevation): From the trailhead the Colorado Trail goes west toward the North Fork Trailhead and the Rolling Creek Trail goes south to join the Wigwam Trail.

  From Bailey, go east on County Road 68 which becomes Forest Road 560. Go right at the Y onto County Road 543. 7.8 miles from Bailey park at a small Parking area on the south side of the road (large enough for trailers) or go right (south) a short distance to the Colorado Trail/Rolling Creek trailhead.

Connecting Trails

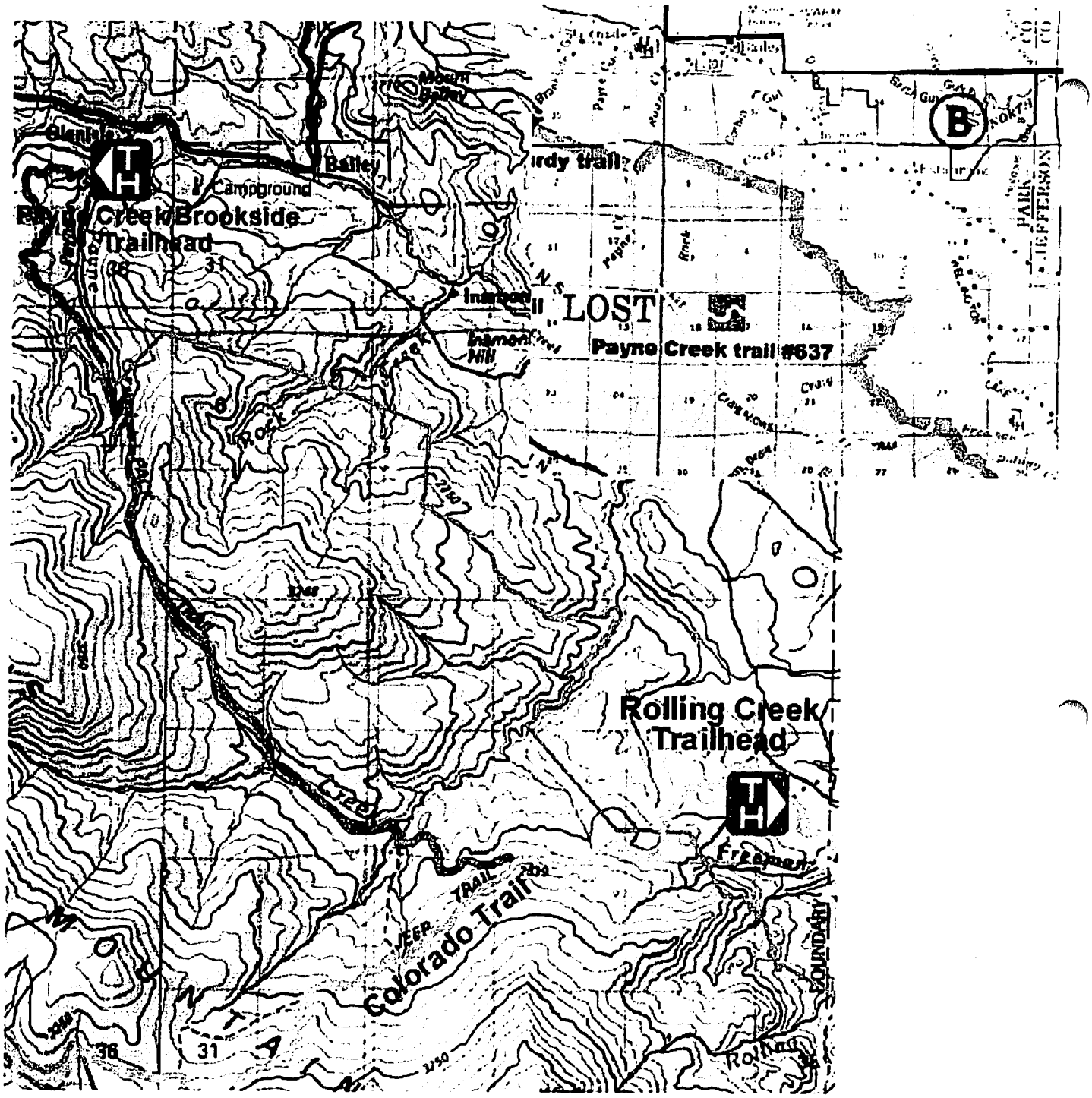
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)
- Colorado Trail-Segment 4 (see #3)

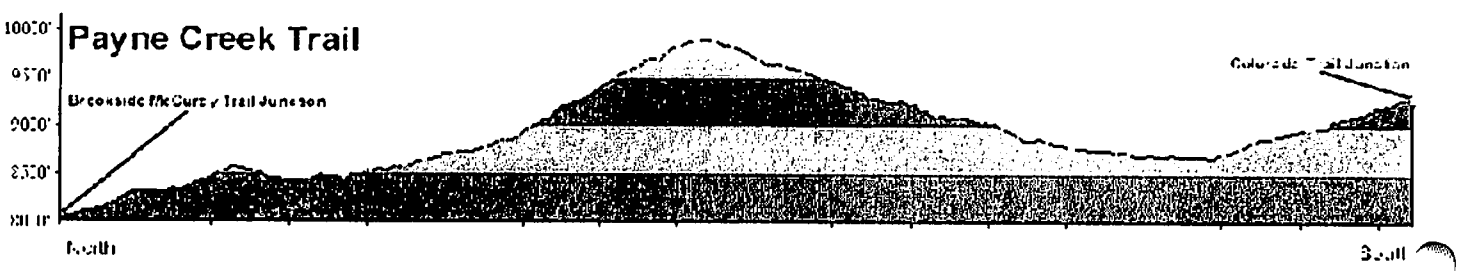
Trail Information

This trail provides access into the northeast portion of the Lost Creek Wilderness. It is a relatively gentle trail overall, climbing gradually through ponderosa and lodgepole pine forests and an aspen grove created by a 135 acre fire in 1926. It then descends into open meadows along Craig Creek. Payne Creek is named for Jim Payne, who once logged the area and had a mill two miles up the creek from the Platte River. Payne and others logged all the way up the valley to the divide between Payne Creek and Craig Creek in the late 1800's and early 1900's. There are sites suitable for overnight camping in Craig Meadows. Because most of the Payne Creek Trail is in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

Leaving the trailhead near Bailey, the Payne Creek Trail and the Brookside-McCurdy Trail rise gently and soon reach a trail junction at the foot of a large private meadow. Here the two trails diverge, with the Payne Creek Trail bearing left and the Brookside-McCurdy Trail bearing right. The trail crosses a small drainage and then rises gradually along the west side of Payne Gulch, crossing the wilderness boundary. The next stretch from the Payne Creek crossing to the high point is fairly steep as the trail climbs up an old logging road. This climb puts hikers into a pleasant aspen grove, which is a great place to take a break. The trail now begins to descend into the Craig Creek drainage. In the large open meadow along Craig Creek, the trail first runs down the north side of the creek, then crosses to the south. The trail then continues in a southeasterly direction until you reach the Bluestem Draw flowing north into Craig Creek. Shortly thereafter, the trail crosses another unnamed drainage flowing north into Craig Creek and begins to climb out of the Craig Creek drainage to meet the Colorado Trail.





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12 - Rolling Creek Trail #663

Difficulty: easy/ more difficult
Trail Use: moderate
Length: 6.4 Miles (10.3 kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,360 Feet (2550 meters); ends at 9,640 Feet (2940 meters); high point of 10,650 Feet (3245 meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking
USGS Map: Windy Peak

Access

- Rolling Creek/Colorado Trail Trailhead (8,360 ft. elevation): From the trailhead the Colorado Trail goes west toward the North Fork Trailhead and the Rolling Creek Trail goes south to join the Wigwam Trail.

  From Bailey, go east on County Road 68 which becomes Forest Road 560. Go right at the Y onto County Road 543. 7.8 miles from Bailey park at a small Parking area on the south side of the road (large enough for trailers) or go right (south) a short distance to the Colorado Trail/Rolling Creek trailhead.

Connecting Trails

- Colorado Trail-Segment 3 (no information in this hand out)
- Colorado Trail-Segment 4 (see #3)
- Wigwam Trail (see #14)

Trail Information

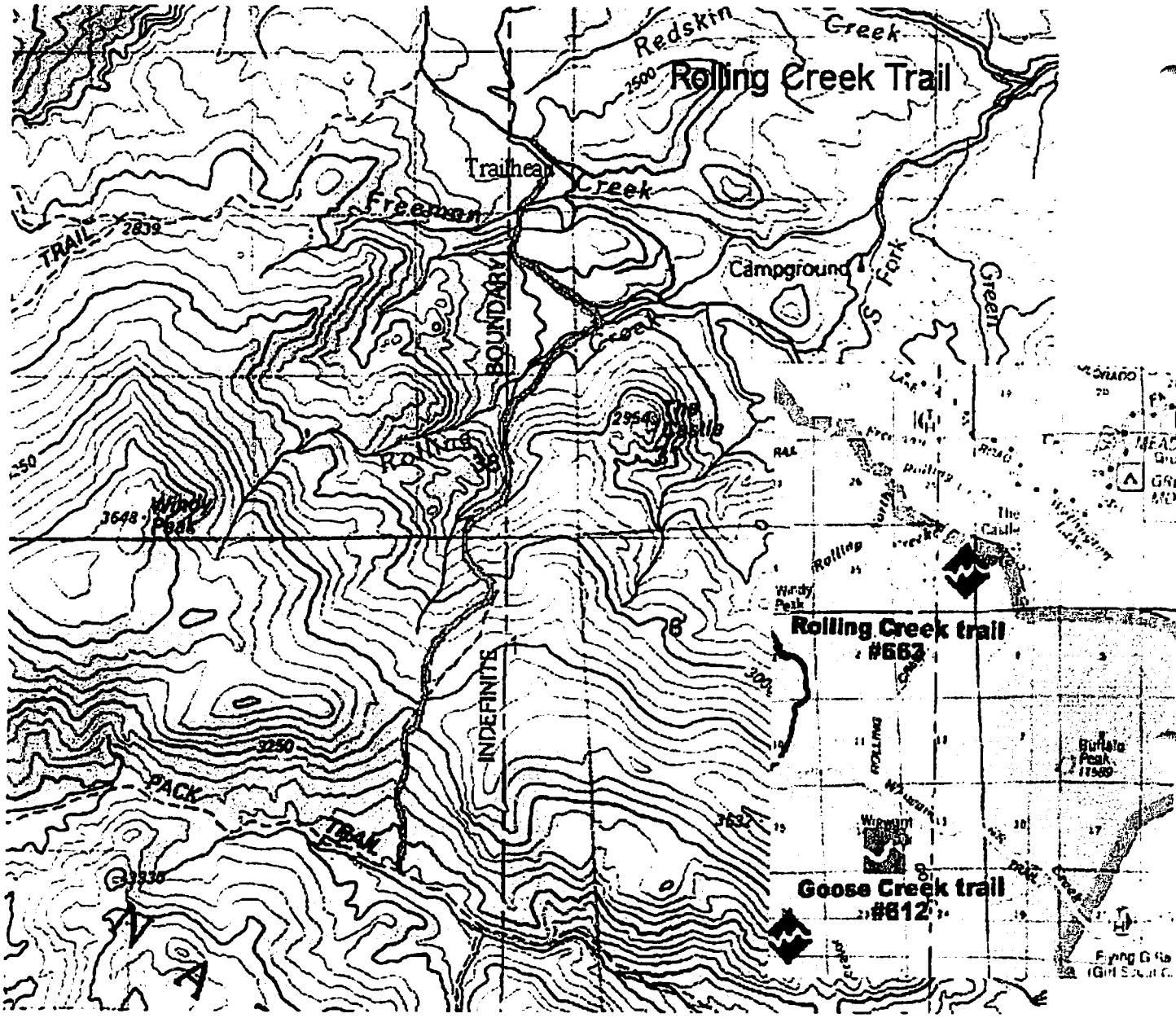
This popular trail provides access into the northeast side of the Lost Creek Wilderness. The first third of the trail south from the trailhead are an easy, pleasant hike following gently rolling terrain. However, the second two thirds of the trail is quite steep and the trail up the tight canyon on the north side is often blocked by downed trees. The trail passes around to the west of the Castle and offers some very dramatic views of this prominent pinnacle. This trail, in conjunction with the Colorado Trail, Wigwam Trail and Goose Creek Trail, offer some interesting loops for backpack trips. The gentle first section of the trail, up to the Wilderness boundary, is popular with mountain bikers, but the rest of the trail is entirely in designated wilderness. In Wilderness, mountain bikes are prohibited and Wilderness regulations apply.

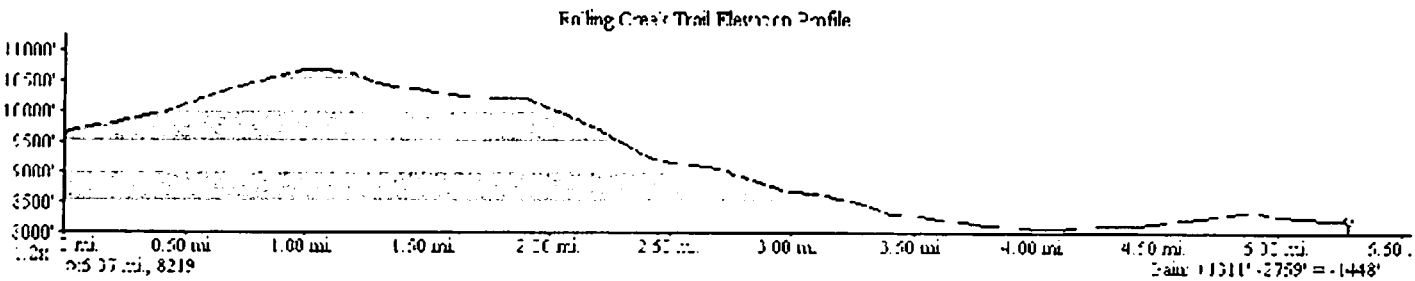
Description

From the trailhead at end of the road, the Colorado Trail bears right (west) and the Rolling Creek Trail heads left (east). The first part of this trail is very easy to hike, with only minor "ups and downs" and small stream crossings. Just after crossing the much larger Rolling Creek, the Wilderness boundary is reached. Soon thereafter, a tight canyon is entered and the trail becomes very steep. The canyon section is not recommended for horses. As you climb out of the canyon, the view to the north opens up with views of the Castle, the granite along upper Rolling Creek, and the mountains in the distance.

The high point of the trail is a saddle between the Rolling Creek and Wigwam Creek drainages. From the saddle the trail continues south down into Wigwam Park, where it meets the Wigwam Trail.

A final note on the Rolling Creek Trail. The 1954 Windy Peak Quad map does not show the location of the first 1/3 of the trail. The trail is not shown on the map until you cross Rolling Creek. From that point south, the trail is located more or less as shown on the quad map.





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13 - Ute Creek Trail #629

Difficulty: most difficult
Trail Use: light
Length: 4 Miles (6.5 kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,750 Feet (2060 meters); ends at 11,200 Feet (3415 meters); high point at 11,200 Feet (3415 meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Map: Farnum Peak

Access

- Ute Creek Trailhead (8,750 ft.elevation): The Ute Creek Trail leads to Bison Pass.

  Located on the Tarryall Road approximately 20 miles southeast of Jefferson, limited parking space is available.

Connecting Trails

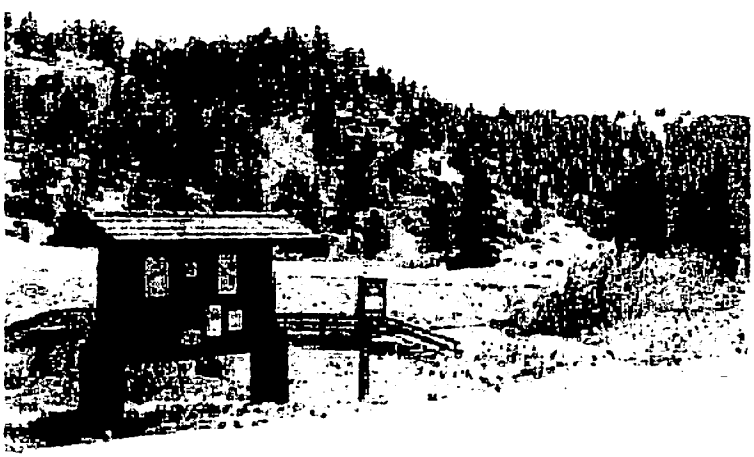
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)

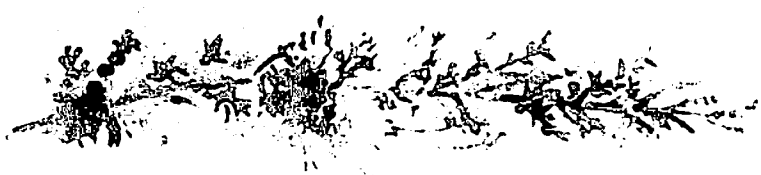
Trail Information

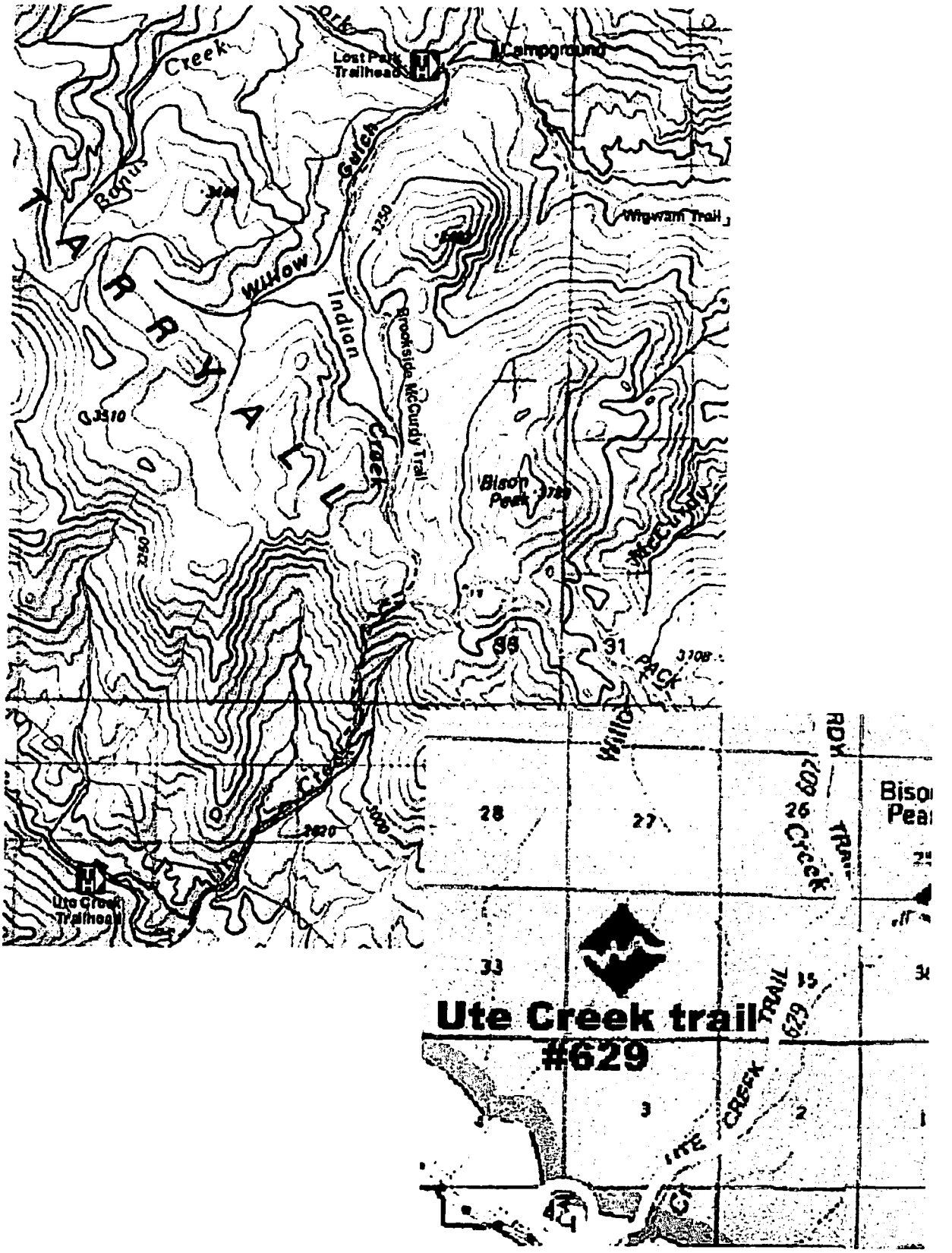
The Ute Creek Trail provides access for climbing Bison Peak and McCurdy Mountain, as well as to several extended loops into the Lost Creek Wilderness, and provides a short route to some of the high country vistas found along the ridge between Bison Peak and McCurdy Park. Because the trail is almost entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

Description

From the parking area, the trail crosses a footbridge over Tarryall Creek and begins the climb to Bison Pass. The begins climbing at a moderate grade, but increases to a continuous steep grade before reaching Bison Pass. On a warm summer day, take extra water with you due to the steep grade. On the trail, water is not readily available, so bring plenty along.







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14 - Wigwam Trail #609

Difficulty: more difficult
Trail Use: heavy
Length: 11.3 Miles (18.2 Kilometers)
Elevation: starts at 8,160 Feet (2543 Meters); ends at 9,940 Feet (3029 Meters); high point of 10,170 Feet (3100 Meters)
Open to: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding
USGS Maps: Cheesman Lake, Green Mountain, Windy Peak, Topaz Mountain

Access

- Wigwam Trailhead (8,160 ft. Elevation) :The Wigwam Trail goes westerly up Wigwam Creek and eventually to the Lost Park Trailhead.

  Located at the end of a short spur road off the Stoney Pass Road (Forest Road 560). Take Forest Road 211 from County Road 126 west of Deckers. At the "Y" junction of Forest Road 211 and Forest Road 560, go right on 560 to the trailhead road (Forest Road 545).

- Lost Park Trailhead (9,960 ft. elevation): The Wigwam Trail leads to East Lost Park, the Brookside/ McCurdy Trail south to Bison Pass and McCurdy Park and north to the Colorado Trail and Craig Park.

  From US. Hwy 285 north of Jefferson, go 16 miles east on the Lost Park Road (County Road 56) to the trailhead. There is a fee for parking at the trailhead.

Connecting Trails

- Goose Creek Trail (see #6)
- Rolling Creek Trail (see #12)
- Brookside-McCurdy Trail (see #2)

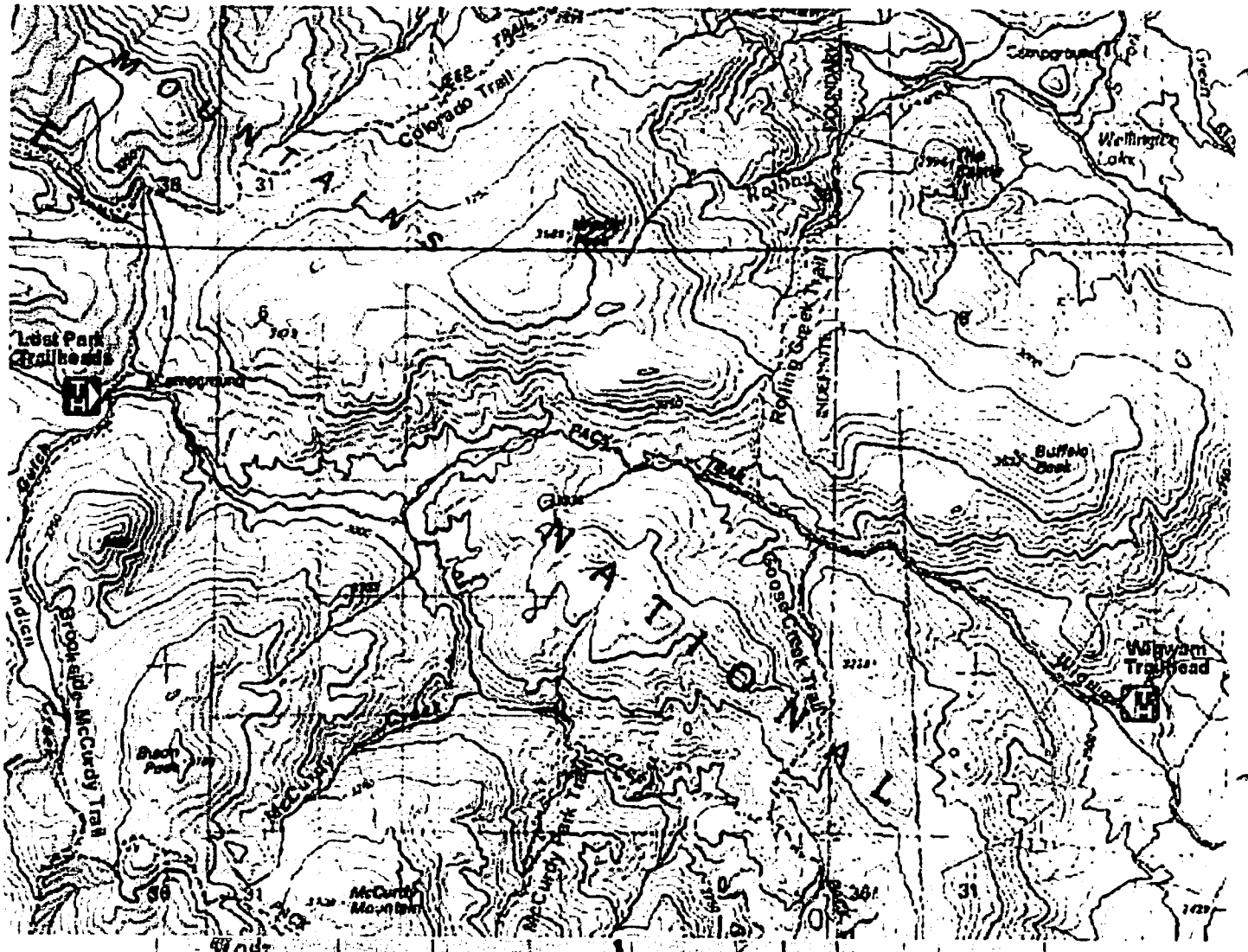
Trail Information

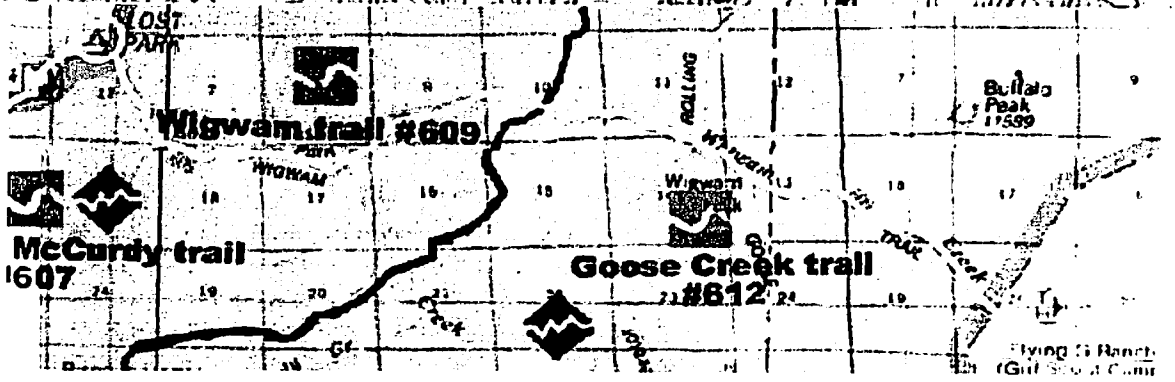
This trail provides a less-crowded alternative to the Goose Creek Trailhead. Originally used to drive cattle from Webster Park, north of the Wigwam Trailhead, over into Lost Park, the trail accesses the east side of the Lost Creek Wilderness by following the Wigwam Creek drainage up to an open meadow called Wigwam Park and on to a saddle at the end of the valley. Beyond the saddle, the trail drops down into East Lost Park, then crosses Lost Creek and continues west up the creek to the Lost Park Trailhead. Granite domes along the trail present many opportunities for rock climbing and the nearby streams provide good fishing. Because the trail is almost entirely in designated wilderness, Wilderness regulations apply.

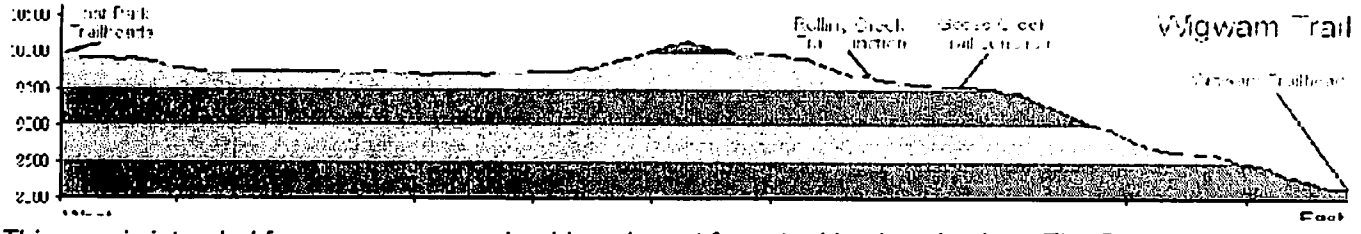
Description

From the Wigwam Trailhead parking area, follow the signs a short distance on an old logging road to a sign on your right where the trail leaves the road. The trail heads generally northwest along Wigwam Creek. The trail rises with a moderate, gradually steepening grade into Wigwam Park. Wigwam Park has a number of beaver ponds and campsites. Be sure your campsites are at least 100' from the trail and stream. The last stretch to the park has several short, steep, rocky sections of trail. In Wigwam Park the trail intersects the north end of the Goose Creek Trail, which runs up a valley to the south and over a pass into the Lost Creek drainage. Just to the west of the Goose Creek junction, the trail intersects the south end of the Rolling Creek Trail. From here the Rolling Creek Trail climbs steeply to the north, over a ridge, and down the north side to the Colorado-Rolling Creek trailhead on Forest road 560, west of Wellington Lake.

From Wigwam Park the trail continues its gentle rise to the pass at the end of the valley and then descends into East Lost Park, an open valley surrounded by outcrops and domes of Pikes Peak granite. In the middle of the park, the trail crosses Lost Creek and then follows it upstream to the Lost Park Trailhead and its intersection with the Brookside-McCurdy Trail.







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