



FARRIS CREEK TRAIL #409 → 5.1 MILES ONE WAY

DIFFICULTY: Moderate to difficult

SEASON OF USE: Summer through fall.

ELEVATION GAIN: Cement Creek Trailhead is at 8,760'. Brush Creek Trailhead is at 9,240'.

USGS MAPS: Cement Mountain, Pearl Pass.

ACCESS #1: From Gunnison, travel north 20 miles on CO Hwy 135 to Cement Creek Road #740. Travel east (turn right) on Cement Creek Road for 2 miles (through Crested Butte South) to the southern trailhead. There is limited parking on the road's south side (right side) near the turnoff to the Cement Creek Guard Station. The trail begins on the road's north side. **This is the recommended access to the "Caves".**

ACCESS #2: From Gunnison, travel north 24 miles on CO Hwy 135 to Brush Creek Road #738. Travel east (turn right) on Brush Creek Road for 4 miles to Farris Creek Road #736. Travel southeast (turn right) on Farris Creek Road for 1.5 miles to the middle trailhead. On the Farris Creek Road, four-wheel drive vehicles are necessary when conditions are wet.

Access #3: From Gunnison, travel north 24 miles on CO Hwy 135 to Brush Creek Road #738. Travel east (turn right) on Brush Creek Road for 7 miles to the Farris Creek Trail. On the last 2 miles of the Brush Creek Road before the northern trailhead, four-wheel vehicles are necessary due to two water crossings and steep, rocky terrain.

ATTRACTIONS: From the Cement Creek trailhead, the trail climbs quickly to the "Caves". This 1-mile hike provides great views and exploration opportunities of the Caves. Mountain bike riders wanting to ride to Farris Creek should ride the more gradual Walrod Gulch Road # 740.2C and Trail #412, which intersects with the Farris Creek Trail above the Caves. From above the Caves, the trail climbs through meadows and aspen forests to

10,000 ft. (1,240 ft. gain); then descends through pine and aspen forests and rocky scree fields to Farris Creek Road. From this spot, you can travel west toward Crested Butte and CO Hwy 135; or travel east on the Farris Creek Road to a steep downhill section of the Farris Creek Trail to the dangerous high water crossing of Brush Creek. Once across the creek, a short steep uphill climb awaits you to Brush Creek Road.

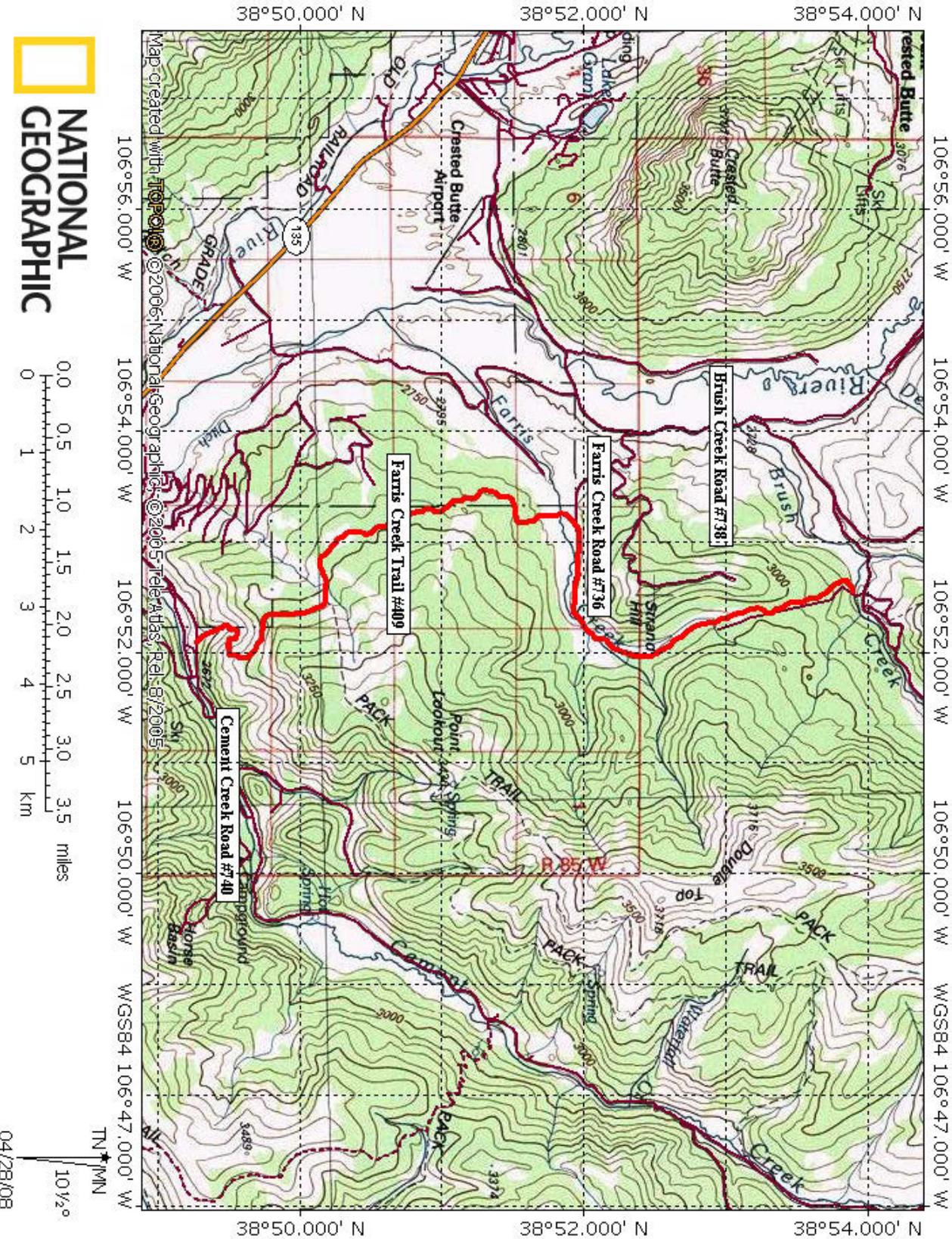
CONSIDERATIONS: If you are looking for an early or late season hike, follow Access #1. From the southern trailhead, Farris Creek Trail remains virtually snow free starting in March and ending in December. **Access #3 is NOT recommended in the spring due to the three dangerous high water crossings of Brush and West Brush Creeks, especially in June and early July.** Motorcycles and mountain bikes are encouraged to avoid this trail during wet conditions. Always be prepared for adverse weather including rain, hail, thundershowers and lightning. Be sure to wear sunscreen and bring plenty of drinking water. Do not drink from mountain streams and lakes without treating the water first. Be sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.



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