



MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS
 THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND
 HAHNS PEAK-BEARS EARS RANGER DISTRICT

	<p><u>TRAIL NAME:</u> #1144 BEARS EARS</p>
<p><u>INTERMEDIATE LOW POINT:</u> 8800' elevation (2682m).</p> <p><u>INTERMEDIATE HIGH POINT:</u> 9200' elevation (2804m).</p>	<p><u>LENGTH:</u> 51.2 mi. (82.4km) entire loop.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED SEASON:</u> <u>Summer Fall</u></p>
<p><u>ACCESS #1:</u> BLACK MOUNTAIN: Take Hwy 13 north out of Craig for 11.5 miles to Moffatt County Road #27 (turn right at Cox Brothers Sawmill) continue until you reach the Routt National Forest Boundary. Continue north on NFSR 110 for approximately 1 mile until FDT #1144 crosses the road at the Dike TH. Park here and you may either go east or west on the trail. These segments of the trail are not open to motorized travel.</p> <p>If you wish to access the northern portion of FDT #1144, continue travelling north on NFSR 110 over the top of Black Mountain, past Lost Park Guard Station. Turn left on NFSR 162 to access the NON- MOTORIZED portion of #1144 to the west toward the scenic views of Mt. Welba, Mt. Oliphant, Buck Point, Sand Point, and Black Mountain.</p> <p>To access the motorized section of #1144 to the east, continue travelling north on NFSR 110 for several more yards until you reach the South Fork of Slater Creek. There is parking on the right side of the road. This section of trail is a popular route to the California Park Area/NFSR 150.</p>	<p><u>USE:</u> Light to Moderate/Heavy during hunting season</p> <p><u>DIFFICULTY:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>USGS MAP(S):</u> Buck Point, Bears Ears Peak</p> <p><u>ACCESS #2:</u> FREEMAN AREA: Trail #1144 can be easily accessed from the Freeman Recreation Area which is located north of Craig. Take Highway 13 north for 12 miles (past the Black Mountain Access) to Moffatt County Road 11/NFSR 112, turn right and continue for approximately 8 miles past the Sherman Youth Camp entrance to the Freeman Reservoir Recreation Area. There is free parking below the dam at the Trailhead Parking area or you may use the Fee Area parking located next to the Boat Ramp. There are three short trail spurs (Cottonwood Trail #1183, Aspen Trail #1183.1A, and Taylor Creek #1183.1B) that leave the reservoir and campground area. These all intersect with Trail #1144 up the drainages of Cottonwood and Taylor Creeks (approximately 1 1/2 miles from the recreation area). All of these trails are for foot, horseback and bicycle travel only.</p>
<p><u>BEARS EARS TRAIL #1144</u></p> <p><u>ACCESS #3:</u> CALIFORNIA PARK: Take Routt County Road 80 north out of Hayden (the first right after crossing the Yampa River). Turn left at the intersection of RCR 80 and RCR 70 and continue to the Forest Boundary at the top of Quaker Mountain. The Trailhead for the southern portion of FDT #1144 is on the west side of NFSR 150 approximately 5 miles north of the Forest Boundary, between Armstrong and Knowles Creek.</p> <p>The northern access to this trail which is motorized is on the divide between California Park and Slater Park at the intersection of NFSR 150 and NFSR 117. Turn left on 117.</p> <p>It is approximately 1 mile through thick forest to the Adams Park Trailhead. This section of trail can also be accessed from NFSR 126 which is approximately 1.75 miles north of NFSR 42, to the left. This is the Adams Creek Trailhead and NFSR 126 is also a narrow four wheel drive road; it is recommended that you park near the main road and hike the .5 mile to the actual trailhead.</p> <p>Please note other access points: Sand Point Road, NFSR 109, and West Prong Road, NFSR 133.</p>	

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: Travel regulations and seasonal closures have recently changed for this trail system. The purpose of this order is to protect critical big game habitat, prevent trail damage and reduce erosion during wet weather, insure user safety, resolve user conflicts, and minimize maintenance costs and trail investment loss. **The motorized section of trail #1144 between Adams Creek and Black Mountain Road 110 is *CLOSED* to motorized uses from October 1 through July 1. ALL trails west of County Road 129 are closed to motorized uses from October 1 - July 1.**

This trail receives very light to moderate use during June, July and August which offers the visitor an opportunity for solitude and great wildlife viewing. During hunting season, October and November, this trail receives **HEAVY** hiking, mechanized and motorized uses. If you enter this area it is advisable to be very cautious and even wear blaze orange. Because of the remoteness of this area, make sure to be well equipped for back country conditions--all weather gear (even in summer), water, food, first aid supplies, compass and a good map. It is never recommended that you go hiking alone without notifying someone of your plans.

BEARS EARS TRAIL #1144

NARRATIVE: This trail makes a large loop around the "Black Mountain" area and traverses into Routt County from the east. The trail travels through aspen stands and open parks with a few stretches of spruce/fir trees. Only a few short sections of the trail are steep. There are no developed campgrounds in this area with the exception of Freeman Campground. Dispersed camping is allowed 100 feet away from the trail or bodies of water, and 1/4 mile from a developed campground or trailhead.

Please follow backcountry ethics and pack out all trash. The only portion of this trail open to **motorized** use is between NFSR 110 and NFSR 150. Please remember that **the motorized section of the trail between Adams Creek and Black Mountain Road 110 is *closed* to motorized uses from October 1 through July 1.**

Since this trail crosses numerous roads, it is suitable for hikers and bikers to be dropped off at one point and picked up at another.

The trail segment north from Freeman Recreation Area to Sand Point/NFSR 109 travels over the drainage divide between Fortification Creek and the Little Snake River. The climb is steep from either side up to the divide. On top of the divide, called the "Gap", is an opportunity for an excellent scenic view.

This stretch crosses the three forks of Fortification Creek which is not accessible by vehicle and offer some fair small stream fishing.

The trail segment from Sand Point/NFSR 109 east to NFSR 110 is very scenic. There are several mountain peaks here: Mt. Welba, 10,569; Mt. Oliphant 10,670 feet; Buck Point 10,550 feet; Sand Point 10,074 feet; and Black Mountain 10,801 feet the highest point in the western area of the Forest. In this area you can still see traces of forest fires that burned nearly a century ago.

This portion of the trail accesses Beaver Creek, Cataract Creek, Roaring Fork Creek and Boulder Creek with scattered beaver ponds and fair fishing opportunities. The longest part of trail #1144 between roads is the portion from NFSR 110 to NFSR 150 that lies to the south below Bears Ears Peaks. Going east the trail is fairly steep down into Sawmill Creek, then it skirts the base of Bears Ears Peaks, and is fairly easy traveling into California Park. Two to three miles west of California Park this trail passes through one of the largest aspen stands in Colorado. This is also prime elk habitat along with mule deer and numerous species of migratory birds.

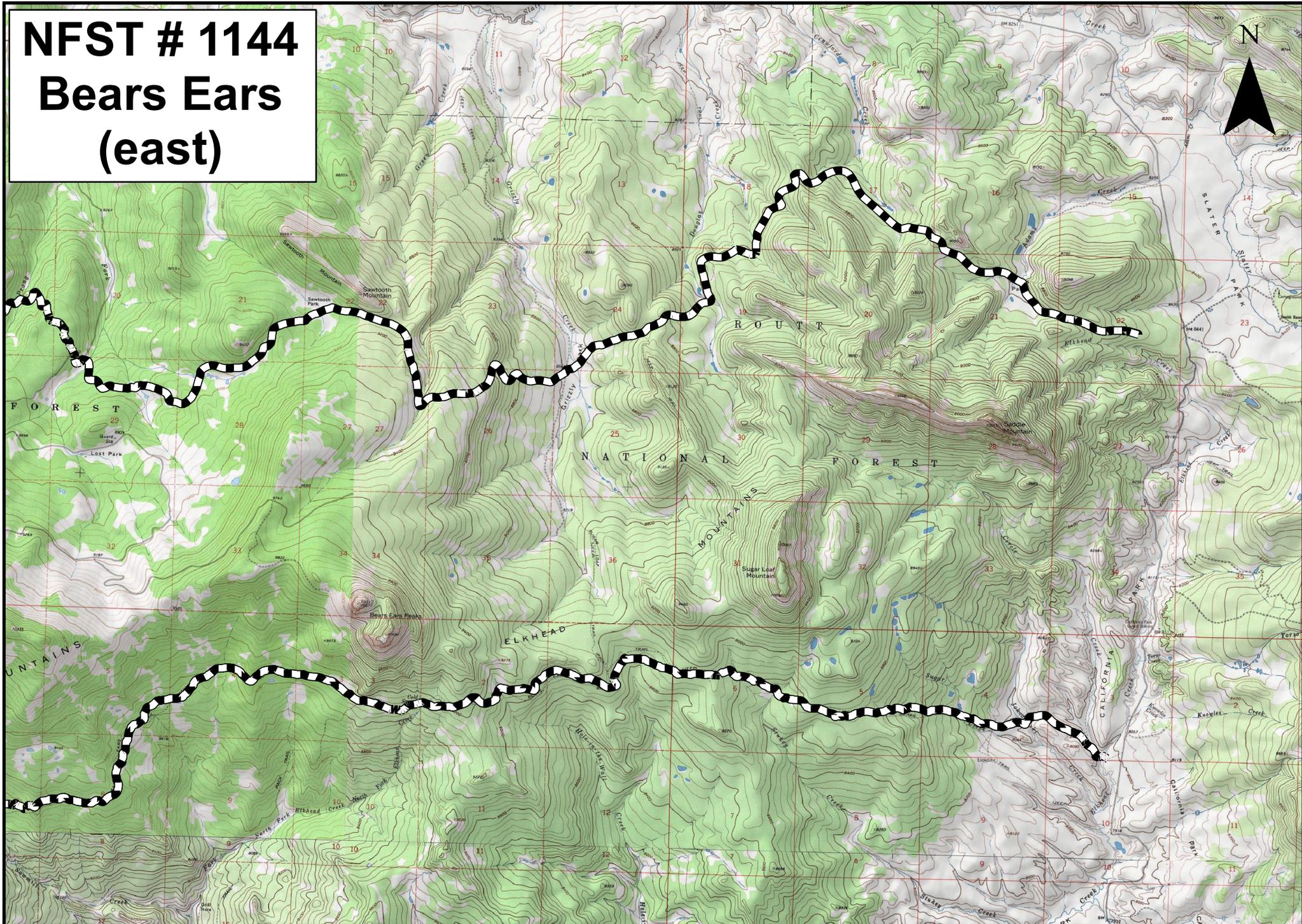
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NFST # 1144

Bears Ears (east)



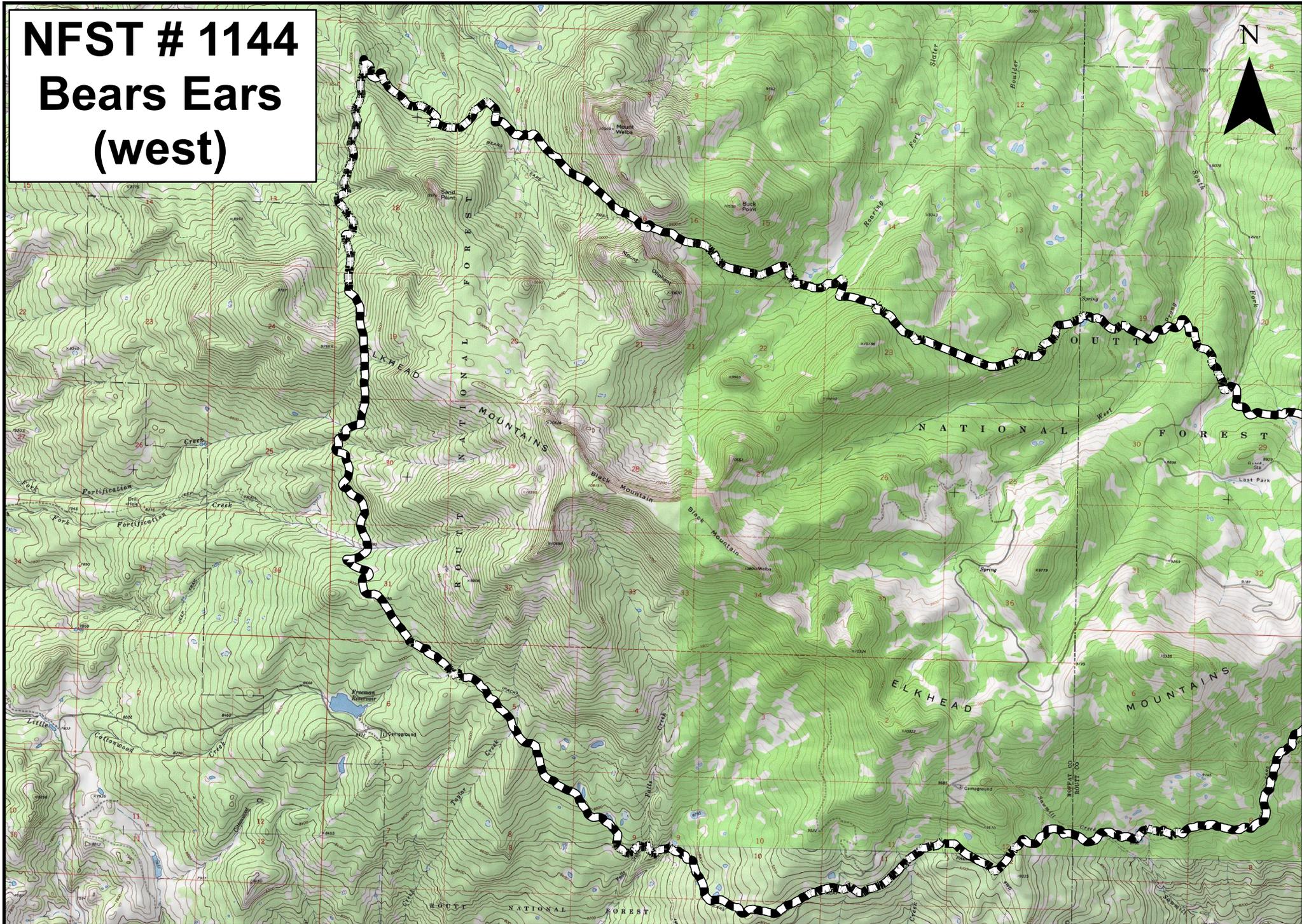
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NFST # 1144

Bears Ears

(west)



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