DELUGE LAKE TRAIL - FDT 2014

Length: 4.3 miles (one way)
Difficulty: Most Difficult
Beginning Elevation: 8,710 ft.
Elevation Gain: +3120 ft.-66 ft. = +3054 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate
Open To: Hiking
Ending Elevation: 11,764 ft.
USGS Map(s): Vail East

Access from Vail, CO: Travel east on I-70 to exit 180, exit here and turn right onto Bighorn Road. Continue on this road about 2.2 miles to a parking area on the left just after you cross under the interstate and just before the Gore Creek Campground. Parking is limited at the trailhead.

Trail Highlights: There are 2 trails starting at this location. Begin on the Gore Creek Trail. After 0.1 miles, the Deluge Lake Trail turns left and the Gore Creek Trail continues straight. Take this left onto the narrow trail which heads northwest before curving and heading northeast the rest of the way. The trail will pass through several boulder fields, and then cling to a very steep slope as it climbs through aspen woods. Don’t step off the trail’s downhill side to let other hikers pass. The trail climbs steeply for the first 3 miles, gaining about 2,500 feet. At mile 3.6, the trail drops to Deluge Creek where you need to ford the creek. The trail is gentler now and follows the east side of the creek to the lake where views to the Sawatch Range and Mount of the Holy Cross emerge.

Important Information: Deluge Lake is in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places. Leave them as you wish to find them.

* Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails
* Dogs - must be leashed out of consideration for both other people and wildlife
* Fire - campstoves are recommended. Fires are prohibited within 100 feet of any stream or Forest Service Trail, within ¼ mile of any lake, or above 11,000 feet in elevation.
* Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people
* Sanitation - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil
* Overnight Registration - free, self-issue registration forms are available at wilderness trailheads and are required for overnight camping. No registration is required for day-use.

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.