

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

GROUSE LAKE TRAIL #2127

Length: 4.6 miles (one way)

Difficulty: More Difficult

Beginning Elevation: 7,835 ft.

Elevation Gain: +2865 ft.-0 ft. = +2865 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate (higher during hunting season)

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 10,699 ft.

USGS Map(s): Minturn, Grouse Mtn

Permit Information: In order to continue to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands, the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each party recreating in the Holy Cross Wilderness is **required to self-register at the trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

Access From Vail: Travel west on I-70 to exit 171 for Minturn and Highway 24. Turn right and follow Hwy 24 south for approximately 1 mile to the trailhead, which is located on the right side of the Highway. The trailhead is located across from the Meadow Mountain Business Park.

Trail Highlights: From the trailhead follow the dirt road through pastureland for approximately 1/4 mile where the road turns left. The trail begins here and continues straight before reaching a fork where the West Grouse Creek Trail goes right. Stay on the left trail, which rises through aspen, pine, spruce, and fir. At 1.3 miles, cross Grouse Creek on two logs and begin a climb. All the steeper sections are short. Cross water six times as you climb through a series of meadows before a final climb brings you into the Holy Cross Wilderness and to Grouse Lake at the foot of Grouse Mountain.

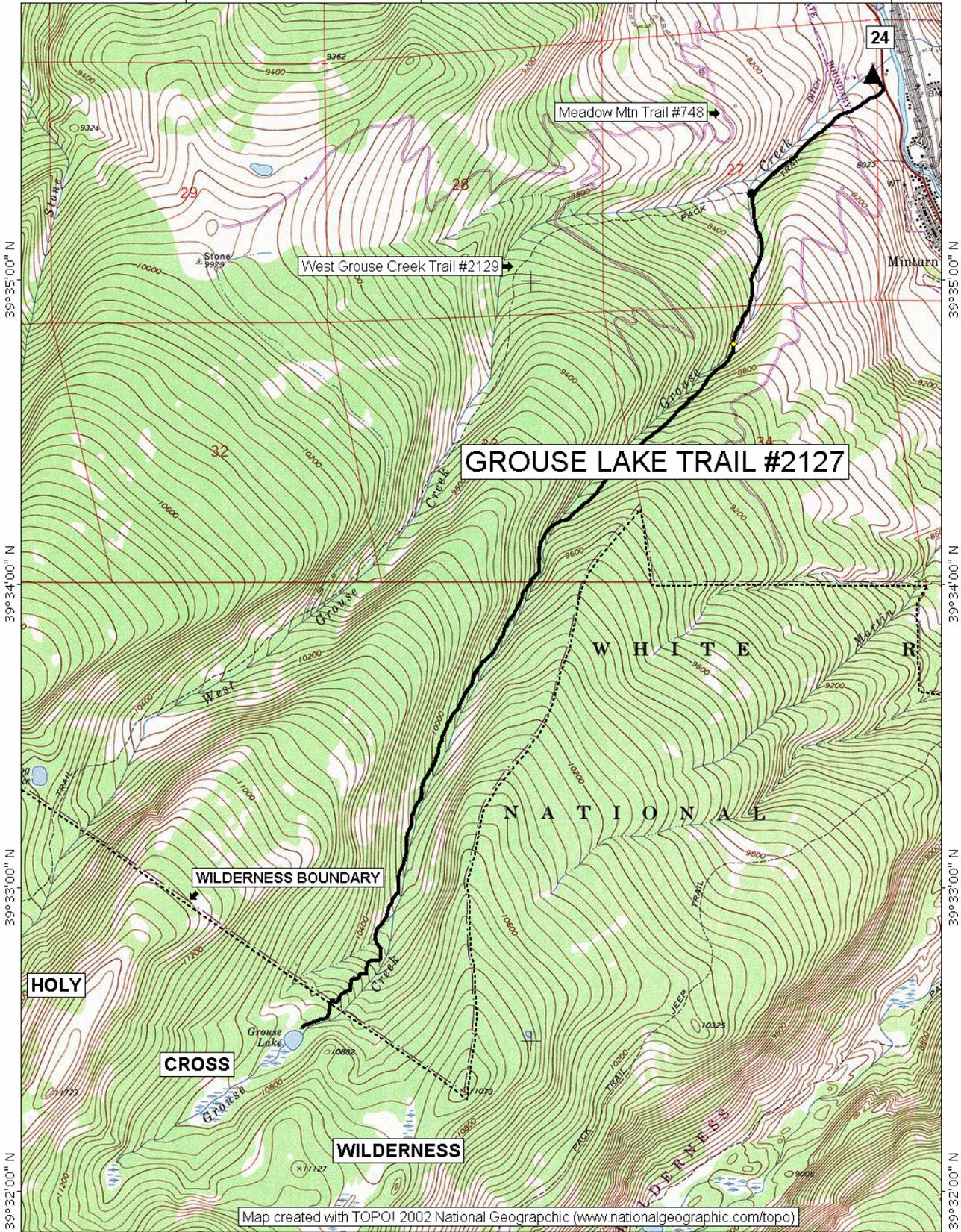
Comments: Overnight campers should make their camps either above or below Grouse Lake because there are few legal camping spots that are greater than 100 feet from the lake. Camping above the lake provides great views of Grouse Mountain to the west.

Important Information: Grouse Lake Trail enters the **Holy Cross 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 and fires are prohibited at and above timberline
- * Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people
- * Sanitation - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil

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.



TN 11° MN



Map created with TOPOI © 2002 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

