

Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District  
24747 US Hwy 24  
P.O. Box 190  
Minturn, CO 81645  
(970) 827- 5715  
www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver



United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

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## **NOTCH MOUNTAIN TRAIL - FDT 2000**

**Length:** 5.1 miles (one way)

**Difficulty:** More Difficult

**Beginning Elevation:** 10,341 ft.

**Elevation Gain:** +2,886 ft.-127 ft. = +2,759 ft.

**Trail Use:** High

**Open To:** Hiking, Horseback

**Ending Elevation:** 13,100 ft.

**USGS Map(s):** Minturn, Mt. of the Holy Cross

**Overnight Registration Information:** In order to continue to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect wilderness lands, the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each party **camping overnight** 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 registration forms issued.

**Access from Vail:** Travel west from Vail on I-70 to Exit 171 for Minturn and Hwy 24. Turn right onto Hwy 24. From the Ranger Station, proceed south about 4.6 miles, passing through Minturn, to Tigiwon Road #707. Turn right onto Tigiwon Road and continue to the end 8.4 miles of rough dirt road. Park at the parking area at the end of the road. Parking is very limited at this trailhead, especially on weekends. Please do not block the road.

**Trail Highlights:** The trail starts at the Fall Creek trailhead and continues up this trail for 2.5 miles passing through spruce and fir stands. The Fall Creek Trail will come to a junction with the Notch Mountain trail. Take the right fork. The trail then climbs quickly and steadily past timberline to the Notch Mountain Shelter.

The Notch Mountain Shelter was built in 1924 to accommodate the hundreds of people who hiked yearly pilgrimages to view Mt. of the Holy Cross. **Overnight camping in the historic shelter is prohibited.** Hikers may use it for shelter from sudden lightning storms as it has a lightning rod.

The trail provides access to the western ridge of Notch Mountain and offers a close-up view of the snowy cross on Mt. of the Holy Cross (the Cross usually loses most of its snow late July and is not as defined as other times of the year).

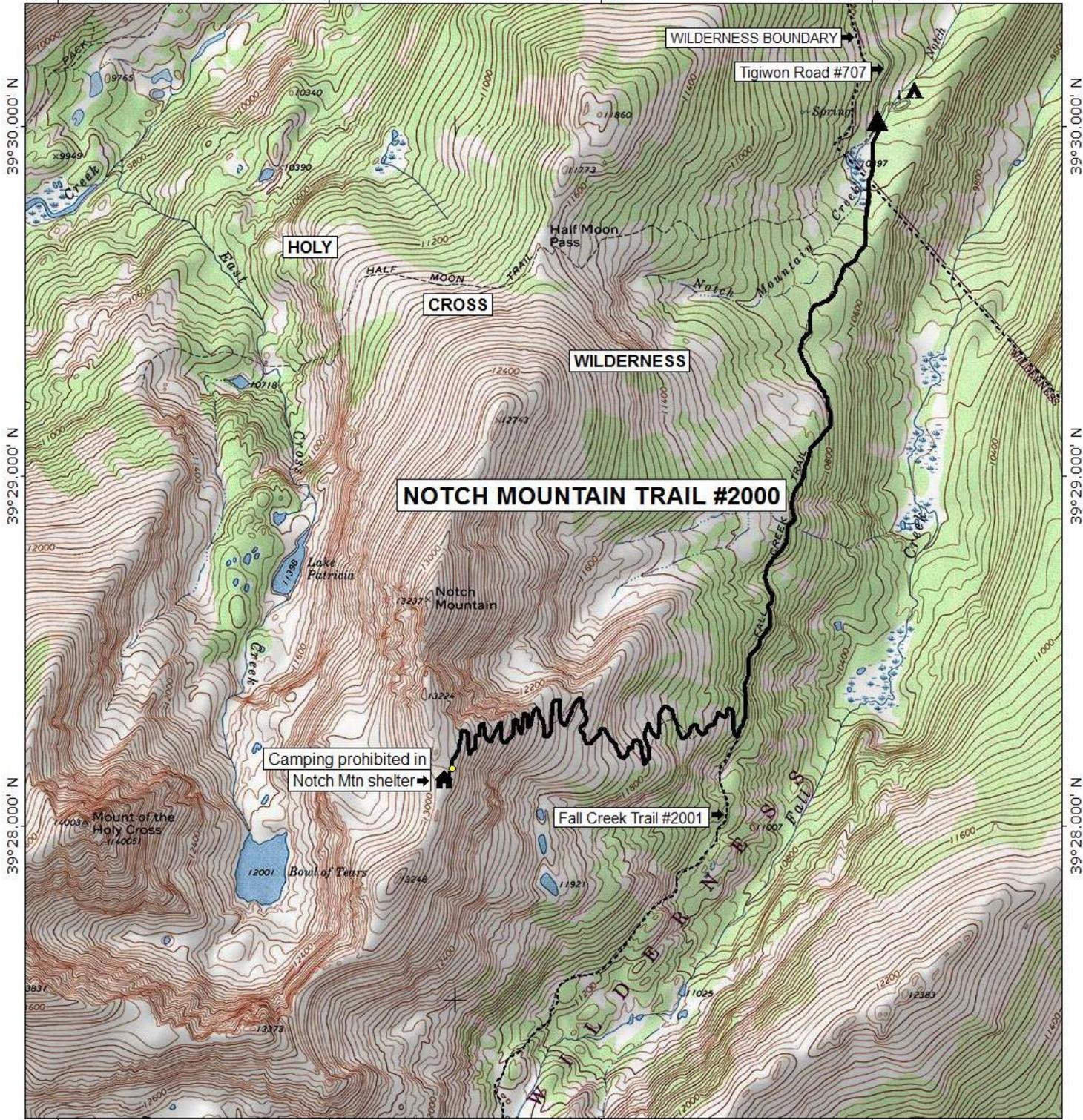
**Important Information:** Notch Mountain is within the **Holy Cross Wilderness**. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places, and leave no trace of your visit. A few of the Holy Cross Wilderness regulations include:

- \* Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails.
- \* Dogs - must be under control and must not harass wildlife, people, or damage property.
- \* Fire - campstoves are recommended and fires are prohibited within 100 feet of lakes, streams, trails, and above 11,000 feet in elevation.
- \* Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people.
- \* Sanitation - bury human waste at least 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.

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

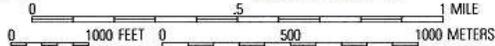
**This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.**

106°29.000' W      106°28.000' W      106°27.000' W      WGS84 106°26.000' W



TN MN  
10°

106°29.000' W      106°28.000' W      106°27.000' W      WGS84 106°26.000' W



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