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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

PITKIN CREEK TRAIL #2012

Length: 4.5 miles (one way)
Difficulty: Moderate to More difficult
Beginning Elevation: 8500 ft.
Elevation Gain: +2900 ft.– 0 ft. = +2900 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate
Open To: Hiking
Ending Elevation: 11,400 ft.
USGS Map(s): East Vail

Access from Vail: Travel east from Vail on I-70 to Exit 180 for East Vail. Exit here, turn left, and pass under the interstate. Turn right onto the north frontage road and continue to the trailhead on the left side of the road before the Pitkin Creek Townhomes.

Trail Highlights: The first mile of the trail is strenuous as it climbs steeply out of the Vail Valley. Fallen trees along the trail are evidence of past avalanches. The grade levels out somewhat as the trail passes through mature aspen groves and spruce-fir forests and a series of moraines from an ancient glacial retreat. After about 2.5 miles, steep switchbacks reveal the first of two waterfalls on Pitkin Creek about 200 yards to the east. After a number of false summits, the trail reaches Pitkin Lake, nestled beneath an arc of gray granite in the alpine tundra.

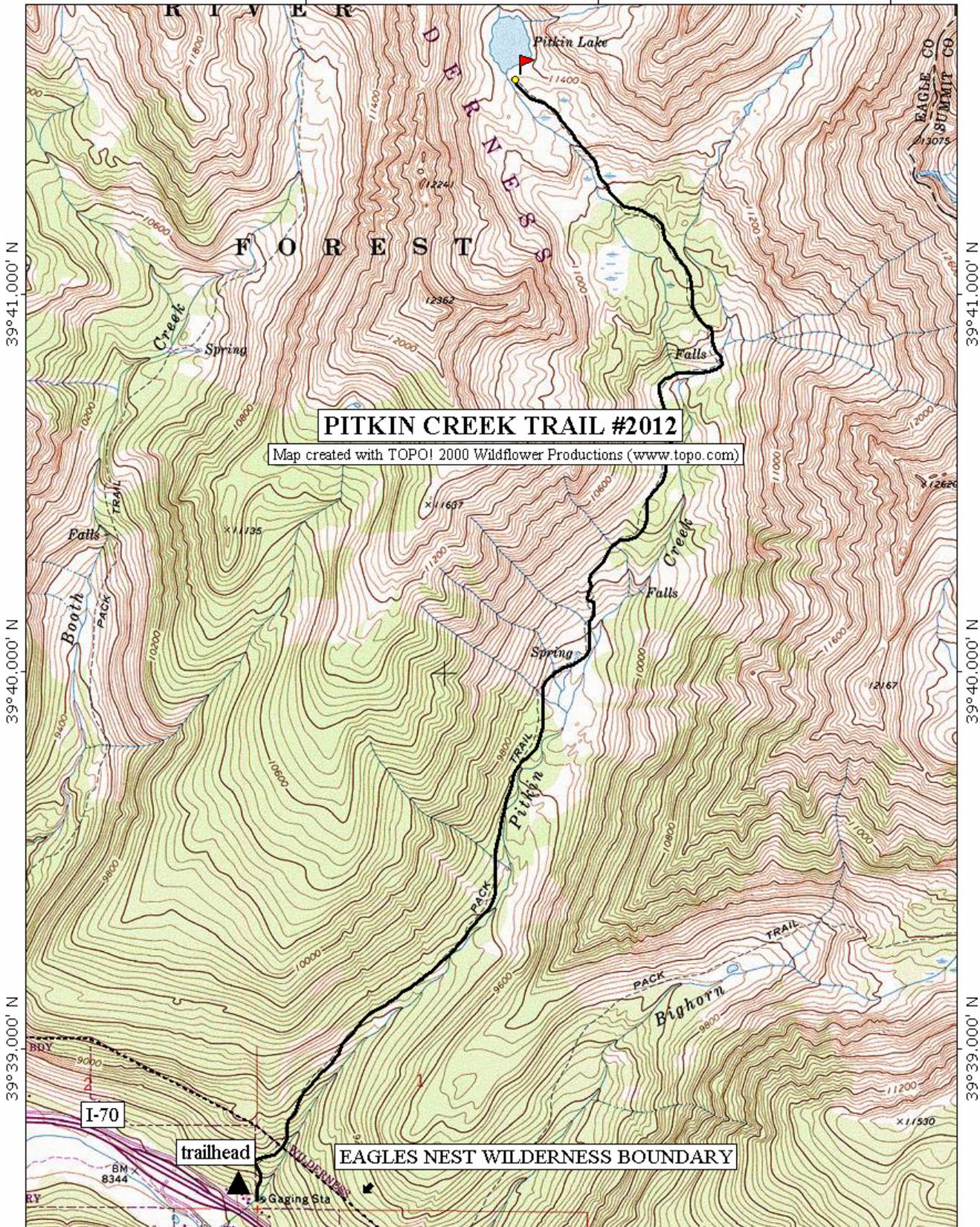
Important Information: Pitkin Creek is within the **Eagles Nest Wilderness**. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places. Leave them as you wish to find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

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance. Any careless act by man can upset this natural balance and result in the destruction of the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following the above ethics and regulations you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits.

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.



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Map created with TOPO! 2000 Wildflower Productions (www.topo.com)

EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

TN \uparrow MN
11°



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