

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
(970) 827-9343 - Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

BOWMAN'S SHORTCUT TRAIL #1851

Length: 4.2 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Most Difficult

Beginning Elevation: 10,854 ft.

Elevation Gain: +1230 ft. - 1097 ft. = +133 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 10,987 ft.

USGS Map(s): Red Cliff

Access from Vail: Drive west on I-70 to exit 190 for Vail Pass. Turn west onto a good dirt road, Shrine Pass Road #709. At mile 2.3, you will pass the road for the Shrine Mountain Inn on the left and at mile 3.7, you will pass the Holy Cross Scenic Viewing Deck (known as Julia's Deck) with a wheelchair access ramp. At mile 3.9, turn right onto Lime Creek Road #728. You will pass Timber Creek Road #712 on the right at mile 4.4 and reach the trailhead on the right at mile 4.7.

Trail Highlights: The trail starts level then climbs gently up to views of the Gore Range and Ten Mile Range. Emerge from woods to a large open meadow where the faint trail is followed north-northwest making sure to keep the Gore Range in view to your right. A wooden marker at the end of the meadow shows where the trail leaves the meadow. Pass a trail sign and proceed downhill right into the trees, climb a short bit, then descend quickly to Two Elk Pass. A sign here points out Two Elk Trail west 9 miles to Minturn or east 1.7 miles to the Old Vail Pass/Vail Pass Recreation Trail. Take time to enjoy the views here before returning.

Alternative Routes: This trail can also be used in conjunction with the Two Elk Trail. For those wishing to bike the Two Elk Trail from east to west, using the Bowman's Shortcut Trail instead of the Two Elk Trail's east trailhead eliminates the very steep eastern end of Two Elk Trail which rises 1800 feet in two miles from the Vail Pass Recreation Trail.

Important Information: The Back Bowls of the Vail Ski Area are closed from May 6th to July 1st during elk calving season. This closure does not affect the Bowman's Shortcut trail or the Two Elk Trail east of Two Elk Pass, but Two Elk Trail west of Two Elk Pass and a trail known as the Commando run north of Two Elk Pass are both within the closure area. These closed areas may or may not be signed. **Please observe these closures out of respect for wildlife and their calving, feeding, and migration needs.**

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Mountain biking provides the opportunity to "get away from it all." Careless operation of your bike can cause damage and may result in closing of areas to mountain bike enthusiasts. Respect the environment and other trail users. By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow:

- * **Always stay on designated roads and trails;** off-trail riding is not permitted on the White River National Forest.
- * Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which areas are open for use.
- * Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- * When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels, which can start a rut, leading to erosion.
- * Cross streams at fording points only.
- * Wilderness areas are managed to maintain their primitive character and to provide opportunities for solitude. These designated areas are solely for non-mechanized travel—access is restricted to foot and horseback only. Sorry, no OHVs or bicycles.
- * For tips on techniques and responsible recreation, visit www.treadlightly.org.

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! TREAD LIGHTLY!!

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.

