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United States Department of Agriculture



Glenwood Canyon Recreation Path

Difficulty: Easy
Trail Use: High
Length: 16.3 miles
Elevation: from 5720 ft. to 6150 ft. over the course of the path
Open To: Biking, hiking, in-line skating, disabled visitors

Access:

- Travel I-70 west from Eagle for 30 3/4 miles to Glenwood Springs and the Hwy 82 exit.
- The trailhead is east of the vapor caves just past the Art Center.
- Access in Glenwood Springs is available at Two Rivers Park. Take a left at the first set of lights off the interstate heading west on Sixth St, take another left on Devereaux Rd., pass over the interstate, and take a left into the park.
- Other access points within Glenwood Canyon are the No Name, Grizzly Creek, Bair Ranch and Hanging Lake rest areas and the Shoshone Power Plant interchange.
- To access the trailhead at Dotsero, travel west of Eagle on I-70 for 13 miles, take the Dotsero exit, make a right off the ramp and head west. Go straight thru the intersection with Colorado River Rd. and continue to head west for about 2 miles until you reach the trailhead.

Trail Highlights:

- The Glenwood Canyon Recreation Path runs between the Colorado River and I-70. Starting in Glenwood Springs and ending in Dotsero it offers a scenic break to travelers who want to stretch their legs. The path is relatively flat making it a great route for all ages and abilities.
- Horseshoe Bend— After about 1 1/2 miles the trail will cross over I-70 via a footbridge, and descends into Horseshoe Bend. This rest area with a picnic shelter and portable toilet is inaccessible to motorists. From here the trail runs along private property as it reaches No Name.
- No Name rest area— This rest area, 2.4 miles from Glenwood Springs, offers access to No Name— FDT 1847. One mile further the trail enters the White River National Forest and then heads into the Grizzly Creek area.
- Grizzly Creek rest area— After 5 miles along the trail you can access the Grizzly Creek-FDT 2065 by exiting at Grizzly Creek. This area is a popular take-out for kayakers and rafters so heavy traffic is possible. Slow down and take your time if biking or in-line skating thru this area.
- Shoshone Power Plant interchange— At the 6 1/2 mile mark you will reach the power plant, here is a rapid section of the river that will give you the chance to watch the excitement of the rafters and kayakers as they hit the white water! This area is accessible to motorists from the west only, and there is limited parking. This is a popular spot for rafting companies and kayakers to put their boats in on the river, so traffic is heavy, please be cautious. The next 2 miles from here the river is often very low due to the Shoshone Dam, where water is diverted to the power plant leaving the river with little free-flowing water.
- Hanging Lake rest area— At about 9 1/2 miles from Glenwood Springs is the Hanging Lake area, accessible from the west only this is a high use area, heavy with pedestrians on their way to the Hanging Lake trailhead which is 3/8 miles to the east. Here you will encounter a very quiet,

peaceful stretch of the bike path as the cars travel through the Hanging Lake Tunnels. After about a mile the traffic comes out next to the path again, then the path goes under the highway and travels to the north of I-70 for 1100 feet and then returns to the south of the highway again via another tunnel. The path does this again about 1/2 mile later.

- Bair Ranch rest area- accessible to motorized vehicles, this is a short riverside hiking loop trail and an informal boat launch about 13 1/2 miles from Glenwood Springs. This is a good resting spot, offering shade under the cottonwoods and a cool breeze from the slow moving river. At this point the path leaves the White River National Forest. About 1 mile from Bair Ranch the path runs under I-70, to the north of I-70, and then heads back to the south side, just as it did twice before Bair Ranch. Along this flat stretch the canyon widens and eventually opens up. It can be hot here as it is exposed and runs right next to the highway.
- East End Trailhead– About 16 1/4 miles from Glenwood Springs, at Dotsero, you have reached the end of the trail, or beginning if you prefer.

Important Information:

- ALL DISTANCES ARE ONE WAY.
- KEEP IN MIND, SOME PARTS OF THE PATH, ESPECIALLY AROUND THE REST AREAS ARE WINDY AND HAVE SHARP CURVES.
- PEDESTRIANS, IN-LINE SKATERS, BIKERS, WHEELCHAIR USERS AND PEOPLE OF ALL AGES SHARE THE PATH, BE COURTEOUS AND CAUTIOUS AT ALL TIMES.

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