

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

NORTH TRAIL #1896 - BUFFEHR CREEK TO RED SANDSTONE

Length: 3.2 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,127 ft.

Elevation Gain: +977 ft. - 850 ft. = + 127 ft.

Trail Use: High

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 8,254 ft.

USGS Map(s): Vail West

Access from Vail: Travel west on I-70 to Exit 173 for West Vail. Turn right and proceed east on the North Frontage Road for 0.5 miles to Buffehr Creek Road. Turn left and continue to the bridge. There is limited parking at 2 pull-offs just beyond the bridge.

Trail Highlights: From the Buffehr Creek Bridge, proceed 1/4 mile on the Garmisch Trail before turning right onto the North Trail. Ascend a series of switchbacks, at the first junction turn right and follow the North Trail to the Buffehr Creek Singletrack. After passing a beaver pond on the right and through a pile of avalanche debris, cross Buffehr Creek. From Buffehr Creek, climb steeply for approximately one mile on an open hillside. At the top of the switchbacks, take the right fork onto the North Trail. From here the trail enters an aspen stand, openings along the way provide scenic views to the south and east. Take note of the old lean-to after leaving the back of the drainage. Begin the descent to Red Sandstone via a series of switchbacks where the stand of aspen begins to thin. The first couple switchbacks offer outstanding views of the Gore Range and the Red Sandstone drainage.

Important Information: The North Trail is closed from April 15 to June 15 for elk calving season and for soil protection and erosion controls from seasonal runoff.

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:

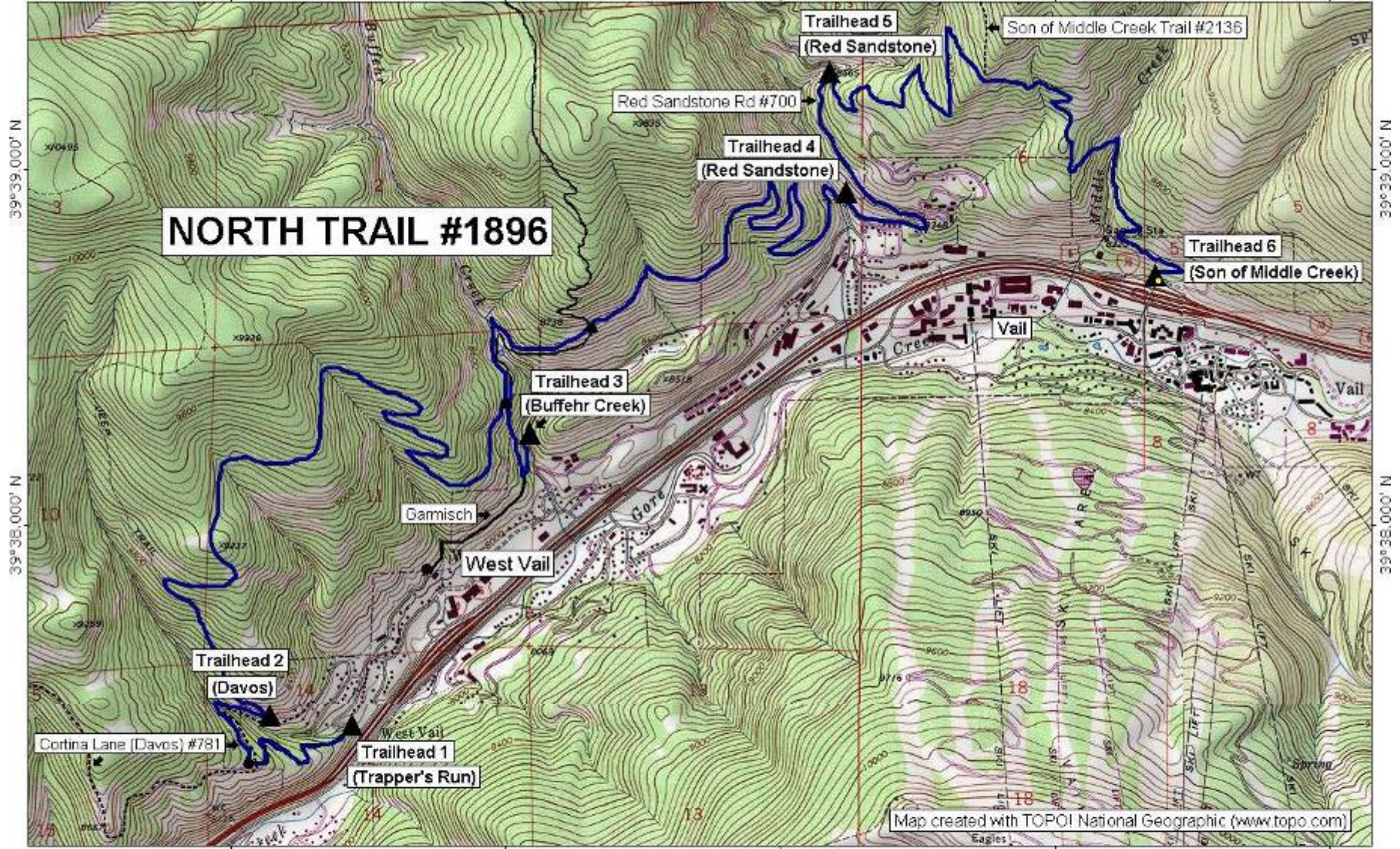
- * **Always stay on designated roads and trails;** off-trail riding is not permitted on the White River National Forest.
- * Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which areas are open for use.
- * Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- * When descending, 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 trip.

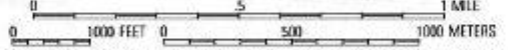
TOPO! map printed on 04/13/05 from "north_vail_trail.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"

106°26.000' W 106°25.000' W 106°24.000' W 106°23.000' W WGS84 106°22.000' W



106°26.000' W 106°25.000' W 106°24.000' W 106°23.000' W WGS84 106°22.000' W

TN 10°



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

