

Holy Cross Ranger District  
24747 US Hwy 24  
P.O. Box 190  
Minturn, CO 81645  
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United States Department of Agriculture



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## HOMESTAKE ROAD

**Length:** 10.82 miles (one way)

**Difficulty:** Easiest

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,938 feet

**Elevation Gain:** +1,487 feet - 147 feet = +1,340 feet

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Open To:** XC, Snowshoe, Snowmobile

**Ending Elevation:** 10,278 feet

**USGS Map(s):** Mount of the Holy Cross

**Trail Highlights:** Although snowmobiles use the historic Homestake Road, this route offers excellent snow tours because of its easy grade and freedom from avalanche danger, except at the very end near the dam. Homestake is a wide, glacial-formed valley with a gentle slope that is great elk winter range. The road follows the Homestake Creek for 10.82 miles and offers plenty of shorter destinations along the route that will satisfy snowshoers and skiers.

**Access from Vail:** Travel west on I-70 to Exit 171 for Minturn, Leadville, and Hwy 24. Exit here and turn right (south) onto Hwy 24. Proceed south about 13 miles to the Homestake Road (#703) pullout on the right.

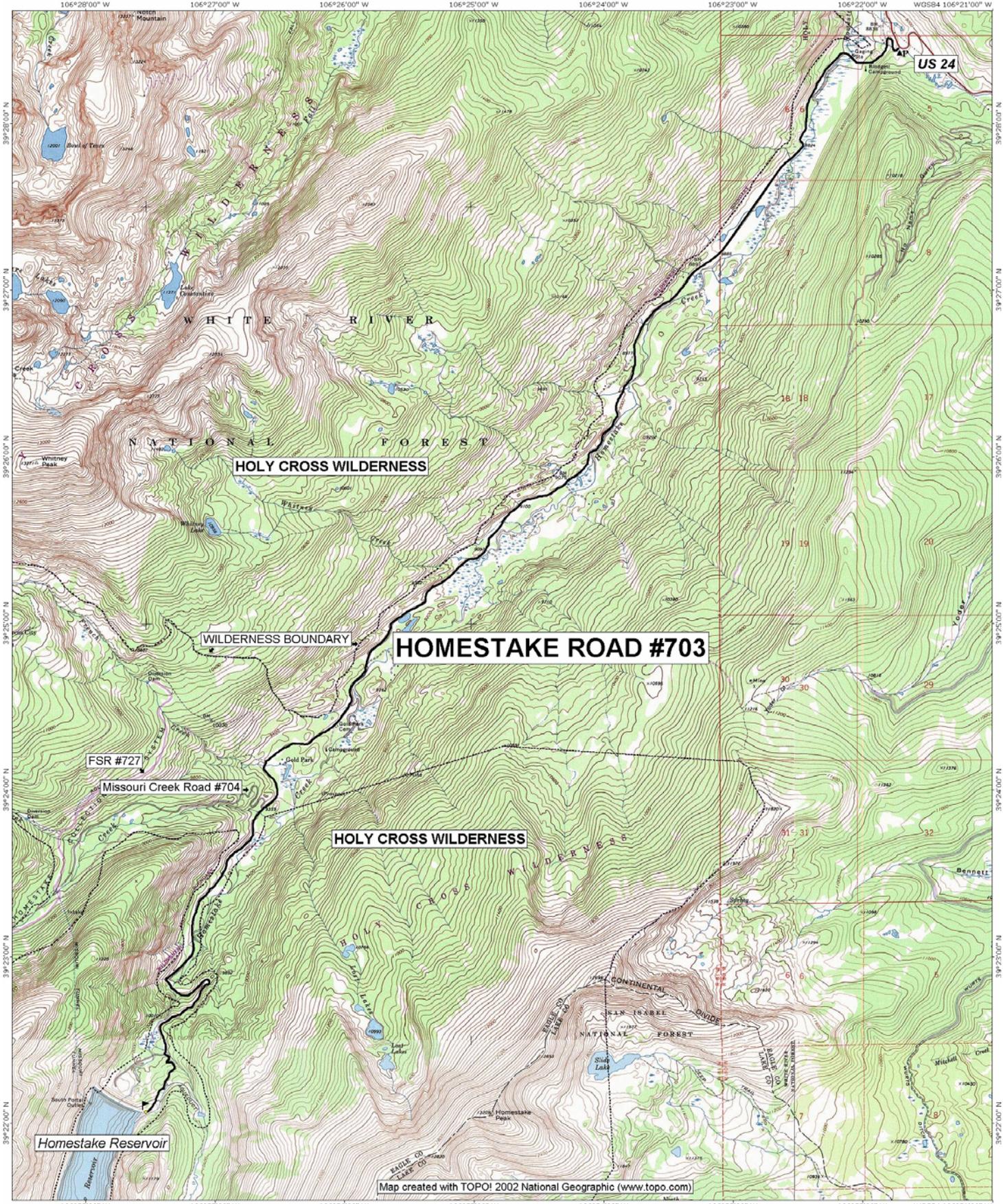
**History of the Homestake Valley:** The Homestake Road once served as an 1880s stagecoach route to the gold towns of Gold Park and Holy Cross City and a link to neighboring Missouri Camp and Camp Fancy. The stagecoach brought travelers from the Denver and Rio Grande Railway station at bustling Red Cliff to these remote towns. Prospectors organized the Holy Cross Mining District in 1880. It expanded to an impressive 100 square miles during the 1880s boom years.

**Ethics/Regulations:** Before you go out, check into available routes, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply, and the following rules:

- **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. We're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- **Avoid disturbing wildlife** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- **Wilderness Areas and Primitive areas are closed to motorized vehicles.** Inquire at a local Forest Service office if in doubt. Obey all signs.
- **Beware of avalanches!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.
- **Remember** to notify a responsible person of your travel plans.

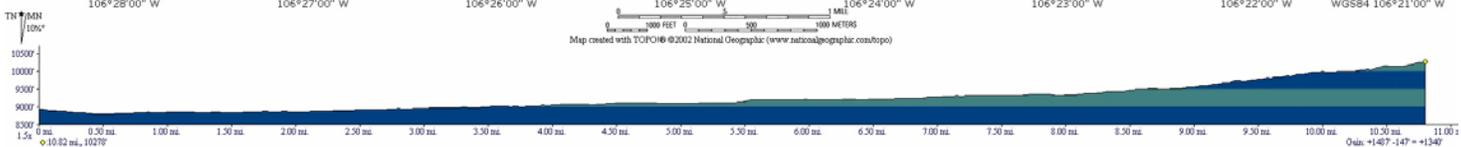
**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

**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.**



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

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0.5 mi 1.0 mi 1.5 mi 2.0 mi 2.5 mi 3.0 mi 3.5 mi 4.0 mi 4.5 mi 5.0 mi 5.5 mi 6.0 mi 6.5 mi 7.0 mi 7.5 mi 8.0 mi 8.5 mi 9.0 mi 9.5 mi 10.0 mi 10.5 mi 11.0 mi

1.5 ft 10000 9000 8000 7000 6000 5000 4000 3000 2000 1000 0

106°28'00" W 106°27'00" W 106°26'00" W 106°25'00" W 106°24'00" W 106°23'00" W 106°22'00" W WGS84 106°21'00" W

39°28'00" N 39°27'00" N 39°26'00" N 39°25'00" N 39°24'00" N 39°23'00" N 39°22'00" N