

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



COOPER LOOP

Length: 5.63 miles (one way)
Difficulty: More Difficult
Beginning Elevation: 10,554 feet
Elevation Gain: +1,079 feet - 1079 feet = +0 feet

Trail Use: Moderate
Open To: XC, Snowshoe, Snowmobile
Ending Elevation: 10,554 feet
USGS Map(s): Leadville North

Attractions/Considerations: The trail offers excellent views of the Eagle river drainage to the north and the Arkansas River drainage to the south. From the top of the trail, three prominent fourteen thousand foot peaks can be seen, Mt. of the Holy Cross, Mt. Massive, and Mt. Elbert - the second highest peak in the forty-eight contiguous states.

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 23 miles to the Cooper Hill Ski Area on the left at Tennessee Pass.

Trail Highlights: Beginning at Cooper Hill Ski Area, the first mile follows a road along a ditch to a ski lift and outhouse. From mile 1 to mile 2 the trail follows a creek and then travels uphill along the ski runs to the Continental Divide. At mile 2.5 the trail goes downhill along another small creek to a public use tent. The trail then proceeds along a 4-wheel drive road that is narrow and steep in some places. At mile 3.3 watch for a junction and take the right fork. The trail continues for 2.3 more miles along the 4-wheel drive road back to the ski area. This trail requires uphill climbing and skiing down narrow roads. For this reason it is rated more difficult.

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.

HOLY CROSS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

106°19'00" W

106°18'00" W

WGS84 106°17'00" W

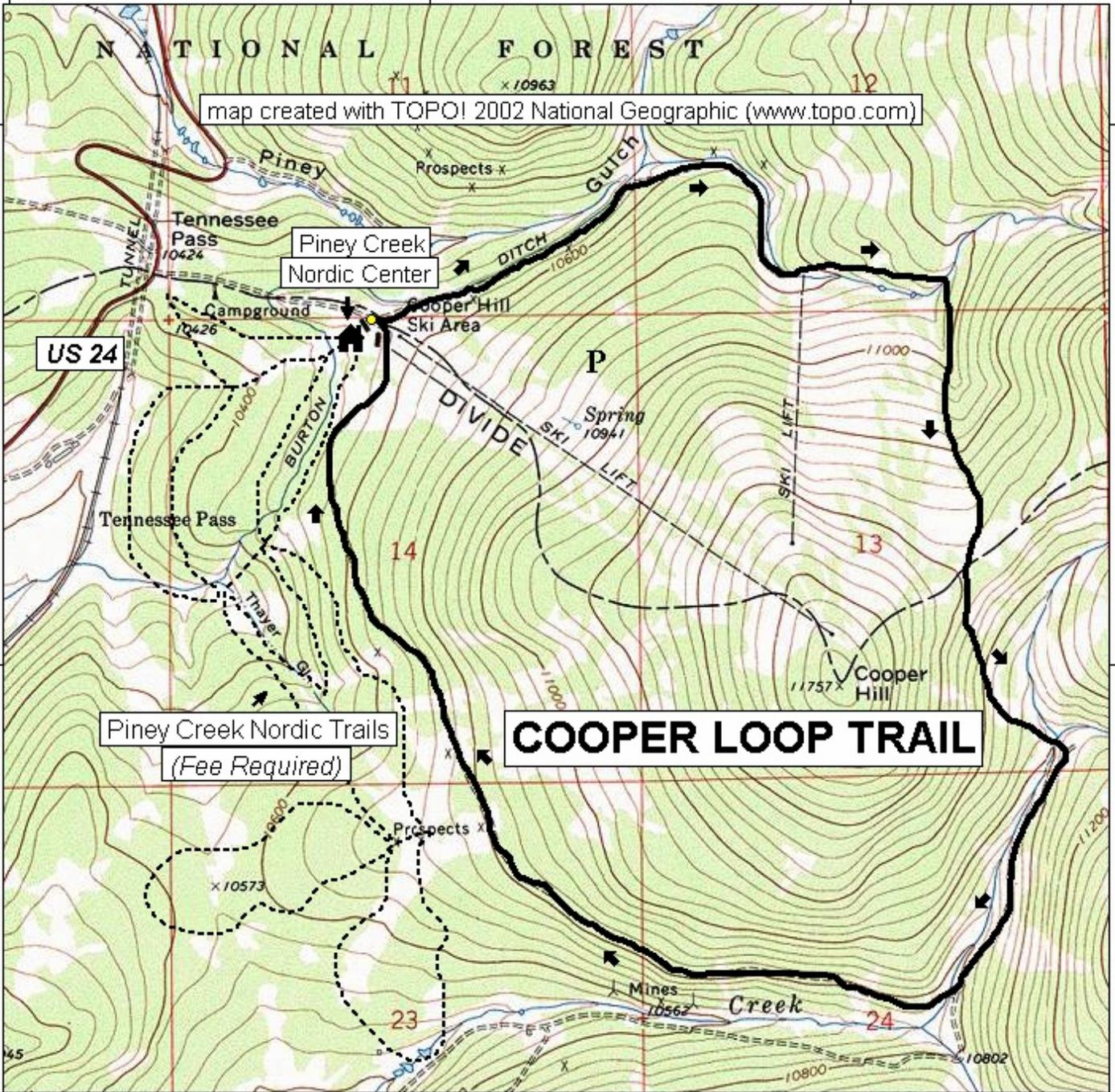
39°22'00" N

39°22'00" N

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

39°21'00" N

39°21'00" N



COOPER LOOP TRAIL

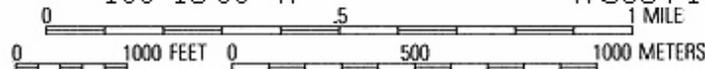
Piney Creek Nordic Trails
(Fee Required)

106°19'00" W

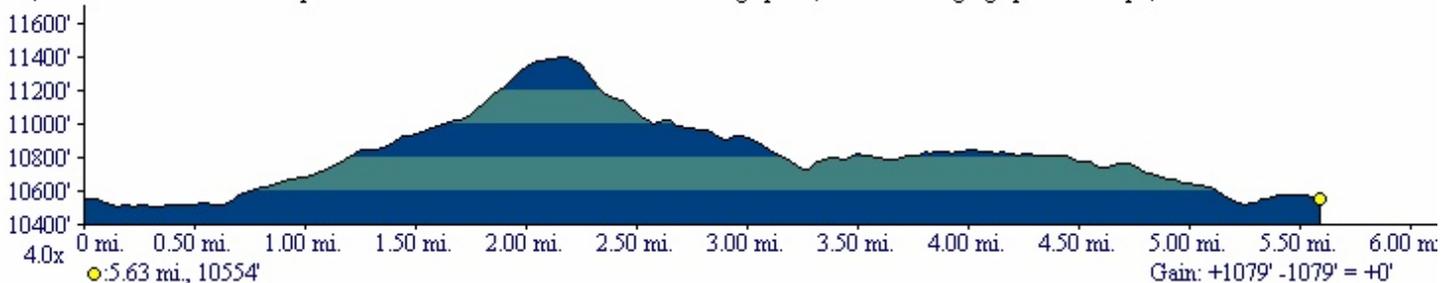
106°18'00" W

WGS84 106°17'00" W

TN/MN
10 1/2°



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● 5.63 mi., 10554'

Gain: +1079' - 1079' = +0'