

Holy Cross Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



GROUSE LAKE TRAIL #2127

Length: 4.56 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate to More Difficult

Beginning Elevation: 7,835 feet

Elevation Gain: +2,863 feet - 0 feet = +2,863 feet

Trail Use: Moderate

Open To: XC, Snowshoe, Snowmobile (until last .2 miles)

Ending Elevation: 10,698 feet

USGS Map(s): Pando

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 1 mile and the trailhead parking lot on the right is immediately after the Meadow Mountain Business Park which is across the street.

Trail Highlights: The trail follows a dirt road for the first .25 miles. At this point the road curves left, but the trail continues straight to a junction at .7 miles. At this junction, the longer West Grouse Creek Trail goes right, and the Grouse Lake Trail goes left. Follow this trail along Grouse Creek passing through aspen, pine, spruce, and fir forest and a series of meadows as you get closer to the Lake. The trail crosses water 6 times and has several steeper sections that are all fairly short. The final climb brings you into the Holy Cross Wilderness and to Grouse Lake. A marsh stretches beyond the lake toward the foot of Grouse Mountain and rock fields dominate the west side of the lake.

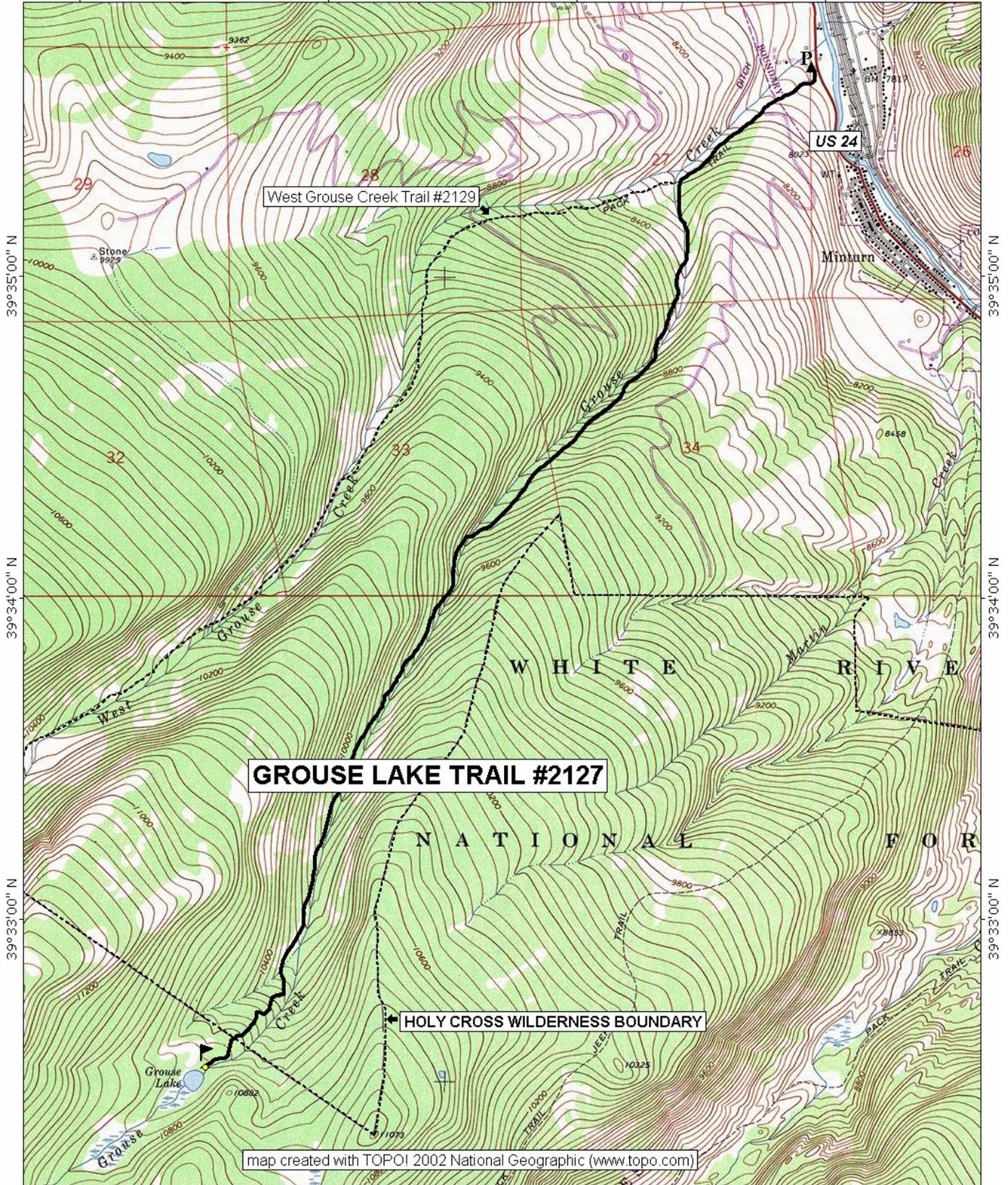
Campers: Overnight campers should make their camps either above or below Grouse Lake because there are few legal camping spots 100 feet from the lake. Camping above the lake provides views of Grouse Mountain to the west.

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.



GROUSE LAKE TRAIL #2127

West Grouse Creek Trail #2129

HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

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

106°29'00" W 106°28'00" W 106°27'00" W WGS84 106°26'00" W

TN MN
 10 1/2°



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