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United States Department of Agriculture



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## OLD VAIL PASS

**Length:** 4.16 miles (one way)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,615 feet

**Elevation Gain:** +1,079 feet - 64 feet = +1,015 feet

**Trail Use:** Light to Moderate

**Open To:** XC, Snowshoe

**Ending Elevation:** 9,630 feet

**USGS Map(s):** Vail East

**Access from Vail:** Exit I-70 at East Vail exit 180 and drive 1.9 miles east to the end of the plowed south frontage road just past Main Gore Drive.

**Attractions/Considerations:** This was the route that old Highway 6 took over Vail Pass before I-70 was built. But even before that, this route was used by nomad Ute Indians. Today, be aware that the snow may be thin during the early winter and spring months due to the pavement below the snow.

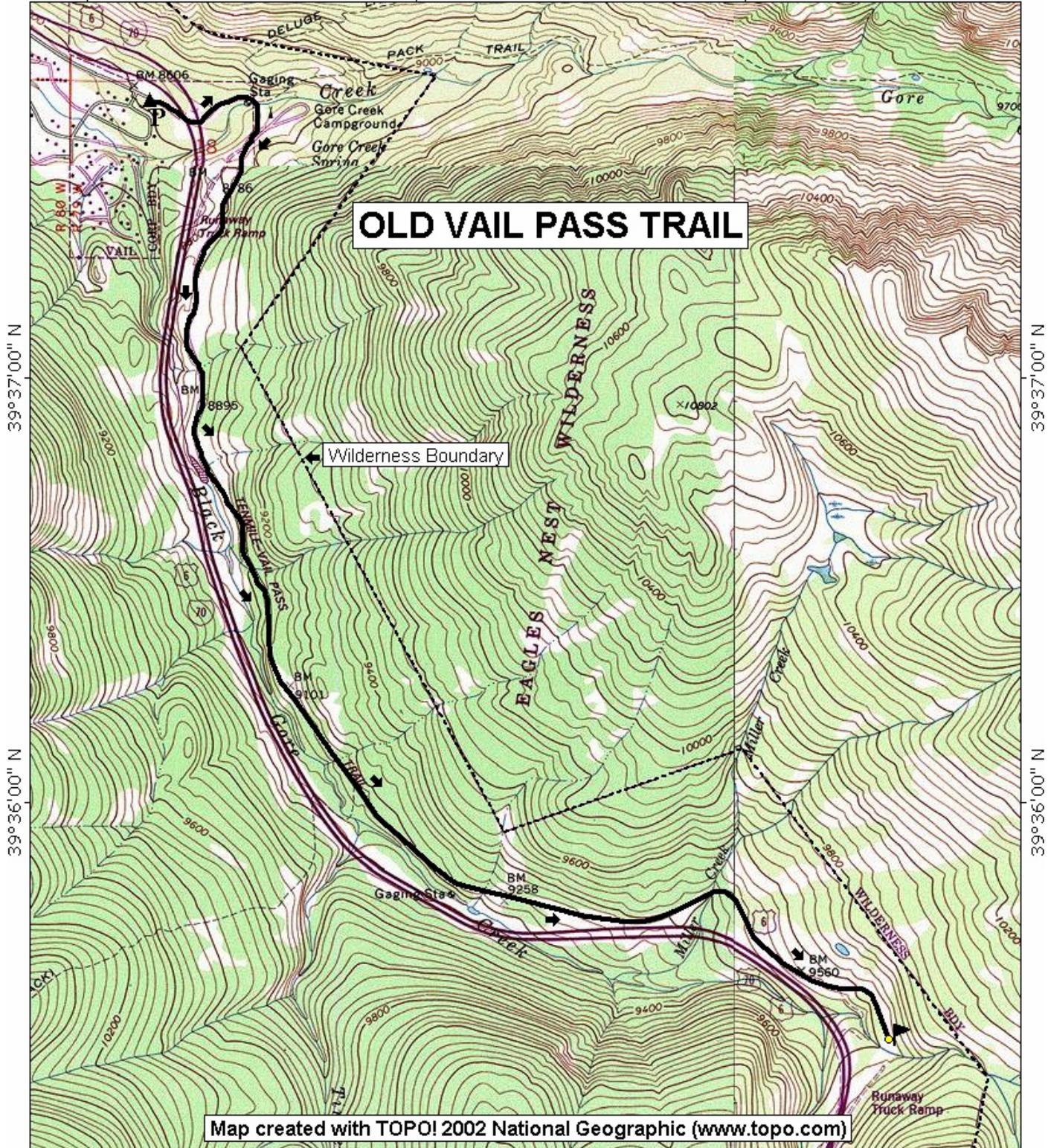
**Trail Highlights:** Ski or snowshoe 0.4 miles toward the bike path gate. (Snow may be thin under the highway bridge.) Pass the Gore Creek trailhead and campground but don't tour that drainage due to avalanche danger. The old Vail Pass route is a good mid-winter trail that is gradual and scenic.

**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.**



# OLD VAIL PASS TRAIL

Wilderness Boundary

Map created with TOPO! 2002 National Geographic ([www.topo.com](http://www.topo.com))

TN MN  
10 1/2°



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