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United States Department of Agriculture



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## WEST GROUSE CREEK #2129

**Length:** 8.89 miles (one way)

**Difficulty:** More Difficult

**Beginning Elevation:** 7,835 feet

**Elevation Gain:** +4306 ft - 1057 ft = +3249 ft

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Open To:** XC, Snowshoe, Snowmobile (first 4.5 miles)

**Ending Elevation:** 11,084 feet

**USGS Map(s):** Minturn, Grouse Mountain

**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 Grouse Lake Trail goes left, but stay right for the West Grouse Creek trail. This trail climbs along West Grouse Creek through pastureland before entering dense stands of pine, fir and spruce. The trail climbs steeply past Waterdog and Olsen Lakes crossing the north ridge of Grouse Mountain then drops down to Turquoise Lakes and the headwaters of Beaver Creek.

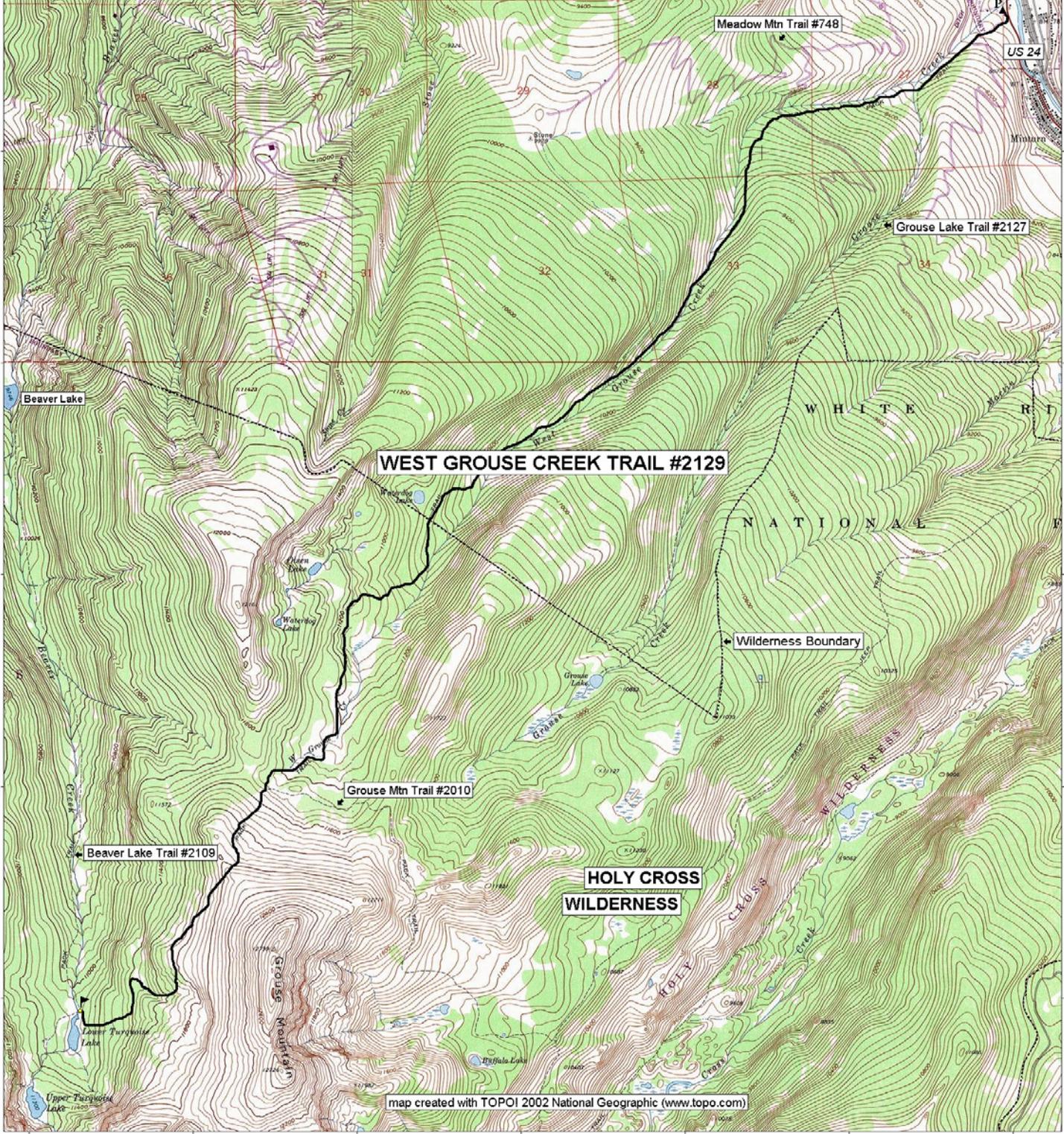
**Attractions/Considerations:** This trail offers travel through forest and along the West Grouse Creek with possible side trips to Waterdog Lake, Olsen Lake, or Grouse Mountain. It also offers a nice loop tour by combining the Meadow Mountain and West Grouse Creek trails: See the Meadow/Grouse Loop information sheet for details.

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

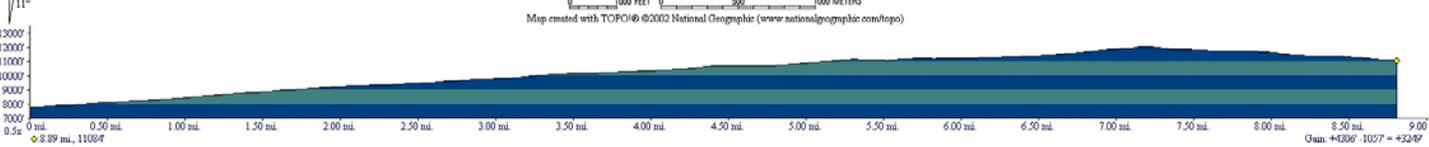
- **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. We're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- **Avoid disturbing wildlife** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- **Wilderness Areas and Primitive 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.**



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