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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

Maroon/Snowmass Trail #1975– BUCKSKIN PASS

Length: 4.8 miles one-way (7.72 km one-way)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Very Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

Ending Elevation: 12,462 feet (3798 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells

PERMIT INFORMATION: In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. **Each party overnighiting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: A very popular but steep day hike often used as a starting point for extended backpacking trips into the wilderness. Great views of Maroon Bells, Pyramid Peak, and Snowmass Lake are offered. **Overnight camping is available in Minnehaha Gulch. Camping is prohibited in the alpine meadow and not available until the other side of Buckskin Pass.**

ACCESS: From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dogs are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory fee*. The Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 roundabout just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately 1 mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle!* If arriving during non-bus hours, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot at Maroon Lake.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts at Maroon Lake and follows lakeside until it reaches the Forest Service bulletin board at the far end of the lake. Stay on the Maroon-Snowmass Trail which ascends on rocky paths through the aspens to the top of a rocky rise before it descends to Crater Lake. At the Crater Lake bulletin board, the trail forks to the right and climbs steeply through aspen and spruce forest for 1 mile to Minnehaha Gulch. A stream divides the nearly one mile long gulch in half with campsites available before and after the stream crossing. The trail continues its steep ascent exiting the gulch into an alpine meadow with Buckskin Pass looming ahead. A trail sign for the Maroon-Snowmass /Willow Lake junction appears in another 1/2 mile. Take the left fork which continues to follow the Maroon-Snowmass Trail through the meadow to a series of switchbacks that climb steeply to Buckskin Pass. If hiking beyond the pass, the next available campsites are 2 miles ahead.

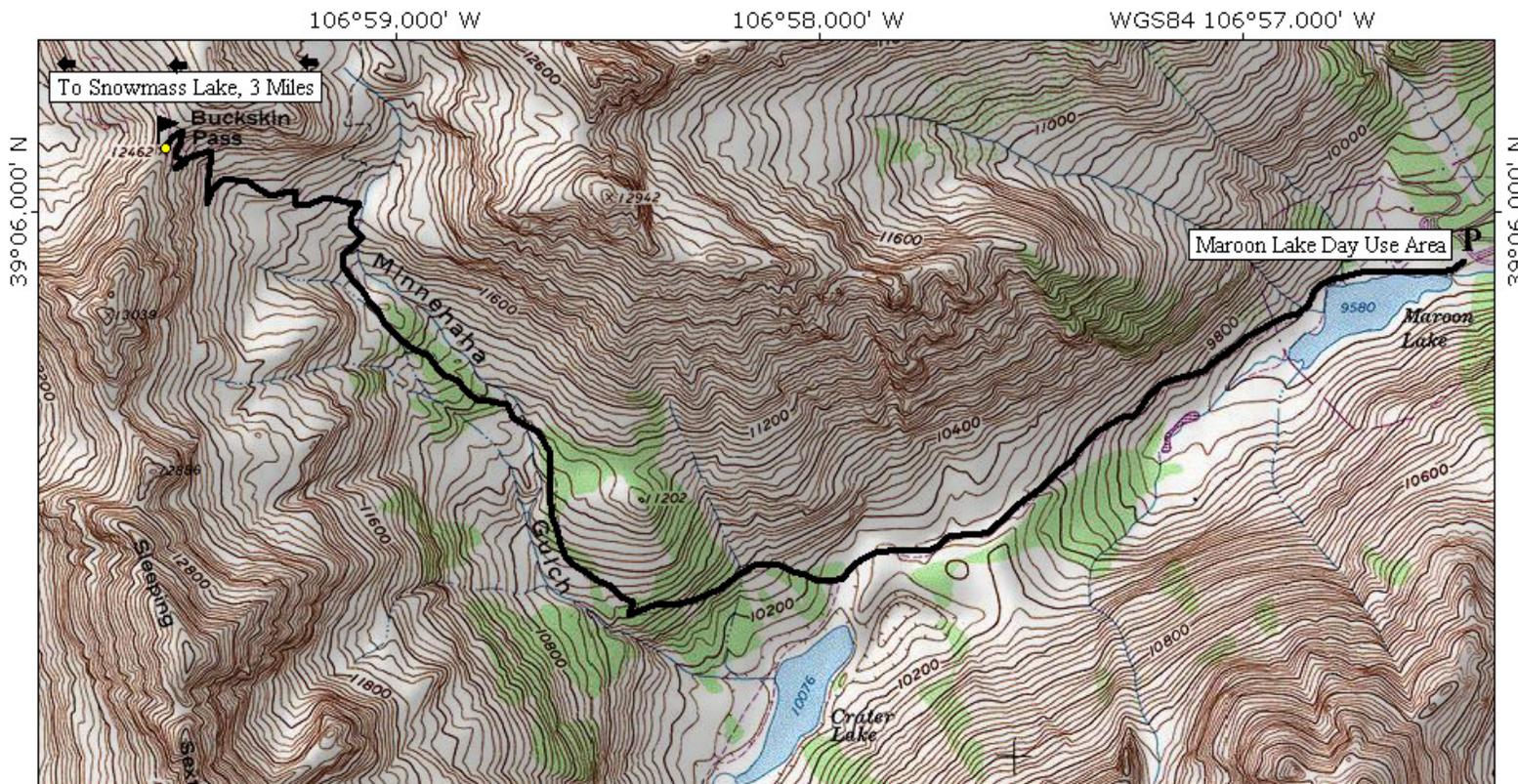
ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The Buckskin Pass Trail is located within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. Please educate yourself about hiking ethincs and the following rules:

- DOGS MUST BE LEASHED out of consideration for both people & wildlife
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals
- SANITATION—bury human waste 100 ft from water & trail and at least 6 inches deep
- Gas campstove are required above the timberline

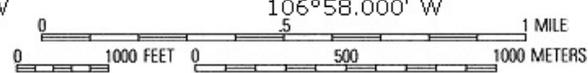
PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST BUCKSKIN PASS TRAIL #1975



TN \uparrow MN
10 1/2°



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