

Aspen Ranger District  
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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

**HUNTER CREEK TRAIL #2184**  
**HUNTER VALLEY TRAIL #1992**

**Length:** To 10th Mtn. Bridge— 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km)  
To Van Horn Park - 4 miles (6.4 km)  
To Midway Pass Trail - 8 1/2 miles (13.7 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Trail Use:** Very heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 7,900 feet (2408 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 10,600 feet (3231 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Aspen, Thimble Rock

**DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW:** This is a moderate hike with good views of the Elk Mountain Range and the town of Aspen. The first 3 miles of the trail are **HEAVILY used by mountain bikers**, hikers, joggers and their dogs. These trails provide access for backpacking.

**ACCESS:** A) **Lower Access:** Take the Hunter Creek Bus which stops across from the trailhead parking; or drive north on Mill Street and bear left onto Red Mountain Road. Take the next right onto Lone Pine Road after crossing the bridge. Trailhead parking is on the left. The Pitkin County Public Trail begins just behind the housing development. Signs are posted. B) **Upper Access:** Drive north on Mill Street, bear left onto Red Mountain Road and follow for 1.1 miles to Hunter Creek Road. Turn Right onto Hunter Creek Road and follow for 0.3 miles to a blue sign for Hunter Creek parking, just before the stone pillars. Turn left following the signs to the parking lot.

**NARRATIVE:** This narrative is from the lower access (the upper access merges with the lower portion at the Benedict Bridge). The trail goes down steps to a walkway that follows Hunter Creek, gradually ascending to the Benedict Bridge. The trail ascends steeply until reaching the Forest Service boundary and the Hunter Valley meadow. Cross Hunter Creek at the 10th Mountain Bridge and head right 1/8 mile to the Hunter Creek Trail sign on the left. The trail ascends steeply and meets again with the 4WD road. Follow the road toward Van Horn Park staying right on the single track (the 4WD road goes to the McNamara Hut). The single track continues for less than a mile overlooking Hunter Valley before meeting again with the 4WD road in Van Horn Park. Turn right and follow the road for about 2 miles before reaching a gate announcing the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness boundary. At 7 miles the trail reaches the intersection with the Woody Creek Trail. Take a right to continue on the Hunter Creek Trail, or access the Midway Creek Trail (left is the Woody Creek Trail).

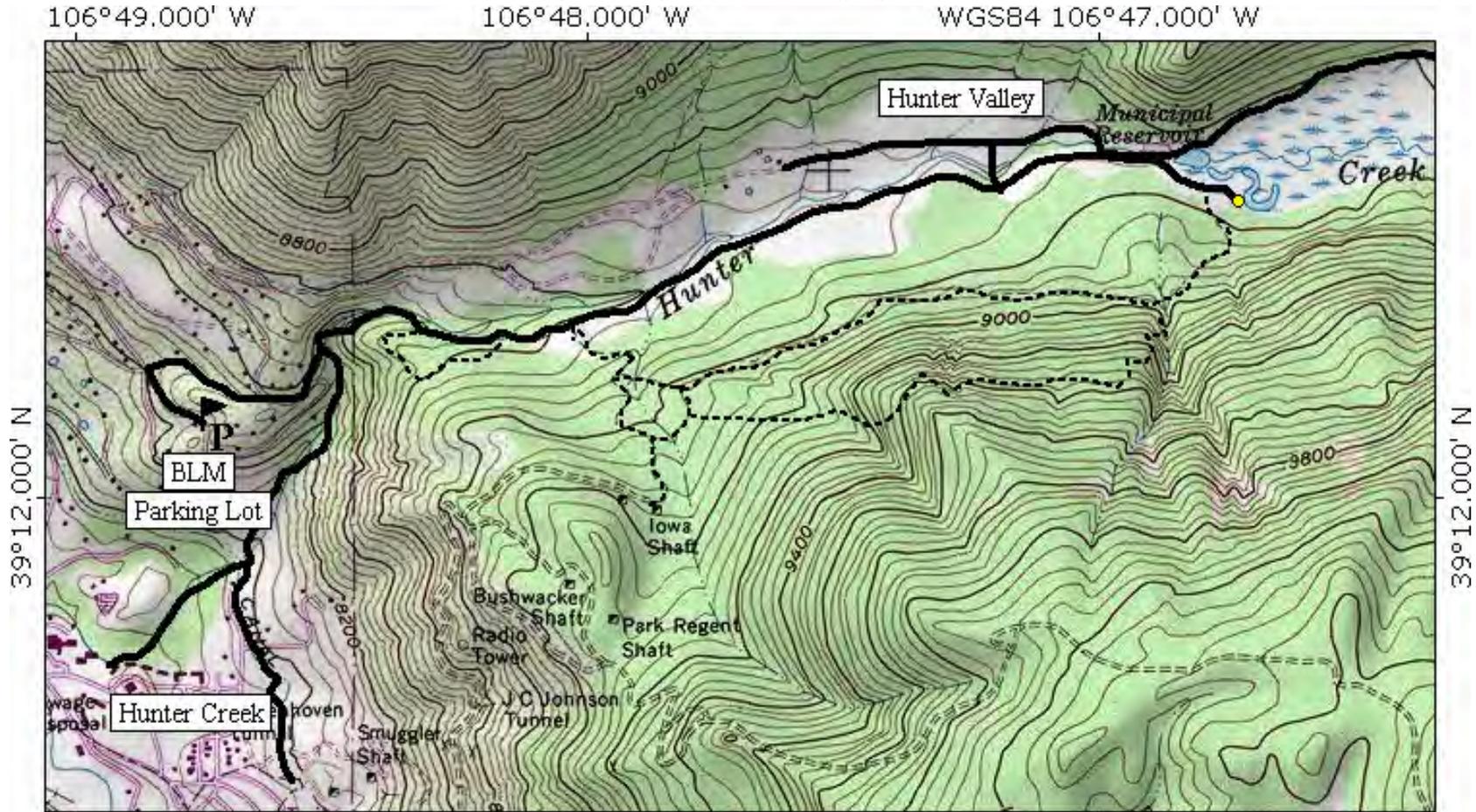
**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** The Hunter Valley Trail is non-wilderness. The Hunter Creek Trail is located within the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness. Please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- \* Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- \* **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- \* Limit group sizes to 25 people and/or 25 stock/pack animals
- \* Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required about timberline.

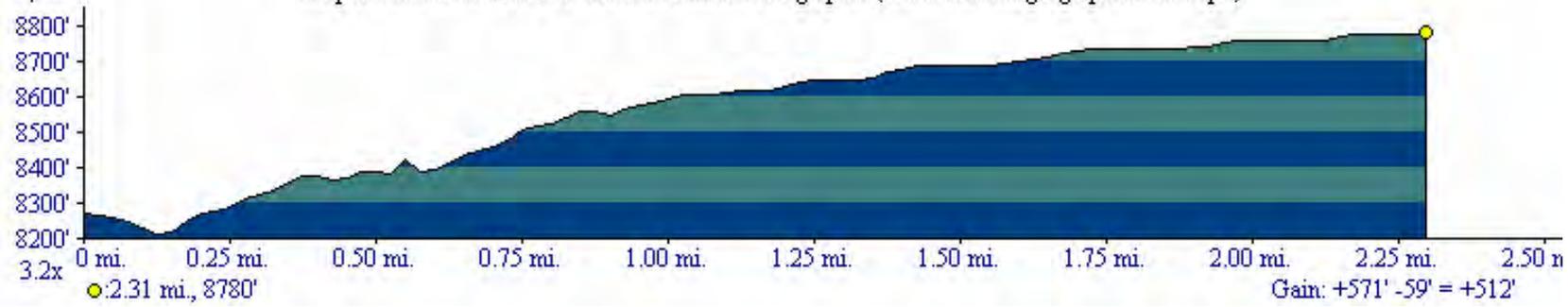
**PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

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.

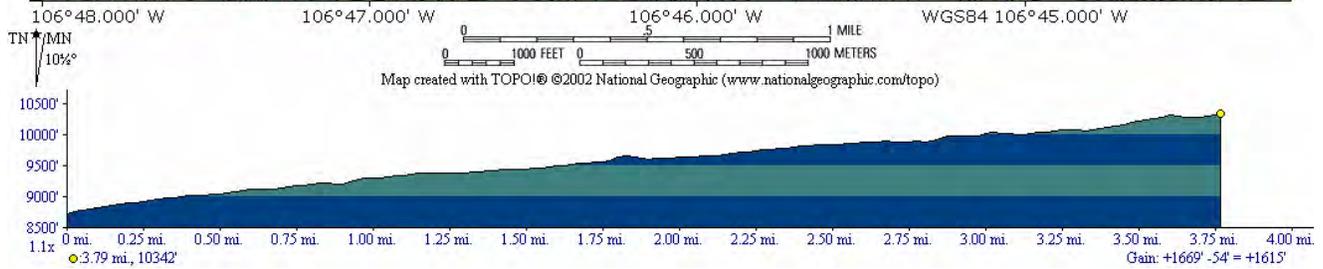
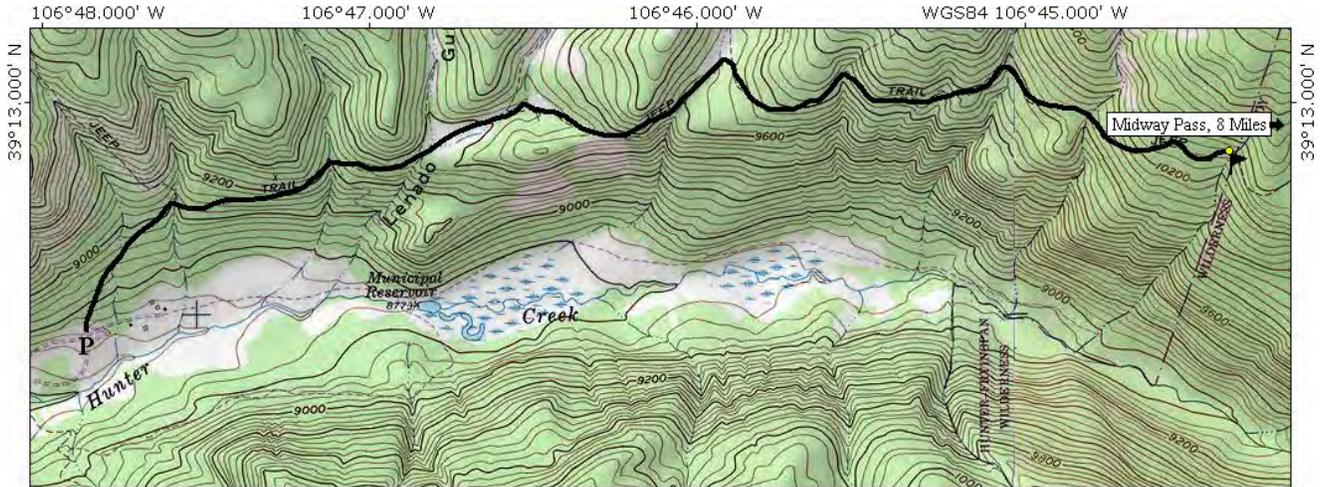
ASPEN – SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT, WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST  
 HUNTER CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM



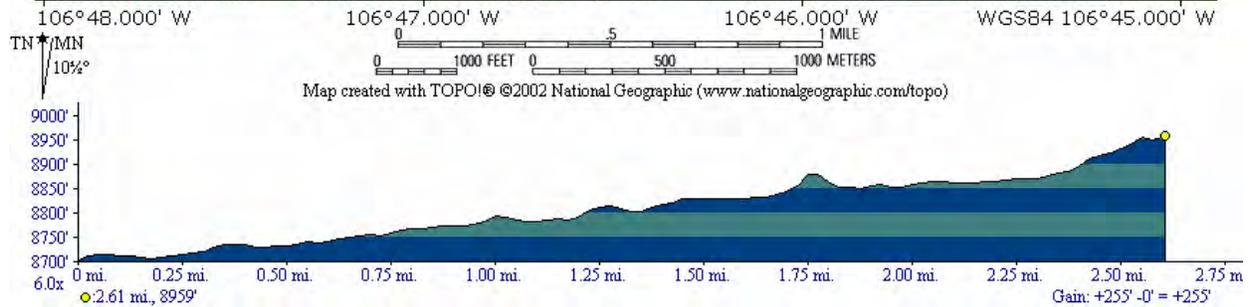
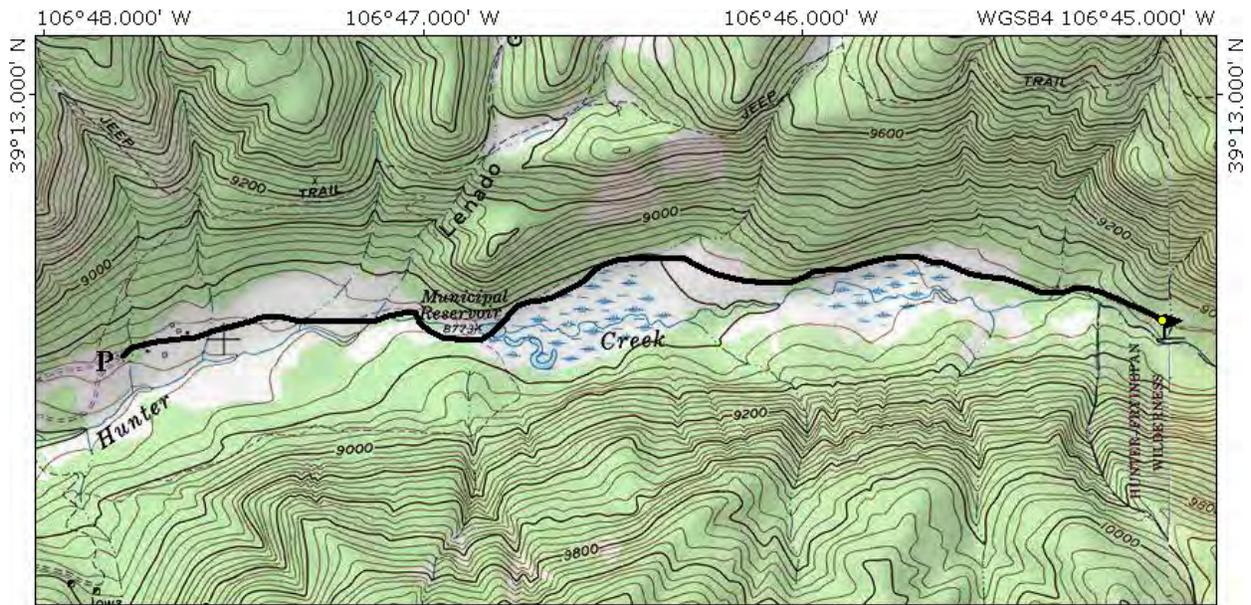
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# ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



HUNTER CREEK TRAIL # 2194



HUNTER VALLEY TRAIL # 1992