

Hiking

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
White River National Forest
Sopris Ranger District

Date-1999
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JOSEPHINE LAKE TRAIL, #1916: IN HOLY CROSS WILDERNESS

Length: 2.0/3.2 mi/km

Elevation Gain: 1,100 ft.

Beginning Elev: 9,860 ft.

USGS Map(s): Mt. Jackson

Difficulty: moderate

Use: light

End Elev: 11,400 ft.

Trailhead starts at LAT/LONG:
UTM:

ACCESS: From Carbondale travel east on Hwy 82 to Basalt. Turn left at the stoplight and travel 27 miles up the Fryingpan River Road. Turn left at road #501, travel one mile past Elk Wallow Campground and take the left fork one tenth of a mile to the trailhead on the left side of the roadway (difficult to see). It is marked as Henderson Park. The hike up the trail is strenuous at first but mellows out to the first meadow which is Henderson Park. Take the left fork for another mile to Coffeepot Park. Josephine Lake Trail is just a little further on your right.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts at the junction with Henderson Park trail and ends at the lake. Josephine Lake Trail climbs about 1,100 feet in elevation in just a little over one mile; until you get on the ridge at which time the trail drops down by the lake surrounded by 12,000+ foot peaks. The entire length of this hike; in at Henderson Park trailhead, up to Josephine Lake, out at Henderson Park trailhead; is 10.8 miles from start to finish - a tough one day, yet a beautiful backpack trip. There are great views of the Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness to the south with the Elk Mountains off to the right and in the distance. You can also access this trail from Last Chance Creek trail. Wildflowers are in abundance in the meadow on the trails leading to Josephine Lake.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Wilderness areas are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not a renewable resource. Any careless act can upset this natural balance and result in destruction. By following these ethics and regulations you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits. **Please respect the land and rights of others!**

- Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
- Trash - **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!**
- Limit group sizes to 25 people and/or stock/pack animals.
- **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 - 8 inches in the soil.
- Lightweight campstoves are recommended and required above the timberline.
- Camp 100 feet from water and trails, and use existing sites when possible.
- Do not wash or bathe in lakes or streams. Use biodegradable soap far from water source.
- Stay on trail and do not shortcut switchbacks, which cause erosion.