Aspen Ranger District
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WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

United States Department of Agriculture

HIKING

MIDWAY CREEK TRAIL #1993

Length: 8.8 miles one-way (14.2 km)
Difficulty: Difficult
Trail Use: Moderate
Beginning Elevation: 10,507 feet (3203 m)
Highest Elevation: 12,120 feet (3694 m) at Midway Pass
Ending Elevation: 10,040 feet (3060 m)
USGS Map(s): Independence Pass, Mt. Champion, Thimble Rock

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 overnighting** 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: This is a great trail for backpacking and horse travel. Most of the trail is in the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness and is one of the less frequently used trails in the Aspen area. Combined with the Hunter Creek Trail, you can start at the Lost Man Trail parking area and end in Aspen. **Some of the more remote sections of the trail are not well defined. Look for trail markers such as cairns or blazes.**

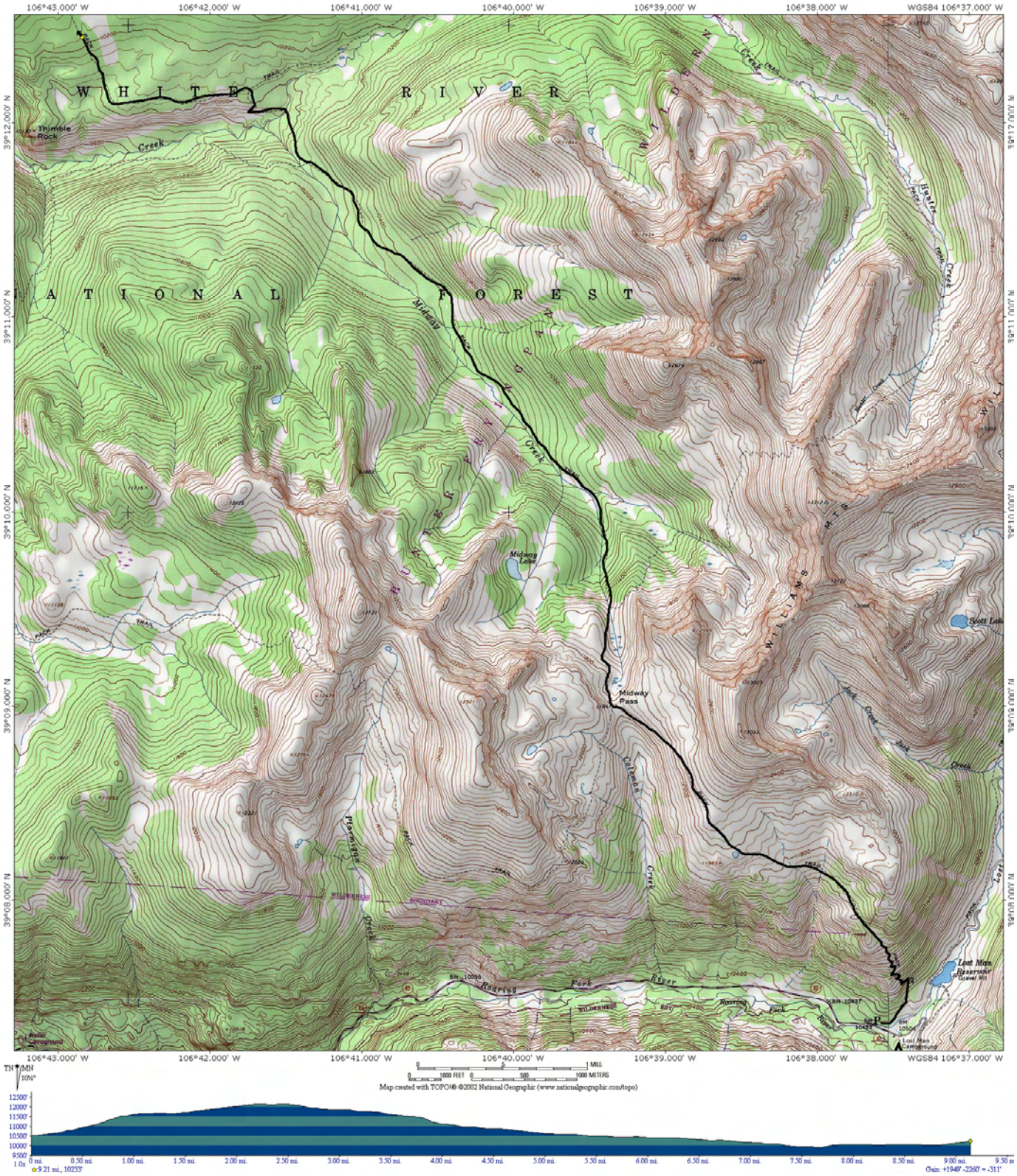
ACCESS: Drive 14 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to the parking lot directly across from the Lost Man Campground. The trail begins on the left (north) side of the Highway starting on the Lost Man trail.

NARRATIVE: The trail begins to the left of the bulletin board and quickly crosses a wooden bridge. At a 1/2 mile, the trail forks. Go left (the right fork goes to the Lost Man Trail) and begin the steep climb up the 18 switchbacks. Near the end of the switchbacks the trail crosses into the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness. Soon a path veers off to the left and leads to a scenic overlook. The trail then reaches a plateau and winds through alpine meadows on the right side of the Coleman Creek drainage. After crossing to the other side you reach Midway Pass and follow Midway Creek. Be prepared for route finding after Midway Pass. The trail passes through forest and meadows and crosses Midway Creek a couple of times. Shortly before the Hunter Creek Trail junction the trail crosses Hunter Creek. This crossing can be tricky during high spring run-offs and may even be impassable. In another 1/2 mile the trail reaches the junction with the Hunter Creek Trail. The left fork will take you uphill towards Hunter Flats. 1/4 mile beyond Hunter Flats you will reach another intersection that is signed. The right fork is the Woody Creek Trail and the left fork is the Hunter Creek Trail. In 1/2 mile, you will reach the wilderness boundary gate and a 4 wheel drive road. Follow the road to Hunter Valley and on to Aspen.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: **The Midway Creek is within the Hunter/Fryingpan Wilderness.** Please educate yourself about hiking ethics and the following rules:

* Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.**
* Limit group sizes to 15 people and a maximum combination of 25 people and stock/pack animals.
* SANITATION - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
* Lightweight campstoves are recommended and 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.

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