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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

NEW YORK CREEK TRAIL #2182

Length: 4.2 miles one-way (6.8 km)

Trail Use: Low

Beginning Elevation: 10,120 feet (3085 m)

USGS Map(s): New York Peak

Difficulty: Difficult

Ending Elevation: 12,280 feet (3743 m)

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: A difficult day hike through evergreen forests and mountain meadows to a high mountain pass which offers spectacular views of the mountainous terrain in the White River and Gunnison National Forests. If backpacking to Ptarmigan Lake, the trail is not maintained and you will need a topo map and orienteering skills to continue beyond the boundary between the White River and Gunnison National Forests. **On the return hike, the trail off the aqueduct road is located a little over 1/2 of a mile on the left. There may not be a sign at this location so you may want to mark it on your ascent.**

ACCESS: Drive 10 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to Lincoln Creek Road. Turn right and drive 3.1 miles on Lincoln Creek Road to the New York Creek Trail turnoff on the right. Although a 4WD vehicle is not necessary, high clearance is a must.

NARRATIVE: From the parking area the trail crosses Lincoln Creek. This crossing is very wide and can be tricky during high spring runoffs. The trail ascends gradually and then more steeply following an old jeep road for 1 mile before merging with the old aqueduct road. Follow the old aqueduct road to the right for 1/2 of a mile. In a little over 1/4 of a mile, the trail crosses the Brooklyn Gulch Creek Diversion. Stay on the aqueduct road which makes an immediate S curve and then straightens. A few minutes farther the New York Creek Diversion can be seen. A few steps before this diversion, the New York Trail enters the woods on the left where a sign is posted. If you miss the trail turnoff and come to the end of the road, retrace your steps and the trail will be about 50 yards back on the right. Once in the woods the trail parallels New York Creek for 3/4 of a mile ascending through spruce forests before crossing New York Creek and emerging into a meadow. The trail then ascends more steeply through alternating evergreen forests and open meadows for another 1-1/2 miles to the upper meadows above treeline. Marking the trail for the last mile before the pass are cairns and wooden posts. This portion of the hike is very steep and extreme caution is required to avoid damaging the fragile alpine tundra.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Most of the New York Creek Trail is within the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- * **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both other people and wildlife.
- * 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.

ASPEN-RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST NEW YORK CREEK TRAIL #2182

