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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

## **PETROLEUM & ANDERSON LAKE TRAIL #1991**

**Length:** Anderson— 1.2 miles one-way (1.9 km)  
Petroleum— 1.8 miles one-way (2.9 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Beginning Elevation:** 11,200 feet (3414 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 12,120 feet (3694 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Independence Pass, New York Peak

**DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW:** A short day hike with views of the beautiful Collegiate Range including a profusion of wildflowers, two mountain lakes and a fun 4WD road. Fishing is good at both lakes. Camping at the lakes is limited due to the fragile alpine tundra. **This hike provides an excellent opportunity for hikers not acclimated to extended high altitude hiking to reach the same altitude as many longer hikes with comparable views and wildflowers. It also affords an easy introduction to four-wheel driving.**

**ACCESS:** Drive 10 miles east of Aspen on Highway 82 to Lincoln Creek Road. Turn right and drive 6 1/2 miles on Lincoln Creek Road to Portal Campground. From Portal Campground the road becomes very rough and a high clearance 4WD is required. Either drive or hike the remaining 3.3 miles to a fork in the road. Take the right fork, cross the creek and park on the other side.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail follows Anderson Creek gradually climbing an old jeep road and passing through fir forests before emerging into alpine tundra. Privately owned log cabins are visible. **The alpine tundra is extremely fragile--please stay on established trails.** In about 1 mile the trail forks. The left fork reaches Anderson Lake in another 1/4 mile. To access Petroleum Lake retrace your steps and take the right fork. Petroleum is 3/4 of a mile farther. The trail continues its ascent through alpine meadows and tundra before coming to an outlet stream for Petroleum Lake. Cross the stream. The trail then begins a very steep ascent for 200 yards before leveling out. Petroleum Lake is just ahead beyond the rise on the left. To the right of the lake the trail ascends for a short distance up to a high alpine pond. It then skirts to the right of the pond and rises gently to a saddle which provides exploration of the rocky knolls and breathtaking views of the Collegiate Wilderness. This short extension is well worth the effort.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Anderson and Petroleum Lake Trails are in a non-wilderness area. Please educate yourself about hiking ethics and the following rules:

- \* Out of consideration for others and wildlife - **PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH.**
- \* **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-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST PETROLEUM & ANDERSON LAKES TRAIL #1981

