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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

SPRUCE CREEK TRAIL #1927

Length: 8 miles one-way to Twin Meadows (12.9 km) **Difficulty:** Moderate
6 miles one-way to Mt. Yeckel (9.6 km) **Trail Use:** Light
Beginning Elevation: 8,690 feet (2649 m) **Highest Elevation:** 11,057 feet (3370 m)
USGS Map(s): Aspen, Thimble Rock, Meredith

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: This is a good moderate hike or backpack through wooded areas with plenty of places to camp. This trail is not as heavily used as some of the other trails within the Aspen Ranger District. Horseback travel is difficult for the first 1 1/2 miles along Woody Creek through the rocky areas.

ACCESS: Drive approximately 7 miles west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Woody Creek turnoff (about 1 mile past the Brush Creek Road turnoff to Snowmass Village). Turn right following the road downhill. After crossing the bridge bear left and continue 2 miles to the town of Woody Creek. Just past the town take a sharp right onto Woody Creek Road #18 or FDR road #103. Continue on this road 8 1/2 miles to the town of Lenado. Approximately 3/4 of a mile past Lenado the road makes a sharp left turn and crosses Woody Creek. The Woody Creek Trailhead lies on the right side of the road, just **before** the bridge. The Spruce Creek Trailhead also begins on the Woody Creek Trail.

NARRATIVE: Follow the Woody Creek Trail for 1 3/4 miles to the fork with the Spruce Creek Trail. Just past the Spruce Creek crossing, take the left fork (the right fork continues on the Woody Creek Trail). In approximately 1/4 of a mile the trail crosses the creek and remains on the west side of the creek until reaching Sawmill Park. The creek crossing can be extremely dangerous early in the summer. The trail disappears in the meadow at Sawmill Park. From here there are two options. Halfway through the park, on the left, is an old road that leads from the edge of the meadow through a spruce/fir forest and reaches the top of Mt. Yeckel in approximately 1 mile. The other option is to pick up the trail on the upper end of Sawmill Park and continue down Foster Gulch another 2 miles to Twin Meadows.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Most of the Spruce Creek Trail is 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.**
- * Limit group sizes to 25 people and/or 25 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-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

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