



THOMAS LAKES TRAIL #1958

LENGTH: 3.6 miles one-way (5.8 km)

BEGINNING ELEVATION: 8,500 feet
(2591 m)

ENDING ELEVATION: 10,200 feet
(3109 m)

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Sopris

USE: Heavy

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S): Summer/Fall

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 overnighiting in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness **is required to self-register at the trailhead and to carry a copy of registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

ACCESS: From Carbondale travel south on Hwy 133 for approximately 1.4 miles. Make a left turn on Prince Creek Road and go about 6 miles to the fork in the road. Take a right at the fork and follow it for 2 miles. The trailhead is ¼ before Dinkle Lake.

DAY/BACKPACKING: Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of trail and stream, and within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes. *Camping is only at designated and numbered campsites at Thomas Lakes.* There are **NO** campfires within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes; gas stoves only. Wilderness rules are posted at the trailhead, as well as on the required permit to overnite within the wilderness.

NARRATIVE: The trail is very well maintained and in good condition. It is very heavily used on the weekends, so plan accordingly. There are two lakes about ¼ mile apart with ample designated camping in between. The wilderness boundary is just before the first lake so be considerate of others and follow wilderness regulations. The hike is a beautiful one with many wildflower and scenic overlooks. From Thomas Lakes you may choose to climb Mt. Sopris, which is a steep 4 miles from the Lakes.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The Thomas Lakes Trail is located within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. Please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- * Camping at designated sites only.
- * Limit group sizes to 15 people and 25 stock/pack animals.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Lightweight campstoves are required above timberline and within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes. **NO CAMPFIRES AT THE LAKES!**

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not a renewable resource. Any careless act by man can upset this natural balance and result in the destruction of the beauty found in the wilderness. By following the above 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!**

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

