

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



MONTEZUMA BASIN #102

Length: 4.7 miles one-way (7.5 km);

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 9,728 feet (2965 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak

Difficulty: Difficult

Ending Elevation: 12,600 feet (3840 m)

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: There is often snow on the road well into July. The lower section of the road receives heavy use, especially on the weekends. This road is very rugged and in some sections is located in a stream. It climbs well above the timberline and continues for a mile or so through fields of rocks tinted with lichen of various colors. This road was built to serve the Montezuma Mine and debris from the operation of the mine may be seen along the way.

ACCESS: Travel 1/2 mile west on Highway 82 from Aspen to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. The beginning of this route starts about 2 miles beyond Ashcroft.

NARRATIVE: The first 1/2 mile is fairly level, then it begins to climb. There are some steep uphill and at the 1 1/2 mile mark there is a foot bridge, here you will need to ford the stream. The road continues to climb through spruce groves crossing a vehicle bridge and immediately becoming steeper and more rugged. Three miles up the road, the Mace cabin is passed on the right. A quarter mile past the cabin the road to Pearl Pass forks steeply to the left (Refer to the Pearl Pass handout for more information on this route). At this fork bear right. Keeping right, the road soon climbs some steep, continuous switchbacks. The road is very narrow and rugged in some areas. The road ends at a parking area at the base of Castle Peak .

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * Be sure your machine is as quiet as possible.
- * Avoid wetlands, streams, and steep hills where your tracks may cause damage.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs and grasses--**Stay on established routes!**
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.

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 4WD trip.