



U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Dillon Ranger District  
680 Blue River Parkway  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
(970) 468-5400



## Wheeler National Recreation Trail #39

**Difficulty:** MODERATE TO DIFFICULT

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Length:** 9 miles

**Elevation:** The trailhead on the McCullough Gulch Road is at 11,080. The parking area on Highway 91 is at 9,760. The highest point on the trail is at 12,600.

**Elevation Gain:** South to north - 2,840 feet, north to south - 1,520

**Open In Winter To:** X-C SKIING, SNOWSHOEING

**Open In Summer To:** HIKING, HORSE, MTN. BIKING

**Access #1:** Copper Mountain

- From I-70, take Exit 195 (Copper Mountain and Leadville, CO 91). Follow Highway 91 across the I-70 over pass.
- Continue on Highway 91 through the intersection and turn left into the Far East Parking Lot. At the far end of the lot on the left you will see parking signs for the Colorado Trail (Wheeler NRT).  
**\*\*Parking is only allowed here during the summer.**

**Access #2:** McCullough Gulch Road

- Starting 7/30/21, parking on McCullough Gulch Road is no longer allowed. Access to the parking lot at Highway 9 and Blue Lakes Road is available by parking reservation at [www.parkquandary.com](http://www.parkquandary.com) or by shuttle from the Airport Road Parking Lot in Breckenridge located at 1700 Airport Rd in Breckenridge.

If you have a reservation for the parking lot: From I-70 take Exit 203, Frisco/Breckenridge, and travel south on Hwy 9 approximately 10 miles to the town of Breckenridge. Continue through Breckenridge on Hwy 9 (Main Street). You will

- pass the town of Blue River, travel 4 miles and then turn right onto Blue Lakes Road (FDR 850). The parking lot will be on your right.

From the parking lot, a separate shuttle will go up McCullough Gulch Rd.

**General Information:**

- The Wheeler National Recreation Trail leads from McCullough Gulch, south of Breckenridge, over the Tenmile Range to Copper Mountain. It can be accessed from either end, or from the Spruce Creek or Crystal Trails.
- The trail travels through a variety of ecosystems including lodgepole, spruce and fir forest; along with alpine tundra.
- Dog owners - Please be considerate of other trail users. Keep your dog in sight and when you encounter others, call the dog to your side until they pass. Use a stick to remove dog feces from the trail.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, **NOT** FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.

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