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United States Department of Agriculture

MOUNT SOPRIS 12,965 feet

LENGTH: 6 miles from Dinkle Lake

ELEVATION GAIN: 4,253 feet

AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:
10 hours

USGS MAP(S): Sopris

RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):
Late spring and summer

SKILL FACTOR: More difficult

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: If you plan to climb Sopris, allow two days. The first day, hike to the lakes, set up camp in a designated site and explore, fish or just enjoy the scenery. On the second day, get up early and begin climbing to finish the hike before the afternoon thunderstorms.

ACCESS: Proceeds south on Hwy 133 for 1.4 miles to Prince Creek Road and take a left. The trailhead is approximately 8 miles up the road and just before the Dinkle Lake at the Thomas Lake Trailhead. The first three miles to Thomas Lakes is easy.

NARRATIVE: The easiest route is up the east ridge. From the upper lake, walk to the base of the steep slope to the southeast of the lake. Ascend this slope on the new hiking trail to the ridge, and continue across the high, sparsely timbered slope to the southern ridge. Follow this ridge up the mountain. You will come upon one stretch of fairly steep, loose rock but should have no problem if you use care. Soon you will be on the main ridge to the summit. Enjoy your view!

You may want to cross one half mile saddle to West Sopris, which is the same elevation as East Sopris, and offers a superb view of the Crystal River Valley and Avalanche Creek.

The climb to the summit and the return to the lake should take 3-4 hours for the experienced hiker and up to 6 hours for those less experienced. Keep in mind if you plan to do the entire trip in two days you will hike back to your car the same day you climb the mountain.

The trail is entirely in wilderness so keep **pets on leash** at all times. The trail is impassable by horses. **No Bicycles!**

It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved in your activities and to use the proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize the inherent risks and hazards related to your activity. As a user of National Forest System Lands, you have significant responsibility for your personal safety during any activity you might pursue. The Forest Service installs signs and other information devices at various locations where conditions limit placement of signs or other specific warnings and necessitates the use of more general education efforts. Hazards are not limited to, but include: changing weather conditions, snow, avalanche, landslides and falling rock, caves, overlooks, falling trees or limbs, high or rushing water, contaminated water, wild animals, becoming lost or over exerted, hypothermia, remnants of mining and other activities involving excavation, tunnels, shafts, decaying structures and a variety of equipment, and changing road and trail conditions. You may also be exposed to unreasonable acts of others. **The Forest Service does not manage or control all of these occurrences.**

The peaks in the White River National Forest do not have designated routes to the top. The Forest Service is currently studying the present, user-created trails to determine the feasibility and desirability of designated routes. For further sources on information and routes to the peaks, please call the office at (970) 925-3445.

