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United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

EXPRESS CREEK ROAD #122

Length: 5.5 miles one-way (8.8 km)

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,422 feet (2872 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak

Difficulty: Difficult

Ending Elevation: 11,928 feet (3636 m)

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: The last couple of miles are very steep and often have snow well into July. This road gets heavy 4WD use, especially on weekends. From the top of Taylor Pass you can access Richmond Hill Road leading to Aspen Mountain, Midnight Mine Road and Little Annie Road.

ACCESS: Travel west from Aspen 1/2 mile on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Turn right off of the Roundabout onto Castle Creek Road. Travel 11 miles to the intersection with Express Creek Road. There is some parking along Express Creek Road and at the Ashcroft Historic Townsite.

NARRATIVE: The first 1/8 mile is fairly flat. The road soon crosses a bridge and begins to climb steeply. There are several private drives along the first mile; please stay on the main road. In approximately 2 miles there is a spur to the right; stay on the main road. The road becomes a little steeper and in another 1 3/4 miles begins a long steep uphill. The road crosses a bridge and the last mile is very steep. From the top of Taylor Pass you can see Taylor Lake below and magnificent views of the Castle Creek Valley and surrounding peaks.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Before you go out check into available routes, their condition, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply, and the following rules:

- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs, and grasses - **Stay on established routes.**
- * Avoid wetlands, meadows, steep hills, and streams where the surface is easily scarred by churning wheels.
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * A reminder: Wilderness Areas are closed to all mechanized vehicles, including mountain bikes.

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 biking trip.