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United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

GOVERNMENT TRAIL #1980

Length: 9.8 miles one-way (15.7 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,000 feet (2438 m)

Ending Elevation: 9,400 feet (2865 m)

USGS Map(s): Aspen, Highland Peak

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: The Government Trail is a non-wilderness trail. It is closed each spring from May 15- June 20 for migrating/calving elk and to protect resources. Since this is a great trail to view wildlife, **DOGS MUST BE UNDER VOICE COMMAND.** It's an enjoyable mountain bike ride or day hike through aspen groves. It is also known as the Brush Creek Trail and is a popular cross-country ski trail in the winter.

ACCESS: **From Aspen:** Drive 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Maroon Creek Road and continue 1 mile to the Recreation Center. The trail begins behind the baseball fields. Cross the pedestrian bridge and follow the signs for the Government Trail.

From Snowmass Village: Drive 6 miles west of Aspen on Highway 82 and turn left onto Brush Creek Road. Continue about 4 1/2 miles to Wood Run Road and turn left. Follow Wood Run Road to the cul-de-sac at the end. There is a gated dirt road on the far side that leads to parking at the trailhead.

NARRATIVE: **From Aspen:** The trail crosses Maroon Creek via a pedestrian bridge and turns left onto a residential street. It then leaves the road and begins a steep ascent with switchbacks until reaching Buttermilk Ski area. The trail alternates between aspen groves and ski runs (signs are present to guide you across the runs). Beyond the ski area the trail climbs slowly through rolling terrain, passing through aspen, lodgepole pine, and flowered meadows where wildlife can often be seen. The trail ends at the Snowmass Ski area.

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.