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United States Department of Agriculture



**BIKING**

## **MIDNIGHT MINE ROAD #118**

**Length:** 5.5 miles one-way (8.9 km);

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,329 feet (2539 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 11,212 feet (3417 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Aspen

**ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS:** This road is fairly well maintained dirt road with several steep sections. This road is not used by 4WDs as much as Little Annie or Summer Road. A loop ride can be made by going up Midnight Mine and down Little Annie, or a longer route down Summer Road. The road follows Queens Gulch, passing through stands of aspen and fir.

**ACCESS:** Travel west from Aspen 1/2 mile on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Travel 2 1/2 miles to the turnoff for Midnight Mine Road on the left (there is a road sign). There is limited parking at the start of Midnight Mine Road.

**NARRATIVE:** The road begins with a short descent, then crosses a bridge and begins its continuous uphill climb. There are numerous private drives; please stay on the main road. The road becomes steeper with several switchbacks. In approximately 2 miles there is a cabin on the left and a large amount of mine tailings on the right. The road climbs steeply between them, continuing to ascent to the junction with Little Annie Road at about the 4 mile mark. Stay left to continue to the top of Aspen Mountain and the Sundeck Restaurant. From the top you can access Richmond Hill (which follows the ridge behind Aspen Mountain), or Summer Road, which goes down the front of Aspen Mountain.

**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.