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United States Department of Agriculture



McCLURE PASS

Length: 4 1/2 miles one-way (7.2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 8,700 feet (2652 m)

Ending Elevation: 10,000 feet (3048 m)

USGS Map(s): Chair Mountain

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows a logging road. It passes through groves of aspen and spruce/fir at higher elevations. There are spectacular views of the Crystal River Valley, the Elk Mountains, Chair Mountain and the Raggeds. There are numerous places to leave the trail and ski through the trees. A number of parks with hills (where you can practice those telemark turns) are located about 3 miles up the trail.

ACCESS: From Carbondale travel south on Colorado Hwy. 133 to McClure Pass. The parking area is on the left (south) side of the highway at the top of the pass.

NARRATIVE: Follow the logging road. Most people turn around about 2 1/2 miles up the trail. Although you are skiing uphill on this trail, the grade is quite gentle. The trip back down can be very fast, especially if the trail is well packed. There are usually tracks to follow, since this trail gets a lot of use. Travel beyond the end of the road should be attempted only by the experienced back-country skiers since there is a great deal of avalanche terrain on Chair Mountain. Note: Please respect the rights of private property owners.

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

- * **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- * **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. Remember we're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- * **Avoid disturbing wild animals** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- * **Wilderness Areas and Primitive areas are closed to motorized recreational vehicles.** Inquire at a local Forest Service office if in doubt. Obey all signs.
- * **BEWARE OF AVALANCHES!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.
- * Remember to notify a responsible person of your travel plans.

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 cross-country/snowshoe trip.