

# Homestead Meadows Trails (#971)



Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests  
2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. E, Ft. Collins, CO 80526  
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/clrdrecreation (970) 295-6700

**One-way Length:** 2.8 miles

**Difficulty Rating:** moderate

**Beginning Elevation:** 7,360 feet

**Use:** heavy

**Peak Elevation:** 8,520 feet

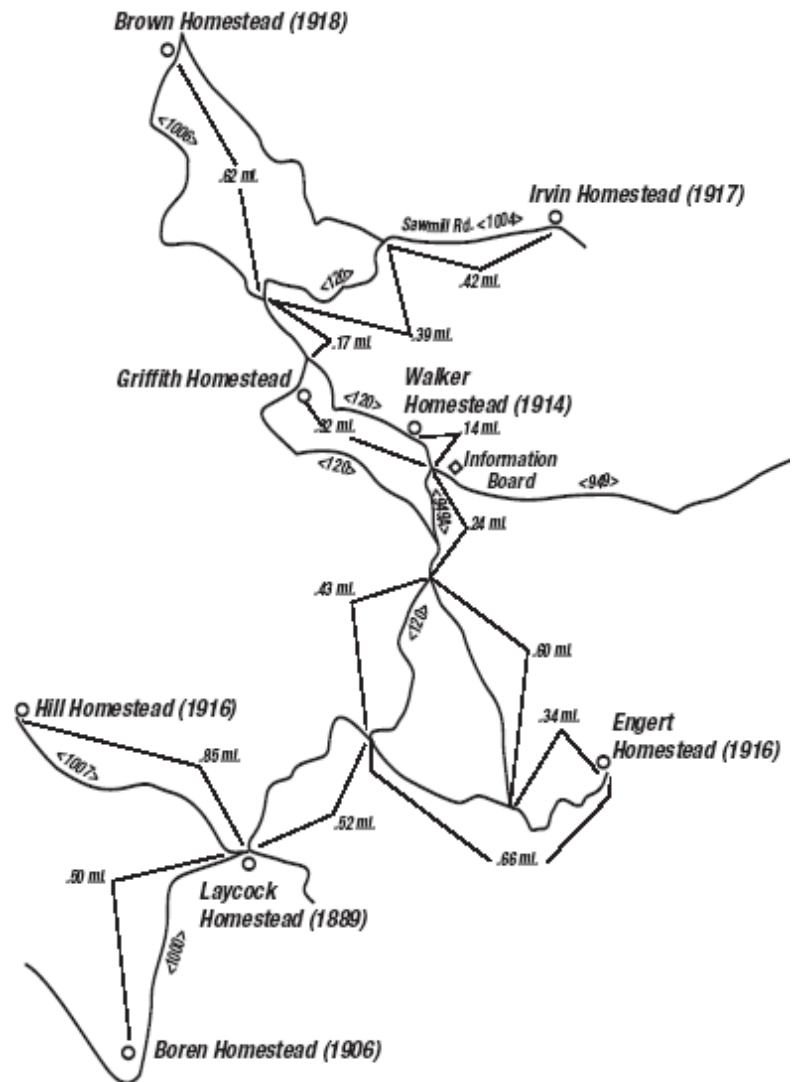
**Quadrangle Map:** Panorama Peak

**Access:** Homestead Meadows can be accessed via the Lion Gulch Trailhead. The trailhead parking lot is located 7 miles east of Estes Park and 13 miles west of Lyons on the south side of U.S. Highway 36.

**Trail Information:** The trail drops abruptly from the trailhead then begins a three mile ascent along a stream in Lion Gulch. It provides access to the area known as Homestead Meadows that is rich in the history of eight homesteads established there between 1889 and 1923. Information boards provide background stories at each location. A map of the meadows is available from the office.

The Walker and Griffith Homesteads are located on the Lion Gulch Trail that terminates at Trail #971, just west of the third Griffith cabin. Just past the remains of the first Griffith cabin, a short-cut trail # 949.2 leads to the right. Trail #971-1 branches right and leads about a mile east to the Irvin Homestead and sawmill.

A sign on Lion Gulch Trail at the east edge of Homestead Meadows indicates a short trail #949-1 heads to the south toward four homesteads via closed forest roads. The Big Elk fire in 2002 destroyed the Engert Homestead located on Trail 971-2 about a mile to the south. Trail #971 leads farther south to the Laycock Homestead and to trails #971-3 to the Hill Homestead and #971 continues to the Boren Homestead.



## Trail Regulations

- No motorized equipment
- Leave historic artifacts as you find them
- Certified weed-free hay is required for stock animals