

Boulder Ranger District  
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Boulder, CO 80301  
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United States Department of Agriculture



## **Blue Lake via Mitchell Lake Trail #912**

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Use:** Extremely Heavy

**Length:** Mitchell Lake Trailhead (TH) to Blue Lake – 2.5 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

**Elevation:** 10,500 feet at the Mitchell Lake TH; 11,300 feet at Blue Lake.

**Open To:** Hiking. Groups of 12 or fewer. Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.

### **Access**

- From Nederland, drive 12 miles north on Colorado Highway 72 to the town of Ward.
- Look for a sign for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and turn west onto County Road 102.
- Travel to the fee station and west of Brainard Lake. A signed side-road leads to the Mitchell Lake TH parking area. The Mitchell Lake Trail begins on the west side of this lot.

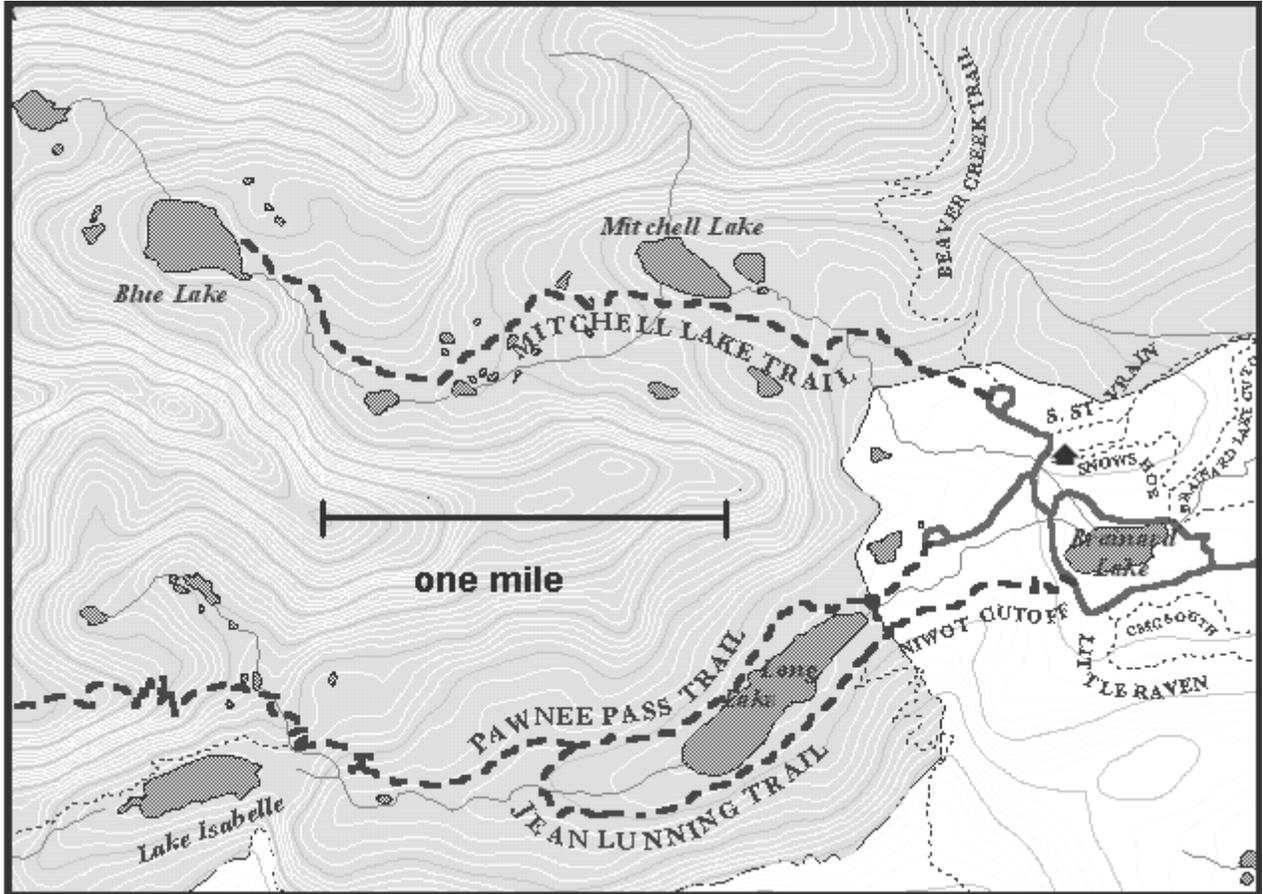
### **Trail Highlights**

- The wooded Mitchell Lake Trail to Blue Lake enters the Indian Peaks Wilderness near the bridge across Mitchell Creek. It continues on a good trail for 0.5 miles to Mitchell Lake and crosses a bridge over the inlet.
- Another 1.5 miles of trail takes you up a slope, then along the creek in an open valley to Blue Lake. This lake lies at tree line below Mount Toll (elevation 12,979 feet), a cone-shaped pinnacle on the Continental Divide. When snowy, it is very easy to lose the trail and close attention is necessary.

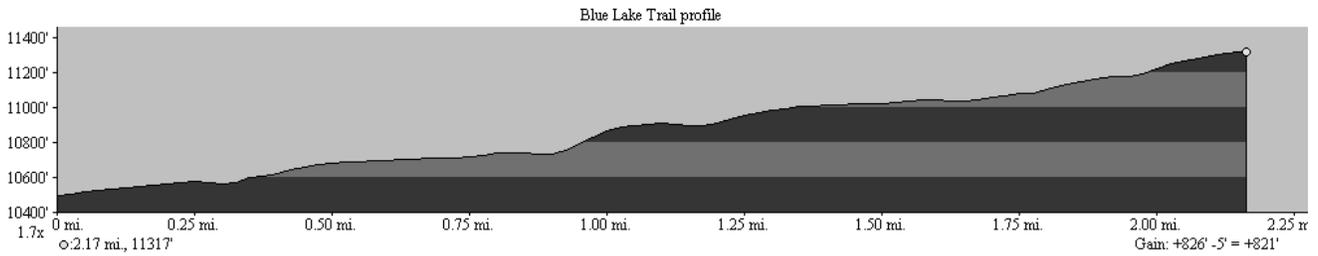
### **Important Information**

- CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED. CAMPING IS ONLY PERMISSIBLE IN THIS ZONE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 AND APRIL 30. FROM MAY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, THIS AREA IS DAY-USE ONLY. Additional permit requirements exist for large (8-12 persons) and organized groups. Groups of more than 12 are not permitted. Packstock restrictions apply.
- The Brainard Lake Road is open seasonally. During these months, a vehicle fee applies for trailheads located within the Brainard Lake Recreation Area.

# Trail Map & Profile



This map is intended as a general guide only and not for actual land navigation.



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**For More Information:**  
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