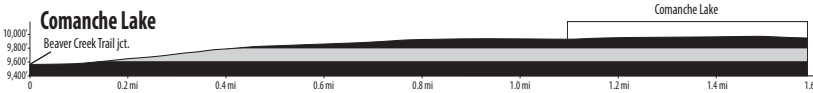


# Comanche Lake 990

PRIORITY:	<b>HIGH</b> (patrol methods: day hike; backpack)
Ratings:	Hikers – Easy; Stock riders – Not Recommended
Open For Summer Patrol:	June 22nd
SPOT/USFS Radio:	<b>REQUIRED</b> (Radio: 01 > 03; Priority 2, Poor reception)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
Round-Trip Length:	2.7 miles (incl. circumnavigation of the lake to look for illegal camp-sites)
Beginning Elevation:	9,569
Peak Elevation:	9,949
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	422/42/+380
USFS Regulations:	Wilderness & Travel Zone
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle:	Comanche Peak



## TRAILHEAD LOCATION

Poudre Canyon; drive 26.5 miles from Ted's Place to the Pingree Park Road (CR-63E) at mm 96.1, cross the Cache La Poudre River, and drive 15.9 miles to the Tom Bennett Campground turnoff on the right side. Cross over the South Fork of the Cache La Poudre River and continue on to Sky Ranch. If the gate at the entrance to Sky Ranch is locked, begin your patrol here (trailhead 1). There is parking and a clear trailhead. Note that this adds 1.0 mile to your one-way distance, whatever your final destination. The trail skirts Sky Ranch buildings, and rejoins the road. Turn right on the road, and follow it to trailhead 2. If the first gate is open, you can drive through Sky Ranch to a locked gate (at trailhead 2). Facilities are available at Tom Bennett Campground. No water available at either trailhead.

The Comanche Lake Trail is accessed from the Beaver Creek Trail approximately 4.2 miles from the Beaver Creek trailhead. (See trailhead location for Beaver Creek Trail.) Although stock trailer parking is available at both Beaver Creek trailheads, the Comanche Lake Trail is not recommended for stock because of potential impacts to the Lake.

GPS coordinates:

Trailhead: N40°35.410' W105°40.186'

Comanche Lake: N40°34.854' W105°40.932'

## PATROL DESCRIPTION

The Comanche Lake trailhead is approximately 4.2 miles up the Beaver Creek Trail, about 150 ft below the junction of the Browns Lake Trail with the Beaver Creek Trail. The Comanche Lake Trail leads slightly downhill to the southwest before crossing a 2-log stringer bridge spanning Beaver Creek. This bridge is in marginal condition so crossing may require wading the creek, which may be impossible/unsafe during high stream flows. The trail climbs about 380 ft through a dense subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce forest for about 1 mile before reaching the Lake. There are two un-bridged stream crossings just below the lake that can be challenging during high stream flows. There are four designated camp-sites (no wood fires; self-contained chemical stoves only) located on the eastern side of the lake, but the area has been so heavily impacted that it is difficult to locate all of them in the maze of informal trails around the lake.

Because it is difficult to locate an environmentally-friendly campsite, ask people to consider camping outside the travel zone along the Beaver Creek Trail, instead of near the lake. Note that the entire Comanche Lake Trail is within the Comanche Lake Travel Zone. A one-way distance of 1.6 miles applies for this trail patrol if you circumnavigate the lake looking for illegal campsites. Comanche Lake is a destination for visitors seeking solitude or trout fishing.