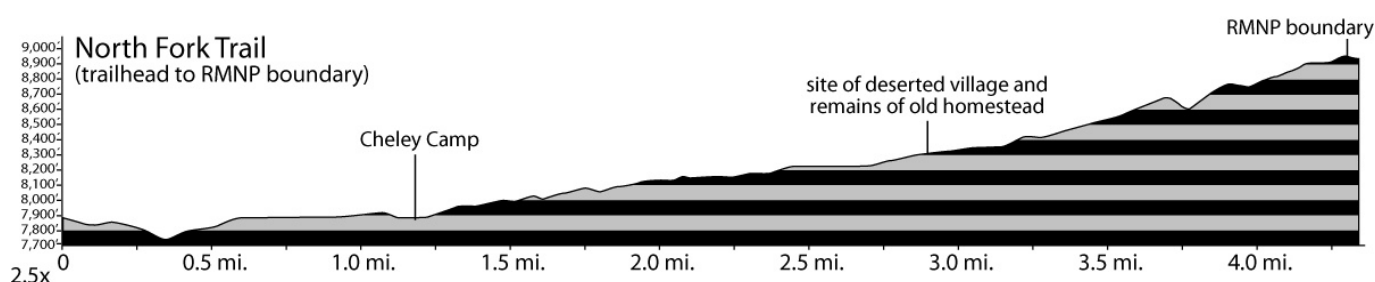


Priority:	HIGH (patrol methods: day hike; backpack; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate; Stock Riders - Challenging
Open for summer patrol:	June 8 th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio: 04 > 01 > 03; Priority 4, Good reception)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	4.4 miles (trailhead to RMNP boundary)
Beginning Elevation:	7,892
Peak Elevation:	8,957
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,301/256/+1,045
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness & Travel Zone
Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre, Big Thompson; #200 RMNP
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Glen Haven, Estes Park



Trailhead Location: From the Dam Store at the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, drive up US-34 for 7.7 miles to Drake. Turn right on Devils Gulch Road (CR- 43). After driving 6.1 miles, take a right on Dunraven Glade (a gravel road), which crosses a bridge over the north fork of the Big Thompson River. Continue on it for 2.2 miles to the parking area. The trailhead will be on your left. Facilities and trailer parking are available at the parking area. No water.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: *N40°28.542' W105°27.630'*

Wilderness boundaries

near trailhead: *N40°28.43' W105°27.60'*

below Cheley Camp: *N40°28.60' W105°28.26'*

above Cheley Camp: *N40°28.96' W105°28.60'*

designated campsite: distance to campsite from main trail

campsite 1: *N40°29.156' W105°29.115'*

campsite 2: *N40°29.234' W105°29.709'*

campsite 3: *N40°29.254' W105°29.427'*

campsite 4: *N40°29.299' W105°29.848'*

campsite 5: *N40°29.397' W105°29.804'*

campsite 6: *N40°29.370' W105°29.930'*

campsite 7: *N40°29.426' W105°29.970'*

campsite 8: *N40°29.355' W105°30.015'*

campsite 9: *N40°29.419' W105°30.283'*

RMNP boundary: *N40°29.916' W105°30.999'*

Trail Description: Based on encounter rates observed during PWV patrols, this is one of the three highest-use trails in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. Note that Wilderness regulations apply along the entire trail, both before and beyond the point where it first enters Wilderness.

The North Fork Trail drops abruptly into the North Fork Canyon from the southwest side of the parking lot and follows the creek upstream. After 1 mile the trail leaves the Wilderness and travel zone and passes through private land (Cheley Camp) on an easement for about 0.6 mi. Cheley Camp is a summer and fall camp for kids from 9 to 17 years of age. PWV's must stay on the trail during this stretch through private land.

Shortly after reentering the Wilderness and the North Fork travel zone and before crossing a fifth bridge, a numbered marker indicates the first designated campsite, which is located several hundred feet uphill. After crossing the bridge but just before crossing a sixth and final bridge, a second campsite is indicated on the left. A third can be found after crossing the stream, turning right through a meadow, then backtracking downstream for several hundred yards, high on

the north side of the river.

Continue on the main trail past the remains of the Mateland family line shack. Although no visible signs remain, this was also the location of a resort camp called Deserted Village, built of stick architecture in the 1890s by Fred Sprague. In 1913, the Mateland family bought the land from Sprague and ran cattle and sheep on the property. The demise of Deserted Village is left to your speculation.

Five more designated campsites are located about 100 yards uphill along and to the north of the trail. Some of these sites can be difficult to find without a GPS unit. As the trail begins to leave the river and wind uphill towards the border of RMNP, another site can be found on the left. You can cover the main trail

easily on a day hike, but the additional scouting of campsites and/or the additional 1.5 miles to RMNP can be executed more easily from an overnight base camp at one of the designated campsites.

Group size violations are commonly observed on this trail and should be accurately reported in your trail patrol report. Because Wilderness regulations are in force along the entire trail below RMNP, maximum group size is 12 heartbeats except for groups from Cheley Camp which have an outfitter permit allowing 18 heartbeats per group. Ask all large groups who they are and report accordingly. Stock riders and backpackers heading into RMNP use this trail

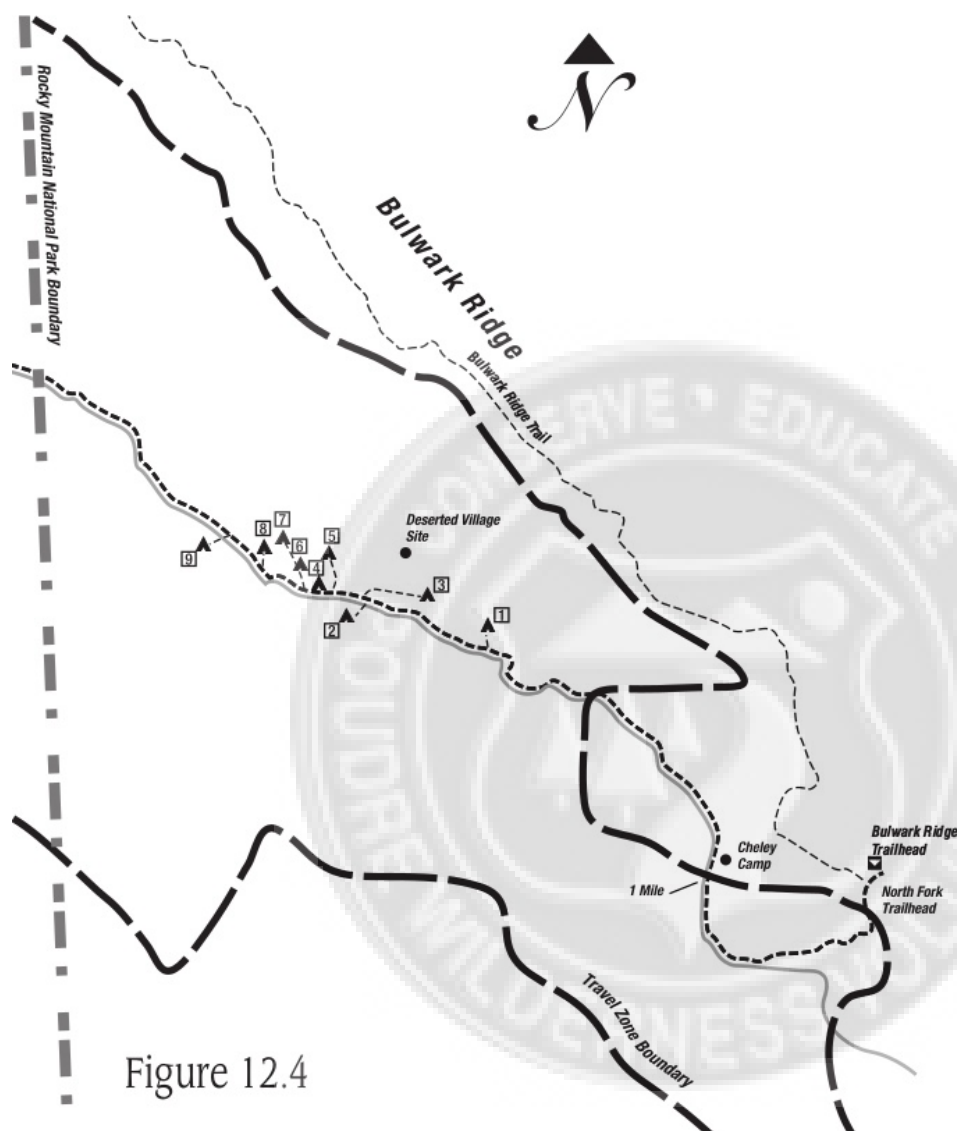


Figure 12.4

heavily. Popular destinations in the Park include Lost Falls (7.4 mi from the trailhead) and Lost Lake (9.7 mi from the trailhead). Make sure people are camping in the designated travel zone campsites, and are using fuel-burning stoves only. The map shown here has some details of this patrol. It is not meant for navigation. If you proceed into RMNP, you do so as a private citizen, not a PWV volunteer ranger. Don't include observations, contacts, or trail maintenance needs from inside RMNP in your official patrol report (except possibly in the **Comments** section).