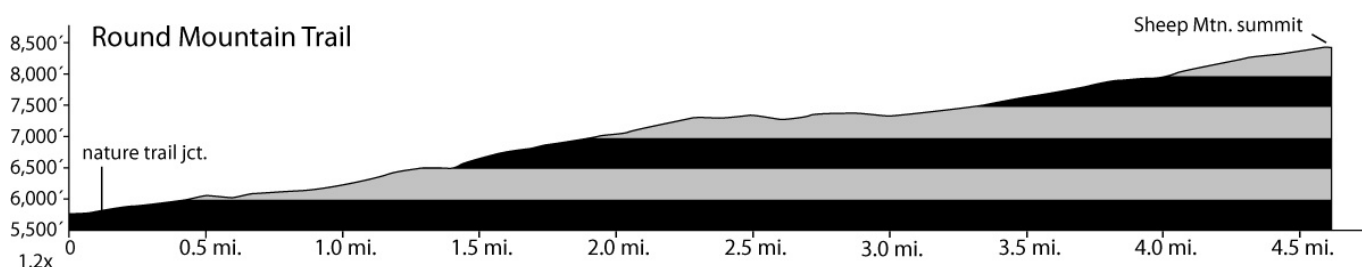


Trail: Round Mountain 969 (831)

Priority:	MEDIUM (patrol method: day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate to Strenuous; Stock riders – Not Recommended
Open for summer patrol:	May 1 st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio: 04 > 03 > 01; Priority 4, Good reception)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	4.7 miles (trailhead to summit of Sheep Mountain)
Beginning Elevation:	5,777
Peak Elevation:	8,456
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	2,679/0/+2,679
USFS Regulations:	National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre, Big Thompson
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Drake
Special regulations:	Dogs must be on handheld leash on this trail.



Trailhead Location: From the Dam Store at the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, drive 4 miles up US-34. The spot where Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park was will be on your right. Directly across the highway on your left, a short gravel road will take you to the Round Mountain Trail parking lot. Facilities are located in the parking lot. Stock Riders: Difficult to park and turn around trailers. The drop off along the lower section of this trail is very steep.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°25.211' W105°17.115'
jct. Nature Trail: N40°25.273' W105°17.193'
Sheep Mtn. summit: N40°24.737' W105°18.657'

Round Mountain is a National Recreation Trail. The lower section is on property owned by the City of Loveland.

Caution: *Rattlesnakes have been seen on this trail.*

Trail Description: Because of its location, this trail offers hiking year around and is heavily used. The first section is owned by the City of Loveland, so it is not a PWV patrol area. From the trailhead the trail follows an old road heading up and above the Big Thompson River. After about 0.25 mile, the main

trail to Sheep Mountain heads to the left and a nature trail heads to the right for about 1 mile. This trail offers great views of the Big Thompson Canyon. The Round Mountain National Recreation Trail (which is an interpretive trail) climbs to the east then turns steeply uphill to the southwest. After about 2 miles the trail levels out somewhat, and traverses the right side of a canyon, passing through some granite rock formations. From here the trail loses some elevation until it crosses a draw. After crossing the draw the trail climbs steeply through sparsely growing ponderosa pine to the top of Sheep Mountain. From the summit, snow-capped peaks can be seen to the west and the plains to the east.

★ This trail has been adopted by the Loveland Mountain Club

PWV - 2015 ks