

Lady Moon 985 (267) & Disappointment Falls 985-2

PRIORITY	LOW (patrol methods: day hike; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Easy; Stock riders – Very Easy
Open For Summer Patrol:	May 18th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio: 02 > 03 > 01; Priority 3, Good reception)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	2.6 miles (from Lady Moon trailhead to Elkhorn Creek trailhead) [+ 0.6 mi for Disappointment Falls]
Beginning Elevation:	8,146
Peak Elevation:	8,328
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	202 / 531 / -329
USFS Regulations:	National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#111 Red Feather Lakes, Glendevey
USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Red Feather Lakes, Rustic



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

From Ted's Place, follow US-287 north for 10.5 miles to the "forks" at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E). At mm 20.8 you will see the entrance to the trailhead on the left (south). There are facilities and stock trailer parking but no water at both the Lady Moon and Elkhorn Creek trailheads. [The Mt. Margaret parking lot and trailhead is across the road on the north side.]

Note that this trail was extended to the south in 2010. It is now 2.6 miles long one-way and ends at the Elkhorn Creek trailhead on CR-68C.

GPS Coordinates:

north trailhead (Lady Moon):

N40°46.645' W105°32.292'

jct. Granite Ridge Trail:

N40°45.913' W105°32.640'

jct. Disappointment Falls Trail:

N40°45.191' W105°32.680'

south trailhead (Elkhorn Creek):

N40°44.788' W105°32.390'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

Bikes are only allowed on these trails from July 1 through October 30. This trail involves a short, gentle patrol through open, dry ponderosa pine forest and a large, attractive

meadow/prairie (Lady Moon Meadow). There are numerous quaking aspen trees and several small granite outcrops along the trail, as well as several larger granite outcrops and promontories about 0.5 mile to the east and west of the trail. There are numerous shrubs such as wax currant, shrubby cinquefoil, and Woods' rose as well as many species of wildflowers along the trail, both in the open forest and in the meadow. The north end of the Lady Moon Trail passes through open ponderosa pine and quaking aspen for about 0.4 mile and then drops down into, and crosses, Lady Moon Meadow. Early in the spring, or after a substantial rain, the small intermittent brook flowing through this meadow, and the lowest portion of the meadow itself, can be challenging to cross without getting a little muddy.

A new trail, Lady Moon Meadow Loop (2.2 mi long) will be built in this area. There will also be a connecting trail (Molly Moon Trail; 1.8 mi one way) from the Lady Moon Meadow Loop Trail to the Granite Ridge Trail. The Lady Moon Trail continues south another 0.7 mile from Lady Moon Meadow through open ponderosa pine forest until it reaches a junction with the Granite Ridge Trail. Turn left (east) on the Granite Ridge Trail and proceed approximately 400 feet to a trail junction where the Lady Moon Trail continues to the south through a gate for approximate-

★ *The Lady Moon Trail has been adopted by Longs Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America*

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ly 1.4 miles before ending at the Elkhorn Creek trailhead.

About 1 mile south of the junction with the Granite Ridge Trail, there is a short (0.9 mile) spur trail – Disappointment Falls Trail – leading to the SW and ending at Elkhorn Creek. Disappointment Falls is not a disappointment in the early spring when the water flow is high but by midsummer it is not very impressive. If you do not patrol this trail be sure to note this in the *COMMENTS* field in your patrol report.

The Lady Moon Trail continues about 0.5 mile to the SE before ending at the Elkhorn Creek trailhead. From the NW corner of this trailhead, the SE portion of the Elkhorn Creek

Trail meanders to the west for 1.5 mi one way before terminating at a dead end.

[Note that Lady Moon Lake is located on private property just east of the USFS boundary between the two most northerly of the promontories (8,442 ft and 8,722 ft elevation) that are about 0.5 mile due east of the Lady Moon Trail.]