

Trail: Neota Creek 987

Priority:	LOW (patrol method: day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Very Easy; Riders – Not Recommended
Open for summer patrol:	August 1 st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio Channel: 01, then 02; Priority 3, Moderate reception)
Wilderness:	Neota
One-Way Length:	1.6 miles
Beginning Elevation:	10,212
Peak Elevation:	10,400
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	203 / 15 / +188
USFS Regulations:	Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#200 Rocky Mountain National Park
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Fall River Pass



Trailhead Location: Poudre Canyon; drive 53.7 miles from Ted's Place to mm 69.5, and turn left on the Long Draw Road (FDR-156), which is directly across from the Blue Lake parking lot. Follow the Long Draw Road for 13.5 miles (past the Long Draw

This trail provides access to the southern portion of the Neota Wilderness.

and Grand View campgrounds) to its end at the RMNP La Poudre Pass trailhead parking lot. Facilities but no parking for stock trailers. The actual Neota Creek Trailhead is on Long Draw Road about 200 ft NW of the parking lot and is marked by a signpost and sign. This trail is not suitable for horse riders because much of its path goes through fragile, often very wet areas.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°28.872' W105°49.281'
upper end of trail: N40°29.607' W105°50.321'

Trail Description: The trail meanders up the SW side of Neota Creek; traveling alternatively through a dense forest of Engelmann spruce (with occasional lodgepole pine and subalpine fir) and the open, willow-filled, park- like meadow bordering the creek.

This trail and drainage are like one-half scale replicas of Trap Park; the "park" bordering Neota Creek is less than 1/2 the width of that of Trap Park, Neota Creek has about 1/2 the discharge of Trap

Creek, the willows surrounding Neota Creek are less than 1/2 as tall as those in Trap Park, the Trap Park Trail (an old roadbed) is much wider than the Neota Creek Trail, and the Neota Creek Trail is about 1/2 the length of the Trap Park Trail. Otherwise, the hiking experience, elevation, habitats, and biota (e.g., moose are commonly encountered on both trails) are very similar. Both trails lead toward Iron Mountain (the Neota Creek Trail from the southeast and the Trap Park Trail from the northeast); so the views up both trails are dominated by this impressive peak.

The trail is interrupted by several (4-5) small creeks coming down the hillside from the southwest, most of which are not shown on many maps. The first of these is approximately 1 mi from the parking lot. Each of these small creeks is nothing more than a "step-over" in the late summer/early fall. The tributary (5th small creek) that shows on the map is about 1.6 miles above the parking lot.