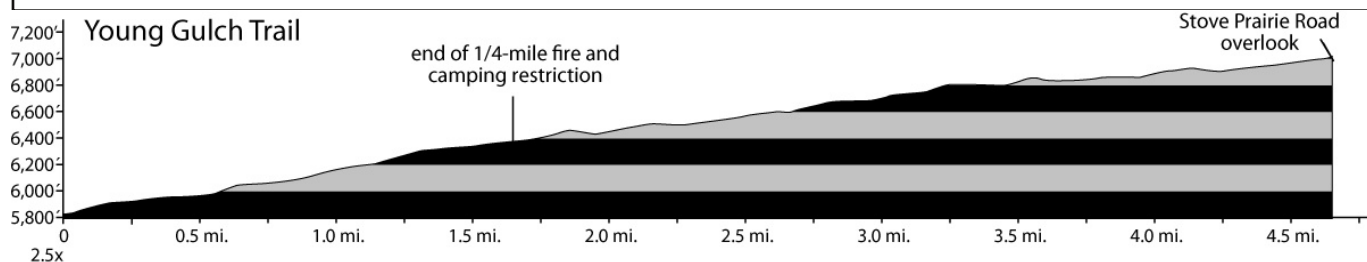


Priority:	HIGH (patrol methods: day hike; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate; Stock riders – Challenging
Open for summer patrol:	May 1 st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio: 01 > 03; Priority 3, Moderate)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	4.8 miles (trailhead to Stove Prairie Road overlook)
Beginning Elevation:	5,829
Peak Elevation:	7,008
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,179/0/+1,179
USFS Regulations:	National Forest & Special Regulations
Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre, Big Thompson
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Poudre Park
Caution: Rattlesnakes are commonly encountered along this trail and there is considerable poison ivy along the lower trail.	



Trailhead Location: Poudre Canyon, drive 13 miles from Ted's Place, past Ansel Watrous Campground on the right. You will cross a small bridge. At mile marker 109 there is a short gravel road on the left that will take you to the parking lot. The trailhead is located in the southeast corner of the parking lot. Facilities are available at Ansel Watrous Campground. Stock riders note that it is difficult to maneuver stock trailers in the parking lot (especially when the lot is full of vehicles). Furthermore, the trail is very rocky in places, has over 40 stream crossings, and is very popular with day hikers and mountain bikers.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°41.305' W105°20.849'
end of
special. regs.: N40°40.133' W105°20.634'
trail end: N40°38.611' W105°21.985'

Trail Description:

Special Regulations: Camping and fires are not allowed within 1/4 mile of the trail for the first 1.7 miles. A Forest Service sign marks the end of this restriction.

The city of Fort Collins acquired the right from the Forest Service to develop a property known as Young's Gulch (now called Young Gulch) in 1918. The city spent \$300 in the spring of 1919 to build a road up the gulch, and was assisted by the Forest Service in

planting trees in the area. The trail meanders up Young Gulch and then Stove Prairie Gulch, crossing the stream a total of 44 times (21 crossings below the stream coming out of upper Young Gulch, and another 22 crossings of the stream coming down Stove Prairie Gulch). Only two of the crossings are facilitated by (stringer) bridges, so travel during periods of high runoff can be challenging and wet! The climb is very gradual and scenic, with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominating the hillsides. Alder, Rocky Mountain maple, quaking aspen, Rocky Mountain juniper and narrowleaf cottonwood are the dominant tree species found along the stream. After about 4 miles, there's an open meadow on the left side of the stream, supporting large ponderosa pine.

This is a good turnaround point, but you can continue on the trail for another mile, where the trail ends on a rock outcropping at a point overlooking Stove Prairie Road. Note that the land beyond this point is privately owned.

This trail is heavily used by mountain bikers, which can cause conflicts with hikers, dogs (especially dogs off leash) and stock riders. Illegal camping and campfires can be quite common during the summer months, especially around the parking lot and the first mile along the trail. Avoid confrontation but report any illegal activity.