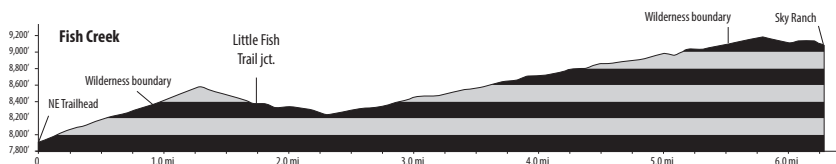


Fish Creek 993 (1009)

PRIORITY	MEDIUM (patrol methods: day hike; backpack; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate; Stock riders – Easy
Open For Summer Patrol:	June 1st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio: 01 > 03; Priority 3, Good Reception)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	6.4 miles
Beginning Elevation:	7,903
Peak Elevation:	9,190
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,633/450/+1,183
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness > National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle:	Pingree Park



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

There are three different ways to access this trail. All three require that you drive CO-14 in the Poudre Canyon (drive 26.5 miles from Ted's Place) to the Pingree Park road – CR-69 (at mm 96.1), cross the Cache La Poudre River, and drive up this gravel road.

Via the NE (lower) trailhead located along the Pingree Park Road: Drive 8.0 miles up the Pingree Park Road. The Fish Creek trailhead is on the right just before you cross a bridge over the South Fork of the Poudre. Facilities are available at Jacks Gulch Campground. Water & stock trailer parking are available at this trailhead.

Via the SW (upper) trailhead at Sky Ranch near the Tom Bennett Campground: Drive 15.9 miles up the Pingree Park Road to the Tom Bennett Campground turnoff on the right side. Cross over the South Fork of the Cache La Poudre River and continue on to Sky Ranch. The trailhead is located at the entrance to Sky Ranch. There is parking and a clear trailhead. Facilities are available at Tom Bennett Campground. Stock trailer parking is available at this trailhead but water is not.

Via the Little Beaver Creek Trail above Jacks Gulch Campground: Drive 6.3 miles up the Pingree Park Road to the Jack's Gulch Campground. Drive through the Campground; the Little Beaver Creek trailhead is located at the west end, in the same location as the lower Flowers trailhead. Facilities, camping, stock accommodations, and water are

available from mid May through September at Jacks Gulch Campground.

Another alternative would be to drive two vehicles and leave one at the Fish Creek/Beaver Creek trailhead just east of Sky Ranch. Refer to the Beaver Creek Trail for driving information to this trailhead.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead #1 (on Pingree Park Rd.):
N40°37.109' W105°31.559'

lower Wilderness boundary:
N40°36.98' W105°32.19'

jct. Little Fish Trail:
N40°36.658' W105°32.792'

upper Wilderness boundary:
N40°35.326' W105°35.668'

trailhead #2 (at Sky Ranch):
N40°34.842' W105°35.992'

Little Beaver Creek trailhead (at Old Flowers Road):
N40°37.796' W105°32.347'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

NE trailhead to Sky Ranch trailhead: The first 0.75 mile of this trail is multi-use National Forest. From the trailhead you will climb some switch-backs up a steep forested ridge and then enter an open meadow area. You will have great views of the Mummy Range from this spot. The trail continues its climb up a ridge for another mile or so, entering the Comanche Peak Wilderness along the way. You reach a high point along this section

★ *This trail has been adopted by the Backcountry Horsemen of America*

Fish Creek 993 (1009) *(cont.)*

of the trail, where the power lines pass over the trail just to the west, about 1.4 miles from the lower trailhead. After about 0.3 mile you will notice a signed trail junction to your right. This is the southern end of the Little Fish Trail, which connects the Fish Creek Trail and the Little Beaver Creek Trail.

From here the Fish Creek Trail turns to the south, dropping down through another meadow and a small aspen grove, then climbing up the side of a ridge before dropping down into another valley and heading west up the Fish Creek drainage. From here the trail climbs gradually along the banks of Fish Creek for approximately

2.5 miles. At this point (5.5 miles from trailhead #1) the trail turns to the south, crosses Fish Creek and climbs uphill through lodgepole pine, eventually reaching the upper Wilderness boundary along a ridge (about 0.75 mile from the upper Fish Creek trailhead). The Wilderness boundary is signed—look for a birdhouse on your left. From here the trail continues on through National Forest, dropping gradually downhill to the Sky Ranch trailhead (trailhead #2). The upper Wilderness boundary would be a good turnaround point.