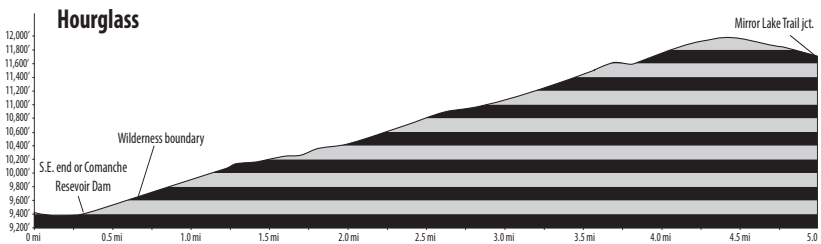


PRIORITY	MEDIUM (patrol methods: day hike; backpack; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Strenuous; Stock riders – Challenging
Open For Summer Patrol:	June 29th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio: 01 > 04 > 03; Priority 2, Moderate reception)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	5.0 miles (from jct. with Beaver Creek Trail at SW end of Comanche Reservoir to jct. with Mirror Lake Trail)
Beginning Elevation:	9,424
Peak Elevation:	11,981
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	2,596/311/+2,285
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-½' Quadrangle:	Comanche Peak



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

Poudre Canyon; drive 26.5 miles from Ted's Place to the Pingree Park Road (CR-63E) at mm 96.1, cross the Cache La Poudre River, and drive 15.9 miles 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. If the gate at the entrance to Sky Ranch is locked, begin your patrol here (trailhead 1). There is parking and a clear trailhead. Note that this adds 1.0 mile to your one-way distance, whatever your final destination. The trail skirts Sky Ranch buildings, and rejoins the road. Turn right on the road, and follow it to trailhead 2. If the first gate is open, you can drive through Sky Ranch to a locked gate (at trailhead 2). Facilities are available at Tom Bennett Campground. Stock trailer parking is available at both trailheads. No water available at either trailhead. The Hourglass Trail is accessed from the Beaver Creek Trail approximately 2.75 miles from Sky Ranch or 1.5 miles from the parking area at the locked gate west of Sky Ranch. Stock Riders: Trailer parking but no water for stock at the Beaver Creek trailhead.

GPS Coordinates:

north end of Comanche Reservoir dam:

N40°35.121' W105°38.681'

trailhead: N40°34.869' W105°38.543'

Wilderness boundary: N40°34.56' W105°38.72'

boulder field: N40°34.335' W105°40.336'

jct. Mirror Lake Trail: N40°33.401' W105°42.517'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

The Hourglass trailhead is about 0.3 mile off the Beaver Creek Trail, at the southeast end of Comanche Reservoir. This is not an easy trailhead to find, the trailhead actually begins at the south end of the dam. Cross the face of the dam to the south. You will notice the signed trailhead beyond the overflow spillway at timber's edge. The trail follows a stream for a short distance, climbing a fairly steep pitch. Look for the mileage sign to the Mirror Lake Trail. Follow the trail as it climbs through a mature forest.

Just before reaching the alpine tundra, you will pass by a large boulder field. Suitable campsite locations can be found off the trail as you approach timberline. Along the ridge the views are spectacular and you can see Comanche Lake nestled in the valley below. There is no clear trail that leads up to Comanche Peak, although a faint trail to the south of the peak is shown on some maps. The way to Mirror Lake Trail (where the Hourglass Trail ends) is marked with rock cairns.