

Mirror Lake 943

PRIORITY **MEDIUM** (patrol methods: (backpack; ride stock; day hike)

Ratings: Hikers – Strenuous; Stock riders – Moderate

Open For Summer Patrol: June 29th

SPOT/USFS Radio: **REQUIRED** (Radio: 01 > 03 > 04; Priority 3, Moderate reception)

Wilderness: Comanche Peak

One-Way Length: 4.4 miles (from Flowers Trail to RMNP boundary)

Beginning Elevation: 11,104

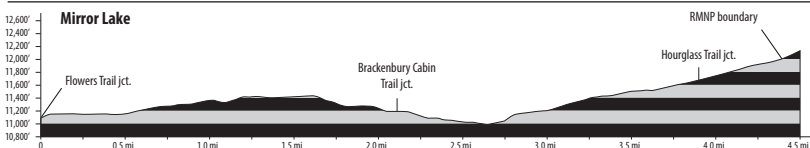
Peak Elevation: 12,516

Gain/Loss/Net Gain: 1,854/442/+1,412

USFS Regulations: Wilderness

Trails Illustrated: #112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass (& #200 RMNP)

USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle: Comanche Peak



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

The Mirror Lake Trail begins at the Flowers Trail and intersects with the Hourglass Trail, so there are actually four different ways to access it – from the Flowers Trail via the Zimmerman Trail (South), from the upper Beaver Creek Trail via the Flowers Trail, from the lower Beaver Creek Trail via the Hourglass Trail, or from the Flowers Trail directly.

Assuming that you will begin your patrol from the Zimmerman Trail (South): Poudre Canyon; drive 26.5 miles from Ted's Place to the Pingree Park Road (at mm 96.1), cross the Cache La Poudre River, and proceed 4.3 miles to Forest Road 139 (Crown Point Road). Turn right and drive 18.8 miles to the end of the road (at the Comanche Peak Wilderness boundary). No facilities and limited water for stock at the Zimmerman trailhead.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead (at Flowers Trail):

N40°34.733' W105°44.853'

jt. Hourglass Trail: N40°33.399' W105°42.501'

Monroe cabin: N40°33.490' W105°43.410'

Wilderness boundary: N40°33.203' W105°42.037'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

Assuming that you access this trail from the Flowers Trail, your patrol begins at about 11,104 ft elevation when you turn off the Flowers Trail to the south. The trail maintains a more or less constant elevation as it goes due south for about 0.6 mile and then turns sharply to the east and continues another 1.5 miles. At

this point it meets the Brackenbury Trail dropping down from the northeast. The trail turns nearly due south again and continues for about 0.8 mile and then turns to the east-southeast and continues climbing for about 0.9 mile until it meets the Hourglass Trail coming up from the northeast. At this point, the trail turns to the southeast and climbs directly toward the summit of Comanche Peak for about 1.4 miles before meeting the Wilderness boundary. The trail more-or-less continues to the east-southeast along the Wilderness boundary for another 1.4 miles before it turns to the southwest just below Comanche Peak and travels about another 0.8 mile before meeting the RMNP boundary. Your official patrol ends at this boundary.

If you want, you can continue hiking into RMNP for roughly another 2 miles to Mirror Lake. However, note that stock are prohibited on the RMNP portion of this trail. If you continue into RMNP as a private citizen, don't include observations, contacts, or trail maintenance needs from inside RMNP in your official patrol report (except possibly in the COMMENTS section).

The portion of the Mirror Lake Trail in the Comanche Peak Wilderness is virtually entirely above timberline and affords panoramic views and access to lots of alpine wildflowers in the mid and late summer.

Because you must traverse one or more additional trails to access the Mirror Lake Trail, you should remember to schedule and report each trail you patrol separately.