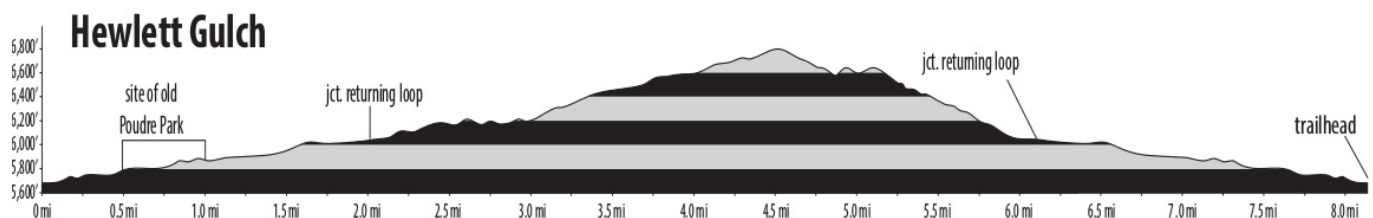


Priority:	HIGH (patrol method: day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Easy to Moderate; Stock riders – Easy
Open for summer patrol:	May 1 st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	not required (Radio : 01 > 03; Priority 4, Moderate reception)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	8.0 miles
Beginning Elevation:	5,680
Peak Elevation:	6,794
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,179 / 1,179 / 0
USFS Regulations:	National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre, Big Thompson
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Poudre Park
Caution: Rattlesnakes are commonly encountered along this trail (especially in the meadows) and there is considerable poison ivy along the lower trail and in the streambed.	



Trailhead Location: Poudre Canyon; drive 10.5 miles from Ted's Place. Just past Poudre Park, on the right side of the road is a bridge spanning the Poudre River that leads to the Hewlett Gulch trailhead and a large, paved parking lot. Cross the bridge and follow the road to the parking lot at the top of the hill. Facilities are available at the trailhead. Stock riders: The size and shape of the parking lot and the often heavy use it receives make it difficult to accomodate any stock trailers.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°41.370' W105°18.622'
jct. Loop Trail: N40°42.891' W105°18.896'
N. end of trail: N40°43.459' W105°18.971'

Trail Description: After hiking about 0.5 mile you will notice old building foundations scattered along the gulch. These are the remains of old Poudre Park. Most of these homesteads were erected between 1911 and 1925. Hewlett Gulch is named for one of the first settlers along the Poudre, Horace Huleatt. Horace made his home in a valley to the north of this area in the late 1870s. There are also mine tailings and some closed mine shafts in the gulch.

As you hike on up, the gulch narrows considerably. You will come to a spot where the trail branches. The trail to the left is the returning end of the "loop trail"

Stay to the right. From here the trail will wind through a canyon, crossing the stream several more times. Eventually the trail will leave the stream and head uphill to the left (west). Note the private property fence boundary and scattered buildings north of the trail. This location, about three miles from the trailhead, is where the PWV patrol used to end. However, PWV now patrols the entire "loop" portion of the Hewlett Gulch Trail.

From this point, the trail makes a 2.5 mile long loop through a beautiful prairie and an open, mixed forest of ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain juniper; traveling west, then southwest, then southeast, and then east back to the junction mentioned above. Note, that the eastern portion of this loop was rerouted in 2011 via a number of switchbacks down a south-facing slope (with yucca, prickly pear and barrel/ball/hedgehog cactus, and wavyleaf thistle) to improve passage and lessen erosion relative to its former, steeper route. Horse riders and mountain bikers make extensive use of some or all of this "loop trail.". Note that the upper and lower extremes of the newly re-routed portion of this trail have not been cut-in yet, but they should be completed sometime during the 2012 summer patrol season.