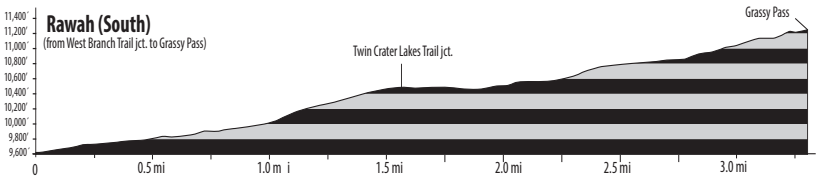


Rawah 961 (South)

PRIORITY	HIGH (patrol methods: backpack; ride stock; day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate to Strenuous; Stock riders – Challenging
Open For Summer Patrol: June 29th	
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio: 02 > 01; Priority 1, Good reception)
Wilderness:	Rawah
One-Way Length:	3.3 miles (from the West Branch Trail to Grassy Pass)
Beginning Elevation:	9,607
Peak Elevation:	11,250
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,643/0/+1,643
USFS Regulations:	Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle:	Rawah Lakes



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

The Rawah (South) patrol is typically reached via the West Branch Trail.

Poudre Canyon; drive 51.6 miles from Ted's Place, turn right on the Laramie River Road (CR-103) at mm 71.5, and proceed 7.1 miles to the West Branch parking area, a short distance north of the Tunnel Campground. Facilities, water, and stock trailer parking are available at the trailhead. The West Branch trail begins about 50 feet south of the parking area and heads west along a ditch road. The trail then crosses the ditch to your left and heads uphill to the Wilderness boundary. Stay to your right when the trail divides the trailhead. The Rawah (South) patrol is typically reached via the West Branch Trail.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead at West Branch Trail:

N40°39.395' W105°54.186'

jct. Twin Crater Lakes Trail:

N40°39.599' W105°55.604'

Grassy Pass:

N40°40.555' W105°56.602'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

This patrol is best accomplished as an overnight trip, doing the Rawah Trail (South) patrol in conjunction with the Twin Crater Lakes Trail patrol. If you plan to do both of these patrols, remember to schedule and report

them separately. You can find legal campsites 0.2 mile past the Twin Crater Lakes Trail junction on the north side of the Rawah Trail.

About 3.5 miles up the West Branch Trail, the trail reaches the North Fork of the Laramie River. Note that the 2-log stringer bridge across the North Fork of the Laramie River is washed out so, even if you are prepared to wade the stream, patrolling beyond this point may not be possible/safe during high stream flow conditions. Shortly after this stream crossing turn right onto the south end of the Rawah Trail at the sign-posted trail junction. Proceed up the Rawah Trail and through a series of steep switchbacks to the Twin Crater Lakes trailhead. However, about 0.9 mile up this trail the 2-log stringer bridge across the stream coming out of Twin Crater Lakes is badly damaged so, even if you are prepared to wade, the stream at this point may be impassable/unsafe during high stream flows. If possible, continue up the Rawah Trail to just beyond the un-bridged stream crossing (which can be unsafe during high flows), where the trail begins its steep ascent to Grassy Pass, checking for illegal campsites along the stream.

If you really want more exercise, you can also make a steep side trip, cross-country to the southwest, to check out Bench Lake before

Rawah (South) *(continued)*

dropping back down to the Rawah Trail. However, don't include observations, contacts, or trail maintenance from this side trip to Bench Lake in your official patrol report (except possibly in the *COMMENTS* section).

Continue your patrol to Grassy Pass. From Grassy Pass, backtrack to the Twin Crater Lakes trailhead.

If you have also scheduled a patrol of the Twin Crater Lakes Trail (see Twin Crater Lakes Patrol description), go up this trail and check for campsites in the groves to the left and right

just after crossing the stream. Continue on up to Twin Crater Lakes, where few legal camping sites exist but camping is often quite heavy. The final climb to the lakes is quite steep. If you're feeling ambitious, climb the ridge to the north of lower Twin Crater Lake and check out Rockhole Lake. However, don't include observations, contacts, or trail maintenance from your visit to Rockhole Lake in your official patrol report (except possibly in the *COMMENTS* section).

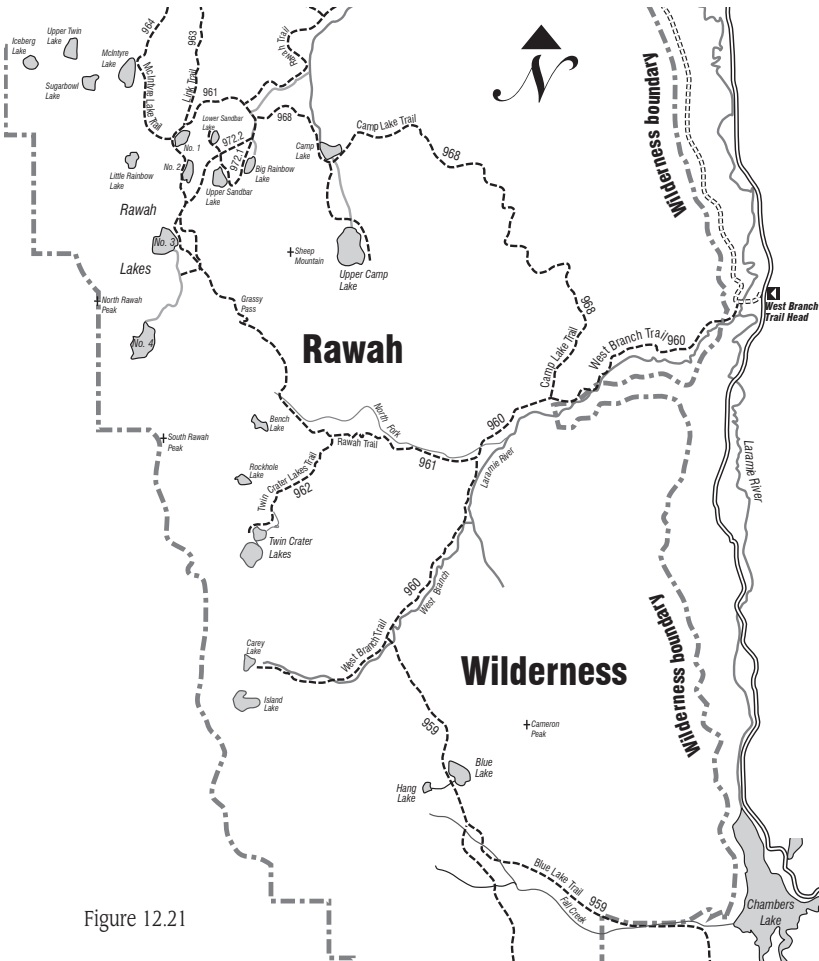


Figure 12.21