

Killpecker 956

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

Ratings: Hikers – Moderate; Stock riders – Moderate

Open For Summer Patrol: June 15th

SPOT/USFS Radio: **REQUIRED** (Radio: 02 > 01; Priority 3, Good Reception)

Wilderness: None

One-Way Length: 4.1 miles (northern trailhead to junction with Elkhorn Baldy Road)

Beginning Elevation: 9,150

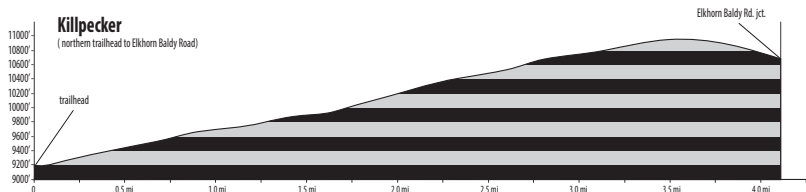
Peak Elevation: 10,982

Gain/Loss/Net Gain: 1,832/295/+1,537

USFS Regulations: National Forest

Trails Illustrated: #111 Red Feather Lakes, Glendevey

USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle: South Bald Mountain



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

From Ted's Place, drive north on US-287 for 10.5 miles to the "forks" at Livermore, turn left and drive up the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E) to the community of Red Feather Lakes. After passing the Pot Belly Restaurant, the main road veers to the right. The Deadman Road (CR-86) veers to the left. Follow the Deadman Road to the trailhead, located on a ridge to your left, 2 miles after passing a Forest Service gate and an emergency call box. Total distance from the "forks" to the trailhead is 28.5 miles.

Facilities are available at the adjacent North Fork Poudre Campground, just beyond the Killpecker Trailhead. No water and very limited stock trailer parking at the trailhead. Stock riders: If you will be patrolling both the Killpecker and North Lone Pine trails on the same day, we recommend that you park your stock trailer at the North Lone Pine trailhead. Note that motorcycles are allowed on the Killpecker trail.

GPS Coordinates:

northern trailhead: N40°48.815' W105°42.567'

Elkhorn Baldy Road (FDR-517):

N40°45.844' W105°42.690'

PATROL DESCRIPTION

The first part of the trail heads steadily uphill through a mature, mixed lodgepole pine – Douglas-fir forest along Killpecker Creek. There are two stream crossings in the first 1.5 miles. After 1.5 miles the trail passes through a logged-over area shortly before intersecting Killpecker Road (FDR-300). The trail can be picked up again down road and about 100 yards east of the stream. After a short but steady climb for about 0.3 mile, the trail will take you to a spring that provides the last source of water along the trail. From here the trail turns west then back to the south to a ridge, where it will cross Killpecker Road once again, amid another logged-over area.

The trail then continues to the south-south-west, crossing Killpecker Road a third and last time. Look for a marker south of the road indicating the continuation of the trail. From here the trail climbs a ridge along the northwest side of Middle Bald Mountain. A short detour off the trail to climb to the top of Middle Bald Mountain will reward you with panoramic views in all directions (Red Feather Lakes area, Mummy Range, upper Poudre Canyon, Rawah and Medicine Bow mountains) and many varieties of wildflowers in this tundra area. From the ridge, the trail swings back to the south,

drops downhill, and ends at the Elkhorn Baldy Road (FDR-517). This should be your turnaround point.

Another option would be to patrol both the Killpecker and North Lone Pine trails on the same day. The easiest way to do this is to drive two vehicles and park one at the North Lone Pine trailhead. From the southern end of the Killpecker Trail, continue to the southeast along the Elkhorn Baldy Road for about 0.3 mile,

where you can intercept the North Lone Pine Trail heading down the east side of Middle Bald Mountain and North Bald Mountain. This way, your entire trip will cover a total of about 8.9 miles.

If you patrol both trails, remember to schedule and report them separately.