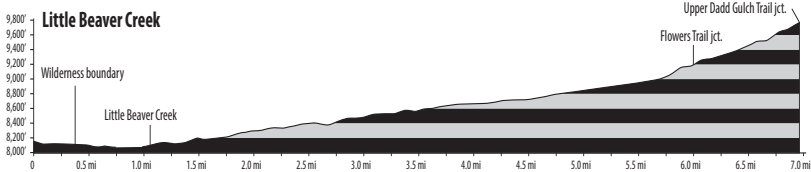


Little Beaver Creek 948 (855)

PRIORITY	MEDIUM (patrol methods: day hike; backpack; ride stock)
Ratings:	Hikers – Moderate to Strenuous; Stock riders – Challenging
Open For Summer Patrol:	June 1st
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio Channel: 01 > 03; Priority 2, Good reception)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	6.9 miles (from trailhead at Jacks Gulch to jct. Upper Dadd Gulch Trail)
Beginning Elevation:	8,151
Peak Elevation:	9,785
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,726/93/+1,633
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Pingree Park, Rustic



TRAILHEAD LOCATION

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 drive 6.3 miles to the Jack's Gulch Campground. Drive through the Campground; the trailhead is located at the west end, in the same location as the Flowers Trailhead. Facilities, camping, stock accommodations, and water are available from mid May through September at Jacks Gulch Campground.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead (at Old Flowers Road):

$N40^{\circ}37.796' \ W105^{\circ}32.347'$

lower Wilderness boundary:

$N40^{\circ}37.563' \ W105^{\circ}32.360'$

jct. cut-off trail to Rockwell Ranch and Pingree

Park Rd $N40^{\circ}36.957' \ W105^{\circ}32.642'$

jct. Little Fish Trail:

$N40^{\circ}36.957' \ W105^{\circ}32.642'$

jct. cut-off trail to Bedsprings Spring:

$N40^{\circ}37.37' \ W105^{\circ}33.84'$

old gauging station:

$N40^{\circ}37.116' \ W105^{\circ}32.482'$

upper Wilderness boundary:

$N40^{\circ}38.31' \ W105^{\circ}36.65'$

jct. Flowers Trail at Beaver Park:

$N40^{\circ}38.323' \ W105^{\circ}36.688'$

jct. Upper Dadd Gulch Trail:

$N40^{\circ}39.042' \ W105^{\circ}37.603'$

PATROL DESCRIPTION

(Note: The Little Beaver Creek Trail can also be accessed from the Flowers Trail or the Fish Creek Trail. For directions, check the trail patrol descriptions for these trails or see below.)

The most direct access to the Little Beaver Creek Trail is from the Jacks Gulch Campground. Follow the Old Flowers Road west of the Campground for 0.75 mile. Here you will notice a trail/road heading downhill and to the south. Note: If the gate is open on the west side of the Campground, you can drive to this point if you wish, but the road is rough and may require a high clearance vehicle. After hiking 0.3 mile, you will cross a small stream in Jacks Gulch and soon thereafter enter the Comanche Peak Wilderness. For the next 0.7 mile the trail will climb, then traverse a hillside as it drops into the Little Beaver Creek drainage.

More-or-less immediately after you cross Little Beaver Creek (via a horse ford or a stringer bridge 1.0 mile from the trailhead) you

★ *This trail has been adopted by the Backcountry Horsemen of America*

Little Beaver Creek *(continued)*

will see a cut-off trail leading northeast. [This trail follows the stream to the Rockwell Ranch on Pingree Park Road and requires that you ford the stream]. Continue up the Little Beaver Creek Trail toward Beaver Park. You will encounter an unsigned trail junction approximately 1.15 miles above the trailhead. [This is the Little Fish Trail which is 0.5 mile long and connects the Little Beaver Creek Trail and the Fish Creek Trail.] Continue up the Little Beaver Creek Trail for another 1.5 miles where you will encounter another (unsigned) trail junction (about 2.7 miles from the trailhead). This is where the un-maintained cut-off trail between Bedsprings Spring and the Little Beaver Creek Trail. The remains of an old stream-flow gauging station can be found in the stream channel about 300 ft above this trail junction (at N40°37.381' W105°33.941'). Continue northwest up the Little Beaver Creek for about 3 more miles to the upper end of Beaver Park and the junction with the Flowers Trail. This is a very scenic and pleasant patrol, as the trail climbs gradually up along the stream. Beaver are active along the stream and eastern brook trout are plentiful in its crystal clear waters.

Beaver Park is the destination for most backpackers, for good reason, since there are several picturesque beaver ponds in this area and by climbing the ridge to the north you get great views of the Mummy Range to the south. The Little Beaver Creek Trail actually continues northwest for another 1.3 miles and ends at its intersection with the Upper Dadd Gulch Trail.

However, after Beaver Park the trail becomes steep and receives relatively little use.

From Beaver Park you can either return the way you came, on the Little Beaver Creek Trail, or go back to Jacks Gulch via the Flowers Trail. The latter route represents a different patrol so be sure to schedule and report it separately if that's what you do.

Yet another alternative for the day would be to do the combined Little Beaver Creek and Flowers trail patrols in reverse, beginning your patrol from the Jacks Gulch Campground. You would travel along Old Flowers Road for 3.1 miles (past Bedsprings Spring) to the Flowers trailhead, and then approximately 2 miles along the Flowers Trail (through a lodgepole pine forest) before dropping down into Beaver Park. Then you would travel down the Little Beaver Creek Trail to Jacks Gulch. After a 1-mile hike to the northeast, the trail will intersect Old Flowers Road about 0.75 mile west of the Campground. Be sure to close the gate when you leave the Wilderness.

If your day includes patrols of both the Little Beaver Creek and Flowers trails, be sure to schedule and report the two patrols separately. And be sure to look for the World War 2, B-17 crash site memorial near the Flowers trailhead at the Wilderness boundary. Information about the location of the actual crash site is available in the Flowers Trail patrol description.

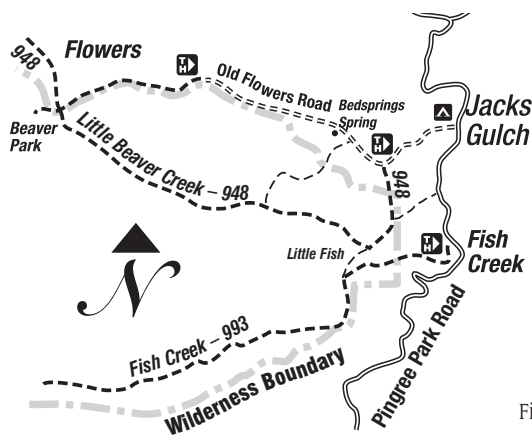


Figure 12.13