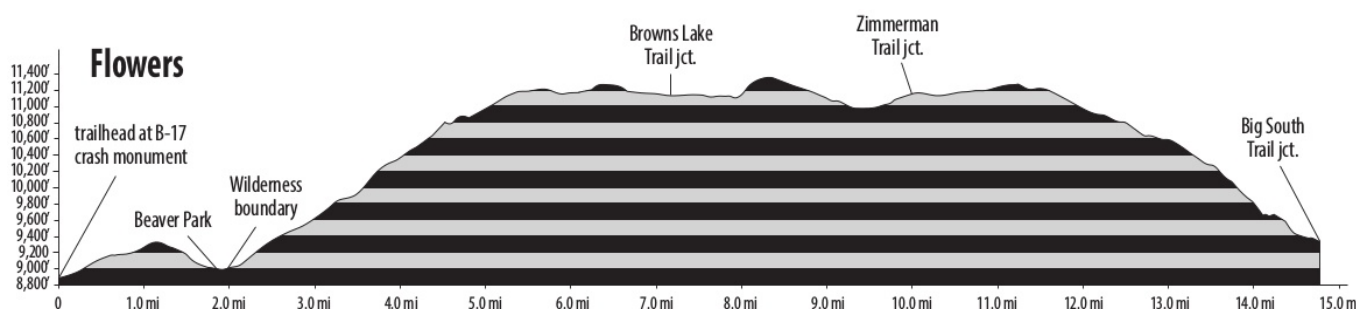


Priority:	MEDIUM (patrol methods: backpack; ride stock; day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Strenuous; Stock riders – Challenging
Open for summer patrol:	June 29 th
SPOT/USFS Radio:	REQUIRED (Radio: 01 > 03 > 04; Priority 1, variable)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	14.9 miles from trailhead at B-17 crash monument to junction with Big South Trail (18 miles from Jacks Gulch campground)
Beginning Elevation:	8,898
Peak Elevation:	11,365
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	3,398/-2964/+434
USFS Regulations:	National Forest > Wilderness > Travel Zone > Wilderness
Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Rustic, Kinnikinnik, Comanche Peak, Chambers Lake



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 Jacks Gulch Campground. Turn right (SW) onto Forest Road 152 and drive through the Campground. The trailhead is located 3.1 miles up Old Flowers Road at the Comanche Peak Wilderness boundary and the monument to the B-17 crash. Facilities & parking for both hikers and stock patrols are available at the Campground (limited parking for stock trailers at the trailheads).

GPS Coordinates: trailhead near

Jacks Gulch Campground: N40°38.065' W105°31.918'
 jct. Little Beaver Creek Trail: N40°38.317' W105°36.634'
 wilderness boundary: N40°38.33' W105°36.71'
 jct. Browns Lake Trail: N40°36.781' W105°40.871'
 B-17 crash site: N40°36.738' W105°37.997'
 jct. Beaver Creek Trail: N40°35.637' W105°43.099'
 jct. Zimmerman Trail (South): N40°35.590' W105°43.261'
 jct. Mirror Lake Trail: N40°34.737' W105°44.844'
 jct. Big South Trail: N40°33.398' W105°46.723'

Flowers Trail begins west of Jacks Gulch Campground and terminates at the Big South Trail. Covering up to 14.9 miles, the Flowers Trail connects with the Little Beaver Creek, Browns Lake, Beaver Creek, Zimmerman (South), Mirror Lake, and Big South trails.

Trail Description: As you head west from Jacks Gulch Campground, you will frequently encounter mountain bikers, hikers, dogs, and vehicles (on Old Flowers Road; the first 3.5 miles), until you reach the Comanche Peak Wilderness boundary.

Reliable water sources can be found at Bedsprings Spring and at the Little Beaver Creek crossing at Beaver Park. From that crossing, the trail climbs steeply for the next 4.5 miles before leveling out. You will enter the Browns Lake Travel Zone a short distance later and intersect the Browns Lake Trail near an old shepherd's cabin, which has a reliable water source. The travel zone has 12 designated campsites. As you travel west across the tundra, you will leave the Browns Lake Travel Zone. After 2 miles or so you will come to the junction with the Beaver Creek Trail. This would be a good area to look for a campsite if you are planning to spend the night.

If there is no other patrol in the area, you should check out the Brackenbury Trail and the Mirror Lake Trail as far as the RMNP boundary. If you plan on doing this, be sure to schedule and report these trails separately. (See the descriptions for those trails.)

If time permits, you should also check the Flowers Trail all the way down to the Big South Trail junction. This is a great ride or hike, offering diverse landscape and beautiful alpine meadows, which are rich with wildflowers. The upper portions of this trail are used mostly by horse packers, by hikers, or as a connecting trail between Browns Lake and Mirror Lake Trails.

If there is nobody else patrolling the Browns Lake area, you might want to check out the designated campsites within the travel zone. If you do so, remember to schedule and report this trail separately. Also coordinate with patrols that may be in the area

from the Zimmerman Trail.

Note: If you are interested in looking for the B-17 crash site, here is some information that might be helpful. The site is located just off the Flowers Trail about 2.75 miles east of the Browns Lake Trail junction. The crash site is about 0.15 mile east of the Flowers Trail near a point where the trail turns sharply to the northeast (when traveling from the Browns Lake Trail junction) at N40°36.741' W105°38.161'. It is just below and northeast of a 10,875-foot ridge, at approximately 10,750 feet elevation.

