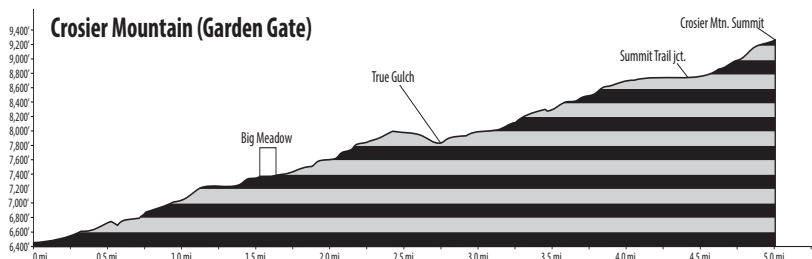


# Crosier Mountain 931 (Garden Gate) [incl. 931-1]

PRIORITY	<b>LOW</b> (patrol method: day hike)
Ratings:	Hikers – Strenuous    Stock riders – Not Recommended
Open For Summer Patrol:	May 18th
Spot/USFS Radio:	<b>not required</b> (Radio: 04 > 01 > 03; Priority 3, Good Reception)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	5.1 miles (trailhead to Crosier Mountain summit)
Beginning Elevation:	6,422
Peak Elevation:	9,233
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	3,103/317/+2,786
USFS Regulations:	National Forest
Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre, Big Thompson
USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangle:	Glen Haven



## TRAILHEAD LOCATION

There are three routes up Crosier Mountain, each with a separate patrol description in this Guide. Note that with two vehicles, you can do any two of these patrols on the same day. **For the Garden Gate trailhead:** From Drake follow the Devils Gulch Road (CR-43) for 2.2 miles (at mm 13.1) and look for a small pull-out/parking area with a gate in the fence on the south side of the road. No facilities. Stock riders: No trailer parking.

GPS Coordinates:

trailhead: N40°26.54' W105°27.71'

jct. Crosier Mtn.

Trail (Glen Haven): N40°25.920' W105°25.056'

Crosier Mtn.summit N40°25.939' W105°25.526'

*Caution: Rattlesnakes have been seen by PWV's on this trail.*

## PATROL DESCRIPTION

The Crosier Mountain Trail (#931) is 7.8 miles long and runs from the Garden Gate trailhead in the east to the Glen Haven trailhead in the west. PWV has three separate patrols to the summit of Crosier Mountain: Crosier Mountain

(Garden Gate), Crosier Mountain (Glen Haven), and Crosier Rainbow – each with a different trailhead. The Garden Gate route is the longest.

After passing through the gate at the trailhead, you climb a small ridge, and then wind through a meadow filled with rabbitbrush. The trail then enters heavier forest, dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Although the terrain looks imposing, the trail climbs gradually and has several switchbacks. It passes an old mine entrance. You will top two ridges. If you look to the north from the second, you will see the summits of North and South Signal mountains. From here, the trail passes through a small aspen grove and under a large granite outcropping. The trail crests one more ridge, then levels out and passes through a burn area, then a large meadow. From here, you head up a small canyon to the left of a large rocky ridge, then climb sharply to the southwest and break out between a couple of large boulders, topping another ridge at 8,000 feet. From the crest of this ridge, you can see the summit of Crosier Mountain to the west. From here, the trail drops sharply into True Gulch and starts another climb.

★ The Crosier Mountain Trail has been adopted by the American Society of Civil Engineers – CSU Chapter

## Crosier Mountain 931 (Garden Gate) [incl. 931-1] (cont.)

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After about another 1.5 miles, you will intersect the Crosier Mountain Summit Trail (#931-1). A sign points the way for the 0.5-mile hike to the summit. If you include the Crosier Mountain Summit Trail in your patrol, please indicate that fact in the *Comments* field in your patrol report. Beyond this junction the trail is considered the Crosier Mountain Trail (Glen Haven) patrol, as the trail continues, to the west and descends to Glen Haven (note that this is a separate PWV patrol). The high point on Crosier Mountain is a small meadow and

rock outcropping, framing views of Estes Park and many peaks in RMNP. You can see from Signal Mountain (to the northwest) all the way to Pikes Peak in the south! Wildflowers are abundant. Be sure to carry plenty of water on this patrol.

If you also intend to patrol the Crosier Mountain (Glen Haven) or Crosier Rainbow trails on the same day, remember to schedule and report these patrols separately.