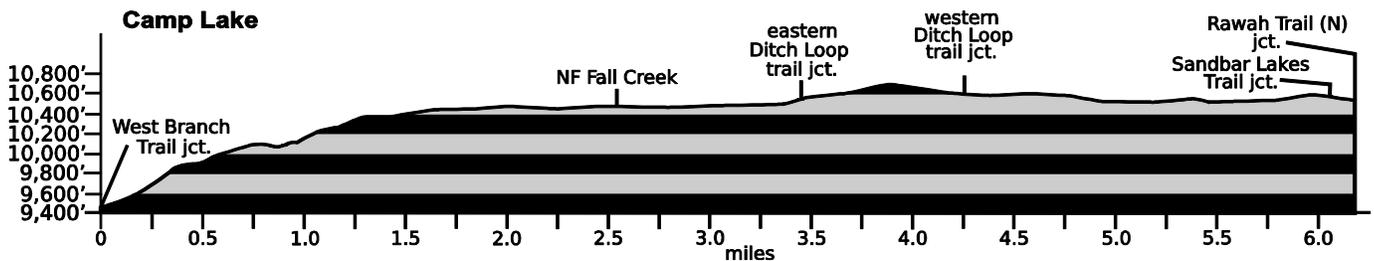


Jan. 31, 2021

Public Trail Information: Camp Lake

Trail(s): Camp Lake #968; Camp Lake Loop #968-1; Upper Camp Lake #978	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers - Difficult Stock riders - Difficult Dogs must be on hand-held leash with hikers See REGULATIONS below INFORMATION OF INTEREST
Cautions:	Moose (esp. near Camp Lake and Upper Camp Lake)
Typically accessible:	Late June, after Laramie River Road is open
Wilderness:	Rawah
One-Way Length:	6.2 miles (from junction with West Branch Trail via the Camp Lake Trail to Rawah Trail jct.) 7.7 miles (from junction with West Branch Trail via the Camp Lake Loop Trail to the Rawah Trail junction) [+ 0.7 mile for Upper Camp Lake Trail]
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	9,474 / 10,686 [10,750 at Upper Camp Lake]
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,276 / 205 / +1,071
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River Cameron Pass; Mountain Jay - Rawah Wilderness
Map(s) - USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Rawah Lakes



TRAIL LOCATION:

Rawah Wilderness Area: Camp Lake Trail may be accessed from West Branch Trail or Rawah Trail (N). See the West Branch Trail or Rawah Trail (N) descriptions for details.

TRAIL: Nearly the entire lengths of the Camp Lake trails pass through established forest with visible trail corridors. The Camp Lake Trail tread is well established and easy to follow, although there are few or no old USFS tree blazes or rock cairns marking its path. The only confusing area is the 0.5 mile section through the willows immediately to the east and south of Camp Lake. The trail from Camp Lake to Upper Camp Lake receives considerably less use and is less distinct and more difficult to see and follow. This trail crosses Camp Creek (flowing from Upper Camp Lake down to Camp Lake and beyond) three times before ending on the hillside east of Upper Camp Lake. The corridor and tread of the Camp Lake Loop Trail (#968-1) are easily seen and followed along the ditch dike but somewhat obscure and challenging to follow near its northwest end before it rejoins the Camp Lake Trail (#968).

WATER: Abundant - Several water sources along this patrol - 1) Camp Lake Trail: a small, unnamed creek crossing the West Branch Trail just below its jct. with the Camp Lake Trail and at Camp Lake; 2) Camp Lake Loop Trail at North Fork Fall Creek (GPS N40°40.99' W105°53.89') and at North Fork Rapid Creek (at GPS N40°41.56' W105°54.11'); and 3)

Upper Camp Lake Trail: at 3 crossings of Camp Creek and at Upper Camp Lake.

CAMPING: There are potential camping sites to the north and the southwest of Camp Lake. There is also good camping and good grazing for stock on the east side of Upper Camp Lake.

SEASONAL: The stringer bridge over Rawah Creek (about 50 ft east of the junction with the Rawah (N) Trail) is gone. Even if you are prepared to wade, this crossing may be impossible or unsafe during high stream flows. Additionally, the lowest crossing of Camp Creek on the Upper Camp Lake Trail (about 0.5 mile above the junction with the Camp Lake Trail), may be challenging during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

DESCRIPTION: The Camp Lake patrol typically includes an overnight stay although it can be done in a single, long day. After entering the Rawah Wilderness, travel up the West Branch Trail, which follows the West Branch of the Laramie River for several miles. (See the patrol description for West Branch Trail.) About 2.7 miles from the West Branch trailhead, the West Branch Trail intersects the Camp Lake Trail. The remains of an old cabin can be seen just off the Camp Lake Trail to the east, less than 0.25 mile from the West Branch Trail. The first 1.25 miles of the Camp Lake Trail are quite steep, rising some 1,000 feet as it heads uphill to the north. This part of the trail has sustained significant erosion damage and is very rocky. When the trail levels somewhat

and opens up, you will have some great views of Cameron Peak, Clark Peak, and the West Branch valley below. As you climb a little further, you will notice the remains of some old cabins. Workers on the Link Ditch lived here during its construction in the 1890s and early 1900s. The trail is relatively flat as it winds along the ditch for 2 miles.

Shortly after crossing North Fall Creek, the trail forks. The Camp Lake Loop Trail (968-1) makes an abrupt bend to the north (right) and follows the ditch and its dike whereas the Camp Lake Trail (968) goes uphill and to the northwest (left). The Camp Lake and the Camp Lake Loop trails rejoin about 1 mile east of Camp Lake. The old Camp Lake Loop Trail is faint and somewhat difficult to follow in places despite the presence of some old USFS axe blazes in trees and infrequent, small rock cairns. It will add 1.5 miles (each way) to your hike. Camp Lake is a very popular destination for both backpackers and horse packers, and has sustained considerable resource damage in the past. Despite this it seems to be recovering nicely. Note that the 2-log stringer bridge across Rawah Creek at the northwestern end of the Camp Lake Trail is washed out.

Note that there is one unbridged stream crossing of Camp Creek just above Camp Lake that can be challenging. Upper Camp Lake is a beautiful area, with Sheep Mountain dominating the view to the west.

REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires – Prohibited within 200 feet of water or trail.
- Dogs – Must be on hand-held leash with hikers, voice control with stock.
- Stock – To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours prior to the ride, stock should be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay. Required: throughout the trip, stock *must* be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay.
- Bicycles and Other Wheeled Conveyances – Prohibited.
- Motorized Transport and Equipment – Prohibited.
- Group Size – Maximum 12 people and stock, combined.

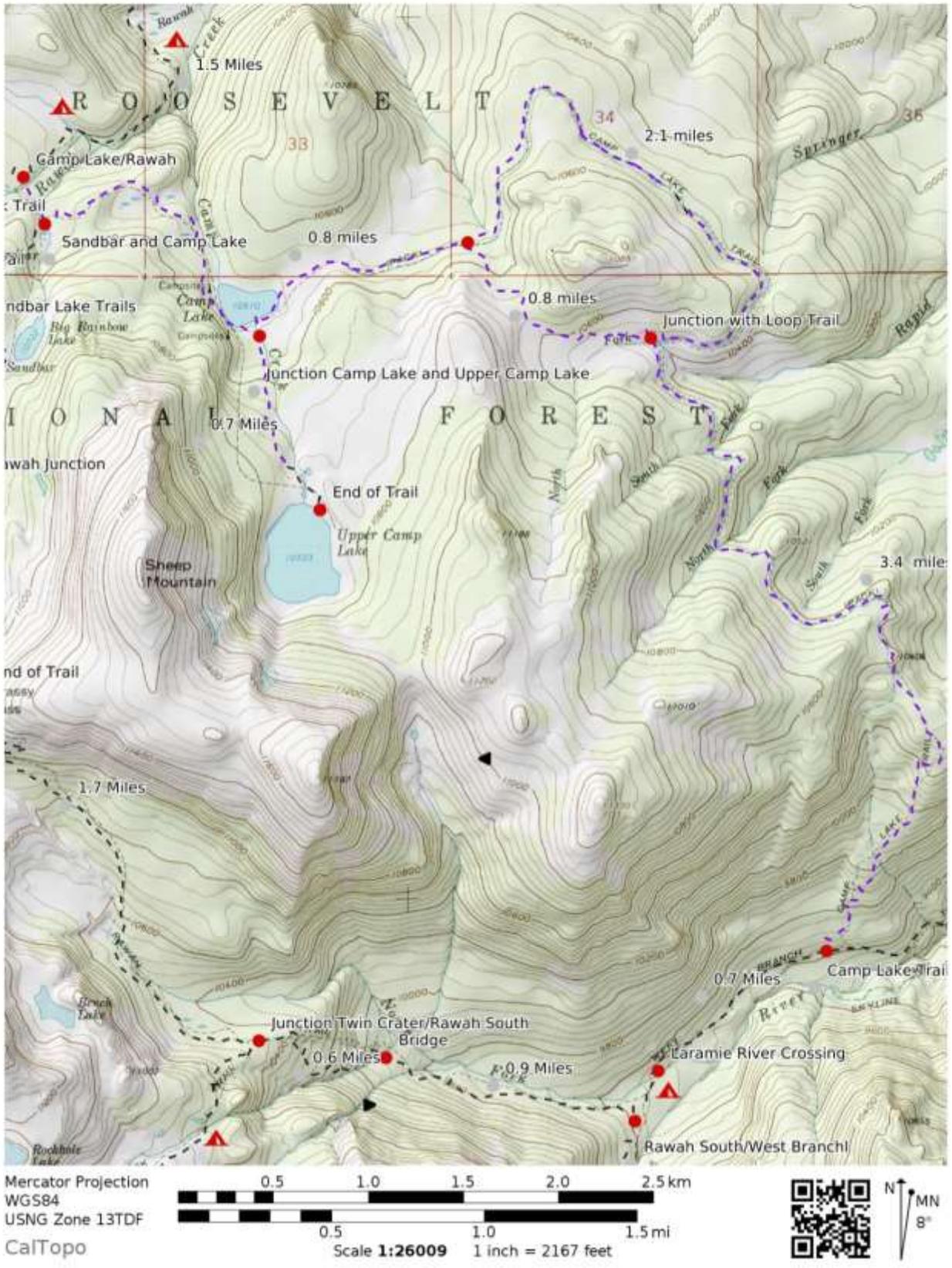
If you will be making a multi-day trip to the southern Rawah, you might consider the itinerary below (or one in the opposite order):

- Patrol up the West Branch Trail to the junction of the Rawah Trail (S)
- Patrol up the Rawah Trail (S) to Grassy Pass
- Patrol the Rawah Trail (N) down to each of the four Rawah lakes
- Patrol the Sandbar Lakes Trail (to Upper and Lower Sandbar Lakes and Big Rainbow Lake)
- Patrol Camp Lake and Upper Camp Lake
- Patrol down the Camp Lake Loop Trail back to the West Branch
- Patrol down the West Branch Trail back to the trailhead

INFORMATION OF INTEREST: Between 1904 and 1907, over 150 workers (mostly Japanese and Greek) blasted and dug out over one mile of ditch near Camp Lake Trail. Believe it or not – despite all the work to build the “upper ditch” it was never used because the State of Wyoming filed a successful law suit in the U.S. Supreme Court claiming it owned most of the water in the Rawah. The Court required that the ditch be breached to restore natural drainage patterns. A fascinating account of the Rawah’s water history can be found in Raymond Ave’s book: *Backcountry Adventure Guide to Colorado’s Rawah Wilderness*.

GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
"trailhead" at junction of Camp Lake Trail with West Branch Trail	N40°39.84' W105°53.50'	424629mE	4501841mN
cabin (just above the West Branch and Camp Lake trails junction)	N40°39.93' W105°53.39'	424786mE	4502006mN
unknown man-made structure	N40°40.61' W105°53.20'	425066mE	4503261mN
NF Fall Creek	N40°40.99' W105°53.89'	424101mE	4503974mN
NF Rapid Creek	N40°41.56' W105°54.11'	423802mE	4505032mN
SE end of the Camp Lake Loop Trail	N40°41.58' W105°54.11'	423803mE	4505069mN
NW end of the Camp Lake Loop Trail	N40°41.85' W105°54.83'	422794mE	4505579mN
7 ft tall silvered tree trunk/signpost along Camp Lake Trail at upper edge of the willows, SSW of Camp Lake	N40°41.78' W105°55.37'	422032mE	4505457mN
trailhead of Upper Camp Lake Trail at junction with Camp Lake Trail	N40°41.60' W105°55.62'	421677mE	4505128mN
end of Upper Camp Lake Trail at south end of trail	N40°41.04' W105°55.32'	422088mE	4504087mN
junction of the Camp Lake Trail with the Sandbar Lakes Trail	N40°41.92' W105°56.39'	420599mE	4505731mN
end of trail at junction with Rawah Trail (North)	N40°42.03' W105°56.45'	420516mE	4505936mN

(See next page for map of trail.)



Camp Lake: 4