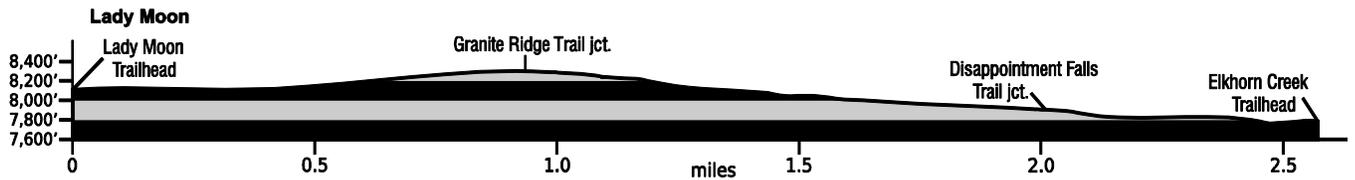


Oct. 20, 2020

Public Trail Information: Lady Moon

Trail(s): Lady Moon #985 (#267); Disappointment Falls #985-2	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers - Easy Stock riders - Easy No bikes Nov.1-Jun. 30 See complete REGULATIONS below DESCRIPTION
Cautions:	Bicycles on trail July 1-Oct. 31 Cattle often present
Typically accessible:	Year-round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	None
One-Way Length:	2.6 miles (from Lady Moon trailhead to Elkhorn Creek trailhead) [+ 0.6 mile for Disappointment Falls]
Beginning/Peak Elevation:	8,146/8,328
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	202 / 531 / -329
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#111 Red Feather Lakes Glendevey
Map(s) - USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Red Feather Lakes, Rustic



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Red Feather Lakes Area: This trail can be accessed from either the Lady Moon Trailhead or from the Elkhorn Creek Trailhead.

Via the Lady Moon Trailhead:

From Ted’s Place, follow US-287 north for 10.5 miles to “The Forks” at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E). At mm 20.8 you will see the entrance to the trailhead on the south (left) side of the road. [The Mt. Margaret parking lot and trailhead is north of the Lady Moon Trailhead across CR-74E.]

Via the Elkhorn Creek Trailhead:

From Ted’s Place, follow US-287 north for 10.5 miles to the “forks” at Livermore. Turn left onto the Red Feather Lakes Road (CR-74E). At mm 16.25 turn south (left) onto CR-68C (Boy Scout Road). Drive west past the Boy Scout Ranch until you reach the Elkhorn Creek Trailhead on the north (right) side of the road (3.8 miles).

There are toilets, and good stock trailer parking with pull-throughs, at both the Lady Moon and Elkhorn Creek Trailheads. No water at Lady Moon Trailhead; there is water at the creek very close to the Elkhorn Creek Trailhead.

TRAIL: The Lady Moon Trail was extended to the south in 2010, running from CR-74E at the north end (Lady Moon Trailhead) to CR68-C at the south end (Elkhorn Creek Trailhead), for a total one-way length

of 2.6 miles. The Description below describes a north-to-south hike or ride.

WATER: Limited Water available at crossing of Elkhorn Creek (just north of Elkhorn Creek trailhead) and from Elkhorn Creek at the end of Disappointment Falls Trail.

CAMPING: There are many potential camp sites along this trail. Look for places around the rock outcroppings or in the forest that are at least 100 feet from the trail and from water, and out of sight. Note that you will be dry camping unless you are near Elkhorn Creek.

SEASONAL: Accessible in winter. The parking lot is not plowed but often accessible. If there is snow, before you enter the parking lot, be sure you can get up the slope again. You may also park just off the road, if the plows have been through. With little elevation change, the trail is good for skiing or snowshoeing, conditions permitting.

DESCRIPTION: This trail involves a short, gentle hike through open, dry ponderosa pine forest and a large, attractive meadow/prairie (Lady Moon Meadow). There are numerous quaking aspen trees and several small granite outcrops along the trail, as well as many larger granite outcrops and promontories about 0.5 mile to the east and west of the trail. There are numerous shrubs such as wax currant, shrubby cinquefoil, and Woods rose as well as many species of wildflowers along the trail, both in the open forest and in the meadow. The north end of the Lady Moon Trail passes through open ponderosa pine and

quaking aspen for about 0.4 mile and then drops down into, and crosses, Lady Moon Meadow. Early in the spring, or after a substantial rain, the small intermittent stream flowing through this meadow, and the lowest portion of the meadow itself, can be challenging to cross without getting both wet and muddy.

The Lady Moon Trail continues south another 0.7 mile from Lady Moon Meadow through open ponderosa pine forest until it reaches a junction with the Granite Ridge Trail (E & W). Turn east (left) onto the Granite Ridge Trail and proceed approximately 400 feet to a trail junction where the Lady Moon Trail continues through a gate to the south. About 1 mile south of the junction with the Granite Ridge Trail, there is a short (0.6 mile) spur trail – Disappointment Falls Trail – leading to the southwest and ending at some rocky falls on Elkhorn Creek. Disappointment Falls is not a disappointment in the early spring when the water flow is high but by midsummer it is often not very impressive. Along the spur trail to Disappointment Falls are the remains of a hay barn

once used by the Monroe family who owned the land along Elkhorn Creek. From the junction with the Disappointment Falls Trail, the Lady Moon Trail continues south for approximately 0.5 mile before ending at the Elkhorn Creek trailhead. This section of the trail is difficult to follow, especially coming from the south, as there are many old road beds in the area. The unbridged crossing of Elkhorn Creek (just north of Elkhorn Creek trailhead) can be challenging during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

From the NW corner of the Elkhorn Trailhead, the SE portion of the Elkhorn Creek Trail meanders to the west for 1.5 mi (one way) before terminating at a dead end.

[Note that Lady Moon Lake is located on private property east of the USFS boundary between the two most northerly of the promontories (8,442 ft and 8,722 ft elevation) that are about 0.5 mile due east of the Lady Moon Trail.] This lake is NOT part of this trail and is not accessible to the public.

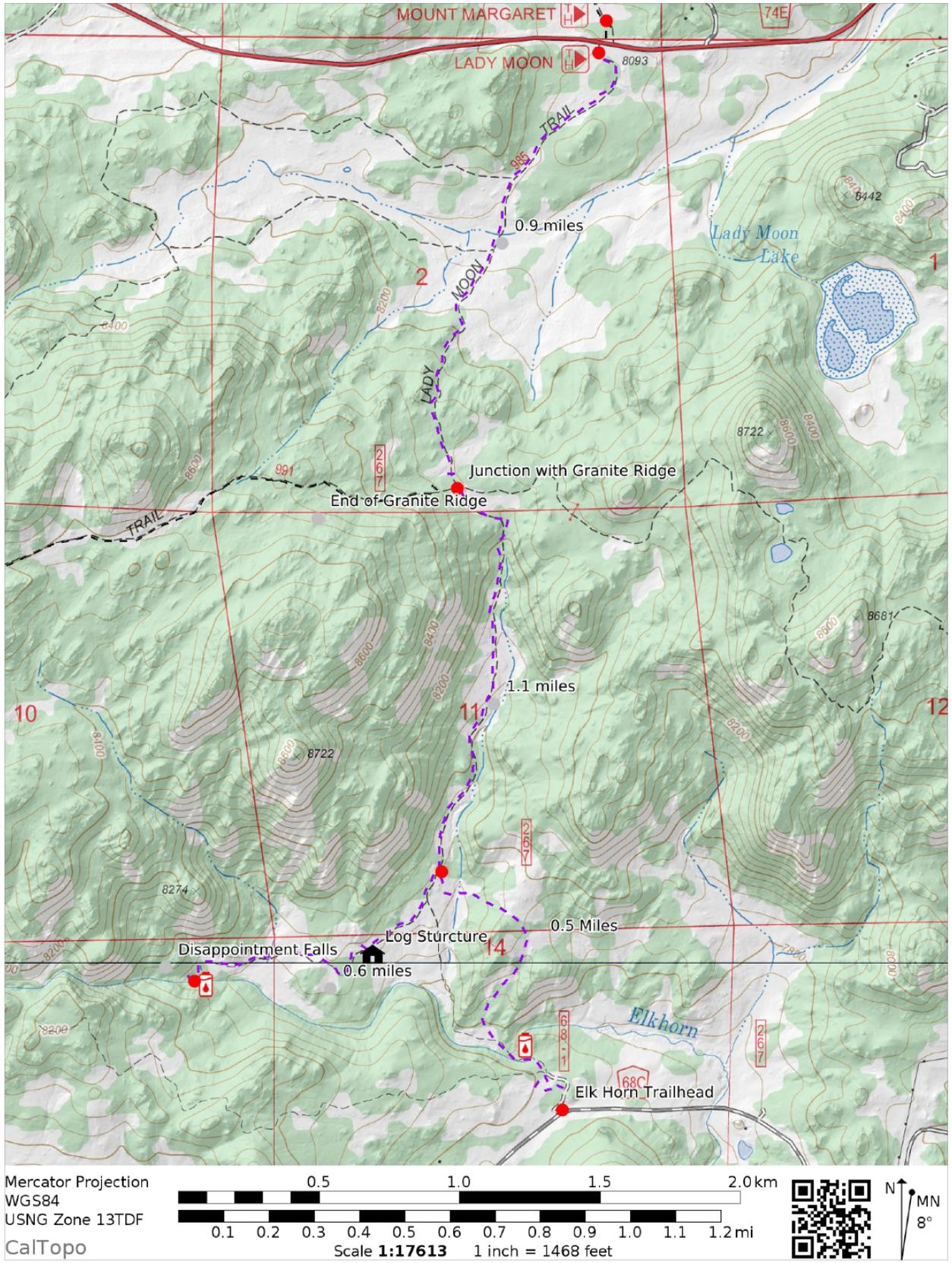
REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires - Prohibited within 200 feet of trailheads, toilets and parking areas. Recommend at least 100 feet from water and trail.
- Dogs - Must be under voice control at all times.
- 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 November 1 through June 30. Otherwise allowed.
- Motorized Transport - Prohibited.
- Group Size - A single group of more than 74 people must have a USFS permit.

Trail Adopted by: BSA Longs Peak Council, Fort Collins

Mile	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0	Lady Moon TH (on Red Feather Lakes Road; CR-74E)	N40°46.76' W105°32.25'	454644mE	4514400mN
0.9	junction with Granite Ridge Trail	N40°45.91' W105°32.64'	454086mE	4512831mN
2.0	junction with Disappointment Falls Trail	N40°45.19' W105°32.68'	454022mE	4511499mN
	old log structure (along spur trail to Disappointment Falls)	N40°45.02' W105°32.84'	453795mE	4511186mN
2.6	end of trail at Elkhorn Creek TH (on Boy Scout Road; CR-68C)	N40°44.79' W105°32.39'	454425mE	4510756mN

(See next page for map of trail.)



Lady Moon: 3