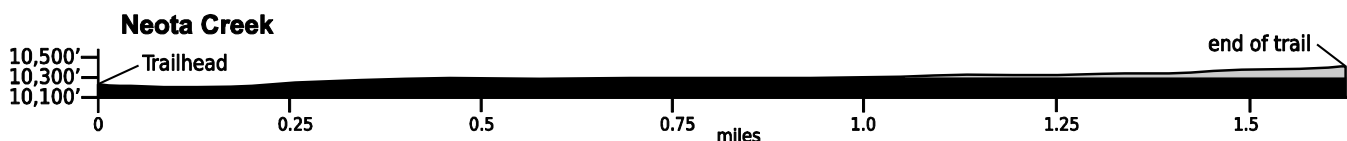


Jan, 10, 2021

Public Trail Information: Neota Creek

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Trail(s): Neota Creek #987 | |
| Ratings / restrictions: | Hikers – Easy Stock riders – Not recommended (trail is usually wet and is very fragile) Dogs must be on hand-held leash with hikers See complete REGULATIONS below DESCRIPTION |
| CAUTIONS: | Moose; lightning in exposed alpine areas. |
| Typically accessible: | When Long Draw Road opens for summer, usually early July (see SEASONAL below) |
| Wilderness: | Neota |
| One-Way Length: | 1.6 miles |
| Elevation – Beginning / Peak: | 10,212 / 10,400 |
| Gain/Loss/Net Gain: | 203 / 15 / +188 |
| Map(s) - Trails Illustrated: | #200 Rocky Mountain National Park |
| Map(s) - USGS 7-½ ' Quadrangles: | Fall River Pass |



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Upper Poudre River Area: Drive 53.7 miles on CO-14 from Ted’s Place to mm 69.5. Turn south (left) onto Long Draw Road (FDR-156), which is directly across the highway from the Blue Lake parking lot. Follow Long Draw Road (past the Long Draw [9.0 miles] and Grand View [12.1 miles] campgrounds) to its end at the La Poudre Pass/Neota Creek parking lot (13.4 miles). There is a toilet at the parking area, but no parking for stock trailers and no water there. There is limited parking along the road for stock trailers. The La Poudre Pass Trail goes south into RMNP. The actual Neota Creek Trailhead is about 500 feet before the parking lot and next to a metal culvert via which Neota Creek goes under the road. It is marked by a signpost and wooden trail sign.

This trail is not suitable for horses because much of its path goes through fragile, often very wet areas.

TRAIL: The path of the lower trail is marked with a few old USFS axe blazes in trees and several small rock cairns. While the path is generally narrow, it is relatively easy to follow as it winds its way gently uphill on the south side of Neota Creek. Look for the cut ends of fallen trees if you are unsure where the trail corridor is.

WATER: **Abundant** The trail closely parallels Neota Creek for its entire length.

CAMPING: Two options: (1) About 0.2 mile from the trailhead, roughly 600 feet north of Neota Creek, on the east side of a knoll. (2) Near the end of the trail, also north of Neota Creek, on the north side of another small, rocky knob.

SEASONAL: Not accessible in winter. The tread along this trail is often wet and muddy due to its organic soil base, flat grade, and the numerous small drainages and seeps that the trail crosses. Waterproof boots are highly recommended. Unless it is a very dry year or very late in the season, expect to have muddy boots and/or wet feet! If it is really muddy, consider other trails for your hike, to protect this fragile environment.

DESCRIPTION:The trail meanders up the southwest side of Neota Creek; traveling alternately through a dense forest of Engelmann spruce (with occasional lodgepole pine and subalpine fir) and the open, willow-filled, park-like meadow bordering the creek.

This trail and drainage are like half-scale replicas of Trap Park. The “park” bordering Neota Creek is less than half the width of that of Trap Park, Neota Creek has about half the discharge of Trap Creek, the willows surrounding Neota Creek are less than half as tall as those in Trap Park, the Trap Park Trail (an old roadbed) is much wider than the single-track Neota Creek Trail, and the Neota Creek Trail is about half the length of the Trap Park Trail. Otherwise, the hiking experience, elevation, habitats, and biota (e.g., moose encounters) are very similar. Both trails lead toward Iron Mountain (the Neota Creek Trail from the southeast and the Trap Park Trail from the northeast); so the views up both trails are dominated by this impressive peak.

The trail crosses several (4-5) very small creeks coming down the hillside from the southwest, most or all of which are not shown on many maps. The first of these is approximately 1 mile from the parking lot. Each of these small creeks is nothing more than a

“step-over” in the late summer/early fall. The first tributary that is shown on the Trails Illustrated map is just short of 1.6 miles above the parking lot. The “system” trail ends at this location.

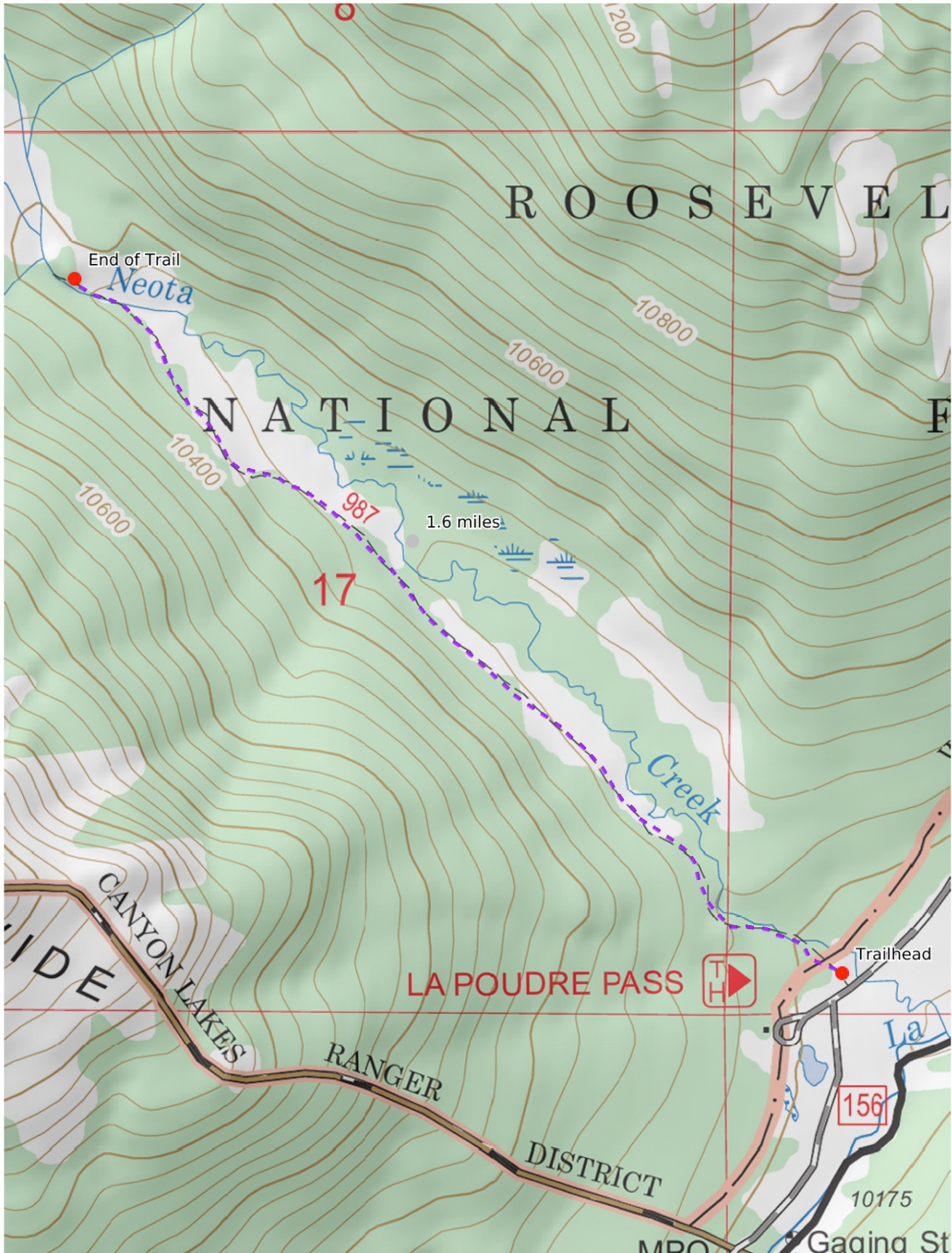
This trail provides access to the southern portion of the Neota Wilderness.

REGULATIONS:

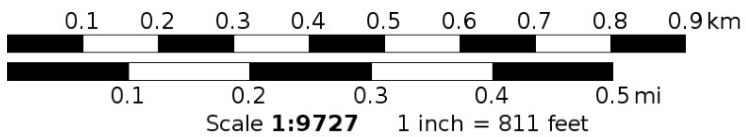
- Camping and Fires – Prohibited within ¼ mile of trailhead. Prohibited within 200 feet of water or trail.
- Dogs – Must be on a hand-held leash with hikers, voice control with stock.
- Stock – To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours prior to the ride stock should only be fed pellets or certified weed-free hay. Required: throughout the trip, any feed must be 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.

| GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84 | Lat/Long | UTM |
|--|------------------------|--|
| La Poudre Pass parking lot (at end of Long Draw Road; FDR-156) | N40°28.85' W105°49.32' | 430 ³²⁸ mE 448 ¹⁴⁵¹ mN |
| Neota Creek Trailhead (near end of Long Draw Road; FDR-156) | N40°28.88' W105°49.25' | 430 ⁴²⁷ mE 448 ¹⁵⁰⁶ mN |
| Neota Wilderness regulations sign | N40°28.93' W105°49.35' | 430 ⁴²⁷ mE 448 ¹⁶⁰⁰ mN |
| First suggested camping location | N40°29.04' W105°49.32' | 430 ³¹¹ mE 448 ¹⁷⁸⁹ mN |
| End of “system” trail | N40°29.60' W105°50.34' | 428 ⁹⁰⁰ mE 448 ²⁸⁵² mN |
| Second suggested camping location | N40°29.61' W105°50.27' | 428 ⁹⁹⁹ mE 448 ²⁸⁷⁰ mN |

(See next page for map of trail).



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDE
 CalTopo



Neota Creek: 2