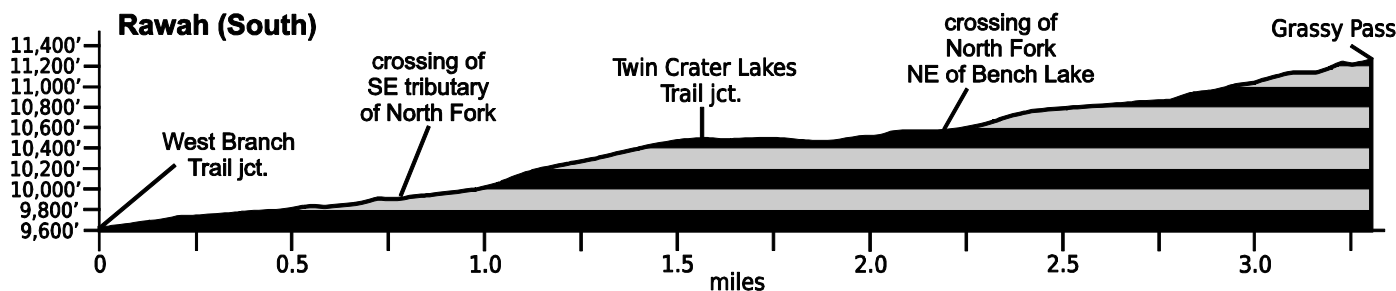


Jan. 31, 2021

## Public Trail Information: Rawah (South)

Trail(s): southern portion of Rawah #961	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers - Moderate Stock riders - Difficult Dogs must be on hand-held leash with hikers No wood fires above 10,800 ft. See complete REGULATIONS below DESCRIPTION
Cautions:	Moose; lightning in exposed alpine areas near Grassy Pass
Typically accessible:	Late June, after Laramie River Road is open
Wilderness:	Rawah
One-Way Length:	3.3 miles (from the junction with the West Branch Trail to Grassy Pass)
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	9,607 / 11,250
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,643/0/+1,643
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:** The Rawah (South) Trail is accessed via the West Branch Trail or the Rawah (North) Trail. See the West Branch and Rawah (North) trail descriptions for details.

**TRAIL:** Nearly the entire length of this trail passes through established forest. The trail corridor is well established, and easy to follow. The upper section of this trail near Grassy Pass is above timberline; nevertheless, the path is well established and easy to follow.

The failing stringer bridge over the creek that drains the Twin Crater Lakes (at 0.9 mile from the junction with the West Branch Trail) is sharply tipped and unsafe to cross when wet. Additionally, two unbridged crossings, at 0.8 and 2.2 miles above the junction with West Branch Trail, may be challenging or unsafe during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

**WATER: Abundant** - There are at least 3 good locations for water on the southern half of this trail but none on the northern half where it climbs steeply to Grassy Pass. There are three crossings of the North Fork West Branch (or its tributaries) as the trail climbs toward and beyond its junction with the Twin Crater Lakes Trail.

The last water source before Grassy Pass is North Fork West Branch that crosses the trail about 1.2 miles beyond the Twin Crater Lake trail junction and

1.2 miles before Grassy Pass (at N40°40.22' W105°56.22').

Water is also available just below the start of this Rawah (S) Trail, on the West Branch Trail where it crosses the North Fork of the West Branch of the Laramie River.

**CAMPING:** There are no good campsites between the Rawah (S) - West Branch trail junction and the junction of the Rawah Trail (S) with the Twin Crater Lakes Trail. The best places to camp are up 0.4 mile toward Twin Crater Lakes (see Twin Crater Lakes patrol description for details). It is possible, later in the season when the ground is fairly dry, to camp about 300 yards below (northwest of) the junction of the Rawah South Trail and the Twin Crater Lakes Trail.

At 2.1 miles (1.2 miles before Grassy Pass) is a stream; camping is possible on the east side in a relatively flat area.

Once you start the steep ascent up toward Grassy Pass, it is possible to go fairly far off trail for camping by dropping down into the valley to the south, but the terrain here is generally quite steep, and dry, level tent sites are likely to be few and far between.

Note that wood fires are prohibited above 10,800 ft in the Rawah Wilderness Alpine Closure Area. Self-contained stoves are allowed.

**SEASONAL:** Not accessible in winter, as Laramie River Road is not plowed.

**DESCRIPTION:** Shortly after the West Branch Trail crosses the North Fork of the of the West Branch of the Laramie River, turn right onto the Rawah Trail (S) at the sign-posted trail junction. The trail follows a gentle uphill slope through heavy forest. After the stream crossing at 0.9 mile, the trail proceeds through a series of steep switchbacks to its junction with the Twin Crater Lakes Trail. Continuing up, with an unbridged crossing of the North Fork of the West Branch River, the trail climbs steeply to Grassy Pass. There are beautiful views of the Medicine Bow Range

and also far views southeast for the last 0.8 mile before Grassy Pass, and beyond. The Rawah (S) patrol ends at Grassy Pass.

If you want more exercise, you can also make a steep side trip, cross-country to the southwest, to check out Bench Lake and or Rockhole Lake before dropping back down to either the Rawah Trail (S) or the Twin Crater Lakes.

Mileages provided are approximate.

**REGULATIONS:**

- Camping and Fires - Prohibited within 200 feet of water or trail. Wood fires prohibited above 10,800 feet elevation (Rawah Alpine Closure Area).
- 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.
- Motorized Equipment - Prohibited in Wilderness.
- Group Size - Maximum 12 people and stock, combined.

Mileage	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0	"trailhead" at junction with West Branch Trail	N40°39.40' W105°54.19'	423649mE	4501037mN
0.8	crossing of tributary of North Fork, Laramie River	N40°39.50' W105°55.01'	422495mE	4501233mN
0.9	crossing of stream coming out of Twin Crater Lakes	N40°39.55' W105°55.08'	422341mE	4501328mN
1.6	junction with Twin Crater Lakes Trail	N40°39.60' W105°55.60'	421666mE	4501427mN
2.2	crossing of North Fork, Laramie River NE of Bench Lake	N40°39.87' W105°56.11'	420953mE	4501934mN
3.3	end of southern section of Rawah Trail	N40°40.58' W105°56.60'	420276mE	4503218mN

**(See next page for map of trail.)**

