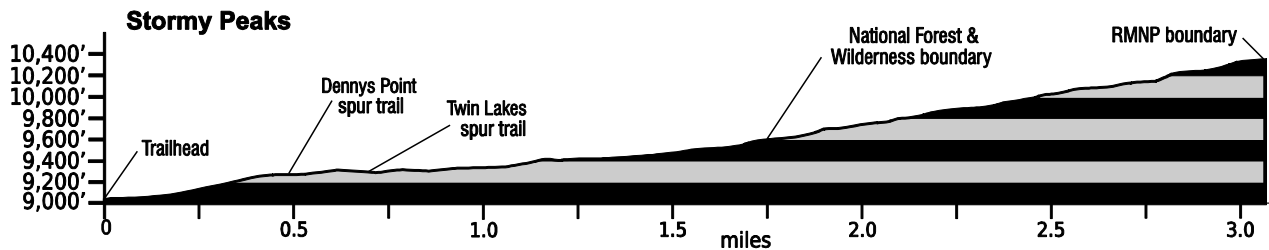


Apr. 26, 2022

Public Trail Information: Stormy Peaks

Trail(s): Stormy Peaks #980	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers – Moderate Stock riders – Difficult (not recommended past 1.8 mi) Dogs must be on hand-held leash with hikers See complete REGULATIONS below INFORMATION OF INTEREST
Cautions:	Burn area; Lightning in exposed alpine areas
Typically accessible:	Year round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	3.1 miles (from trailhead to RMNP boundary)
Elevation – Beginning / Peak:	9,044 / 10,343
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,280 / 0 / +1,280
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass (& #200 RMNP)
Map(s) - USGS 7-1/2' Quadrangles:	Pingree Park



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Pingree Park Area: Drive 26.5 miles on CO-14 from Ted's Place to the Pingree Park Road (at mm 96.1). Cross the Cache La Poudre River, and drive 16.5 miles to the entrance of the CSU Mountain Campus. The Stormy Peaks trailhead is a few hundred yards southeast of the entrance.

Toilets and water for stock are available at Tom Bennett Campground, when open, which is on the north (right) side of Pingree Park Road about 0.5 mi before the trailhead.

Riders: No water at trailhead. There is a possibility for a small stock trailer to park in the small parking area at the trailhead.

CAUTIONS: This trail was in the Cameron Peak Fire of 2020, the largest fire in Colorado history, which burned nearly 209,000 acres. This trail has minor areas that are burned but most of the trail is in good shape.

Cautions in Burn Areas:

- Falling Trees
 - Tree root systems can be burned – compromised or non-existent. Thus, trees in burned areas fall at a high rate for some time after a fire.
 - There may be a large number of trees on the trail.
- Stump Holes—Tree stumps sometimes burn below ground level and can leave dangerous holes, often filled in loosely by ash or needles.

- Difficult to Follow Trails
 - At times, the trail can be difficult or impossible to follow with no vegetation or tread visible.
 - Even in formerly familiar terrain, the landscape can be disorienting.
- Rock Slides are more likely, due to lack of vegetation and root damage.
- Flash Flooding is likely even with small rainstorms and may occur way downstream from rain.

WATER: Early in the season, or during a wet year, there may be enough water between the Wilderness boundary and Rocky Mountain National Park boundary (about 2 miles from the trailhead) to replenish water, but that is not always the case.

CAMPING: Because of the dense forest and steep terrain, there are no recommended camping sites. Absolutely no camping on CSU land. See REGULATIONS below.

SEASONAL: Usually accessible in winter. There is a parking lot, which is not plowed, but sometimes usable. If you park off road, be sure you can get out if the snow plow comes by. Snowshoes or skis are usually needed.

DESCRIPTION: The trail is easy to follow with well-worn tread. It climbs steadily with some large step-ups, which would make it quite difficult for most stock. However, there are very few loose rocks. The lower 1.8 miles of this trail travels through lands owned by CSU, and it is not until the trail reaches the

Wilderness boundary that it is in the National Forest. Don't go off trail or camp on non-USFS lands.

The Stormy Peaks Trail follows a moraine above and to the southeast of the South Fork of the Poudre River. The lower portion of the trail ascends through a dense forest of young aspen and pine; the upper portion goes through a more mature, mostly pine forest. About 0.5 mile from the trailhead, there is a spur trail on the left that goes 0.1 mile to Denny's Point, which affords good views of the Mummy Range. Continuing on the main trail, there is a fork in the trail 0.7 mile from the trailhead. The left fork (sign saying "Original Wagon Road into Ute Valley") goes to Twin Lake Reservoir, and the right fork (sign saying "TRAIL") continues to Stormy Peaks. Take the right fork. The trail continues for another 1.1 miles before reaching the National Forest & Comanche Peak Wilderness boundary. Wilderness regulations are posted 0.4 mi past the boundary. The trail becomes steeper shortly after the Wilderness boundary until it

reaches the north boundary of RMNP. A small, seasonal stream travels about 200 feet along the trail, making this section muddy early in the year or during a wet season. From the Wilderness boundary, it is 1.3 miles to the north boundary of RMNP. You'll have good views of Pingree Park and the Mummy Range along the way.

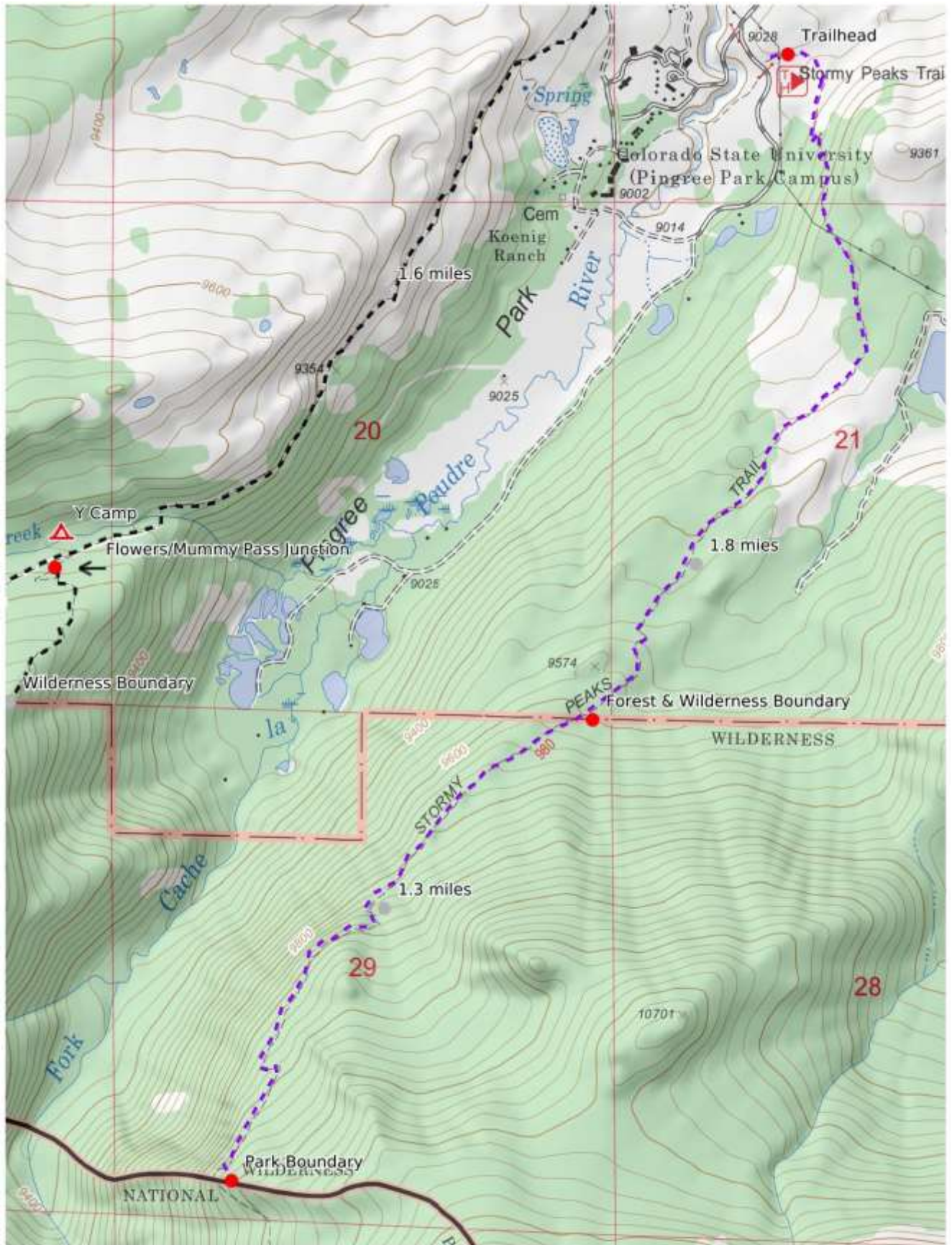
INFORMATION OF INTEREST: If you wish, you can continue into RMNP to Stormy Peaks Pass and off trail up to Stormy Peaks. This will add about 3.5 miles and 1,500 ft elevation gain to your round-trip. The trail is quite steep from the RMNP boundary to the top of Stormy Peaks Pass. The trail through this tundra area is barely noticeable, and it is necessary to follow the rock cairns. Stormy Peaks trail is often used by backpackers to access RMNP and to begin or complete a shuttled trip through the Park via the North Fork Trail, which begins at the Dunraven parking area (see the North Fork patrol description).

REGULATIONS:

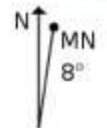
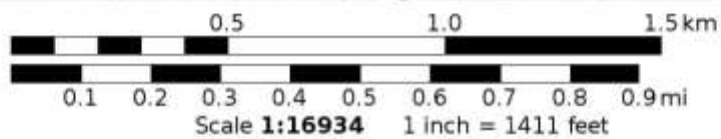
- Camping and Fires – Prohibited for the first 1.8 miles of trail; after entering Comanche Peaks Wilderness, must be at least 200 feet from water or trail.
- Dogs – Must be on hand-held leash with hikers; voice control with stock.
- Stock - To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours 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 - Outside the Wilderness boundary, any single group of more than 74 people must have a USFS permit. In the Wilderness, maximum 12 people and stock combined.

Mile	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0	Stormy Peaks Trailhead (near the CSU Mountain Campus)	N40°34.23' W105°35.28'	450228m	4491246mN
0.5	junction with spur trail to Denny's Point	N40°33.96' W105°35.14'	450422m	4490745mN
0.7	junction with spur trail to Twin Lakes	N40°33.79' W105°35.06'	450533m	4490430mN
1.8	National Forest & Wilderness boundary	N40°33.10' W105°35.72'	449593m	4489160mN
3.1	end of patrol at RMNP boundary	N40°32.32' W105°36.52'	448454m	4487724mN

(See next page for trail map.)



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDE
 CalTopo



Stormy Peaks: 2