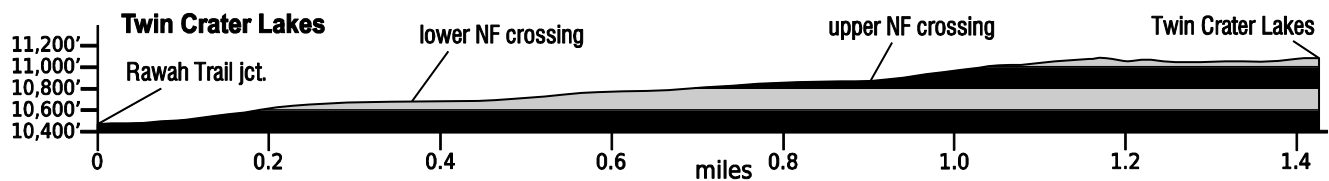


Feb. 14, 2021

## Public Trail Information: Twin Crater Lakes

Trail(s): Twin Crater Lakes #962	
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:	Lightning, especially in exposed alpine areas near the lakes
Typically accessible:	Late June, after Laramie River Road is open
Wilderness:	Rawah
One-Way Length:	1.4 miles (from the junction with the Rawah Trail to Twin Crater Lakes)
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	10,472 / 11,087
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	615/14/+601
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 Twin Crater Lakes Trail is accessed via the Rawah (South) Trail. See the Rawah (South) trail description for details.

**TRAIL:** The lower half of this trail passes through quaking aspen and mixed pine forest, where the trail corridor is well established and easy to follow. The upper half of the trail is through alpine meadows where the trail corridor is well-worn and easy to follow. The two unbridged crossings of the unnamed creek draining Twin Crater Lakes (at 0.4 and 0.9 miles above the junction with the Rawah (S) Trail) may be challenging during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

**WATER: Abundant** - This short trail has four reliable sources of water, the two crossings of the creek flowing out of Twin Crater Lakes and both of the Lakes.

**CAMPING:** The best places to camp along this trail are as follows:

1. A short distance before the first stream crossing and just as you level off after a rather steep ascent, there is a flat open melt-pan area to the east of the trail behind a narrow border of young spruce trees. Go to the far end of this melt pan and you will find some nice tent sites next to a large rock outcrop. From the rocks, there is a beautiful view out over the Laramie River Valley.

2. About 100 yards above the first stream crossing, there is a heavily impacted, illegal camping area up to the east of the trail. Walk through this area, through the trees to a small meadow. Suitable sites can be found in this area.

(You can also find legal campsites to the northwest of the Twin Crater Lakes Trail and Rawah Trail (S) junction.)

3. It is also possible to camp near the first lake, up in the trees and at least 200 ft from water and trail. However, the lakes are in the Rawah Wilderness Alpine Closure Area where wood fires are prohibited above 10,800 ft.

**SEASONAL:** Laramie River Road is not plowed during winter, so the trailhead is inaccessible.

**DESCRIPTION:** The first 0.4 mile of the trail is steep and eroded. Starting about the first stream crossing, at 0.4 mile, the trail basically follows the stream through lush sub-alpine meadows with increasingly beautiful views of the ridges around the area. The final climb to the lakes is quite steep.

Off-trail excursions to Bench Lake and Rockhole Lake are possible from this area. Although this trail is labeled "North Fork Trail" on Trails Illustrated map #112, its official name is "Twin Crater Lakes Trail" (as indicated on the Rawah Wilderness map by Mountain Jay).

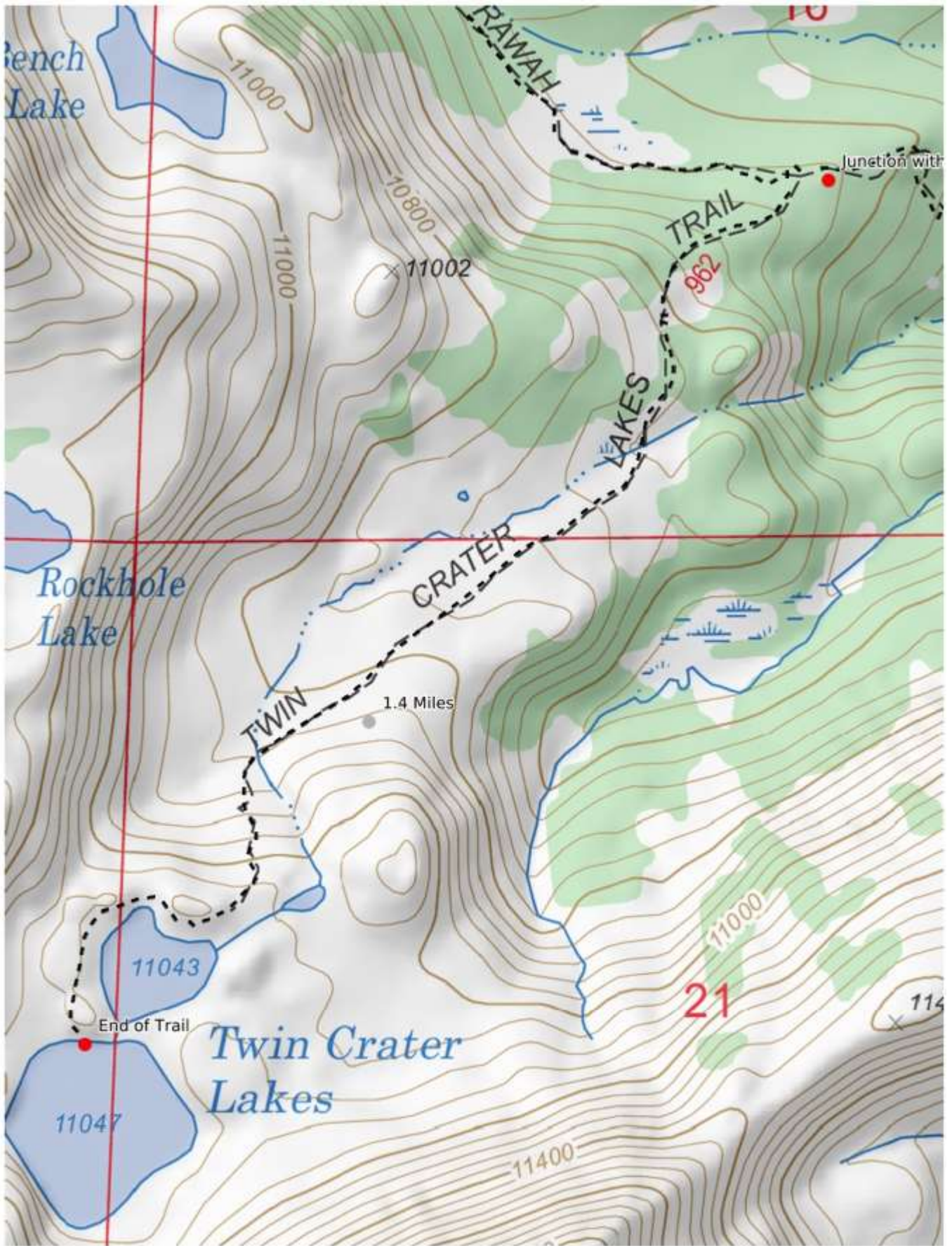
All mileages are approximate.

**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.
- Group Size - Maximum 12 people and stock, combined.

Mileage	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM
0	"trailhead" at junction with Rawah Trail (South)	N40°39.60' W105°55.60'	421666mE 4501427mN
0.4	first stream crossing	N40°39.36' W105°55.78'	
0.9	second stream crossing	N40°39.07' W105°56.24'	
1.2	first lake	N40°38.92' W105°56.30'	
1.5	end of trail at Twin Crater Lakes	N40°38.83' W105°56.46'	420439mE 4500016mN

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



Mercator Projection  
 WGS84  
 USNG 13TDE-13TDF  
 CalTopo

