

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



Arapaho Glacier Trail #905

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy

Length: Rainbow Lakes Trailhead (TH) to Arapaho Glacier Overlook - 6 miles; to Fourth of July Mine - 7.8 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 10,000 feet at the Rainbow Lakes TH; 12,700 feet at the Arapaho Glacier Overlook; 11,200 feet at the Fourth of July Mine

Open To: Hiking. Groups of 12 or fewer. Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.

Access

- From Nederland, continue north on Colorado Highway 72 for approximately seven miles.
- Look for the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station sign and turn west onto National Forest System Road (NFSR) 298. This route is gated during the winter.
- This road is a five-mile, native-surfaced road. A high clearance vehicle is recommended.

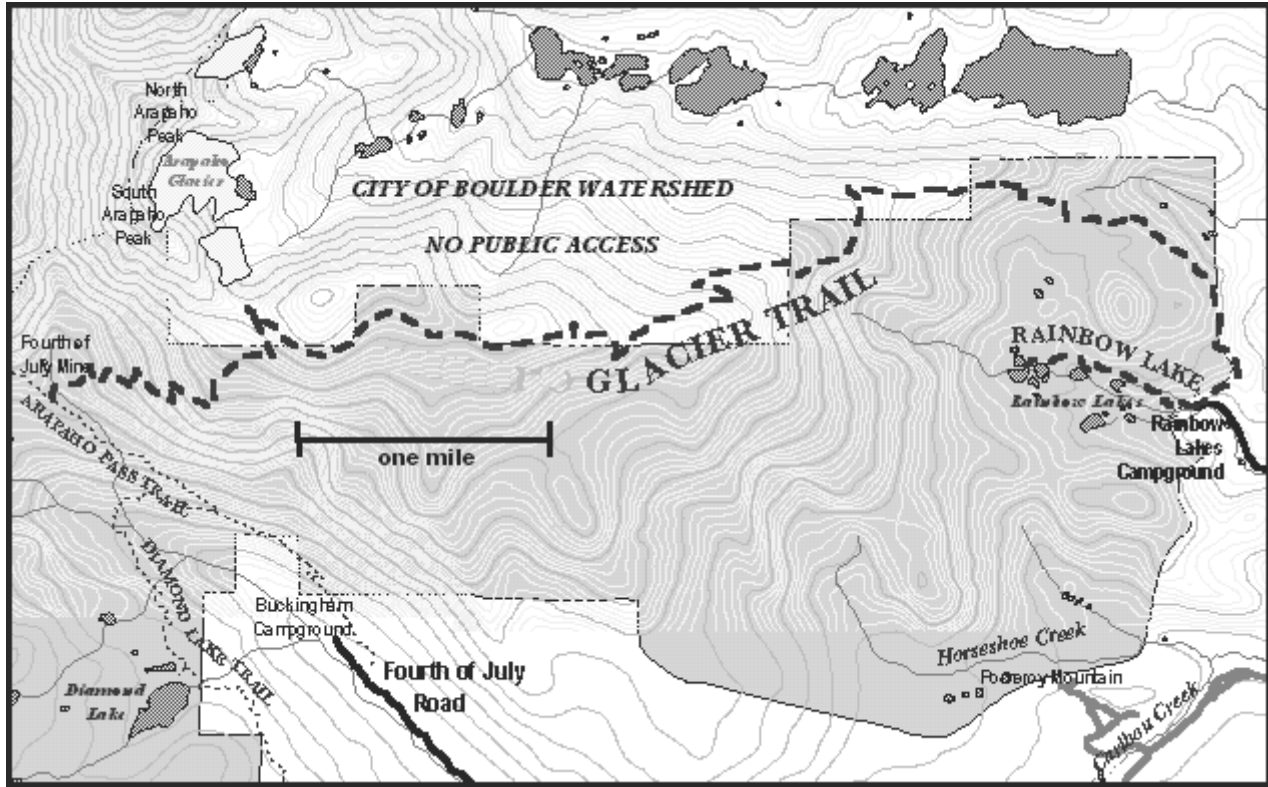
Trail Highlights

- The Arapaho Glacier Trail #905 leads northward from the main trailhead (located before entering the Rainbow Lakes Campground) and crosses into the Indian Peaks Wilderness.
- Climbing through the woods for about two miles, the trail exits onto the open tundra with a fine view into the City of Boulder Watershed. As posted, this area is private. Do not trespass.
- After additional switchbacks, the Arapaho Glacier Trail crosses to the south side of the ridge. At the highest point on the trail is a spectacular overlook of the Arapaho Glacier, South Arapaho (13,397 feet), and North Arapaho (13,502 feet) Peaks.
- Although no official trail exists, it is possible to ascend South and North Arapaho Peaks by following the ridge above the glacier. The climb to South Arapaho Peak is straightforward rock hopping. From South to North Arapaho Peak, scrambling is necessary. Technical equipment is not required but the narrow ridge is steep and rocky. Use caution.
- The Arapaho Glacier Trail descends 1,300 feet down a series of switchbacks to intersect the Arapaho Pass Trail #904 at the Fourth of July Mine. Arapaho Pass is 1.2 miles farther west.

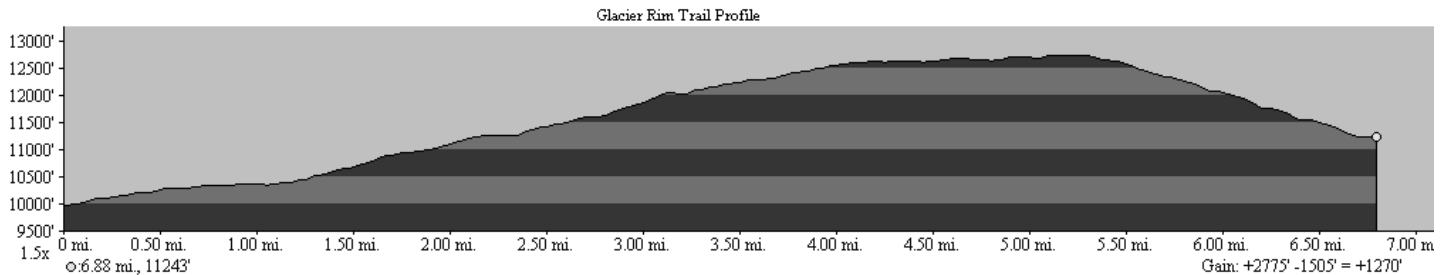
Important Information

- CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS AREA OF THE INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS. PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS FROM JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 15.
- Additional permit requirements exist for large (8-12 persons) and organized groups. Groups of more than 12 are not permitted. Packstock restrictions apply. Developed camping is available outside the wilderness boundary at the Rainbow Lakes Campground.

Trail Map & Profile



This map is intended as a general guide only and not for actual land navigation.



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For More Information:

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