



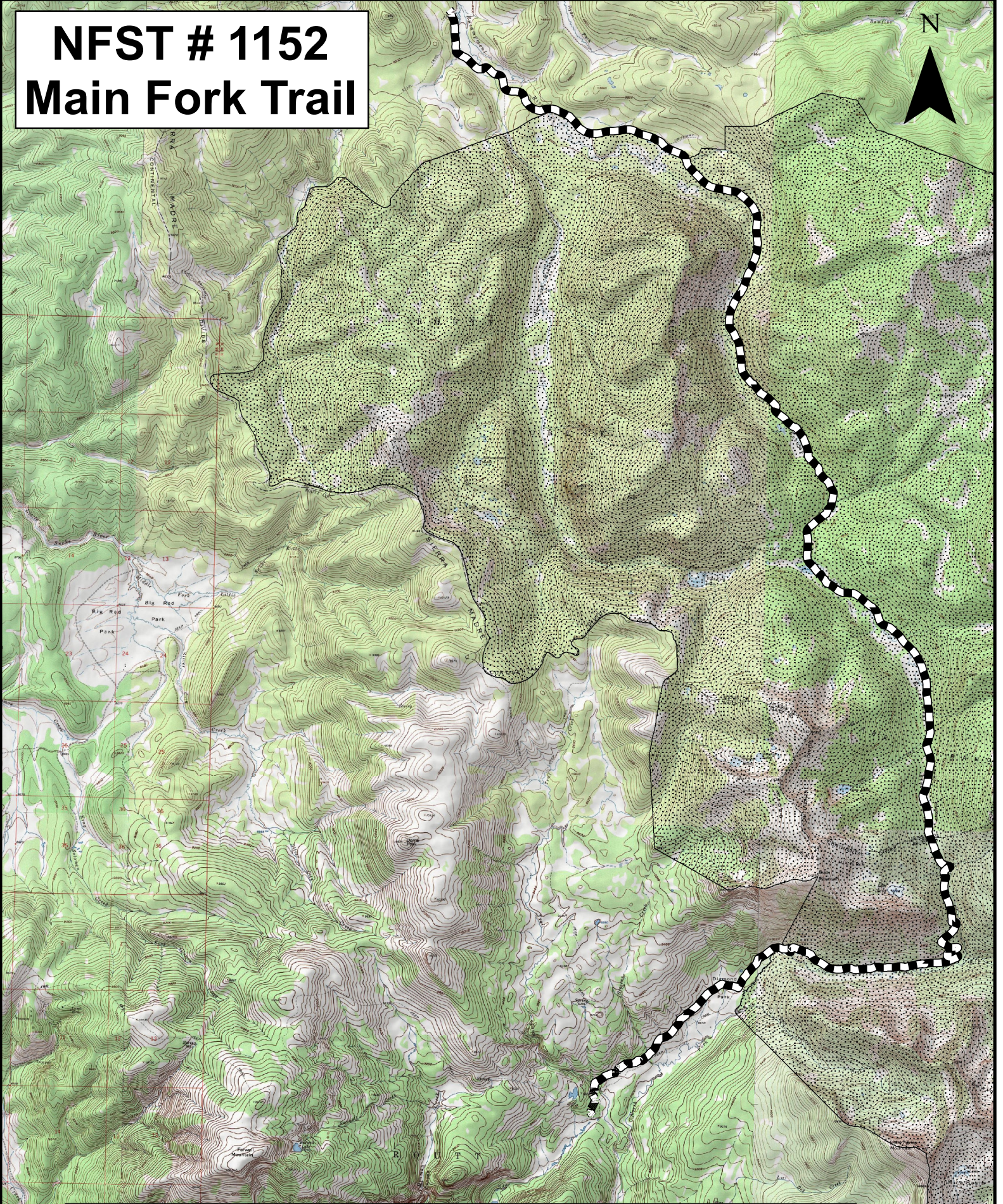
MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS
 THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND
 HAHNS PEAK-BEARS EARS RANGER DISTRICT & PARKS RANGER DISTRICT

	<p>TRAIL NAME: # 1152 MAIN FORK</p>	
<p>TRAIL BEGINNING: 8727' elevation (2660 m) Diamond Park</p>	<p>LENGTH: 18.8 mi (30.3 km)</p>	
<p>TRAIL ENDING: 9800' elevation (2987 m) at the end of Main Fork jeep road several miles east of the Hog Park Guard Station.</p>	<p>RECOMMENDED SEASON: Summer Fall</p>	
<p>ACCESS #1: Go west of Steamboat about 2 miles. Turn north on County Road 129 (airport turn-off) and travel for approximately 18 miles to the Seedhouse Road (NFSR 400) and go east 9 miles to the Lost Dog Road 433. Take this road to NFSR 44 to Diamond Park (north). This is a rough road, slick when wet, narrow, and not recommended for trailers.</p>	<p>USE: Light to Moderate</p> <p>DIFFICULTY: Moderate</p> <p>USGS MAP(S): Mt Zirkel and Farwell Mt Quads.</p>	
<p>ACCESS #2: Take County Road 6W west from Cowdrey, past Pearl and turn left onto County Road 6B (NFSR 80), toward Hog Park Reservoir. Continue west to Commissary Park. Cross the Encampment River Bridge and continue past the road to the Hog Park Guard Station. Turn left onto NFSR 82 (there is a sign on NFSR 80 that reads "Ellis Trail") and go up the road to the next left, NFSR 82.1A, which leads to the new trailhead.</p>		
<p>ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: You need to stay on the trail going around private property on Access #1. Parking is adequate at the trailhead at Access #2. The trail is well marked and easy to follow. Campsites are plentiful and the fishing can be good along most of the river. Horse forage is available in the larger meadows near the Continental Divide. This trail is closed to motorized vehicles.</p>		
<p>NARRATIVE: This narrative is addressed beginning the hike from Access #1 at Diamond Park T.H. The first portion of this trail follows the North Fork of the Elk River, climbs steeply to the Continental Divide and then drops down to the Encampment River on the Parks District of the Routt National Forest. Dropping onto the eastern side of the Continental Divide, you are entering Encampment Meadows. The brook that meanders through the meadows is the Encampment River. As you continue, the brook will change to a boulder strewn rushing stream and eventually into the Encampment River. On the east side, four trail forks are encountered: the first on the left goes west to Gem Lake, Trail #1152.2A; the second on the right, Big Creek Trail #1125, goes east to the Seven Lakes area. At this point the hiker will enter more old dark spruce forest and encounter the third fork which goes west on Trail #1153 to West Fork Lake. Staying on #1152 another mile, you meet the fourth fork which goes east on Beaver Creek Trail #1124 to Stump Park. Keeping left on #1152 for the long haul into Hog Park, it is approximately 7 miles remain to the trailhead. Black Mountain looms on the west side of the river and small openings along the trail provide several panoramic views. The fishing can be good in the Encampment River, with brown trout being the primary species. Mature forest exists of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and eventually lodgepole pine. With four miles remaining, the user fords the Encampment River and leaves the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Along the remainder of the trail, several old cabins built during the tie hack days are situated along the Main Fork of the Encampment River. These small dwellings were home for those hardy souls who in the early 1890's lived in the Encampment wilderness, cutting railroad ties which were floated down the Encampment River to the railroad in Wyoming. High stumps, a few old cabins, and a rusty nail or two are the only remnants of an era gone by.</p>		

Last updated: January 2013
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NFST # 1152 Main Fork Trail



*THIS GUIDE IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS,
COMPASS AND TOPO MAPS OF THE AREA.
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