## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



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







## TRAIL NAME: #1146 NORTH FORK ELKHEAD

**TRAIL BEGINNING:** 7,600' elevation (2316 m) at the end of NFSR 123.

**TRAIL ENDING:** 9,200' elevation (2804 m) at the junction of trail #1146 and trail #1144 (Bears Ears).

ACCESS #1: Drive west on Highway 40 to Craig, about 47 miles. Turn north onto Highway 13 and continue 8 miles to County Road 18. Turn east onto CR 18 for 8 miles and then north onto County Road 76. Drive 3 miles and turn left onto NFSR 123. This is a 4WD road for 3 miles to the trailhead.

ACCESS #2: Drive on Hwy 40 west to Hayden, about 25 miles. Turn north onto County Road 76 and continue for 14 miles. Turn left onto NFSR 123 (4WD) and it is 3 miles to the trailhead. This is a fair weather route and conditions can change rapidly.

**LENGTH:** 5.7 mi (9.2 km)

RECOMMENDED SEASON:
Summer | Fall

**USE:** Low to moderate

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**USGS MAP(S):** Quaker Mountain, Bears Ears and Meaden Peak Quads.

**ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:** The views of the Bears Ears Peaks from here is one of the best views on the district. This trail does require 4WD to get to the trailhead. North Fork Elkhead Trail, when combined with Bears Ears and Sawmill Creek Trails, can be a great 13 mile loop. There are good unimproved camping sites along the North Fork of Elkhead Creek.

**NARRATIVE:** North Fork Elkhead Trail travels north-northeast along Elkhead Creek. North Fork Elkhead Trail is recommended for solitude-seeking because of its low use during the summer months. Once hunting season is upon us, the use is heavy in this area of the National Forest.

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