



White River National Forest | Dillon Ranger District

Wheeler National Recreation Trail – FDT 39

Difficulty: Moderate to More Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Length: 9.0 miles

Elevation: The trailhead on the McCullough Gulch Road is at 11,080. The parking area on Highway 91 is at 9,760. The highest point on the trail is at 12,600.

Elevation Gain: South to North: +2,840 ft North to South: +1,520 ft

Open To: **HIKING, HORSE, MTN. BIKING (e-BIKES PROHIBITED), X-C SKIING, SNOWSHOEING**

GETTING THERE

Access #1: Copper Mountain

From I-70, take Exit 195 (Copper Mountain and Leadville, CO 91). Follow Highway 91 across the I-70 overpass. Continue on Highway 91 through the intersection and turn left into the Far East Parking Lot. At the far end of the lot on the left you will see parking signs for Colorado Trail (Wheeler NRT). **Parking is only allowed here during the summer.**

Access #2: McCollough Gulch Road

McCollough Gulch Road is closed to motorized use in the winter and in the summer months, parking on McCollough Gulch Road will no longer be allowed. McCollough Gulch Road can be reached by accessing the Quandary Peak parking lot at Highway 9 and Blue Lakes Road; reservations for this parking lot are required during summer months and can be made at hikequandary.com or by shuttle from the Upper Gondola Lot in Breckenridge.

Directions to the Quandary Peak lot: From I-70, take Exit 203 (Frisco/Breckenridge) and travel south on Highway 9 approximately 10 miles to the town of Breckenridge. Continue through Breckenridge on Highway 9 (Main St). You will pass the town of Blue River, travel 4 miles and turn right onto Blue Lakes Rd (FDR 850). The parking lot will be on your right. In the summer months, a shuttle will go from the parking lot to McCollough Gulch Rd.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- The Wheeler National Recreation Trail leads from McCollough Gulch south of Breckenridge, over the Tenmile Range to Copper Mountain. It can be accessed from either end, or from the Spruce Creek or Crystal Trails.
- The trail travels through a variety of ecosystems including lodgepole, spruce and fir forest along with alpine tundra.
- Dog owners – please be considerate of other trail users. Keep your dog in sight and when you encounter others, call the dog to your side until they pass. Please pack out all dog waste.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Before you go check on current road conditions, ownership of land, posted areas and certain regulations that apply. Visit the White River National Website for current weather and alerts in the area. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/whiteriver/alerts-notice>.



Download the COTrex app for additional trail maps and information.



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