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United States Department of Agriculture



**4WD**

## **EXPRESS CREEK ROAD to Taylor Pass**

**Length:** 5.5 miles one-way (8.8 km)

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,422 feet (2872 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Hayden Peak

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Ending Elevation:** 11,928 feet (3636 m)

**ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS:** This is a popular high-altitude jeep route beginning at Express Creek Road. Due to the altitude snow is often present well into mid-July. From the top of Taylor Pass you can see Taylor Lake below and magnificent views of the Castle Creek Valley and surrounding peaks. Once at the Pass, you are offered several choices of extending your trip by making a loop back to Aspen via Richmond Hill Road, or travelling to Crested Butte along the Taylor River, making a full day trip.

**ACCESS:** Go west on Highway 82 from Aspen 1/2 mile to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Drive about 11 miles. Just past Elk Mountain Lodge and before the ghost town of Ashcroft, Express Creek Road will be on your left.

**NARRATIVE:** The first 1/8 mile is fairly flat. The road soon crosses a bridge and begins to climb steeply. There are several private drives along the first mile, stay on the main road. In approximately 2 miles, there is a spur to the right, again follow the main road. The road becomes a little steeper and in another 1 3/4 miles begins a long steep uphill. The road crosses a bridge and is very steep the last mile.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- \* Be sure your machine is as quiet as possible.
- \* Avoid wetlands, streams, and steep hills where your tracks may cause damage.
- \* **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.

**PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your 4WD trip.