

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



4WD

RICHMOND HILL ROAD #123

Length: 12 miles one-way (19.3 km)

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 11,212 feet (3417 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak, Aspen

Difficulty: Difficult

Ending Elevation: 11,928 feet (3636 m)

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This route runs southeast from the top of Aspen Mountain to Taylor Pass, a gentle rolling route among evergreens until you reach the open tundra beyond McArthur Mountain. It is rated difficult to moderate because of the steep sections found at the beginning and end of this road and because of its exposure. The last 5 miles are above timberline and are very exposed. Watch for afternoon thunderstorms. Great views of the Castle Creek Valley are provided.

ACCESS: Travel 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Then there are 3 options to access this route:

1) Express Creek Road: Drive 11 miles to the intersection with Express Creek Road (look for the road sign). Follow this route about 5 1/2 miles to Taylor Pass.

2) Little Annie Road: Drive approximately 7 miles to Little Annie Road (look for the road sign) on the left. Follow this route about 4 1/2 miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

3) Midnight Mine Road: Drive approximately 2 1/2 miles to Midnight Mine Road (look for the road sign) on the left. Follow this road about 5 1/2 miles up the back side of Aspen Mountain.

NARRATIVE: These directions are from the top of Aspen Mountain. If starting from Taylor Pass, please follow the directions in reverse. Travel east behind the gondola onto the Richmond Hill Road heading south. The road begins with rolling hills. In about 1 1/4 miles there is a fork at the bottom of a steep hill; bear left until reaching a long downhill slope with some steep sections at approximately the 4 1/2 mile mark, which ends with a steep uphill. The last section of the road switchbacks up, then descends to the top of Taylor Pass. You can take Express Creek Road to Castle Creek Road and return to Aspen.

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.
- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs and grasses--**Stay on established routes!**
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.

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.