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United States Department of Agriculture



**BIKING**

## **MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS OF THE ASPEN RANGER DISTRICT**

**HELP US SERVE YOU!! BE AN INFORMED FOREST VISITOR!!**

Before venturing into the forest be sure you are familiar with current forest ethics and regulations. Each visitor should study the information on the trailhead bulletin boards and/or come to the Forest Service office to obtain a **Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG)** before heading out onto the trails!!

**REMEMBER.... it is YOUR responsibility to be informed!!**

### **TIPS FOR BIKERS:**

Mountain bikes can be ridden on numerous four-wheel drive roads on the Aspen District as well as on designated trails that are not in Wilderness areas. **Remember – no bicycles are allowed in the wilderness!** Always be prepared for sudden afternoon thunder or snowstorms with adequate rain gear, warm clothing, and plenty of food and water. Be careful not to accidentally leave any litter along the way, including cigarette butts. The difficulty of some trails on the District require you to walk your bike through some areas, so wear shoes for both hiking and biking. Remember good ethics- stay on designated trails to help protect the surrounding soil and vegetation!

**IF YOU SEE A PARTICULAR BIKE TRAIL THAT INTERESTS YOU, PLEASE TAKE A ROG SHEET FROM THE RACK. HELP US CONSERVE BY TAKING ONLY THE INFORMATION YOU NEED!**

### **EASY TRAILS:**

**RIO GRANDE TRAIL:** This trail begins behind Aspen and is paved for 2 miles. From Cemetery Lane the trail is unpaved. It's 5 miles to Woody Creek from here. From Woody Creek, the trail is again paved and leads to Basalt. The Rio Grande has a mild elevation gain and is great for those adjusting to the altitude. Beware of other people on the trail. It is very popular with joggers, hikers and their dogs!

### **MODERATE TRAILS:**

**KOBEY PARK #103, 508:** This is an old logging area with many spur roads winding through it. The views of the Elk Mountains to the south are spectacular! It's a fairly well maintained 4WD road that is used by mountain bikes, 4 wheelers, dirt bikes and snowmobiles in the winter. It's 6 miles from Lenado to Kobey Park with an elevation gain of 2,300 feet.

**LINCOLN CREEK ROAD TO RUBY #106:** This is a popular Jeep road and is 11 miles from the turn off of Highway 82 to the old mining town of Ruby. The first 6 miles of the road are fairly accessible and popular with fishers, hikers and mountain bikers. From Grizzly Reservoir, it's another 5 miles to Ruby. This section of the road is much more rugged and not as heavily used. It's a good idea to get an early start as to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. Your elevation gain is just under 2,000 feet.

**SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN/HUNTER CREEK #130:** Smuggler Road is very popular with hikers, bikers and runners. The trail ascends steeply from the beginning. To reach Hunter Creek, take the left fork before the platform that provides great views of Aspen. Stay on the main route towards Hunter Creek! Once you reach Hunter Creek there are many options for looping back into town or continuing up the Hunter Valley.

Please consult a Forest Service map or ask at the front desk for further information. The trail is 5 ½ miles from the bottom of Smuggler Road to Hunter Creek.

**SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN/LENADO #130:** Smuggler Road is very popular with hikers, bikers and runner. The trail ascends steeply from the beginning. To reach Lenado, take the left fork before the platform that provides great views of Aspen. Stay on the main route to Hunter Creek. When you reach Hunter Creek, take a left after crossing the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Bridge. The trail joins a 4WD road that leads to Van Horn Park and Lenado. It's 9 miles from the bottom of Smuggler to Lenado.

### **DIFFICULT TRAILS:**

**EXPRESS CREEK ROAD #122:** This road receives heavy 4WD use, especially on the weekends. The last two miles of the road are very steep and often have snow well into July. The road begins fairly flat but begins to climb steeply. It's 5 ½ miles to the top of Taylor Pass where you can see Taylor Lake and magnificent views of the Castle Creek Valley. From Taylor Pass you can access Richmond Hill Road leading to Aspen Mountain, Midnight Mine Road and Little Annie Road. Please consult a Forest Service map or ask at the front desk for further information.

**GOVERNMENT TRAIL #1980:** The Government Trail is closed every year from May 15- June 20 for migrating/calving elk. Since this is a great trail to view wildlife, **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH!** The trail begins from Aspen or Snowmass Village and cuts through the Tiehack, Buttermilk and Snowmass Ski Areas. It's 9.8 miles one-way with 1,400 feet of elevation gain.

**LITTLE ANNIE ROAD:** This is a popular 4WD road, especially on the weekends. A loop can be made by going up Little Annie Road and down Midnight Mine Road, or a longer trip down Summer Road. Little Annie is a very scenic road with great views of the Castle Creek Valley. It's a 3-mile ride to the junction with Midnight Mine Road and another 1 ½ -miles to the top of Aspen Mountain with an elevation gain of 2,200 feet.

**MIDNIGHT MINE ROAD #118:** This road is not as heavily used by 4WDs as Little Annie and Summer Roads. The road climbs steeply with several switchbacks. It's about 4-miles to the junction with Little Annie Road and 1 ½ miles farther to the top of Aspen Mountain. The elevation gain is not quite 3,000 feet. Please consult a Forest Service map or ask at the front desk for additional loop options from Midnight Mine Road.

**MONTEZUMA BASIN ROAD #102:** This road can be snow covered into July. The lower section is very popular with mountain bikers and 4 wheelers on the weekends. The road is very rugged and is located in a stream in some sections. It climbs above timberline. The road was built to serve the Montezuma Mine and debris from the mine may be seen along the way. The road gains almost 3,000 feet in elevation in 4.7 miles.

**RICHMOND HILL ROAD #123:** Richmond Hill Road connects Taylor Pass with the top of Aspen Mountain. The length is 12 mile one-way. There are plenty of great views along the ride! The road is heavily exposed so watch for afternoon thunderstorms. There are four access points for Richmond Hill Road- Express Creek Road, Little Annie Road, Midnight Mine Road and Summer Road. Please consult the Forest Service map or ask at the front desk for additional information on the access to Richmond Hill.

**PEARL PASS ROAD #102:** Pearl Pass often sees snow well into July. The lower section of the road receives heavy use, especially on the weekends. The road is very rugged and steep in sections! There may be sections where you have to dismount and walk. However, the views from the top make it all worthwhile! The road begins just past Ashcroft and climbs 3,000 feet in 6 ½ miles.

**SMUGGLER MOUNTAIN/WARREN LAKES #131:** Smuggler Road is heavily used by hikers, bikers, runners and their dogs. The road is fairly steep, climbing 3,000 feet, for the 6.3 miles to Warren Lakes. The road becomes more rugged at about the 2-mile mark. The road is gated at Warren Lakes. This designates the Wilderness boundary. Please respect this and do not trespass into the Wilderness with your bicycle.

**SUMMER ROAD #123:** Summer Road switchbacks across the front of Aspen Mountain. It's a popular road for 4WD use, especially on the weekends. A loop ride can be made by going up Little Annie and down Midnight Mine Road. It's a very scenic drive with views of Castle Creek Valley. The road is 4 ½ miles in length and climbs 2,200 feet.

**SUNNYSIDE TRAIL #1987:** This trail is a very challenging single track that can be made into a loop by joining the Hunter Creek Trail in approximately 10 miles. The trail climbs steadily for the first 2 1/2 – miles followed by a moderate gain before descending into Hunter Valley. The first 2 miles are very popular with hikers and their dogs so be aware. The views from Red Mountain of the surrounding peaks are great!

### **ROAD BIKE OPTIONS:**

**CASTLE CREEK ROAD:** From the Roundabout in Aspen, it's an 11- mile ride to the ghost town of Ashcroft along Castle Creek Road. The trip is very scenic but the road is narrow and sometimes heavy with traffic. Be careful while on the road.

**INDEPENDENCE PASS:** Heading east of Aspen on Highway 82, the road climbs to the top of Independence Pass (12,095 feet). The trip to the top is approximately 20 miles long and passes the ghost town of Independence. Please be extremely careful as this road is very narrow and heavily traveled by automobile traffic.

**MAROON CREEK ROAD:** From the Roundabout in Aspen, it's a 10-mile ride to Maroon Lake. This route is popular with bicyclists because of the sparse vehicle traffic on the road from mid-June to early September. Maroon Creek Road is open to shuttle busses only during the summer season between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. It's a steady climb to the lake with spectacular views as the reward.

**OWL CREEK TRAIL:** The trail begins at the intersection of Owl Creek Road and Highway 82 west of Aspen. The trail follows Owl Creek Road to Snowmass Village. The trail ends as you approach Snowmass Village.