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United States Department of Agriculture

## **MIDNIGHT MINE ROAD #118**

**Length:** 5.5 miles one-way (8.6 km)

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 8,320 feet (2536 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Aspen

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Ending Elevation:** 11,212 feet (3417 m)

**ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS:** This road is fairly well maintained. It is heavily used by snowmobilers and skiers, especially on weekends. A loop ride can be made by going up Midnight Mine Road and down Little Annie Road. This is a very scenic ride with great views of the Castle Creek Valley.

**ACCESS:** Travel west from Aspen 1/2 mile on Hwy. 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Travel about 2 1/2 miles on Castle Creek Road to the turn off to Midnight Mine Road on the left. There is some parking at the start of Midnight Mine Road.

**NARRATIVE:** The road begins with a short descent, then crosses a bridge and begins its continuous uphill climb. There are numerous private drive-- please stay on the main road. The road becomes steeper with several switchbacks. In approximately 2 miles there is a cabin on the left and a large mound of mine tailings on the right. The road climbs steeply between them, continuing to ascend to the junction with Little Annie Road at about the 4 mile mark. Stay left to continue to the top of Aspen Mountain and the Sundeck Restaurant. From the top you can access Richmond Hill Road which follows the ridge behind Aspen Mountain.

**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:

- \* **Respect private property.** Ask permission before entering.
- \* **Be considerate** of other winter back-country travelers. Remember, we're all out to enjoy the outdoors.
- \* **Avoid disturbing wild animals** by staying out of elk and deer wintering areas. Detour if you spot wildlife.
- \* **Wilderness areas and Primitive areas are CLOSED to motorized recreational vehicles.** If in doubt, inquire at a local Forest Service office. Obey all signs.
- \* **BEWARE OF AVALANCHES!** Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or prolonged periods of high wind. Stay on the windblown side of ridges. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep canyons.

**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 snowmobile trip.