

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



United States Department of Agriculture



EXPRESS CREEK ROAD TO TAYLOR PASS

Length: 5 1/2 miles one-way (8.9 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)

ACCESS: Go 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Drive about 11 miles and park just before the ghost town of Ashcroft, across from the Toklat. Begin at the sign for Express Creek Road.

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: Before you go out check into available routes, their condition, ownership of land, posted area, 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.** Inquire at a local Forest Service office if in doubt. 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.
- * Remember to notify a responsible person of your travel plans.

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 cross-country/snowshoe trip.