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United States Department of Agriculture



## MONTEZUMA BASIN ROAD #102

**Length:** 8 miles one-way (12.9 km)

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,728 feet (2965 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 12,600 feet (3840 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Hayden Peak, Pearl Pass

**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. This route starts at the Ashcroft Ski-Touring parking area.

**NARRATIVE:** The first 2 1/2 miles are fairly level, then the road begins to climb. There are some steep hills and at the 3 1/2 mile mark there is a foot bridge. Cross the stream at the bridge. The road continues to climb through spruce groves crossing a vehicle bridge and immediately becoming steeper and more rugged. Three miles up the road you pass the Mace cabin on the right. A quarter mile past the cabin the road to Pearl Pass forks steeply to the left (refer to the Pearl Pass handout for more information on this route). At this fork bear right. Keeping right, the road soon climbs some steep, continuous switchbacks. The road is very narrow and rugged in some areas. The road ends at the parking area for Montezuma Basin at the base of Castle Peak. Please be aware of avalanche conditions.

**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.