

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



United States Department of Agriculture



PEARL PASS ROAD #102

Length: 8 miles one-way (12.9 km)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 9,728 feet (2965 m)

Ending Elevation: 12,705 feet (3872 m)

USGS Map(s): Hayden Peak, Pearl Pass

ACCESS: Drive 1/2 mile west of Aspen on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. The beginning of this route is at the parking lot for Ashcroft Ski-Touring.

NARRATIVE: The first 2 1/2 miles are fairly level and then the road begins to climb. There are some steep uphill and after approximately 1 1/2 miles you cross a foot bridge. The road continues to climb through spruce groves, crosses a vehicle bridge and immediately becomes steeper and more rugged. Approximately 3 miles up the road you pass the Mace cabin on the right. A quarter mile past the cabin the road forks. Keep left (the right fork goes to the Montezuma Basin, refer to that handout), the road climbs steeply, and there are rough, rocky sections. 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.