

Boulder Ranger District  
2140 Yarmouth Avenue  
Boulder, CO 80301  
(303) 541-2500  
FAX: (303) 541-2515



United States Department of Agriculture



**WINTER**

---

## Brainard Lake Area Trails

**Difficulty:** Easy to Difficult

**Trail Use:** Extremely Heavy

**Length:** Red Rock Parking Area to: Lefthand Park Reservoir - 2 miles; Brainard Lake via Brainard Lake Road - 2.2 miles, via Waldrop North - 2.9 miles, via CMC South Trail - 2.5 miles, via Little Raven Trail - 3.3 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

**Elevation:** 10,080 feet at Red Rock Parking Area; 10,400 feet at Brainard Lake; 10,640 feet at Lefthand Park Reservoir.

**Open To:** Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing. See "Important Information" for pet restrictions.

### Access

- From Nederland, drive 13 miles north on Colorado Highway 72 to the town of Ward.
- Look for a sign for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and turn west onto County Road 102.
- Travel three miles to the winter closure gate. Do not block the gate with your vehicle.

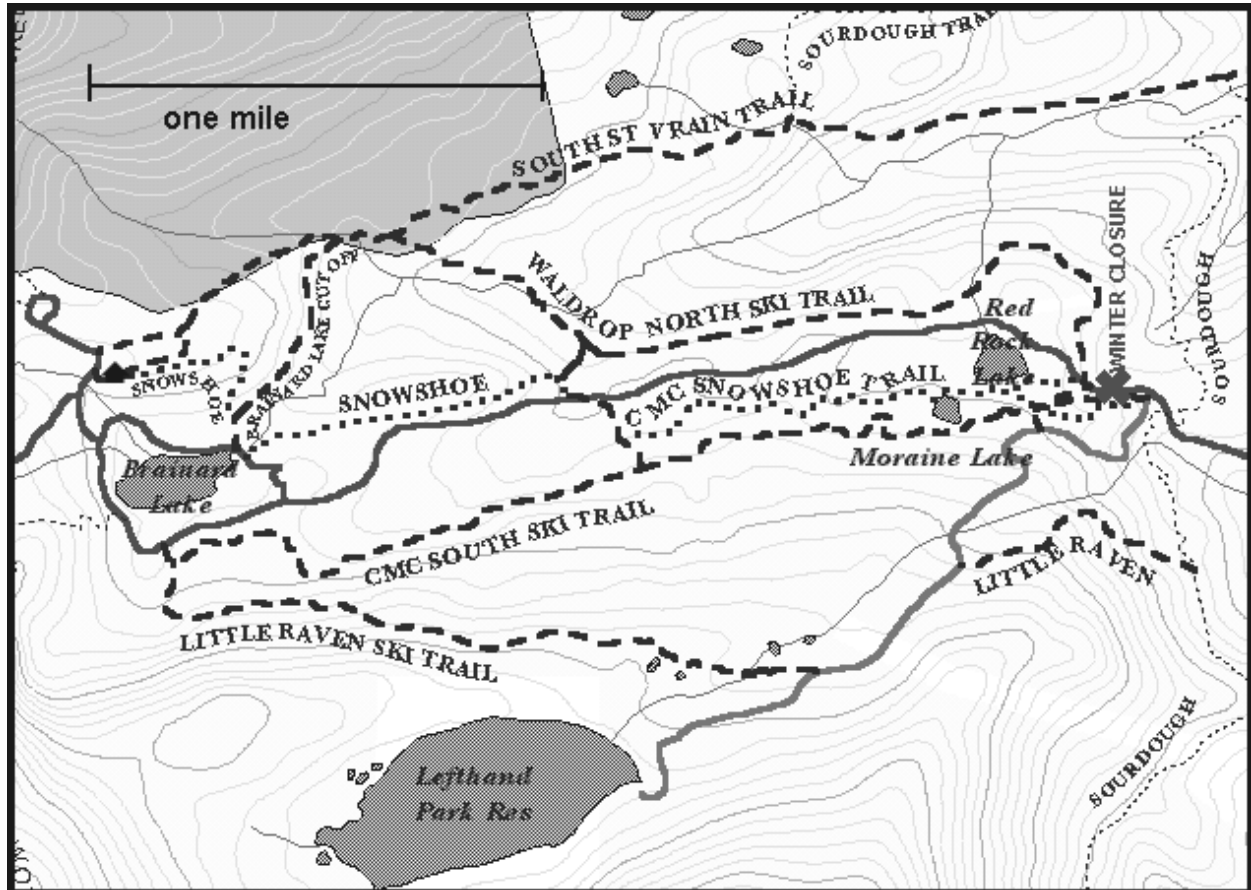
### Trail Highlights

- **Brainard Lake Road NFSR 112:** This is the easiest route to Brainard Lake, and the only route between the Red Rock Parking Area and Brainard Lake on which dogs are allowed. It is often adequately hard packed for hiking in winter. The snow may be windblown and icy.
- **CMC South Trail #814:** Beginning cross-country skiers are encouraged to use this trail which is accessed 30 yards beyond the road closure up the Lefthand Park Reservoir Road.
- **Waldrop North Trail #814.1:** The Waldrop North Trail is a little more difficult than the CMC South, with more hilly sections. This trail is to the right after the junction for the CMC South.
- **Little Raven Trail #802:** The Little Raven Trail is the most difficult trail to Brainard Lake and can be accessed off the Lefthand Park Reservoir Road. A longer and more challenging route can be made by picking up this trail from the Sourdough Trail.
- **Snowshoe Trail:** The easiest place to access this trail is 50 yards west of the road closure, just beyond the turn for the CMC South Trail, and across from the Waldrop North Trail.
- **Lefthand Park Reservoir Road NFSR 232:** The Lefthand Park Reservoir Road turns off to the right (south), just before the road closure. The last quarter mile of the road is exposed to severe winds off Niwot Ridge. Some hills are steep, but the road allows room to maneuver.

### Important Information

- The Waldrop, CMC South, and Little Raven are skier only trails.
- Within the Brainard Lake Recreation Area from November 15 until April 30, dogs are prohibited on all trails and roads except for the Sourdough Trail, the Brainard Lake Road, and Lefthand Park Reservoir Road. Camping is allowed between November 15 and April 30 but not within ¼ mile of developed areas such as campgrounds and picnic sites, except for Red Rock Lake.

# Trail Map



For More Information:

Boulder Ranger District  
2140 Yarmouth Avenue  
Boulder, CO 80301  
(303) 541-2500

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.