

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



WINTER

East Portal Area Trails

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Moderate

Length: East Portal Trailhead (TH) to: Forest Lakes Trail - 1.2; Crater Lake - 3 miles; Heart Lake - 4.2 miles; Rogers Pass - 4.6 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 9,211 feet at East Portal TH; 10,600 feet at the main Crater Lakes; 11,300 feet at Heart Lake; 11,060 feet at Rogers Pass Lake; 11,900 feet at Rogers Pass.

Open To: Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing. Groups of 12 or fewer. Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.

Access:

- From Nederland, travel south for 4.5 miles on Colorado Highway 119 to Rollinsville.
- Turn west onto the gravel County Road 16 and continue eight miles to the end. A large parking area is available at the East Portal TH.

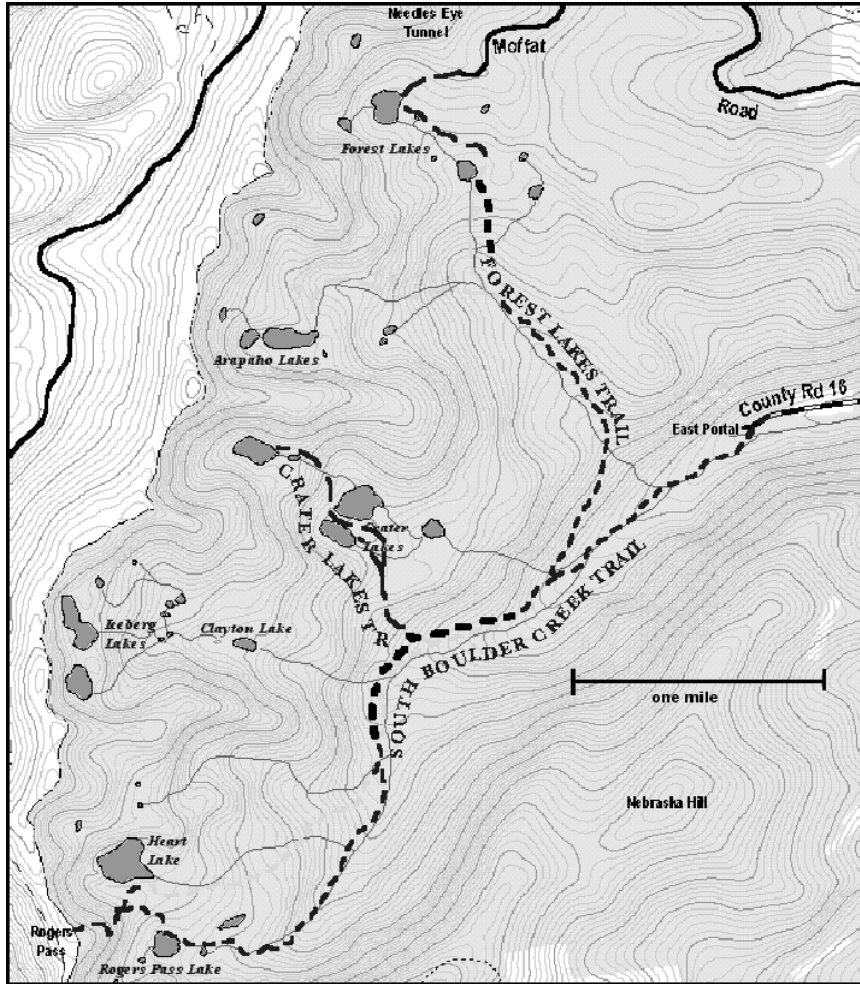
Trail Highlights:

- From the northwest corner of the parking area, continue for 1.2 miles on the South Boulder Creek Trail #900 to the signed Forest Lakes Trail junction.
- For Forest Lakes, the trail cuts across the front of a steep ridge on an abandoned road for ½ mile to meet up with Arapaho Creek. At the junction sign with the non-maintained Arapaho Lakes Trail, the Forest Lakes trail turns away from the creek to the northeast and continues onto the lower of the two lakes. Following the trail around the lower lake to the west leads to the upper lake and connects to the upper Forest Lakes TH on the unplowed Moffat Road.
- For Crater Lakes, continue straight on the South Boulder Creek Trail for an additional mile. The Crater Lakes Trail turns right (north) off the South Boulder Creek Trail at the second junction sign. It climbs steeply for a mile and crosses the narrow spit of land between the two main lakes. To reach the highest lake, continue another 0.5 miles.
- Following South Boulder Creek Trail beyond the junction with Crater Lakes leads to Roger's Pass and Heart Lakes. The trail climbs, crossing the South Boulder Creek several times before leveling off at Roger's Pass Lake. An obvious path leads beyond this lake to a saddle. From here, Rogers Pass Lake lies to the south and Heart Lake to the north. The South Boulder Creek Trail then climbs steeply up several switchbacks to Rogers Pass.

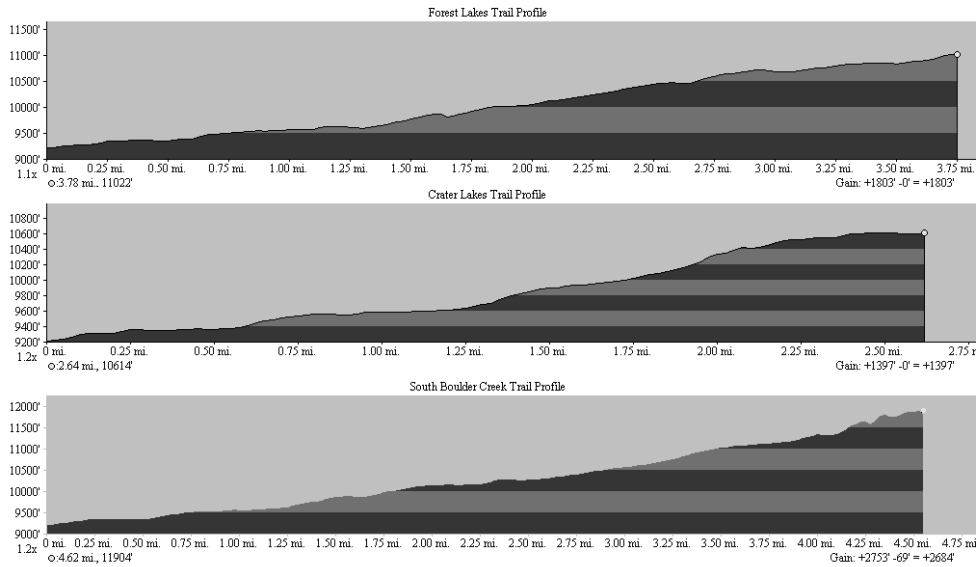
Important Information:

- CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED. Permits are not required for overnight stays inside the James Peak Wilderness. However, other wilderness regulations apply.
- Rogers Pass, Heart Lake, and upper Crater Lake are above treeline, so beware of inclement weather and avalanche danger.

Trail Map & Profiles



This map is intended as a general guide only and not for actual land navigation.



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For More Information:

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