

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



WINTER

Four Lakes Zone Wilderness Trails

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Trail Use: Heavy to Light

Length: Parking Area to: Mitchell Lake - 4 miles, to Blue Lake - 5.5 miles; to Long Lake - 3.5 miles; to Isabelle Lake - 5 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 10,080 feet at Red Rock Parking Area; 10,700 feet at Mitchell Lake; 11,300 feet at Blue Lake; 10,500 feet at Long Lake; 10,870 feet at Lake Isabelle.

Open To: Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing. Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times and group size limitations apply. See "Important Information" for additional 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.
- Continue 2.5 miles to the west side of Brainard Lake (see "Brainard Lake Area Trails").
- A signed side-road leads to the Mitchell Lake or Long Lake Trailheads (TH).

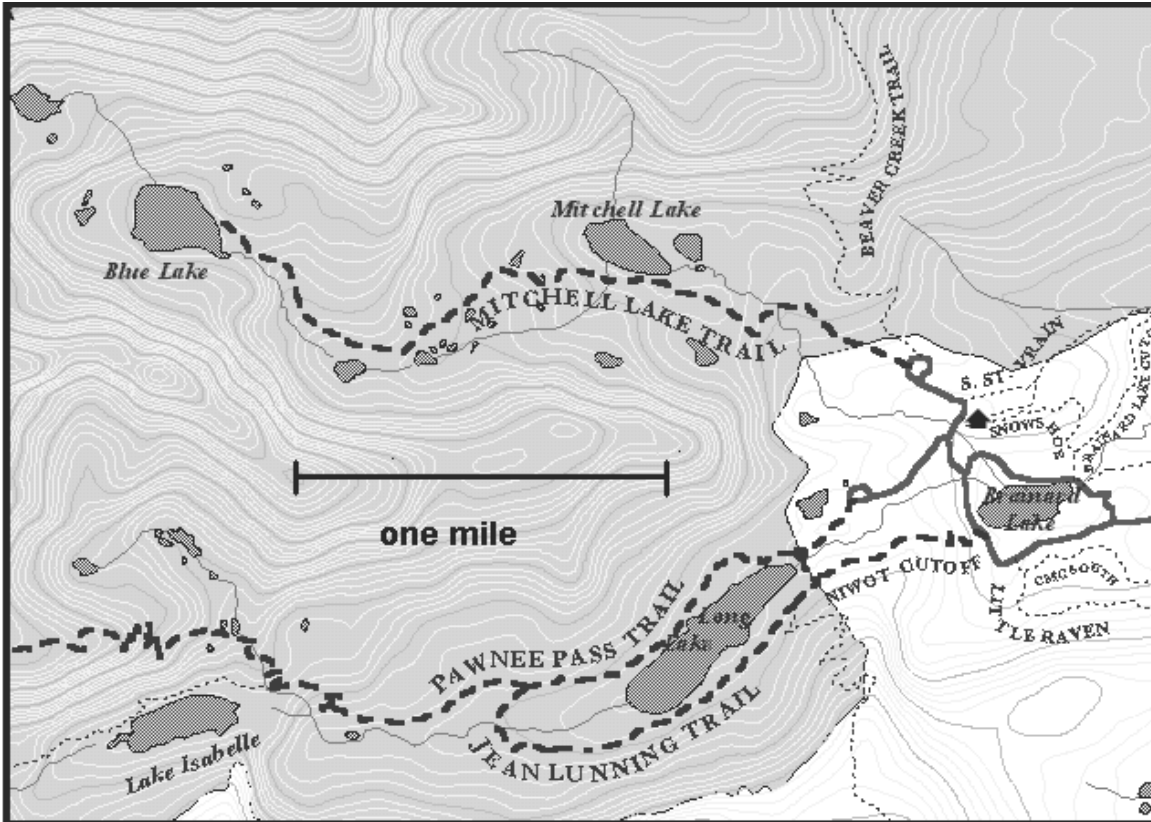
Trail Highlights

- **Mitchell Lake Trail #912:** From the Mitchell Lake TH, the Mitchell Lake Trail enters the Indian Peaks Wilderness from the west end of the closed parking area. If the trail beyond has not been broken out by someone who knows the route, the easiest way to find Mitchell Lake is to follow the creek. Strong winter recreationists may continue another 1.5 miles to Blue Lake.
- **Pawnee Pass Trail #907:** Long Lake can be reached from either the Long Lake TH or from the Niwot Cutoff TH at the west end of Brainard Lake. It is an easy quarter mile to Long Lake. At the east end of the lake there is a junction between the Pawnee Pass Trail on the north side of the lake, and the Jean Lunning Trail on the south side. It is a three-mile, fairly gentle loop around the lake.

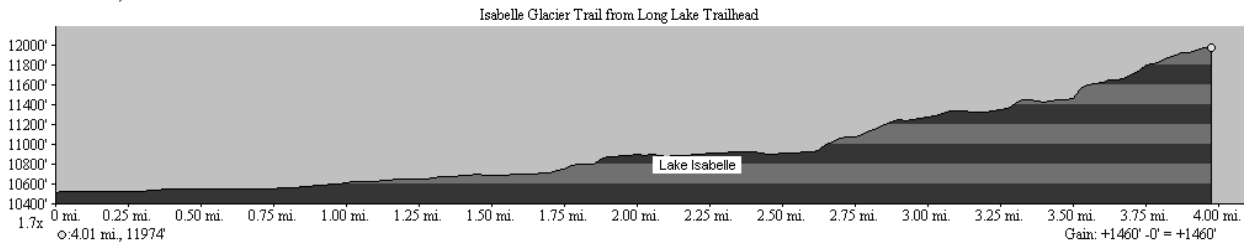
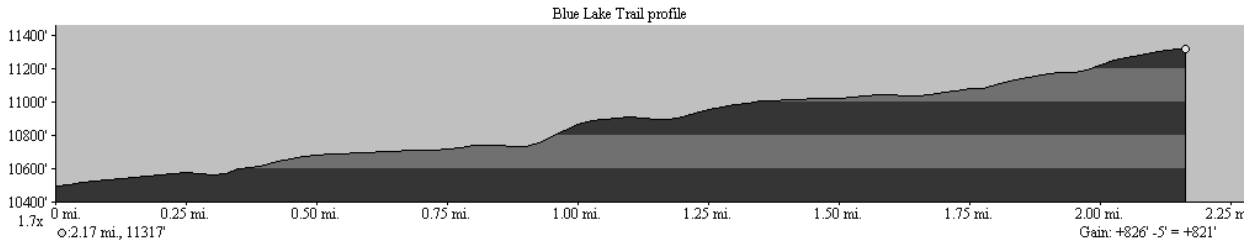
Important Information

- 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.
- Within the Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW), dogs must be on leash at all times. Campfires are prohibited. Camping in the IPW is allowed between December 1 and April 30.
- Within the IPW, permit requirements exist for large (8-12 persons) and organized groups year round. Groups of more than 12 are not permitted. Packstock restrictions apply.
- Be alert to avalanche hazards, especially above Blue Lake and Lake Isabelle.

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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