

Boulder Ranger District
2140 Yarmouth Avenue
Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 541-2500
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United States Department of Agriculture



WINTER

Rainbow Lakes Road

Difficulty: Easy

Trail Use: Moderate to Heavy

Length: Mountain Research Station Road to: Rainbow Lakes Campground - 4 miles; to Rainbow Lakes - 5 miles. DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 9,300 feet at Mountain Research Station Road; 9,900 feet at Rainbow Lakes Campground; 10,200 feet at Rainbow Lakes.

Open To: Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing. Snowmobiles are permitted on this road.

Access

- From Nederland, continue north on Colorado Highway 72 for approximately seven miles.
- Look for the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station sign and turn west onto National Forest System Road (NFSR) 298. Drive 0.8 miles and park where the road forks. Do not block the gate with your vehicle.
- Additional parking is available before this intersection, at the Sourdough Trailhead.

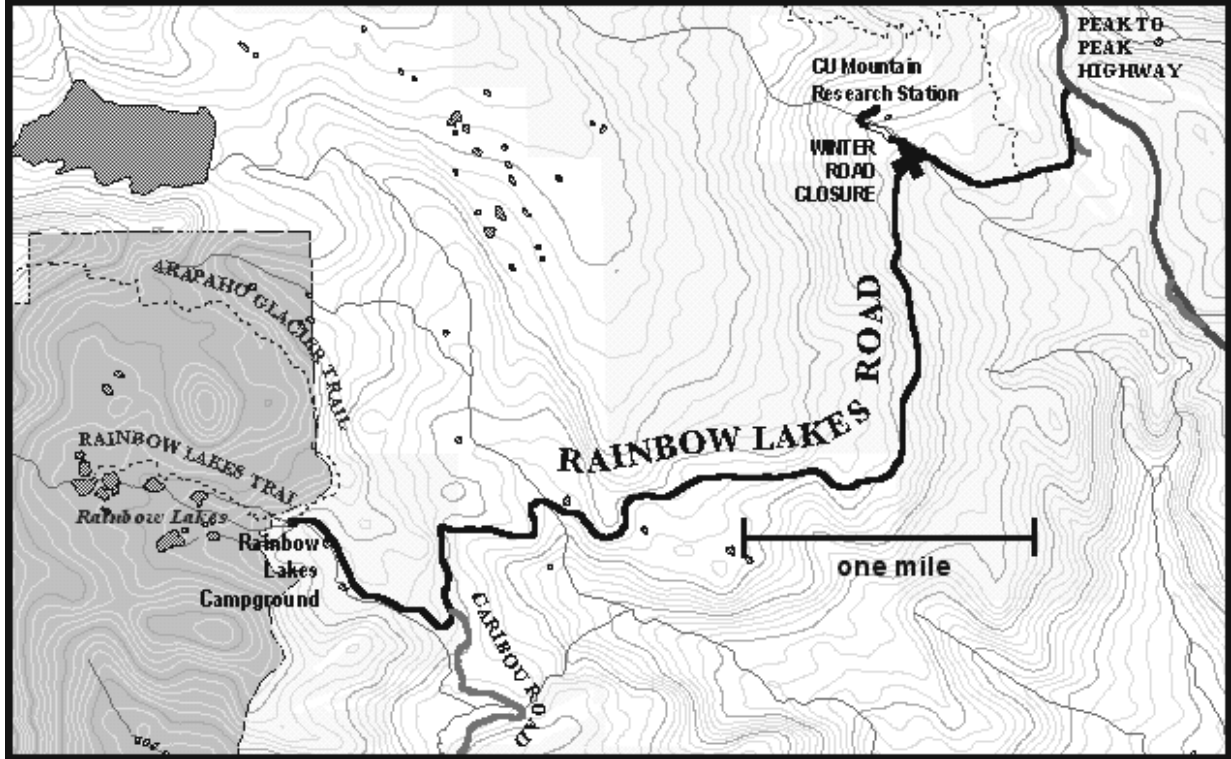
Trail Highlights

- The left fork leads to Rainbow Lakes and is often windblown and icy in patches, but makes a good trip for novices in favorable snow conditions.
- A section of this road passes through private land of the City Of Boulder Watershed. Please respect private land by staying on route.
- It is four miles on the road to the Rainbow Lakes Campground. Trailheads in this area lead into the Indian Peaks Wilderness.
- The Rainbow Lakes Trail continues west a mile to Rainbow Lakes.
- The Arapaho Glacier Trail also turns off from a separate parking area. After 1.5 miles west in timber, it breaks out above treeline. It is not recommended beyond that point due to avalanche danger and severe weather conditions.

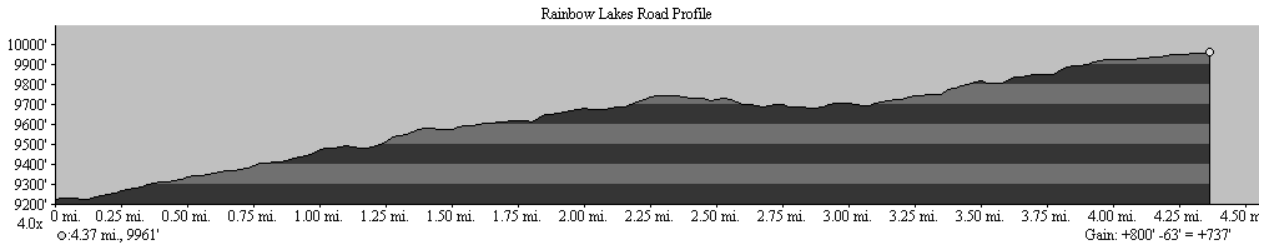
Important Information

- This road passes through a mix of public and private land. Please remain on route and respect private property.
- West of the Rainbow Lakes Campground lies the Indian Peaks Wilderness area. Within the wilderness, CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED. Permit requirements exist for large (8-12 persons) and organized groups year round. Groups of more than 12 are not permitted. Packstock restrictions apply. Pets must be on a hand-held leash at all times.

Trail Map & Profile



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



For More Information:

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