

Boulder Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



WINTER

Sourdough Trail #835, Wapiti Trail #816, Baptiste Trail #815

Difficulty: Easy to Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate to Heavy

Length: Sourdough Trailhead (TH) to: the Brainard Lake Road - 5.8 miles; to Beaver Creek TH 12.6 miles; to Peaceful Valley - 14.7 miles. Wapiti Trail - Baptiste Trail loop - 2 miles.

DISTANCES ARE ONE-WAY.

Elevation: 9,200 feet at Sourdough TH; 10,080 feet at the Red Rock TH; 9,200 feet at Beaver Bog TH; 9,160 feet at Beaver Creek TH; 8,500 feet at Buchanan Pass TH.

Open To: Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing.

Access: There are four main trailhead locations for accessing the Sourdough Trail.

- *Sourdough TH:* From Nederland, travel seven miles north on Colorado Highway (CO) 72. Turn west onto gravel National Forest System Road (NFSR) 298, signed as the turnoff for the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station. A parking area is not far on the left.
- *Red Rock TH:* From Ward, follow signs for the Brainard Lake Recreation Area (County Road [CR] 102). The Red Rock TH is three miles up this paved road before the winter gate.
- *Beaver Creek TH:* About 15 miles north of Nederland, turn west onto gravel CR 96 at the Boy Scout Camp sign. The Beaver Creek TH is just east of the private Beaver Reservoir.
- *Buchanan Pass TH:* About 18 miles north of Nederland, turn west on paved NFSR 114 at the sign for Peaceful Valley Campground. Do not block the gate with your vehicle.

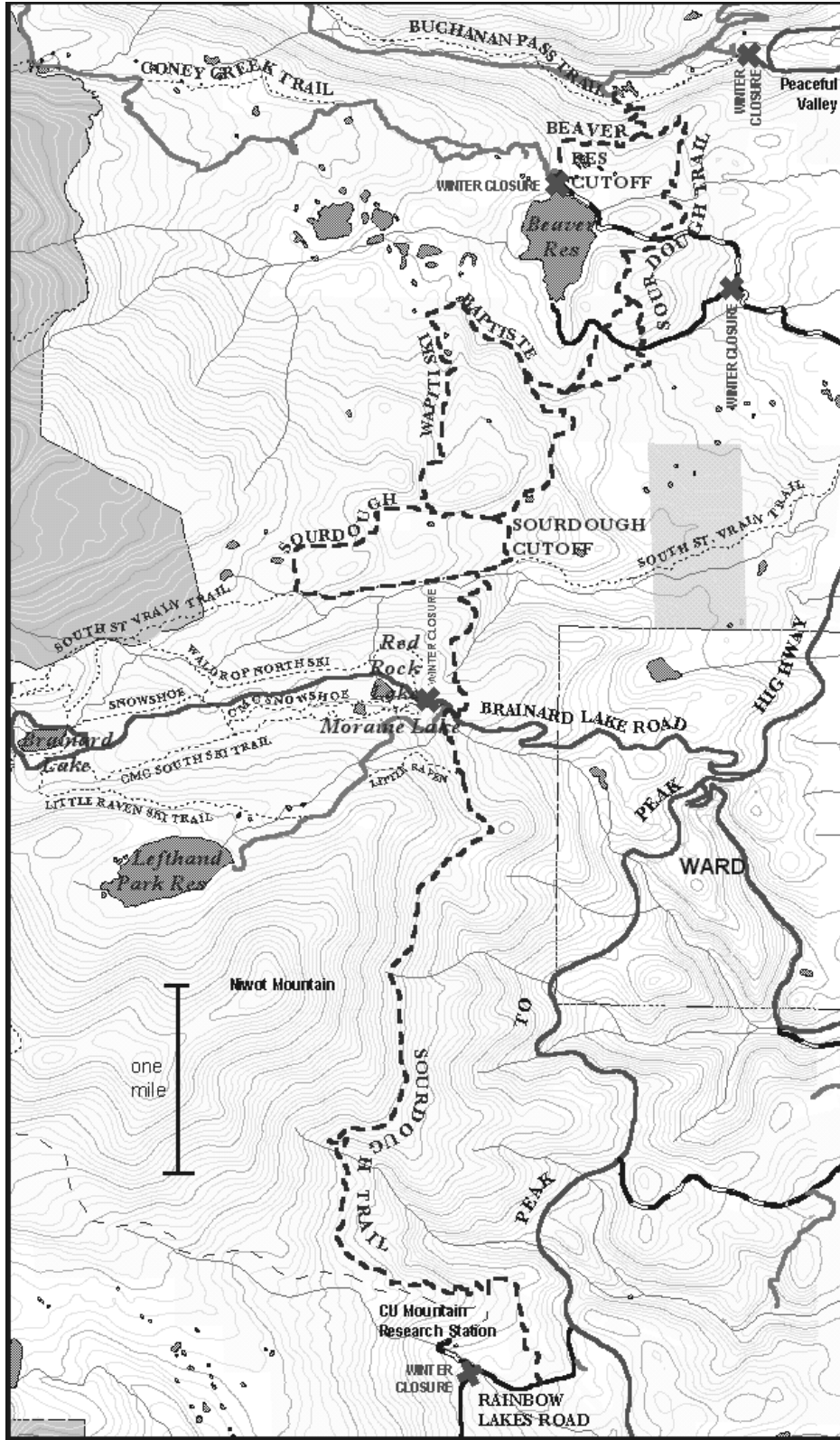
Trail Highlights

- Marked with blue diamond trailblazers, this trail begins at the Sourdough TH and heads north. It starts with a climb and a few flatter stretches, continues up switchbacks and to the Brainard Lake Road, crossing just east of the Lefthand Park Reservoir Road.
- The trail then descends 400 feet to cross South Saint Vrain Creek, and intersects with the South Saint Vrain Trail on the other side. The trail follows the South Saint Vrain Trail for a mile to the left (west), then heads north and east. The Wapiti Trail intersects.
- The Wapiti Trail drops moderately to join with the Baptiste Trail after a mile.
- From the junction with the cut-off, the Sourdough Trail descends. At a switchback, the Baptiste Trail goes left (north). It runs fairly level to where it connects with the Wapiti Trail.
- Meanwhile, the Sourdough Trail circles back and drops to cross unplowed NFSR 113, at the Beaver Bog TH. The trail drops down to County Road 96, east of Beaver Reservoir, and continues to drop steeply down to come into the Buchanan Pass Trail near Camp Dick.

Important Information

- These trails lie outside of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Dispersed camping and campfires are allowed and no permit is required. Pets are permissible.

Trail Map



For More Information:

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