

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
(970) 827-9343 - Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

COLORADO TRAIL #2108 **CAMP HALE TO TENNESSEE PASS**

Length: 6.53 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 9,344 ft.

Elevation Gain: +1276 ft.-182 ft. = +1094 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 10,438 ft.

USGS Map(s): Pando, Leadville North

Access from Vail: From I-70, take Exit 171 for Minturn and Hwy. 24. Turn right and continue south on Hwy. 24 for 17 miles to Road #702 (at north end of Camp Hale immediately after crossing a bridge over the railroad tracks), turn left. Follow Road #702 for 1 mile to Road #714 (past bridge crossing East Fork Eagle River). Turn right onto Road #714 and proceed 2.5 miles to trailhead on left. Look for the 4 x 4 wood post marking the Colorado Trail.

Trail Highlights: The trail begins on the right side of Road #714 where it intersects with an old road. The trail follows the road through the ruins of an old firing range to a bridge crossing the East Fork Eagle River. Across the river, the trail proceeds through a marshy meadow – look for a cairn, as the trail through the meadow can be hard to locate. Out of the meadow, the trail enters a lodgepole pine stand. After about a mile, the trail crosses a clearing on the “B” slope, where the 10th Mountain Division practiced skiing while training at the Army Camp Hale. This point also provides a great view of Camp Hale. The trail climbs up to Road #726, following it for one mile before veering left on an old jeep road for 250 feet. The trail will take off to the right and climb into a lodge pole forest before dropping down to Hwy. 24. Cross Hwy 24, go through the gate, and cross the railroad tracks. The trail proceeds through a long narrow strip of uplifted land in the Mitchell Creek drainage, crosses the creek and heads across a broad, marshy valley. The trail begins climbing slowly into another lodge pole pine forest then follows an old railroad grade for 2 miles to Tennessee Pass.

Camp Hale History: Camp Hale was an Army base during World War II providing training in mountain survival and winter warfare. The men who trained here were sent to the Apennine Mountains in Italy and were instrumental in bringing about the surrender of the Germans in Italy. The "B" slope was where the soldiers learned skiing techniques before training was transferred to skiing to Cooper Ski Hill. Camp Hale has remains of old Army constructed buildings, the rifle range and field house. **Note: Please stay on the trail in this area as there may still be unexploded ordinance in the Camp Hale area even though clean-up projects have taken place: Please leave all ammunitions and ordinances in place and report findings to the Ranger Station.**

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! TREAD LIGHTLY!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your trip.

