

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

WHITNEY LAKE TRAIL #2002

Length: 2.5 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 9,119 ft.

Elevation Gain: +1,836 ft.-0 ft. = +1,836 ft.

Trail Use: High

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 10,955 ft.

USGS Map(s): Mt. of the Holy Cross

Permit Information: In order to continue to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands, the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each party recreating in the Holy Cross Wilderness is **required to self-register at the trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

Access from Vail: Travel west from Vail on I-70 to Exit 171 for Minturn. Exit here and head south on US 24 for about 13 miles to Homestake Road, FSR 703. Proceed southwest about 5 miles on this improved dirt road to the small parking area on the left across the road from the trailhead.

Trail Highlights: The trail ascends steeply through aspen and conifer groves. At various points along the trail views of the Sawatch range can be viewed. Whitney peak rises up from the north lake shore to an elevation of 13,271 ft. Whitney Peak can be climbed by following the west ridge up to the summit.

Important Information: Whitney Lake is within the **Holy Cross Wilderness**. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places. Leave them as you wish to find them:

- * Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails
- * Dogs - must be leashed out of consideration for both other people and wildlife
- * Fire - campstoves are recommended and fires are prohibited at and above timberline
- * Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people
- * Sanitation - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

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 hiking trip.

