

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver



United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

MISSOURI LAKES TRAIL #2003

Length:

2.7 miles to first lake
4.0 miles to Missouri Pass
4.4 miles to Fancy Pass trail

Elevation Gain:

+1427 ft.-0 ft = +1427 ft to first lake
+1991 ft -0 ft = +1991 ft to Missouri Pass
+1998 ft -187 ft =+1811 ft to Fancy Pass trail

Difficulty: Moderate to More Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate to High

Beginning Elevation: 10,010 ft

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 11,986 ft.

USGS Map(s): Mt of the Holy Cross, Mt Jackson

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 staying overnight 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 on I-70 to Exit #171 for Minturn, Leadville, and Hwy 24. Exit here and turn right onto Hwy 24. Proceed south for 13 miles to Homestake Road #703. Turn right and proceed past the Gold Park Campground to mile 8.5. Turn right onto Missouri Creek Road #704. Turn right and continue 3 miles on this dirt road to a T at 10,200 ft. Turn left and trailhead will be on the right.

Trail Highlights: The first mile of the trail passes diversion dams and water pipelines. Just past mile 1, the trail crosses the creek at the mouth of a miniature canyon, creating a breath taking view. The trail winds through stands of conifers and crosses the creek several more times before emerging into a large lush meadow. The trail climbs a short, steep distance to the basin that holds the Missouri Lakes. At about 2.7 miles you will see a side trail left that leads to the first of the lakes, a short climb of 100 feet gain in 0.3 miles. Savage Peak dominates the view to the south above this first lake. The main trail traverses the basin past several other lakes before reaching the last lake at about 3.5 miles. To get a bird's eye view of the lakes, continue up switchbacks to the 11,986-foot Missouri Pass and back down the other side to join the Fancy Pass and Cross Creek trails at 4.4 miles.

Important Information: Missouri Lakes 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 and leave no trace of your visit.

A few of the Holy Cross Wilderness regulations include:

- * Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails. The tundra is very delicate; please stay on trails and hard surfaces as much as possible.
- * Dogs - must be under control and must not harass wildlife, people, or damage property.
- * Fire - fires are prohibited within the Fancy Creek and Missouri Creek watersheds.
- * Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people.
- * Sanitation - bury human waste at least 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.

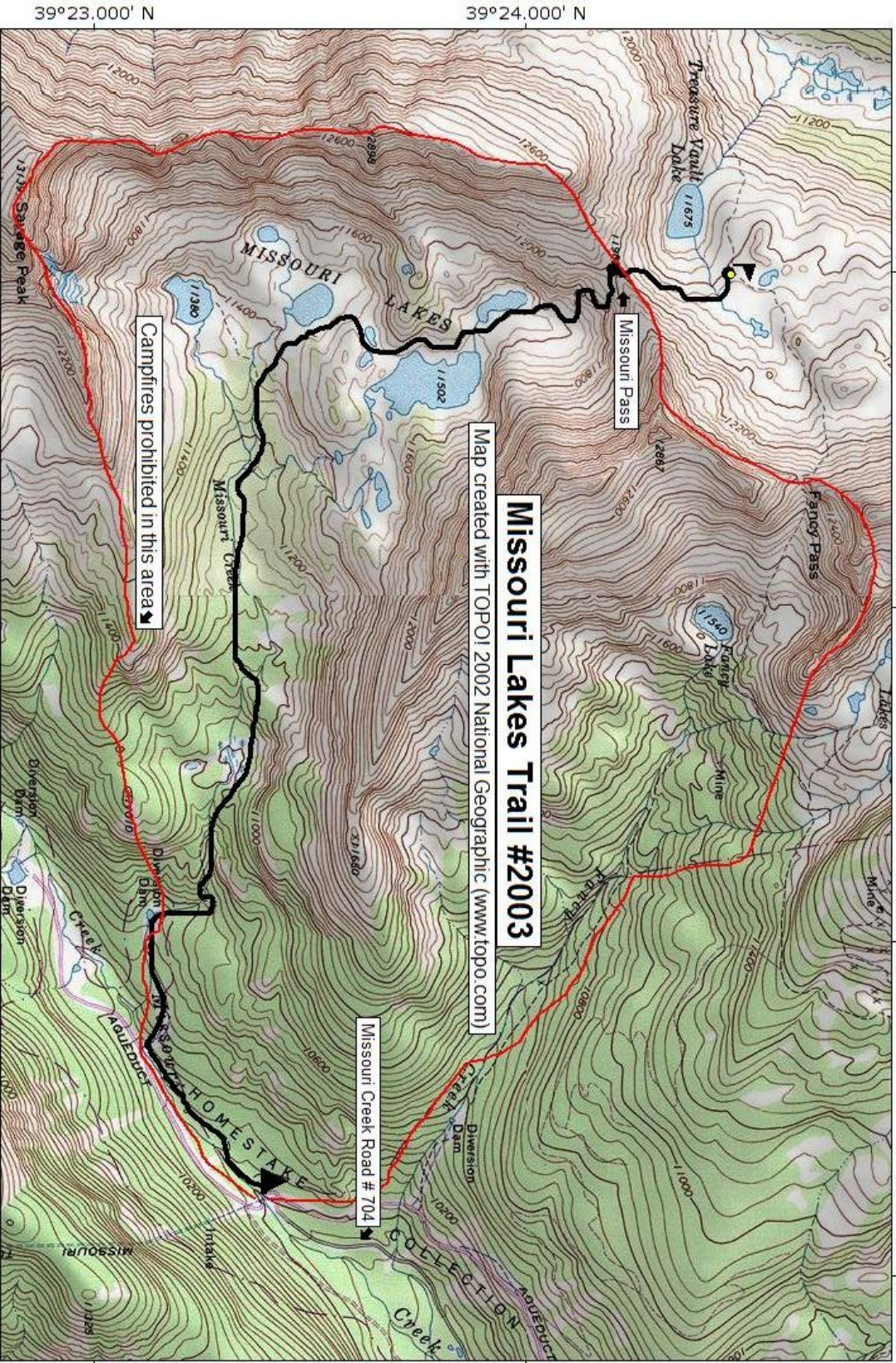
106°31.000' W

106°30.000' W

106°29.000' W

WGS84 106°28.000' W

TOPO! map printed on 04/01/13 from "missouri_lakes.tpo"



39°23.000' N

39°24.000' N

39°23.000' N

39°24.000' N

106°31.000' W

106°30.000' W

106°29.000' W

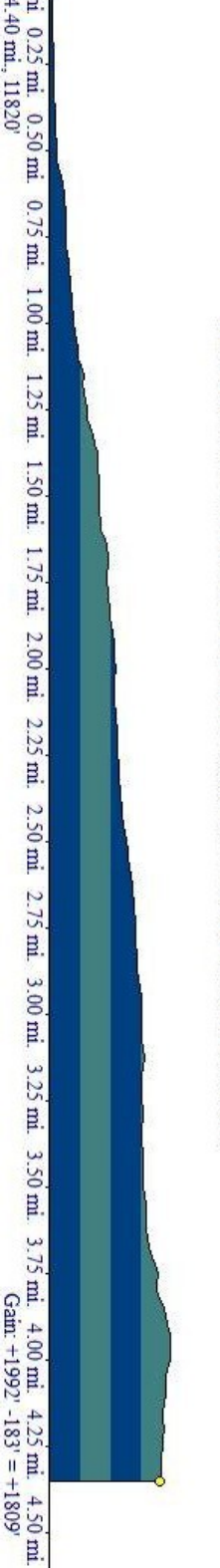
WGS84 106°28.000' W

Map created with TOPO! ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

TN
10°



12500'
12000'
11500'
11000'
10500'
10000'



Gain: +1992' -183' = +1809'