## MISSOURI LAKES & FANCY PASS LOOP



## **BACKPACKING TRIP**

**FYI:** The map on the reverse side is for general orientation, not for navigation. **P.S.** Get and post trail updates at www.facebook.com/oriccolorado

**Location:** Holy Cross Wilderness

White River National Forest Near Holy Cross City

970-827-5715 www.fs.fed.us/r2

**Contact Info:** Holy Cross Ranger District

**Length:** 7.67 mile loop (estimate using the Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

**Time:** Overnight or multi-day backpack. The average person hikes apx. 2 miles per hour. Adjust your time +/- based on terrain, trail and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level.

Elevation Gain/Loss: See trail profile on reverse side

**Difficulty:** Moderate to strenuous **Season:** Late June – Early October

Trail Users: Hikers, equestrians and wildlife

Dogs: On hand-held leash

**Permits:** Yes, free use permit available at trailhead

**Getting There from Denver:** I-70 west to Dowds Junction. Turn right at exit 171. Drive 12 miles south on US Hwy 24 to the turn-off for Homestake Rd #703 (after mile marker 156). Take Homestake Rd 7.8 miles to Gold Prk. Turn right onto Missouri Creek Rd (FR #704). Drive 3 miles to the Missouri Lks Trailhead.

**Maps:** National Geographic Trails Illustrated #126E or #149S, Sky Terrain Summit, Vail & Holy Cross map and or the Mount of the Holy Cross and Jackson USGS 7.5 topographic maps. **IMPORTANT:** Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, a compass, a GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

Safety Considerations and Supplemental Info: ■ Afternoon thunderstorms ■ The possibility of hiking through snow fields at higher altitudes ■ Strongly suggest treating water drawn from sources along the trail ■ Toilets at trailhead

■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from June through August

**Trail Description:** Rocky trail with plenty of roots to step over. Start at the Missouri Lks trailhead. Proceed west on Missouri Lks Trail (#2003) to Missouri Lakes. Continue on this trail over Missouri Pass and to the junction of the Fancy Creek Trail (#2006). Take the Fancy Crk trail east over Fancy Pass to Fancy Lk. Continue east to the Fancy Crk trailhead. Walk the short distance to the Missouri Lakes Trailhead. **TIP:** Contact the Holy Cross Ranger District for trail updates.

**Highlights:** ■ The views ■ Great fishing ■ Abundant creeks, ponds and alpine lakes ■ Two high mountain passes ■ Meadows full of wildflowers (peak in mid July to mid August) ■ Rugged mountains ■ Long glacial valleys ■ Steep ridges

- Fragile tundra Bridge crossings over cascading creeks Dramatic gorges
- Fragrant conifer forest Rocky benches

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