

Key:

Vertical Gain/Steepness:	E=Easy , 0' to 400' gain per mile M=Moderate , 400' to 800' gain per mile D=Difficult , 800' to 1200' gain per mile X=Extreme , 1200' + gain per mile
Surface/Terrain:	E=Easy , mostly sand, dirt or pine needle covered on established trail M=Moderate , small rocks and roots present on established trail D=Difficult , loose and rocky on established trail X=Extreme , very loose, with large rocks and possibly scrambling required. Trail may not be established or easily recognizable

Trail Name:

Horn Peak Trail (Trail #1362; parking lot elevation 9060'; Horn Peak TH elevation 9450')
Reference the Horn Peak USGS Topographical Map.

Trail Location:

From downtown Westcliffe, drive south on 2nd Street to Hermit Road. Turn right, drive 1.0 miles and turn left on CR 137. Take CR 137 3.0 miles; turn right on Horn Road (CR 130), heading west 2.2 miles to a signed junction at Sky Ranch Horn Creek Conference. Go right to reach the first parking lot after 0.2 miles, elevation 9070'. Hike the Horn Creek Spur Trail 0.45 miles to the Rainbow Trail (Trail #1336), and turn right. You will come upon the Horn Peak Trailhead (#1362) in approximately 0.75 miles further.

Trail Summary:

Accessibility: The Horn Peak Trail is accessed by the Rainbow Trail in the San Isabel National Forest on which one can travel by ATV, foot, bike or horse. The Horn Peak Trail travels for 1.5 miles in the National Forest itself, but when it enters into the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness it is only accessible by foot or horse.

Trail Length and Type: 9.0 miles in and out.

Vertical Gain and Steepness: 4310' elevation gain; 26% E, 42% M, 32% X

Surface/Terrain: 13% E, 55% D, 32% X

Trail Experience:

The very form and shape of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains ensures that they will be steep. At only 15 miles across from east to west, the Sangres rise dramatically, sometimes 6000' in elevation gain in a short distance. Because of this they contain some of the most challenging

hiking in the Central Rockies. To add to this, it is said that the first settlers to the Wet Mountain Valley had no use for switchbacks. They simply created trails in the Sangres that went straight up the drainages. The Horn Peak Trail will convince you that the topography and history aren't lying.

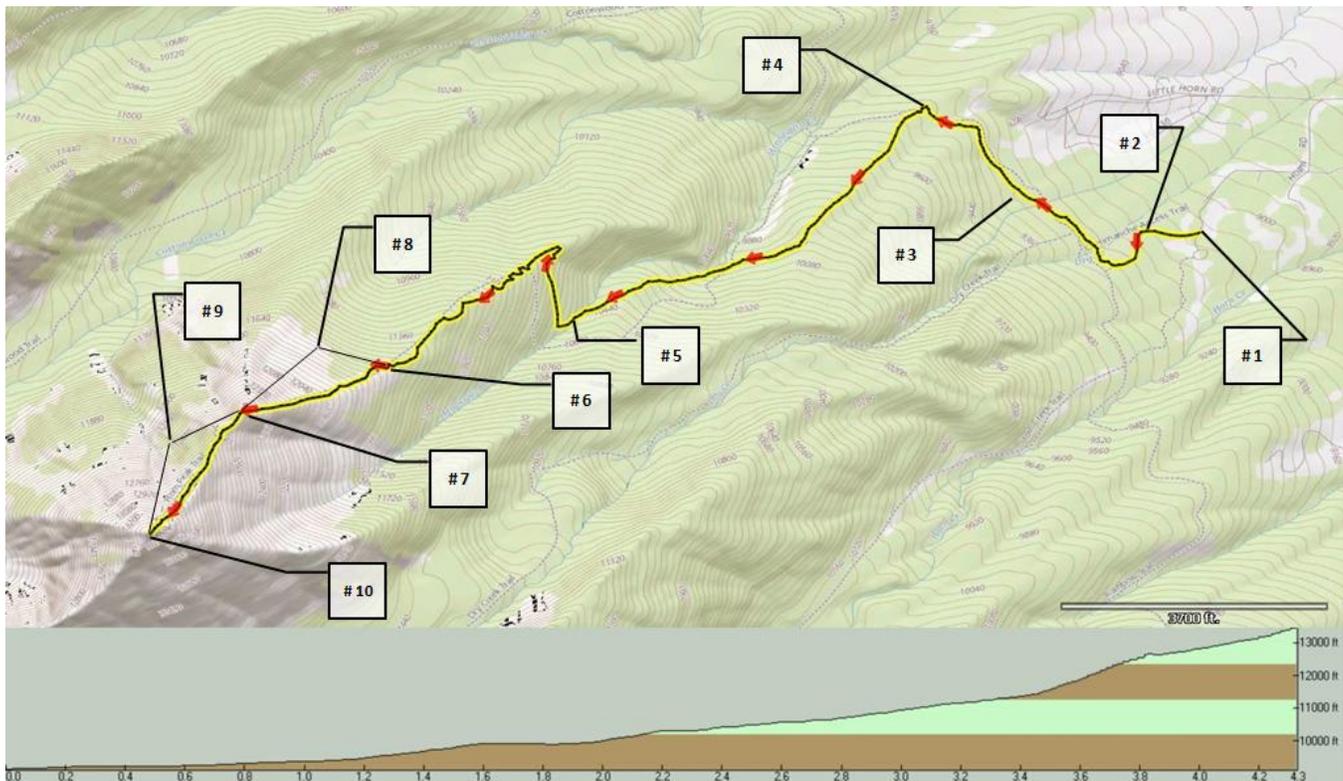
As you leave the Rainbow Trail (9530') the Horn Peak Trail ascends (moderate difficulty) for over a mile to Hennequin Creek (10650'). Make sure to replenish your water supply here, for it may be the last easy access to water you will find, especially in a drought year. Moreover, there are few reasonable places to camp from this point on. After crossing the creek, the trail turns north and then southwest as you reach the east ridge of Horn Peak (10,900'). Continuing up the ridge line you will come to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness boundary sign at approximately 11,350'. Soon thereafter you will approach tree line where the trail disappears.

Follow the ridge line from here to the summit. From the tree line up to the false summit (12665' elevation) the incline is extreme and footing is challenging. From the false summit you gain full view of the remainder of the ridge and the summit, but there is not a vestige of a trail. The last 800+' and 0.6 miles to the summit is steep but thankfully consists of stable talus. When the ridge has exposure, it is wise to stay left of the crest. For a person in good shape, count on 5 hours to the summit. Needless to say, for many climbers this summit is hard-earned.

Nonetheless, the rewards for summiting are bountiful. The 360 degree views from the top are captivating: Comanche Peak, Fluted Peak, Mt. Adams, Kit Carson, the Crestones, Humboldt Peak, are your close neighbors. Pikes Peak far to the north and the Blanca Massif to the south give you the perspective. Enjoy it, but keep an eye on the weather, which can blow in quickly and without mercy.

On your descent, having trekking poles becomes even more important than they were on the ascent. The footing relentlessly demands one's full attention, and the steepness requires leg muscle endurance. Follow the same route you used on the way up. For one in good condition, count on 3 and 1/2 hours back to your car.

Map: Horn Peak Trail (Trail # 1362)



- # 1 – Lower parking area
- # 2 – Spur trail to Rainbow
- # 3 – Rainbow trail
- # 4 - Horn Peak trailhead
- # 5 – Hennequin Creek crossing

- # 6 – Treeline (about 2500’ vertical to this point)
- # 7 – False summit
- # 8 - Treeline to false summit (1000’ vertical)
- # 9 - False summit to Horn Peak (810’ vertical)
- # 10 - Horn Peak summit

The Legal Stuff: The information contained in these trail summaries is intended to be a supplement to the typical tools and references used by people who are well prepared to venture into the mountains. Always carry a map specific to the area you are exploring. Failure to have the necessary experience, physical conditioning, and supplies or equipment can result in injury or death. Trails For All provides no warranties, either express or implied, that the information provided in our published Trail Summaries is 100% accurate or reliable. By using any information provided, you agree to absolve Trails For All from any responsibility for damage or other liability arising from the use of Trails For All Trail Summaries.

10 ESSENTIALS

For Hiking, Camping, Fishing, Backpacking, Hunting & Other Outdoor Activities

WILDLIFE MOUNTAINEERING & OUTDOOR GEAR COLORADO

ALL THE RANGE

- 1. Hydration:**
Water Filter, Extra Water
- 2. Navigation:**
Map, Compass
- 3. Sun Protection:**
Sunglasses, Sunscreen
- 4. First Aid:**
First Aid Kit
- 5. Shelter:**
Emergency Shelter, Bag
- 6. Fire:**
Waterproof Matches, Fire Starter
- 7. Illumination:**
Head Lamp, Flash Light
- 8. Insulation:**
Extra Clothing, Gloves, Head Protection
- 9. Nutrition:**
Extra Food for Overnight
- 10. Knife Kit:**
Cutting Tool, Fishing Gear, Paracord, Whistle

250 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-333-3733 • Web: www.alltherange.com

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