

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 Creek (Trail # 1342, TH Elev. 9100') Trailhead/Rainbow Loop

Trail Location:

From Westcliffe, CO, drive south on 69 for 3.5 miles, turn right on CR140. After 1.8 miles turn left on CR129 and travel for 2 miles. Turn right on CR130 for 2.5 more miles to Sky Ranch at Horn Creek. Entering Sky Ranch Conference Center you will see a sign for the trailhead, turn right here (road turns to dirt) and travel all the way up to top where you see the bathroom and corral. You can do head in parking near the bathroom or park around the circle.

Trail Summary:

This trail is short walk with little elevation gain/loss. Loop trail is ideal for those wanting a quick, quiet walk in the forest and access to the Rainbow Trail. Recommended for families with young children and it is a great birding area.

Accessibility: This trail is in San Isabel National Forest and accessible via foot/horse or ATV travel. Accessible all seasons.

Trail Length and Type: 1.4 miles, loop

Vertical Gain and Steepness: 266 ft gain, 100% E

Surface/Terrain: 50% E, 50% M - The access trails to the Rainbow Trail are notoriously eroded. On this loop the Horn Creek Spur section is eroded, so step mindfully.

Trail Experience:

There are 2 parking lots for access to the Rainbow Trail above Sky Ranch at Horn Creek Conference Center. The lower which you come to first has room for 8 or less cars (head in parking) and is access to the Rainbow going North. You will return on this trail (Horn Lakes Spur Trail) and can veer off before you reach the road (bearing right or Southeast) on a worn path back to the upper parking lot. The upper parking lot is a large loop with head in and parallel parking. This area has facilities including a toilet and horse corral. Park here for the start of this loop hike.

Start the hike at the toilet facility bearing south and west. (Turn left at the first junction about 50 feet from the parking lot). The right hand path is the path you will return on. Your starting elevation is 9100ft. The trail meanders generally south for 0.5 mile and intersects the Rainbow trail at 9356 feet. It is a pleasant forest walk with excellent birding. (sightings of warblers, junco, chickadee, woodpeckers, tanagers and wrens to name just a few)

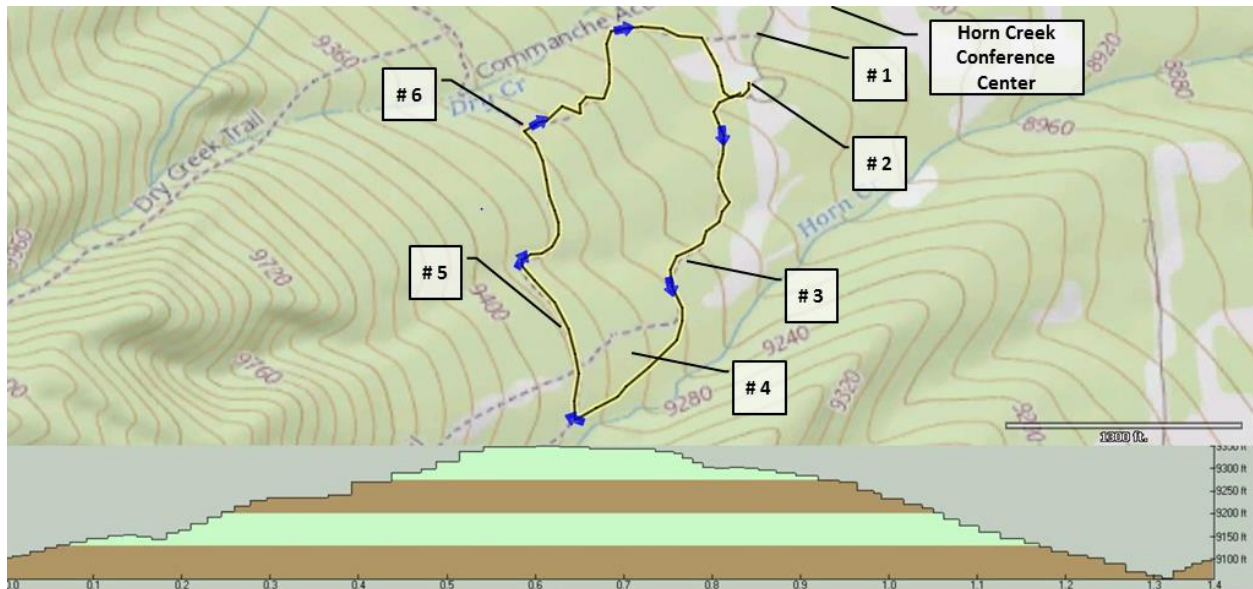
Rainbow junction is signed with an old wood sign on the west side of the trail. Sign shows Macey Creek to your left (south) and Horn Creek Trail to your right (north). The Rainbow trail is a wide, less rocky path. Turn South (left) on the Rainbow and find at 0.1 miles creek crossing at Horn Creek (9366 ft). Again a good area for birding and children always like a creek. This creek has a good horse/ATV crossing as well as a foot bridge.

Return back North on the Rainbow for 0.6 miles, past the Rainbow access trail you came up on. This section is very pleasant, easy, level walk with occasional views of the valley to the East. You will pass the trail for Horn Creek Lakes. Watch for signage "Horn Creek Spur 1342A". Exit the Rainbow Trail here returning to the upper parking lot 0.3 miles. This section of the loop is more open and as you approach the parking lots you will see where to bear right back to the upper lot. If you miss it then continue to the lower lot and walk up the road, back to your vehicle.

Congratulations! You have walked one of the short, quiet and beautiful loop trails with easy access to town.

(map on next page)

Map – Horn Creek (# 1342) Trailhead/Rainbow (# 1336) Loop



- # 1 – Lower Parking
- # 2 – Upper Parking/Toilet
- # 3 – Trail is quite eroded and rocky in this area
- # 4 - Actual location of trail may not match topo maps!
- # 5 – Rainbow Trail
- # 6 -- Horn Creek Spur 1342A

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.

