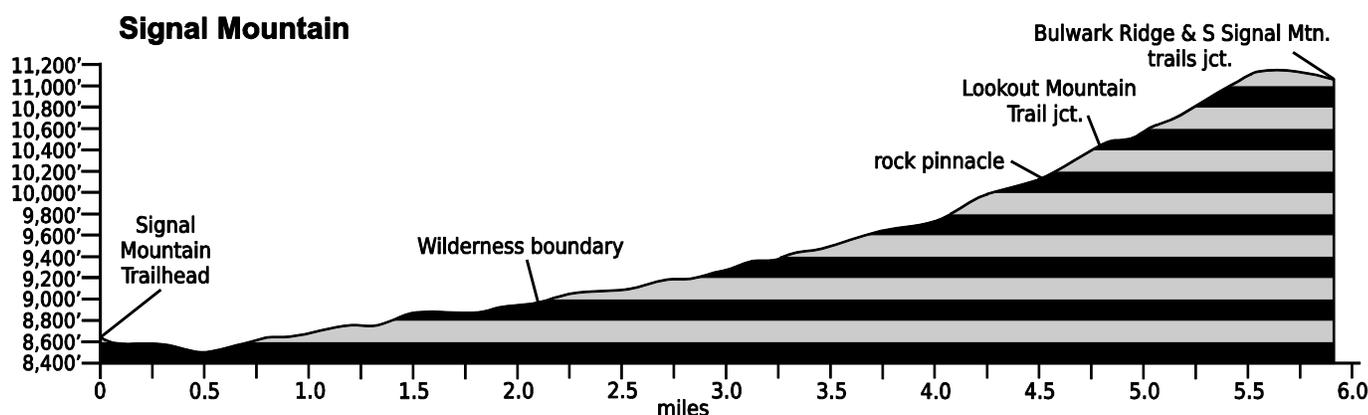


May 20, 2022

Public Trail Information: Signal Mountain

Trail(s): Signal Mountain #928	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers – Moderate Stock riders – Difficult Dogs must be on hand-held leash with hikers See complete REGULATIONS below INFORMATION OF INTEREST
Cautions:	Burn area; Lightning in exposed alpine areas; Moose, especially near creek
Typically accessible:	Year-round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	Comanche Peak
One-Way Length:	5.9 miles (from the trailhead to the 3-way junction with the Bulwark Ridge Trail and the South Signal Mountain Trail)
Beginning / Peak Elevations:	8,628 / 11,053
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	2,626/201/+2,425
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#112 Poudre River, Cameron Pass
Map(s) - USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Pingree Park



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Pingree Park Area: Drive 26.5 miles on CO-14 from Ted’s Place to Pingree Park Road (at mm 96.1). Cross the Cache La Poudre River, and follow the Pingree Park Road for about 13.6 miles. The trailhead is located about 1.3 miles south of the junction of the Buckhorn Road (CR-44H) on the east side of the Pingree Park Road. No toilets.

Stock Riders: Very limited parking on the right (west) side of the road.

CAUTIONS: This trail was in the Cameron Peak Fire of 2020, the largest fire in Colorado history, which burned nearly 209,000 acres. This trail has moderate areas that were burned but much of the trail is still green, and the trail is fine to hike or ride.

Cautions in Burn Areas:

- Falling Trees
 - Tree root systems can be burned—compromised or non-existent. Thus, trees in burned areas fall at a high rate for some time after a fire.
 - There may be a large number of trees on the trail.

- Stump Holes—Tree stumps sometimes burn below ground level and can leave dangerous holes, often filled in loosely by ash or needles.
- Difficult to Follow Trails
 - At times the trail can be difficult or impossible to follow with no vegetation or tread visible.
 - Even in formerly familiar terrain, the landscape can be disorienting.
- Rock Slides are more likely, due to lack of vegetation and root damage.
- Flash Flooding is likely even with small rainstorms and may occur way downstream from rain.

WATER: Available along the lower 3.25 miles of this trail (before the trail pulls away from the East Fork of Pennock Creek), but none past that.

CAMPING: For stock users, this trail can be difficult to camp along because the best water, durable ground and forage is located in the first 3 miles of the trail. For backpackers there are more options but carrying a filtration system with extra water storage will be necessary. To avoid camping on exposed tundra, look for a spot off trail between miles 3.5 and 4.75, or

continue on toward the junction with the Bulwark Ridge Trail at approximately mile 6, where you can seek sheltered areas in the timber and find water sources to replenish your supply. See REGULATIONS below.

SEASONAL: Usually accessible in winter. Be sure you park off road and can get out if the snowplow comes by. This trail tends to hold snow in the winter, and has no winter markings, so some of the trail is hard to follow.

DESCRIPTION: The trail heads steeply downhill from the trailhead on loose dirt before crossing a small unnamed tributary of Pennock Creek. A bit upstream from the creek crossing are the remains of an old fish barrier, originally designed to keep non-native trout from traveling up beyond this point in order to protect the native Greenback Cutthroat Trout, the state fish of Colorado. No fishing is permitted above this point.

From here the trail follows Pennock Creek to the Comanche Peak Wilderness boundary (2.1 miles above the trailhead) and then turns east, skirting the boundary along Pennock Creek and the East Fork of Pennock Creek. Watch carefully for moose in this area, as they are common. The trail eventually leaves the East Fork of Pennock Creek and climbs rather steeply to a very impressive isolated granite pinnacle, roughly 100 feet tall. This is a great spot for a water and snack break, as the trail steepens significantly from this location. The pinnacle is also a perfect turnaround point for those not wishing to push on to the summit. Just 0.3 mile beyond the granite pinnacle and 4.8 miles above the Signal Mountain trailhead, the Signal Mountain Trail intersects with the Lookout Mountain Trail (#934), coming in from the northeast.

At this point the Signal Mountain Trail turns to the south and zigzags its way up to treeline, after which pockets of limber pine can be observed, a species well-adapted to high elevation and extreme conditions. The trail then wraps around to a point near the summit of Signal Mountain. From here, South Signal Mountain can be seen about a mile to the southwest (refer to the Bulwark Ridge Trail description). The Signal Mountain Trail ends where it junctions with the Bulwark Ridge and South Signal Mountain trails, a short distance southwest of Signal Mountain in the saddle between Signal Mountain and South Signal Mountain. Although marked by a series of rock cairns above timberline, the South Signal Mountain Trail has only a faint, minimally-established tread.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST: If you want to reach the actual summit of Signal Mountain, head up toward the rocky outcrop to the north. The reward is a full panorama of breathtaking vistas including Mount Meeker, Long's Peak, the Mummy Range, and the Rawahs. If you look closely down the Pennock Creek drainage, you can see the rock pinnacle that you passed on the way up, giving you an idea of the work that you put in to get here. Scan the north and west slopes of Signal Mountain for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, but keep an eye on your pack – there is a very active colony of marmots that reside here. If the winds are stiff, take refuge behind the rock windbreak that has been built to protect against the dominant north winds. Before you head down, check the rocks for a white PVC tube containing the summit register.

Signal Mountain and South Signal Mountain were supposedly given their names because Native Americans sent smoke signals from their summits.

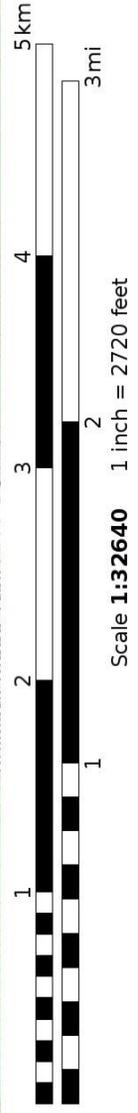
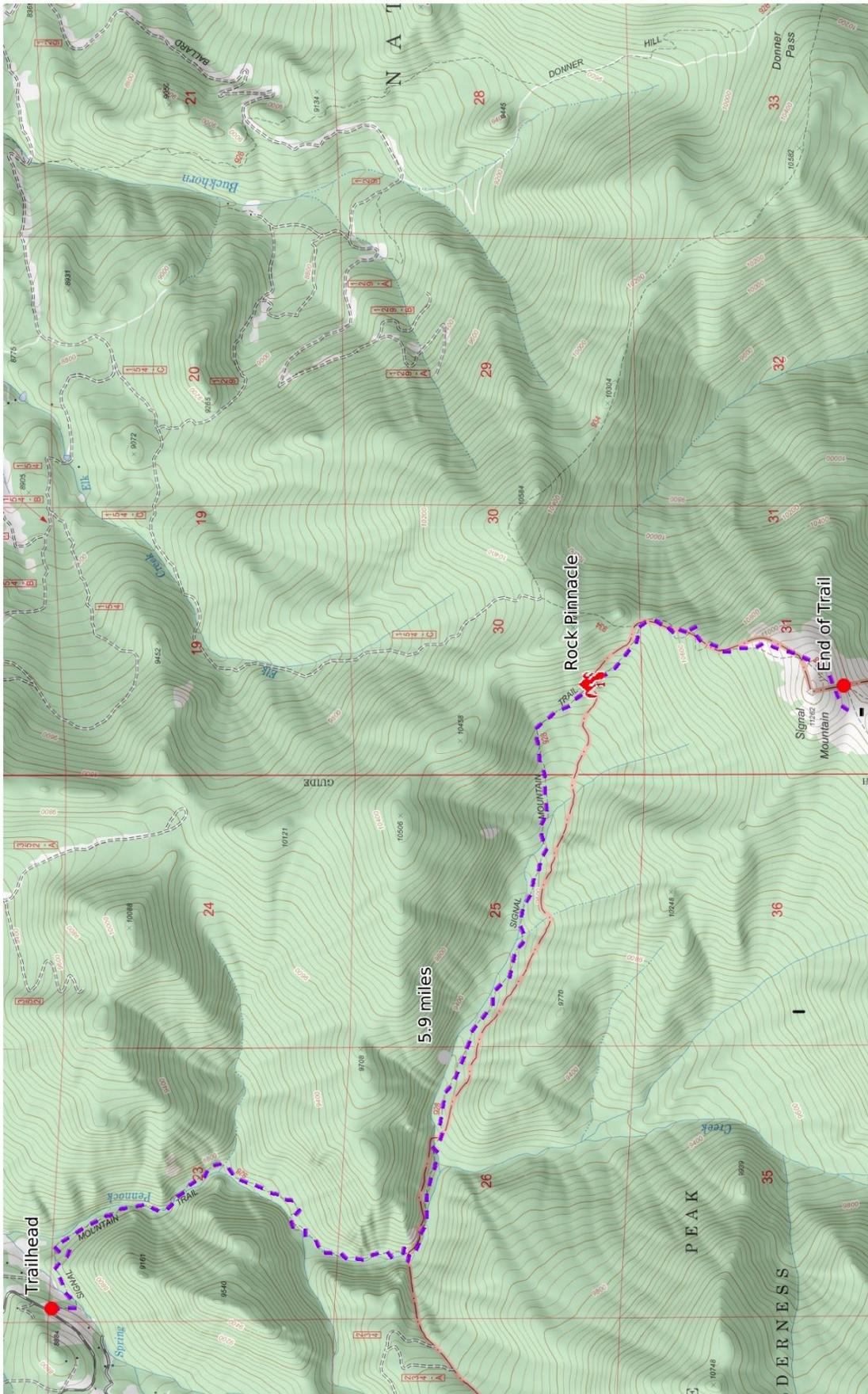
REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires – Prohibited within ¼ mile of trailhead. Outside the Wilderness boundary, recommend at least 100 feet from water or trail; in the Wilderness, must be at least 200 feet from water or trail.
- Dogs – Must be on hand-held leash with hikers; under voice control with stock.
- Stock – To avoid spreading noxious weeds, recommend beginning 72 hours prior to the ride, stock should be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay. Required: throughout the trip, stock *must* be fed only pellets or certified weed-free hay.
- Bicycles and Other Wheeled Conveyances – Prohibited.
- Motorized Transport – Prohibited.
- Motorized Equipment – Prohibited in Wilderness.
- Group Size – Outside the Wilderness boundary, any single group of more than 74 people must have a USFS permit. In the Wilderness, maximum 12 people and stock combined.

GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
trailhead (on Pingree Park Road)	N40°33.99' W105°33.32'	452 ⁹⁹⁰ mE	4490 ⁷⁸⁴ mN
Wilderness boundary	N40°32.83' W105°33.06'	453 ³⁴⁴ mE	4488 ⁶³⁶ mN
rock pinnacle	N40°32.23' W105°30.63'	456 ⁷⁶⁷ mE	4487 ⁵⁰⁵ mN
junction with Lookout Mtn. Trail	N40°32.09' W105°30.42'	457 ⁰⁶² mE	4487 ²⁴⁴ mN
Signal Mountain summit	N40°31.53' W105°30.57'	456 ⁸⁴⁴ mE	4486 ²⁰⁹ mN
end of trail in saddle between Signal Mtn. & South Signal Mtn.	N40°31.40' W105°30.78'	456 ⁵⁴⁶ mE	4485 ⁹⁷¹ mN

Trail Adopted by: Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

(See next page for trail map.)



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDE
 CalTopo

Signal Mountain: 4