



Wilson Corrals Trail #135

Length: 5.3 miles (10.6 km)

Use: Light to Moderate

Difficulty

Horseback: Most Difficult

Hiking: Most Difficult

USGS Maps: Tripod Peak

Recreation sites nearby: West Mountain Trail, Willow Lake Trail, Gabe's Peak Trail

Attractions and Considerations

The trail passes through open conifer/aspen forests and then travels an open ridge to an arm of Wilson Peak before descending to Squaw Creek. From the highest point of the trail there are good views of Snowbank, Wilson Meadow, and areas west. There are no sources of water for approximately the middle 3 miles. The first 3 miles of this trail are for multiple uses. The last 3.6 miles are designated for non-motorized use. Motorized users may wish to turn around in the flat meadow at 2.7 miles instead of at 3.0 miles where the trail is steeper and narrow.

The Wilson Creek Trail starts at a well marked trailhead, ½ mile up National Forest Road 653Q (NF-653Q). The trail itself starts at the north end of the open parking area. There is ample room to park, plus a dispersed campsite at the trailhead.

The trail follows along the Third Fork of Squaw Creek for the first 0.6 miles. At two points within the first 0.3 miles, the trail drops into the edge of the creek to avoid springs up above. At 0.6 miles, the trail begins to follow a side drainage of Squaw Creek. The trail crosses this small creek five times, passes a dispersed campsite at 1.0 mile and breaks into the open just before crossing NF-653Q at 1.2 miles. The trail is evident north of the road and a tree blaze can be seen up the trail.

After crossing the road, the trail parallels a clear-cut for 0.3 miles, but there are enough buffer trees to provide shade and screening. The trail gradually gains elevation and reaches a small meadow at 2.7 miles. At 2.8 miles the trail crosses the last source of water for approximately 2 miles to 3.6 miles.

At 3.6 miles, the trail reaches a large open ridge. The trail tread stops part way up this ridge, but by following tree blazes and rock cairns, the trail can be followed to the ridge top just southwest of Wilson Peak at 5.0 miles. The trail then drops down the southeast corner of Wilson Peak, crosses a creek at 5.6 miles and comes to a small wet meadow at 6.0 miles where the trail briefly becomes visible again.

Shortly after passing this meadow, the trail becomes a network of indistinct trails, but by using the topo map and heading southeast, one can come to a ford of Squaw Creek at 6.6 miles. The trail junction with West Mountain Trail is just across this ford.

Trail Beginning

Elevation: 5280 ft (1609 m)

The signed trailhead is at the north end of the parking area off of NF-653Q, 0.5 mile north of its junction with NF-653.

Trail Ending

Elevation: 7440 ft (2268 m)

The trail ends at its well-signed junction with West Mountain Trail.

Access 1:

From intersection of State Highway 52 and the Sweet/Ola Road: go north on the Sweet/Ola Road (NF-618). Just past the unsigned Third Fork Guard Station, turn right onto NF-635. Go east on NF-635 approximately 8 miles to junction with NF-653Q. This junction is signed for the trail. Turn left onto NF-653Q and go 0.5 miles to sign "Wilson Corrals Trail". Turn right and park in the flat. The signed trailhead is on the north edge of the flat.

Access 2:

From Sagehen Reservoir: go north on NF-609 for 3 miles to its junction with NF-653. Turn right onto NF-653 and travel north for 6.4 miles to its junction with NF-653Q. Turn a sharp right onto NF-653Q and go 0.5 miles to the trailhead. Turn right and park in the flat. The signed trailhead is on the north edge of the flat. Parking is available for 10+ vehicles and there is a dispersed campsite at the trailhead.

