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PIKE NATIONAL FOREST: WIGWAM TRAIL



KEY AT-A-GLANCE INFORMATION

LENGTH: 9.34 miles

CONFIGURATION: Out-and-back

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

SCENERY: Dense evergreen and aspen forest; wetlands

EXPOSURE: Shaded

TRAFFIC: Light

TRAIL SURFACE: Dirt; tree roots, loose rocks

HIKING TIME: 4.5 hours

SEASON: May–October (open all year)

ACCESS: Free; open sunrise to sunset

MAPS: USGS Green Mountain, Cheesman Lake, Windy Peak

FACILITIES: None

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Wilderness regulations apply to this hike in the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. Dogs must be leashed; campers must have permits; horses are permitted but restricted; no motorized or wheeled vehicles, so no bikes. Weather conditions tend to be colder and wetter in the higher elevations of this hike.

IN BRIEF

The drive to the trailhead takes hikers through massive square miles of burned forest that were torched in Colorado's largest wildfire, the Haymen Fire (2002). In contrast, the Wigwam Trail testifies to what did survive. Lush, green, heavy vegetation and tall evergreen trees are quite a relief. Off of the beaten path, the trail is lightly used, and hikers do not encounter many other humans.

DESCRIPTION

The official trailhead (Wigwam Trail #609) can be found at the end of the lower parking lot where the road turns around. Sign in at the trailhead log sheet. Hike across Wigwam Creek and then cross it again. Here, you officially enter the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. Cross primitive rock bridges as you follow the Wigwam Creek drainage uphill.

The trail heads northwest along Wigwam Creek and rises with a moderate ascending grade. Evergreen trees and low growth mark the landscape for several miles, following the creek's drainage, before the trail opens up. Travel into lush meadows as the creek flows

Directions

From Denver, take I-70 west to C 470 to US 285, traveling west for 23 miles to Pine Junction. Turn left at the town of Pine Junction onto CO 126, toward Pine and Buffalo Creek. Drive 21.8 miles on CO 126. Turn left, traveling south on FS 211, which leads toward Cheesman Reservoir. Travel 2 miles and bear right at the sign pointing to Goose Creek. Drive 1.1 miles until you reach a fork, bear right on FS 560, and bear right at the next fork staying on FS 560. Drive 4 miles to the trailhead signs, turn left at the signs, and drive 1.3 miles to the trailhead.

GPS Trailhead Coordinates

UTM Zone (WGS84) 13S

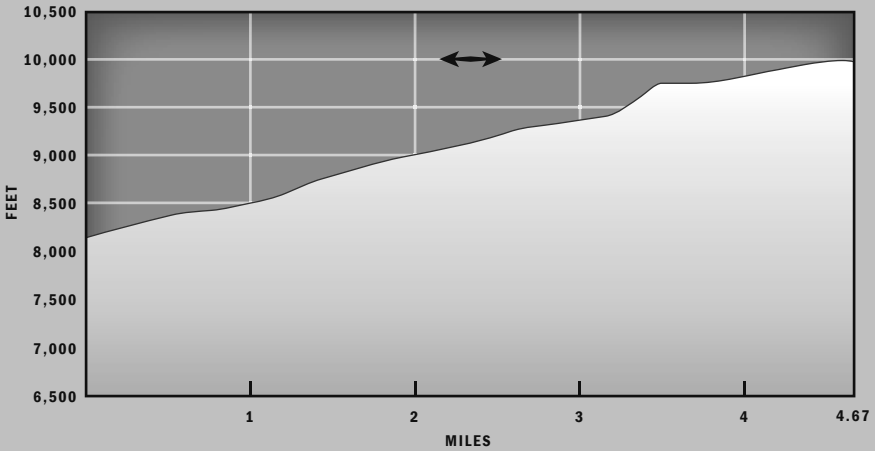
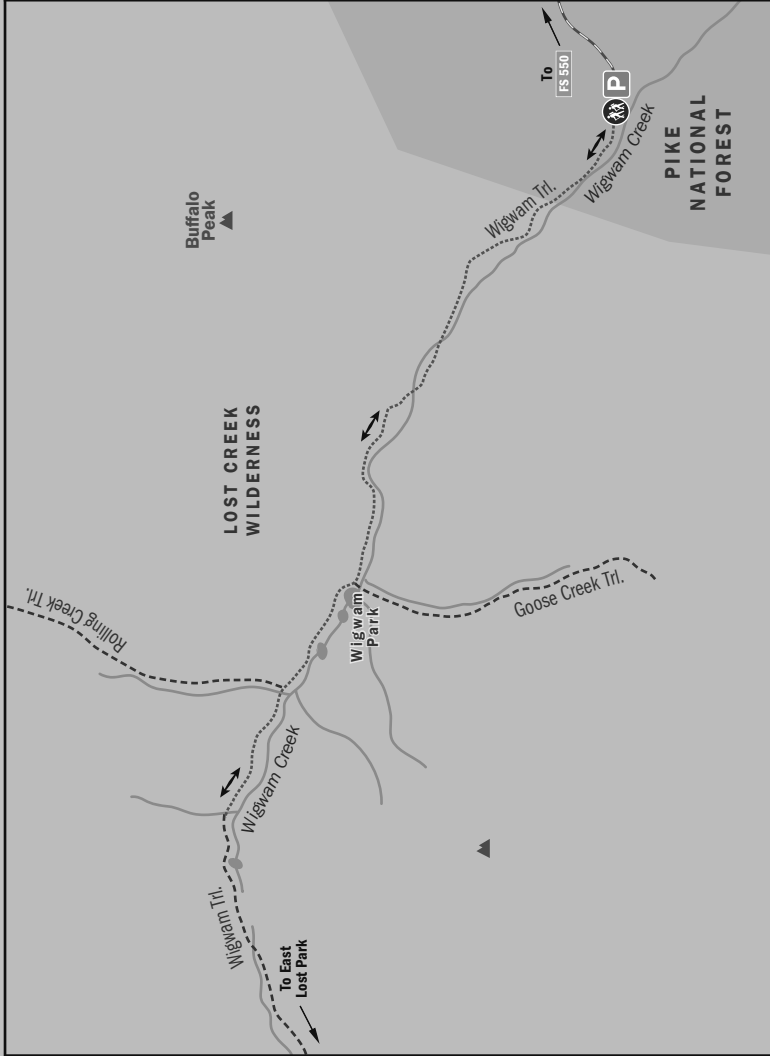
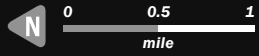
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Latitude N 39.244058°

Longitude W 105.353329°

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Lush landscape is found frequently along the Wigwam Trail.

into numerous beaver ponds. Some of these beaver ponds are rather large. Small aspen trees along the trail have been gnawed down by beavers and used to dam up Wigwam Creek.

This area is called Wigwam Park. The last stretch to the park has several short, steep, rocky sections. Continue straight at the intersection with Goose Creek Trail, and just to the west of there, pass the intersection with Rolling Creek Trail. Continue, cross the creek again, and enter a grove of tall aspens.

The hike ascends, crosses the creek one last time, and ends in a high saddle at the end of the mountain valley, after the meadows and before the descent into East Lost Park. Turn around here and retrace your steps back to the trailhead. You can continue on from the turnaround point, since Wigwam Trail has approximately 6 more miles of trail.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Pike National Forest Trails, Goose Creek Trail (# 619), Rolling Creek Trail (# 663), and Brookside-McCurdy Trail: fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/recreation/trails.