

Dillon Ranger District  
680 Blue River Parkway  
P.O. Box 620  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
(970) 468-5400 - Voice  
(970) 468-7735 - Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

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## **CATARACT LAKE LOOP (LOWER) - FDT 57**

**Difficulty:** EASY

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Length:** 2.02 miles around the loop

**Elevation:** Start at 8,652 feet and ends at 8,662 feet (highest point 8,770 feet)

**Elevation Gain:** +136 feet - 126 feet = +10 feet

**Recommended Use:** HIKING

### **Access:**

- From I-70 take Exit 205, Silverthorne / Dillon, and travel north on HWY 9.
- Travel 16 miles north on HWY 9. Just after mile marker 118 turn left onto County Road 30, toward the town of Heeney.
- Follow County Road 30 for 5.3 miles and turn left onto Cataract Creek Road (FDR 1725).
- Continue for 2.5 miles to the end of the road to the parking area. Please do not block the gate. The trailhead starts at the gate.

### **Trail Highlights:**

- An abundance of wildflowers can be seen from mid to late June.
- Cataract Falls are located on the southwest edge of Lower Cataract Lake.
- There are several other hiking trails which begin in the same vicinity that can be used to make a loop of the higher elevation lakes. These trails are all rated MODERATE TO MORE DIFFICULT.

### **Important Information:**

- **THIS IS A REC FEE DEMO AREA.**
- **BECAUSE THIS TRAIL TRAVELS INTO THE EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS NO BICYCLES ARE ALLOWED AND DOGS *MUST* BE ON A LEASH NOT LONGER THAN SIX (6) FEET IN LENGTH!**
- **NO CAMPFIRES ARE ALLOWED ABOVE TREELINE NOR WITHIN .25 MILES (440 YARDS) OF ANY LAKE WITHIN THE EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS.**
- This trail can be especially busy on weekends, so try and plan your hike during the week.
- Hiking to the waterfalls is strongly discouraged because the area is hazardous due to the slippery and steep terrain.

**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**

*THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NF STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP AND GPS OR COMPASS PRIOR TO YOUR HIKING TRIP.*