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United States Department of Agriculture



**HIKING**

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## **CRYSTAL LAKES - FDT 44**

**Difficulty:** MORE DIFFICULT

**Trail Use:** Moderate

**Length:** 2.98 miles one-way to Lower Crystal Lake  
4.91 miles one-way to Upper Crystal Lake

**Elevation:** Starts at 10,174 feet and ends at 12,982 feet (highest point 12,982 feet)

**Elevation Gain:** +2,808 feet - 0 feet = +2,808 feet

**Recommended Use:** HIKING, MTN. BIKING, OHV UP TO LOWER CRYSTAL LAKE

### **Access:**

- From I-70 take Exit 203, Frisco / Breckenridge, and travel south on HWY 9 through Frisco to the intersection of HWY 9 and Boreas Pass Road on the south side of Breckenridge.
- Proceed south on HWY 9 for approximately 2.1 miles and turn right onto Spruce Creek Road. Proceed uphill on a good quality dirt road for approximately .1 mile and then bear left on main road through the intersection.
- After approximately 1.1 miles you will arrive at the parking area for the Spruce Creek Trail. This is the beginning of the Crystal Creek Road.

### **Trail Highlights:**

- The trail begins as a summer OHV road and turns into a hiking trail at Lower Crystal Lake.
- Crystal Creek Road will take you through numerous alpine meadows filled with wildflowers through late June. These meadows are fed by the tributaries of Crystal Creek.
- The road rises onto a shelf with Lower Crystal Lake nestled against the mountain walls. A cabin at the lower lake offers some shelter from the wind.
- Directly west of the cabin is Peak 10, elevation 13,633 feet, at the Breckenridge Ski Area. To the southeast is Mt. Helen, elevation 13,164 feet.
- The OHV road ends here and a hiking trail continues for approximately 2.11 miles up toward Upper Crystal Lake. Just to the west is Crystal Peak, elevation 13,852 feet.

### **Important Information:**

- **THIS ROAD IS USED FOR MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE HIKING, MTN. BIKING AND OHV USE. PLEASE RESPECT OTHER USERS.**
- Because this trail travels above timberline, you should begin your hike early in the morning because of the ever changing mountain weather. There is always a strong chance of afternoon thundershowers accompanied by LIGHTNING.

**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.*