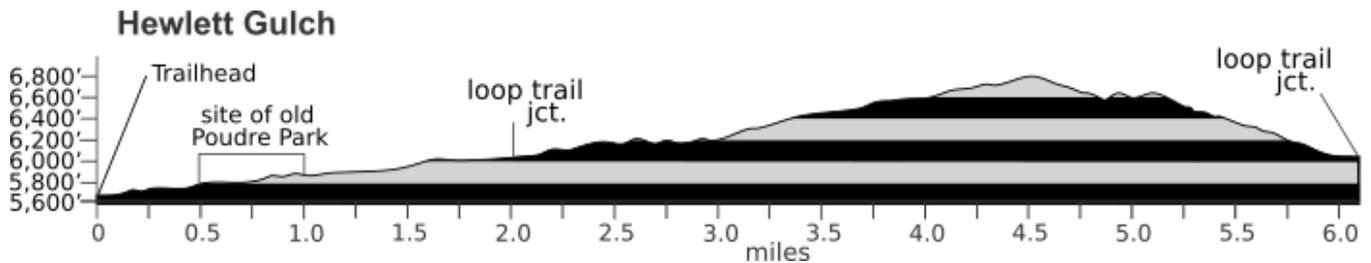


June 5, 2021

Public Trail Information: Hewlett Gulch

Trail(s): Hewlett Gulch #954	
Ratings / restrictions:	Hikers – Moderate Stock riders – Easy Bicycles allowed See complete REGULATIONS below INFORMATION OF INTEREST
Cautions:	Rattlesnakes; poison ivy; flash flooding; seasonal high water; lightning along upper loop Bicycles on trail
Typically accessible:	Year-round (see SEASONAL below)
Wilderness:	None
Round Trip Length:	8.1 miles
Elevation – Beginning / Peak:	5,680 / 6,794
Gain/Loss/Net Gain:	1,179 / 1,179 / 0
Map(s) - Trails Illustrated:	#101 Cache La Poudre Big Thompson
Map(s) - USGS 7-½' Quadrangles:	Poudre Park



TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

Lower Poudre Canyon Area: Drive 10.5 miles on CO-14 from Ted’s Place. Just past Poudre Park, on the north (right) side of the road is a bridge spanning the Poudre River that leads to the Hewlett Gulch trailhead and a paved parking lot. Cross the bridge and follow the road to the parking lot at the top of the hill.

Toilets are available at the trailhead, but no water.

Stock riders: The size and shape of the parking lot and the often heavy use it receives make it difficult to accommodate stock trailers (although there are one or two long pull-outs on the road leading to the parking lot that can accommodate small to medium sized trailers). Go early in the day, and turn around to face toward the highway before the lot fills.

TRAIL: The tread is well-worn and easy to follow. Many of the crossings of Gordon Creek can be unsafe or difficult to negotiate during periods of high flow and impossible to cross without getting wet.

WATER: Abundant - but potentially unsafe. The southern and eastern portions of this trail follow the Gordon Creek drainage and water can be readily obtained from the stream. However, in addition to typical giardia and other water quality issues found in most Front Range creeks and rivers, the large numbers of people and off-leash dogs on this trail make drinking untreated water especially hazardous. We recommend that you carry adequate drinking water on this trail.

CAMPING: There are numerous locations where suitable camping sites (set back and out of sight of the trail) can be found along the upper 3 miles (the loop portion) of this trail, but there is no nearby water source.

SEASONAL: Accessible in winter. The parking lot is not plowed, but is often clear from sun exposure. The canyon area is often icy, and creek crossings can be icy and challenging. Boot traction devices and/or hiking poles may be helpful.

DESCRIPTION: Mountain bikers and hikers with both on- and off-leash dogs use this trail heavily and you may encounter Diamond Peaks Bike Patrol members patrolling this trail. The trail leads north following an old roadbed heading up Gordon Creek. There are 13 unbridged creek crossings along this trail and many can be challenging during high flows in spring. Beginning about 0.3 mile beyond the trailhead there are several old building foundations scattered along the gulch. These are the remains of the old community of Poudre Park.

As the trail continues north, the gulch narrows. The trail branches about 2 miles above the trailhead. The trail on the west (left) is one end of the "loop trail"; the trail heading north (right) is the other. Going right, one enters a shallow, rocky canyon, crossing the creek several more times. About 3 miles from the trailhead, going counterclockwise, the trail leaves the stream and heads uphill to the west (left). Note the private property fence boundary and scattered

buildings north of the trail at this point. Don't go off trail or camp on this non-USFS land.

From this point, the trail continues for 3 more miles along the loop portion of the trail, through a beautiful prairie/meadow and open, mixed forest of ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain juniper; going west, then southwest, then southeast, and then east back to the junction mentioned above. The southeastern portion of this loop consists of a number of switchbacks down a south-facing slope (with yucca, prickly pear and barrel/ball/hedgehog cactus, and native wavyleaf thistle).

INFORMATION OF INTEREST: The gulch's early human history was as the primary route for Ute Indians to travel between Poudre Canyon and Redfeather, and between North Park and the eastern plains. Arrowheads are still found occasionally. In the 1870's, Horace Huleatt constructed and lived in a cabin in the upper gulch. (The gulch was named after him, but the spelling was changed to "Hewlett" in the 1900's.) In 1897 the US government designated the gulch as Federal Timberland Reserve. In the 1920's, Frank and Ada Mae Spaulding received a special permit from the US Forest Service to live "temporarily" in the gulch. They and their 10 children (and eventually, the children's spouses) continued to live there until the 1960's, building and occupying 4 houses and many outbuildings. The Spaulding family ran 2 successful sawmills, one on Hewlett Gulch

(which supplied lumber for many of the buildings in Poudre Park, Laporte, and Fort Collins) and another (perhaps) in the Chambers Lake area. Remains of the Hewlett sawmill and other equipment lie in the field west of the narrow wooden bridge crossing Gordon Creek, behind the recently installed turnpike. The Spaulding family also constructed the first local bridge over the Poudre River in 1923. The Spaulding children and grandchildren raised milk cows and chickens, sold eggs, grew apples (tree in field west of trailhead), strawberries, peas (near water house), and other produce which they sold to nearby Poudre Park residents, some of whom still remember buying from the Spauldings.

Most of the old Poudre Park homesteads seen at 0.5 mile from the trailhead were erected between 1911 and 1925. There are also mine tailings and some closed mine shafts in the gulch, although the mining was generally unsuccessful. Poles from the Spaulding family's early telephone service are still visible in the first stretch of the trail.

A fire went through the gulch in the early 2000's; then in 2012 the Hewlett Fire came through before it helped stop the spread of the large High Park Fire that same year. Heavy flooding in 2013 changed the creek's course somewhat and caused much trail damage.

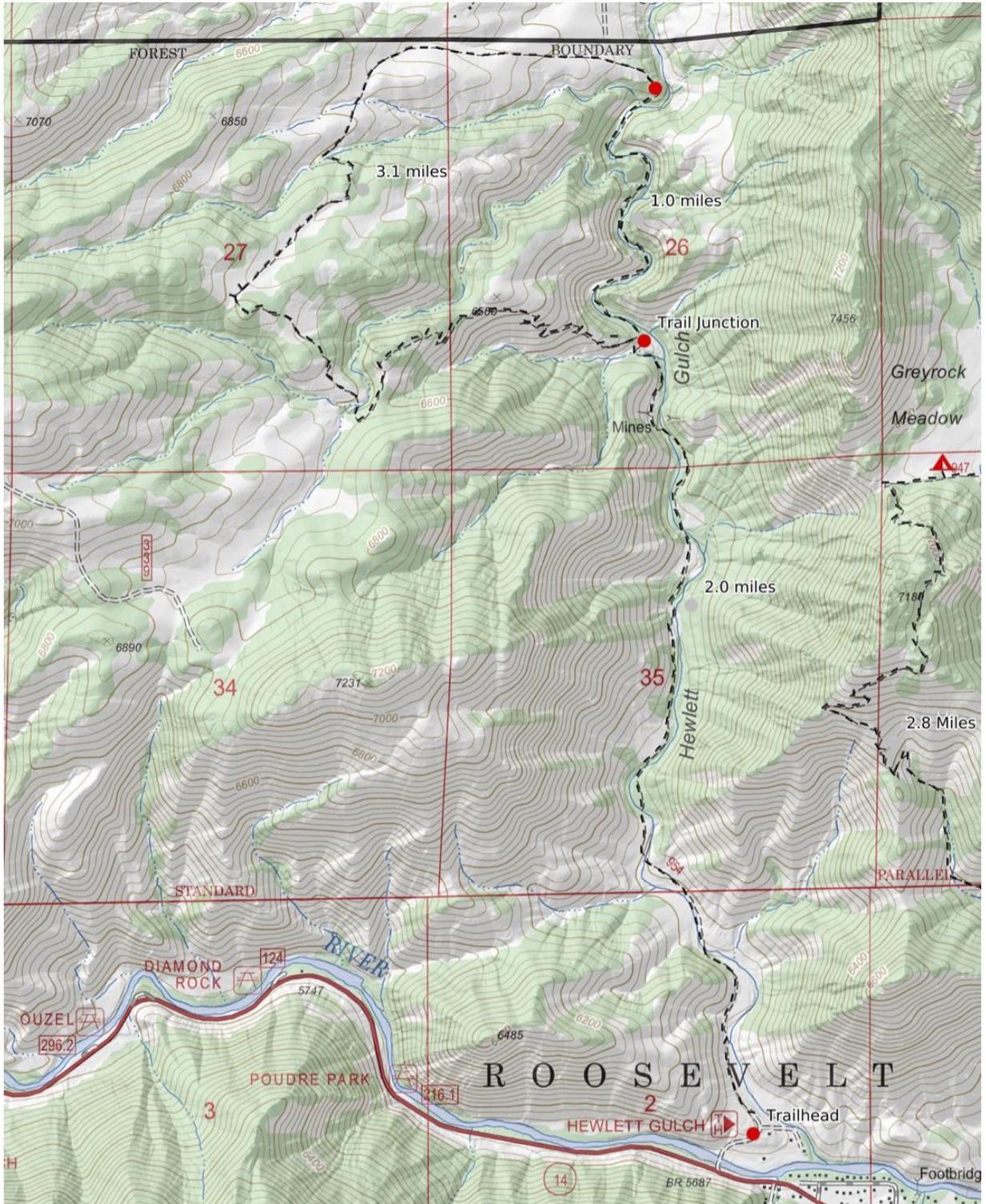
Mileages provided are approximate.

REGULATIONS:

- Camping and Fires - Prohibited within ¼ mile of trailhead. Past that, recommend at least 100 feet from water and trail.
- Dogs - Must be under voice control at all times.
- 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 - Allowed.
- Motorized Transport - Prohibited.
- Group Size - A single group of more than 74 people must have a USFS permit.

Trail Adopted by: New Belgium Brewing, Inc.

Mile	GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84	Lat/Long	UTM	
0	Hewlett Gulch Trailhead	N40°41.37' W105°18.62'	473778mE	4504335mN
2.0	"Loop trail" junction	N40°42.89' W105°18.90'	473394mE	4507149mN
3.0	Location where the trail turns to the west and leaves the creek	N40°43.43' W105°18.90'	473397mE	4508148mN



Mercator Projection
 WGS84
 USNG Zone 13TDF
 CALTOPO



Hewlett Gulch: 3