

Rosalie Peak (13,575 feet)

by Dave Cooper

A popular summer hike, this week's outing takes on a different feel when attempted in winter or spring.

Starting on the gentle Tanglewood Creek Trail well below treeline, the character of the hike changes abruptly as one approaches the Pegmatite Points, a wild and scenic spot on the east shoulder of Rosalie Peak. For those so inclined, the long but gentle walk up to the summit of Rosalie Peak offers outstanding views of Mount Evans and environs. On a windy day, not too unusual in this area, the Pegmatite Points may offer a tempting turnaround spot. This trail makes a fine snowshoe outing no matter how far you decide to hike.

Getting to the Trailhead: Take US Highway 285 to the intersection with the Deer Creek Road (County Road 43), 2.6 miles north of the town of Bailey, 4.7 miles southwest of Pine Junction. From this junction drive 9.3 miles on County Road 43 to the trailhead parking area, staying left at 6.9 miles (the junction with County Road 47). The road deteriorates beyond this junction, becoming dirt. Passenger cars should be able to reach the Deer Creek Campground 8.5 miles from US285. The road beyond the campground was not plowed as of late March and required a four wheel drive vehicle.

Note that County Road 43 can also be reached from the intersection of US 285 and Conestoga Road, 0.5 miles northeast of the intersection of US 285 and County Road 43. Both intersections have traffic lights.

Hike Statistics:

Trailhead to the summit of Rosalie Peak (13,575 feet): 4300 feet of total elevation gain in 4.9 miles (one way).

Difficulty: Snowshoes required. On-trail hiking as far as the Pegmatite Points (though when snow-covered the trail may be difficult to follow in places), then off-trail hiking on a broad, gentle ridge to the summit of Rosalie Peak.

USGS Quad: Harris Park, CO



A quick food and water stop in the shelter afforded by the Pegmatite Points. The long east ridge of Rosalie Peak can be seen to the left.

Hike Description

From the trailhead walk up the Tanglewood Creek Trail. Depending on how much recent foot traffic there has been, snowshoes may or may not be necessary at the beginning of the trail, but carry them with you – they will definitely be necessary later. The trail initially heads west,

then curves to the north, crossing and re-crossing the creek several times on wooden footbridges. You will pass two well-signed trail junctions, the first after one tenth of a mile and the second after 1.1 miles. Stay to the right at both of these, following the Tanglewood Creek Trail. Shortly after the second of these trail junctions enter the Mount Evans Wilderness.

After 2.5 miles the trail leaves Tanglewood creek and heads due north. While the map shows the trail to stay on the east (right) side of the small gully, we found an obvious trail on the gully's west (left) side. The trail becomes more and more difficult to follow (of course in the summer the trail is quite obvious, clear of snow). As you climb higher you will cross small clearings, enabling you to see portions of Rosalie's east

ridge directly ahead. At treeline there is a decision to be made – how to avoid a large section of willows. Head for the edge of the trees, either to the right or left of the willows, and keep climbing towards the ridgeline. Aim for the low point on the ridge, at the base of Rosalie's east ridge. The trail actually continues north over the saddle before dropping down to the Roosevelt and Beartrack Lakes, favorites of fishermen.



Heading up towards the saddle

From the saddle at 12,000 feet, turn west (left) and head up the gentle slopes of Rosalie Peak's east ridge to the summit, deceptively far away and another 1500 vertical feet.



Taking a break on Rosalie Peak's windy east flank.

On the way down, take the time to observe some fine examples of Bristlecone Pine, clinging to a seemingly marginal existence.



Bristlecone Pines below the Pegmatite Points

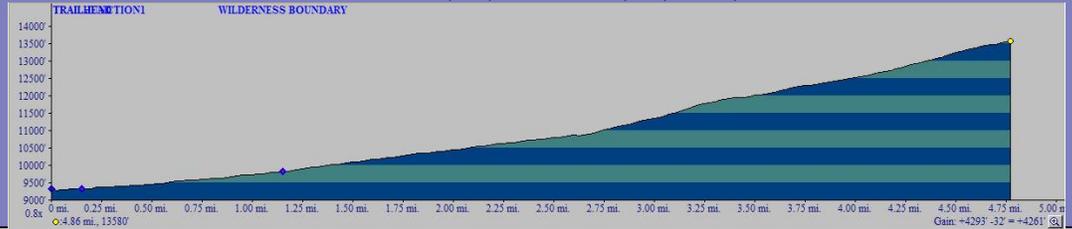
GPS Latitude / Longitude NAD83 (Deg., Min., Sec.)

TRAILHEAD: 39,30,39N / 105,34,2W, 9288 feet

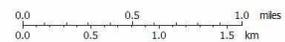
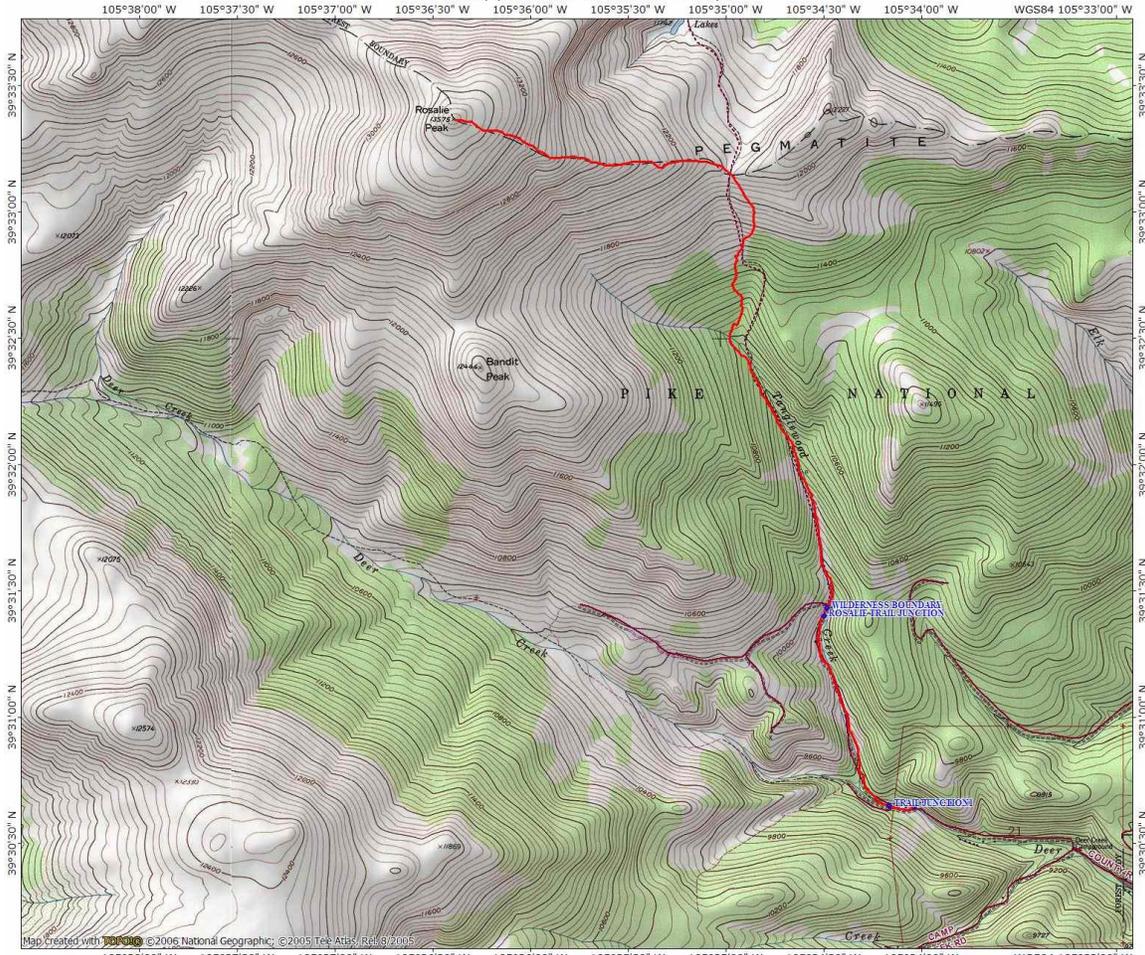
TRAIL JUNCTION1: 39,30,39N / 105,34,10W, 9323 feet

ROSALIE TRAIL JUNCTION: 39,31,24N / 105,34,30W, 9849 feet

WILDERNESS BOUNDARY: 39,31,26N / 105,34,29W, 9777 feet



TOPO! map printed on 03/27/06 from "field.tpo"



TN MN
10°
03/27/06

