

**Full  
Color**

# ATV

32  
Trails,  
with 33 Maps,  
215 Color Photos,  
Plus GPS Waypoints

# Trails Guide Colorado Central Mountains

*By Charles A. Wells*



● ■ ◆  
**Easy • Moderate • Difficult**  
**ATV Riding Adventures**

# CONTENTS



First Twin Trestle on Rollins Pass West, Trail #11. (Hiking only, closed to traffic.)

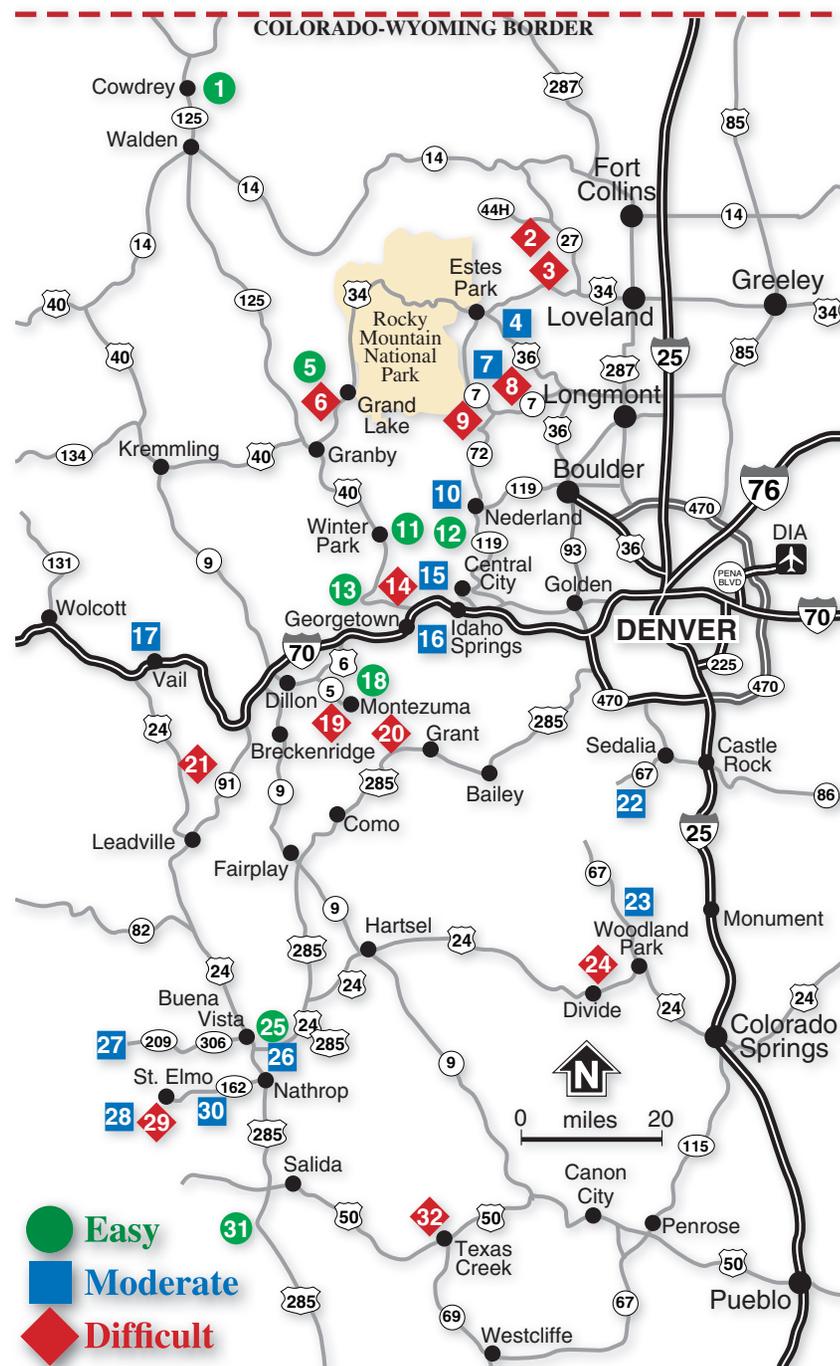
<i>Page</i>	<i>Topic</i>
6	Trail List
7	Trail Locator Map
8	Trails Listed by Difficulty (Highest Point)
9	Trail Ratings Defined
<b>11</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
12	How to Use This Book
13	The Right Trail for You
13	Stay on the Trail
14	Colorado OHV Laws and Registration Requirements
15	Altitude Adjustment of Carburetors
16	New Forest Plans
17	Important Facts About Colorado
18	Safety Tips
20	Trip Preparation
20	Checklist of Equipment and Supplies
22	Your Responsibilities as a Backcountry Rider
23	Courtesy and Ethics
24	Carry Extra Maps
25	Global Positioning (GPS Settings)
26	Backcountry Survival
27	OHV Organizations and Campaigns
27	Final Comments
28	Map Legend
<b>29</b>	<b>THE TRAILS</b>
	See next page for a complete listing of all trails and a locator map. Trail descriptions begin on page 29.
<b>159</b>	<b>APPENDIX</b>
160	Other ATV Books/ Maps
161	Contact Information
166	About the Author
167	Order Form for FunTreks Books
168	Other Books by Charles A. Wells

# Trail List

No.	Trail	Page	Rating
1.	North Sand Hills	30	Easy
2.	Moody Hill	34	Difficult
3.	Storm Mountain	38	Difficult
4.	Pole Hill*	42	Moderate
5.	Stillwater Pass Road	46	Easy
6.	Idleglen OHV Area*	50	Difficult
7.	Pierson Park Road	54	Moderate
8.	Johnny Park Road	58	Difficult
9.	Plane Crash, Ironclads	62	Difficult
10.	Caribou, Eldorado Mountain	66	Moderate
11.	Rollins Pass West*	70	Easy
12.	Rollins Pass East	74	Easy
13.	Jones Pass	78	Easy
14.	Bill Moore Lake, Empire Loop*	82	Difficult
15.	Yankee Hill, Kingston Peak	86	Moderate
16.	Saxon Mountain, Lamartine	90	Moderate
17.	Red & White Mountain	94	Moderate
18.	Peru Creek*	98	Easy
19.	Wise Mountain, Radical Hill*	102	Difficult
20.	Red Cone, Handcart Gulch	106	Difficult
21.	Camp Hale Area*	110	Difficult
22.	Rampart Range OHV Area	114	Moderate
23.	Rainbow Falls OHV Area	118	Moderate
24.	North Divide 717 OHV Area*	122	Difficult
25.	Fourmile North*	126	Easy
26.	Fourmile South*	130	Moderate
27.	Taylor Park	134	Moderate
28.	Tincup/Hancock Loop*	138	Moderate
29.	Pomeroy Lakes*	142	Difficult
30.	Mt. Antero, Baldwin Lakes*	146	Moderate
31.	Otto Mears Toll Road*	150	Easy
32.	Texas Creek*	154	Difficult

\*Author's Favorites

# Trail Locator Map



# Trails Listed by Difficulty

Although trails are grouped into three major categories, there are still differences in difficulty within each group. For example, Red & White Mountain is easier than Mt. Antero even though both are rated moderate. Trails are progressively more difficult as you pan down the list, although you may have to skip several trails to see any significant difference.

No.	Trail	Page	Rating	Highest Pt.
5.	Stillwater Pass Road	46	Easy	10,500 ft.
12.	Rollins Pass East	74	Easy	11,800 ft.
13.	Jones Pass	78	Easy	12,500 ft.
11.	Rollins Pass West	70	Easy	11,700 ft.
25.	Fourmile North	126	Easy	9,200 ft.
18.	Peru Creek	98	Easy	11,900 ft.
31.	Otto Mears Toll Road	150	Easy	11,300 ft.
1.	North Sand Hills	30	Easy	8,500 ft.
17.	Red & White Mountain	94	Mod.	10,900 ft.
4.	Pole Hill	42	Mod.	8,900 ft.
26.	Fourmile South	130	Mod.	9,600 ft.
10.	Caribou, Eldorado Mountain	66	Mod.	10,200 ft.
23.	Rainbow Falls OHV Area	118	Mod.	8,800 ft.
28.	Tincup/Hancock Loop	138	Mod.	12,300 ft.
22.	Rampart Range OHV Area	114	Mod.	8,600 ft.
7.	Pierson Park Road	54	Mod.	9,400 ft.
16.	Saxon Mountain, Lamartine	90	Mod.	11,200 ft.
15.	Yankee Hill, Kingston Peak	86	Mod.	12,100 ft.
27.	Taylor Park	134	Mod.	10,300 ft.
30.	Mt. Antero, Baldwin Lakes	146	Mod.	13,800 ft.
21.	Camp Hale Area	110	Diff.	11,900 ft.
8.	Johnny Park Road	58	Diff.	8,500 ft.
14.	Bill Moore, Empire Loop	82	Diff.	11,500 ft.
9.	Plane Crash, Ironclads	62	Diff.	8,900 ft.
2.	Moody Hill	34	Diff.	9,700 ft.
3.	Storm Mountain	38	Diff.	9,800 ft.
19.	Wise Mountain, Radical Hill	102	Diff.	12,600 ft.
29.	Pomeroy Lakes	142	Diff.	12,100 ft.
24.	North Divide 717 OHV Area	122	Diff.	9,200 ft.
6.	Idleglen OHV Area	50	Diff.	10,500 ft.
20.	Red Cone, Handcart Gulch	106	Diff.	12,800 ft.
32.	Texas Creek	154	Diff.	8,700 ft.

# Trail Ratings Defined

Trail ratings are very subjective. Conditions change for many reasons, including weather and time of year. An easy trail can quickly become difficult when washed out by a rainstorm or blocked by a fallen rock. You must be the final judge of a trail's condition on the day you ride it. If any part of a trail is difficult, the entire trail is rated difficult. You may be able to ride a significant portion of a trail before reaching the difficult spot. Read each trail description carefully for specific information. Turn around when in doubt. Always wear a helmet.

## ● Easy Trails

Gravel, dirt, clay, sand, or mildly rocky trail or road. Gentle grades. Water levels low except during periods of heavy runoff. Adequate room to pass. Where shelf conditions exist, trail is wide and well maintained with minor sideways tilt. Most trails are passable when wet; however, certain types of clay can become impassable under wet conditions. Smaller, two-wheel-drive ATVs are usually adequate in good weather. Easy trails are best suited for novice riders.

## ■ Moderate Trails

Rougher and rockier surfaces require slower running speeds. Some riding experience is needed for steeper climbs and descents. Rock-stacking may be necessary to get over the worst spots. Considerable weight shifting may be necessary to offset sideways tilt. Mud can be deep and you may get stuck. Certain types of clay can become impassable when wet. Sand can be soft and steep. Water may be too deep for smaller ATVs. Larger ATVs can usually get through except during periods of heavy runoff. Aggressive tires needed for two-wheel-drive machines. Four-wheel-drive is usually best.

## ◆ Difficult Trails

Very rough and rocky surfaces require careful tire placement. Slopes may be extremely steep with scary sideways tilt. Skillful riding is necessary to avoid tipping or flipping over. Rock-stacking may be necessary in places, and the worst spots could require assistance from other people. Sand can be very soft and steep. Shelf roads can be very narrow with daunting cliffs. Water and mud can be very deep. Wet clay surfaces can be impassable. Some powerful two-wheel-drive ATVs may get through under good weather conditions, but four-wheel-drive with low-range gearing is highly recommended.

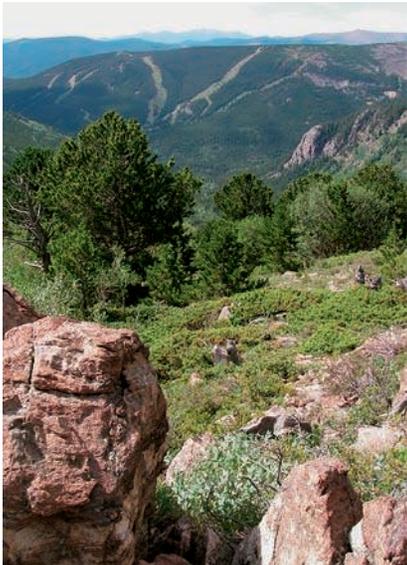
# Caribou, Eldorado Mtn. 10



Walk to ruins at Caribou Townsite.



Crossing Caribou Creek.



Views of Eldora Ski Area.



Rough and muddy in places.



Looking west towards Indian Peaks Wilderness.

**Getting There:** From roundabout in Nederland (west of Boulder), take Highway 72 north 0.4 miles. Turn left on Caribou Road, C.R. 128, soon after fire station. Follow 128 uphill 5.3 miles to wide parking area.

**Staging/Camping:** Unload at wide parking area. No camping here. **CAMP IN DESIGNATED SITES ONLY.** See map for location of 11 numbered sites. Area is regularly patrolled by local caretaker and rules are enforced. You can also camp at developed Rainbow Lakes F.S. Campground at north end, but you'll have to transport ATV to north entrance since unlicensed vehicles are not allowed on county road.

**Difficulty:** Mix of easy and moderate routes. Wet conditions can increase difficulty. Steep and rocky in places.

**Highlights:** Variety of terrain is fun for moderately skilled riders. See scattered ruins of 1869 gold rush town of Caribou.\* Popular weekend camping destination close to Boulder. Environmentally sensitive area due to heavy use. Minimum \$1,000 fine for riding off existing marked routes. Report violators. Pack out your trash. Douse camp fires.

**Time & Distance:** Route described here measures 18 miles. Allow 4 to 6 hours. Add time to explore marked side roads.

**Trail Description:** North on 505 winds through scenic meadow, then gets rougher as it enters forest and crosses Caribou Creek. South on 505 climbs to high point, then descends over varied terrain to residential area near Eldora. Marked side roads lead to mines, designated camp spots and a variety of scenic viewpoints.

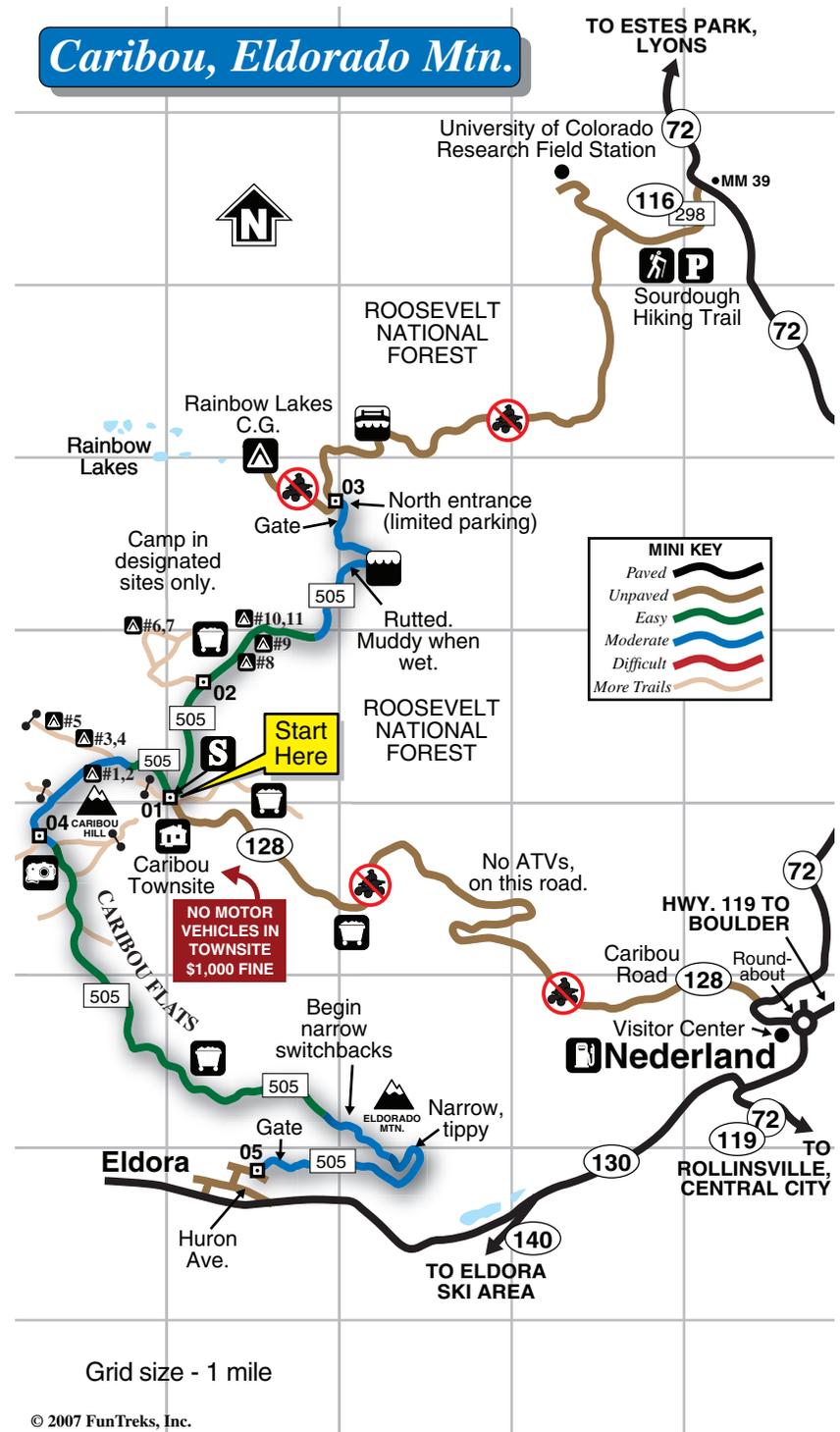
**Other Nearby Routes:** Plane Crash, Ironclads, Trail #9, located north on Highway 72. Rollins Pass East, Trail #12, located south of Nederland off Highway 119.

**Services:** Full services in Nederland. Nothing along trails.

\*Miners from all over the world flocked to the town of Caribou after a rich silver deposit was discovered in 1869. Development of the town was rapid. Before long there were houses, stores, hotels, dance halls, blacksmith shops, numerous businesses and a weekly newspaper. It is estimated that \$8 million was extracted from these hills in little more than a decade. Most of the mining was done on the northeast side of Caribou Hill. There are still privately owned, active mines in the area. Stay off private property or expect to be caught by a diligent caretaker.

**Directions:** (Shaded portion of trail is described here.)

WP	Mile	Action
		<b>NORTH ROUTE</b>
01	0.0	<i>N39° 58.86' W105° 34.74'</i> Head north on F.S. 505 through open seasonal gate left of kiosk.
02	0.7	<i>N39° 59.43' W105° 34.54'</i> Continue straight. (Rougher road to left goes to mine at end of loop and secluded camp spots 6 and 7. Adds 1.3 miles.)
	1.8	Enter forest after passing camp spots 8-11. Road gets rougher.
	2.1	Come out of forest and pass through deeply rutted, potentially muddy section.
	2.2	Cross Caribou Creek. Can be deep in spring.
03	3.0	<i>N40° 00.36' W105° 33.69'</i> Road ends at county road. Turn around and return the way you came. Rainbow Lakes Campground is 1/2 mile to left, but ATVs are not allowed on county road.
		<b>SOUTH ROUTE</b>
01	6.0/0.0	Return to staging area. Head west downhill into forest on F.S. 505 through open seasonal gate.
	0.3	Boarded-up mine adit to left. Danger, keep out.
	0.5	Stay left uphill on 505 past camp spots 1 and 2. (Right goes to camp spots 3 and 4 then dead ends after 0.5 miles at camp spot 5.)
	0.9	After exiting trees, continue straight on 505 as private road crosses. Climb steep, rocky hill.
04	1.3	<i>N39° 58.65' W105° 35.53'</i> Reach top of hill with views. Turn left downhill. (Right climbs to great viewpoint in rock outcrop after very steep hill. Adds 1 mile.)
	1.3+	As you drop downhill, stay right. (Roads to left are eventually gated to stop people from entering back side of Caribou Townsite. \$1,000 fine.)
	1.7	Bear left. Then at next intersection, bear right.
	4.4	After crossing rocky Caribou Flats, road narrows and descends steep, tippy switchbacks.
05	6.0	<i>N39° 57.03' W105° 34.10'</i> After narrow ledge road, trail ends at seasonal gate above residential area. Turn around and return the way you came.





**Precise directions, custom maps and stunning color photos guide you to and through the best ATV trails in central Colorado. Most routes are day trips from Denver and other front-range cities. Thrilling rides for all skill levels. Learn where to unload and the best places to camp. GPS waypoints. Great for dirt bikes, too.**



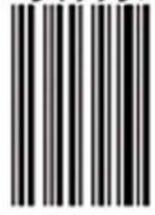
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