

**Full
Color**

ATV

30
Trails,
with 32 Maps,
184 Color Photos,
Plus GPS Waypoints

Trails Guide Colorado

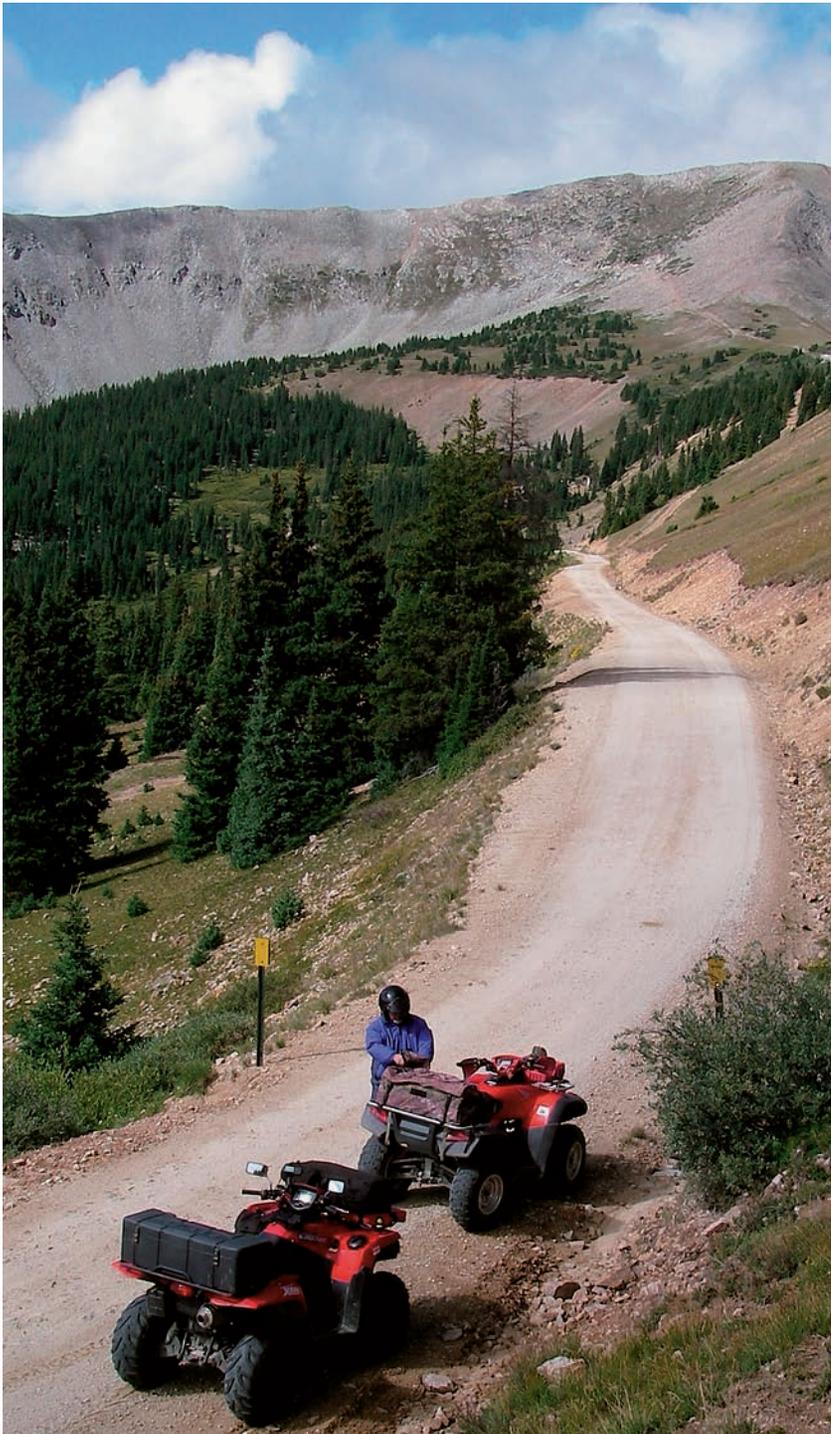
Taylor Park, Crested Butte

By Charles A. Wells



● ■ ◆
Easy • Moderate • Difficult
ATV Riding Adventures

CONTENTS



Main road between Tincup and Pitkin over Cumberland Pass, Trail #16, easy.

<i>Page</i>	<i>Topic</i>
6	Trail List
7	Trail Locator Map
8	Trails Listed by Difficulty (Highest Point)
9	Trail Ratings Defined
11	INTRODUCTION
12	How to Use This Book
13	The Right Trail for You
13	Stay on the Trail
14	Colorado OHV Laws and Registration Requirements
16	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
27	Final Comments
28	Map Legend
29	THE TRAILS
	See next page for a complete listing of all trails and a locator map. Trail descriptions begin on page 29.
151	APPENDIX
152	Other ATV Books/ Maps
153	Contact Information
157	About the Author
158	4WD Books by Charles A. Wells
159	Order Form
160	Other ATV Books by Charles A. Wells

Trail List

No. Trail **Page** **Rating**

TRAILS OUT OF TAYLOR PARK:

1. Taylor River Road	30	Easy
2. Texas Lakes	34	Moderate
3. Italian Creek, Reno Ridge*	38	Difficult
4. Tellurium Creek	42	Moderate
5. Taylor Pass*	46	Difficult
6. Richmond Hill, Aspen Mountain*	50	Moderate
7. Pieplant Mill, Lily Pond	54	Moderate
8. Taylor Park Central	58	Easy
9. Union Park	62	Easy
10. Union Canyon	66	Difficult
11. Cross Mountain	70	Difficult
12. Gold & Cameron Creeks	74	Moderate
13. Slaughterhouse Gulch	78	Moderate
14. Tincup Pass, St. Elmo*	82	Moderate
15. Napoleon Pass	86	Difficult
16. Cumberland Pass, Pitkin*	90	Easy
17. Alpine Tunnel*	94	Easy
18. Hancock Pass*	98	Moderate
19. Tomichi Pass*	102	Moderate
20. Grizzly Lake	106	Difficult
21. Iron Chest Mine*	110	Difficult
22. Pomeroy Lakes*	114	Difficult

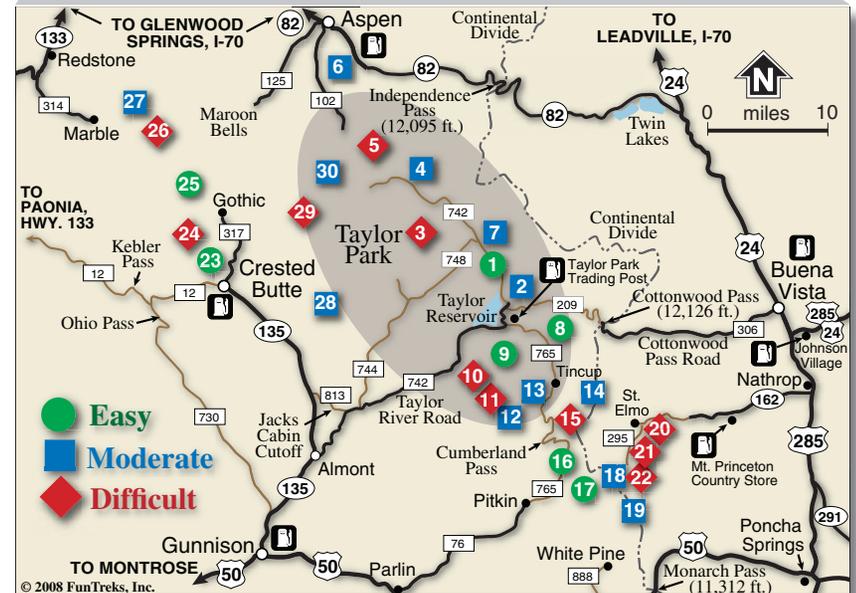
TRAILS OUT OF CRESTED BUTTE:

23. Gunsight Pass*	118	Easy
24. Poverty Gulch	122	Difficult
25. Paradise Divide*	126	Easy
26. Devil's Punchbowl*	130	Difficult
27. Lead King Basin*	134	Moderate
28. Cement Creek Road*	138	Moderate
29. Pearl Pass*	142	Difficult
30. Montezuma Basin	146	Moderate

*Author's Favorites

Trail Locator Map

COLORADO



Trails Listed by Difficulty

Although trails are grouped into three major categories, there are still differences in difficulty within each group. For example, Taylor River Road is easier than Gunsight Pass even though both are rated easy. 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.
1.	Taylor River Road	30	Easy	10,800 ft.
16.	Cumberland Pass, Pitkin	90	Easy	12,015 ft.
17.	Alpine Tunnel	94	Easy	11,523 ft.
9.	Union Park	62	Easy	10,875 ft.
25.	Paradise Divide	126	Easy	11,320 ft.
8.	Taylor Park Central	58	Easy	10,300 ft.
23.	Gunsight Pass	118	Easy	11,100 ft.
6.	Richmond Hill, Aspen Mtn.	50	Mod.	12,200 ft.
2.	Texas Lakes	34	Mod.	9,977 ft.
30.	Montezuma Basin	146	Mod.	12,737 ft.
28.	Cement Creek Road	138	Mod.	12,454 ft.
14.	Tincup Pass, St. Elmo	82	Mod.	12,154 ft.
12.	Gold & Cameron Creeks	74	Mod.	10,670 ft.
13.	Slaughterhouse Gulch	78	Mod.	10,880 ft.
27.	Lead King Basin	134	Mod.	10,820 ft.
4.	Tellurium Creek	42	Mod.	12,340 ft.
19.	Tomichi Pass	102	Mod.	11,979 ft.
18.	Hancock Pass	98	Mod.	12,140 ft.
7.	Pieplant Trail, Lily Pond	54	Mod.	10,780 ft.
11.	Cross Mountain	70	Diff.	11,850 ft.
10.	Union Canyon	66	Diff.	9,880 ft.
24.	Poverty Gulch	122	Diff.	11,450 ft.
3.	Italian Creek, Reno Ridge	38	Diff.	12,029 ft.
5.	Taylor Pass	46	Diff.	11,928 ft.
26.	Devil's Punchbowl	130	Diff.	10,320 ft.
15.	Napoleon Pass	86	Diff.	12,072 ft.
22.	Pomeroy Lakes	114	Diff.	12,030 ft.
29.	Pearl Pass	142	Diff.	12,705 ft.
21.	Iron Chest Mine	110	Diff.	11,770 ft.
20.	Grizzly Lake	106	Diff.	11,190 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.

Tincup Pass, St. Elmo 14



Labor Day family reunion along Mirror Lake Road 267 east of Tincup.



Taking a break at the Tincup General Store.



Mirror Lake on way to pass.



Road gets easier as you descend east side of Tincup Pass.



ATVs welcomed in St. Elmo.



Difficult Old Tincup Pass route.

Getting There: Starting from Tincup: See Trail #1 for directions to Taylor Park. From Taylor Park Trading Post, travel east 7.5 miles on Cumberland Pass Road 765 to town of Tincup. You can also reach Tincup from Hwy. 50 going through Pitkin. **Starting from St. Elmo:** From Highway 285 just south of Nathrop, take C.R. 162 west 15.4 miles and bear right into St. Elmo.

Staging/Camping: Park and unload in the open area outside the fence just south of the trading post. You can also ride directly from your campsite almost anywhere in the area as long as it doesn't require riding on paved Taylor River Road 742. You'll find many camp spots along 267 above Tincup and St. Elmo. Two F.S. campgrounds, one at Mirror Lake and one east of St. Elmo. If starting in St. Elmo, parking is available at the end of 162, around St. Elmo and at wide spots along F.S. 295.

Difficulty: Rough and rocky along entire route, especially near the pass. Optional Old Tincup route is very rocky and difficult. Snow often blocks pass into first or second week in July.

Highlights: This very popular 4-wheel-drive trail connects two classic mountain towns on opposite sides of the Continental Divide. Tincup has many occupied cabins, used mostly in the summer. Tincup General Store and Frenchy's Cafe are open summer only. The centerpiece of Tincup is a quaint white church with steeple that doubles as a town hall. St. Elmo has long been one of Colorado's most popular ghost towns. A general store and bed & breakfast service its throngs of summer tourists.

Time & Distance: Total length of trail from Tincup to St. Elmo is 13 miles. Old Tincup route is shorter but takes longer because it is more difficult. One-way trip takes 1 to 2 hours depending on riding skills.

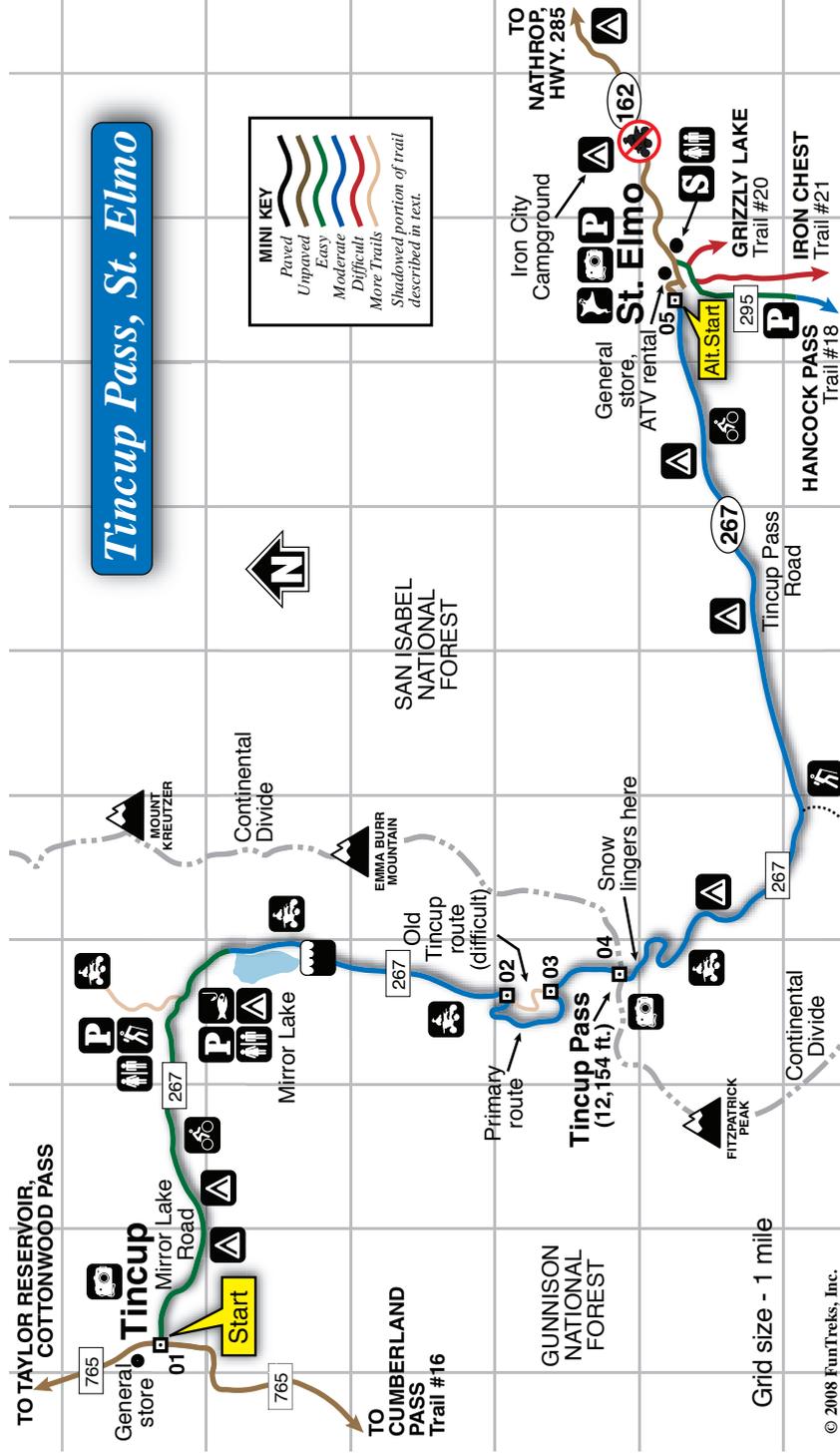
Trail Description: You'll head east up an easy gravel road from Tincup to Mirror Lake, a popular camping and fishing destination. After the lake, the trail climbs rapidly to 12,154-foot Tincup Pass on a steep, rocky trail. It eases up somewhat going down the east side, but remains rocky along the entire descent to St. Elmo.

Services: Gas and supplies are available at Taylor Park Trading Post on the west side and Mt. Princeton Country Store on C.R. 162 on the east side. General stores in Tincup and St. Elmo have basic supplies and mountain memorabilia. Please note that C.R. 162 does not allow ATVs. (See appendix for contact information.)

Directions: (Shadowed portion of trail is described here.)

WP	Mile	Action
01	0.0	TINCUP TO ST. ELMO N38° 45.28' W106° 28.82' Head east on F.S. 267 from white church in center of Tincup.
	3.5	After parking lot at Mirror Lake, follow road left along edge of lake. Cross creek at south end of lake and begin climb.
02	5.4	N38° 43.28' W106° 26.27' Make hard right where Old Tincup Pass route goes straight.
03	6.3	N38° 43.01' W106° 26.16' Follow route counter-clockwise and begin steeper climb where Old Tincup Pass route rejoins on left.
04	6.9	N38° 42.56' W106° 26.07' Tincup Pass. Continue down east side. You'll see many good camp spots along this part of route.
05	13.0	N38° 42.24' W106° 20.92' Trail enters town of St. Elmo. Go short distance and turn right across wooden bridge, then turn left through center of town. After general store, continue east to intersection of County Roads 162 and 295 where you'll find a parking lot with modern vault toilet. ATVs may not continue east beyond this point. See map for other trails in this area.

WP	Mile	Action
05	0.0	ST. ELMO TO TINCUP N38° 42.24' W106° 20.92' Head west through St. Elmo and turn right following sign to Tincup Pass. Cross wooden bridge and turn left. Trail starts uphill straight ahead on F.S./C.R. 267.
04	6.1	N38° 42.56' W106° 26.07' After long rocky climb through good camping area, you reach Tincup Pass at 12,154 feet.
03	6.7	N38° 43.01' W106° 26.16' Stay left where Old Tincup Pass route goes right. Circle clockwise downhill.
02	7.6	N38° 43.28' W106° 26.27' Bear left where Old Tincup Pass route joins on right.
9.5		Cross creek at south end of Mirror Lake and stay right to parking lot at north end of lake. After parking lot, follow good gravel road 267 west downhill into Tincup.
01	13.0	N38° 45.28' W106° 28.82' Reach center of town at white church. Right on 765 goes to Taylor Reservoir in another 7.5 miles.





The ultimate ATV vacation destination. Camp and ride a different trail every day for weeks. ATV routes connect Tincup, St. Elmo, Pitkin, Crested Butte and Aspen. Precise directions, custom maps, stunning color photos and GPS waypoints. Fun rides for all skill levels. Great trails for dirt bikes, too.



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