FunTreks • Fourth Edition • 90 Trails

Colorado Backroads & 4-Wheel-Drive Trails





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Fourth Edition

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone with whom we traveled or met on the trails for allowing us to use pictures of you and/or your vehicles. If we published pictures that you took, we gave you credit at the bottom of the picture.

We would also like to thank staffers and rangers at the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and other government land agencies for their time and patience answering our many questions.

GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

We guarantee you will enjoy the trails in this book. If not, or if you are dissatisfied with the book in any other way, return it to us for a full refund. Or, call our toll-free number during business hours at 1-877-222-7623. We promise to do whatever it takes to make you happy.

DISCLAIMER

Travel in Colorado's backcountry is, by its very nature, potentially dangerous and could result in property damage, injury or even death. The scope of this book cannot predict every possible hazard you may encounter. If you drive any of the trails in this book, you acknowledge these risks and assume full responsibility. You are the final judge as to whether a trail is safe to drive on any given day, whether your vehicle is capable of the journey and what supplies you should carry. The information contained herein cannot replace good judgment and proper preparation on your part. The publisher and authors of this book disclaim any and all liability for bodily injury, death or property damage that could occur to you or any of your passengers.

We have made every effort to update trails to match U.S. Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) that were available at the time of this writing. We cannot match maps that have not yet been issued or keep up with annual changes to existing maps. We will attempt to report changes on our website, but make no guarantee of accuracy. You are ultimately responsible for following the latest and correct MVUM.

Note: Telephone numbers and website URLs that appear in this book were verified December 2018.



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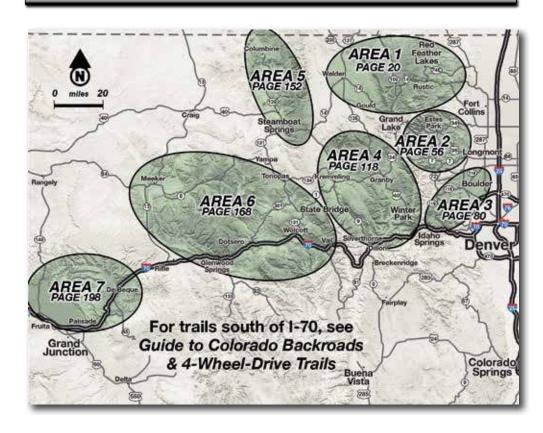
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TRAIL RATINGS DEFINED

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 drive it. If any part of a trail is difficult, the entire trail is rated difficult. You may be able to drive a significant portion of a trail before reaching the difficult spot. Read each trail description carefully for specific information.





Easy

Gravel, dirt, clay, sand, or mildly rocky road. Gentle grades. Water levels low except during periods of heavy runoff. Full-width single lane or wider with adequate

room to pass most of the time. Where shelf conditions exist, road is wide with minor sideways tilt. Clay roads, when wet, can significantly increase difficulty. Some trails can be driven in 2WD under ideal conditions. Others will need 4WD and, in some cases, low-range gearing.



A. 2017 Jeep Wrangler Sport: STOCK, 6-cyl engine 4WD, stock highway tires and aftermarket "Sunrider" soft top.

B. 2017 Toyota Tacoma: STOCK, TRD Offroad package, CBI rock sliders, stock tow hooks, A/T tires and CB radio.

C. 2012 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon: Equipped with JKS 2.5" lift with stock control arms, 9.5Tl Warn winch, Dana 44 rear axle; 4.88 gears, stock rubicon 4/1 transfer case, stock lockers front and rear, TERA FLEX skid plates, Notch Custom extended fenders, JCR Offroad bumpers, stock 6-cyl engine, 37 x 12.50 Cooper Discovery STT tires and CB radio.

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Moderate

Rutted dirt or rocky road. Careful tire placement may be necessary. Some grades fairly steep but manageable if dry. Soft sand possible. Sideways tilt will

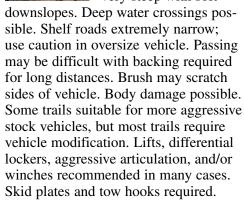
require caution. Narrow shelf roads possible. Backing may be necessary to pass. Water depths passable for stock high-clearance vehicles except during periods of heavy runoff. Mud holes may be present especially in the spring. Undercarriage may scrape occasionally depending on ground clearance. Rock-stacking may be necessary in some cases. Brush may touch vehicle. Four-wheel drive, low range, and higher ground clearance required in most cases. Standard factory skid plates and tow hooks recommended on many trails.

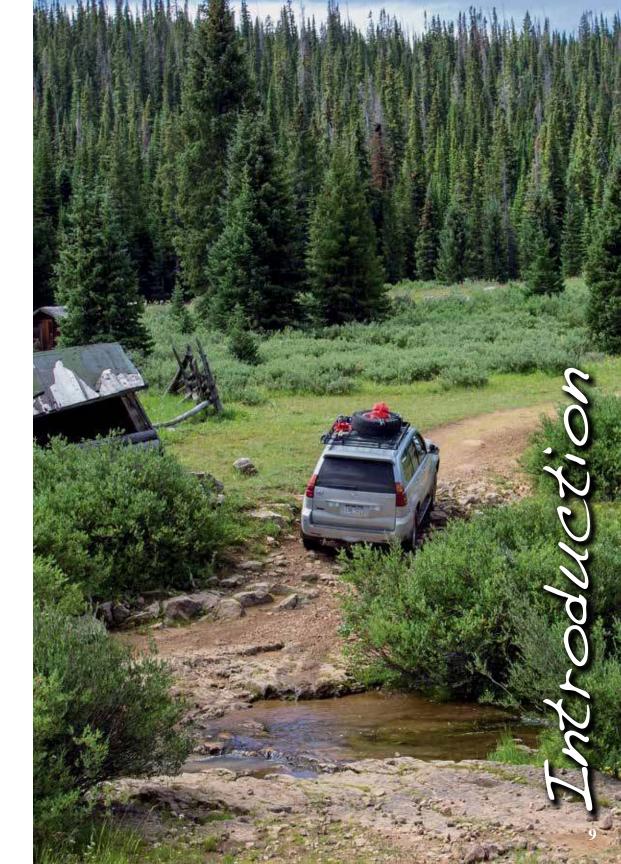


Oi⁻

Difficult

Grades can be very steep with severe ground undulation and large boulders. Sideways tilt can be extreme. Sand hills very steep with soft





INTRODUCTION

Ot a 4x4 SUV, pickup or Jeep? Missing out on fun because you're afraid to go off road? Want to try it, but don't know how or where to start? Well, we're here to help.

FunTreks has been showing novice and experienced offroaders what to do and where to go for more than 20 years. That includes riders of ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes. This book is the northern companion to FunTreks *Guide to Colorado Backroads & 4-Wheel-Drive Trails*, the top-selling off-road guidebook since 1998. (See book on page 214.)

Why our books are popular: First, we live in Colorado and our business is here. We are out driving trails all the time and just drove every trail in this book yet again. Second, we are dedicated to accurate and complete reporting of trail directions and conditions. Every map is created from scratch to show what's important to the off-road driver. Third, we show lots of photos—not just scenery, but trail conditions. And fourth, we guarantee satisfaction. Return the book for any reason if you're not happy.

What's New in This 4th Edition

We enlarged the book from 80 to 90 trails. Fourteen new trails were added.

We added a new area on the Western Slope with seven new trails north of Grand Junction. Our other Colorado book, which is also new, completes the area with six new Grand Junction trails south of town.

Back by popular demand, the master trail list is shown three ways: numerically, alphabetically, and by difficulty.

And finally, we've switched to a new style of spiral binding that's easier to fold back. We've made the text pages thicker and more durable. The back cover tucks in and serves as a place holder.

Get Free Trail Updates & GPS Downloads at www.funtreks.com

We have redone our website to include a separate information page for each and every trail in our four-wheel-drive guidebooks. Now you can search for a trail and, if it's been updated, learn what has changed since the book was first published. Updates come from our own knowledge and from customer submissions. If you know of a change to a trail, please go to our website and submit an update. Sign up for our email newsletter and we'll send you updates free.

In addition, on each trail page of our website, you'll find a free GPS download of that trail that includes waypoints and a tracklog that match the book. Files are in universal .gpx format for use in many common mapping applications.

FunTreks New iPhone App

Now you can enjoy the convenience of having every FunTreks trail available on your iPhone or iPad. See your exact position as you move along the trails. The app includes many other handy features, including directions to the start and end of the trail. It is designed to work when you are not connected to the internet, but it does require GPS capabilty. (All iPhones have GPS, but iPads may not.)

Please note the app is intended to be used along with the guidebook, not separately. To learn more, go to the iOS App Store and search "FunTreks."

GPS Settings

All GPS coordinates in this book are displayed using datum WGS84. Lat./Long. format is: hh/mm.mmm (not hours/minutes/seconds). Make sure your GPS unit is set the same way or you'll get different readings.

Explanation of Vehicle Symbols

Please read carefully before attempting any trail in this book.



SUV or Pickup Truck
This symbol represents a street-licensed stock sport

utility vehicle or pickup truck with 4-wheel drive. Minimum ground clearance should be 7" to 8" at low point of vehicle and about a foot at rocker panel. Low range is recommended for rocky, steep and high elevation trails. More aggressive models will have higher clearance and factory off-road enhancements such as skid plates, tow points and differential lockers. Longer and wider vehicles require more ground clearance.

In addition to vehicle capability and size, other factors such as driver's skill, tires and tolerance for damage greatly affect which trails can be driven. Every vehicle is different and every trail is different. Judgment as to whether a vehicle is capable of traversing a specific trail lies solely with the owner of the vehicle. Read each trail description carefully.



Hard-core Modified.

This symbol represents street-licensed vehicles

that have been significantly modified for difficult hard-core situations. Most modifications are custom, but there are specific factory models that meet hard-core standards. Minimal tire size starts at 32", but 33" to 37" is more typical. Lifts of 3" or more, heavy-duty skid plates and accessories, increased articulation and differential lockers are the norm. Many additional modifications are possible.

These vehicles should be able to handle all trails in this book, with the possible exception of Trails 48, 49, 81 and 85. These extreme trails require maximum modifications or a high tolerance for vehicle damage.



60"-Wide Side-by-Sides. This symbol represents what are commonly called

UTVs, or Utility Terrain Vehicles. They are generally considered unlicensed vehicles; however, some states allow licensing if modified for street use. Out-of-state street licensing is not yet recognized in Colorado, but a few local areas—e.g., Silverton, Lake City and Meeker—allow limited use on some roads. For the purposes of this book, UTV side-by-sides are considered unlicensed vehicles.

Capability of these vehicles ranges from simple utility uses on ranches and farms to extreme modifications for hard-core trail use. Their width prohibits use on 50" ATV trails. For this book, 4-wheel-drive capability is assumed.

When you see this symbol at the top of the page, it primarily indicates the trail allows unlicensed vehicles. The ratings of easy, moderate and difficult are open to far greater interpretation. Only the operator can determine the appropriateness of the trail.



50"-Wide ATVs and Side-by-Sides.

This symbol represents ATVs, All Terrain Vehicles, not wider than 50". It also represents 50"-wide side-by-sides. Both are generally considered unlicensed vehicles; however, some states allow licensing if modified for street use. Out-of-state street licensing is not yet recognized in Colorado, but a few local areas—e.g., Silverton, Lake City and Meeker—allow limited use on some streets. For the purposes of this book, they are considered unlicensed vehicles.

These vehicles range in size from tiny 2WD machines for kids to large 4WD machines for adults. Generally, trails in this book are for 4-wheel-drive ATVs, but we know some 2-wheel-drive units can be quite capable.

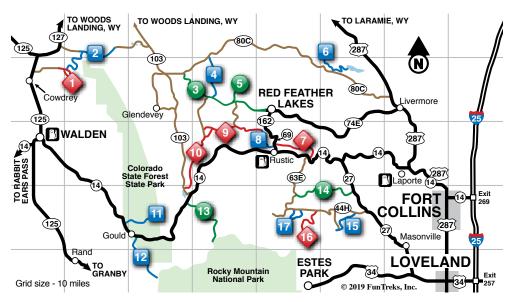


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Fort Collins, Walden, Red Feather Lakes

Many of the trails in Area 1 are accessed, in part, from Highway 14, which passes through Poudre Canyon west of Fort Collins. It is one of Colorado's most popular scenic drives. Consequently, it sees heavy traffic as hikers, bikers, fishermen, rafters, kayakers, campers and motorized recreationalists escape to the mountains in the summer. Established campgrounds along this major highway fill quickly and reservations are almost always necessary on weekends. Fortunately, as you head farther north and west, traffic dissipates quickly. Here you'll find solitude and lots of free dispersed camping. Plan your trip carefully, however, as gas stations are few and many miles apart.

Twelve trails in Area 1 are in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest. The Motor Vehicle Use Map for this ranger district has not changed since 2009; however, we were able to update the trails based on our own observations when we redrove the trails. We also sent copies of finished trails to the Forest Service for review. Two trails, Crystal Mountain (the upper part of Moody Hill) and West White Pine Mountain, are now closed. This edition no longer includes these trails.





AREA 1 map on page 20





Overview: Deadman Road is a major county road that provides access to many OHV roads in the Red Feather Lakes area. People can tow in and camp near their favorite OHV trail. Unlicensed vehicles can ride the road in certain designated sections for easier trail access (see map). The road is closed in the

Rating: Easy. Wide, dusty and rocky in places, but generally traffic moves swiftly. Intermittent road damage is very common until the road dries out, usually by midsummer.

winter from Dec. 1 through June 14.

Stats: Length: 23.2 miles. Time: 1½ to 2 hours. High point: 10,300 ft. Best time to go: Mid July-Late Sept.



Historical Highlight: Red Feather Lakes: A post office was first established in 1896 at what was then called the Perry Ranch. The area was first called Westlake, but later became Red Feather Lakes. Businessmen decided to develop the area in the early 1900s. Ditches and dams were built to create many of the lakes. In 1923, an association was established to develop what has become an outstanding recreation area. About 500 people live here year-round.

Current Conditions: Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes R.D. Call (970) 295-6700.

Getting There: From Fort Collins, take Highway 287 northwest to Livermore and turn left on paved Red Feather Lakes Road 74E. Head west for almost 24 miles. Just past Red Feather Lakes, turn left onto Deadman Road, marked C.R. 86. You can also reach Red Feather Lakes from Highway 14 near Rustic. Head north on C.R. 69 about 3 miles. Turn left where 68C goes right to Boy Scout Camp. The road starts out heading west then eventually goes north 6.7 miles to Red Feather Lakes. Turn left on paved 74E, then turn left on Deadman Road marked C.R. 86.

START MILEAGE LOG:

- D.0 Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles]
 Bear left off Red Feather
 Lakes Road 74E and
 head west on Deadman
 Road, C.R. 86. [23.2]
 N40 47.530 W105 36.200
- **2.8** Forest Service gate (closed in winter). [20.4]
- **4.2** Picnic table on left with view to east. [19.0]
- 4.7 Continue straight past Killpecker Road, F.S. 300, on left. Good staging area here. [18.5] 12 N40 48.590 W105 40.520
- **6.9** North Fork Poudre F.S. Campground on right across bridge. [16.3]
- 7.1 Continue straight. Pearl
 Beaver Road goes right to
 C.R. 80C [16.1]
 N40 48.720 W105 42.870
- **11.5** Roaring Creek Road goes left. [11.7]
- **11.6** Continue straight. Right goes to Deadman Lookout, Trail #5. [11.6]
- **13.0** F.S. 319 goes left to Bald Mountain and Green Ridge Road, Trails #9 and #10. [10.2]
- 13.6 Sand Creek Pass Road on right, Trail #4. [9.6]
- 23.2 Deadman Road ends at C.R. 80C. Left goes to Laramie River Road 103 and Back Way to North Sand Hills, Trail #2. [0.0]

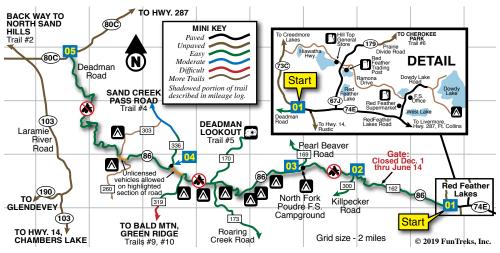
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oad up with last minute supplies at Red Feather Trading Post







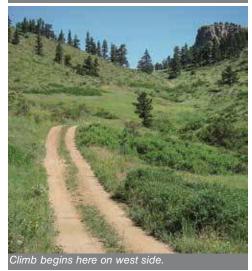
Cherokee Park, Halligan Reservoir



AREA 1 map on page 20









Historical Highlight: Halligan Reservoir was built ir 1911 for flood control and water retention for the city of Fort Collins. Due to heavy sedimentation problems, discussions have been underway to enlarge the dam to increase the size of the reservoir.

Overview: This is a fun little trip with scenic views and some dispersed camping. We found lots of wildflowers in mid-July. Small challenges but not overwhelmingly difficult. Make sure you have a fishing license if you decide to fish. Closed to vehicles from September 1 to May 1. Call about regulations during hunting season.

Current Conditions: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fort Collins office. Call (970) 472-4300.

Rating: Moderate. Rocky and steep at the top, but most high-clearance SUVs with low-range gearing should be able to do it. Easy drive to the reservoir with one steep hill.

80C and go 3.6 miles to trail on left.

Stats: Length: 12.8 miles if you drive everything described here. Time: About

2 hours. High point: 7,340 ft. Best time to go: June-late August.

Getting There: From Fort Collins: take Hwy. 287 northwest. Continue past Livermore about 3 miles and turn left on Cherokee Park Road 80C. Follow this wide dirt road 10.6 miles west to the small parking area on the right. Read and follow posted regulations. From Red Feather Lakes: Take Prairie Divide Road north. It is first marked 67J, then changes to 179. Turn right at

START MILEAGE LOG:

0.0 Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles] **WEST SIDE:** After parking area, pass through gate and turn left. Go past toilet and follow road uphill. 01 N40 52.754 W105 24.161

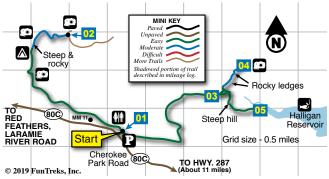
- 1.9 Great camp spot on left, then climb three steep and rocky sections.
- 2.5 Bear right. [0.3]
- 2.8 Stop here. Left ends where it is hard to turn around. Right eventually fades and disappears. Return to start.
- 02 N40 53.888 W105 24.913 0.0 Zero trip odometer

EAST SIDE: From Waypoint 01, head east on 2-track road. [4.1]

- 2.3 Bear left uphill. Rocky climb begins. 03 N40 53.222 W105 22.568
- 2.8 Stay left just before trail ends above rock outcrop with view of reservoir. Head back downhill. [1.3] 04 N40 53.550 W105 22.284
- 3.3 Stay left towards reservoir.
- **4.1** Road ends at small parking area to fish. Return to [0.0] 05 N40 53.069 W105 21.967

Trail updates & GPS downloads at www.funtreks.com



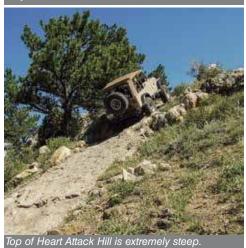














Historical Highlight: Prior to 2005, part of the trail around "The Chutes" was graded smooth because of residential development in the area. "The Chutes" themselves still remain intact and may be driven. Be careful not to miss them as you go by.

Overview: Kelly Flats has long been the premier hard-core trail in northern Colorado. The trail climbs steeply out of the Cache La Poudre River Valley and winds for a considerable distance across a high ridge with beautiful views of the Mummy Range on a clear day. Noted obstacles include the Chutes and Heart Attack Hill. A wet spring often delays May 15 opening of the trail, so call ahead to verify. ATVs will find sections of this trail very difficult.

Rating: Difficult. The first part of trail is extremely steep and rocky. Middle is easy as it passes through a residential area. Last part can have large mud holes

after a rain. Body damage is a frequent occurrence on the *Chutes*.

Stats: Length: 10.6 miles. Time: 2 to 4 hours or more if you try the Chutes. High point: 8,650 ft. Best time to go: Mid July-September.

Current Conditions: Roosevelt National Forest, Canyon Lakes R.D. Call (970) 295-6700.

Getting There: From Highway 287 northwest of Fort Collins, take Highway 14 west about 25 miles. Turn right just after mile marker 97 across from F.S. Kelly Flats Campground.

START MILEAGE LOG:

- O.O Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles]
 Start up steep, rocky
 hill after parking lot. Go
 through forest gate. Ignore
 roads on right. [1.6]
 N40 40.970 W105 28.990
- O.6 Stay left to go up Heart Attack Hill. Bypass and camping to right. [1.0]
- **1.0** Worst is over. Continue uphill. [0.6]
- 1.6 Bypass joins on right.
 Scenic camp spot with
 fire ring. [0.0]

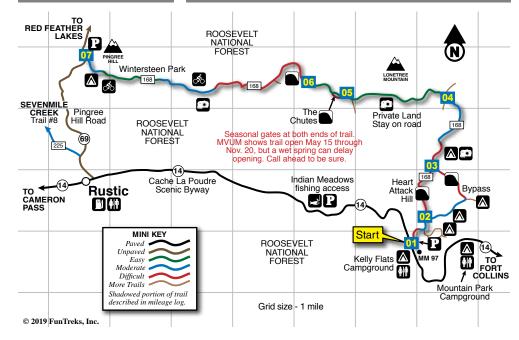
 N40 42.050 W105 28.600
- **O.0** Zero trip odometer
 Continue from Wpt.03 [9.0]
- 1.4 Turn right on 168, then stay left to avoid private road. [7.6]
- 3.0 Cross private land. [6.0]
- **3.4** Bear right uphill. Lesser road goes left. [5.6]
- 3.8 Road on left is entrance to the "Chutes." [5.2]
- Good road fades as you cross rock ledges. Back on original Kelly Flats
 Trail. [4.6]

 N40 43.210 W105 30.870
- Trail updates & GPS downloads at www.funtreks.com

- **5.2** Stay right where difficult road goes left uphill. [3.8]
- **5.9** Pass through Wintersteen Park. From here, trail gradually gets easier. [3.1]
- 9.0 Trail drops downhill through gate to small parking lot. [0.0]
 12 N40 43.560 W105 34.980
 To connect with Sevenmile Creek, Trail #8, turn left on Pingree Hill Road, C.R. 69, and drop downhill about 2 miles. Watch for F.S. 225 on right. If you need gas, continue a little farther to Hwy. 14 and turn right to Rustic and the Glen Echo Resort.

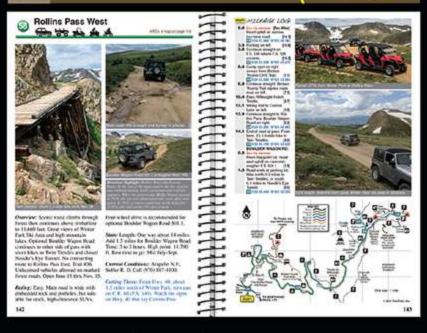












This is it—the northern companion to Colorado's top-selling 4x4 guidebook, the one everyone tells you to get if you're going off-roading in Colorado.

Completely redone, this fourth edition is more fun than ever. All trails have been freshly redriven and updated, and over 490 color photos are included.

Trails are grouped into seven key areas in the heart of northern Colorado's spectacular high country. All trails are west of I-25 and north of I-70. Many are convenient to Denver and the Front Range.

We've expanded the book to 90 trails. Seven new trails are on the Western Slope in the Grand Junction area.

Check out our website for GPS products that work along with the book to show your exact location as you move along the trails. The website also has trail updates; plus, you can post updates of your own. You can even have updates emailed to you by signing up for our free newsletter.

We also have an iPhone app designed to work with the book. To learn more, search "FunTreks" in the iOS App Store.



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