



Wild Basin Area Winter Trail Guide



Exploring the outdoors in winter is truly magical. It's also challenging. Use this map and guide to plan a safe, fun trip. Be prepared and have fun!

Tips for a Great Hike

Narrow Road, Limited Parking

Wild Basin Road is gravel and often narrows to one lane. It isn't suitable for large vehicles like RVs. Park only in designated areas. Don't park in wide spots in the road, which let oncoming cars pass each other. Violators may be ticketed or towed.

Navigating in Winter Can Be Hard

Park trails are not marked or maintained for winter use. Route-finding skills are important. Don't rely on others' tracks, which can lead you astray. To find your way in winter:

- Cell service is unavailable in much of the park. Don't depend on a cell phone for emergency help.
- Discuss your plans with park staff at visitor centers or, when staffed, trailhead kiosks.
- Have and know how to use a topographic map and compass. When used correctly, GPS units can also be helpful.
- Snow-covered landscapes look very different than in summer. Snow can be deep once you are off-trail.
- Streams and lakes can have thin ice and be very dangerous.

Be Avalanche Aware

Avalanches can be easily triggered by back-country travelers.

- Visit avalanche.state.co.us/ for the latest avalanche forecast. If danger is high, consider another activity.
- Avoid traveling in steep gullies and on ridge tops. Open slopes of 30 to 45 degrees can be loaded with dangerous masses of snow.
- If you choose to travel in these areas, carry an avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel, and know how to use them. However, don't take extra risks because you are carrying this equipment.
- If caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.

Pay Attention to Weather and Conditions

Expect snow, gusty winds, and cold temperatures at any time. Winter days are short—start early and plan conservatively.

Watch for Hypothermia

When your body loses heat faster than it can produce it, your body temperature begins to drop. This is an emergency medical condition called hypothermia. It is serious and can be fatal.

Symptoms include shivering, drowsiness, exhaustion, loss of coordination, impaired judgment, and slurred or incoherent speech.

Wear warm, quick-drying layers of clothes. Stay dry. Take frequent stops to warm up. If symptoms occur, warm the chilled person with dry clothing and warm, non-alcoholic liquids. Get back to your car, and promptly seek medical attention.

Bring the Right Gear

- ✓ Wear layers of synthetic or wool clothing that wick moisture, not cotton.
- ✓ Take extra layers of clothing (socks included).
- ✓ Bring windproof outer layers, a warm hat, and warm gloves or mittens.
- ✓ Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Sunlight can damage your eyes and skin even on cold or cloudy days.
- ✓ Drink lots of water and eat high-energy snacks.

Stay Safe and Plan Ahead

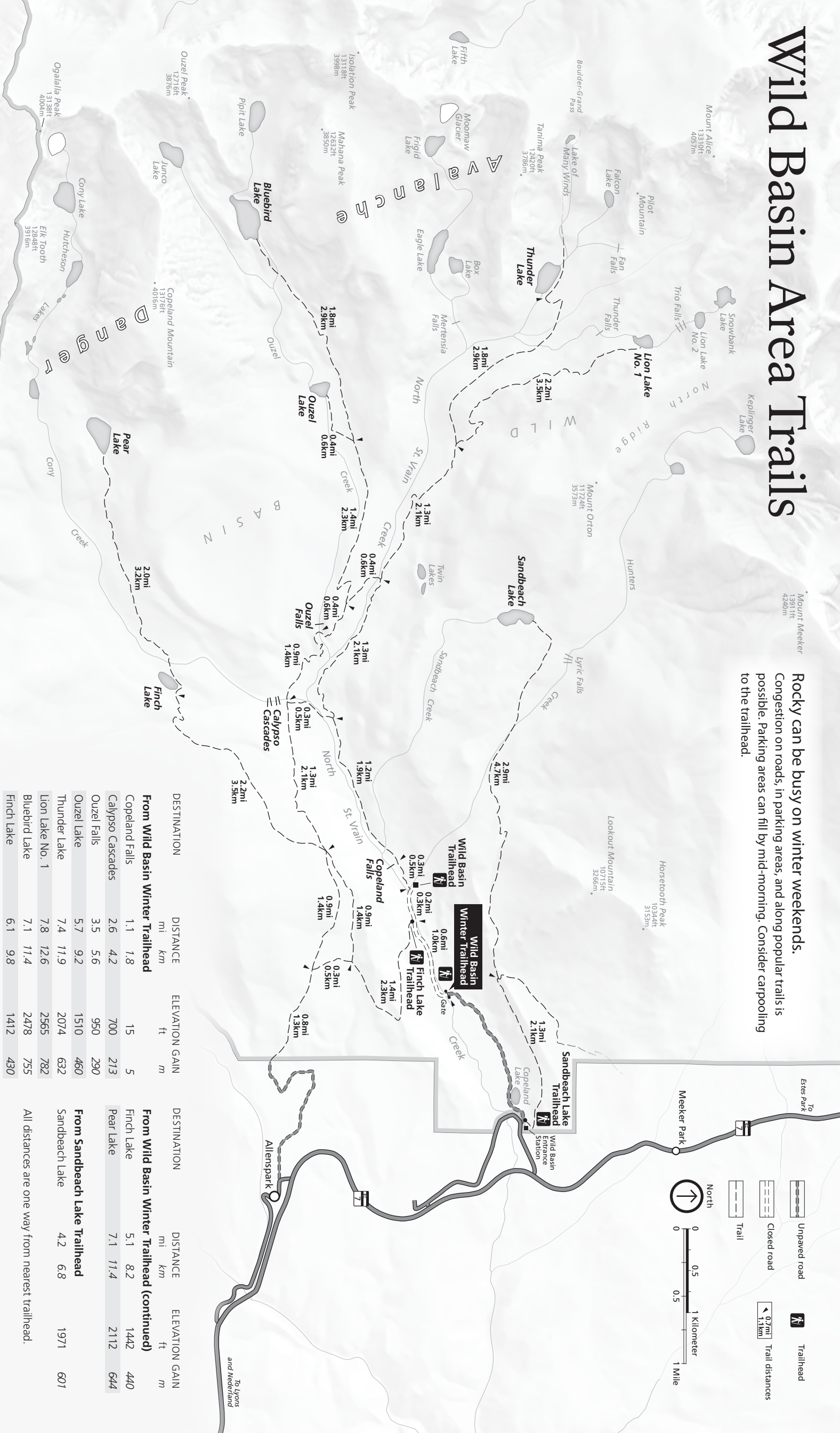
Sledding is not allowed at in Wild Basin. Hidden Valley Snowplay Area is the only place in Rocky where sledding is permitted.

For More Information

Park Information	www.nps.gov/romo or (970) 586-1206
Trail Ridge Road Status.....	(970) 586-1222
Hidden Valley Snowplay Area Status.....	(970) 586-1333
Emergencies	911. Tell the dispatcher you are in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Wild Basin Area Trails

Rocky can be busy on winter weekends. Congestion on roads, in parking areas, and along popular trails is possible. Parking areas can fill by mid-morning. Consider carpooling to the trailhead.



Legend:

- Unpaved road
- Closed road
- Trail
- Trailhead
- Trail distances: 0.7mi, 1.1km

Scale: 0, 0.5, 1 Kilometer / 0, 0.5, 1 Mile

North Arrow: North

DESTINATION	DISTANCE mi km	ELEVATION GAIN ft m
From Wild Basin Winter Trailhead		
Copeland Falls	1.1 1.8	15
Calypso Cascades	2.6 4.2	700 213
Ouzel Falls	3.5 5.6	950 290
Ouzel Lake	5.7 9.2	1510 460
Thunder Lake	7.4 11.9	2074 632
Lion Lake No. 1	7.8 12.6	2565 782
Bluebird Lake	7.1 11.4	2478 755
Finch Lake	6.1 9.8	1412 430

DESTINATION	DISTANCE mi km	ELEVATION GAIN ft m
From Wild Basin Winter Trailhead (continued)		
Finch Lake	5.1 8.2	1442 440
Pear Lake	7.1 11.4	2112 644
From Sandbeach Lake Trailhead		
Sandbeach Lake	4.2 6.8	1971 601

All distances are one way from nearest trailhead.