TRAILHEAD LOCATION:
Upper Poudre River Area: Drive 48.7 miles on CO-14 from Ted’s Place to mm 74.2. The parking area and trailhead are on the left (south), just before a bridge and the Big South Campground.

Toilets are available at the Big South Campground.

TRAIL: This trail passes through a densely forested corridor along the Cache la Poudre River and is easy to follow because of its well-worn path. The only tricky stretch is a short distance beyond the spur trail to designated campsite #2 (from 1.34 to 1.41 miles above the trailhead), where the actual trail corridor jogs sharply to the east for about 100 yards (while a wet, muddy shortcut trail goes more-or-less due south). Look for and take the original corridor (jog to the east). Stock riders should note that this trail is narrow and contours along steep hillside. It also crosses a boulder field and a talus field, both with poor footing.

WATER: Abundant - The trail closely follows the river for nearly all of the patrol.

CAMPING: Camp in any of the 16 designated campsites situated along the trail in the Big South Travel Zone. As in all travel zones; camping is restricted to these designated sites, wood fires are prohibited, and only self-contained chemical stoves may be used. Note that overnight stock camping is prohibited. The first five designated campsites are located on a narrow bench above the trail, starting about 0.75 mile in. Site #6 is located just below the bridge over May Creek, about 2 miles from the trailhead. Campsite #7 is located uphill shortly after crossing May Creek. If Grass Creek can be crossed (see SEASONAL below), more campsites can be accessed. Campsite #8 is located about 0.05 mile above the Grass Creek crossing. Campsite #9 is located about 0.1 mile upstream of Campsite #8. Campsites #10 through #16 are located in relatively flat terrain along the last 2 miles of the trail, before reaching the Flowers Trail junction. Note that campsites #11-14 are located on the river side (west) of the trail.

Note that the GPS coordinates for TZ designated campsites refer to the locations of the campsites themselves, not the locations of the junctions of the Big South Trail with the spur trails leading to the campsites.

SEASONAL: Accessible in winter. The parking lot is often, but not always, plowed (it is lower priority than the Cameron Pass area parking lots). Snowshoes are usually needed; this trail is too narrow, rocky, and winding for skis. The trail tends to hold snow and drifts in the winter, so the side slope with drop-offs can be dangerous.

The unbridged crossing of Grass Creek (at 3.2 miles above the trailhead) may be impossible or unsafe during high stream flows, even if you are prepared to wade.

DESCRIPTION: This trail starts in multi-use National Forest, but after only 0.5 mile, it enters the Comanche
Peak Wilderness and the Big South Travel Zone. The trail winds its way up the east side of the Cache La Poudre River for 6.9 miles, where it is intersected by the Flowers Trail coming down from the east. Although it is a gentle climb, there are some ridges to cross and many rocky sections, including a rock slide area and a talus slope. The river is usually roaring in late spring and early summer and is most impressive. It is a favorite trail for anglers, though when water levels are high, there are few places to drop a line. In the summer, the shade and the river provide welcome refuge from heat. The trail ends about 0.15 mile beyond the junction with Flowers Trail, where the trail once crossed to the west side of the Cache La Poudre River via a bridge that was washed away decades ago. See the description for the upper portion of this trail in the "Corral Creek and Upper Big South" description.

The accompanying map shows some details of the trail, including the approximate locations of all 16 designated campsites.

All mileages given are approximate.

**INFORMATION OF INTEREST:**

This entire stretch of the Poudre is considered world-class kayaking water.

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### Special Regulations:

- **Big South Travel Zone:** camp only in designated sites; wood fires prohibited; overnight stock prohibited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>GPS Coordinates: datum = WGS84</th>
<th>Lat/Long</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>trailhead (on CO-14)</td>
<td>N40°38.04’ W105°48.38’</td>
<td>431812 4498478</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Wilderness and travel zone boundary</td>
<td>N40°37.77’ W105°48.33’</td>
<td>431877 4497941</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>May Creek (with bridge)</td>
<td>N40°36.44’ W105°47.72’</td>
<td>432715 4495472</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
<td>Grass Creek (unbridged crossing)</td>
<td>N40°35.83’ W105°48.01’</td>
<td>432296 4494347</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
<td>junction with Flowers Trail</td>
<td>N40°33.40’ W105°46.72’</td>
<td>434075 4489836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>End of trail at old bridge crossing (about 0.1 mile beyond junction with Flowers Trail)</td>
<td>N40°33.37’ W105°46.72’</td>
<td>434075 4489836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TZ designated campsite #1: 432756 4496419

TZ designated campsite #2: 432756 4496408

TZ designated campsite #3: 432428 4496766

TZ designated campsite #4: 432385 4496200

TZ designated campsite #5: 432392 4496236

TZ designated campsite #6: 432729 4496509

TZ designated campsite #7: 432797 4496294

TZ designated campsite #8: 432281 4494218

TZ designated campsite #9: 432210 4494241

TZ designated campsite #10: 432051 4492222

TZ designated campsite #11: 432664 4491439

TZ designated campsite #12: 432720 4491309

TZ designated campsite #13: 432817 4491105

TZ designated campsite #14: 432929 4490893

TZ designated campsite #15: 433250 4490661

TZ designated campsite #16: 433361 4490452

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**Big South: 2**