

Badger Creek Trail

Direction to trailhead: Take US 50 west from Canon City to State Highway CO 9.

Drive north on CO 9 and drive for about 10.8 miles to the intersection with Tallahassee Road. Turn left (west) and continue west on Tallahassee Road for about 25.15 miles to the unnamed entry road to the Badger Creek Trail. This unmarked dirt road is easy to miss! About 44.3 miles one way from Canon City.

Length of hike: 2.58 RT

Initial Elevation: 8,784 feet

Elevation Change: 314 feet

Difficulty: Easy – Moderate

Description: This is a very pretty trail that takes you along Badger Creek (Figure 2) as it slowly descends down a very pretty ravine, with interesting rock outcroppings (Figure 3) and spectacular cliffs. There are several small waterfalls and ponds as well as small willow-covered marshy areas as you hike down the trail, when the stream is full of water.

Although this is not a very long trail, it is difficult in some locations because of rocky ridges projecting out from the base of the mountain that you have to climb up and over. There are also a couple locations where you have to wade across the stream or, if you are lucky, find narrow locations you can walk across on rocks and boulders. This is an excellent location to see big horn sheep who come down to the stream for water (Figure 4).

The trail begins at the southwestern side of the parking area, passing through a double-sided gate. It starts out relatively flat heading in a mostly southwestern direction. After about 0.27 miles the trail goes up and over two small ridges that project out from the western side of the mountain to the edge of the stream (Figure 1). The trail reaches its highest elevation (8,808 feet) at the top of the second ridge. From the highest elevation the trail drops down the side of the ridge, reaching the stream then makes a broad curve around a large ridge that projects down to the stream from the eastern side of the ravine. It continues generally to the south, then after about 1.17 miles turns to the southeast. After climbing around another small ridge, the trail ends just past a very interesting large rock formation projecting from the east side of the ravine down into the stream. There is a very pretty waterfall coming out of the formation flowing into a picturesque pond (Figure 5).

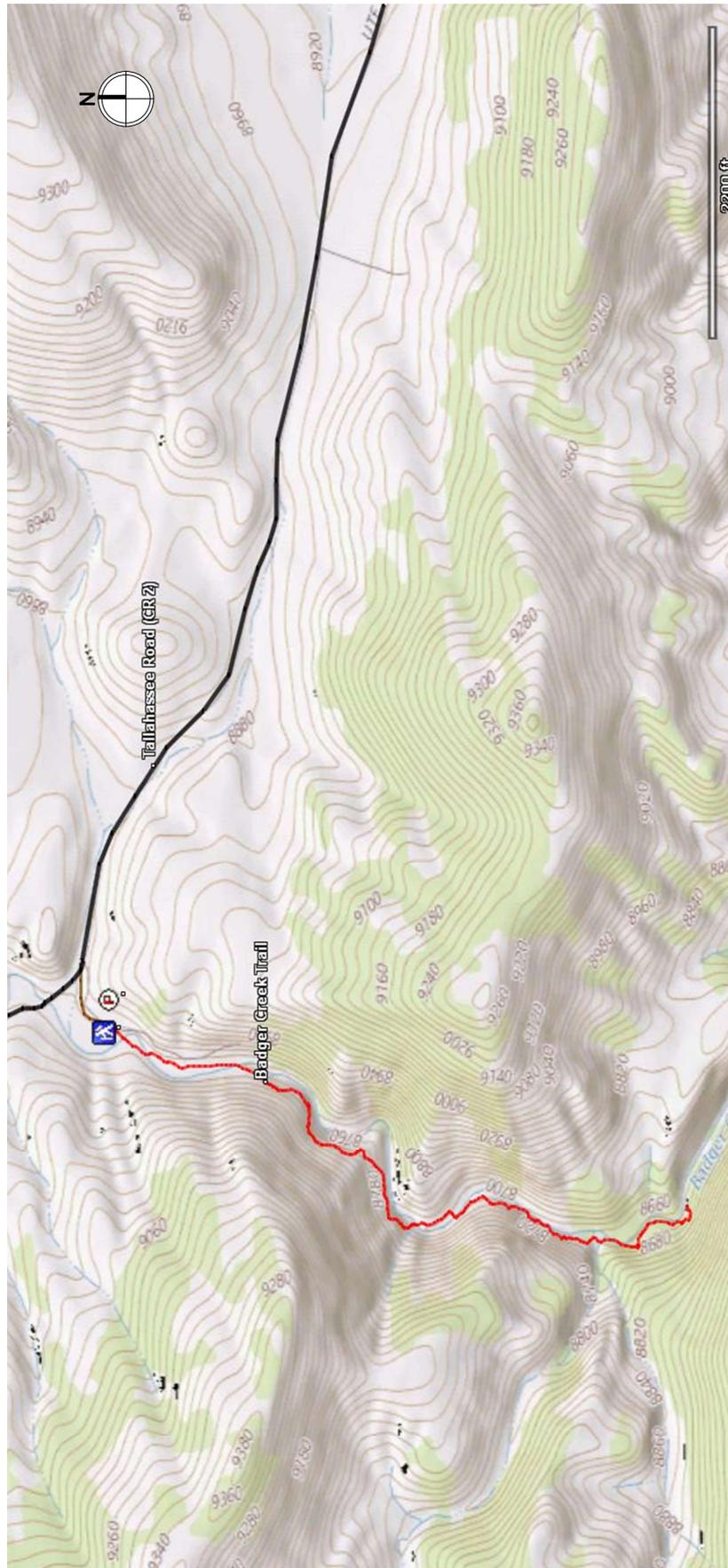


Figure 1. Badger Creek Trail



Figure 2. View along the trail

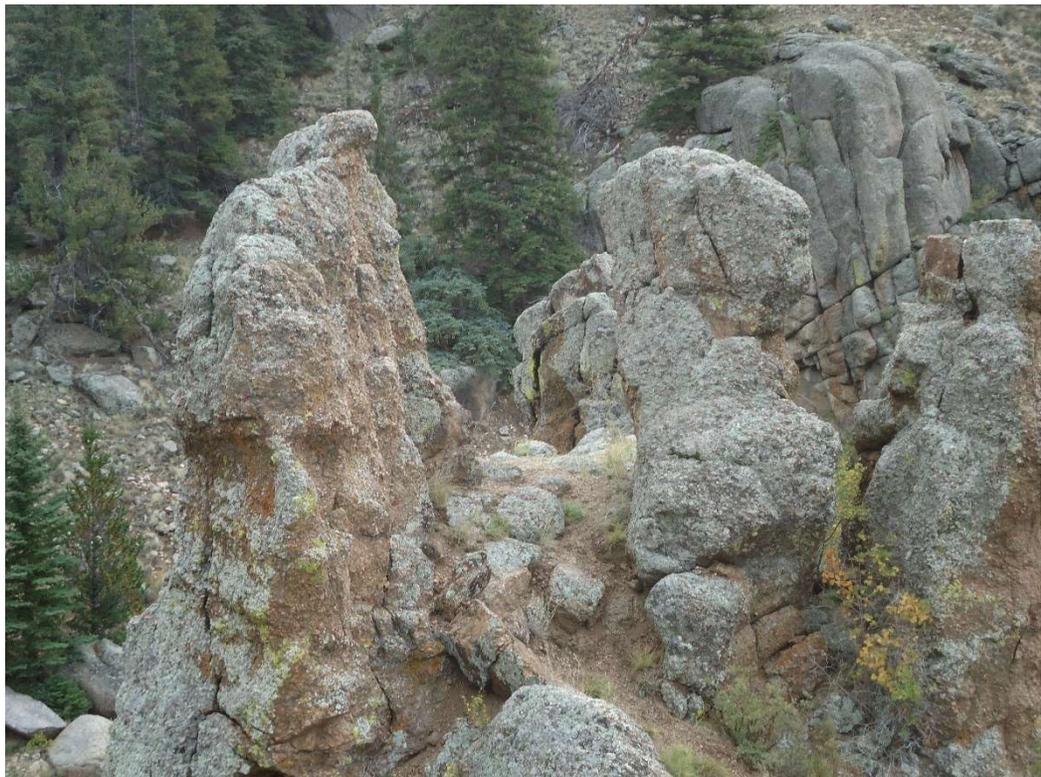


Figure 3. Interesting rock formation along trail



Figure 4. Big horn sheep drinking from the creek



Figure 5. Pool at end of the trail