

## Green's Creek Trail - Poncha Springs

**Direction to trailhead:** Take U.S. Highway 50 west past Salida to Poncha Springs. At the traffic light (intersection of U.S. 50 and State Highway 285 turn right (north) continuing on U.S. 50 for about 2.1 miles to County Road (CR) 220. Turn left on CR 220 and drive for approximately 1.76 miles where it intersects with CR 221. Turn left on CR 221 and drive for approximately 2.6 miles until you arrive at a dirt parking area and the trail head to the Green Creek Trail (Figure 1). From the parking lot, walk approximately 300 feet south-west to the trailhead. About 698 miles one way from Canon City.

**Length of hike:** 4 miles (round trip)

**Beginning elevation:** 8551 feet

**Elevation change:** 933 feet

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Description:** The Green Creek trail is a well-developed trail running along the north side of Green Creek. It gains about 840 feet in altitude over the 2 miles of this particular hike. This is a very picturesque hike with a variety of wild flowers and shrubs blooming including the spectacular bearberry honeysuckle with its dark blue-black fruits surrounded by bright red bracts. Among the wild flowers are wild roses and geraniums that can be seen all along the trail during the summer months. The trail winds along, at times close to the stream and at other times further inland through groves of aspens and pines (Figure 2). In some locations water cascades over rocks and other obstacles (Figure 3). The creek has several ponds located behind dams constructed by beavers. At one location an otter lodge can be seen next to the creek with its smoothed out track running from the lodge to the water's edge. If you are fortunate you will see members of this family frolicking in the water or returning to the lodge. At the end of this 2-mile trail is a large picturesque beaver dam and pond (Figure 4). This is a great spot to stop and have lunch. If you want to you can continue to hike beyond this beaver pond, however, this particular hike ends here.

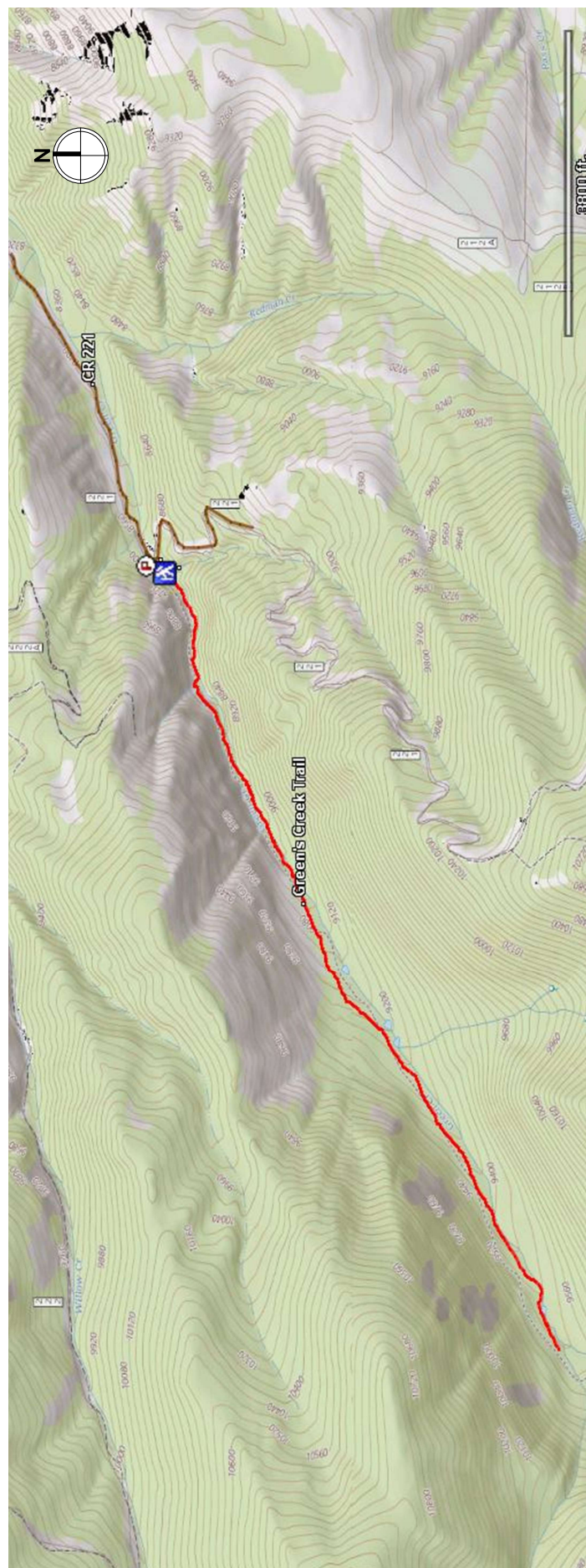


Figure 1. Map of Green's Creek





Figure 2. Aspens along trail



Figure 3. Cascading water in Green's Creek





Figure 4. Beaver Pond on Green's Creek