

Hayden Creek – Coaldale

Direction to trailhead: Drive west on Hwy 50 for about 40 miles to Hayden Creek Road (CR 6) located at the western end of Coaldale. Take CR 6 south for about 4.66 miles to the dirt parking area on the left (east). The trail head is to the right (west). About 43.4 miles one way from Canon City.

Length of hike: 4.25 Miles

Beginning elevation: 7,737 feet

Elevation change: 1220 feet

Difficulty: Difficult

Description: The trail climbs almost continuously from the trail head to the end of the hike. Portions of the first half of the trail and most of the upper half are covered with rocks that make walking somewhat difficult (Figure 2). Fallen trees block the trail in several locations. Also, the trail crosses streams in six different locations. Most are easy to cross but two require crossing over on logs and/or rocks. One of the crossings has a picturesque water fall (Figure 3). The lower part of the trail is enclosed in a forest of junipers, Ponderosa pines and white firs. The upper part of the trail is enclosed in a forest of tall white firs, ponderosa pines and majestic aspens (Figure 4). Stands of scrub oaks occur along the trail wherever sunlight reaches the forest floor. A wooden sign (WP1) located about 0.51 miles from the trail head seems to suggest the trail turns to the right. The trail is very clear along this section. Continue northwest along the ravine and after a few hundred feet the trail becomes more apparent. This trail has no official end. You can walk miles further or make your hike shorter if you so desire.

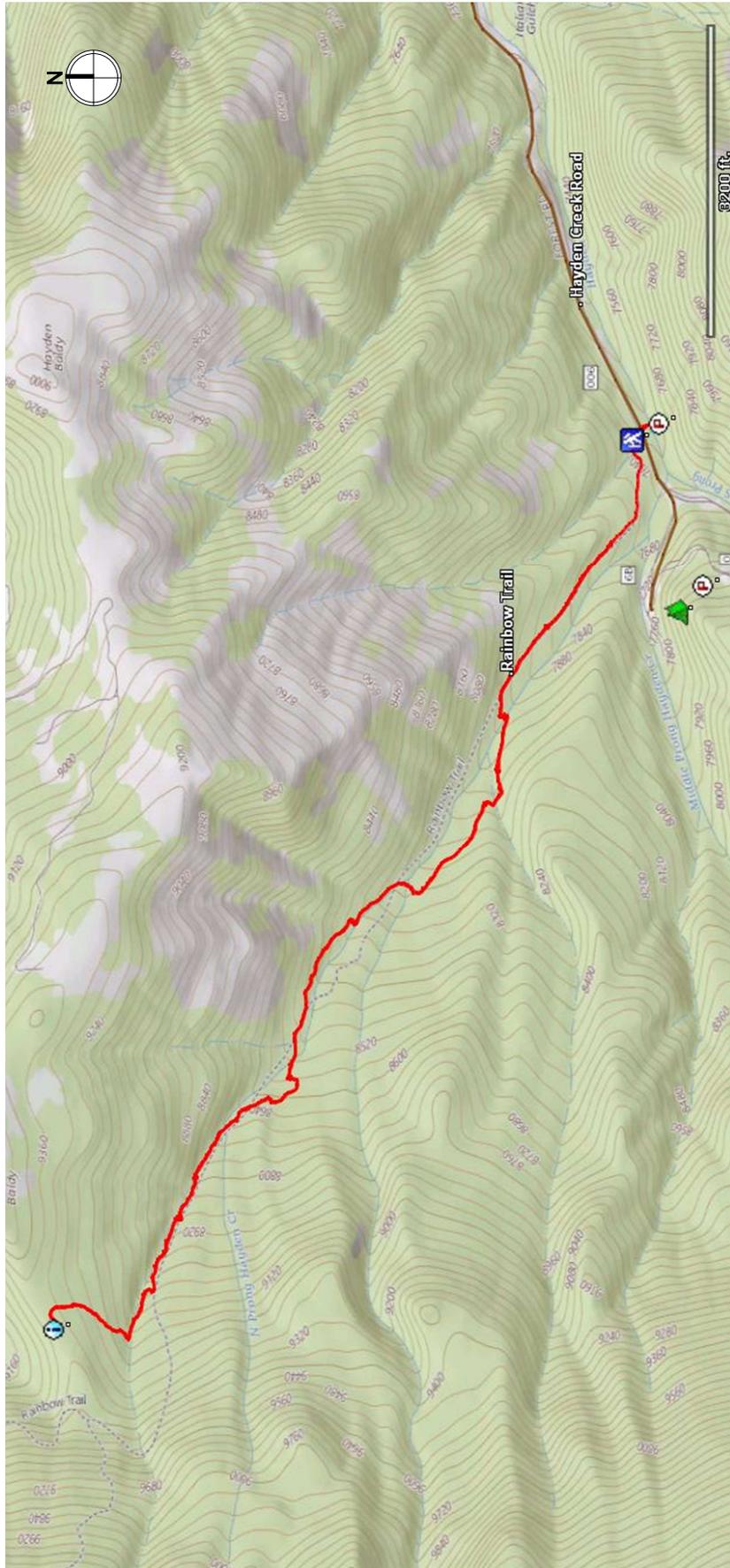


Figure 1. Map of Hayden Creek Trail



Figure 2. Rocks and logs along trail



Figure 3. Waterfall along trail



Figure 4. Tall trees along trail