

## Marion Cabin and Mine - Lake Isabel

**Direction to trailhead:** From Canon City go 5.8 miles east on Royal Gorge Blvd./US 50. Turn right (south) on Colorado (CO) 67/Phantom Canyon Road. Continue on CO 67 for 11.4 miles through Florence to Wetmore. Turn right on CO 96 and continue for 11.1 miles to CO 165 (Greenhorn Highway). Continue south on CO 165 for 18.32 miles past Lake Isabel then turn right (west) at the Lake Isabel Recreational Area entrance. Shortly after you turn onto Park Road 371 you will reach a guard shack. The daily U.S. Forest Service fee is \$6.00 or \$3.00 if you have a National Park Service Golden Age Pass. Follow the directions to the Cisneros 1314 trail head located about 1.95 miles west (Figure 1). One way distance is about 48.6 miles

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

**Beginning elevation:** 8852 feet

**Elevation Gain:** 840

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Description:** This is another very nice Wet Mountain hiking trail. Like other Wet Mountain trails this trail should be hiked between June and October because of the snow accumulation. Otherwise you might find yourself in deep snow that requires snow shoes or re-doing the hike after the snow has melted.

The trail follows the Cisneros Trail (Trail 1314) for the first mile. For the first approximately half mile, it goes in a westerly direction along the north side of the St. Charles River ravine. The ascent along this section is moderate. It then turns sharply to the south continuing along the rim of the St. Charles River ravine. The trail then makes a bend to the northwest, leaving the ravine and continuing generally in a northwest direction to the intersection with the St. Charles Trail (Trail 1326). The Cisneros Trail continues to the west. The St. Charles Trail heads northwest. Continue on the Cisneros Trail. After another 0.5 miles the trail again splits. The Cisneros trail continues southwest. A smaller sign indicates the Marion cabin and mine trail heads northwest. Take the Marion trail. Follow it for 0.45 miles to the cabin (Figure 2) and another 0.21 miles to the mine (Figure 3). At the time of this hike there were many aspen trees lying across the trail and water was flowing down the trail from overflow from the Amethyst Creek and runoff from the cliffs to the west side of the cabin and mine. These conditions made hiking very difficult.

Other than the obstacles on the Marion trail, this was another very nice trail that takes you through a forest of tall white fir along the lower elevations that gradually change to Colorado blue spruce and stately aspens along the higher elevations. The picturesque St. Charles River parallels the trail on the lower part of the trail and the Amethyst Creek along the Marion Trail. There are great views of the mountains and interesting outcroppings to the east (Figure 4).

A trail to Marion Lake located just to the west of the trail is no longer visible. If you want to see the lake, you can bushwhack from anywhere near WP3. If you look to the west of the trail you will see a narrow meadow below. Walk down to the meadow and follow it to the west (Figure 1). Try to stay to the side of the meadow because the meadow may be soggy, especially as you approach the lake.

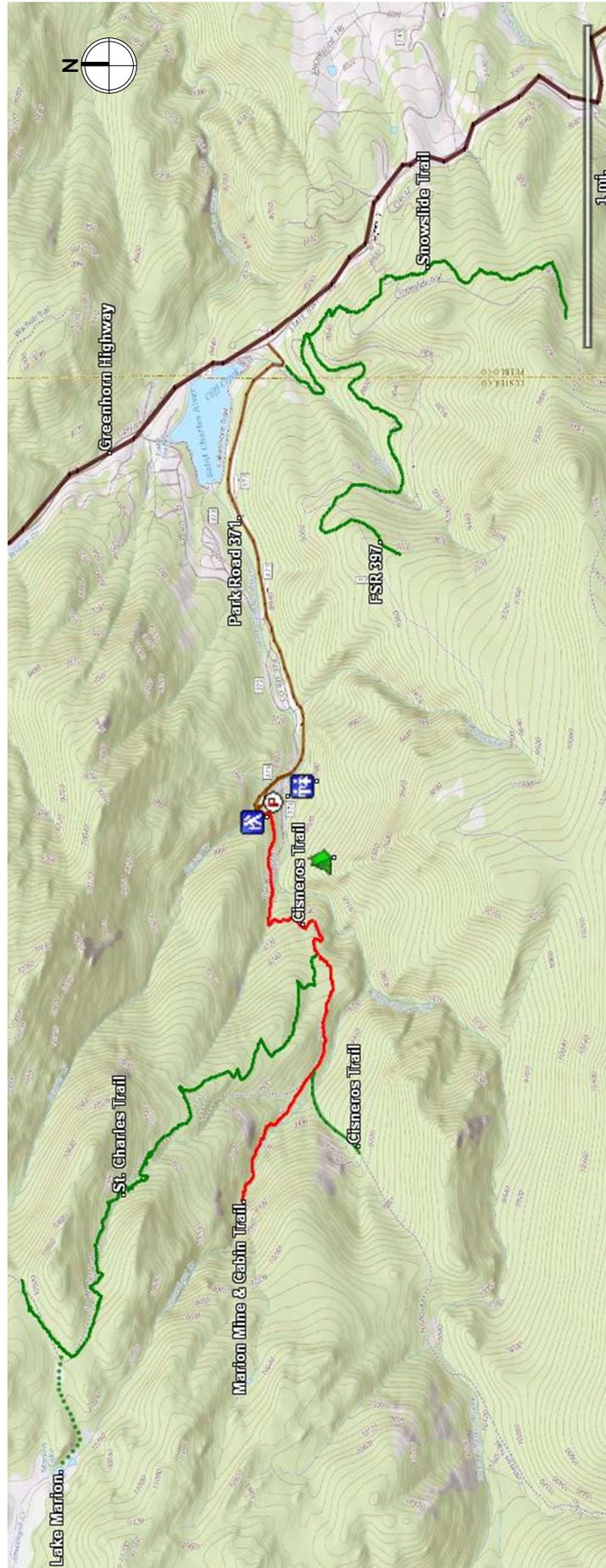


Figure 1. Map of Marion Cabin and Mine Trail



Figure 2. Marion Cabin



Figure 3. Marion Mine



Figure 4. Outcroppings Near Marion Mine