



# Lake County Hiking Trails

## Hiking Trails Identified on Map

- A** Turquoise Lake

**B** Timberline Lake

**C** Windsor Lake

**D** Native Lake

**E** Colorado Midland Railroad Grade, and Haggerman Lake and Tunnel

**F** Kearney Park Loop
- G** Highland Loop

**H** Mt. Elbert

**I** Mt. Massive

**J** Black Cloud

**K** Interlaken

**L** Hope Pass

Trails identified in this brochure are rated beginner, intermediate, advanced, and expert by the U. S. Forest Service. Trail descriptions include directions to trailheads, an elevation map for several shorter day hikes, and a brief note of trail conditions to consider.

The Continental Divide and Colorado Trails traverse Lake county and are identified on the map. However, trail details are not covered in this publication.

Have fun, but be aware of changing weather conditions, and check fire restrictions before building campfires. For additional information:

- Call the Leadville Ranger District (719) 486-0749
- Call the Leadville Visitor Center (719) 486-3900
- Check out our website: LeadvilleTwinLakes.com



Experience the “Top of the Rockies”

### Directions to Turquoise Lake

- Traveling south through Leadville, at the traffic light on Harrison Ave (Hwy 24) and 6<sup>th</sup> street turn right (west).
- Travel several blocks. You’ll come to a T-insection. Turn right on McWethy Drive/Lake County 4.
- Continue on Lake County 4 to Turquoise Lake.



View of Turquoise Lake from trail on east side of lake. Insert: Sugar Loaf Dam monument at east trailhead. Background: Mt Galena (12,893 ft) upper right corner.

### Directions to National Fish Hatchery

- 
- From traffic light at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, follow Hwy 24 south for 3.9 miles.
  - Turn right (west) on Colorado 300.
  - Follow it to Leadville’s National Fish Hatchery.

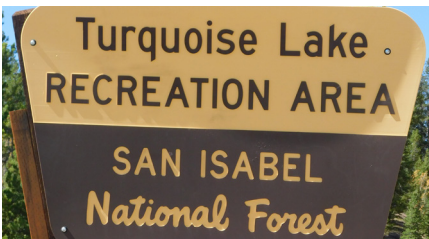
### Directions to Twin Lakes from Leadville

- 
- Travel south of Leadville on U. S. 24.
  - Go 16 miles.
  - Turn right (west) on Highway 82 toward Independence Pass and Aspen.

Pictured above (left to right): Mt Hope and Twin Peaks on west side of Twin Lakes.



View of Mt Massive (north) from Mt Elbert summit.



### (A) Turquoise Lake Trail

This is a popular multiple use trail. Expect to see mountain bikers, runners, anglers and other hikers.

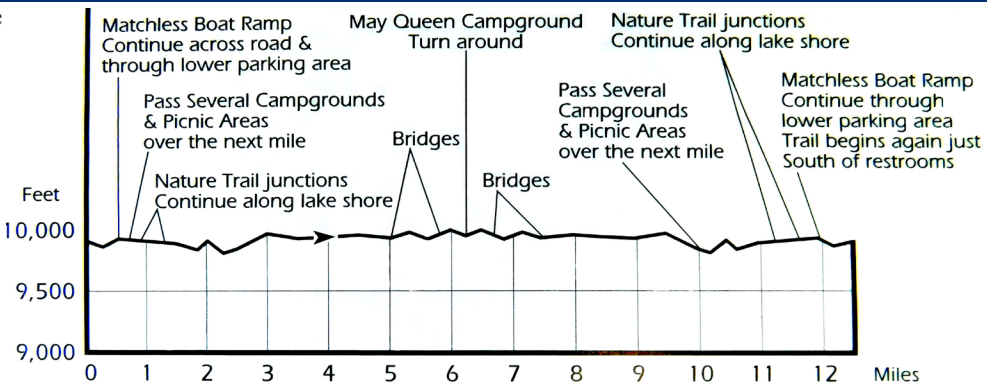
**Difficulty:** Beginner  
Trail follows the shoreline.

**Type of Hike:** Out & Back  
12 miles round trip. The hike can be divided into 6 miles if hiker is picked up at the opposite end of the trail.

#### Trailhead Entrances and Parking

- Sugar Loaf Dam. Parking on east side of dam. Trailhead begins at the Sugar Loaf Dam monument across the road from the parking lot.
- May Queen Campground parking area is on the west side of the lake. Cross the Sugar Loaf Dam and continue to the west side of the lake. There is a fee for parking.

Trail conditions on east side of lake: Sandy trail pases several campgrounds.  
Trail conditions on north side of lake: Trail traverses rocky terrain, water crossings, and passes historic mine sites.



### (B) Timberline Lake Trail

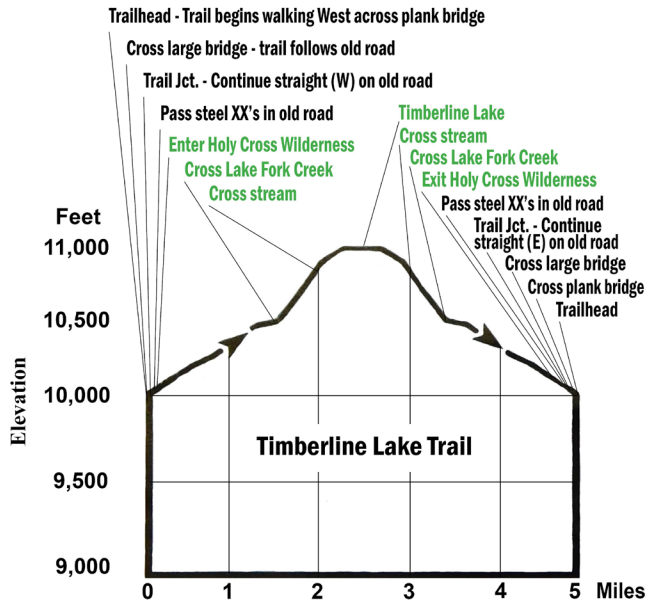


**Type of Hike:** Out & Back  
(5 miles round trip)  
**To make this an Out & Back hike turn around at Timberline Lake and head back.**

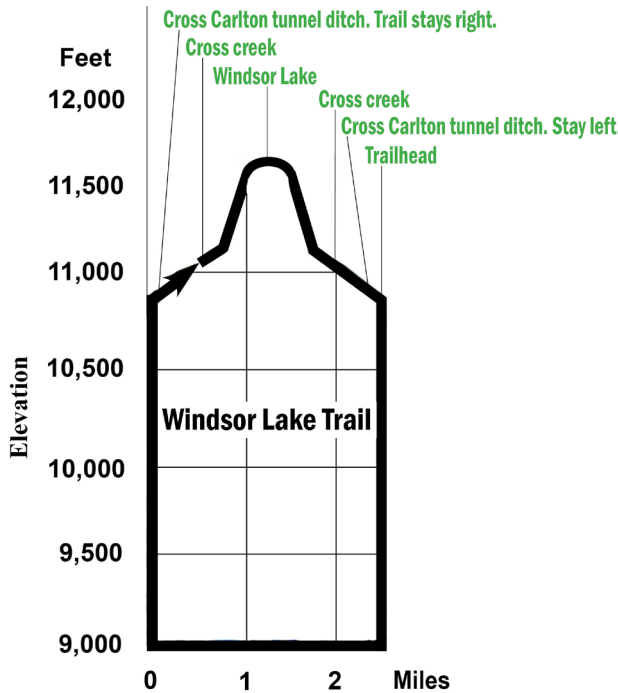
**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Notes:** Hikers will experience rocky terrain and a 1,000 feet elevation climb in the 2 ½ miles hike to the lake. Water crossings may require wading. Previous hikers have made several trails along creeks and boggy areas trying to navigate creek crossings and wet areas. After crossing a creek or a wet area be sure to pick up the main trail.

**Directions:** Go to Turquoise Lake. Cross Sugar Loaf Dam. Follow road around the south west sides of the lake passing May Queen Campground to trailhead and parking, one mile past the campground on west side of the road.



### (C) Windsor Lake Trail

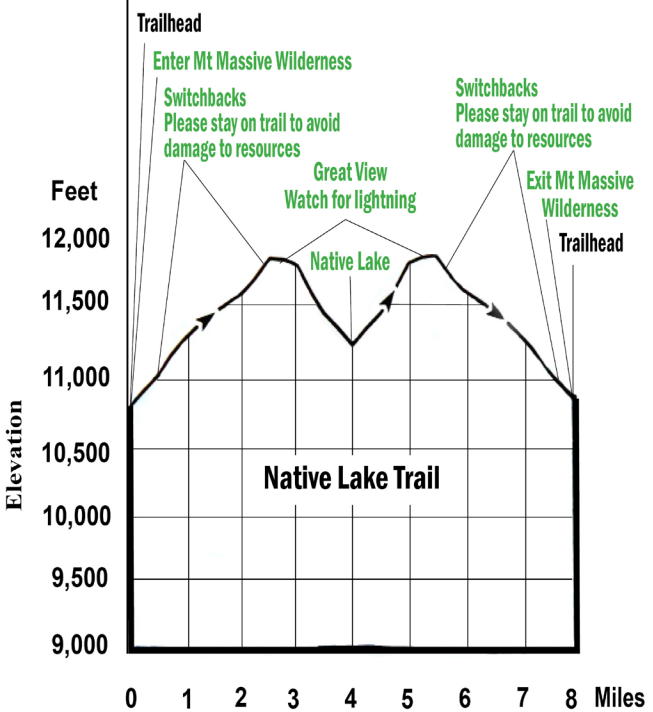


**Type of Hike:** Out & Back  
(2 ½ miles round trip)  
**To make this an Out & Back hike turn around at Windsor Lake and head back.**

**Difficulty:** Beginner ~ strenuous

**Notes:** This short, strenuous hike takes hikers to an alpine lake surrounded by peaks and ridges that make up a portion of the Continental Divide trail.  
**Directions:** Drive to Turquoise Lake. Cross Sugar Loaf Dam. Follow road along the south side of the lake. Turn left on Forest Road 105/Hagerman Pass Road. Follow road for 3 ½ miles to the trailhead for Windsor Lake. Parking available on right (east) side of road.

### (D) Native Lake Trail



**Type of Hike:** Out & Back (8 miles round trip)  
**To make this an Out & Back hike turn around at Native Lake and head back.**

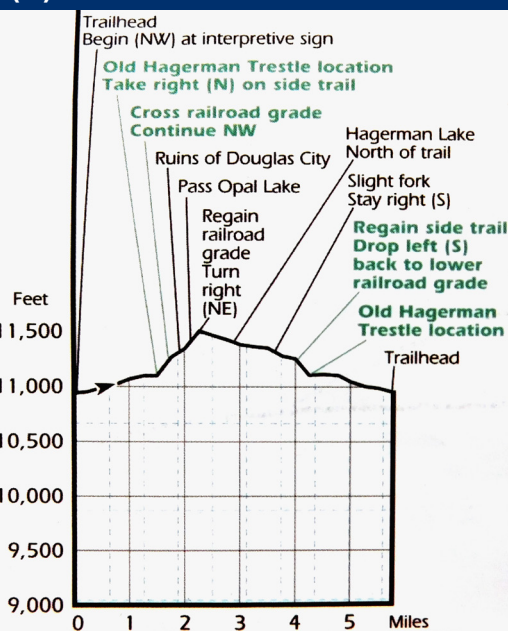
**Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Notes:** This trail enters Mt. Massive Wilderness. Expect snowfields late in the season.

**Directions:** Drive to Turquoise Lake. Cross Sugar Loaf Dam. Follow road along the south side of the lake. Turn left on Forest Road 105/Hagerman Pass Rd. Follow road for 3 ½ miles to the trailhead for Native Lake. Trailhead and parking in same location.

Be prepared before hiking into the back country. Know your limitations, carry plenty of water, a first aid kit, extra clothing, and snack. Plan to hike with someone. Remember cell service is not reliable in the backcountry.



**(E) Colorado Midland Railroad Grade, Douglas City, and Haggerman Lake and Tunnel**



**Type of Hike:** This hike is divided in two sections.

**Out & Back:** 5 miles round trip. Hike follows the historic Colorado Midland Railroad grade. Trail leaves railroad bed in approximately 1 ¾ miles. It goes through historic Douglas City to Hagerman lake and tunnel. **Turn around at one of these locations.**

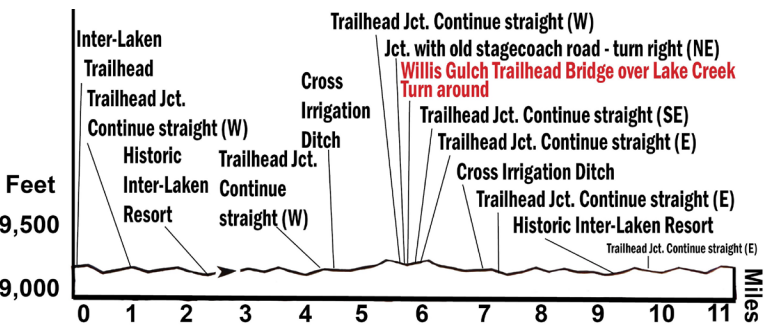
Loop: Adding the loop makes this hike approximately 6 miles. The south end of the loop can be taken soon after leaving the railroad grade or the north end near Hagerman tunnel. **Elevation map includes the loop. Notice comments noted on elevation map.**

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Notes:** Portion of the trail follows the historic Colorado Midland Railroad grade. The rocky portion of the trail is approximately a 500 foot elevation climb that goes through historic Douglas City pass Opal Lake to Hagerman Tunnel and Hagerman Lake.

**Directions:** Go to Turquoise Lake. Cross Sugar Loaf Dam. Follow road along the south side of the lake. Turn left onto Forest Road 105/ Hagerman Pass Road. Follow road for 3 ½ miles to the parking lot across from the trailhead for Windsor Lake. Walk up Hagerman pass (1 mile) to the Colorado Midland trailhead, or if you have a high clearance vehicle you can drive the 1 mile to the Colorado Midland trailhead.

## (K) Interlaken Trail ~ Twin Lakes



**Type of Hike:** Out & Back ~ Entire trail 11 miles round trip.  
Out & Back ~ To Inter-Laken resort is 5 miles round trip.

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Notes:** This is a popular non-motorized multiple use trail that follows the south shore of Twin Lakes. Expect to see mountain bikers, runners, anglers, and other hikers.

**Directions:** From Leadville go south on U.S. Hwy 24 to Hwy 82. Turn right (west). Go .6 miles turn left (south) onto an unsigned dirt road. Follow road. Low clearance vehicles should park at dam. High clearance vehicles continue to Colorado Trail sign and parking.

## Notes for Trails F, G, H, I, J, L

**(F) Kearney Park Loop** ~ Type: Loop Difficulty: Intermediate  
Miles: 5 Notes: There are many junctions at the beginning of this loop.  
Be alert to changes. Trailhead: Leadville National Fish Hatchery

**(G) Highland Loop** ~ Type: Loop Difficulty: Intermediate Miles: 7  
Notes: There are many junctions at the beginning of this loop. Be alert to changes. Trailhead: Leadville National Fish Hatchery

**(H) Mt. Elbert** ~ Type: Out & Back ~ North Trail: 8.6 miles round trip. North Trailhead: 5.3 miles pass Halfmoon campgrounds using CR 11. South Trail: 11.2 miles round trip. South Trailhead: Off Hwy 82 east of Twin Lakes. Difficulty: Advanced/Expert Notes: Dress appropriately and carry extra clothing, food, and water. Dangerous afternoon lightning storms are common. Get an early start. Turn back at first signs of approaching storms. Expect snowfields late in the season.

**(I) Mt. Massive** ~ Type: Out & Back Miles: 13 Difficulty: Advanced/Expert Notes: This is a peak ascent trail. Dress appropriately and carry extra clothing, food, and water. Dangerous afternoon lightning storms are common. Get an early start and turn back at first signs of approaching storms. Expect snowfields late in the season. Trailhead: 5.3 miles pass Halfmoon campgrounds using County Road 11.

**(J) Black Cloud** ~ Type: Out & Back Miles: 11 round trip  
Difficulty: Advanced/Expert Notes: A peak ascent trail. Dangerous  
afternoon lightning storms are common. Expect snowfields late in the  
season. Trailhead: .7 miles west of Twin Peaks Campground on Hwy 82/  
Independence Pass Road.

**(L) Hope Pass** ~ Type: Out & Back Miles: 9 miles to top of pass and back. Difficulty: Advanced Notes: The trail goes above treeline, dangerous afternoon lightning storms are common. Turn back at the first sign of approaching storms. Expect snowfields late in the season.  
Trailhead: Willis Gulch Trailhead on Hwy 82 west of Twin Lakes.

**CO Hwy 91  
to Copper Mountain  
and Interstate 70  
Freemont Pass**

### MAP KEY

**San Isabel National Forest - Please be aware that private lands do exist within this boundary. On National Forest lands, motorized travel is restricted to designated roads.**

**Wilderness Area - Closed to all motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment (includes bicycles).**

**Area Managed for Non-motorized Recreation - On National Forest lands, motorized travel prohibited.**

## County Roads, State and U.S. Highways

## Hiking Trails

**P** Parking / Trailhead

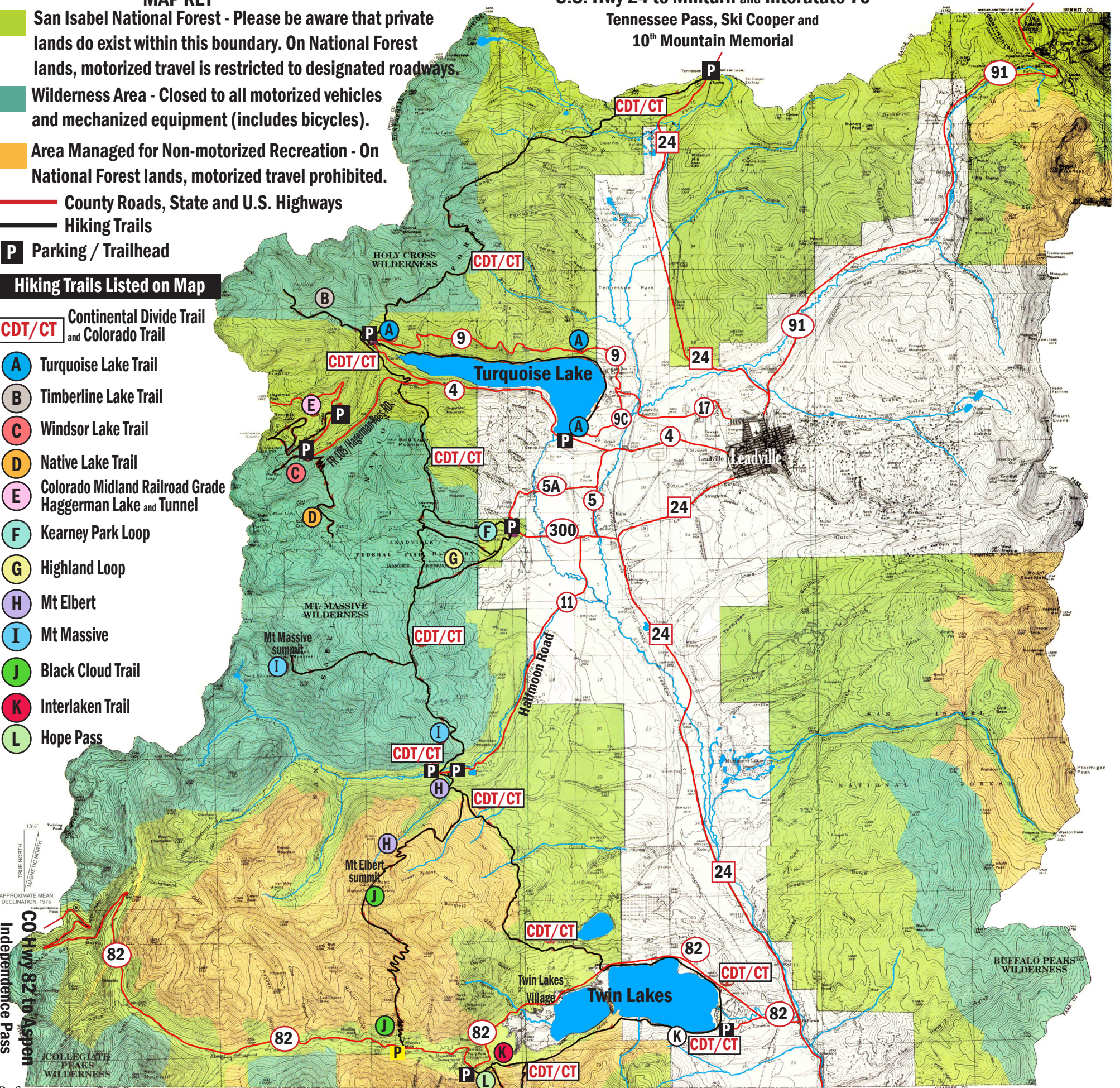
## Hiking Trails Listed on Map

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and Colorado Trail

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## U.S. Hwy 24 to Minturn and Interstate 70

## Tennessee Pass, Ski Cooper and 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Memorial



# U.S. Hwy 24 to Buena Vista

### References:

- U.S. Forest Service, San Isabel National Forest, Leadville Ranger District
- Leadville/Lake County Chamber of Commerce
- Brochure Design: © Aleyant Systems, LLC
- Research and Photos: M. A. Nelson