



U. S. Department of Agriculture
 Dillon Ranger District
 680 Blue River Parkway
 Silverthorne, CO 80498
 (970) 468-5400



Mesa Cortina / South Willow Falls Trail System

Mesa Cortina Trail – #32, Royal Buffalo Trail – #9114, Excelsior Trail – #9112, Mo-wutch Trail – #9016, Poo-wah-gah Trail – #9113, Pah-gah-root Trail – #9111, Leopold Trail – #9110, Pah-nup-utch Trail – #9109, Pasque Trail – #9115, O.K Gaymon Trail – 9123

Difficulty: EASY TO MORE DIFFICULT

Trail Use: Moderate

Length: Mesa Cortina – 2.7 mi., Royal Buffalo – 1.23 mi., Mo-wutch – 2.0 mi., Poo-wah-gah – 0.3 mi., Poo-gah-root – 0.2 mi., Leopold – 0.5 mi., Pah-nup-utch – 0.5 mi., Pasque – 0.5 mi., O.K Gaymon – 0.2 mi.,

Elevation: The Mesa Cortina Trailhead is at 9,200 feet. The highest point is at the junction with the Buffalo Cabin Trail at 10,000 feet

Elevation Gain: 800 feet

Open In Winter To: X-C SKIING, SNOWSHOEING

Open In Summer To: HIKING, HORSE,

Access #1: Mesa Cortina Trailhead

- From I-70 take Exit 205, Silverthorne / Dillon, and travel north on HWY 9 to the first traffic light at the intersection of Rainbow Drive / Wildernest Road. Turn left onto Wildernest Road / Ryan Gulch Rd.
- After crossing the Blue River, turn right onto Adams Ave. and then immediately turn left onto Royal Buffalo Dr.
- After 0.8 miles, turn right onto Lakeview Drive and proceed to Aspen Drive.
- Turn left onto Aspen Drive and continue for 0.2 miles. There will be a pull thru parking lot on the right-hand side of the road. The trailhead is located just north of the parking lot.

Access #2: Buffalo Cabin Trailhead

- From I-70 take Exit 205, Silverthorne / Dillon, and travel north on HWY 9 and turn left at the first traffic light, Rainbow Drive / Wildernest Road.
- Travel 3.6 miles on Wildernest Road (turns into Ryan Gulch Road). You will pass many condos and at the top of the hill there will be a trailhead parking area on the left
- There are two trailheads at this parking area, be sure to start at the Buffalo Cabin Trailhead.

Trail Highlights:

- The Mesa Cortina trail winds through aspen groves into a meadow which offers a good view of the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness. After the first meadow is the Eagles Nest Wilderness boundary.
- The Mesa Cortina Trail then travels through lodgepole pine forests and crosses South Willow Creek just before intersecting with the Gore Range Trail (#60). Following the fork right takes you north while taking the left fork takes you south toward South Willow Falls.
- This trail system provides access to the Gore Range Trail which runs the entire length of the Eagles Nest Wilderness (52 miles).

Important information:

- **DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES IN THE EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS.**
- Read the trailhead kiosk for important wilderness regulations and safety requirements

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, **NOT** FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.

