



MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS
 THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND
 HAHNS PEAK-BEARS EARS RANGER DISTRICT

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| | <p><u>TRAIL NAME:</u> #1100 SWAMP PARK</p> |
| <p><u>TRAIL BEGINNING:</u> 8390' elevation at (2557 m) South Fork of the Elk River Road #443.</p> <p><u>TRAIL ENDING:</u> 8720' elevation (2658 m) at Elk Park.</p> | <p><u>LENGTH:</u> 20.6 mi (33.2 km)</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED SEASON:</u> <u>Spring Summer Fall</u></p> |
| <p><u>ACCESS #1:</u> Drive west of Steamboat Springs on US Hwy 40 about 2 miles, and turn north on Elk River Road (RCR 129) for about 5 miles. Park in the large lot on the right side of the road.</p> | <p><u>USE:</u> Moderate/Heavy</p> <p><u>DIFFICULTY:</u> Moderate</p> <p><u>USGS MAPS:</u> Rocky Peak, Floyd Peak and Farwell Mt Quads.</p> |
| <p><u>ACCESS #2:</u> Go west of Steamboat Springs on US Hwy 40 about 2 miles, and turn north on Elk River Road (RCR 129) for about 18 miles. Just past Clark, turn right on to Seedhouse Road (NFSR 400) and travel 9 miles. Turn right at the fork on to South Fork Road (NFSR 443) and travel 1.5 miles to the Burn Ridge TH on the right.</p> | |
| <p><u>ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:</u> This trail crosses three major drainages coming off the Continental Divide – Elk River, Big Creek and Mad Creek. About half the length of this trail is within the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. There are opportunities for day trips and multi-day trips. Parts of this trail are open to mountain bikers (see <u>SPECIAL NOTE ON TRAVEL REGULATIONS</u> below). A popular 6 miles loop for hikers and bikers begins at Mad Creek Trailhead, follows Swamp Park Trail to Saddle Trail #1140, Saddle Trail to Red Dirt Trail #1171, Red Dirt Trail to Red Dirt Trailhead and Elk River Road (RCR129) back to Mad Creek Trailhead.</p> <p><u>Safety Notes:</u> Rattlesnakes have been observed along the first few miles of trail above Mad Creek TH. Bikers need to be especially aware of and careful around parties with stock. For everyone’s safety, slow down and yield to stock.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPECIAL NOTES ON TRAVEL REGULATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full length of the trail is open to foot and horse travel. • The portions of the trail outside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary are also open to mountain bikes. This covers the southernmost 3 ½ miles (approximately) from the Mad Creek TH and the northernmost 4 miles (approximately) from the Burn Ridge TH. • Inside the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, mountain bikes are prohibited. | |

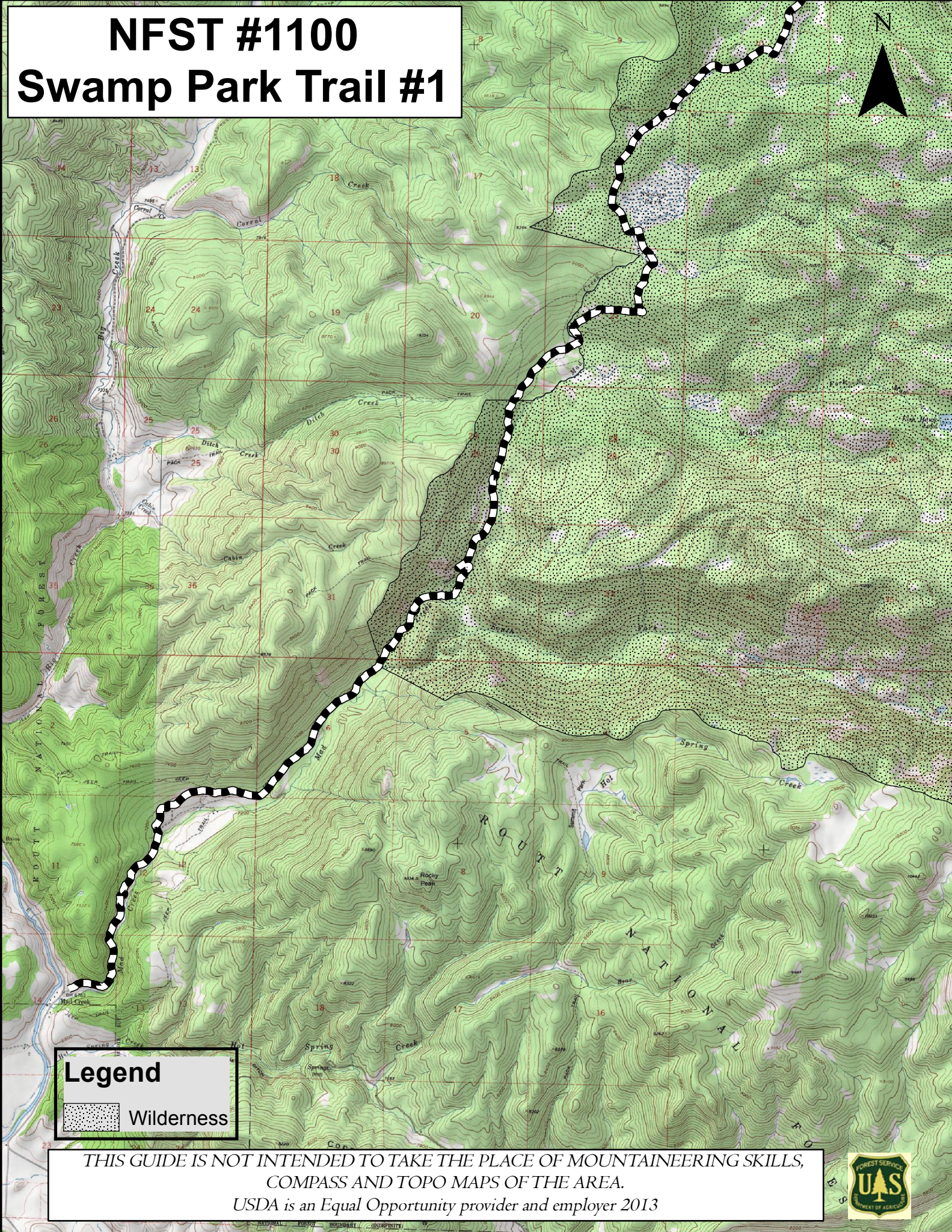
NARRATIVE: From Mad Creek TH, the Swamp Park Trail begins by following Mad Creek through a 1½ mile long scenic canyon. After leaving the narrow part of the canyon, you pass Saddle Trail #1140 and the Mad Creek Guard Station, which is set in a large meadow before the canyon narrows down again and you climb to the Mount Zirkel Wilderness boundary. Not long after entering the Wilderness, you cross a branch of Mad Creek, pass Elk Park Trail #1118, re-cross Mad Creek and begin climbing steeply through several switchbacks before the grade lessens. The trail in then on more folling terrain and again follows Mad Creek. Just past Red Dirt Trail #1171, you exit the wilderness for ¾ of a mile, then re-enter it as you cross Mad Creek. Continuing on, you pass Luna Lake Trail #1168, cross North Fork of Mad Creek and enter Swamp Park, where you pass Ditch Creek Trail #1099. The trail takes you around the west side of Swamp Park, passes Roaring Fork Trail #1166, passes through a portion of the 2001 Mad Creek Fire and climbs to a knob where more evidence of the fire is visible. The trail drops down to cross Roaring Fork Creek, then drops steeply into Big Creek. After crossing Big Creek and passing Chilton Trail #1170, the trail climbs steeply, passing through a portion of the 2002 Burn Ridge Rire, to the top of Burn Ridge, the highest point on the trail, where you leave the Wilderness. From there, the trail follows the Burn Creek drainage down to the broad valley of the South Fork of the Elk River. After crossing the South Fork and passing South Fork Trail #1100.3A, the trail follows the river upstream, then leaves it for a short climb out of the valley to the Burn Ridge TH.

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NFST #1100 Swamp Park Trail #1



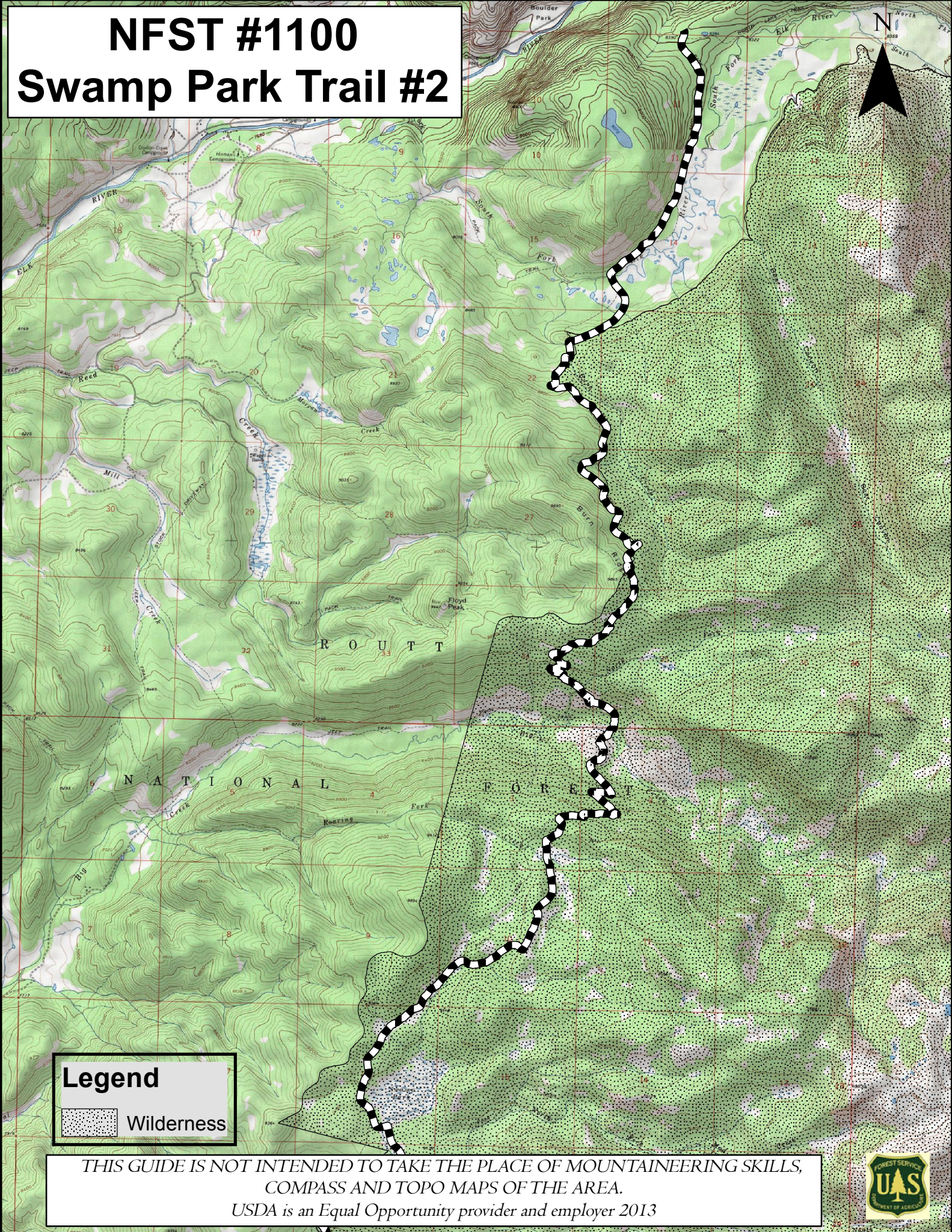
Legend

 Wilderness

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COMPASS AND TOPO MAPS OF THE AREA.
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NFST #1100 Swamp Park Trail #2



Legend

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