

# Meadow Creek Trail

## Eagles Nest Wilderness

Summit County, Colorado

Elevation: 9,157ft - 11,900 ft

39.594, -106.149

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*On July 12, 1976, the Eagles Nest Wilderness was created because of public law. 82,484 acres of the Eagles Nest Wilderness exist in Summit County and 50,592 acres are in Eagle County.*



**M**eadow Creek Trail, in the Eagles Nest Wilderness, allows users to walk through aspen groves, lodgepole pine forests, and Engelmann spruce forests, while traversing 4.7 miles toward Eccles Pass. Additionally, this trail is excellent for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and backcountry skiing in the winter time.

**W**etlands exist along the **Meadow Creek Trail** in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. These areas provide **ecosystem services** that trap pollution, filter water, and stabilize soil. Additionally, they support many animals like the **beaver, chickaree squirrel, grey jay, black bear, and moose**. Plants that thrive in wetland environments include: **Thinleaf alder, Drummond willow, and Subalpine fir-Engelmann Spruce**. Overall, the ecosystem services and ecological diversity of wetlands add to the experience of the Meadow Creek Trail.

Because of the ecosystem services and biodiversity, it is imperative to preserve wetland biomes. Human activi-

ties like damming water for storage, diverting streams for use, and converting wetlands to agricultural lands degrade the environment, so it is important to eliminate the possibility of these actions in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Additionally, **wetlands only cover 2% of Colorado**, making

conservation of these biomes essential. Finally, excessive populations of elk and moose that naturally inhabit these lands can degrade the environment from overgrazing. **Considering the importance of wetlands to the success of ecosystems, conservation of these biomes is essential.**

