

BLOW-DOWN DETOURS CT SEGMENT 12

Spring & Summer 2012 Massive Blow-Down

SEG 12 IMPASSIBLE BLOW-DOWN: 'Heads up,' please inform others. Thanks. Inside Wilderness where chainsaws are prohibited (may take years to clear the CT) the Seg 12 blow-down is so extensive that it is impassible. PLAN YOUR DETOUR AROUND SEG 12. The CT Guidebook is helpful.

Area that's Impassible: CT Seg 12 south of Pine Creek (CT Seg 12 mi 6.4) and north of Harvard Lakes (CT Seg 12 mi 15.2). The blow-down areas are large, well beyond the trail corridor, and users who have tried to navigate the steep terrain around them have reported they did not succeed.

Maps for Detours:

- MountainMaps "The Sawatch Range" www.shop.ColoradoTrail.org (and elsewhere)
- CDNST in Colorado www.BearCreekSurvey.com

Detour Alternatives: include Harvard Lakes, Buena Vista, and the CDNST High Line.

Harvard Lakes Detour - This is the shortest detour around the blow-down. For Southbound hikers and horse riders, begin your detour at the Segment 11/12 division by travelling east 1.9 miles on gravel road to Hwy 24. Travel south 10 miles on Hwy 24. Turn west on County Rd 361 that then curves south and travel 4 miles. Veer south on County Rd 365 that then curves west and travel 3.6 miles. Reconnect with the CT at the Silver Creek Trailhead, Segment 12/13 division and resume CT southbound travel. (Southbound hikers and horse riders wanting to maximize their CT mileage could complicate and lengthen this Harvard Lakes Detour; travel the CT south of the Seg 11/12 division and continue walking the CT to Pine Creek, CT Seg 12 mi 6.4, then turn northeast on Pine Creek Trail 4 miles to the trailhead near Hwy 24.) Bike riders will not use this described Harvard Lakes Detour but instead use the Wilderness Bike Detour described in the CT Guidebook and Map Book.

Buena Vista Detour - This is a little longer than Harvard Lakes Detour but brings travelers into Buena Vista where there are services and resupply. For Southbound hikers and horse riders, begin your detour at the Segment 11/12 division by travelling east 1.9 miles on gravel road to Hwy 24. Travel south 15 miles on Hwy 24 into the center of Buena Vista. Enjoy all BV has to offer. From Hwy 24 just 0.4 miles north of the center of Buena Vista, turn west on Crossman Avenue County Rd 350 and travel 2.0 miles to the "T." Turn north on County Rd 361 and travel 1.1 miles. Turn south then curve west on County Rd 365 for 3.6 miles. Reconnect with the CT at the Silver Creek Trailhead, Segment 12/13 division and resume CT southbound travel. (Southbound hikers and horse riders wanting to maximize their CT mileage could complicate and lengthen this Buena Vista Detour; travel the CT south of the Seg 11/12 division and continue walking the CT to Pine Creek, CT Seg 12 mi 6.4, then turn northeast on Pine Creek Trail 4 miles to the trailhead near Hwy 24.) Bike riders will not use this described Buena Vista Detour but instead use the Wilderness Bike Detour described in the CT Guidebook and Map Book.

CDT High Line Detour - This detour leaves the CT at mile 13.7 of Segment 11 and follows the Continental Divide Trail for about 80 miles. It rejoins the CT before Marshall Pass at mile 8.6 of Segment 15. (Options also exist to shortcut this detour and reconnect with the CT at, for example, the Silver Creek Trailhead.) The CDT is not as well defined or marked as the CT and hikers choosing this route should be equipped with maps and navigation gear (gps and/or compass).