


## Route #1) Mt. Yale - Southwest Slopes

<b>Difficulty:</b>	Class 2
<b>Exposure:</b>	
<b>Summit Elevation:</b>	14,196 feet
<b>Trailhead Elevation:</b>	9,900 feet
<b>Elevation Gain:</b>	4,300 feet
<b>Round-trip Length:</b>	8.75 miles
<b>Trailhead:</b>	Denny Creek
<b>County Sheriff:</b>	Chaffee: 719-539-2596
<b>National Forest:</b>	San Isabel
<b>Wilderness Area:</b>	Collegiate Peaks
<b>Author:</b>	BillMiddlebrook
<b>Last Updated:</b>	August, 2008

**Trailhead:** From U.S. 24 in the center of Buena Vista, take the County 306 road towards Cottonwood Pass. Drive 12 miles on this road to reach the Denny Creek Trailhead and paved parking area on the right.

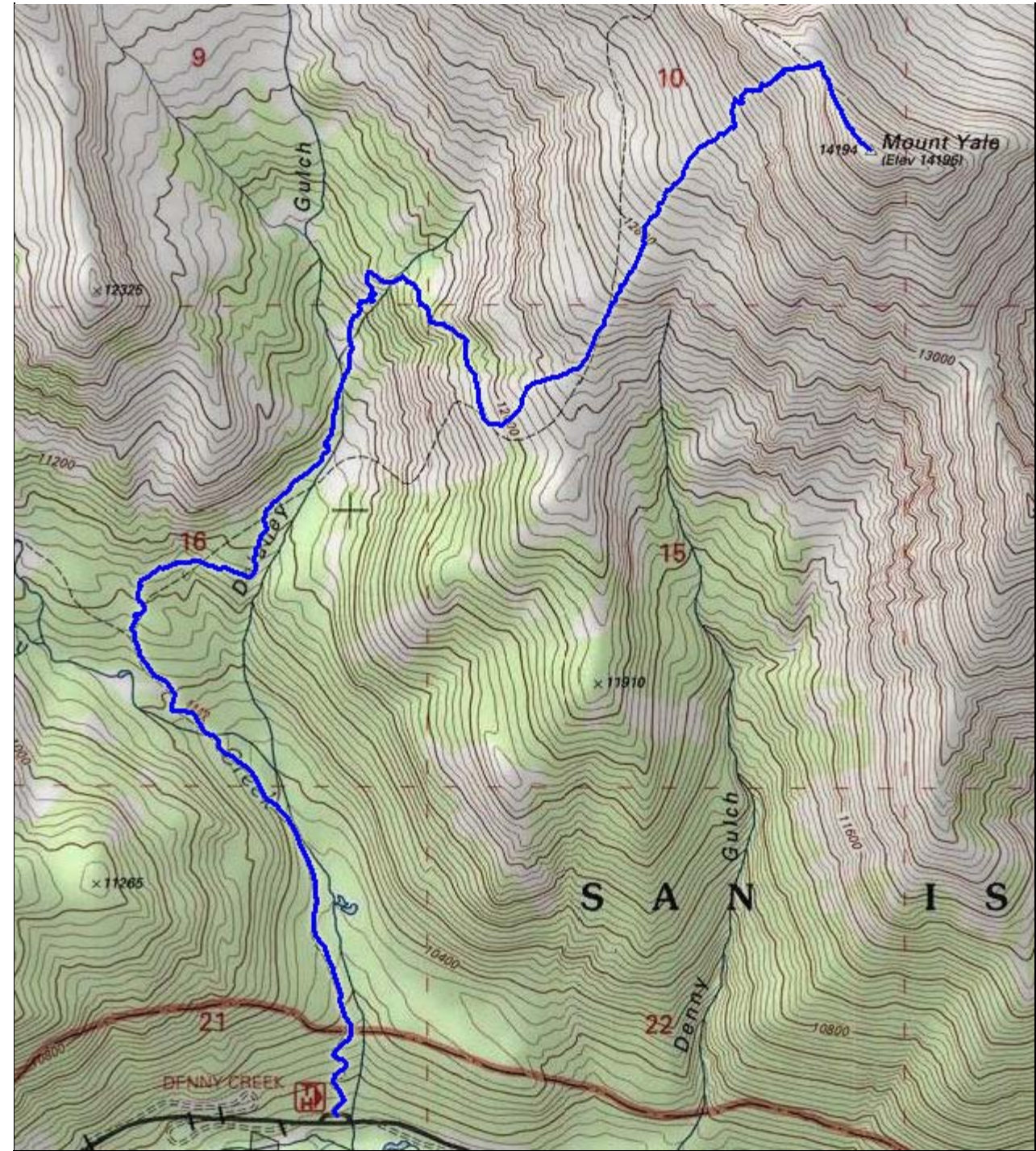
**Details:** **Photo #1** shows the upper route, seen from the 306 road. From the middle of the parking area, follow the trail north into the forest. After 1 mile, cross the Denny Creek stream on a log bridge. Near 1.25 miles from the trailhead, locate the Mt. Yale trail that turns up to the right - **Photo #2**. There is a sign at this trail junction - straight is for Browns Pass/Hartenstein Lake and right is for Mt. Yale. Turn right and proceed up the Mt. Yale trail. Weave through the forest and eventually parallel the stream in Delaney Gulch.

Near 11,200', cross the Delaney Gulch stream on a log bridge - **Photo #3**. Shortly after some small meadows, the trail climbs steeply up a hillside. From 11,300' to 11,900', hike northeast and then east through the forest. Leave the trees at 12,000' and continue east as the trail approaches a large shoulder - **Photo #4**. Once on the shoulder, the trail turns northeast toward Yale's upper west slopes. Much of the remainder of the route is now visible - **Photo #5** and **Photo #6**. Continue northeast on the solid, gravel-covered trail. Near 13,200', begin the steep climb up the slope left of the summit - **Photo #7**. Grind up 750' of elevation gain to reach the saddle at the top of the slope (13,960').

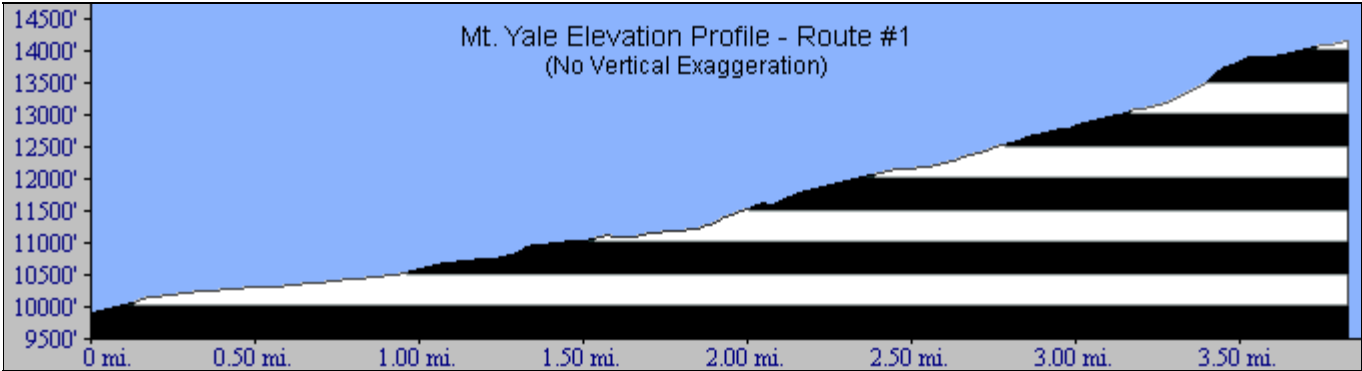
Turn right (southeast) to see the ridge that leads the summit - **Photo #8**. Climb up into the rocks and the trail quickly disappears but cairns often show the way. Scramble along the ridge crest or work your way along the right side. Take your time and you will find an easy way through any difficulties. **Photo #9** was taken along the ridge and **Photo #10** just before the summit. Continue to the spacious summit. **Photo #11**, **Photo #12** and **Photo #13** were taken from the top.

**Notes:** Yale has a trail to 13,900'. The last 1.5 miles to the summit is steep and slow going. **IMPORTANT:** This route enters the **Collegiate Peaks Wilderness** area. Wilderness areas have special regulations and restrictions for party size, dispersed camping, campfires, etc. Also, dog owners should read the wilderness information carefully because some wilderness areas prohibit dogs to be off-leash and/or limit how close dogs can be to lakes and streams. If you have questions about the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness area, please contact a U.S. Forest Service office for the National Forest(s) listed above.

**Topo map of the route:** (Did you know?)

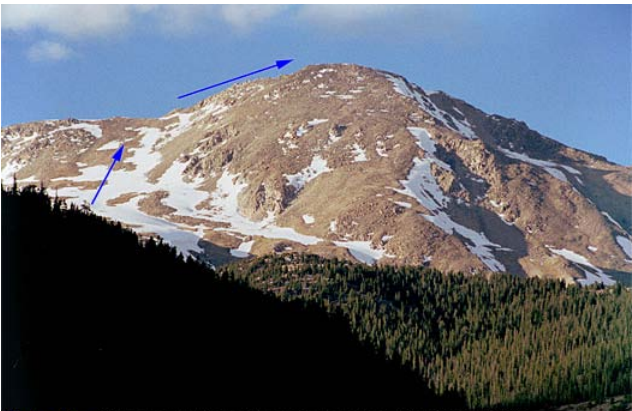


Elevation profile: (Did you know?)



Route Photos: (Did you know?)





**Photo #1:** The upper portion of the route seen from County Road 306.



**Photo #2:** Turn right on the smaller trail to Mt. Yale.



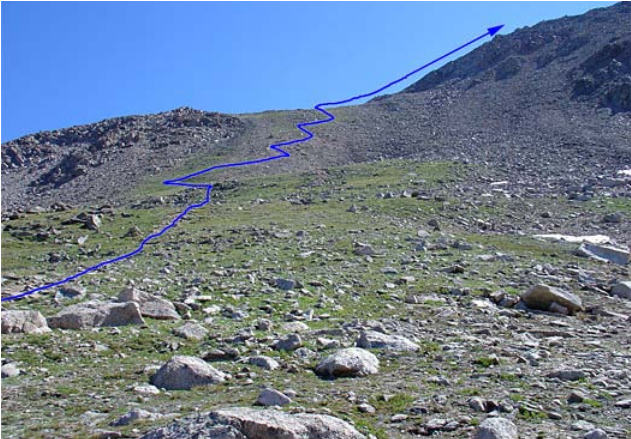
**Photo #3:** The stream crossing near 11,200'.



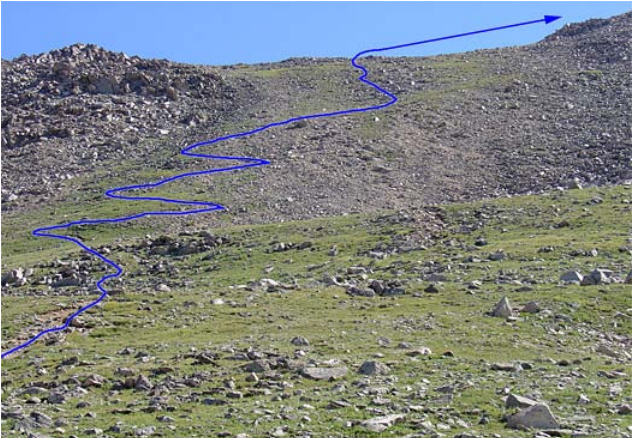
**Photo #4:** After leaving the forest, cross this flat area near 12,000'.



**Photo #5:** Near 12,100' just south of the trail, viewing the remaining hike to the summit ridge.



**Photo #6:** The upper route seen from 12,800' on the shoulder.



**Photo #7:** At 13,000', just below the steep slope.



**Photo #8:** The summit ridge seen from 13,900' on the saddle. The summit is not yet visible.





Photo #9: On the summit ridge.



Photo #10: Still on the summit ridge.



Photo #11: Looking west from the top.



Photo #12: On the summit, looking north to Mt. Harvard and Mt. Columbia (right).



Photo #13: Viewing Mt. Princeton (left of center) to the south.