Browns Canyon WSA Northern Trails

Designated trails in Browns Canyon WSA are accessed from this trailhead. Signing is in place, but these trails may be difficult to follow. The Nathrop USGS topographic map or a GPS device is recommended. Consider taking a digital photograph of this panel’s map to help guide you. Cell phone service is not reliable throughout this system. Review distances and estimated travel times (below) to plan a comfortable, safe trip.

If you have just a few hours, consider going to the river at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Creek. Leave the designated trail before it climbs out of the gulch and follow the dry creek bed to its junction with the river. Please do not trespass on private property north of the mouth or use unsigned trails. Do not return to the trailhead via the river — this is private land.

If you choose to hike on either 6045A or 6045B be aware that there is no connecting trail along the river and going off-trail is not recommended due to steep and rocky terrain.

**Turret Trail to FR184 or Catkin Gulch Loop** are beautiful but strenuous 11-mile hikes. These should be attempted with adequate preparation and confidence in all hikers’ fitness. See sidebar for specifics.

---

**Route and estimated hiking times**

- **Round trip to river at Little Cottonwood via 6045**: 2.7 miles, 2 hrs
- **Round trip in the river on 6045A**: 5.5 miles, 3 hrs
- **Round trip to the river on 6045B**: 9 miles, 4.5 hrs
- **Round trip including Catkin Gulch Loop**: 11.5 miles, 5 hrs
- **Round trip HWY 70 to WSA Boundary/FR184**: 11 miles, 5 hrs

![Map of Browns Canyon WSA Northern Trails](image_url)

*The Turret Trail 6045 en route to the Arkansas River at Little Cottonwood Creek is a steep but short 2-mile round trip introduction to the WSA with wide views of its northern half.*

*The 4.5-mile "in and out" hike along the gentle dead-end River Bench Trail 6045A provides a good sample of the northern WSA with an Arkansas River overview.*

*The 11.5-mile Catkin Gulch Loop 6046 round trip via the Turret Trail 6045 goes deep into the WSA for a fuller experience of its wilderness character.*

---