

## Williams Lake Trail #62

*Type: Out & Back*

*Length: 2 miles one-way*

*Difficulty: Easy to Intermediate*

*Elevation Gain: 900 ft.*

*Trail Beginning: 10,200 ft.*

*Trail Ending: 11,100 ft.*

### **Access:**

The Williams Lake trailhead parking is located 2 miles up the valley from the ski resort base area. From the upper level parking lot (Coyote), take Twining Road approx. 2 miles and follow the signs to the trailhead. This is a good dirt road, but winter access requires an all wheel drive or 4-wheel drive vehicle.

### **Trail Description:**

It is about two miles to Williams Lake which is at an elevation of 11,000 feet. Follow the trail from hiker parking and walk up and under the chairlift. Follow signs for Williams Lake. The trail will follow the west side of Lake Fork Creek for a bit. A sign marks the trail entering the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. The trail is now located in Engelmann spruce stand and near the upper end opens up into meadowland and scattered rock fields. Williams Lake is a natural lake which does not have fish because it's often too shallow to maintain a fish population and freezes in the winter. Camping and campfires are not permitted along the lakeshore to prevent damage to soil and water quality. Please select a campsite at least 300 feet from streams, springs, or lakes.

Wheeler Peak is on the ridge line east of the lake and can be reached by way of the Wheeler Summit Trail #67 (2.2 mi. one-way) which intersects the Williams Lake Trail at the high point before descending to the lake. You will see a post marking the junction. Technical rock climbing gear is not needed. Several avalanche chutes are apparent along the trail. Winter travelers should be alert to avalanche hazards.

Please stop at the trailhead kiosk to learn about any warnings or hazards before your hike. Information about high elevation hiking, animal awareness and basic guidelines are posted as well.

*Visit*

Taos Ski Valley

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