



MP: 243:
The Summit



Route	Mile Marker	X	Y	Longitude	Latitude
¹ U. S. Highway 40	243	433428.22	4405599.95	-105.777603	39.797756

There is so much Colorado history associated with Berthoud Pass and the Summit, that the author has listed only some of them here. Others are found in different sections of the Auto Tour. For those listed here, click on that link, for additional information.

[The History of the Buildings of Berthoud Pass](#)

The photos of the buildings on the top of the Pass are a useful tool for dating activities in the photos.

The first building was a tollgate, followed by two shelters, and then the Lodge which was removed in 2005. Today the US Forest service provides a restroom for the many visitors to the Summit.



[Signs and Monuments of the Pass](#)

Photographs of the various signs and monuments found on the Pass are another useful tool for dating the photos and the activities in the photos.



¹ Taken from the Colorado Department of Transportation's website:
<http://apps.coloradodot.info/dataaccess/Highways/index.cfm?fuseaction=HighwaysMain>

The Chauncey Thomas Monument is across U. S. Highway 40 from the parking area and should be visited. More information about this monument can be found in the MP 238 – 239: Grand View section.



[The Ditch on Berthoud Pass](#)

The Berthoud Pass Ditch predates the U. S. Forest Service on Berthoud Pass. The ditch now belongs to the City of Northglenn. Understanding the history of the ditch is important for understanding the importance of water in the west.



Ski History of Berthoud Pass:

Many books and articles have been written about Colorado's Ski History at Berthoud Pass. There are also several excellent websites available. Since so much has already been written the author has decided to just refer the reader to other sources.



2.

One of the best is the Grand County Historical Association and their History Shop. This includes excellent books on skiing of the area, plus many others on Grand County's History. <http://www.grandcountymuseum.com/GiftShop.htm>

Colorado Ski History website:
<http://www.coloradoskihistory.com/lost/bpass.html>



3.

For background on the general history of skiing in Colorado an excellent book is: [A History of Skiing in Colorado](#) by Abbott Fay
Published by Western Reflections, Inc. Montrose, Colorado Copyright: 2000, 2003

The Continental Divide Trail

In 1978, Congress designated the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). The design of the 3,100 mile long primitive trail is to take the hiker from Canada to Mexico along the “backbone of America” or atop the Continental Divide.

The CDT crosses U.S. Highway 40 at Berthoud Pass. For more information about the trail click on: <http://www.cdtrail.org>



The Weather Station of Berthoud Pass

There are several weather stations on Berthoud Pass. Each weather station serves a different purpose, but they all collect temperature, and humidity. Others record wind speed and wind direction. One records the snow depth every twenty-four hours along with the weight of the snow and moisture content, which are important tools in avalanche forecasting.



What is an avalanche?

Avalanches are an important part of Berthoud Pass’s history. Information about each avalanche path that hits U. S. Highway 40 has been included. This information along with the section called “[What is an avalanche](#)” has been written by Ray Mumford.

Ray has worked for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) since 1974 and has been involved in the Avalanche program since 1975. He began as a Gunner on various artillery weapons in Region 1, which includes the Berthoud Pass and Loveland Pass areas. From 1993 to today, he trains CDOT gun crews using explosive devices for avalanche control across the State. In 2001, Ray became the Avalanche Coordinator for Region 1. In 2007, he retired from CDOT but returned in the fall to conduct training on all the avalanche control devices used by CDOT to crews across the State and continues to help with the avalanche control program in Region 1.





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[The White-tailed ptarmigan](#)

The White-tailed ptarmigan is a beautiful bird that lives in the Rocky Mountains. Sometimes, although rare, it can be seen on the mountains around the summit of the Pass.

The photos in this section have been provided by members of the Colorado Field Ornithologist (CFO).

Just a little bit more about the Midland Trail Auto Road:

The story of the men who built the first automobile road over Berthoud Pass is an amazing one. Some of the story is told in the section called “[The History of U. S. Highway 40](#)” but it does not include information about the workcamps where they lived during the construction project. That information is provided here.



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Photo Log:

1. Denver Public Library
2. Grand County Historical Association Collection
3. Grand County Historical Association Collection
4. Colorado School of Mines student team
5. Colorado Department of Transportation: Avalanche Program
6. Thomas W. Wilberding
7. Federal Highway Administration