

Southern Rockies

some free gold was reported in a thick copper-stained quartz vein. A pile of ruined log buildings, a concentrator, a trestle and a tunnel lie in a tumbled heap at the site.

Another 100 m past the mining debris the road ends at elevation 1950 m (6400 ft.). There are two ways to reach the Mause Creek tarns from the end of the road. I like to head straight ahead (east) and follow the trail north up the scenic alpine valley. A trickling creek is on your right as you head in the meadow and the moist earth makes the trail a little vague in places. When the trail bends to the left, it is well worn and defined as it ascends an alpine larch slope. The distance from the trail junction to the tarns via the alpine meadow route is 2.2 km.

The other trail to the tarns is only 1.2 km from the end of the road. It is shorter but not nearly as picturesque as it travels in a mature forest. Instead of heading straight ahead at the end

of the road, a switchback on the left (east) leads to the forest trail. (I like to travel this forested trail on the way back down. To find it from the western Mause Creek tarn continue heading west and locate a defined trail going downhill.)

Once at the Mause Creek tarns, enjoy the stillness and lush meadows before heading north up the boulder trail to Tanglefoot Pass. This access cannot be easily seen while standing on the boulder slope. Locate the pass slightly east-of-north (NNE) of the tarns and look for an indistinct diagonal trail heading up the talus to the right. If you do not find the path, climb the rocky slope and intersect the trail as you travel straight up on the rocks. Do not scramble too far right as that route is too steep. The route climbs 183 m (600 ft.) to the pass in 0.9 km.

At the pass, the boulder trail descends to the right (east) toward a narrow gully. Bright orange triangles



Hikers climbing the boulder trail between the Mause Creek tarns and Tanglefoot Lake.