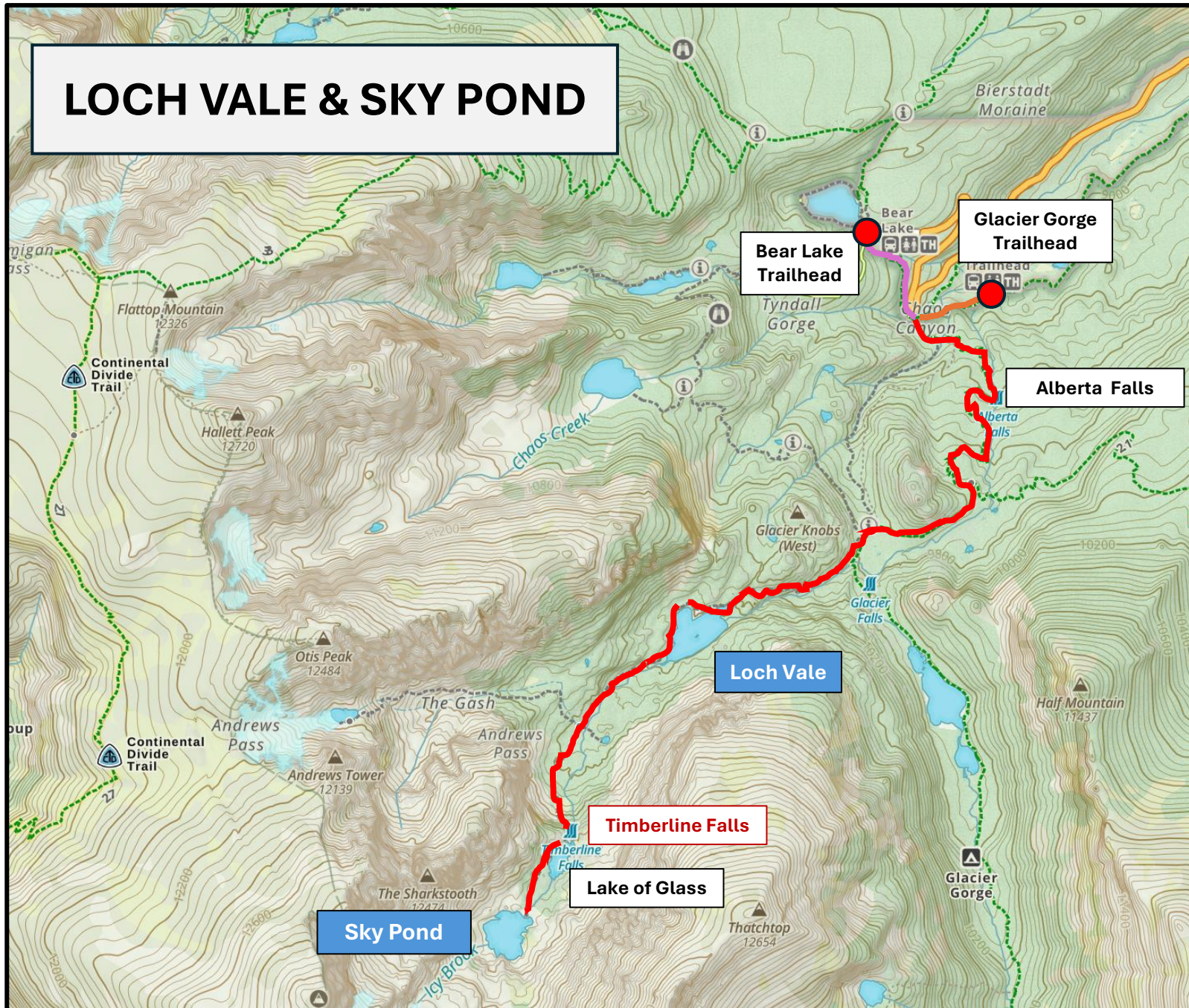


Loch Vale & Sky Pond Trip Report



Rocky Mountain National Park
July, 2024

LOCH VALE & SKY POND



Glacier Gorge TH Bear Lake TH

Alberta Falls	.8 miles	1 mile
Loch Vale	2.8 miles	3.1 miles
Timberline Falls	4.0 miles	4.3 miles
Sky Pond	4.3 miles	4.5 miles

- Starting at Glacier Gorge TH is easier
 - 500 yards shorter
 - Avoids up-hill death march at end-of-day
 - Parking lot fills by 0530 (Bear by 0630)

- Loch Vale
 - Well maintained trail
 - Like using a stepper for 3 miles
 - Sight fishing to greenback cutthroats

- Sky Pond
 - Well maintained trail, very steep at places
 - Up & over Timberline Falls
 - Laker Brook Trout

LOCH VALE



Walking well maintained trails to get to this



LOCH VALE

To Catch
These



GREENBACK CUTTHROATS



- Only found in this watershed (hybrids elsewhere)
- 8-16 inches (larger in deep water)
- Cruising the shallows – dry fly sight fishing
- React, investigate, and refuse almost anything
- Will take small beetles, ants, other dries
- Feeding on micro (#24-26) white larva or emerger

The Challenge and the Fun

- Solving the Puzzle . . . What will they eat?
 - Constant rises, passes, refusals ... continuous activity
- Few back-cast friendly areas
 - Roll casts or side (parallel) casts (6-15')
 - *“The bristle-cone pines never give up your flies . . .”*

Recommendations

- Fun (and successful) Technique:
 - Walk shoreline, spot fish, cast to side or off-line
 - Scan the water 1-3 feet from shore
- Summer > Fall

LOCH VALE



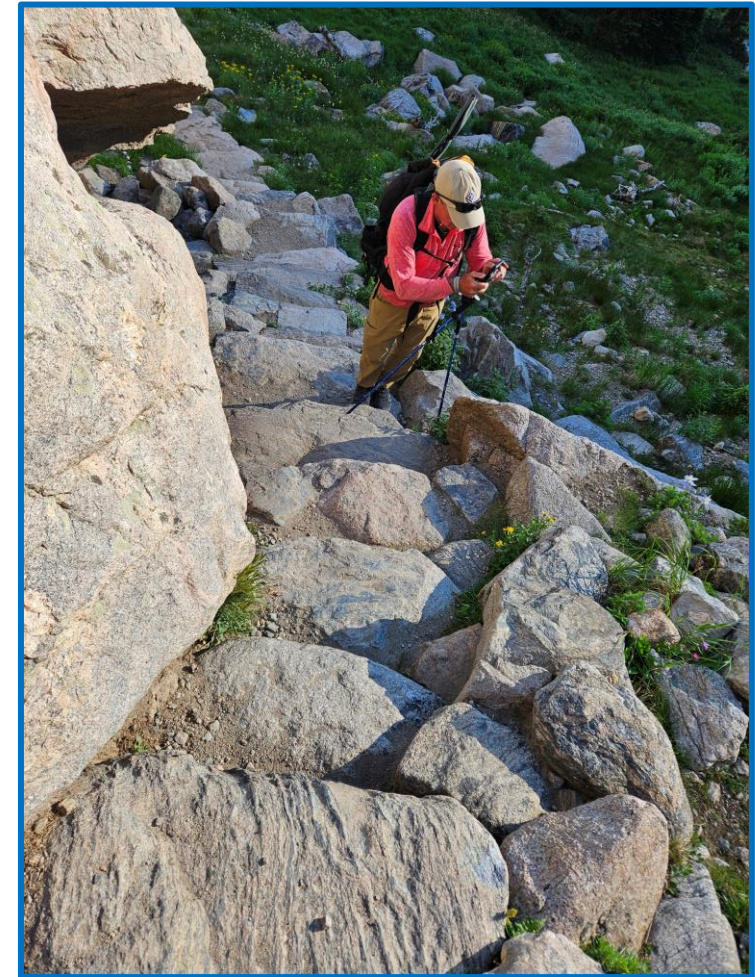
Next Time:

3wt, 7' Rod

If you go:

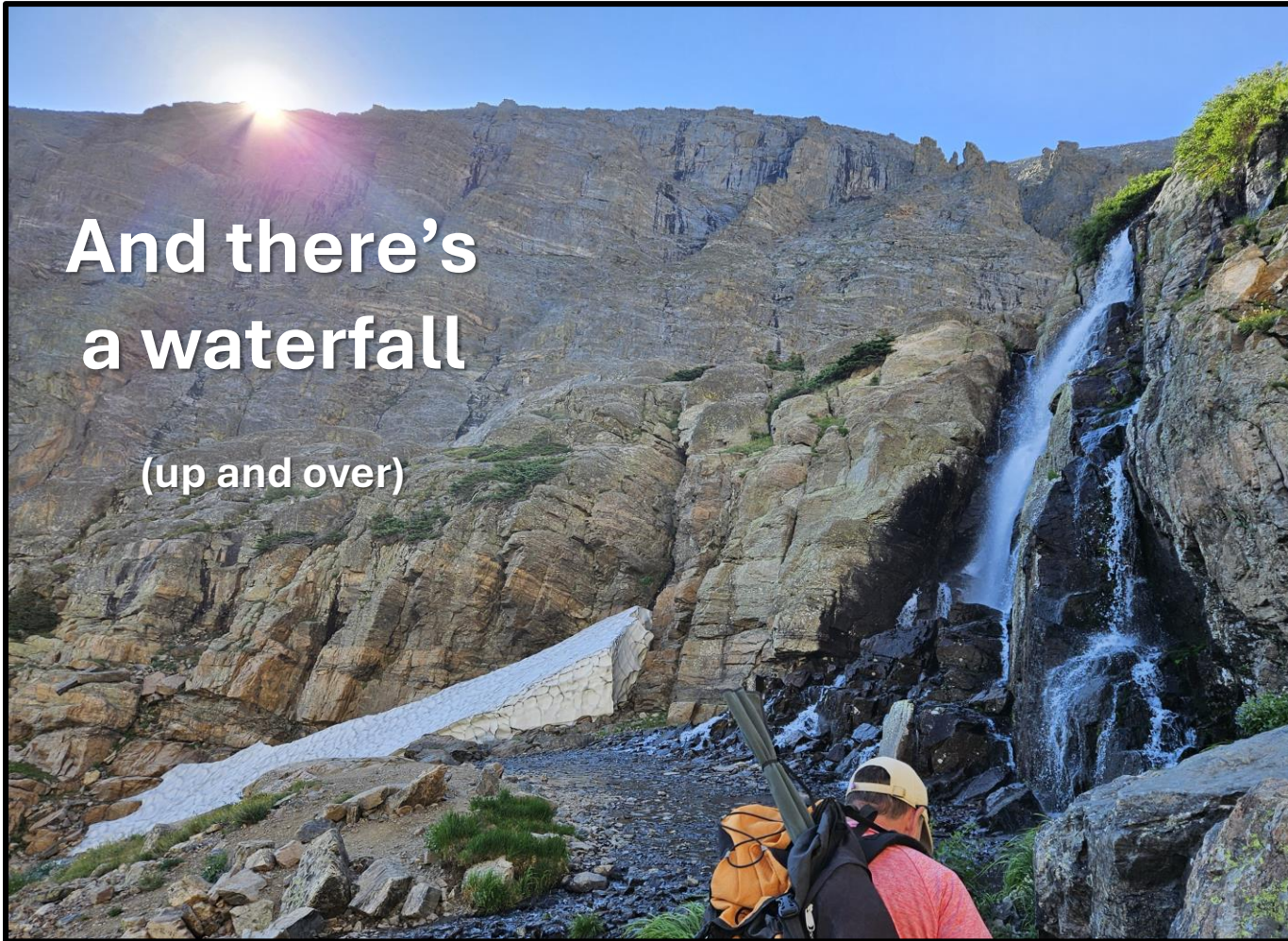
*See previous trip reports or
talk to me for more insights*

SKY POND



A mile-and-a-half beyond Loch Vale

Well maintained trail, but steep / very steep in places



And there's
a waterfall

(up and over)

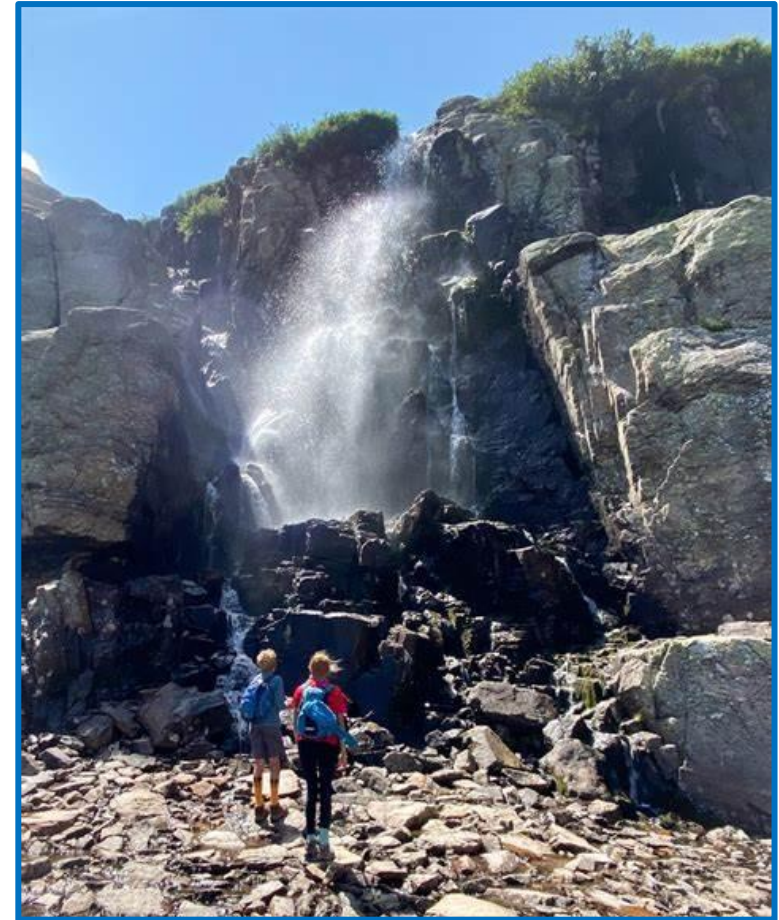


Photo Credit - Gretchen Stuppy Carlson
Chasing ADVNTR Travel

**One of the most spectacular visual hikes I've ever done
and one of the most challenging hikes I've done at RMNP (the Falls)**



SKY POND



SKY POND – IF YOU WANT TO GO

- Watch the 2023 Nick Sangetta video (parts embedded in our video)
- Do your research

“Sky Pond in NO JOKE. It’s hard, steep and stairly. It’s moderate until the Loch. Then it gets tougher and tougher to the Waterfall. Waterfall is scary but doable.”

All Trails review

- Make your own call