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Peak Review: Mount Kelso (Elevation 13,164-feet) (http://getoffourplanet.com/?p=2259)

By
Murray

– October 31, 2010 Posted in: [Mountaineering \(http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=49\)](http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=49), [Nature \(http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=51\)](http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=51), [Nature Photography \(http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=220\)](http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=220), [Nature and the Outdoors \(http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=11\)](http://getoffourplanet.com/?cat=11)



A few miles east of Colorado's Loveland Pass on I-70 is the Bakerville exit, and access to some great hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. My wife and I have done all three multiple times. Besides access to the popular trail head for the 14-er duo of Grays and Torreys peaks, the area also has a few other shorter, but still inviting mountains worth climbing. The one that's been attracting my attention for a few years now is Mount Kelso. With short notice and rapidly changing October weather we decided to finally check it off our list.

• CURRENT THOUGHTS...

It's pretty disappointing lately seeing people in this country show their true colors. Normally that's a good thing, but in this case it's incredibly depressing seeing the anger, hatred, fear, and darkness in so many people's hearts. I think so much less of our country than I did ten months ago. Thanks, Trump, you human sack of garbage (said in a calm, loving way, haha). But, I suppose it's unfair to point the blame at one person. We did this to ourselves, and the carnage we are seeing now, along with the ugliness of our fellow citizens is who we are. This is the consequence of decades of ignorance and poor influences. God help us.

• WANT TO COMMENT OR CONTACT ME?

I'll keep comments on new articles open for a week. More than that and I'll have too much spam to wade through. You can also contact me on my Facebook public profile. I want to know what you think. (facebook.com/murray.a.neill) Thanks for visiting!

• LINKS OF INSPIRATION

- [Blabbermouth \(http://www.roadrunnerrecords.com/blabbermouth\)](http://www.roadrunnerrecords.com/blabbermouth)
- [Defenders Of Wildlife \(http://www.defenders.org/\)](http://www.defenders.org/)
- [High Country News \(http://www.hcn.org/\)](http://www.hcn.org/)
- [Population Connection \(http://www.populationconnection.org/\)](http://www.populationconnection.org/)
- [Sierra Club \(http://www.sierraclub.org/\)](http://www.sierraclub.org/)
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<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-005.jpg>

The north side of Kelso looks much more interesting than the east side (pictured), but also crosses some private property. Easier routes can be found on the east side using the first part of the Grays/Torreys trail.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-009.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-006.jpg>

The route we took went through an old mining claim, complete with mine tunnels, excavated piles of rock, a collapsed living structure, and many rusty, discarded steel cans of what once probably held food, as well as broken glass and ceramics. While trash this old is kind of neat from an antique point of view, it still is pathetic.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-002.jpg>

It didn't take long before we noticed a herd of mountain goats near the ridge in the far distance.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-014.jpg>

One partially excavated mine entrance that must not have yielded anything worth further digging.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-018.jpg>

This lone mountain goat was hanging out for a while on the ridge directly above us.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-021.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-023.jpg>

The original route we picked to go up, which looked easy from the distance, ended up being a nightmare. It wasn't incredibly steep, but the rock was just too loose, and the warming snow made it too slick.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-024.jpg>

Here is Rhiannon, who tried to avoid the snow and loose rock, opting for more solid, yet equally challenging rock climbing.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-025.jpg>

At some point we both felt our routes were too dangerous and we reluctantly decided to climb back down.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-024.jpg>

Had we not climbed back down we would have missed a couple mine entrances. This one actually had ore cart train tracks going into it.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-054.jpg>

Rhiannon found this interesting, purple specimen on one of the mine heaps.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-026.jpg>

By the time we got down off the rough stuff we didn't know if we'd have time to make the summit from a different route, but we just started walking south until we came to these grassy, gradual slopes. From there we just started heading up. Grays and Torreys are in the background.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-027.jpg>

The goat herd visible again, we counted as many as seventeen.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-030.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-029.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-041.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-034.jpg>



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-043.jpg>



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<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-045.jpg>

The entire east side of Kelso is flanked by a long, impressive ridge leading up to Ganley Mountain. I will traverse this one day.



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-036.jpg>

On top!



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-2-10-17-10-047.jpg>

Rhiannon posing with Grays and Torreys



<http://getoffourplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Mt.-Kelso-10-17-10-038.jpg>

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2 Comments



1. Janet

Posted October 31, 2010 at 6:52 PM

Keep 'em coming. Interesting reading about your travels. Love the beard!



2. [Tommy Krenshaw](http://freedomguerrilla.com) (<http://freedomguerrilla.com>)

Posted November 1, 2010 at 7:27 PM

What camera are you using?

And... shorts? You're a badass.

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