

Cromel Branch Hut via Mt Bee Bunkrooms, Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park

It's possible to drive 2WD more than half the distance to Cromel Base Hut, leaving a two-hour walk to the hut nestled in the trees.

From the hut, a steep track climbs to the tops where a short poled section begins and briefly joins the Mt Bee 4WD track which connects to the Irthing Road through private land.

The Mt Bee Bunkrooms are a convenient place to have a snack, before following the track north.

The views over Southland and the Eyre Mountains are spectacular and make a nice backdrop for the day's walk. It's worth making the five-minute side trip to Pt1246 as the view is even better from there. The track continues down the ridge past Pt1203, giving access to Irthing, Upper Cromel and Cromel Branch Huts.

From the saddle between Irthing and Cromel streams, the track heads west and descends to the Upper Cromel Hut Route trail. The scrub is thinner here and quick progress can be made. From the track junction at Cromel Stream, it takes about 15 minutes to reach Cromel Branch Hut.

The route out follows a tributary of Cromel Stream for a few kilometres, climbing to a saddle. The trail then heads up over a 795m high point and along the tops before dropping back to Cromel Stream. The track can be a little soggy, and you have to be cautious not to follow deceptive game trails.

The descent to Cromel Stream overgrown and punctuated by some large treefall. After a couple of hours, the track crosses a stream, and from there, it's 1km to Cromel Base Hut.

Wild file

Access Through Five Rivers Station or the Mt Bee 4WD track

Grade Moderate

Time Two days. Five Rivers homestead bridge to Cromel Base Hut, 2hr; To Cromel Branch Hut via Mt Bee Bunkrooms, 6hr; To homestead bridge, 4hr

Distance 30.9km

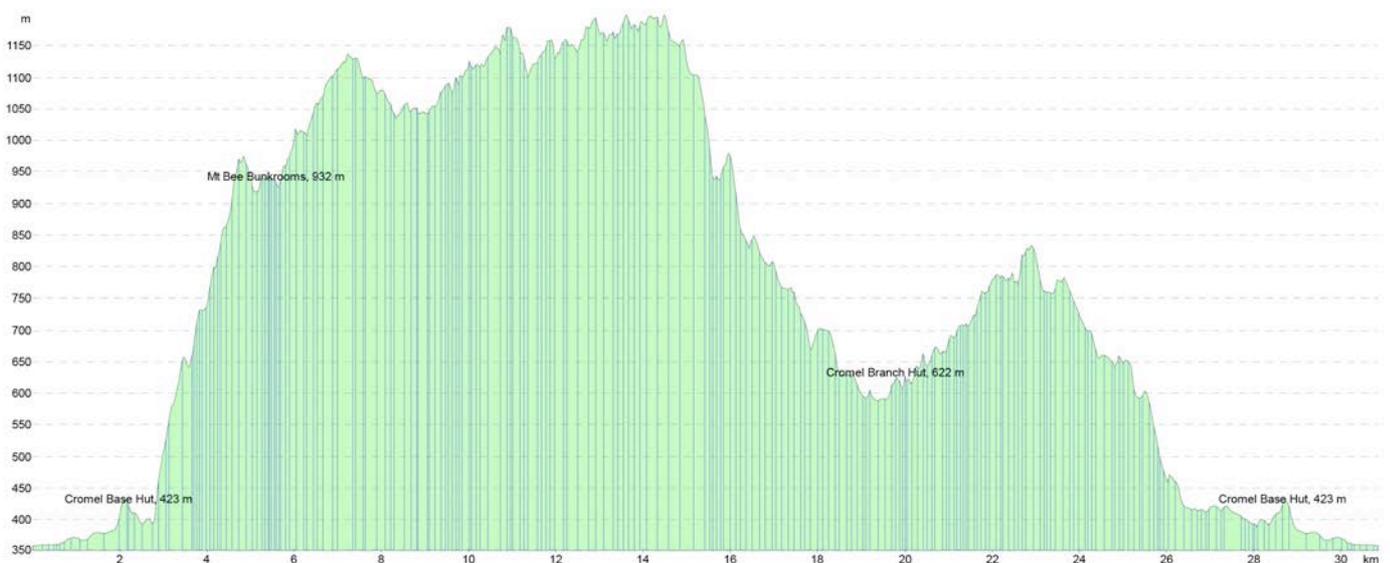
Total ascent 2044m

Accommodation Cromel Base Hut (free, six bunks), Mt Bee Bunkrooms (free, eight bunks), Cromel Branch Hut (free, four bunks)

Map CD10

Further information Access via Mt Bee 4WD track by foot or vehicle. Approval must be sought from the landowner at least two days prior. P: 027 444 6823. Access through Five Rivers Station may be arranged with DOC Invercargill P: 03 211 2400

Elevation Profile



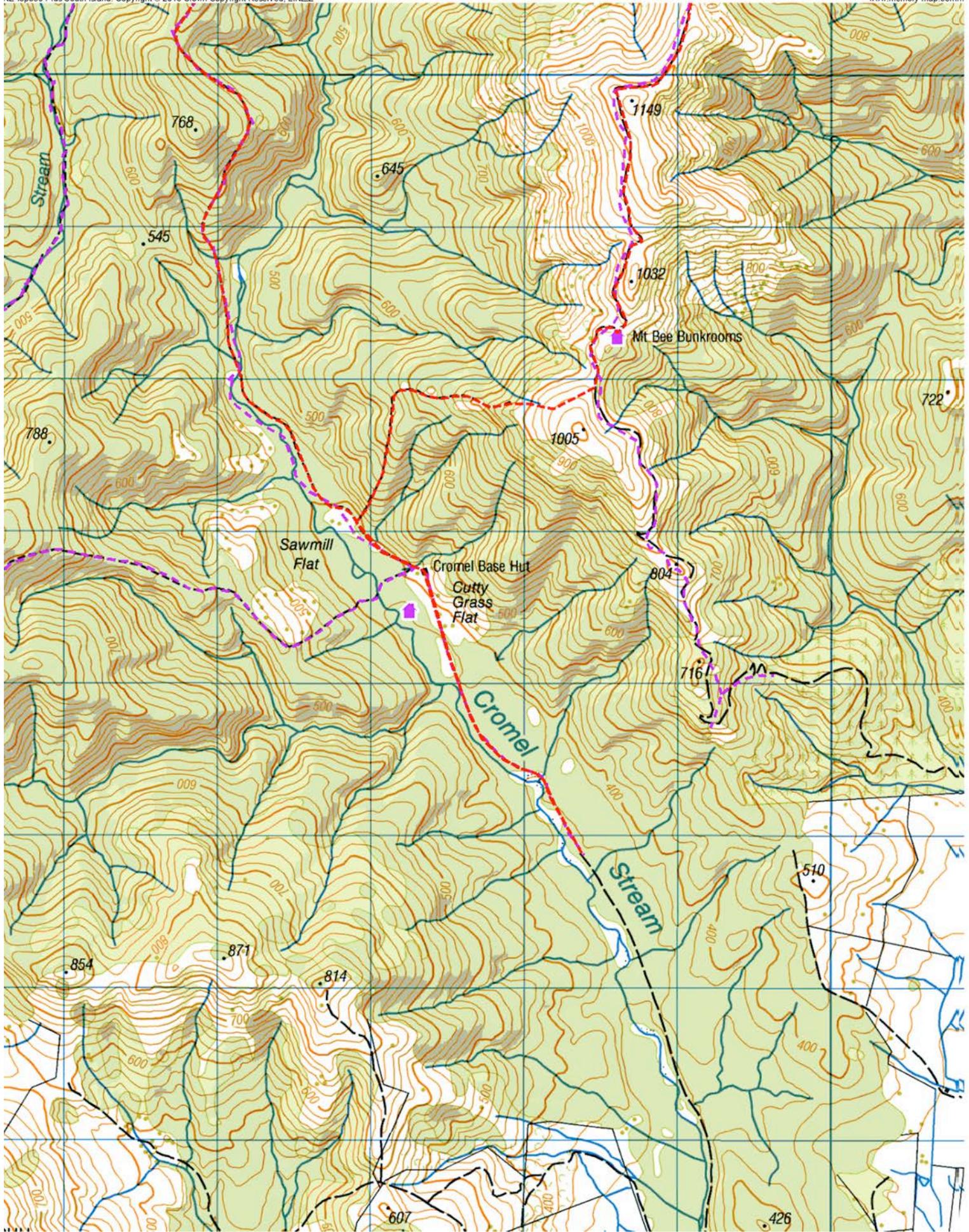
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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. **The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route.** Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

Cromel Branch Hut via Mt Bee Bunkrooms, Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park. MAP 1 and 3

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Cromel Branch Hut via Mt Bee Bunkrooms, Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park. MAP 2

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