

50 highest ultramajor
mntns in U.S.

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From: Steve Fry <sfj@wolffenet.com>
To: martin@mmsi.com
Subject: 50 Highest Ultramajor Mtns in U.S.
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Hi Andy,

I talked to you approximately a year ago about my list of the 50 highest ultramajor mountains in the United States. I produced the list in 1990 and 1991. Based on some info provided in your e-mails this year, it appears, without further study, that there are some discrepancies that need resolving.

My list of the 50 highest ultramajor mountains in the U.S. is provided below. I'm interested in a review of the accuracy of the table, and also the top 5 or 10 ascent leaders regarding this list. I've climbed Adams (1972), Rainier (1982), Elbert and Whitney (1986), and Mauna Kea (1993). I made a feeble attempt with my family on San Geronio in 1992 and did extensive field reconnaissance of Charleston Peak in May 1998. When I get more time away from my full-time job, family of 5, house and local mountain research projects, I plan to ascend many more of these mountains.

The 50 Highest Ultramajor Mountains in the United States

(Mountains with at least 5000 feet prominence above ridge-level)

As determined by Steve Fry from current topo maps, copyright Steve Fry 1991

Rank	Name	Height (ft)	State	USGS Quadrangle
1	Mt. McKinley	20320	AK	Mt. McKinley, A-3
2	Mt. Saint Elias	18008	AK@	Mt. St. Elias, B-8
3	Mt. Foraker	17400	AK	Talkeetna, D-3
4	Mt. Bona	16550#	AK	McCarthy, B-2
5	Mt. Blackburn	16390	AK	McCarthy, C-7
6	Mt. Sanford	16237	AK	Gulkana, A-1
7	Mt. Vancouver	15979	AK@	Mt. St. Elias, B-5
8	Mt. Fairweather	15300	AK@	Mt. Fairweather, D-5
9	Mt. Hubbard	14950	AK@	Mt. St. Elias, B-3
10	Mt. Bear	14831	AK	McCarthy, B-1
11	Mt. Whitney	14491	CA	Mt. Whitney
12	Mt. Elbert	14433	CO	Mt. Elbert
13	Mt. Rainier	14410	WA	Mt. Rainier West
14	Blanca Peak	14345	CO	Blanca Peak
15	White Mountain Peak	14246	CA	White Mtn. Peak
16	Mt. Wrangle	14163	AK	Gulkana, A-1
17	Mt. Shasta	14162	CA	Mt. Shasta
18	Pikes Peak	14110	CO	Pikes Peak
19	Mt. Hayes	13832	AK	Mt. Hayes, C-6
20	Gannett Peak	13804	WY	Gannett Peak
21	Mauna Kea	13796	HW	Mauna Kea
22	Grand Teton	13770	WY	Grand Teton
23	Mt. Cook	13760	AK@	Mt. St. Elias, A-6
24	Mauna Loa	13679	HW	Mauna Loa
25	Kings Peak	13528	UT	Kings Peak

26	Mt. Natazhat	13435	AK	McCarthy, C-1
27	Mt. Marcus Baker	13176	AK	Anchorage, B-2/B-3
28	Cloud Peak	13167	WY	Cloud Peak
29	Wheeler Peak	13063	NV	Wheeler Peak
30	Mt. Crillon	12726	AK	Mt. Fairweather, C-4
31	Mt. Peale	12721	UT	La Sal
32	Borah Peak	12662	ID	Borah Peak
33	Humphreys Peak	12633	AZ	Humphreys Peak
34	Mt. Deborah	12339	AK	Healy, C-1
35	Mt. Adams	12276	WA	Mt. Adams East
36	Diamond Peak	12197	ID	Diamond Peak
37	Delano Peak	12169	UT	Delano Peak ?
38	Ibapah Peak	12087	UT	Ibapah Peak
39	Mt. Drum	12010	AK	Gulkana, A-2
40	Sierra Blanca Peak	11973	NM	Sierra Blanca Pk.
41	Mt. Jefferson	11941	NV	Mt. Jefferson
42	Mt. Nebo	11928	UT	Mona
43	Charleston Peak	11915	NV	Charleston Peak
44	North Schell Peak	11883	NV	North Schell Peak
45	Arc Dome	11773	NV	Arc Dome
46	Mt. Timpanogos	11750	UT	Timpanogos Cave
47	Mt. Russell	11670	AK	Talkeetna, D-4
48	Mt. Ellen	11522	UT	Mt. Ellen
49	San Gorgonio Mtn.	11499	CA	San Gorgonio Mtn.
50	Mt. Torbert	11413	AK	Tyonek, B-7

Notes:

Height is a close estimate, + or - 50 feet.

@ Summit is located on the boundary of Alaska and Canada

All heights can be converted to meters by multiplying the values by 0.3048.

If I publish this table I will credit the main reviewers and anyone who contributes an accepted change to the table.

Apparently, according to Ron T's 6/26/98 e-mail comments in Andy's newsletter, I may have erroneously included Mt. Bear in the table. I will have to recheck the applicable and Canadian topos in this case. Also, for some reason Ron T, et al., didn't include Mt. Vancouver in his 6/26/98 listing, and my elevation and quad for Mt. Bona is different than Ron T's (16421 ft, McCarthy B-1). Again, it has been over 7 years since I've checked the applicable quads, so I'm not sure why our data don't match.

All the peaks in the above list have not likely been climbed by one person. However, such a task is possible for a talented, hardy and dedicated climber.

Back then, and even now, I stopped my prominence determinations when I ran into another ultramajor mountain. It usually doesn't make total sense to say, e.g., that part of Mt. Rainier's prominence terrain includes Mt. Adams. Nonetheless, I think the current greatest prominence research has some value, especially in determining key saddles.

I'm looking forward to your group's comments and input re the 50 highest ultramajor mtns. in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Steve Fry, Edmonds, WA