HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: February, 2003

ENGINE CREEK TRAIL #657

Length: 7.0 miles (11.2 km.)

Use: Light

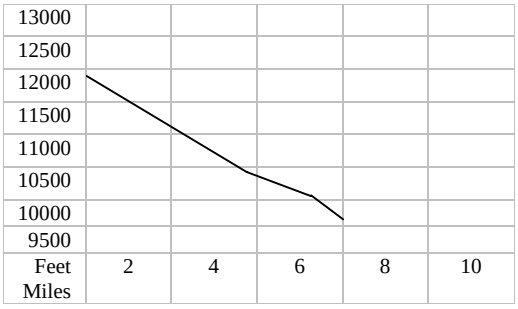
Difficulty: Most difficult
USGS Map (s): Engineer Mountain
(Ophir - optional)

Starting Elevation: 12,200'
Junction Colorado Trail
(Rico-Silverton Trail)
Ending Elevation: 9,600'
Junction with Cascade Creek Trail

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Access #1: Follow U.S. 550 north of Silverton approximately 2 miles. Take a left on Forest Service access road #585 to South Mineral Creek. Go about 2 miles past South Mineral Campground and turn left at the fork in the road. The Rico-Silverton Trail begins at the end of the road. The Engine Creek Trail breaks off to the east about 3 miles up the Rico-Silverton Trail, in an alpine saddle.

Access # 2: Roughly 30 miles north of Durango on U.S. Highway 550, go to the hairpin turn just past Cascade Village. Turn left (west) on Cascade Creek and go to the end of the summer homes. Take the Cascade Creek Trail about 4 miles. The Engine Creek Trail sign marks a turn-off to the right.

Attractions & Considerations:
Getting to the trail from either end involves some preliminary hiking. Therefore, an overnight stay may be helpful. There is a good central location and campsite at timberline where the trail starts down along Engine Creek, along with a beautiful view of Engineer Mountain and Jura Knob. Water is abundant, but purification recommended, to avoid problems with Giardia.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map
Forest Service maps and other publications are available at the Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874.
www.sjma.org