



## HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan  
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Date: February, 2003



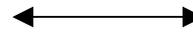
### ICE LAKE TRAIL #505

Length: 4.5 miles (7.2 km.)

Use: Heavy

#### Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Difficulty: Most difficult

USGS Map(s): Ophir

Starting Elevation: 9,840'

Trailhead off FDR #585  
South Mineral Creek

Ending Elevation: 12,260'

Ice Lake

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall



Access #1: Follow U.S. 550 north of Silverton about 2 miles and turn onto FDR #585 (South Mineral Creek). The trailhead is at the entrance of South Mineral Campground. There is limited parking.

#### Attractions & Considerations:

This trail is short and steep. It is uphill all the way to the lake basin. The first half is below timberline and passes through aspen and conifer vegetative zones. Lower Ice Lake is slightly below timberline, at the base of a towering ridgeline. The upper half of the trail switchbacks up a cliff and then levels out when it reaches the basin. Typically the basin is covered by wildflowers in late July and August. This lake basin is surrounded by several peaks, which include Grant Peak, Fuller Peak, and Beatie Peak. As with all areas above timberline, there is little natural shelter from the elements. Storms can move into these areas very rapidly. All water in this area should be filtered for Giardia.



#### Fishing Considerations:

Ice Lake is rated good for brook and cutthroat trout.

#### *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](http://www.sjma.org)