



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



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

**DUTCH CREEK TRAIL #516**

Length: 9.7 miles (14.4 km)

**Use:** Heavy

**Recommended Season**

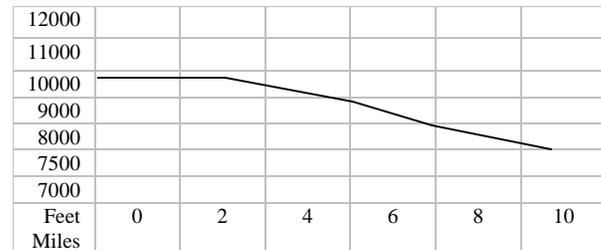
Spring Summer Fall Winter



**Difficulty:** More difficult

**USGS Map (s):** Electra Lake, Elk Creek, Hermosa, and Monument Hill

**Starting Elevation:** 10,200'  
Pinkerton Flagstaff Trail via Durango Mountain Resort (DMR)



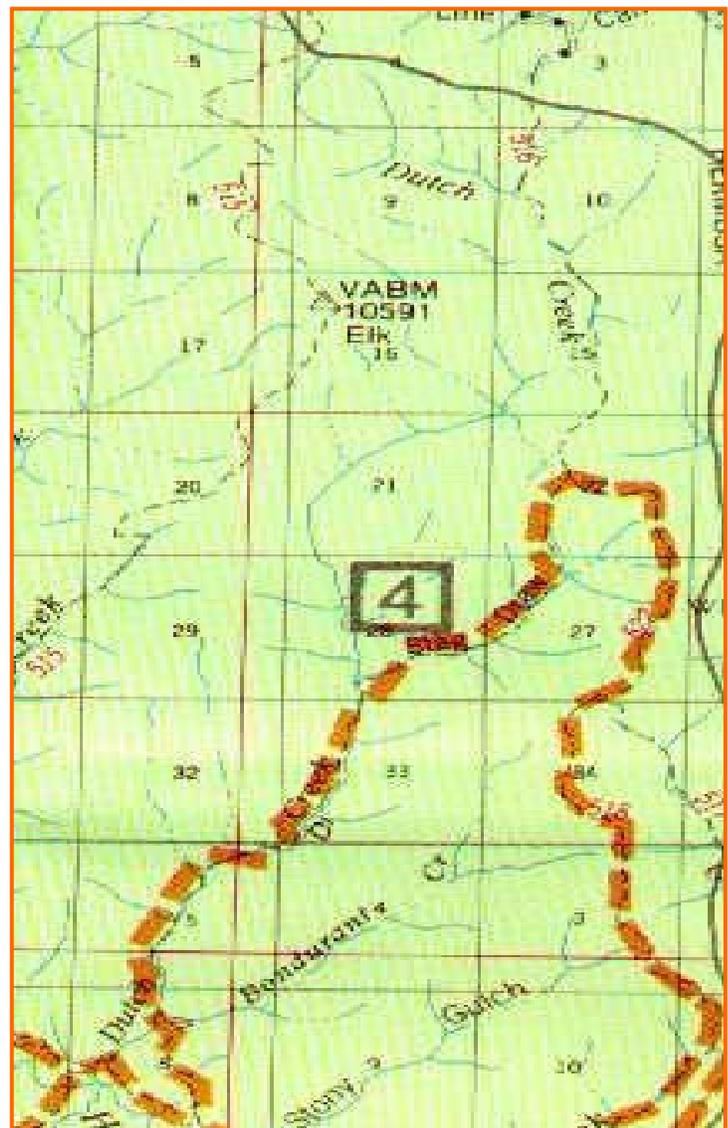
**Ending Elevation:** 8,000'  
Junction with Hermosa Creek Trail

**Recommended Season:** Summer/Fall

**Access #1:** Elbert Creek Road (FDR #581) above DMR, accessible from Hermosa Park Road (FDR #578) off U.S. 550, 26 miles north of Durango, just north of DMR entrance. Follow road to first major turn-off and take a left (FDR #581). Follow FDR #581 just over 8 miles to the trailhead.

**Access #2:** Take Hwy. 550 north 10 miles to Hermosa, turn west on C.R. #201, and keep right. The road will become FDR #576. Follow for about 3 miles. The trailhead, on the north side of the road, has adequate parking.

**Attractions & Considerations :** From access #1, the Dutch Creek Trail starts high and ends low. For the first few miles basically it follows a ridgeline at 10,000 ft. Within 3.5 miles, the trail tops out in open meadows with wide-ranging views to both the east and west. To the west, one can see out over the width of the Hermosa country for a clear view of the La Platas. To the east, one can see the Needle Mountains. Coming down off the ridge, the trail becomes obscure in places, dropping down into Stag Draw. Within two miles, the trail intercepts Dutch Creek and an accessible water supply. Grassy hillsides and a few, fairly open parks along Dutch Creek have the best campsites. Once the trail breaks off at Dutch Creek, access to either water or grazing becomes limited.



*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)