



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

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Updated: February, 2003



BIG BEND TRAIL #519

Use: Light

Difficulty: Most difficult

USGS Map (s): Orphan Butte
Elk Creek

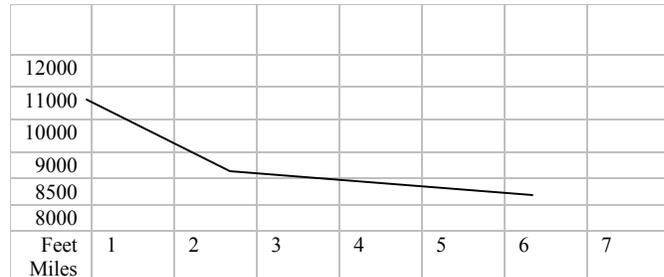
Starting Elevation: 10,600'
Top of Highline Trail

Ending Elevation: 8,400'
Hermosa Creek Trail

Length: 6 miles (9.6 km.)

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Access #1: 28 miles north of Durango on U.S. 550 to Durango Mtn. Resort, turn west to Hermosa Park road. Follow for 10.5 miles to junction with Hotel Draw road. Turn west and follow for approximately 5 miles to Scotch Creek road junction. Directly after the junction is a gate with Highline Trail (Colorado Trail) leading from it. Trail cuts off about 1.5 miles north of Orphan Butte.



Access #2: Access bottom of trail from Hermosa Creek Trail. To reach trailhead for Big Bend, hike approximately 4 miles on Hermosa Creek Trail and cross over the bridge. (See also the description of the Hermosa Creek Trail.)

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

Attractions & Considerations:

This trail would make an excellent loop trail, as would most other trails in the Hermosa Creek drainage. The trail follows a stream except for the top part, which follows a ridge. There are wonderful fishing holes, beautiful views, and several types of wildflowers. You may see elk, coyote, and an occasional bear. Water should always be purified, to avoid problems with Giardia.



Fishing Considerations: Hermosa Creek is rated fair for brook and rainbow trout.