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

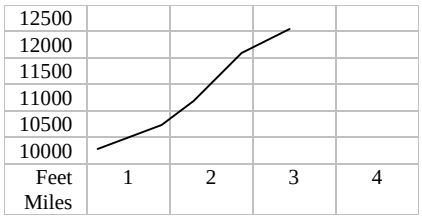
NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: February, 2003

CROSS MOUNTAIN TRAIL #637

Length: 3 miles (4.8 km.)

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



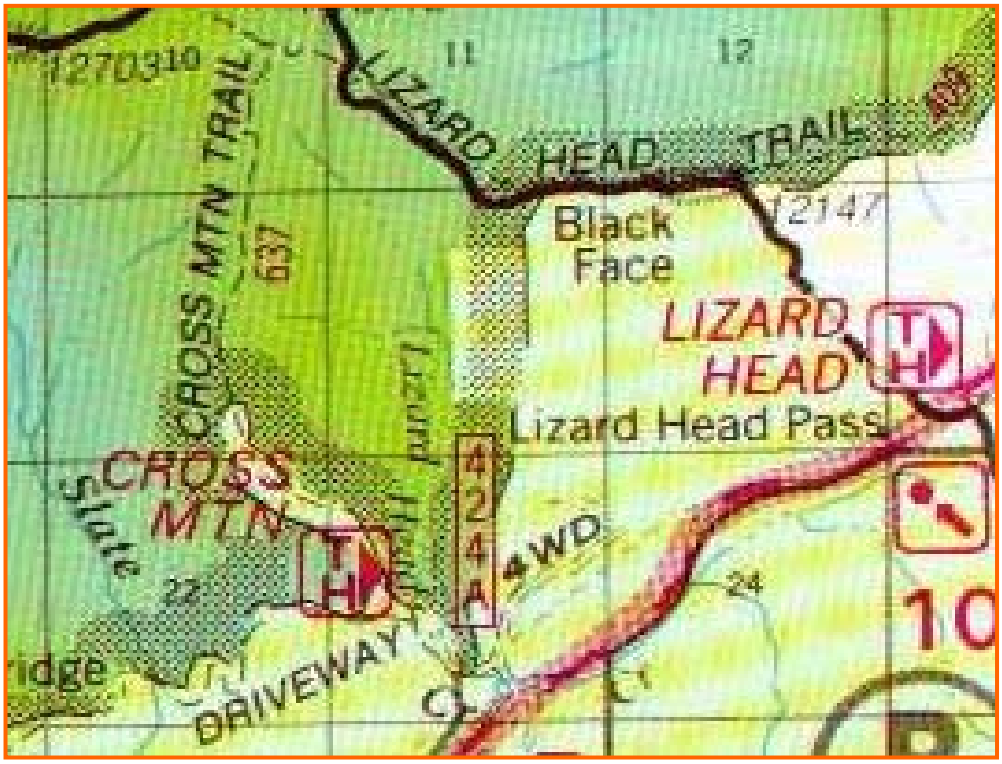
Use: Low Moderate
Difficulty: More difficult
USGS Map (s): Mt. Wilson

Starting Elevation: 10,200'
Ending Elevation: 12,200'

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall

Access: #1 : Proceed north along Colorado State Hwy. 145, 10 miles beyond Rico. Turn west on Forest Service road #424, cross the stream, park, and head up the trail to the left

Attractions & Considerations:
The Cross Mountain Trail gives access to the Lizard Head Wilderness. It is important to remember that within the Wilderness, certain special regulations apply. No motorized or mechanized devices are allowed. This includes: motorbikes, mountain bikes, and chainsaws. Upon leaving a Wilderness campsite, every effort should be made to "renaturalize" the area.



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

The Cross Mountain Trail is open to horses and vigorous hikers who don't mind the more difficult climb and elevation. As you begin this hike, you will find the remains of an old sawmill. After reaching the crest, views of Lizard Head, Mt. Wilson, and El Diente, as well as the Sheep, San Juan, and Rico Mountains, are quite impressive. A wonderful array of wildflowers can be generally viewed among the mountain meadows, including masses of columbine and alpine sunflowers. This trail is an access to the more popular Lizard Head Trail and could be used to make a partial loop trip with it. The first 1½ miles of trail follows an old road, which has been obliterated. It will be years before natural vegetation takes hold and problems with erosion are eliminated.

Wilderness Regulations: Group size is limited to 15 people. A combination of people and livestock must not exceed 25. All livestock feed must be certified weed free. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source unless the campsite is designated or posted. Do not leave campfires unattended. Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land. Dogs must be leashed or under voice control at all times and must not disturb people or wildlife. Shortcutting switchbacks on trails is prohibited. Disposal of human waste and gray water within 100 feet of any water source is prohibited. Trash must be packed out and properly disposed of. Cutting or damaging live trees is prohibited. **Please check trailhead signs or Forest Service Offices for site-specific camping, campfire, and livestock regulations.**