



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



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

**COLORADO TRAIL – Molas Pass to
 Graysill Lake**

Length: 20 miles (32 km.)

Recommended Season

*Refer to Twin Sisters Trail & Rico-Silverton Trail



Use: Moderate

Difficulty: More Difficult

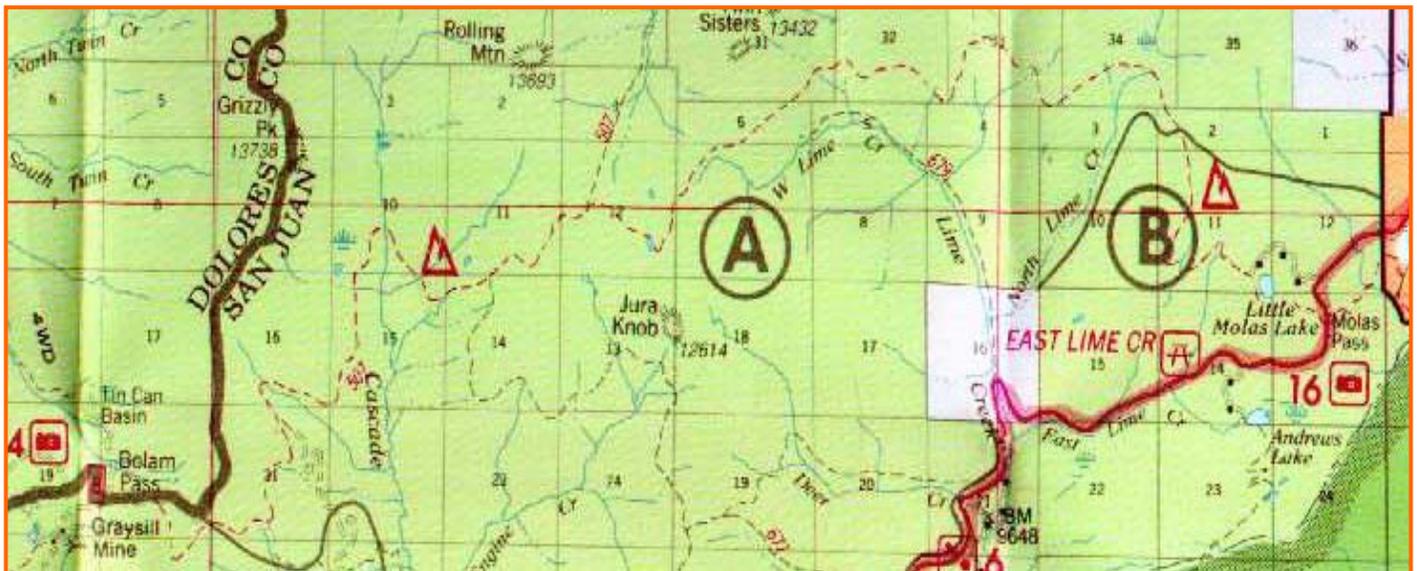
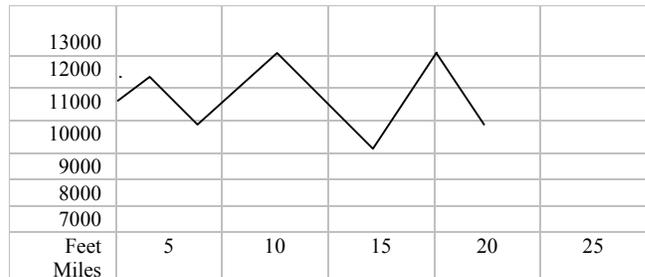
USGS Map (s): Hermosa Peak,
 Engineer Mtn., and Snowdon Peak

Starting Elevation: 10,880'

Molas Pass (US Hwy. 550)

Ending Elevation: 11,120'

Graysill Lake (Forest Developed Road #578)



Access # 1: Go 5.5 miles south of Silverton (44.5 miles north of Durango) on US 550 and turn west on Little Molas Lake Road, then follow for one mile.

Access # 2: Go 28 miles north of Durango on US 550, then turn west at Purgatory Ski Area on to FDR 578 toward Hermosa Park. Follow gravel road for about 16 miles to Graysill Lake. Trail can be found on the east end of Lake. 4WD is suggested for the last 7 miles of this road.

Attractions & Considerations: This portion of the Colorado Trail crosses the old Lime Creek Burn (1879) until it reaches timberline. The trail stays at or above timberline until it descends into the Cascade Creek drainage. This area has few trees, which allows for excellent views. The trail has a consistent grade that allows for a pleasant trip without excessive exertion. There are plenty of campsites along this portion of the Colorado Trail. Several other intersecting trails provide the opportunity to plan “loop” trips. Be cautious of afternoon thunderstorms, especially above timberline.



Fishing Considerations:

Molas and Little Molas Lake offer stocked rainbow and brook trout, with a few good fish in the 12-inch range.

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