



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

**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine**

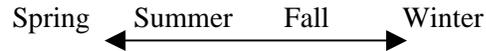
Updated: May 2003

**WHITEHEAD TRAIL #674**

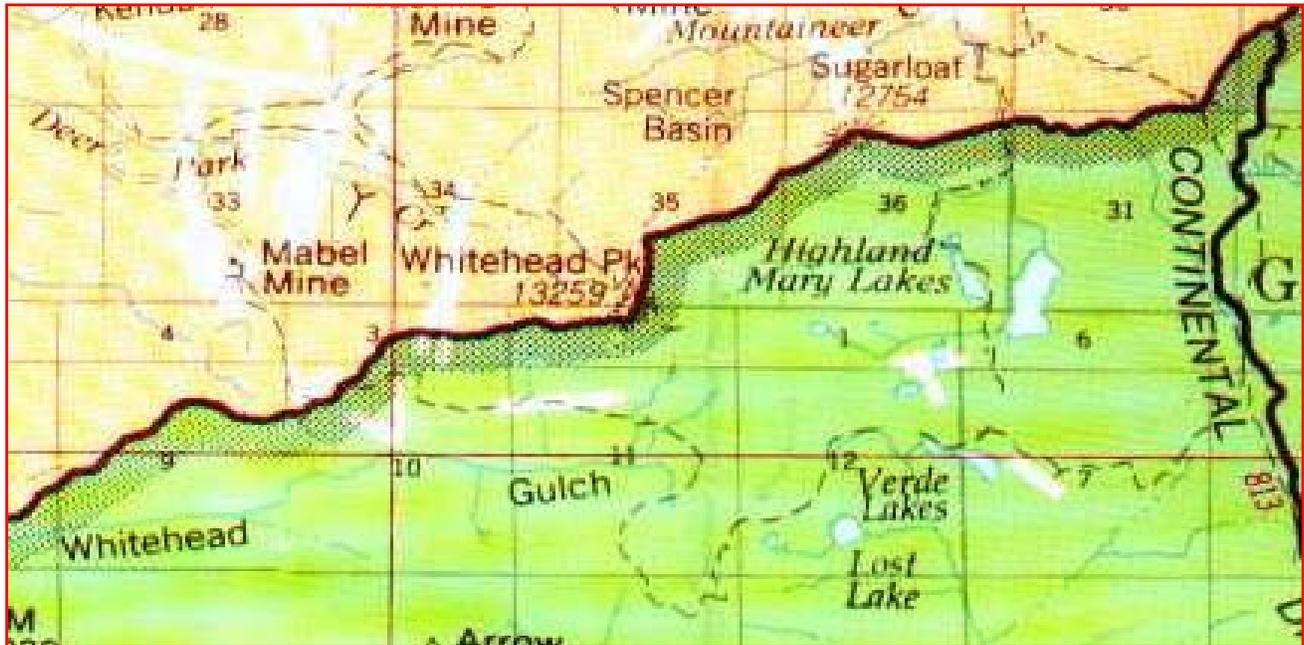
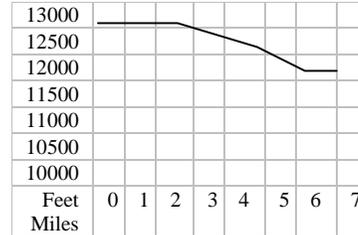
Length: 7 mi. (11.2 km.)

**Recommended Season**

**Use:** Light



**Difficulty:** Most difficult  
**USGS Map (s):** Silverton, Howardsville, and Storm King  
**Starting Elevation:** 12,800'  
 Continental Divide  
**Ending Elevation:** 11,600'  
 Mabel Mine (Deer Park)



**Access # 1:** Reach the lower end of this trail via the Kendall Mountain Road from Silverton. Follow U.S. 550 from Durango to Silverton and turn off 550 onto Green St. in Silverton. Follow Green St, to 14<sup>th</sup> St. Turn onto 14<sup>th</sup> and follow the road east across the bridge. This road is the Kendal Mountain Road. About 2 ½ miles up the road, it splits, with one road heading to Kendall Peak and one going to Deer Park. Take the Deer Park Rd. (the right fork). The trailhead on the road is about 1 mile from the fork in the road. Limited parking is available and 4WD with clearance is strongly recommended.

**Access # 2 :** This trail can be accessed from the Highland Mary Lakes Trail and from the Deer Park Trail. Please see the descriptions of access points for these trails.

**Access # 3 :** Continental Divide Trail

**Attractions & Considerations :** Parts of this trail are hard to follow. Most of the trail is above timberline, so navigation with a compass is best. The alpine meadows are full of blooming wildflowers in late July and August. Water in this area is abundant, but should be purified due to problems with Giardia. As with all high-altitude areas, storms can move rapidly, bringing severe lightning and rain, snow, and hail. Plan accordingly and please tread lightly.

**Fishing Considerations:** Highland Mary Lakes and Verde Lakes are rated fair for rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. Please check the fishing regulations regarding limits, allowable lures, and restrictions on certain lakes, rivers, etc.

**Weminuche Wilderness Regulations:**

- Group size is limited to 15 people.
- Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source.
- Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land.
- Possession of motorized equipment and mechanized means of transport are not permitted.
- Recreational livestock are prohibited from being restrained within 100 feet of lakeshores and streams or within riparian areas.

**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)