This guide provides information on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management campgrounds and day-use areas in southwestern Colorado. The map, table, and descriptions inside will help you learn more about these facilities and the amenities they offer.

**Facilities**

Most of the campgrounds and picnic areas in this guide have tables, fire grates, and centrally located toilets. Some offer a more primitive experience, while others have modern conveniences.

Campground roads and parking areas are usually gravel; a few are paved. Most, but not all, offer drinking water. At some, you must remove your own trash; others offer trash service or sanitary dumping stations. A few provide electrical hookups for recreational vehicles.

Many offer universally accessible (barrier-free) picnic tables, fire grates, and restrooms.

Fee campgrounds have campground hosts on site or self-register registration and fee-payment stations at entrances, where regulations and information are posted. Prices range from $10 – $30 for individual sites (double sites cost more), and $50 – $175 for group sites. USEFS fee campgrounds are run by private concessionaires under permit.

**Advance Reservations**

Advance reservations for many of the facilities described in this guide are available through the National Recreation Reservation System. Information on which campsites and picnic sites may be reserved can be found inside.

Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance for individual sites, and up to 360 days in advance for group sites. You may pay by credit card over the phone or on-line. In addition to a camping fee, a non-refundable reservation fee is charged. Changes, no-shows and cancellations are subject to service fees.

**Camping**

Campgrounds are open when sites are snow free, with full operation from about Memorial Day to after Labor Day. Some stay open longer, with reduced services and fees. The most popular campgrounds tend to be near larger lakes, major highways and communities; these are often full on summer weekends and holidays. Campgrounds are intended to be temporary sites for vacationers, with a time limit on stays. Most permit 14 days. A few National Forest sites allow up to 28 days.

Individual campers can accommodate up to eight people and two vehicles. Some campgrounds allow you to pay extra for an additional vehicle. Group campers vary in how many people they can accommodate, as do group picnic sites. Check with campground hosts or our offices listed on back for more information. Some campgrounds offer camping programs in summer.

Contact the San Juan Public Lands Center at 970-247-4874 or info@sjma.org or more information.

**TO BOOK RESERVATIONS:**

Call toll-free 877-444-6777; TDD 877-833-6777, or go to www.recreation.gov.
For customer service, call 888-448-1474.

**Dispersed Camping**

Camping outside of campgrounds is usually allowed, but you’ll find some areas posted as closed. In popular areas, dispersed sites have toilets or fire grates. To avoid damaging vegetation, camp in already used areas. Never level a site or dig trenches; instead pick a level site with good drainage.

• Refer to the appropriate Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for more specific dispersed camping requirements, including where it is allowed and what motor vehicle use is legal to access the camp area. MVUMs are available free from most San Juan NF offices.

• Keep vehicles within 300 feet of any Forest system roads, but only do so without causing resource damage.

• Wherever possible, locate your site 100’ from water.

• You cannot camp more than 14 days in any one spot in the backcountry.

• Pack out all trash.

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• You cannot camp more than 14 days in any one spot in the backcountry.

• Pack out all trash.
**Southwestern Colorado** may look lush and green, but this is a dry country that can be dangerously dry in summer or fall. Be careful with fire – a spark, a puff of wind and nearby flammable materials can combine to cause disaster before you know it.

- If there are current fire restrictions, as a public notice, they will be posted at campground entrances. Forest entrance signs and trailheads. Check with campground hosts or with district offices.
- In campgrounds, campfires are allowed only within a fire grate, and firewood must fit inside the metal ring.
- If camping in the backcountry, don’t build new fire rings/fire pits - use a camp stove or an existing fire ring/fire pit. Fire rings/fire pits scar the scenery and sterilize the soil beneath. Don’t build a fire beneath overhanging branches.
- Regulations require fires be put out completely every time you leave camp or go to bed. Pour water over ashes and stir until cold. Stir wet ashes until there is no smoke or heat.
- Do not burn trash. Some items are harmful to the environment. Plastics and tin will not burn to ash, and the resulting debris is messy and difficult to clean up.
- Do not park hot vehicles over dry grass. Never toss cigarette butts - extinguish and dispose of safely.
### Additional Info:

For detailed campground information, including photos of campsites, scan this QR code with your smartphone, or visit:

http://www.rockymountainsrec.com/camp/sanjuan.htm

For additional campground information, scan this QR code with your smartphone, or visit:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sanjuan/home/?cid=stelprdb5362505

For campground information, and to make reservations, scan this QR code with your smartphone, or visit:

www.recreation.gov and search for San Juan Forest, CO

For information on the Tres Rios BLM area, scan this QR code with your smartphone, or visit:


### Avoid Conflict with Wildlife

Wild animals are residents of this diverse terrain. Campground visitors are likely to see squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, deer, elk, skunks, polecats, racoons and many of the some 300 species of birds. Backcountry visitors may catch a glimpse of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, beaver, river otters, or even mountain lions. View wildlife from a safe distance and treat wild animals with respect — for your safety as well as theirs.

### UNWANTED VISITORS

Don’t attract unwelcome visitors to your campsite. Critters have an acute sense of smell and are easily lured by the aroma of food or trash. Some rodents have a taste for leather and anything sweaty or salty; store these items carefully. Never feed animals by hand. If you see a snake, please treat it as any other forest animal — as a subject to observe but not to disturb or injure.

### Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are seldom seen at high elevations but may be found in lower areas. Snakebites are serious, but less than 2% are fatal. Don’t put your hands and feet in places without looking first. Snakes fill an important niche in the animal kingdom, and should be left alone. To minimize surprising a rattlesnake, move slowly and loudly.

### DOGS AND WILDLIFE DON’T MIX!

Dogs must be on a leash in campgrounds and must be leashed or under voice control at all times in the backcountry. One of the most negative effects you can have on wildlife is to allow your dog to roam free. Dogs stress and endanger wild animals by chasing them. Even if the animal appears to have escaped unharmed, it may not survive as a result. In addition, many wild creatures pose dangers to dogs. Your pet can be attacked by predators, or suffer when a skunk or porcupine must desensitize to humans by your behavior, it may have to be destroyed. Bear-safety regulations are in effect for campgrounds. Food, containers, packaging, cooking utensils, garbage, pet food and bird feeders must be stored in a bear-resistant manner (i.e., inside a hard-sided vehicle or camper; hung at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet away from a tree or other support; inside an approved bear resistant container; or within an electrified enclosure.

### STORE FOOD PROPERLY

Black bears can cause a lot of damage to your belongings, and if a bear is desensitized to humans by your behaviors, it may have to be destroyed. Bear-safety regulations are in effect for campgrounds. Food, containers, packaging, cooking utensils, garbage, pet food and bird feeders must be stored in a bear-resistant manner (i.e., inside a hard-sided vehicle or camper; hung at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet away from a tree or other support; inside an approved bear resistant container; or within an electrified enclosure.

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### Key Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Camp Sites</th>
<th>Group Sites</th>
<th>Picnic Sites</th>
<th>Reserve Sites</th>
<th>RV Size</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Blanco River Group</td>
<td>15 mi. SE of Pagosa</td>
<td>7300’</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>19 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
<td>7800’</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Camarona</td>
<td>27 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
<td>8400’</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>East Fork</td>
<td>11 mi. NE of Pagosa</td>
<td>7700’</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Piedra</td>
<td>18 mi. E of Bayfield</td>
<td>6600’</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pulsadues</td>
<td>28 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
<td>8400’</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Piedra Picnic Area</td>
<td>16 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
<td>7600’</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Teal</td>
<td>25 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
<td>8300’</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ute</td>
<td>17 mi. W of Pagosa</td>
<td>6800’</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>West Fork</td>
<td>15 mi. NE of Pagosa</td>
<td>7900’</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Williams Creek</td>
<td>23 mi. NW of Pagosa</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45’</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OBEY “QUIET TIME”

Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don’t make loud noises, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours during the day, limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time. Drive slowly through campground loops and watch closely for children playing. Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don’t make loud noises, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours during the day, limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time. Drive slowly through campground loops and watch closely for children playing. Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don’t make loud noises, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours during the day, limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time. Drive slowly through campground loops and watch closely for children playing.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, etc. cannot be used inside campgrounds, except to travel between your campsite and locations outside the campground; however, their use may not be allowed on county roads.

HORSES AND PACK STOCK

Most campgrounds do not allow horses or pack stock. Those camping with horses should seek out campgrounds with facilities listed in this guide that specifically accommodate pack stock.

DOGS ON LEASH

Dogs may be leashed or otherwise physically restrained in campgrounds. Do not allow pets to harass other visitors, dogs, or wildlife. Do not allow pets unattended. Control barking. Must be under voice command.

CAMPFIREs

Campfires are only allowed in fire grates at campsites, and firewood must fit inside the metal ring. When no one is physically attending a campfire, it must be put out completely. Pour water on the fire and stir ashes until they cool with no smoke. Be aware of any fire restrictions in effect. These should be posted at the campground entrance.

TRASH

Use trash receptacles in campgrounds. Some primitive campgrounds require you to pack out your own trash. Do not burn trash - many materials will not burn to ash. Leave a clean campsite when you depart. Follow bear-safety regulations on page 3.

PROTECT VEGETATION

Do not break limbs, drive nails or carve into bark of trees or shrubs. This allows insects and disease to enter and can weaken or kill trees. Walk on paths and roads to keep grass and plants alive. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy. Bring firewood with you or check with campground hosts. Collect only dead wood lying on the ground.

SHOOTING FIREARMS

in campgrounds is prohibited.

Campground Rules

Key Map

Name | Location | Elev. | Camp Sites | Group Sites | Picnic Sites | Reserve Sites | RV Size | Services
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1 | Anasazi Heritage Center | 10 mi. N of Cortez | 7000’ | 10 | 1 group | 45’ | S | A
2 | Bradfield | 37 mi. N of Cortez | 6500’ | 16 | 1 group | 35’ | S | A
3 | Burro Bridge | 37 mi. NE of Dolores | 9100’ | 14 | 1 group | 50’ | S | A
4 | Box Elder | 6 mi. E of Dove Creek | 6500’ | 11 | 1 group | Not Advisable | S | A
5 | Cayton | 6 mi. N of Rico | 9400’ | 27’ | 16 | 50’ | S | A
6 | Dolores Overlook | 7 mi. NW of Dove Creek | 6500’ | 3 | 5 | 0’ | S | A
7 | Ferris | 37 mi. NW of Dolores | 6600’ | 7 | 45’ | S | A
8 | House Creek | 12 mi. NW of Dolores | 7000’ | 65 | 2 | 55 | 50’ | S | A
9 | Lowery Parhbo Picnic Area | 9 mi. W of Pleasant View | 6700’ | 7 | 1 | S | A
10 | Maveros | 20 mi. NE of Dolores | 7700’ | 19 | 12 | 35’ | S | A
11 | McPhee | 8 mi. W of Mancos | 7400’ | 76 | 2 | 2 group | 50 | 50’ | A | S | A
12 | Mountain Sheep Point | 5 mi. N of Dove Creek | 6500’ | 2 | 2 | S | A
13 | Target Tree | 7 mi. E of Mancos | 7800’ | 25 | 1 | 45’ | S | A
14 | Transfer | 11 mi. NE of Mancos | 8900’ | 12 | 1 | 1 group | 45’ | S | A
15 | West Dolores | 21 mi. NE of Dolores | 7700’ | 18 | 2 | 10 | 35’ | S | A

Dolores
Public Lands Campgrounds & Day Use Areas