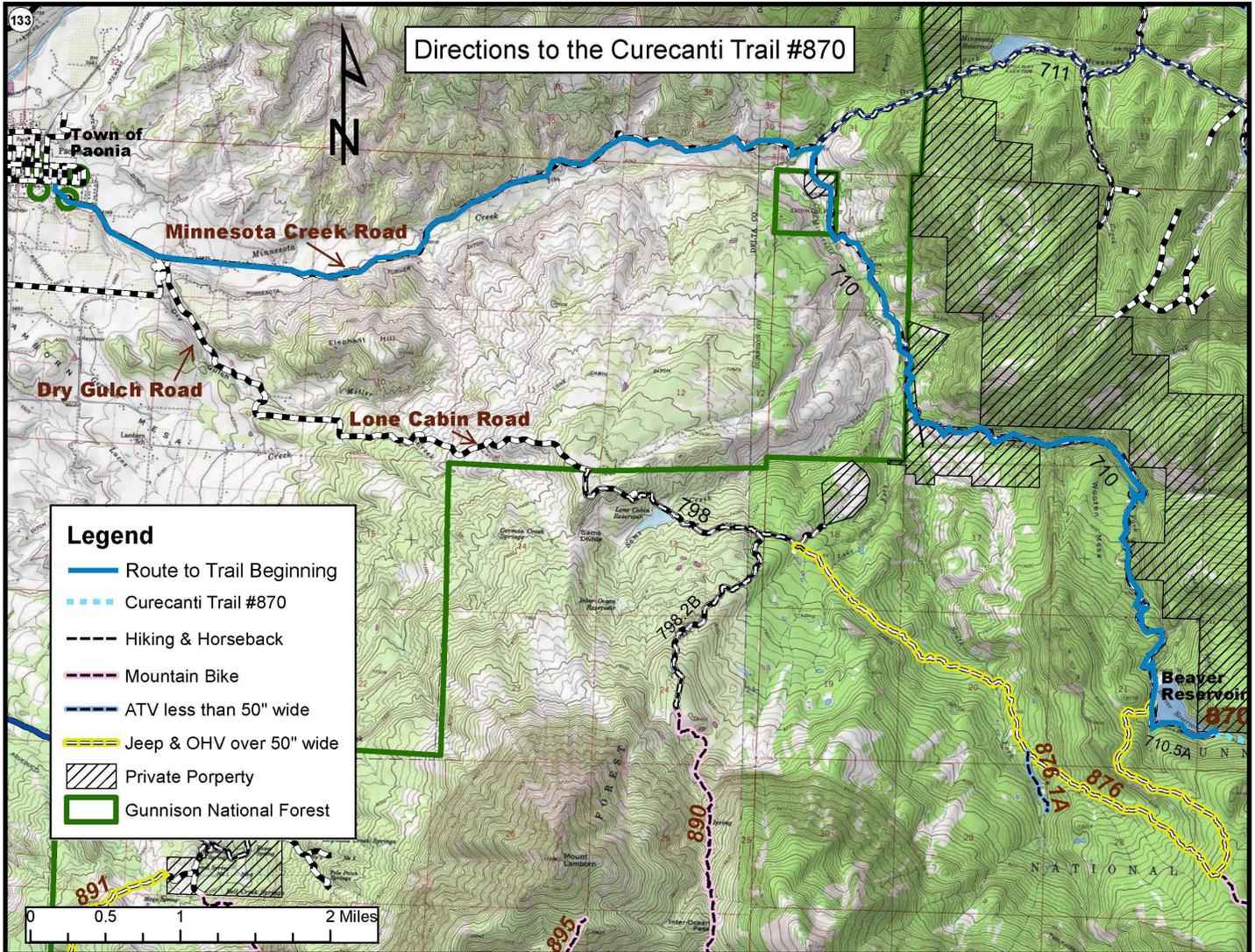




# Curecanti Trail #870

**GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST**  
**PAONIA RANGER DISTRICT**  
403 N. RIO GRANDE AVE.  
PAONIA, CO 81428  
970-527-4131

The Curecanti Trail #870 begins at Beaver Reservoir and ends at Forest Service Road #720. It crosses the western lobe of the West Elk Wilderness from north to south, almost 12 miles of the trail are in the Wilderness Area. The well used trail climbs through aspen and spruce forests to Minnesota Pass. After a short descent the trail intersects with the Throughline Trail #860 and continues south around Coal Basin, winding through aspen glades and meadows. As the trail penetrates deeper into the wilderness around Sheep Mountain, traffic decreases and the trail becomes less defined. The long, steep climb up Curecanti Pass negotiates several hairpin switchbacks and a narrow rock ledge. The top of the pass offers spectacular views into the heart of the West Elk Mountains. The trail then gradually descends through alpine meadows and spruce glades into Curecanti Creek Canyon.



## DIRECTIONS

From Paonia:  
East on Minnesota Creek Rd. 5.3 mi  
South at "Y" on FSR #710 5.8 mi  
Parking is West of Beaver Reservoir

**Spring of 2016:** Curecanti Road, FSR #720, slid 2.7 miles past the bridge. FSR #720 should not be traveled when wet.

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## QUICK FACTS

38° 48' 59" 107° 23' 23"

### Curecanti Trail #870

- **Distance:** 23.6 Miles
- **Usage:** Moderate
- **Min. Elevation:** 8,140 ft.
- **Max Elevation:** 10,482 ft.
- **USGS Maps:** Minnesota Pass, West Beckwith, Mt. Gureo, Big Soap Park, Little Soap Park