



*A view South from the Castle Pass Trail
Photo by Vic Ullrey*

The Castle Creek Trail #441 starts at the intersection with the Cliff Creek Trail #840. The trail is very steep and rocky. It crosses the South Prong of Cliff Creek and heads east along the South Prong to near the top of the pass. It then descends down into Castle Creek. At the base of Castle Pass there is a series of 14 switchbacks. All are passable, but could be hazardous when wet. After the switchbacks, the rest of the trail is of a lesser grade and follows a wide spruce covered ridge. The whole trail is well marked and easy to follow. For the backpacker, this is the scenic trail of the wilderness. The trail winds through open aspen and conifer stands, dotted with alpine meadows. Deer and elk can be seen feeding at the edges of parks.

Don't forget your camera!



Trail Ethics:

The Castle Pass Trail is maintained for foot and horse travel. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.



Motors & Machines:

Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed on the Castle Pass Trail or in Wilderness areas.



Drinking Water:

DO NOT drink water directly from a river or stream. Water needs to be treated first by either filtering, boiling for at least 10 minutes or treating with iodine tablets.



Multiple use:

As you use this area you may notice that the Forest is managed for a broad range of uses. Recreation use alone includes hiking, horse-back riding, hunting, and sightseeing. In addition, the vegetation in the Forest requires some form of management. Livestock grazing is a form of land management you may encounter while using this area. The livestock grazing on this area is managed in a very progressive and specific manner. The fences and gates that you may see are critical to managing the livestock and meeting the resource objectives that are planned for this area. Please close all gates that you open as you travel through the area. Controlling the livestock in the manner that we have planned is important.



Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.

Familiarize yourself with the area.

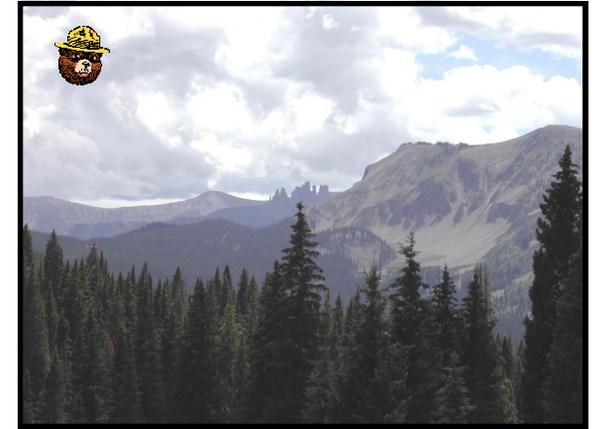


Please don't litter!

Castle Pass Trail

#441

Total Length 5.75 Miles
2.80 Miles on the Paonia R.D.
2.95 Miles on the Gunnison R.D.



View of the Castles from Castle Pass Trail
Photo by Vic Ullrey Paonia R.D.

Gunnison National Forest
Paonia Ranger District



For any questions or comments please contact:
Paonia Ranger District
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Phone: (970) 527-4131 Fax: (970) 527-4151 or
E-Mail: lbroyles@fs.fed.us or vullrey@fs.fed.us



Trail Beginning: Intersection of the Cliff Creek Trail #840.

Trail Ending: The intersection with the Lowline Trail #438 on the Gunnison Ranger District.

Access :

From Gunnison, follow State Hwy 135 north to Gunnison County Road 730, Ohio Creek Rd. Follow County Road 730 approximately 18 miles to the Swampy Pass Trailhead. Follow the Swampy Pass Trail #439 until it intersects with the Lowline Trail #438. Follow the Lowline Trail #438 south for approximately 2.5 miles until it intersects with the Castle Pass Trail #441.

From Paonia, travel East on State Hwy 133 for approximately 16 miles to the junction with Gunnison County Road 12, Kebler Pass Road. Follow Gunnison County Road 12 for approximately 13.5 miles to the Cliff Creek Trail #840 Trailhead, across from Horse Ranch Park. Follow the Cliff Creek Trail #840 for approximately 5.5 miles to its intersection with the Castle Pass Trail #441.

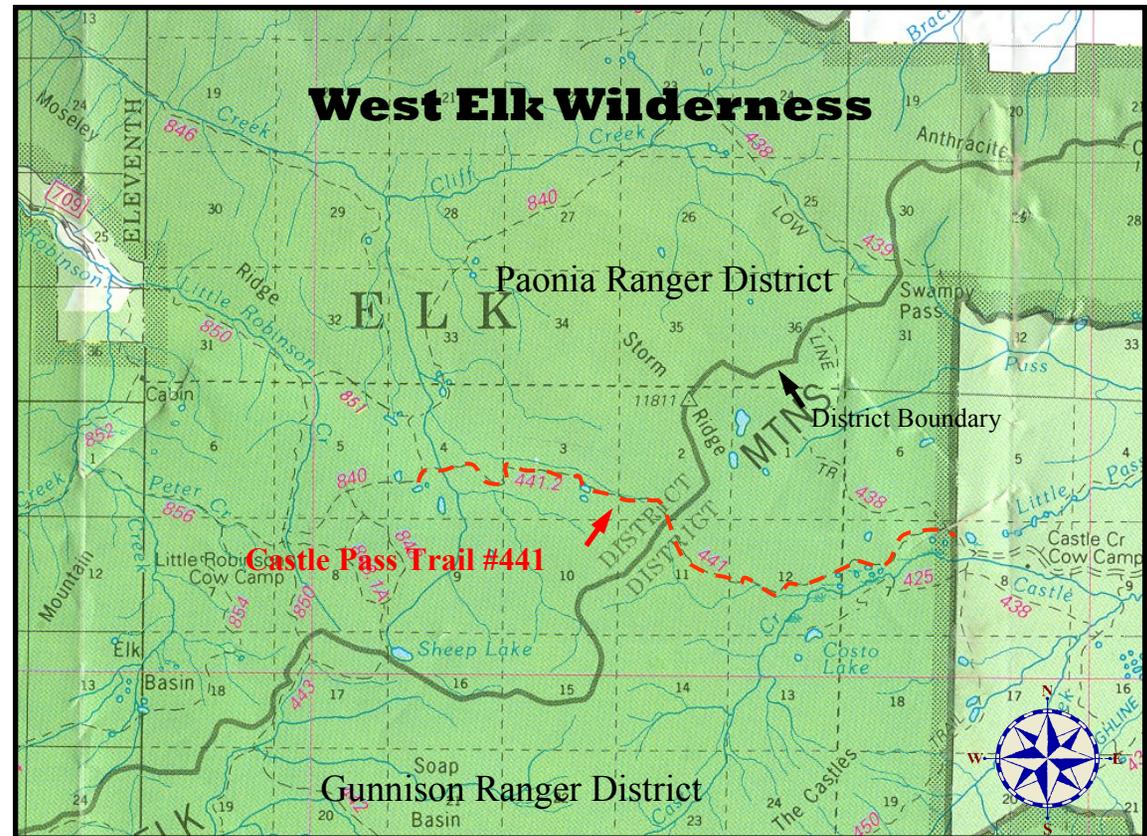
Use: Foot and Horse

Recommended Seasons:



USGS quad maps: West Beckwith Peak and Anthracite Range

Fire Safety: Check in with your local Forest Service office to see if fire bans are in effect.

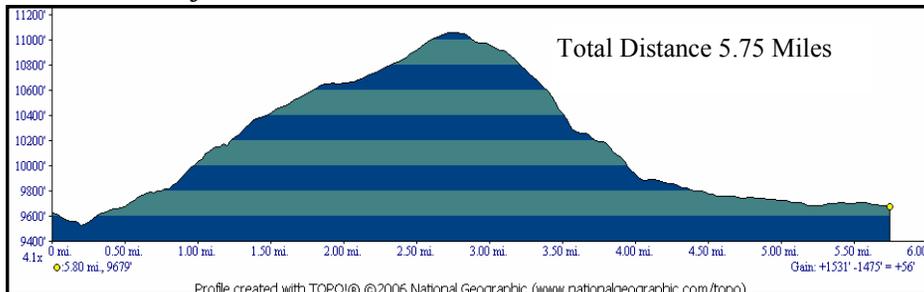


Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the Forest. Recreation maps are available at all local Forest Service offices and personnel can answer questions on specific sites. Camping in undeveloped areas requires more from the camper to help keep the site in the condition in which it was found. If you Pack it in-Pack it out!



Elevation Profile:



Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

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