

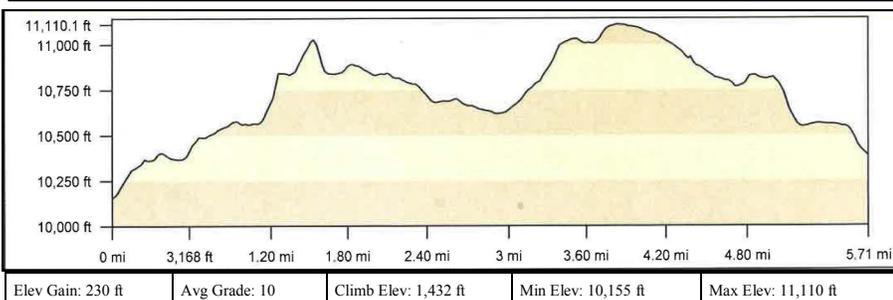
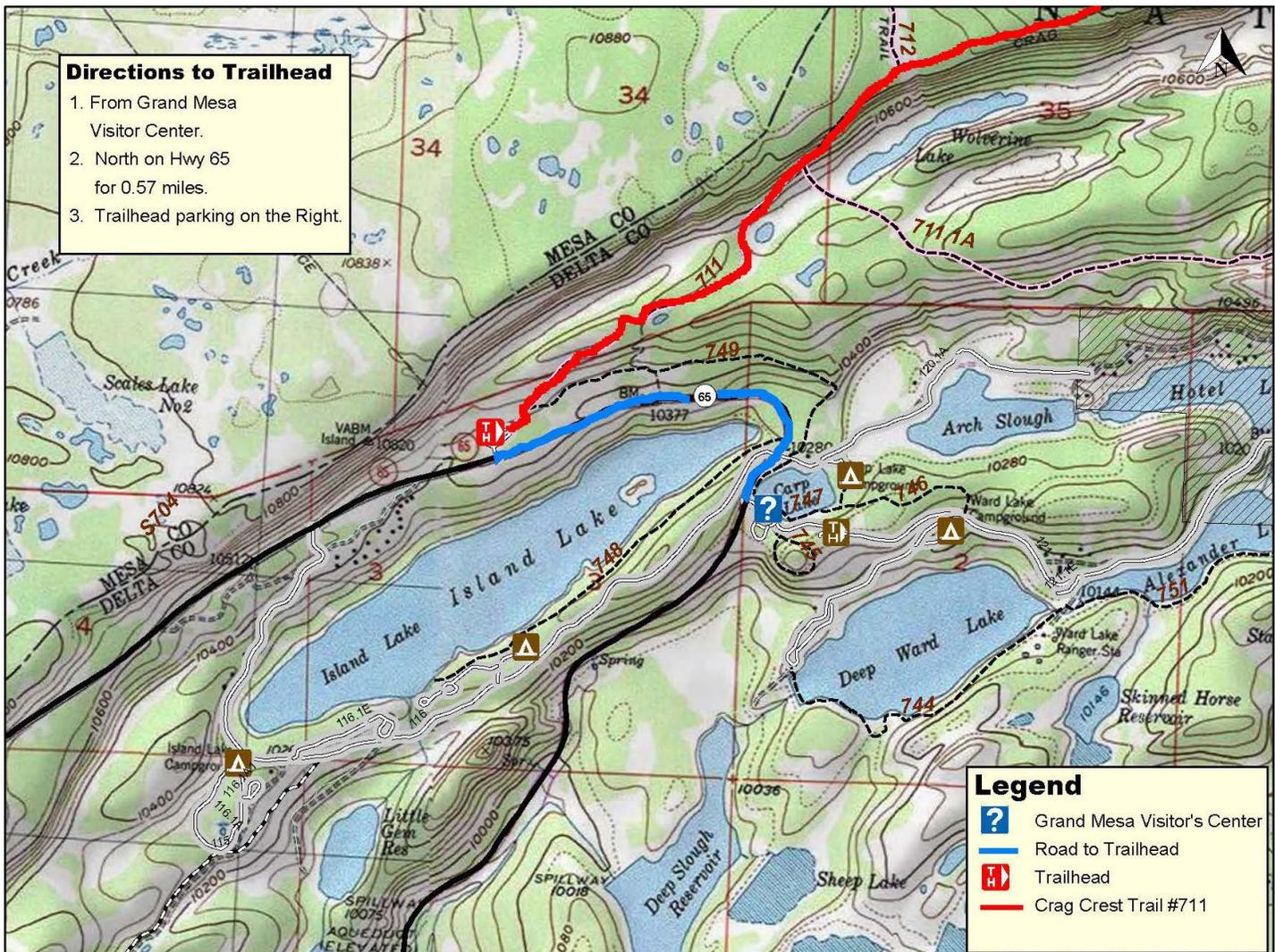


Crag Crest Trail #711

GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT
 2777 Crossroads Blvd. #1
 Grand Junction, CO 81506
 970-242-8211

The trail was designated as a National Recreation Trail by John McGuire of the USFS on March 14, 1978. A loop can be hiked by traveling the Crag Crest Trail #711, which is 6.6 miles long, and the Crag Crest Loop Trail #711.1A, which is 3.5 miles long. From the intersection of the Crag Crest Trail and the Cottonwood Lakes Trail #712, about 1.5 miles from the western trailhead, the Crag Crest Trail is only open to hiking. There are portions of the trail that are on a narrow ridge with steep drop-offs on both sides which makes any other type of passage unsafe. Hiking, Horseback, and Mountain Bikes are allowed on the Crag Crest Loop Trail and on the Crag Crest Trail between the West Trailhead and the Cottonwood Lakes Trail junction.

The trail rises from 10,150 feet at Eggleston Lake to 11,189 feet along the crest. At the lower elevations, the trail passes through stands of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and open meadows. Quaking aspen, with leaves which are light green in the summer and brilliant yellow in the fall, grows among the dark green conifers. Patches of low-growing Oregon grape are found in and near these forested areas. The trail rises more gradually from the West Trailhead. Due to the high elevation of this trail, travel is often hampered by snow drifts until early July.



QUICK FACTS

Distance: 6.6 miles
Usage: Heavy
Best Season: Summer
USGS Map: Grand Mesa

