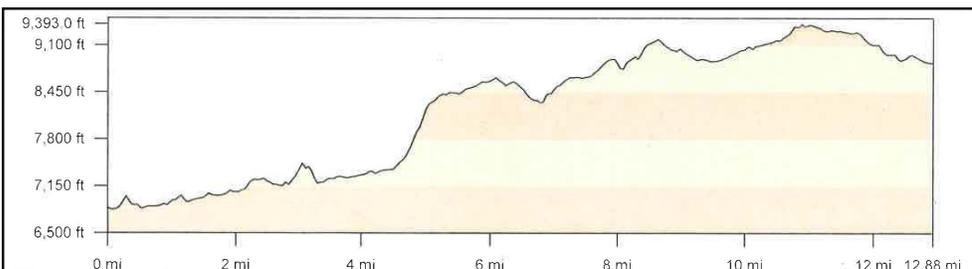
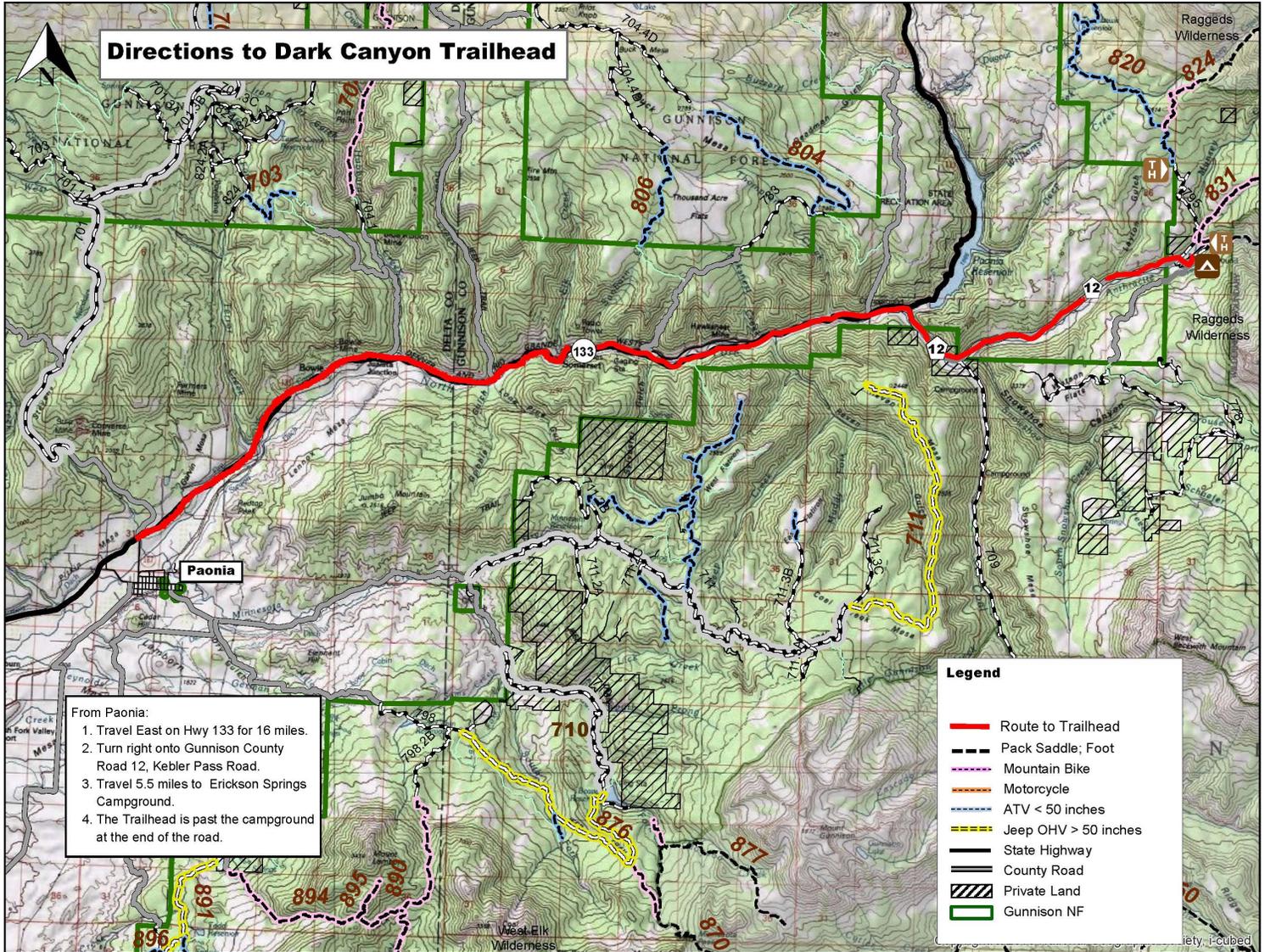




Dark Canyon Trail #830

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

The trail follows Anthracite Creek up through the towering rock walls of Dark Canyon. In the early season, waterfalls thunder down from cliffs and canyons high above the trail. After passing through the rocky depths of the canyon, the trail climbs the Devil's Staircase to emerge on easier terrain. Several more miles of gradual climbing through aspen forests, groves of gambel oak and open parks bring you up to the flanks of the Ruby Range and then on to Horse Ranch Park. This trail is popular and the major route across the southern portion of the Raggeds Wilderness, but it is rocky in the canyon with occasional wet spots. Three narrow foot bridges cross the creek which becomes a raging river in the spring. The trail is good above the Devil's Staircase, which is a series of switchbacks and not as bad as the name implies. Be prepared for ticks and fallen trees blocking the trail.



QUICK FACTS

Distance: 13.8 miles
Usage: Heavy
Best Season: Summer
USGS Maps: Paonia Reservoir & Marcellina Mountain

