

Blanco Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



SOUTH FORK TRAIL #1827

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Heavy

Length: 23.25 miles

Elevation: Starts 7,594 feet and ends 10,903 feet (highest point 10,903 feet)

Elevation Gain: +3,477 feet – 168 feet = +3,309 feet

Open To: HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING

Access:

- South Fork Trail is located 29 miles east of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 18 miles.
- Turn south on Rio Blanco County Road 10 for 2 miles, jog north for 1/4 mile, then east for 10 miles to the South Fork Campground and trailhead.

Trail Highlights:

The trail follows the South Fork of the White River for close to 24 miles and is almost completely within the Flat Tops Wilderness. As you travel the trail there are many species of trees and shrubs interspersed with grassy meadows and riparian habitat along the river. Three miles from the campground you cross a section of private land and another section of private land 2 miles further at the mouth of Lost Solar Creek. Please respect the private property. From Lost Solar Creek you cross Park Creek, seven miles from the trailhead. Three miles above Park Creek, you can see South Fork falls. Three miles above the falls, the canyon begins to widen out near Budes Resort, which is accessible by the Coffee Pot road from Dotsero on the Colorado River. The trail heads north following the river through a wide grassy area extending for several miles called "the meadows". After passing Nichols Creek and Doe Creek, the trail turns east continuing to follow the South Fork out of the canyon onto the Flat Tops plateau, ending at the Trappers Lake Trail near Shingle Peak. The section of trail above Doe Creek is not maintained and users can expect additional challenges due to deadfall and swampy areas.

Important Information:

- **THIS TRAIL IS USED FOR MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HIKING AND HORSEBACK RIDING. PLEASE RESPECT OTHER USERS.**
- **DOMESTIC CATTLE MAY BE GRAZING IN THE AREA.**
- **PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC TRAIL MAP AND COMPASS PRIOR TO BEGINNING AN OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRIP.









