

Sopris Ranger District
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United States Department of Agriculture



4WD

CRYSTAL CITY ROAD # 314

Length: 5.5 miles one-way (8.8 km);

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 7,956 feet (2425 m)

USGS Map(s): Marble, Snowmass Mountain

Difficulty: More Difficult

Ending Elevation: 8,880 feet (2707 m)

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: The city of Crystal is an old mining town and is now somewhat of a ghost town. The Deadhorse Mill (also known as the Crystal Mill) is a popular, historical landmark widely published on many post cards. It still stands next to the Crystal River, just below Crystal City where it was originally built. The mill is located on private property. The road parallels the Crystal River all the way to Crystal City. The fishing is very good in various sections of the river, and the scenery is spectacular. Most of the land adjacent to the road is private; so please respect the landowners' rights.

ACCESS: From Carbondale travel south on Colorado Highway 133 about 22 miles to the Marble turnoff. Go east on the Marble road, through Marble, and past Beaver Lake. The 4WD portion begins just past the Gold Pan Gallery. The road begins to head uphill and passes over shale rock. About 1 mile outside of Marble there is a fork in the road; take the right fork (FDR # 314). The road immediately heads downhill.

NARRATIVE: Although most of the road is not extremely difficult, there are several narrow, rocky and steep sections where it may be necessary for the downhill driver to back-up on the uphill when encountering another vehicle. This is not a road for passenger automobiles or inexperienced drivers. For the most experienced four-wheeler, it is possible to continue behind Crystal City to Schofield Pass, or to make a loop back to Marble via the Lead King Basin road. See the appropriate section for details on these routes.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * Be sure your machine is as quiet as possible.
- * Avoid wetlands, streams, and steep hills where your tracks may cause damage.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs and grasses--**Stay on established routes!**
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.

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

