



# West Mancos #621



San Juan National Forest  
Dolores Public Lands Office  
29211 Hwy 184  
Dolores, CO 81323



(970) 882-7296

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)

6/2009

<b>Length:</b> 9.9 miles	<b>Hiking level:</b> Moderate to Difficult
<b>Starting Elevation:</b> 8,900 ft	<b>Facilities:</b> Developed water source and toilet available at Transfer Trailhead.
<b>Ending Elevation:</b> 10,900 ft, at the junction with Sharkstooth Trail #620.	<b>Amount of use:</b> Moderate to Heavy
  <p><b>Use restrictions:</b> The West Mancos Trail is a multi-use trail with restrictions for motorized uses on various portions of the trail. Please review the Mancos-Cortez Travel Map for specific information. They are available at the Dolores Public Lands Office at 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO, or on our website at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/projects/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/projects/</a></p>	<b>USGS Map(s):</b> Rampart Hills & La Plata (7.5') Quads.

**Directions to trailhead:** From the town of Mancos, turn north on Highway 184, turn right after .3 miles on West Mancos Road, also known as CR 42. Travel 10 miles and turn into the Transfer Recreation Area. Parking is available in the parking area adjacent to the campground.

**Trail Description:** The West Mancos Trailhead is located adjacent to the Big Al Trail in the Transfer Recreation Area. The first 1/3 of a mile is shared with the Transfer Trail. The combined trails drop immediately into the West Mancos Canyon via several switchbacks. After approximately 1/3 of a mile, the trail splits, with the West Mancos Trail continuing upstream, and the Transfer Trail heading downstream. Due to the steep nature of the upper portion of this trail, it can be very tricky and even more so in wet conditions. If using this trail in early spring, be aware of the potential for downed trees and the trail sloughing off in places. Be especially careful if you are on horseback.

The West Mancos trail continues upstream on the west side of the canyon before dropping down to the West Mancos River level. The trail passes the junction with Owens Basin Trail, and then climbs steeply to Horsefly Flat, an open grassy area. The trail ends at the Sharkstooth Trailhead, which is located near the base of Hesperus and Sharkstooth Peaks.



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

