



Bear Creek Trail #607

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

(970) 882-7296

www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan



6/2009

Length: 12.5 miles (20.1 km)	Hiking level: Easy to Moderate
Starting Elevation: 7,960 ft at junction with the Dolores River. Camping not permitted at trailhead.	Facilities: No developed water sources. Toilet at trailhead.
Ending Elevation: 11,200 ft at junction with Sharkstooth Trail #620.	Amount of use: Moderate-High
 <p>Use restrictions: ATVs are not permitted due to the narrow width of trail. Dirt bikes must remain on designated trail up to the junction of Highline & Grindstone Trails; all motorized vehicles are prohibited beyond this point. <u>Motorized Travel Rules have changed.</u> Please contact the Dolores Public Lands Office for specific changes.</p>	USGS Map(s): Wallace Ranch, Orphan Butte, and La Plata (7.5') Quads.

Trail Description:

Bear Creek Trail (BCT) begins at the confluence of Bear Creek and the Dolores River and merges with a portion of the Highline Loop National Recreation Trail, eight miles upstream. The entire length from the Bear Creek Trailhead to the junction with Sharkstooth Trail is 12.5 miles. The following trails intersect BCT and provide alternative access points:

- >**Little Bear Creek Trail** (#609) – branches off the BCT at mile 4 and is a 2.6 mile climb to the Little Bear Creek trailhead access, which is via Hillside Road (FDR#436). Many portions of the Little Bear Trail may be difficult to find and can be quite steep.
- >**Gold Run Trail** (#618) branches off the BCT at mile 6. This is a fairly steep trail but has several switchbacks and is designed to accommodate pack animals. Trail length is 2.2 miles to the Gold Run trailhead, which is accessed via the West Mancos Road (FDR #561). There is a well-established trailhead with parking, pit toilets and a corral. Overnight camping not permitted at trailhead.
- >**Grindstone Trail Loop** (#658/608) branches off at mile eight. Trailhead access is via Hillside Road (FDR #436).
- >**Highline Loop Trail** Begins a loop at approximately mile eight on the BCT, and continues east around the head of Bear Creek headwaters via the Sharkstooth Trail, to the Indian Ridge Trail (#520), then back down on either the Loop (#608) or the Grindstone Trail (#658).

Directions to trailhead: From Dolores on Highway 145, travel east for 22 miles. The trailhead is clearly marked on the highway.



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



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