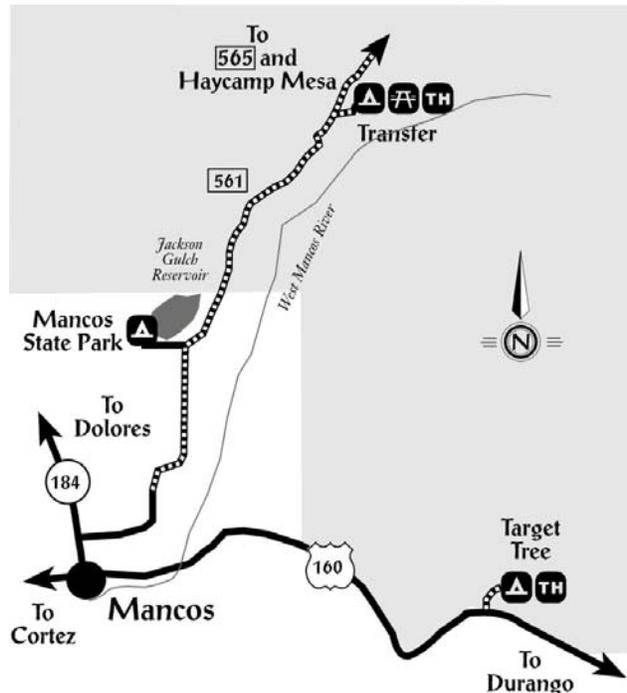


Dolores Public Lands Campgrounds – North of Mancos



As U.S. Highway 160 (part of the San Juan Skyway) heads west from Durango, it skirts the southern edge of the La Plata Mountains. Mesa Verde National Park is west of Mancos and south of U.S. Highway 160. Showers, laundries, sanitary dumping stations and other services are available in Mancos and at Mesa Verde.

Many unpaved roads offer scenic fall drives for passenger cars. The Lost Canyon Scenic Loop is a popular excursion off Colorado Highway 184. The West Mancos Road (Forest Rd. 561) and Rock Springs Road (Forest Rd. 556) are connected by the Lost Canyon Road (Forest Rd. 560). This 55-mile round-trip from Mancos traverses elevations from 7,000 to 10,000 feet.

The west side of the La Plata Mountains has many trails to choose from, offering different experiences for different modes of travel.

Motorized vehicles must stay on identified roads and trails, and ATVs are not allowed on single-track trails. Please check maps for those trails open to motorized recreation. The Aspen Loop Trail, a 39-mile system of easy-to-moderate trails, is designed for ATVs and motorbikes. The Sharktooth Trail, which is open to non-motorized use only, leads above timberline and can be used to access Centennial Peak, La Plata Canyon, or Windy Gap.

• **TARGET TREE CAMPGROUND** \$c (PZht \

Target Tree Campground is 7 miles east of Mancos on the north side of Highway 160. Its namesake refers to the Ute Indians historic use of the area to harvest sap and bark of ponderosa pines, and to use trees for target practice. Scarred trees remain, and historical markers explain their usage. The campground is known for a variety of birds; a sign lists species found in the vicinity. Its 25 sites on a south-facing hillside overlook Thompson Park; 17 are barrier-free. Most large and pull-thru sites require mechanical leveling of RVs. Many sites are shady, but can be hot on sunny days. Five campsites accommodate horse users. The campground offers one group campsite that hold up to 25 people, or up to 5 horse trailers. For information on reservations, contact the Dolores Public Lands Office. The Narrow Gauge Trail begins in the lower parking lot and leads uphill about 1/2 mile to an old railroad grade.

• **TRANSFER CAMPGROUND** \$c (PZht ¥

The Transfer Recreation Area offers a campground and picnic area 11 miles northeast of Mancos. Take Colorado Highway 184 north for 1/4 mile and turn east on the West Mancos Road (Forest Rd. 561). After the road turns to gravel, continue about 7 miles to the campground turnoff on the right. The 12 campsites are in a mostly level aspen grove. All sites and restrooms are barrier-free, and most accommodate RVs. The campground has a group picnic area with 5 double picnic tables, large serving table and cooking grills. For information on how to reserve this site in advance, contact the Dolores Public Lands Office. Although livestock is not allowed in the main campground, stock users have 5 sites adjacent to a corral on the opposite side of Forest Rd. 561.