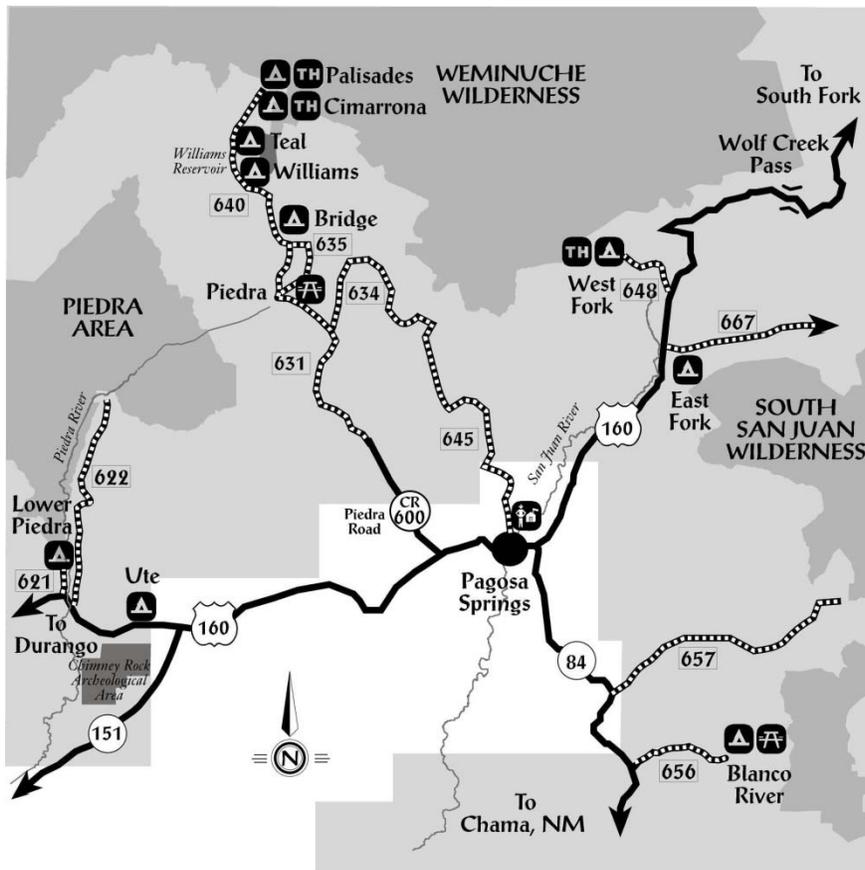


## Pagosa Public Lands Campgrounds



U.S. Highway 160 enters the San Juan National Forest from the east at Wolf Creek Pass, after crossing the Continental Divide at 10,857 feet above sea level. At the top of the pass is an interpretive site that explains the history and biology of this alpine area.

On the west side of the pass, the San Juan Overlook offers panoramic views and informational signs identifying landmarks.

Two miles below the overlook is Treasure Falls, where an interpretive trail leads from the highway to the base of a lovely waterfall. A toilet is available here.

### EAST OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

- **WEST FORK CAMPGROUND** \$ c Z \* t

West Fork Campground is 9 miles west of Wolf Creek Pass (15 miles NE of Pagosa Springs) on West Fork Road (Forest Rd. 648). This secluded 10-acre campground is located about 1.5 miles off of Highway 160 with 28 campsites. Most are suitable for large RVs. A few are next to the West Fork of the San Juan River, where you can fish. The popular West Fork Trail, also known as the Rainbow Trail, begins a mile beyond the campground and leads into the Weminuche Wilderness (foot and horse travel only). The first portion passes through private property – stay on the trail and leave gates as you find them.

- **EAST FORK CAMPGROUND** \$ c Z \* t

East Fork Campground is 5 miles southwest of Treasure Falls (11 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs) about 3/4 mile off of U.S. Highway 160, on the East Fork Road (Forest Rd. 667). Its 26 campsites are shaded on a bench above the East Fork of the San Juan River. There are a few level pull-thru's. Short, steep trails lead to the river bank, with fishing opportunities also upstream. East Fork Road parallels the river for several miles on its way to and beyond the Continental Divide (4WD required beyond the junction with Forest Rd. 684). Two miles past the campground are trailheads for the Coal Creek and Quartz Ridge trails. East Fork Road to Elwood Pass and Silver Falls is popular for 4WD/ATV use.

- **BLANCO RIVER CAMPGROUND** \$ c Z \*

The Blanco River Campground is a convenient stopping point between Chama, New Mexico, and Pagosa Springs. It is 2 miles off U.S. Highway 84 on Forest Rd. 656, about 15 miles southeast of Pagosa Springs. The river bottom area is fairly level, and four of the six sites are suitable for large-sized RVs. Several large ponderosa pines offer shade, but the area is hot in summer.

• **BLANCO RIVER GROUP PICNIC AREA** \$ P Z \*

The Blanco River Group Picnic Area is next to the Blanco River Campground. It offers two group picnic sites with banquet-sized tables, volleyball net posts, and horseshoe pits. These group sites must be reserved in advance (contact the Pagosa Public Lands Office at 970-264-2268). The Blanco River is stocked with trout.

## **WEST OF PAGOSA SPRINGS**

• **UTE CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z

The Ute Campground, 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 160, has 26 campsites on a gentle, south-facing slope. Ponderosa pines give shade, but the area is hot in summer. The hillside above the campground offers excellent views of the pinnacles of Chimney Rock Archaeological Area. Chimney Rock is four miles south on Colorado Highway 151, with the entrance road to the Visitor Center on your right. Guided tours are offered in summer by the nonprofit Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. The lower tour is easy to negotiate on a barrier-free interpretive trail leading to Ancestral Puebloan sites. The mountaintop part of the tour climbs steeply uphill to a Chacoan-style Great House. Tours of Chimney Rock Archaeological Area are offered from May 15 - September 30. Call 970-883-5359 for reservations or information.

• **LOWER PIEDRA CAMPGROUND** \$ C \* Z

The Lower Piedra Campground is just north of U.S. Highway 160 on the west side of the Piedra River, about 18 miles east of Bayfield and 25 miles west of Pagosa Springs. It is about 1/2 mile up Forest Rd. 621 on the west side of the river (not to be confused with the First Fork Road Forest Rd. 622 on the east side of the river). The campground offers 17 large, level sites with plenty of shade. Fishing opportunities are available. Dispersed camping is not allowed within 100 yards of either side of Forest Road 621 leading to the Lower Piedra Campground (from the cattle guard to the campground boundary).

## **NORTH OF PAGOSA SPRINGS**

The Williams Creek area offers many recreational opportunities. Plumtaw Loop, a 35-mile scenic round-trip suitable for most vehicles, connects the Piedra Road (Forest Rd 631) and Four Mile Road (Forest Rd 645) to Pagosa Springs. Piedra Road is suitable for most passenger vehicles. Gas, some groceries and other camper services are available at Sportmans Supply on the Piedra Road. Williams Creek Reservoir is stocked with Kokanee salmon and trout. The Colorado Division of Wildlife offers fishing access from the Williams Creek Campground to the dam. Although the campground end of the lake has no boat ramp, lightweight boats can be carried a short distance to the water. A USFS boat ramp is located 1/2 mile north of the campground. Motorized boating is allowed on Williams Creek Reservoir, but water skiing and wakeboarding are prohibited; the reservoir is restricted to wake-free boating. Several trails access the Weminuche Wilderness and Piedra Area, where only foot and horseback travel are allowed, and onto the Continental Divide. Except within the developed campgrounds listed here and in dispersed sites signed as 'Open', camping is not allowed within 1/4 mile of either side of Williams Creek Road (Forest Rd. 640) from its intersection with Piedra Road (Forest Rd. 631) to its end. Overnight camping is not allowed at the Williams Creek Trailhead.

• **PIEDRA PICNIC AREA** P \* t

The Piedra Picnic Area, 16 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs, is off the Piedra Road on Forest Rd. 635. Its four sunny day-use sites are free and located adjacent to the Piedra River. Drinking water is not available. The Piedra River Trailhead is west of the Piedra Road north of the junction with Forest Rd. 635. This popular day hike will take you 2.5 miles to a footbridge over the river. The trail continues another 12 miles along the canyon to a bridge at the end of the First Fork Road (Forest Rd. 622). River otters can be seen in the Piedra River.

• **BRIDGE CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z \*

Bridge Campground, 19 miles from Pagosa Springs, is northwest of US Highway 160 on the Piedra Road. (County Rd. 600, which turns into Forest Rd. 631). Its 19 sites are in a flat and open area. Large sites offer views of high peaks. The campground is moderately used, and sites are usually available.

• **WILLIAMS CREEK CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z \* \_

Williams Creek Campground, 23 miles north of Pagosa Springs, has 67 sunny and shady sites, with a few along the creek. Campsites are often full on summer weekends and holidays. To get there, turn right at the intersection of Piedra Road (Forest Rd. 631) and Forest Rd. 640, about 3 miles north of Bridge Campground. A sanitary dumping station is on the left side of Forest Rd. 640 near the entrance. The campground entrance is another 1/2 mile from the road junction. Williams Creek Reservoir is about 1 mile north of the campground. Fishing is usually good in the late spring and fall, but fair in summer.

• **TEAL CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z \* Ñ

Teal Campground is a mile north of Williams Creek Campground along Forest Rd. 640, overlooking Williams Creek Reservoir. Its 16 sites have views of surrounding peaks. There is some shade, but much of the area is open and grassy. Only a few sites are suitable for larger RVs. Teal is popular, so plan to arrive early on busy summer weekends and holidays.

• **CIMARRONA CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z \* t

Cimarrona Campground is 2.3 miles north of Teal Campground on Forest Rd. 640, above the reservoir and near the end of the road. It has 21 sites; a few can handle large-sized RVs. There are sunny and shady sites. The campground is next to Cimarrona Creek, with views of the meadow and reservoir to the south. It's only a short walk to fish in the creek. The campground is adjacent to the Cimarrona Trailhead.

• **PALISADES HORSE CAMP** \$ c \ Z \* t h

Palisades Horse Camp is .8 mile north of Cimarrona Campground at the end of Forest Rd. 640 adjacent to the Williams Creek Trailhead. The 12 campsites are only for people camping with livestock. A one-way loop offers pull-thru's and back-in units. Each site has either a hitching rack or four-unit stall with feed manger. In addition to potable water for campers, there is a water tank for livestock. Grazing is not allowed in the campground, so bring adequate weed-free feed for your livestock.