

# Buck Mesa Trail



Photo by Vic Ullrey

Paonia R.D.

The Buck Mesa Trail was designed primarily for ATV use. It is open to 4 wheel drive vehicles from Forest Service Road (FSR) 704.4A south to Springhouse Park, however, FSR 704.4D is impassable to full-sized vehicles when wet. Park just east of the 704.4A/704.4D junction and ride FSR 704.4D to the start of the Trail. It departs the graveled FSR 704.4A about 1 mi. S.E. of Condemn It Park and travels through aspen forest in a southerly direction past Pilot Knob. The terrain is gentle but it can be very slick when wet. After passing Pilot Knob the trail intersects the 1000 Acre Flats Trail and then turns east to descend out of the aspen into more brushy country interspersed with open parks. The trail crosses a rough ridge named The Narrows before further descending to join Forest Road 738. In the vicinity of The Narrows there are spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Follow FSR #738 to its intersection with 1000 Acre Flats Trail #806, then follow 1000 Acre Flats Trail back to Buck Mesa Trail forming a "loop". Domestic sheep are often seen along the trail. All motorized vehicles must travel only on the designated routes.

**Don't Forget your Camera!**



Please don't litter!

## Trail Ethics:

**The Buck Mesa trail is designed primarily for ATV use. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.**



## Drinking Water:

**DO NOT drink water directly from a river or stream. Water needs to be treated first by either filtering, boiling for at least 10 minutes or treating with iodine tablets.**



## Multiple use:

As you use this area you may notice that the Forest is managed for a broad range of uses. Recreation use alone includes hiking, horseback riding, hunting, snowmobiling and sightseeing. In addition, the vegetation in the Forest requires some form of management. Timber harvest and livestock grazing are both forms of land management you may encounter while using this area. The livestock grazing on this area is managed in a very progressive and specific manner. The fences and gates that you may see are critical to managing the livestock and meeting the resource objectives that are planned for this area. Please close all gates that you open as you travel through the area. Controlling the livestock in the manner that we have planned is important.



If you encounter sheep during your visit, approach them with respect & caution. Guard dogs are used to protect the sheep from predators. Try to pass a fair distance from the sheep. If you have a dog, keep it restrained. If approached by a guard dog remain calm, tell the dog "Go back" in a firm authoritative voice. If you do not appear as a threat to the sheep, the dogs will just watch as you pass.



**Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.**

**Familiarize yourself with the area.**



# Buck Mesa Trail

## #804

Length 4.5 Miles



Photo by Vic Ullrey

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**Gunnison National Forest x  
Paonia Ranger District**



**For any questions or comments please contact:**  
**Paonia Ranger District**  
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# Buck Mesa Trail #804



**Trail Beginning:** Forest Road #704.4A.

**Trail Ending:** Forest Road #738.

**Access 1:** Follow Forest Road #704 to 704.4A. Parking is available east of the intersection with Forest Road 704.4D. Follow 704.4D south until intersect Buck Mesa Trail #804.

**Access 2:** Follow Hwy 133 to the frontage road east of Somerset. Follow the frontage road to a parking area on Coal Gulch Road. Follow Coal Gulch Road to the trail starting at the Forest boundary.

**Use:** ATV, horse, foot

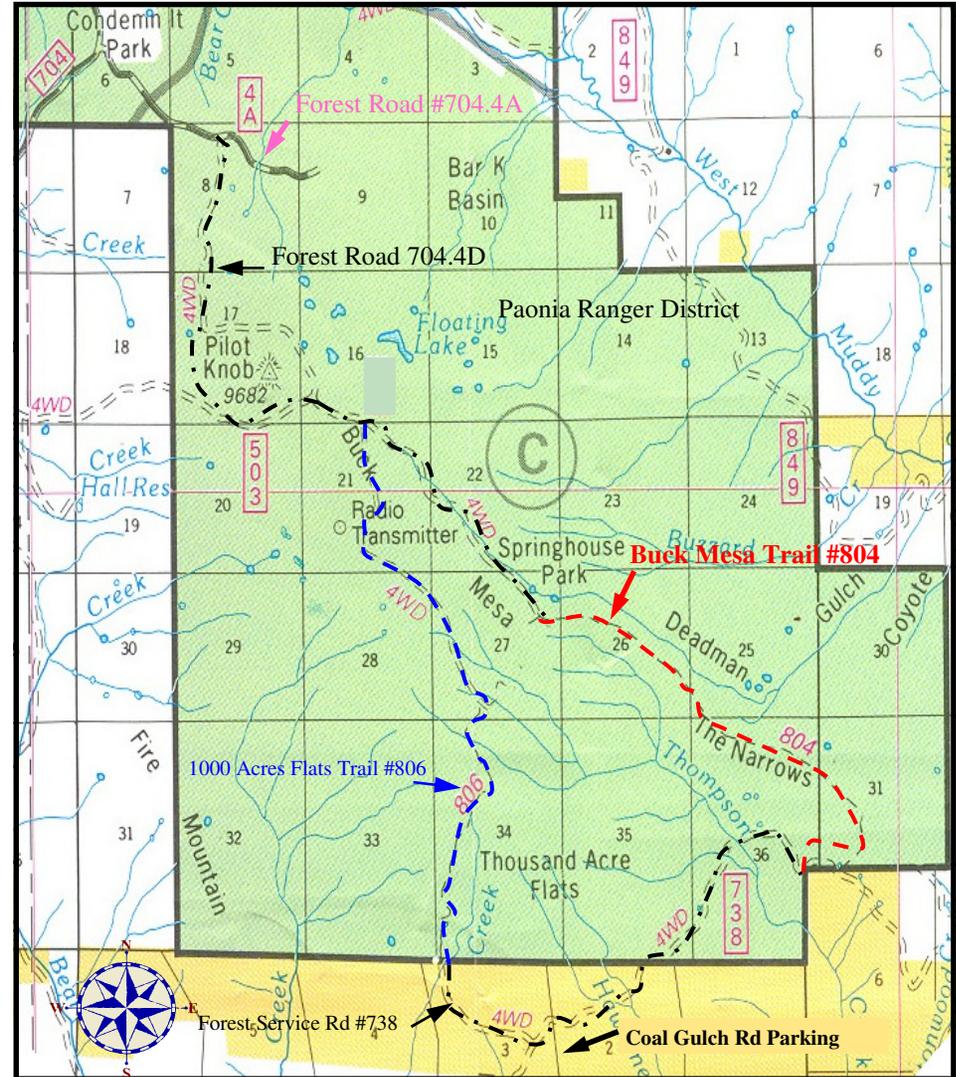
**Recommended Seasons:**



**USGS quad maps:** Bull Mountain, Somerset

## Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the Forest. Recreation maps are available at all local Forest Service offices and personnel can answer questions on specific sites. Camping in undeveloped areas requires more from the camper to help keep the site in the condition in which it was found. If you Pack it in-Pack it out!

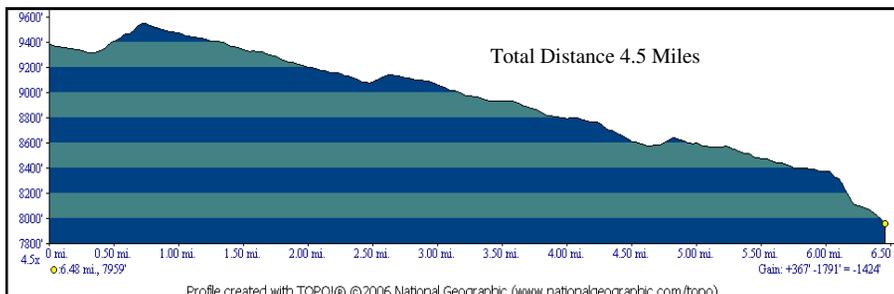


## Fire Safety:

Check in with your local Forest Service office to see if fire bans are in effect.



## Elevation Profile:



### Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors