After leaving Hwy 133 east of Somerset the road up Coal Gulch is normally in fair condition and may be traveled by full sized vehicles. It is steep with tight switchbacks and it is recommended that ATVs be unloaded at the bottom and ridden up Coal Gulch. The trail starts at the Forest boundary and winds through aspen forest with some brush at the lower elevation. After climbing up Coal Gulch the terrain is gentle with a few short steep sections. This trail forms a “loop” in conjunction with the Buck Mesa Trail #804 and Forest Road #738. Full sized vehicles are allowed only on the northern 2 miles of the trail as it is accessed from the Buck Mesa Trail.

**Trail Ethics:**
The 1000 Acre Flats Trail is maintained for four-wheelers and motorcycles, as well as foot, bicycle and horse travel. 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.

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**A Spectacular view from the 1000 Acres Flats Trail**

**Gunnison National Forest**

Paonia Ranger District

For any questions or comments please contact:
Paonia Ranger District
403 N. Rio Grande Ave., P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428
Phone: (970) 527-4131  Fax: (970) 527-4151 or
E-Mail: lhroyles@fs.fed.us or ullrey@fs.fed.us
**Trail Beginning:** 2 miles N.E. of Somerset at the forest boundary where Coal Gulch Road intersects the National Forest.

**Trail Ending:** The Buck Mesa Trail #804.

**Access #1:** Hwy 133 to frontage road east of Somerset. Frontage road to parking on Coal Gulch Road. Follow Coal Gulch Road to the trail starting at the forest boundary.

**Access #2:** Follow Forest Road #704 to Forest Road #704.4A. Parking is available at the intersection with Forest Road #704.4D. Follow #704.4D 3.25 miles south until it intersects with the Buck Mesa Trail. Follow the Buck Mesa Trail #804 0.2 miles to its intersection with 1000 Acre Flats Trail.

**Use:** Foot and Horse

**Recommended Seasons:**
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

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

**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 require 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:**

Total Distance 5.3 Miles

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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

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