Clear Fork Trail #810

View of Elk Knob Photo by Dave Bradford

The Clear Fork Trail goes into a travel restricted area that contains a road to a natural gas well. This road is for the exclusive use of the gas company and all others who enter the area must use non-motorized transportation. The trail starts at a locked gate and travels along the gas well road for 1 mile. At this point a sign indicates that the trail departs from the road. The trail follows the Clear Fork of the Muddy for another 8 miles. It is a gradual easy climb starting in brush country with mostly cottonwood and spruce along the creek bottom. As the trail climbs to the north it gradually enters into aspen forest. Some open parks are found along the route and near its north end the trail passes through Clear Fork Park which is a little over a mile long. Along this trail you may encounter deer, elk, a few cattle, or a band of sheep.

Trail Ethics:

The Clear Fork Trail is maintained for foot, horse and bicycle travel. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.

Motors & Machines:

Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Clear Fork Trail.

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, and sightseeing. In addition, the vegetation in the Forest requires some form of management. Livestock grazing is a form 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.

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Length 9 Miles

Photo by Vic Ullrey Paonia R.D.
Summer 2001

Gunnison National Forest
Paonia Ranger District

For any questions or comments please contact:
Paonia Ranger District
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E-Mail: lbroyles@fs.fed.us or vullrey @fs.fed.us

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Trail Beginning:: **Forest Service Road #844.**

Trail Ending:: **The Boundary of the Gunnison NF and the White River NF. The trail used to continue onto the White River NF, but is no longer maintained as a system trail.**

Access #1: **North end of Forest Service Road #844.**

Use: **Foot , Horse & Bicycle**

Recommended Seasons:

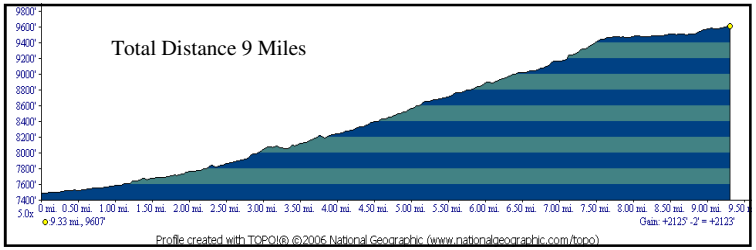
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter

USGS quad maps: **Elk Knob & Quaker Mesa**

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

Elevation Profile:

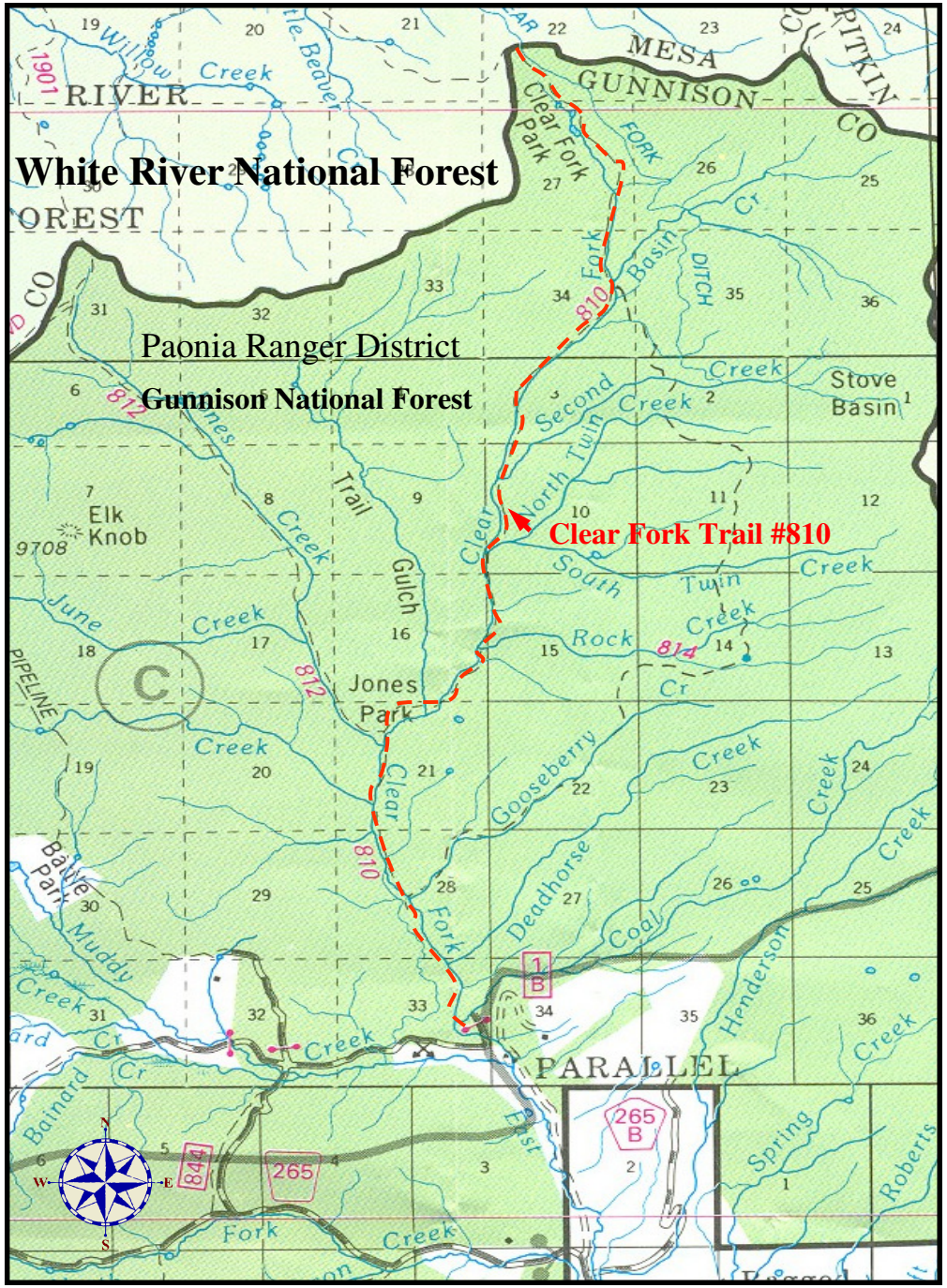


Dispersed Camping

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.



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