

Drift Creek Trail #815



The trail starts at Highway 133 and climbs up through brush country and then through aspen forest to the Drift Creek drainage. Here the trail ends near some old abandoned roads that were once used for coal exploration drilling. By following the abandoned roads much of the west side of Huntsman Ridge can be accessed. Watch for deer and elk as they are often seen in this area.

Don't forget your camera!



Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.

Familiarize yourself with the area.



Trail Ethics:

The Drift Creek 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 Drift Creek 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.

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Drift Creek Trail

#815

Length 3.2 Miles



Chair Mountain on the left
Ragged Mountain on the right
As seen from the Drift Creek Trail

Photo by Dave Bradford

Paonia R.D.

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: lbroyles@fs.fed.us or vullrey@fs.fed.us



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Trail Beginning: Colorado State Highway 133.

Trail Ending: Dead Ends 3.2 miles up the trail.

Access #1: From Paonia follow Hwy 133 east toward McClure Pass for about 29 miles. When you see some sheep corals on the right, look across the road to the left and the trail starts there.

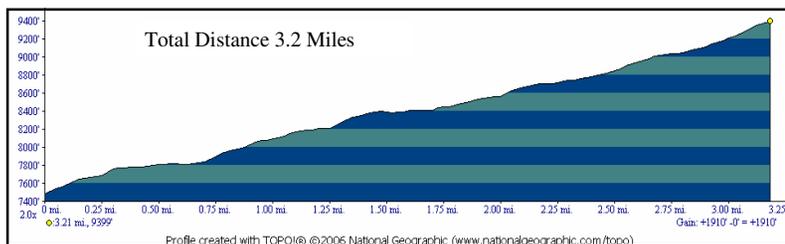
Use: Foot, Horse and Bicycle

Recommended Seasons:



USGS quad maps: Chair Mountain & Placita

Elevation Profile:



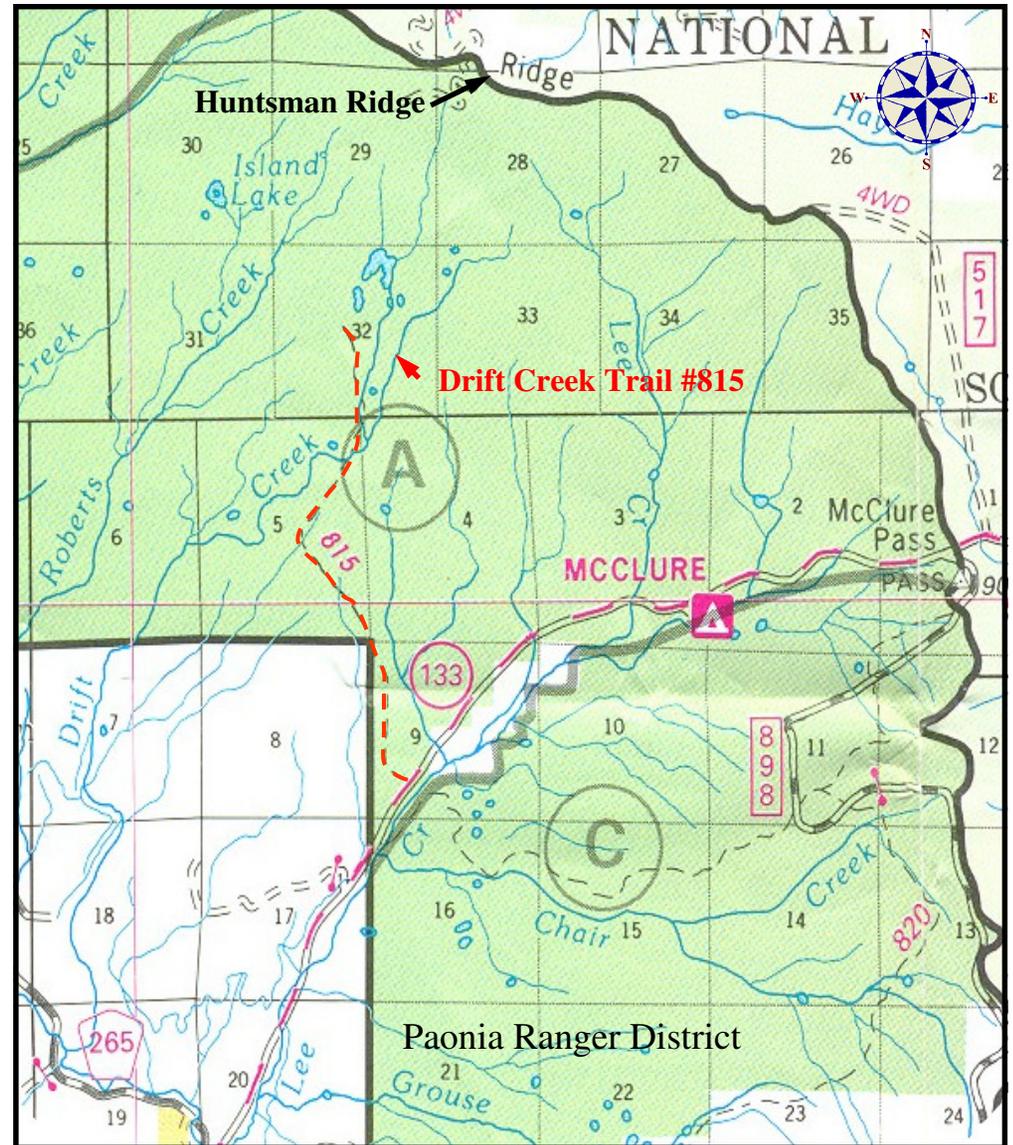
Dispersed Camping

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.



- 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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