

Piburn Trail #880



View looking East from the Piburn Trail
Photo by Anne Williams Paonia R.D.

This lightly used trail begins as an old 4-wheel drive road for the first mile. It is access to an irrigation ditch and then turns into regular trail. For the first 5 miles there is a series of casual rises and falls in terrain running through mostly aspen forests with some spruce/fir. At the 5 1/2 mile point you are on an open ridge. The trail then climbs sharply up a series of narrow switchbacks with spectacular views. At 6 miles, the Bald Mountain Tie-in, trail #882, joins the Piburn trail then continues east for one mile to join the Curecanti Trail #870. The Piburn Trail #880 is usually open by early July with many loop type trips possible.

Don't forget your camera!



Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.



Familiarize yourself with the area.

Trail Ethics:

The Piburn Trail allows foot, horseback and bicycle travel only. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.

Bicyclists please yield to hikers and horse use.



Motors & Machines:

Motorized vehicles are allowed on the Piburn Trail for the first mile until it crosses the ditch. After that it is foot, horseback and bicycle only.



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.



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.



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Please don't litter!

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Trail Length: 6.7 miles



View looking North West from the Piburn Trail
Photo by Anne Williams Paonia R.D.

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



Piburn Trail #880

Trail Beginning: 8 miles East of the town of Crawford off Virginia Creek Road, Forest Road #814.

Trail Ending : At the intersection of the Curecanti Trail #870.

Access : Travel south of Paonia on Hwy 133 for 11 miles to the town of Hotchkiss. Turn left onto Hwy 92 and continue for 10 miles to the town of Crawford. Turn left on the Smith Fork access road #712, (next to the Post Office). After approximately 6 miles you turn right onto Virginia Creek Road #814. Continue south on #814 for about 4 more miles to a parking area. Virginia Creek Road #814 can be extremely treacherous when wet, even in 4 wheel drive.

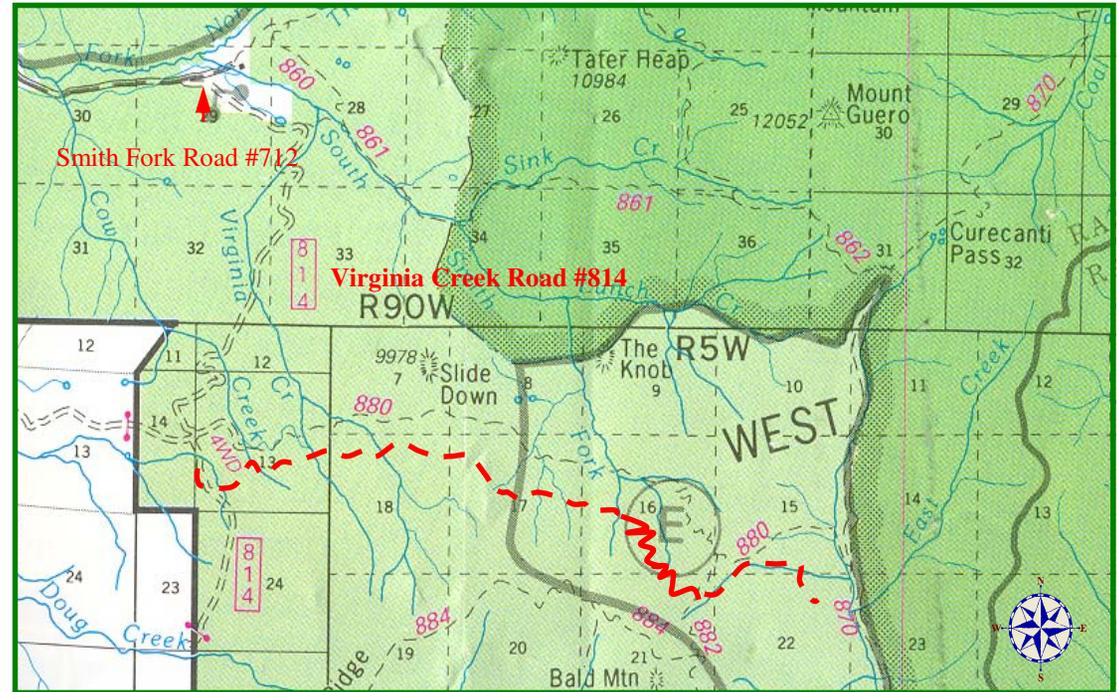
Use: Foot , Horse and Bicycle

Recommended Seasons:

Spring Summer Fall Winter

USGS quad maps: Mt. Guero

Elevation Profile:



Fire Safety:
Check in with your local Forest Service office to see if fire bans



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!



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