BALDY LAKE → VIA WEST FORK TRAIL #491, 5 MILES ONE WAY/ VIA LONGBRANCH TRAIL #489, 10 MILES ONE WAY

DIFFICULTY: Moderate to difficult

SEASON OF USE: June through October

ELEVATION GAIN: Trailhead is at 8,800', Baldy Lake is at 11,525'.

USGS MAPS: West Baldy

ACCESS: From Gunnison, take Highway 50 to Longbranch Road #780 which is about one-half mile southwest of Sargents. On Road #780, go to the Longbranch Ranger Station (not manned), bear left at the corral, and bear right at the next fork. A sign at the next road fork marks the beginning of the trail. Take the West Fork of Longbranch Creek.

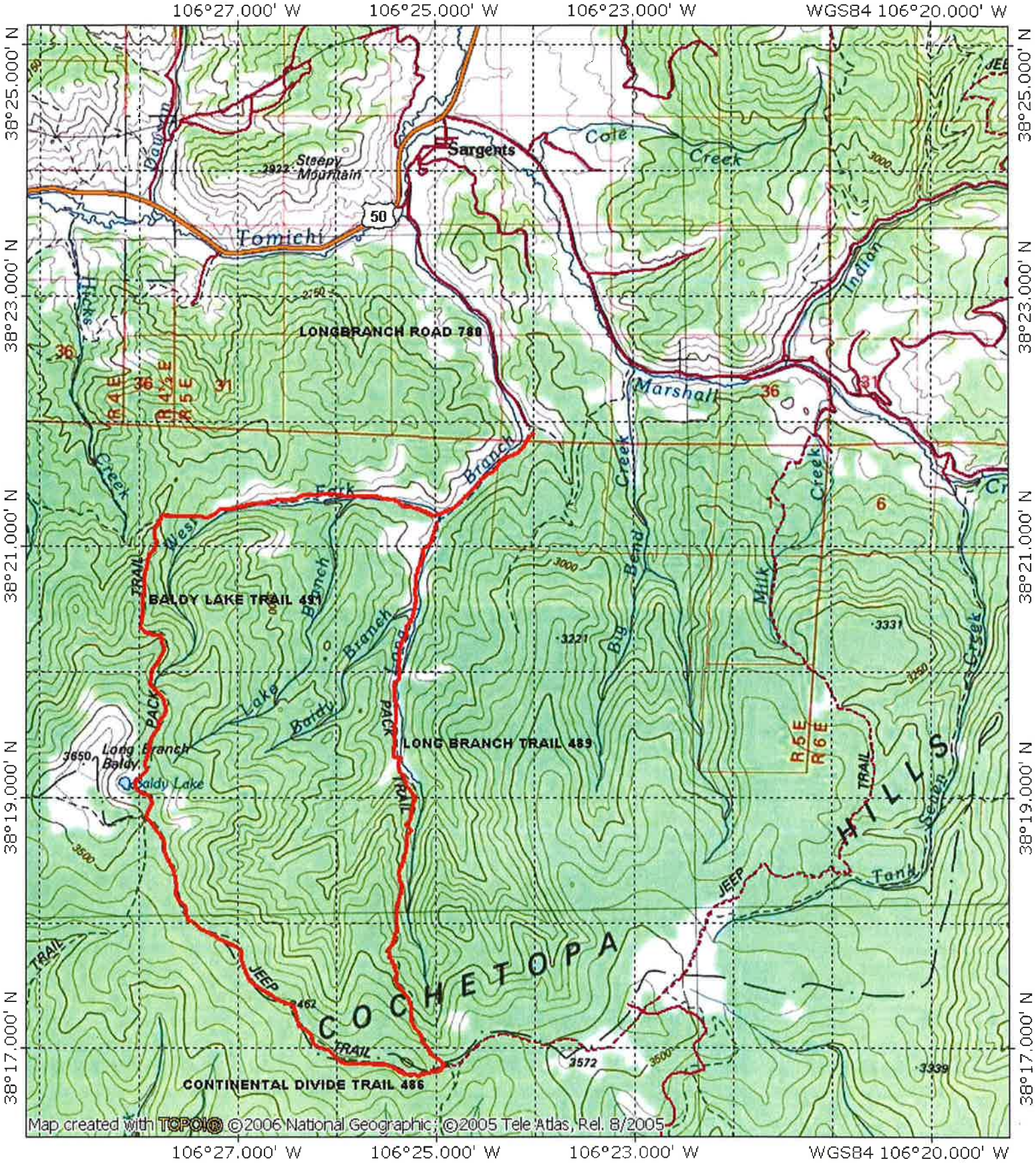
ATTRACTIONS: The Baldy Lake Trail follows the ridge between the West Fork and Hicks Creek, crosses the headwaters of the West Fork and then ascends to Baldy Lake. Fishing varies from day to day at Baldy Lake. A loop is possible by climbing a short section of trail to the top of the Continental Divide above the lake to trail # 486. Turn left or east and follow trail #486 until you get to the Longbranch Trail #489. Turn left or north and follow the Longbranch Trail down to the point of beginning.

CONSIDERATIONS: Always be prepared for adverse weather including rain, hail, thundershowers and lightning. Be sure to wear sunscreen and bring plenty of drinking water. Do not drink from mountain streams and lakes without treating it first. Be sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.

GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT 216 N.COLORADO ST. GUNNISON, CO 81230 (970) 641-0471

Difficulty ratings are subjective in nature and are directed toward hikers only.

BALDY LAKE/WEST FORK TRAIL 491 LONGBRANCH TRAIL 489



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 miles

0 1 2 3 4 5 km

TN MN

10½°

04/11/08