Southwestern Colorado Public Lands
Campground Guide

San Juan Public Lands Center

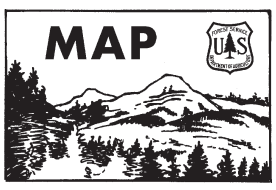
2013 Edition

INFORMATION INSIDE

This guide provides information on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management campgrounds and day-use areas in southwestern Colorado. The map, table and descriptions inside will help you learn more about these facilities and the amenities they offer.

PLAN AHEAD

This guide offers only basic information on sights to see and things to do near campgrounds. San Juan Public Lands offices offer more information on trails, roads, travel restrictions, etc. If you plan to travel in the backcountry, consider purchasing a more detailed topographic map. Our offices are listed on back.



CAMPING

Campgrounds open when sites are snow free, with full operation from about Memorial Day to after Labor Day. Some stay open longer, with reduced services and fees. The most popular campgrounds tend to be near larger lakes, major highways and communities; these are often full on summer weekends and holidays.

Campgrounds are intended to be temporary sites for vacationers, with a time limit on stays, varying from 14 to 30 days.

Individual campsites can accommodate up to eight people and two vehicles. Some campgrounds allow you to pay extra for an additional vehicle. Group campsites vary in how many people they can accommodate, as do group picnic sites. Check with campground hosts or our offices listed on back for more information. Some campgrounds offer campfire programs in summer.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

For current conditions on San Juan National Forest campgrounds, roads, trails and other recreation opportunities, go to:

www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan

FACILITIES

Most of the campgrounds and picnic areas in this guide have tables, fire grates and centrally located toilets. Some offer a more primitive experience, while others have modern conveniences.

Campground roads and parking areas are usually gravel; a few are paved. Most, but not all, offer drinking water. At some, you must remove your own trash; others offer trash service or sanitary dumping stations. A few provide electrical hookups for recreational vehicles. Many offer universally accessible (barrier-free) picnic tables, fire grates, and restrooms.

Fee campgrounds have campground hosts on site or self-serve registration and fee-payment stations at entrances, where regulations and information are posted. Prices range from $8 – $27 for individual sites (double sites cost more), and $30 – $175 for group sites. Campgrounds are run by private concessionaires under permit.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES

Senior Passes (available to U.S. residents over 62) and Access Passes (for those with a permanent disability) offer the holder a 50% discount on National Forest or BLM camping fees. Military Passes and Annual Passes do not offer the holder discounts on camping fees for National Forest or BLM campgrounds.

For more information, go to: *www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm*

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

Advance reservations for many of the facilities described in this guide are available through the National Recreation Reservation System. Information on which campsites and picnic sites may be reserved can be found inside.

Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance for individual sites, and up to 360 days in advance for group sites. You may pay by credit card over the phone or on-line. In addition to a camping fee, a non-refundable reservation fee is charged. Changes, no-shows and cancellations are subject to service fees.

TO BOOK RESERVATIONS:

Call toll-free 877-444-6777; TDD 877-833-6777, or go to *www.recreation.gov*
For customer service, call 888-448-1474.

Pagosa Public Lands Campgrounds

EAST OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

U.S. Highway 160 enters the San Juan National Forest from the east at Wolf Creek Pass, after crossing the Continental Divide at 10,857 feet above sea level. At the top of the pass is an interpretive sign on the history and biology of the area.

On the west side of the pass, the San Juan Overlook offers panoramic views and informational signs identifying landmarks. Two miles below the overlook is Treasure Falls, where an interpretive trail leads from the highway to the base of a lovely waterfall.

• *WEST FORK CAMPGROUND*

West Fork Campground is 9 miles west of Wolf Creek Pass (15 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs) on the West Fork Road (Forest Rd. 648). This secluded 10-acre campground is located about 1.5 miles off of Highway 160 with 28 campsites offering both sun and shade. Most are suitable for large RVs. A few are next to the West Fork of the San Juan River. Fishing opportunities are available.

The popular West Fork Trail, also known as the Rainbow Trail, begins a mile beyond the campground leading into the Weminuche Wilderness. The first portion passes through private property – stay on the trail and leave gates as you find them.

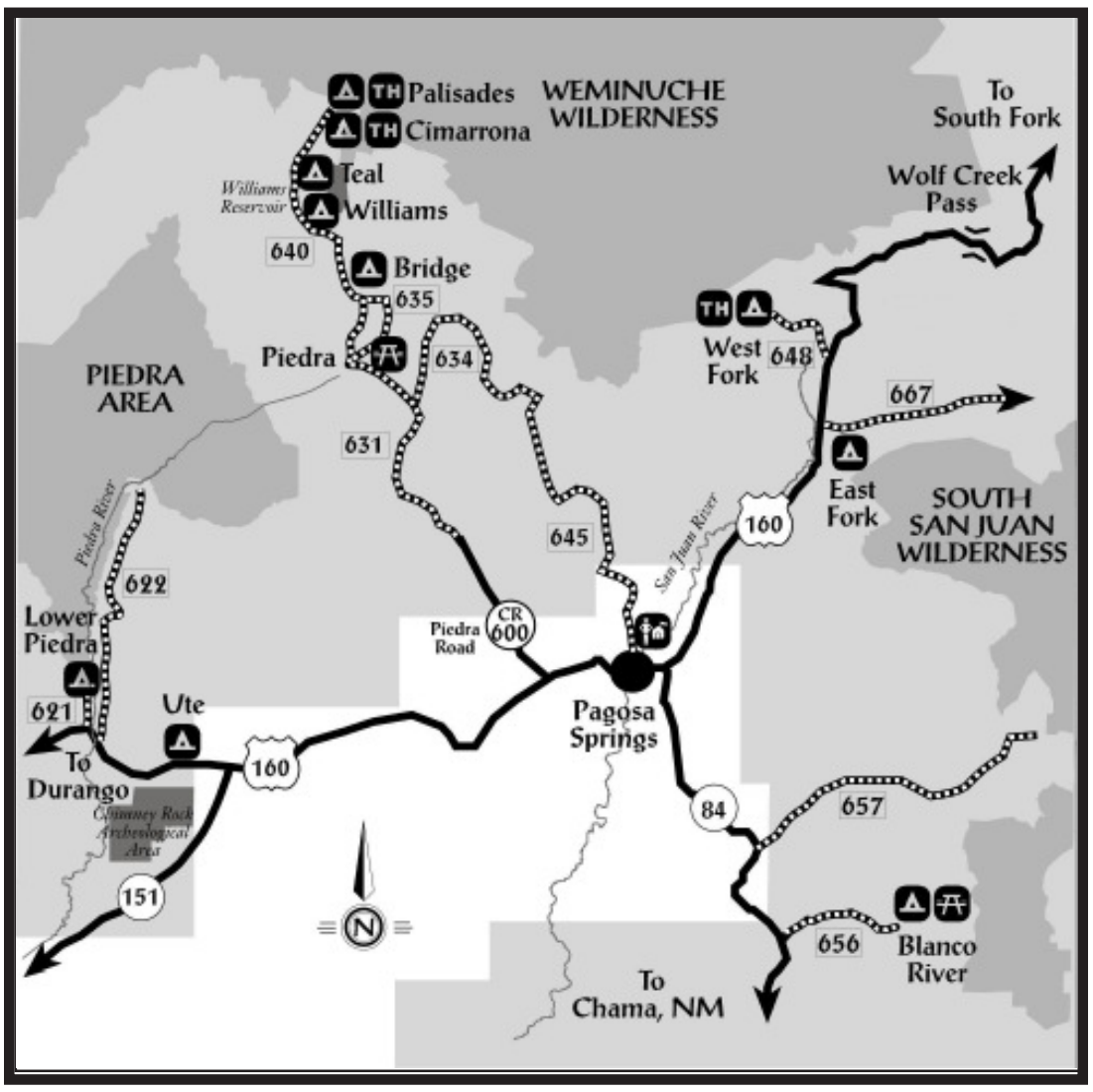
(15 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• *EAST FORK CAMPGROUND*

The East Fork Campground is 5 miles southwest of Treasure Falls (11 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs) about 3/4 mile off of U.S. Highway 160, on the East Fork Road (Forest Rd. 667). Its 26 campsites are shaded on a bench above the East Fork of the San Juan River. There are a few level pull-thru's. Short, steep trails lead to the river bank, with plenty of fishing upstream.

The East Fork Road parallels the river for several miles on its way to and beyond the Continental Divide (4WD required beyond its junction with Forest Rd. 684). Two miles past the campground are trailheads for the Coal Creek and Quartz Ridge trails. The East Fork Road to Elwood Pass and Silver Falls is popular for 4WD and ATV use.

(17 SITES FOR RESERVATION)



SOUTH OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

• *BLANCO RIVER GROUP CAMPGROUND*

This group campground must be reserved in its entirety in advance. It offers two banquet-sized tables, volleyball net posts and camping sites adjacent to the Blanco River, which is stocked with trout. Several large ponderosa pines and cottonwoods offer shade, but the area is quite warm in summer.

The maximum number of guests allowed is 100. Reservations must be made in advance The cost to reserve this group site is as follows: 1-50 guests = $50 per night, 51-75 guests = $60 per night, 76-100 guests = $75.

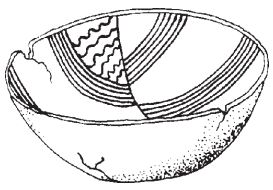
(1 GROUP SITE AVAILABLE ONLY BY RESERVATION)

WEST OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

• *UTE CAMPGROUND*

The Ute Campground, 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 160, has 26 campsites on a gentle, south-facing slope. Ponderosa pines give shade, but the area gets very warm in summer. The hillside above the campground has excellent views of the pinnacles of Chimney Rock National Monument.

Chimney Rock is four miles south on Colorado Highway 151 with the entrance road to the Visitor Center on your right. Guided tours are offered in summer by the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. The lower tour is easy to negotiate on a barrier-free interpretive trail leading to Ancestral Puebloan sites. The mountaintop part of the tour heads steeply uphill to a Chacoan-style Great House.



Tours of Chimney Rock National Monument are offered from May 15 - September 30.Call 970-883-5359 for reservations or go to: *www.chimneyrockco.org.*

• *LOWER PIEDRA CAMPGROUND*

The Lower Piedra Campground is just north of U.S. Highway 160 on the west side of the Piedra River, 18 miles east of Bayfield and 25 miles west of Pagosa Springs. It is about a half mile up FS Road 621 on the west side of the river (not to be confused with the First Fork Road, FS Road 622, on the east side of the river). The campground offers 17 large level sites with plenty of shade. Fishing opportunities are available.

NOTICE: Dispersed camping is not allowed within 100 yards of either side of Forest Road 621 leading to the Lower Piedra Campground (from the cattle guard to the campground boundary).

CAMPGROUND RULES

OBEY *"QUIET TIME"*

Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don't make loud noises, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours during the day, limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time. Drive slowly through campground loops and watch closely for pedestrians.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, etc. cannot be used inside campgrounds, except to travel between your campsite and outside locations; however, their use may not be allowed on county roads.

HORSES AND PACK STOCK

Most campgrounds do not allow horses or pack stock. Those camping with horses should seek out campgrounds with facilities listed in this guide that specifically accommodate pack stock.

DOGS ON LEASH

Dogs must be leashed or otherwise physically restrained in campgrounds. Do not allow pets to harass other visitors, dogs, or wildlife. Do not leave pets unattended. Control barking.

CAMPFIRES

Campfires are only allowed in fire grates at campsites, and firewood must fit inside the metal ring. When no one is physically attending a campfire, it must be put out completely. Pour water on the fire and stir ashes until there is no smoke. Be aware of any fire restrictions in effect. These should be posted at the campground entrance.

TRASH

Use trash receptacles in campgrounds. Some primitive campgrounds require you to pack out your own trash. Do not burn trash - many materials will not burn to ash. Leave a clean campsite when you depart.

PROTECT VEGETATION

Do not break limbs, drive nails or carve into bark of trees or shrubs. This allows insects and disease to enter and can weaken or kill trees. Walk on paths and roads to keep grass and plants alive. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy. Bring firewood with you or check with campground hosts. Collect only dead wood lying on the ground.

Pagosa Public Lands Campgrounds

NORTH OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

The Williams Creek area features the Plumtaw Loop, a 35-mile scenic round-trip suitable for most vehicles, connecting Piedra Road (FS Rd 631) and Four Mile Road (FS Rd 645) to Pagosa Springs.

Williams Creek Reservoir is stocked with Kokanee salmon and trout. Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers fishing access through Williams Creek Campground to the dam. This end of the lake has no boat ramp, but lightweight boats can be carried a short distance to the water. A USFS boat ramp is located 1/2 mile north of the campground. Motorized boating is allowed, but water skiing and wakeboarding are prohibited.

The Cimarrona, Weminuche and Williams Creek trails access the Weminuche Wilderness and Piedra Area, where only foot and horseback travel are allowed. They also access the Continental Divide.

NOTICE: Except in the developed campgrounds listed here and dispersed sites posted as OPEN, camping is not allowed within 1/4 mile of either side of Williams Ck. Rd (FS Rd. 640) from its intersection with Piedra Rd (FS Rd. 631) all the way to its end. Overnight camping is also not allowed at Williams Creek Trailhead.

• *PIEDRA PICNIC AREA* TH

Piedra Picnic Area, 16 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs, is just off the Piedra Road on Forest Rd. 635. Its four sunny day-use sites are free and located adjacent to the Piedra River. Drinking water is not available. The Piedra River Trailhead is west of the Piedra Road north of the junction with Forest Rd. 635. This popular day hike will take you 2.5 miles to a footbridge over the river. The trail continues another 12 miles along the canyon to a bridge at the end of the First Fork Road (Forest Rd. 622). River otters can be seen in the Piedra River.

• *BRIDGE CAMPGROUND* $

Bridge Campground, 19 miles from Pagosa Springs, is northwest of US Highway 160 on the Piedra Road (County Road 600, which turns into Forest Rd. 631). It offers 19 sites in a flat, open area. Large sites offer views of the high peaks to the north. The campground is moderately used, and sites are usually available.

• *WILLIAMS CREEK CAMPGROUND* $

Williams Creek Campground, 23 miles north of Pagosa Springs, has 67 sites, with a few along the creek. Some sites may be temporarily closed to allow for removal of diseased trees as part of ongoing operations to improve public safety.

Campsites are often full on summer weekends and holidays. To get there, turn right at the intersection of Piedra Road (Forest Rd. 631) and Forest Rd. 640, about 3 miles north of Bridge Campground. A sanitary dumping station is on the left side of Forest Rd. 640 near the entrance. The campground entrance is another 1/2 mile from the road junction. Williams Creek Reservoir is about a mile north of the campground. Fishing is usually good in the late spring and fall, but only fair in summer.

• *TEAL CAMPGROUND* $

Teal Campground is a mile north of Williams Creek Campground along Forest Rd. 640, overlooking Williams Creek Reservoir. Its 16 sites have views of surrounding peaks. There is some shade, but much of the area is open and grassy. Only a few sites are suitable for larger RVs. Its campsites are first-come, first-served and fill up quickly on a regular basis.

• *CIMARRONA CAMPGROUND* $ TH

Cimarrona Campground is 2.3 miles north of Teal Campground on Forest Rd. 640, above the reservoir and near the end of the road. The campground has 21 sites; a few can handle large-sized RVs. There are sunny and shady sites; a couple are well shaded. The campground is next to Cimarrona Creek, with views of the meadow and reservoir to the south. It's only a short walk to fish in the creek. The campground is adjacent to the Cimarrona Trailhead.

• *PALISADES HORSE CAMP* $ TH

Palisades Horse Camp is 0.8 mile north of Cimarrona Campground at the end of Forest Rd. 640 adjacent to the Williams Creek Trailhead. The 12 campsites are only for those camping with pack stock. A one-way loop offers pull-thrus and back-in units. Each site has either a hitching rack or four-unit stall with feed manger. In addition to potable water for campers, there is a water tank for livestock. Grazing is not allowed in the campground, so bring adequate weed-free feed for your livestock. **(12 SITES FOR RESERVATION)**

RESPECT THE BACKCOUNTRY

WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System *"to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."* The San Juan National Forest includes the Congressionally designated Weminuche, Lizard Head and South San Juan Wildernesses. The Piedra Area is also managed to preserve its Wilderness characteristics. By law, only primitive forms of transportation – foot and stock travel – are allowed in these areas. Mountain bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited. Wilderness boundaries are posted at trailheads and shown on maps.

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of others.

800-332-4100 or *www.lnt.org*

STOP THE SPREAD OF WEEDS

Weed seeds travel in many ways – on shoes and clothing, on and in vehicles, on pets and livestock, in hay. Help keep campgrounds and trails weed free. In Colorado, all stock feed must have weed-free certification (with certified twine, packing or transit certificate). Only weed-free baled hay, cubed or pelletized hay, steamed grain in a stamped bag, or weed-free baled mulch of tree fibers or steamed material may be used on public lands. For more information, contact the Colorado Weed Management Association at 970-887-1228.

• RESPECT CULTURAL SITES

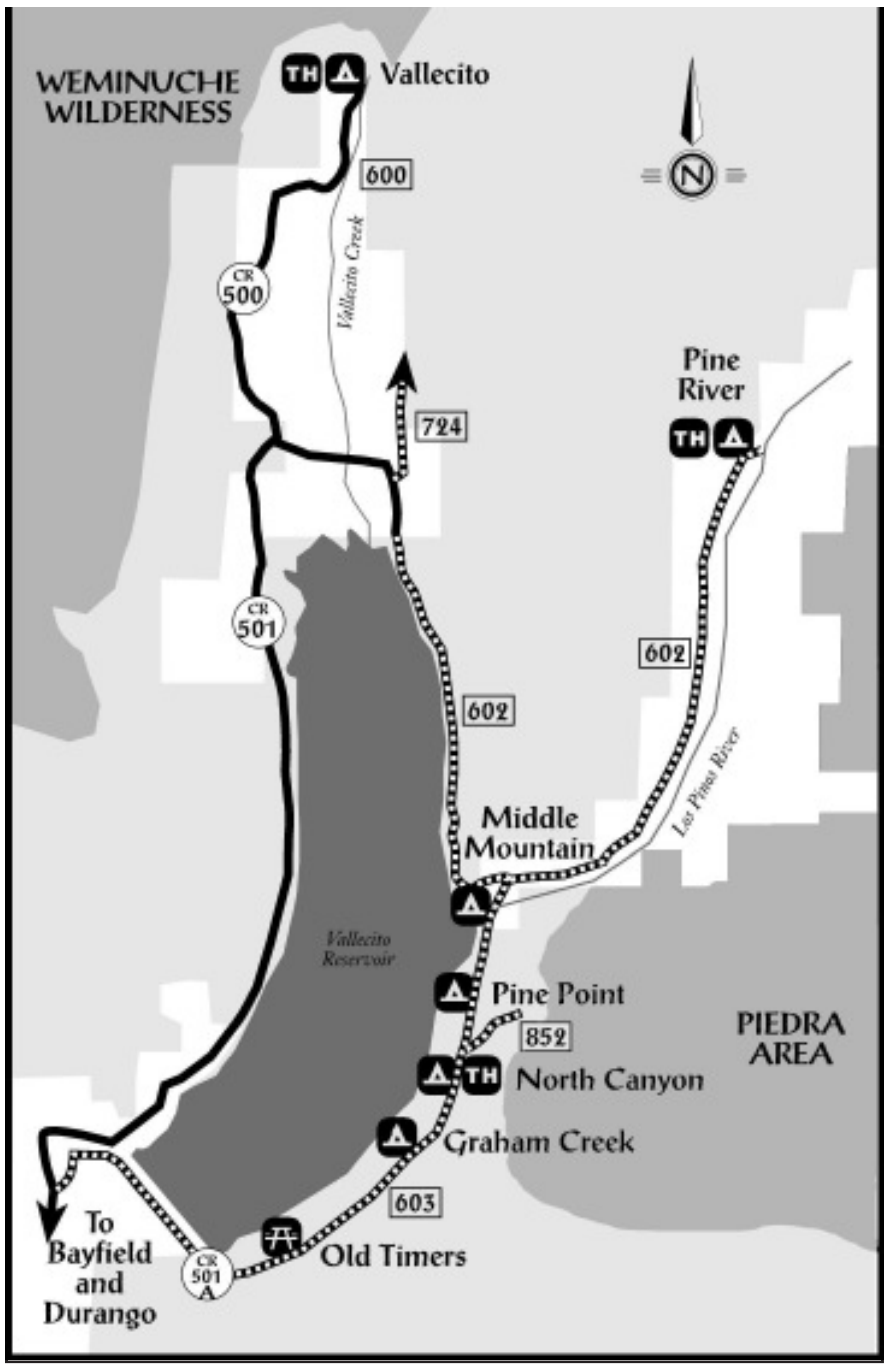
Looting, removing or defacing prehistoric and historic artifacts is against federal law. Enjoy them but be careful your visit doesn't cause damage. Oils from your hands can harm pictographs – look but don't touch. Don't walk on walls or inside structures. Resist the temptation to pick up artifacts and pile them – this degrades the historical context of a site. Camping is never allowed in archaeological sites. Don't enter historical mining or ranching structures; they are often unstable. Stay out of mine shafts; they can contain dangerous fumes. Many mines are on private lands located inside federal land boundaries – do not trespass.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

Southwestern Colorado may look lush and green, but this is arid country that can be dangerously dry in summer or fall. Be careful with fire – a spark, a puff of wind and nearby flammable materials can combine to cause disaster before you know it.

- Fire restrictions are posted at campground entrances, Forest entrance signs and trailheads. Check with campground hosts or with offices listed on the back.
- In campgrounds, campfires are allowed only within a fire grate, and firewood must fit inside the metal ring.
- If camping in the backcountry, don't build new fire rings - use a campstove or an existing fire ring. Fire rings scar the scenery and sterilize the soil beneath. Don't build a fire beneath overhanging branches.
- Put fires out every time you leave camp or go to bed. Pour water over ashes and stir until cold. Stir wet ashes until there is no smoke or heat. Clean out the fire pit and disperse the ashes.
- Do not burn trash. Some items are harmful to the environment. Plastics and tin will not burn to ash, and the resulting debris is messy and difficult to clean up.
- Do not park hot vehicles over dry grass. Never toss cigarette butts - extinguish and dispose of safely.

Columbine Public Lands Campgrounds



VALLECITO RESERVOIR (North of Bayfield)

Vallecito Reservoir is a large reservoir 15 miles north of Bayfield on County Road 501 (FS Rd. 600). The full-service community is on the west side of the reservoir; the east side is mostly undeveloped. Motorized boating is allowed, with boats and equipment rentals available. The Pine River Irrigation District charges a Recreation Permit Fee to park/use the lakeshore and/or water. Permits cost $3 per day, $15 for two weeks or $30 for an annual pass. This permit is NOT required when you are inside a National Forest campground or day-use area. Permits are sold at Vallecito businesses and marinas, and fee tubes are posted below the dam and at Aspen and Kokanee points. A boat permit is also required for use of motorized craft; $20 annually or $7.50 for 5 days. Fishing is good in the reservoir and streams. Fishing licenses and supplies are sold at local stores.

Hiking and horseback riding is allowed in the adjacent Weminuche Wilderness (but no motorized vehicles or mountain bicycles are allowed).

• OLD TIMERS DAY-USE AREA

Old Timers Day-Use Area, on the east shore, is 1.5 miles north of the dam on County Road 501A (Forest Rd. 603). Ten shaded picnic sites are on a gentle hillside near the water. The picnic area is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (gate is locked at night). Boats can only be launched from Doc's Marina on the west side of the reservoir where they are inspected for mussels.

• GRAHAM CREEK CAMPGROUND

About 2 miles north on FS Rd. 603 is Graham Creek Campground. Some of its 25 sites are shaded; others are more open. Hillside sites are about 100 yards from the high-water line. Sites are available for larger RVs. Private property adjoins the south side of the campground. Boats can only be launched from Doc's Marina on the west side of the reservoir where they can be inspected for mussels. **(15 SITES FOR RESERVATION)**

• NORTH CANYON CAMPGROUND

North Canyon Campground is another 1/2 mile north on the east side of the reservoir on Forest Rd. 603. Among the 21 sites are several suitable for larger RVs. Boats can only be launched from Doc's Marina on the west side of the reservoir. North Canyon Trail across the road offers scenic vistas of the reservoir. East Creek Trail is 1/4 mile up Forest Rd. 852, northeast of the campground. Both trails are popular with horseback riders. Horses are not allowed in the campground. **(12 SITES FOR RESERVATION)**

• PINE POINT CAMPGROUND

Pine Point Campground is 1/2 mile north of North Canyon Campground on the east side of the reservoir on Forest Rd. 603 midway up the lakeshore. It has views of high peaks to the northwest. Its 30 shady sites include several pull-thru and larger sites for trailers and RVs. Some are near water, but the area is not well protected for mooring boats. Boats can only be launched from Doc's Marina on the west side of the reservoir where they can be inspected for mussels. Commercial development on the east side of the reservoir is limited to resorts north of Pine Point. They have camping services, but gasoline is not available. **(15 SITES FOR RESERVATION)**

• VALLECITO CAMPGROUND

Traveling along the western side of the reservoir on County Rd. 501, you pass through the community of Vallecito. Turn north on County Rd. 500 and go about 3 miles. The campground is large and very popular. Its 80 campsites in four loops are shaded, and most sites are large and fairly level (16 sites have electrical hookups). Those near the creek fill up quickly. Fishing in Vallecito Creek inside the Wilderness is restricted to artificial flies and lures. Seven fee picnic sites are along the creek.

Parking for the Vallecito Creek Trail, a major access point for the Weminuche Wilderness (no mountain bikes or motorized vehicles allowed), is at the entrance. Hitching posts and an unloading dock are available for livestock, but overnight horse camping is not allowed. **(33 SITES FOR RESERVATION)**

• MIDDLE MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND

Following County Road 501 around the north end of the lake, then south for about three miles will take you to Middle Mountain Campground, which has 24 sites with southern exposure and walking access to the water. Some shade is provided by ponderosa pines and small aspen. A few sites accommodate large RVs. Boats can only be launched from Doc's Marina on the west side of the reservoir where they can be inspected for mussels.

The Middle Mountain Road (Forest Rd. 724) leads to the old mining townsite of Tuckerville and to the boundary of the Weminuche Wilderness. Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed past this point.

• PINE RIVER CAMPGROUND

Four miles beyond Middle Mountain Campground, at the end of Forest Rd. 602, is the Pine River Campground, at the Pine River Trailhead. This primitive campground has a parking area with hitching posts and a turn-around parking area for trailers. Pack stock may be unloaded but you cannot camp with your pack stock in the campground. Campsites accommodate only tents or small RVs. There is no potable water. All 6 campsites have views up the Pine River Valley.

The Pine River Trail crosses private land for 3 miles before reaching the Weminuche Wilderness, and there is no access to the Pine River until this point. Respect private property, and leave gates as you find them.

The trail follows the Pine River for 6 miles to intersect with the Lake Creek Trail, which leads steeply uphill to Emerald Lake. Mountain bicyles and motorized vehicles are not allowed.

WATER SAFETY

BOATING REGULATIONS

Colorado requires that any boat with a motor or sail be registered. Cost depends on size of the boat and ranges from $35 to $75. Registration is offered at Navajo and Ridgway state parks. Some areas do not allow motorized boating; others allow only hand-propelled boats or electric trolling motors.

Check boating restrictions or permit requirements with the following entities:

- McPhee and Lemon Reservoirs are managed by the U.S. Forest Service;
- Vallecito Reservoir is managed by the Pine River Irrigation District; and
- Williams Creek Reservoir, Echo Canyon Reservoir and Haviland Lake are managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

RIVER RAFTING

Rivers on or near public land are popular for white-water boating. Carry adequate safety equipment and comply with rafting regulations. There is no permit system on the Dolores River, but there are rafting and camping restrictions along the Wilderness Study Area portion.

BLM Dolores River information can be found at:
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc/recreation/sjdolores.html.

Rafting and kayaking are also popular on the Upper Animas and Piedra rivers, which are both very technical in nature, and caution is advised. Commercial outfitters offer guided trips on all of these rivers under permit.

Columbine Public Lands Campgrounds

LEMON RESERVOIR

Lemon Reservoir in the Florida River drainage is a less developed setting than Vallecito. Drive 16 miles northeast of Durango on Florida Road (County Rd. 240) to County Rd. 243 (Forest Rd. 596). The road is paved as far as the dam. Full services are available in Vallecito, Durango or Bayfield. Fishing is usually good. Most of the shoreline is steep, except at the upper end. Only the east side is accessible by road. The sole boat launch is at Miller Creek Campground. Motorized boating is allowed.

• MILLER CREEK CAMPGROUND

Miller Creek Campground, about 2 miles north of the dam along Forest Rd. 596 (County Rd. 243), has a concrete boat ramp at its north end. Its 12 campsites offer a choice of sun or shade; 5 sites share a large parking area. RVs can be leveled without much difficulty. A shady roadside picnic area has 4 tables available for day use. The Upper Lemon Day-Use Area, a fishing-access site, is 1.5 miles north of Miller Creek.

• FLORIDA CAMPGROUND

The Florida Campground is 4 miles north of Miller Creek Campground above the reservoir, with 20 shaded individual campsites. A few short pull-thru and back-in sites can accommodate larger RVs. Tent campsites are well-shaded and near the river. Do not trespass on private property adjacent to the south side of the campground.

The Florida Group Area, just beyond the regular camping area, accommodates up to 75 people.It has a pavilion with 8 tables, 2 serving tables, 2 dutch oven tables, 2 group-size grills, a group-size fire ring and parking for 6 RVs and 14 vehicles.

Near the campground entrance, the East Florida Road (Forest Rd. 597) winds steeply uphill accessing the Lost Lake, Enlich Mesa and Stump Lake trails.

(1 GROUP SITE MANDATORY RESERVATION)

• TRANSFER PARK CAMPGROUND

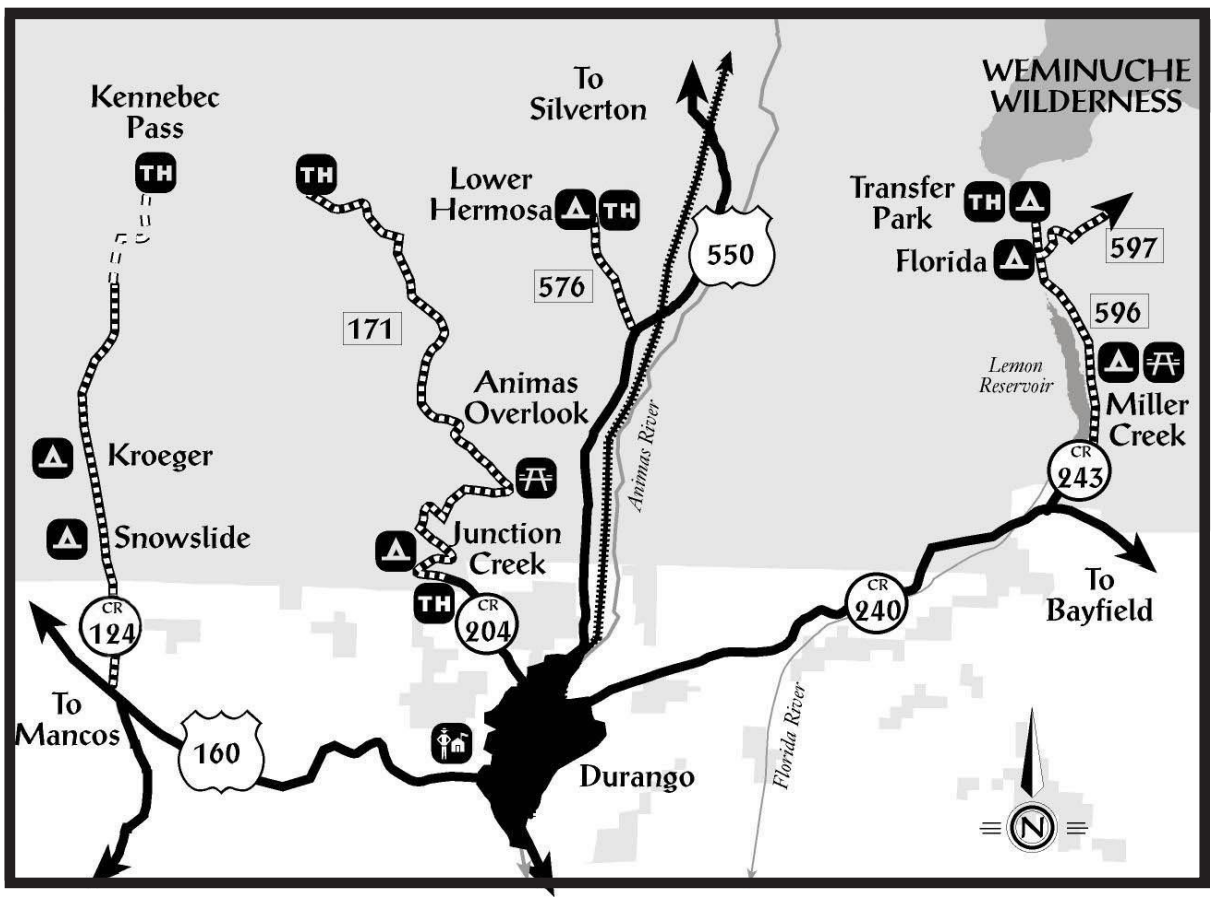
Transfer Park Campground is 1 mile past Florida Campground, with 11 acres of shaded settings by the Florida River. It is the site of a historic transfer station for ore and supplies in the mining era. Two loops have 25 sites with shade and sun, and large open play areas. The upper loop is mostly level with several larger sites.The lower loop is near the river with 2 larger sites, short pull-thru's and tent spots.

Parking for the Burnt Timber Trail is nearby. Hitching rails and an unloading dock for horses are available; however, horses are not allowed in the campground. This trail accesses the Weminuche Wilderness (no mountain bicycles and motorized vehicles), with connections to Lime Mesa, Mountain View Crest and City Reservoir.

DISPERSED CAMPING

Camping outside of campgrounds is usually allowed, but you'll find some areas posted as closed. In popular areas, dispersed sites have toilets or fire grates. To avoid damaging vegetation, camp in already used areas. Never level a site or dig trenches; instead pick a level site with good drainage.

- You can drive up to 300 ft. off of any open road to access a campsite, but only if you can do so without causing resource damage.
- You cannot camp within 100 feet of any source of water.
- You cannot camp more than 14 days in any one spot in the backcountry.



JUNCTION CREEK

The Junction Creek area west of Durango is very popular. Dispersed camping is **not** allowed from the Forest boundary to 8 miles up the Junction Creek Road until above the Animas Overlook. Motor vehicles must stay on open roads. OHVs are not allowed on the lower part of the road. The Colorado Trail, linking Durango to Denver, may be accessed at the Forest boundary, at a sharp curve below the campground, or off the Champion Venture Road. Lower portions of the Colorado Trail are heavily used by mountain bikers and day hikers. The Log Chutes Trail System, popular for mountain bicycling, is just beyond Junction Creek Campground.

• JUNCTION CREEK CAMPGROUND

Junction Creek Campground is 5 miles northwest of Durango. From Main Ave. turn west on 25th St. Go 3.5 mi. to the National Forest boundary, then 1.5 mi. on FS Rd. 171. The campground will be on your left. It is on a south-facing hillside with Junction Creek 1/4 mile below. Fishing is better upstream.

Four camping loops have 46 campsites (4 are double sites), and 14 offer electrical hookups. "A" loop has 1 group site that can be used for day use or overnight camping and can accommodate up to 50 people. The other group site has a pavilion and horseshoe pits and accommodates 65 people for day use only. Both sites have electrical outlets available and access to a volleyball court. The group sites must be reserved in advance. There are also 2 family picnic sites in "A" loop available on a first-come, first-served basis.

(29 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• ANIMAS OVERLOOK

This day-use area is 6 mi. past the Junction Creek Campground up FS Rd. 171. The gravel road is passable by most passenger vehicles, but narrow and winding. Beware of washboards on corners and steep portions.

The parking lot for the Animas Overlook is paved, with barrier-free toilets. Picnic facilities are fully accessible. An interpretive trail, paved with gentle slopes for wheelchairs, offers an easy 3/4-mile loop with views of the Animas Valley and mountains. The road continues from here and deadends northeast of Kennebec Pass. Several trails lead into the Hermosa Creek and Junction Creek basins.

HERMOSA

• LOWER HERMOSA

This small campground has 19 campsites, with some designed for horse use. Tables and fire grates are at each site. A toilet is in the parking lot adjacent to the Hermosa Creek Trailhead. The parking lot is large enough for vehicles and horse trailers, and offers access to the Jones Creek and Hermosa Creek trails. The Hermosa Trail follows the creek 19 miles uphill through the Hermosa Roadless Area to Hermosa Park. It is a multiple-use trail popular with mountain bikes, horseback riders, hikers, fishermen and motorcycles. ATVs are not allowed on the single-track sections.

LA PLATA CANYON

From Durango, go 12 miles west on U.S. Highway 160. Turn north on County Rd. 124 at Hesperus and go 5 miles. The paved road turns to gravel at the National Forest boundary. Access to campgrounds is by 2WD gravel road.

The La Plata Canyon road heads up the canyon for 8 miles to the Kennebec Pass Scenic Overlook at 11,600 feet. The last few miles are 4WD, with steep dropoffs. ATVs are not allowed on the county road but are allowed on FS side roads.

Camping is allowed only in developed campgrounds and designated campsites, where campfires are allowed in metal fire grates. Toilets are located at the Miners Cabin, Madden and La Plata City camping areas. Consult a map to make sure you do not trespass on private property.

• SNOWSLIDE CAMPGROUND

Snowslide Campground is 6 miles up the canyon from U.S. Highway 160 and adjacent to the La Plata River with entrances on both sides of the road. Its 13 sites are well shaded. The maximum RV size is 35 feet. There is no potable water, but you can get water from Kroeger Campground. There is no trash pickup; trash must be packed out.

• KROEGER CAMPGROUND

One mile up the road from Snowslide Campground is Kroeger Campground, with 10 campsites on 2 shaded acres. You can fish in the nearby La Plata River, but success rates are only fair.

Expect cool summer nights at this elevation. There is no trash pickup; trash must be packed out. Most sites do not accommodate larger RVs. Private property is adjacent to the campground - do not trespass.

Columbine Public Lands Campgrounds

NORTH OF DURANGO

U.S. Highway 550 is part of the San Juan Skyway, a National Scenic Byway. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad parallels the highway for 15 miles north of Durango. Groceries, gas and other camper services are found in Durango, Hermosa and at Durango Mountain Resort. As the Skyway climbs Coalbank and Molas passes nearing 11,000 feet in elevation, it offers views of the Weminuche Wilderness. There are scenic turnouts along the way; some with limited space and sheer dropoffs. The Skyway continues north through Silverton and over Red Mountain Pass, where it enters the Uncompahgre National Forest. From there, it loops around to connect the towns of Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Rico, Dolores, Cortez and Mancos.

The Alpine Loop, a BLM Backcountry Byway, offers a high-elevation, rough 4WD route linking the mountain towns of Silverton, Lake City, and Ouray. The Alpine Loop is for high-clearance 4WD vehicles only.

• HAVILAND LAKE

Haviland Lake Campground, 18 miles north of Durango, is 1 mile east of U.S. Highway 550 on Forest Rd. 671. Its 43 campsites are shaded, with sites for RVs and tents; some near the lakeshore. Several campsites have electrical hookups.

Haviland Lake offers barrier-free accessible piers and is wakeless; only boats powered by electric troll motors or rowed by hand are allowed. A trail leads to more secluded fishing at Forebay Lake, about a mile away.

(26 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• CHRIS PARK GROUP CAMPGROUND

The Chris Park Group Campground, 1 mile south of Haviland Lake on Forest Rd. 166, has three group campsites offered through advance reservation only. Two group sites accommodate 75 campers each. A third group site, which accommodates up to 150 people, has a pavillion, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, electricity and RV access. The park is flat and open, partly shaded. Day hikers enjoy the nearby trailhead for the Rico-to-Rockwood Wagon Road, which was used in the late 1800s before the railroad.

(3 GROUP SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• SIG CREEK CAMPGROUND

Sig Creek Campground, 32 miles north of Durango, has 9 campsites on a south-facing hillside about 1/4 mile from the East Fork of Hermosa Creek. The campground is 6 miles west of Durango Mountain Resort on the Hermosa Park Rd. (Forest Rd. 578), accessible by 2WD. Much of this gravel road follows the Scotch Creek Toll Road, which ran from Rico to the Animas Valley in the late 1800s. The road continues over Bolam Pass to Colorado Highway 145 north of Rico. The upper section is 4WD only.

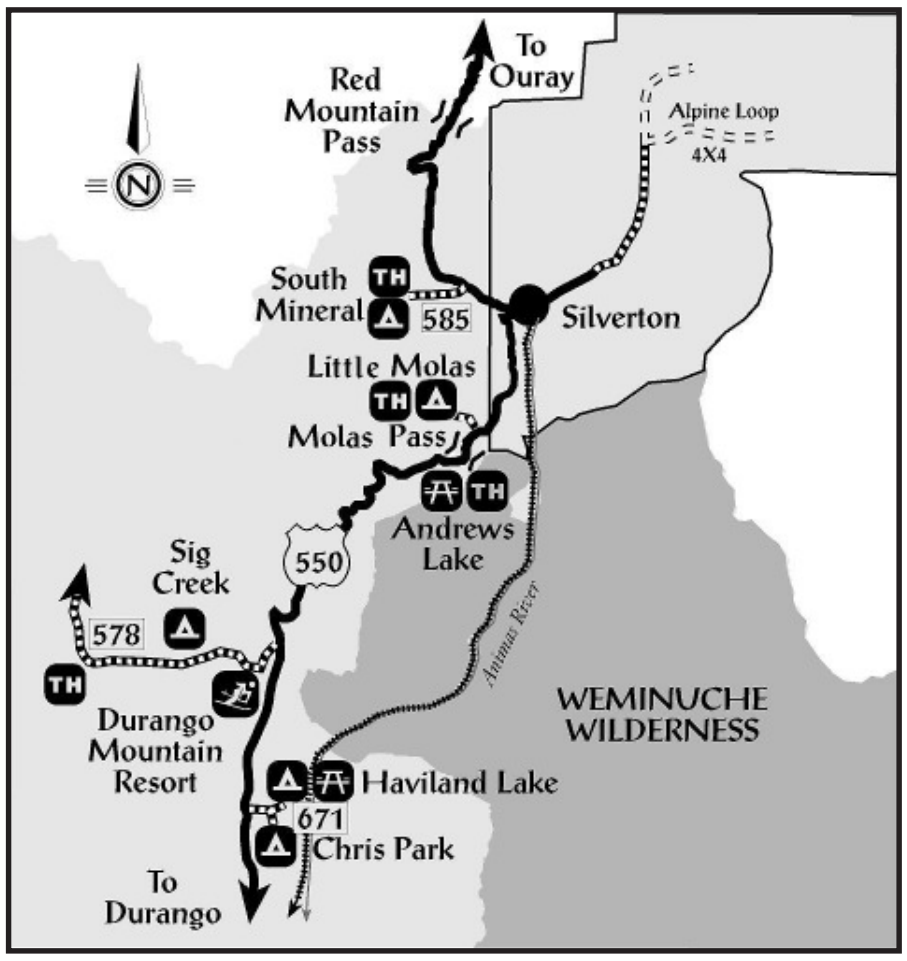
The upper trailhead for the Hermosa Creek Trail is 2 miles past the campground. This multiple-use trail heads back to the town of Hermosa through the Hermosa Roadless Area. The 19-mile trail is popular for technical single-track mountain biking. A few campsites are available at the trailhead, which has a toilet, picnic tables, fire grates, corral and parking. Fishing in the East Fork of Hermosa Creek is catch-and-release only.

FISHING

Fishing in Colorado is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Fishing licenses are mandatory for all waters, and are available at sporting goods stores, grocery stores, and from the Durango Area Office, 151 E. 16th Street, Durango. For information, call 970-247-0855. State regulations apply to all waters on federal lands in Colorado, and many locations are subject to special restrictions. Brochures explaining regulations are available from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Durango Area Office or at San Juan Public Lands offices. For 24-hour recorded information on fishing conditions, call 303-291-7539.

Quagga and zebra mussels have been found in several lakes in Colorado. These species are devastating to natural aquatic systems and can be transferred by boats. Boaters must drain, clean, dry and allow watercraft to be inspected prior to entering the water.

Whirling disease is an infection in trout caused by microscopic parasites that attack the cartilage of young fish and cause deformities. Thoroughly clean off mud and then dry vehicles, boats, trailers, waders, boots and fishing equipment. Disinfect gear before going to high-country streams and lakes. It is illegal to transport fish between bodies of water. In addition, never dispose of fish entrails/byproducts into any body of water.



COAL BANK PASS TO SILVERTON

Coalbank and Molas passes are very high in elevation with beautiful views of surrounding peaks. The below recreational facilities are located in alpine and subalpine settings - expect and plan for unpredictable weather - snow and hail are common during summer thunderstorms.

• LITTLE MOLAS LAKE

Little Molas Lake is about one mile west of US Highway 550 on Molas Pass just north of the Molas Overlook. The unpaved road leading to this primitive campground is passable by 2WD passenger cars. Little Molas Lake features 10 campsites - 4 are double, 3 have hitching rails for stock animals, and 5 will accommodate RVs. Campers are limited to no longer than a 14-day stay. Campsites have fire grates but no tables.There is no drinking water or trash service offered. Campers must pack out their trash. Motor vehicles must stay on roadways and spurs.

There are toilets in the campground and trailhead for the Colorado Trail, located just past the campground. The trailhead has 13 vehicle parking spots and 7 large parking spaces for horse trailers. Parking for fishing and day use is near the lake, which is stocked by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Fishing is popular.

• ANDREWS LAKE DAY-USE AREA

This alpine lake is accessed about 1/2 mile east of U.S. Highway 550 via a paved road just south of Molas Pass. (In winter, the road is closed to traffic and open for nonmotorized winter sports, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.) The road branches left to an upper parking lot with overnight parking for vehicles and horse trailers, but no overnight camping is allowed onsite. Four barrier-free picnic sites and interpretive signs are next to the upper parking lot. Continuing straight on the main access road leads to the day-use parking area at the lake. Barrier-free fishing docks line the south edge. Toilets at both parking lots are universally accessible. The Crater Lake Trail begins here, offering access into the Weminuche Wilderness. (Mountain bicycles and motorized vehicles are not allowed.)

• SOUTH MINERAL CAMPGROUND

South Mineral Campground is accessed by turning off U.S. Highway 550, about 3 miles west of Silverton, onto Forest Rd. 585, which heads west along South Mineral Creek. The campground is 4 miles off the highway and has 26 mostly level sites. Several camping loops and well-spaced sites are mostly shaded, but some are sunny. A few are next to the creek, and some have large parking areas.

The Ice Lakes Trail, a strenuous, steep and popular hike, begins across the road from the campground. It leads up above timberline to high alpine lakes surrounded by meadows of wildflowers and rocky peaks. Stay on the trail to avoid steep, dangerous dropoffs. Dispersed camping along Forest Rd. 585 is allowed ONLY in designated camping areas. Follow posted directions and instructions. The road to the campground is driveable by 2WD, but not far after the campground, it becomes 4WD. Driving off-road is prohibited, but many other 4WD roads in the Silverton area are open to motorized use.

Dolores Public Lands Campgrounds

NORTH OF MANCOS

U.S. Highway 160 (San Juan Skyway) heads west from Durango, skirting the southern edge of the La Plata Mountains, where several peaks top 13,000 feet. Mesa Verde National Park is west of Mancos. Showers, laundries, sanitary dumping stations and other services are available at Mancos and Mesa Verde.

The Lost Canyon Scenic Loop is a popular 55-mile fall color drive accessed from Colo. Highway 184. This unpaved round trip incorporates the W. Mancos Road (Forest Rd. 561), Rock Springs Road (Forest Rd. 556) and Lost Canyon Road (Forest Rd. 560) at elevations from 7,000 to 10,000 feet.

Check the Motor Vehicle Use Map for this area to find out which trails are open to motorized recreation. Motorized vehicles must stay on identified trails, and ATVs are not allowed on single-track trails. The Aspen Loop Trail, a 39-mile system of easy-to-moderate trails, is designed for OHVs.

The Sharkstooth Trail, near the foot of Hesperus Mountain, is open to non-motorized use only. The trail goes above timberline and can be used to access Centennial Peak, La Plata Canyon or Windy Gap.

• *TARGET TREE CAMPGROUND*

Target Tree Campground is seven miles east of Mancos on the north side of Highway 160. Its namesake refers to historical use of this area by the Ute Indians to harvest sap and bark of ponderosa pines for food supplements. They also used trees for target practice. Scarred trees remain; a short trail leads to one, and historical markers explain their usage. The campground is known for a variety of birds; a sign lists species found in the vicinity. Its 25 sites on a south-facing hillside overlook Thompson Park; 17 are barrier-free.

Most large and pull-thru sites require mechanical leveling of RVs. Many sites are shady, but can be hot on sunny days. Five campsites accommodate horses. The campground also offers one group campsite that will hold up to 25 people, or up to 5 horse trailers. The Narrow Gauge Trail begins in the lower parking lot and leads uphill about 1/2 mile to an old railroad grade.

(1 GROUP SITE FOR RESERVATION)

• *TRANSFER CAMPGROUND*

The Transfer Recreation Area offers a campground and picnic area 11 miles NE of Mancos. Take Colorado Highway 184 north for 1/4 mile and turn east on W. Mancos Road (Forest Rd. 561). After the road turns to gravel, continue about 7 miles to the campground turnoff on the right. The campground has 12 campsites in a mostly level aspen grove. The group picnic area has 5 double picnic tables, a large serving table and cooking grills. All sites and restrooms are barrier-free, and most accommodate RVs.

Livestock is not allowed in the main campground, but 5 campsites and a corral for stock users are located across Forest Rd. 561.

(1 GROUP SITE FOR RESERVATION)

HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

• ***ASPEN GUARD STATION***: North of Transfer Campground on W. Mancos Road (#561) is the Aspen Guard Station. This historic ranger station was constructed in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal during the Great Depression. The cabin and barn were used by the Forest Service as summer housing for employees until the 1960s. In the 1990s, the cabin was refurbished to house the San Juan National Forest Artist in Residence program until 2011. The cabin is temporarily out of service to address safety and maintenance issues.

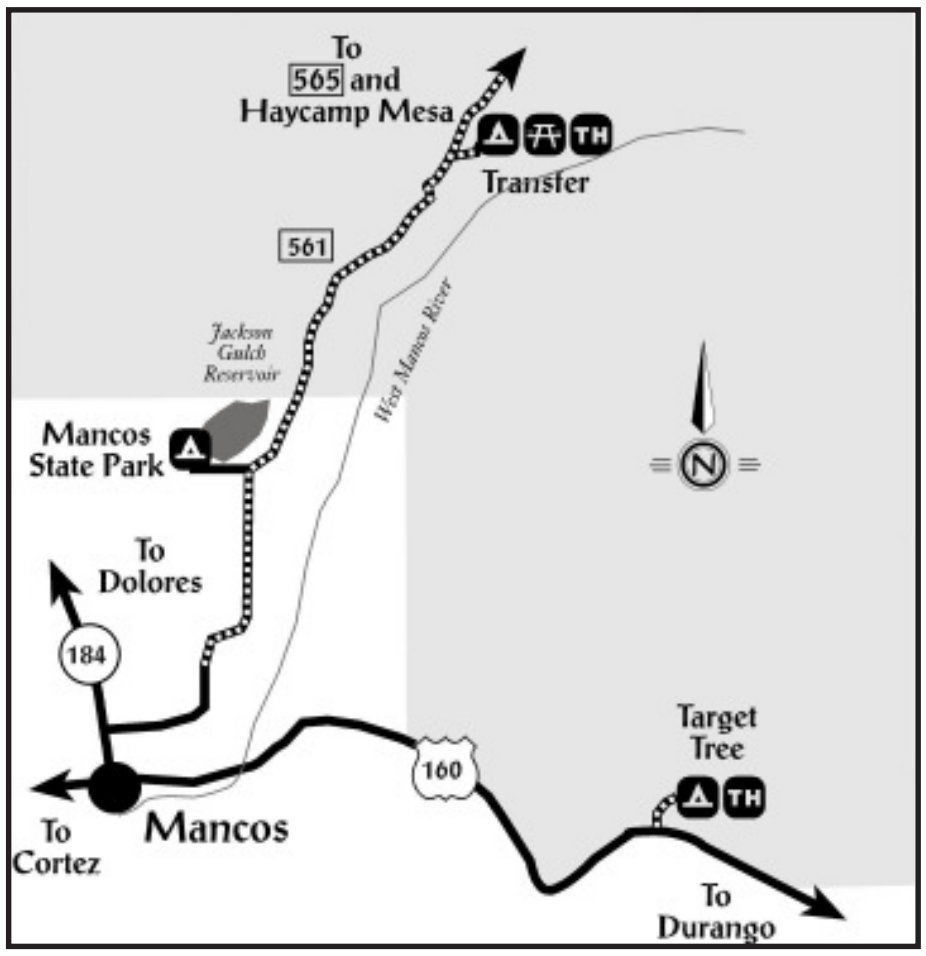
• **Jersey Jim Lookout Tower:** North of the Aspen Guard Station on W. Mancos Road (#561) is this historic fire lookout tower, available for seasonal reservations by the nonprofit Jersey Jim Foundation. Call 970-533-7060 or visit our Website: *www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan* and click on: *"Special Places."*

SEARCH & RESCUE CARDS

Backcountry trips call for experience and preparation. Getting lost in a remote location can quickly turn into an emergency. Local sheriff's offices handle search-and-rescue operations. By purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search & Rescue Card, the cost of a rescue, should you need it, will be covered. Without this card, you may be charged for the cost.

Those holding a current Colorado hunting license, fishing license or who register a boat, snowmobile, or ATV are covered during the time their license or registration is valid.

Search & Rescue cards are available from San Juan Public Lands offices, local retail vendors, or by phone or online from the State of Colorado. The cost is $3 per year, or $12 for five years. For more information, go to: *www.colorado.gov*.



GET ALONG WITH THE NEIGHBORS

Wild animals are residents of this diverse terrain. Campground visitors are likely to see squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, deer, elk, skunks, porcupines, racoons and many of the some 300 species of birds. Backcountry visitors may catch a glimpse of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, beaver, river otters, or even mountain lions. View wildlife from a safe distance and treat wild animals with respect – for your safety as well as theirs.

UNWANTED VISITORS

Don't attract unwanted visitors to your campsite. Critters have an acute sense of smell and are easily lured by the aroma of food or trash. Some rodents have a taste for leather and anything sweaty or salty; store these items carefully. Never feed wildlife or encourage them to become unafraid of humans - this endangers you and them.

RATTLESNAKES

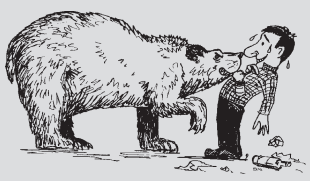
Rattlesnakes are seldom seen at high elevations but may be found in lower areas. Their bites are serious, but less than 2% are fatal. Don't put your hands and feet in places without looking first. Snakes fill an important niche in the animal community, including eating rodents. If you see a snake, please treat it as any other forest animal — as a subject to observe but not to disturb or injure.

DOGS AND WILDLIFE DON'T MIX!

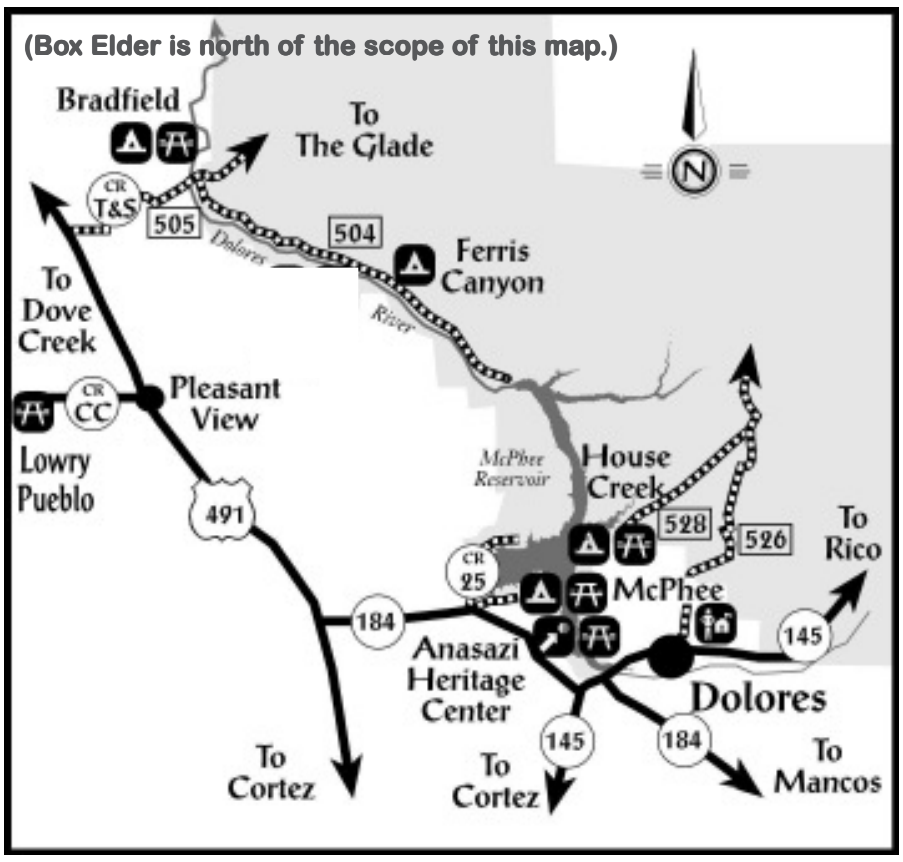
Dogs must be on a leash in campgrounds, and should be under voice control at your side at all times in the backcountry. One of the most negative effects you can have on wildlife is to allow your dog to roam free. Dogs stress and endanger wild animals by chasing them. Even if the animal appears to have escaped unharmed, it may not survive as a result. In addition, many wild creatures pose dangers to dogs. Your pet can be attacked by predators, or suffer when a skunk or porcupine must defend itself against curiosity or attack.

STORE FOOD PROPERLY

Black bears can cause a lot of damage to your belongings, and if a bear is desensitized to humans by your behavior, it may have to be destroyed. Bear-safety regulations are in effect for campgrounds. Food, containers, packaging, cooking utensils, garbage, pet food and bird feeders must be stored in a bear-resistant manner (i.e. inside a hard-sided vehicle or camper; hung at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet away from a tree or other support; inside an approved bear-resistant container; or within an electrified enclosure.



Dolores Public Lands Campgrounds



CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS

• *ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER*

The BLM Anasazi Heritage Center is a museum that interprets the history and culture of the Four Corners and serves as information headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, with handouts on popular sites Painted Hand, Lowry and Sand Canyon. On the museum grounds are the Dominguez and Escalante Pueblos. Escalante Pueblo sits atop a 1/2-mile barrier-free trail with 360-degree views. The Anasazi Heritage Center is located at 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado. For more information, call 970-882-5600 or go to: *www.co.blm.gov/ahc* or *www.co.blm.gov/canm.*

• *LOWRY PUEBLO PICNIC AREA*

Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark is the only developed recreation site in Canyons of the Ancients. Turn west off Colo. Highway 491 near Pleasant View onto County Road CC and go 9 miles. The asphalt road turns to gravel but is driveable by 2WD. No overnight camping is allowed. This archeological area is fully accessible, with 5 picnic sites, barrier-free restrooms and interpretive trail. Lowry Pueblo, a restored Ancestral Puebloan site, has standing walls that have been stabilized, 40 rooms, 8 kivas and a Great Kiva.

DOLORES RIVER

The Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir is popular with fly fishermen and river runners. Trees shade the area, but in summer, it is hot. Fishing is limited to catch-and-release with flies and lures only from Bradfield Bridge upstream to the dam. The river is popular for river rafting from Bradfield Bridge to the confluence with the Colorado River in Utah. The closest services are in Dolores or Dove Creek.

• *BRADFIELD CAMPGROUND*

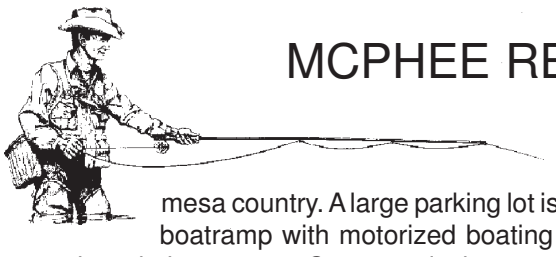
Bradfield Campground, 30 miles northwest of Dolores on BLM land, is a popular launch site for rafting trips on the Dolores River. It offers 16 barrier-free campsites and one group picnic site, but no potable water. Toilets are fully accessible. You can keep fish caught downstream of Bradfield Bridge, but above is catch-and-release. Take Colorado Highway 184 NE from Dolores to US Highway 491. North of Pleasant View, turn east on CR T, north on CR 16, then east again on CR S down to the Dolores River.

• *BOX ELDER CAMPGROUND*

Box Elder Campground (not shown on map above) in the Dolores River Canyon, 6 miles NE of Dove Creek, has 11 campsites with fire rings, picnic tables and 2 vault toilets.It features towering canyon walls, shade and the proximity of the river. From US Highway 491, turn east on CR J, just south of Dove Creek. Turn north on CR 9, east on H, then north again on CR 10. Veer left at the 'Y' and continue down into the canyon. The campground is less than ½ mile past the Mt. Sheep Point (Pump Station) boat access.

• *FERRIS CANYON CAMPGROUND*

Ferris Canyon Campground is three miles upstream from Cabin Canyon along Forest Rd. 504. This barrier-free facility has 7 sites for camping and picnicking, with a hand pump for water. It is 3.5 miles downstream of the dam and popular with fly fishermen (catch-and-release only). The historic Lone Dome Ranger Station is nearby.



MCPHEE RESERVOIR

McPhee Reservoir has 50 miles of shoreline in open mesa country. A large parking lot is adjacent to a 6-lane concrete boatramp with motorized boating access. There are restricted areas in wakeless zones. Courtesy docks are available seasonally, based on voluntary donations. The reservoir is stocked with warm- and cold-water species. A fish cleaning station is near the boat ramp and restrooms. Adjacent to the boat ramp is a trail to a scenic overlook. The trail continues to the tent camping portion of McPhee Campground.

• *McPHEE CAMPGROUND*

The McPhee Recreation Complex is on the south shore of the reservoir. From Dolores, take Colo. Highway 145 south, turn west on Highway 184, and go about 7 miles. Look for the sign on the north side of the highway and turn onto County Road 25, then take the first right. The campground is on a mesa above the reservoir, with road access to the boat launch area. The 71 campsites on 2 loops have paved access and parking, picnic sites, barrier-free flush toilets, sanitary dumping station, and 24 sites with electric hookups. Two sites offer tables and toilets accommodating wheelchairs. A dozen campsites are walk-ins, with tent pads near scenic overlooks. Only Pinon Loop campsites can be reserved; others are first-come, first-served. The adjacent McPhee Group Area has 4 group campsites available for reservation with volleyball posts, ball field and horseshoe pits (you must supply the equipment).

(50 INDIVIDUAL SITES & 4 GROUP SITES FOR RESERVATION)

Farther on Highway 184 are the undeveloped Big Bend and Dolores Access fishing sites. Sage Hen, northwest of the McPhee Recreation Area, and Dry Canyon, accessed from the Glade area on FS Road 510, are day-use fishing areas on the north shore with composting toilets.

• *HOUSE CREEK CAMPGROUND*

The House Creek Recreation Complex is across the reservoir from the McPhee Complex. From Dolores, take 11th Street to the Dolores-Norwood Road (FS Rd. 526) and go about six miles, then southwest on the House Creek Road (FS Rd. 528) for about 5 miles. The access road and parking areas are paved. This gently sloping, grassy area is near the reservoir's high-water line. There is an open play area, sanitary dumping station, group picnic area, and four-lane boat ramp. The campground has 65 campsites in three loops; two are designed for wheelchairs. There are 22 sites with electrical hookups. Loop B campsites can be reserved in advance (all others are first-come, first-served). Two adjacent group areas can each accommodate 30 people but have no electrical hookups.

(35 INDIVIDUAL SITES & 2 GROUP SITES FOR RESERVATION)

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

ROADS

Most campgrounds are off paved highways, and require traveling on gravel roads accessible by 2WD vehicles. Beware of washboard surfaces and watch for other vehicles, wildlife, livestock and fallen rocks. Unless posted otherwise, the speed limit is 25 mph. County roads accessing public lands may also have a USFS/BLM road number (the road designations used in this guide). These roads may be temporarily closed by wet weather, landslides or to protect wildlife. Motor vehicles must stay on open roads; however, in most areas, you may drive up to 300' off-road to reach a dispersed campsite, but only if you can do so without causing damage.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Motorcycles, 4WD vehicles and ATVs are allowed **only** on roads and trails designated as open to their use. Cross-country motorized travel is prohibited on National Forest lands, and violators risk fines. Consult Motor Vehicle Use Maps (available free at our offices) for restrictions. Colorado residents and out-of-state visitors must obtain Colorado registration to operate ATVs, dirt bikes or snowmobiles on public lands. Vehicles may be registered at the National Forest/BLM offices listed on back, and at Lone Mesa, Navajo Lake and Mancos state parks. Prices for registration vary. The owner must provide a VIN or serial number, make, model, engine size and previous registration number.

UNATTENDED VEHICLES

Theft from vehicles is infrequent in campgrounds, but has occurred at some trailheads. If you leave your vehicle unattended, valuables should be locked out of sight — or, better yet, left at home.

Dolores Public Lands Campgrounds

NORTH OF DOLORES

This area is marked by aspen-covered mountainsides and the high peaks and alpine meadows of the Lizard Head Wilderness on Lizard Head Pass. Colorado Highway 145 (San Juan Skyway) and West Dolores Road (FS Rd. 535) are popular drives in autumn. The Dolores and West Dolores rivers are popular for fishing. The site of Colorado's last Indian battle, the Beaver Creek Massacre, is a mile off FS Rd. 526 on FS Rd. 525. Remains of the Narraguinnep Fort are off FS Rd. 514. McPhee Park, on FS Rd. 526, features a virgin stand of old-growth ponderosa pines.

• *MAVREESO CAMPGROUND*

Mavreeso is on the West Dolores Road (Forest Rd. 535), which branches north from Colorado Highway 145 about 13 miles NE of Dolores. The road follows the West Dolores River almost to its headwaters in the Lizard Head Wilderness. After 32 miles, it rejoins the highway 6 miles north of Rico. The road has a gravel surface, but the last 6 miles are steep, narrow and not recommended for trailers. Mavreeso Campground is 20 miles from Dolores. Its 19 campsites are mostly level and close to the Dolores River. Parking for fishermen is available nearby. Do not trespass on private property along the river. There are shady tent areas, and pull-thru's for RVs. All campsites have tables that accommodate wheelchairs - 5 have electricity.

(12 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• *WEST DOLORES CAMPGROUND*

West Dolores Campground is similar to Mavreeso and just a mile up the road. From Dolores, travel 21 miles north on Colo. Highway 145 and Forest Rd. 535 to the campground entrance. Its 18 campsites on 10 acres near the river are mostly shady and level, and several are suitable for large RVs. A site near the restroom is designated for wheelchair access and has electricity. Seven campsites have electricity, and 2 picnic tables are available.

(10 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

• *BURRO BRIDGE CAMPGROUND*

Two miles past Dunton on Forest Rd. 535, Burro Bridge Campground is a good base camp for trips into the Lizard Head Wilderness. The 14 campsites do not have easy access to the river. Tent sites have limited shade. Parking pads can accommodate RVs. One site has a table suitable for wheelchairs. A corral with two bays can accommodate up to four horses adjacent to 2 campsites for those camping with stock. The Burro Bridge Trail starts here and crosses the W. Dolores Rd. (Forest Rd. 535) to climb into the Lizard Head Wilderness, where motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles are not allowed. This trail levels off at above 10,000' in elevation, then travels north to intersect the Groundhog Stock Driveway Trail.

•*CAYTON CAMPGROUND*

Cayton Campground is 6 miles northeast of Rico on Colorado Highway 145 (part of the San Juan Skyway) 43 miles from Dolores. The entrance is 1/2 mile east of the highway on the Barlow Creek Road (Forest Rd. 578). The campground has 27 campsites, many along the river. Eighteen sites offer 50-amp RV electric plug-ins. Fishing is popular on summer weekends. At 9,400 feet, expect cool evenings. A dry dump station is in place.

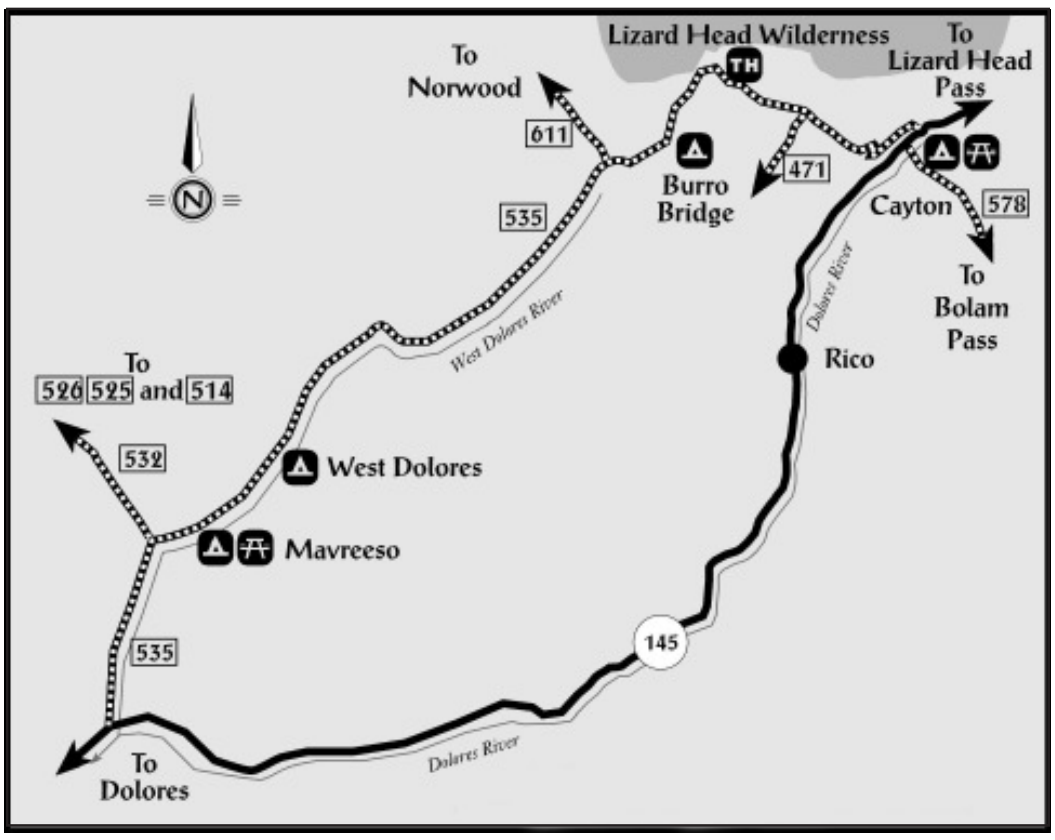
The Barlow Creek Road continues past the campground and climbs Bolam Pass with spectacular views. Road conditions near the pass often limit travel to 4WD vehicles. The route eventually connects with the Hermosa Park Road behind Durango Mountain Resort and leads to U.S. Highway 550. The Colorado Trail follows the ridge across Bolam Pass.

(16 SITES FOR RESERVATION)

HUNTING

Colorado's wildlife is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over big-game hunting seasons on federal lands during late summer and fall. Hunting is not allowed within 150 feet of developed recreation areas, trails or roads. During hunting seasons, backcountry visitors should wear orange or brightly colored clothing, stay on well-used trails and give pack animals wide berth on trails. For recorded information on hunting season dates and licenses, call 303-291-7529.

In hunting season, some campgrounds offer limited services at discounted prices; others remain open through fall with hosts and full services at full price. A good rule of thumb is, if the gate to a campground is open, it is open to use at some level. This situation is weather dependent and hard to predict in advance. For more information on which campgrounds are open during hunting seasons, contact our offices.



SAFETY TIPS

ALTITUDE

Elevations range from 5,200 (on BLM lands near Cortez) to 14,246 feet (Mt.Wilson summit) above sea level. Altitude sickness is brought on by ascending high elevations too rapidly. Symptoms include headache, loss of appetite, and weakness or drowsiness. Victims should descend to lower elevations immediately. Drinking plenty of water and eating small amounts of food while hiking can be helpful.

WEATHER

Weather can change rapidly. Summer temperatures can exceed 90 degrees (F), but cold weather may be encountered at any time of year. Hypothermia can result from low body temperature. Wear adequate clothing, stay dry and out of the wind. Carry raingear and wear fabrics that wick sweat away from your body. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in summer and may include hail or snow. Seek shelter in forested areas; stay away from high, exposed places or solitary trees. Lightning is common on summer afternoons; high-elevation hikes should end early in the day. The sun is intense at high elevations. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses that filter ultraviolet rays.

WATER

Even though water in creeks, rivers or lakes may appear clear, do not drink water without treating it first. Intestinal infection from drinking untreated water is common. The primary culprit is a microorganism known as Giardia. Drink only from safe sources, such as water taps in campgrounds. If you use water from natural sources, use chemical treatments or filtration. Untreated water must be brought to a sustained boil (3–5 min.) to kill harmful organisms.

PESTS

Avoid wet, low-lying areas; take advantage of breezes and treat clothing and exposed skin with insect repellent. Mosquitoes, which can carry West Nile virus, are found in damp forested locations. Flies are prevalent at higher elevations on sunny summer days. Gnat season is heavy in lower elevation areas in summer. Ticks can transmit Rocky Mountain Tick Fever; check for and remove ticks. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, drowsiness, nausea, abdominal pain and a skin rash. Recovery can take weeks. If you feel ill, retain the tick for medical inspection.

POISON IVY

Leaves of three - let it be! Western poison ivy is a low, woody-stemmed plant with long-stalked leaves divided into three bright green, veiny, rather large, waxy, coarse-toothed leaflets that turn red in fall. Poison ivy is found at lower elevations, in thickets along streams and on rocky hillsides. Washing with soap and water after exposure may help reduce the rash. Poison ivy can also get on the fur of dogs and be transfered to humans.

General Information

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS

Some 2.5 million acres of National Forest and BLM lands stretch across southwestern Colorado. The scenery ranges from high desert mesas and canyons to high alpine peaks and meadows. The area features two scenic byways - the San Juan Skyway and Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway.

San Juan Public Lands campgrounds offer a wide variety of experiences - from primitive tent camping to RV sites with electricity. Many campgrounds offer universally accessible facilities. Pets are welcome in campgrounds but must be leashed.

Most trails are multiple-use and shared by hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bicyclists. Consult maps and follow signs to determine where motorized use is allowed. Try your best to *Leave No Trace* when visiting the backcountry.

These federal lands are managed jointly through the offices listed below. Call or stop by - we're here to help you have a safe and enjoyable visit!

SOUTHWEST COLORADO HISTORY

Prehistoric hunter/gatherers arrived in the San Juans near the end of the last Ice Age about 8,000 years ago. The Ancestral Puebloans, who appeared in the Four Corners about 2,000 years ago, built villages and cliff dwellings and traded with other nomadic tribes. Evidence of their civilization is found in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Chimney Rock National Monument.

Early Europeans arrived in a Spanish expedition led by Vasquez Coronado in 1541. They explored, prospected and traded with the Indians and named many landmarks. Fur trappers and traders followed.

Indian reservations were established in the mid 1800s. Mining activity boomed by the 1870s. Major European settlement followed an 1873 treaty with the Ute Indians. Mining was supported by ranching, farming and timbering. When mining declined, these traditional uses became the region's economic base. Today, recreation, tourism and energy production play major roles in the economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

In Pagosa Springs
Pagosa Ranger District
180 Pagosa Street
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-264-2268

In Durango
San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court
Durango, CO 81301
970-247-4874

In Bayfield
Columbine Ranger District
367 South Pearl Street
Bayfield, CO 81122
970-884-2512

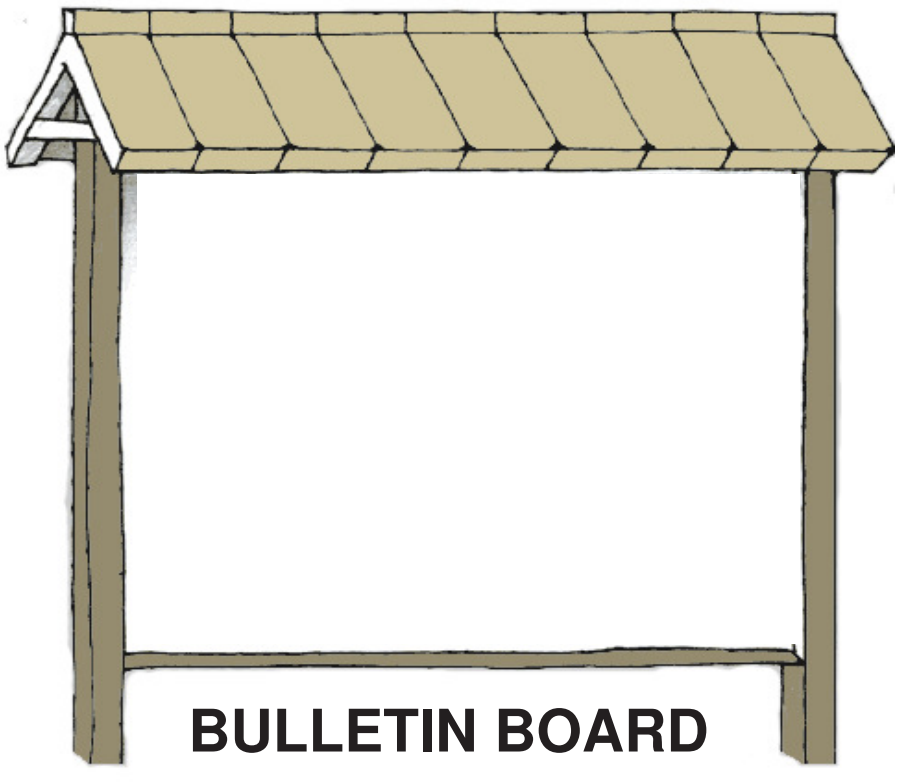
In Dolores
Dolores Public Lands Office
29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323
970-882-7296

In Silverton
Silverton Public Lands Office
(open seasonally from May-Oct.)
1428 Greene St.
Silverton, CO 81433
970-387-5530

Visit our Web sites at:

www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan

www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html



SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

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The San Juan Mountains Association can get you involved in helping the agencies manage the natural environment of the San Juans. As a nonprofit partner with the USFS and BLM, our mission is to promote and provide education, interpretation, and conservation of cultural and natural resources. Programs and volunteer opportunities include:

EDUCATION
- Community Lectures
- Workshops and Field Seminars
- Cultural Site Stewardship

CONSERVATION
- Leave No Trace Training
- Tread Lightly! Training
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Volunteer Services
- Adopt-A-Road Program

INTERPRETATION
- Visitor Information Specialists
- Wilderness Information Specialists
- Ghost Riders
- Books and Maps, etc.

The San Juan Mountains Association is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 equal opportunity service provider. For more information on membership or to purchase area maps and books, please call 970-385-1210 or visit our Web site at: ***www.sjma.org***

OTHER CAMPING/PICNIC AREAS

Groundhog Reservoir (Day Use Only)
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 970-247-0855

Hovenweep National Monument (Camping)
National Park Service 970-562-4282

Joe Moore Reservoir (Day Use Only)
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 970-247-0855

Lone Mesa State Park (Day use Only)
Colorado State Parks 970-882-2213

Mancos State Park (Camping)
Colorado State Parks 970-533-7065

Morefield Campground (Camping)
Mesa Verde Nat'l Park 800-449-2288

Navajo Lake State Park (Camping)
Colorado State Parks 970-883-2208

Summit Reservoir (Day Use Only)
Colorado Parks and Wildlife 970-247-0855