HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Date: February 2003

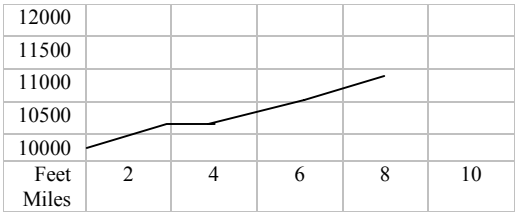
SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

RICO-SILVERTON TRAIL #507 (now COLORADO TRAIL)

Length: 8.0. miles (5.6 km.)

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



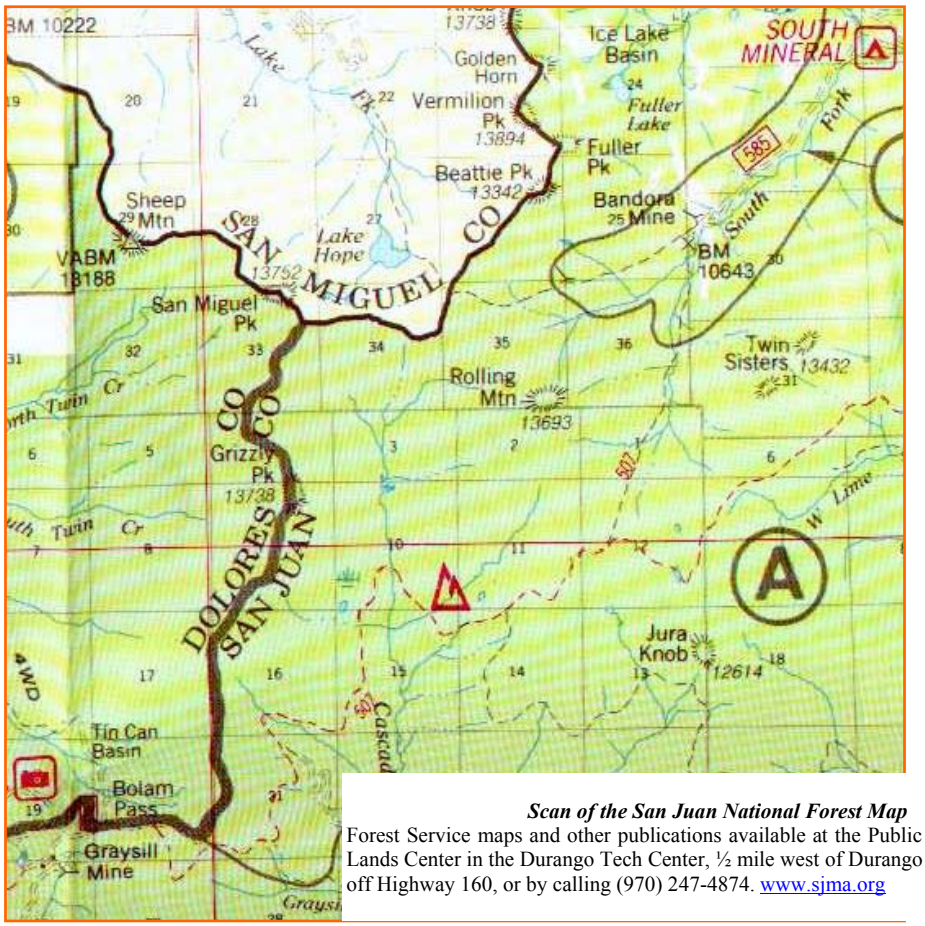
Use: Heavy

Difficulty: More difficult
USGS Map (s) Ophir, Engineer Mountain, Hermosa Peak

Starting Elevation: 10,800'
South Park, Mineral Creek
Ending Elevation: 11,200'
Bolam Pass

Recommended Season:
Summer/Fall

Access # 1: Take U.S. 550 north of Silverton for about 2 miles and turn onto the South Mineral Rd. (FDR #585) Follow this dirt road past the campground roughly 2 miles to the Bandora Mine. Turn left slightly before the mine and follow the road across the creek. 2WD with good clearance should be adequate. Limited parking is available.
Access # 2 : Take U.S. 550 30 miles north of Durango to FDR #578 and go 16 miles on this road until you reach the trailhead. Limited parking is available. 4WD or strong 2WD with good clearance may be required to reach this trailhead, located at the Columbine Lake access point, not quite as far as Bolam Pass.



Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map
Forest Service maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874. www.sjma.org

Attractions & Considerations :
This trail ascends two high mountain passes, thus affording excellent views and good opportunities for photography. Grizzly Peak, Rolling Mountain, and Graysill Mountain are all accessible from the Rico/Silverton Trail, providing mountain-climbing possibilities for those interested. The trail rises above timberline on two occasions, but for the most part winds through a subalpine, coniferous forest. The alpine meadows above timberline typically abound with wildflowers at the end of July and in August. Water and campsites are easily found in this area. Water in this area should be filtered, to prevent problems with Giardia.

Fishing Considerations:
Columbine Lake is rated good for brook trout. Cascade Creek is rated fair for brook, rainbow, and cutthroat trout.