



## HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan  
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Date: March 2003



### MISSIONARY RIDGE TRAIL #543

Length: 8.2 miles (13.2 km.)

#### Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter

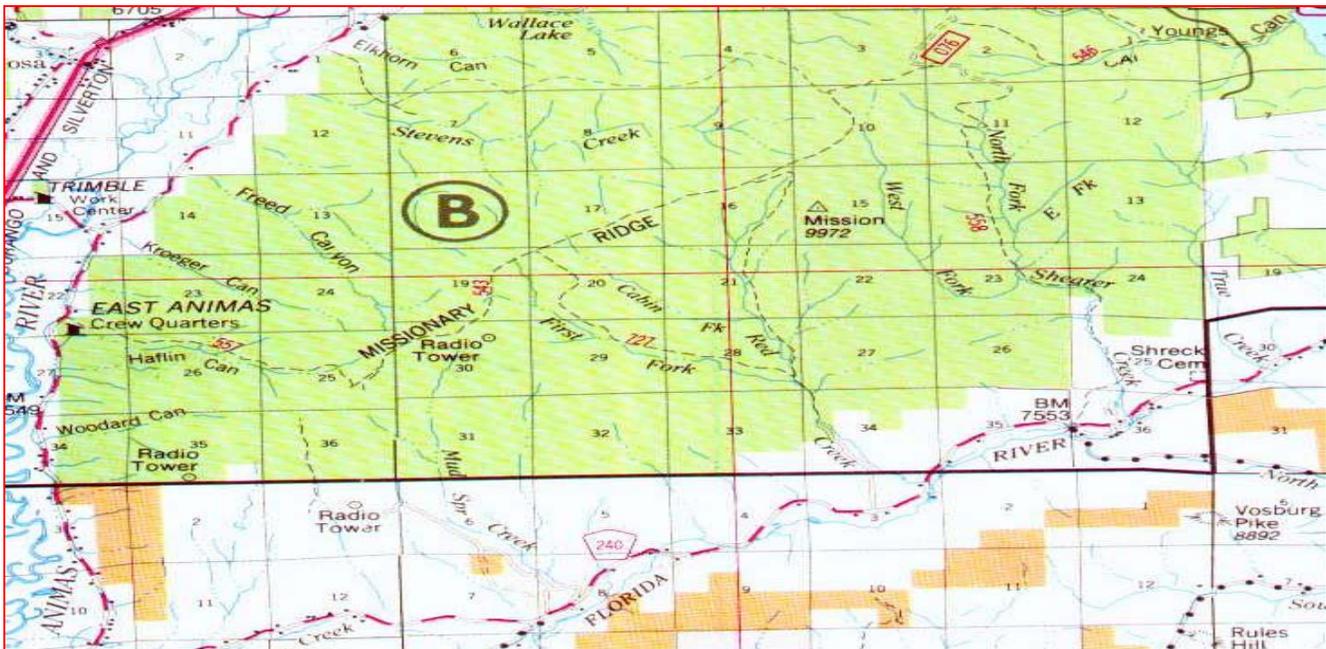
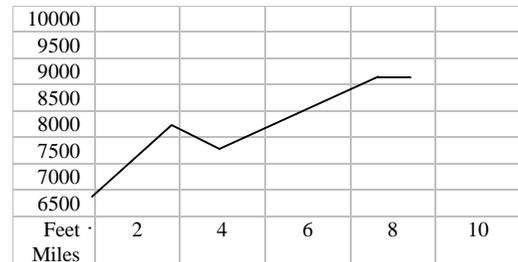
Use: Medium

Difficulty: More difficult

USGS Map (s): Rules Hill,  
Durango East, and Hermosa.

Starting Elevation: 6,970'  
Small dirt parking area – FS #071

Ending Elevation: 9,674'  
Junction with Stevens Creek Trail



Recommended Season: Spring/Summer/Fall

Access #1: At intersection of 15<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Florida Road,  
take a left on Florida and drive 6.2 miles to FS #071.  
Take road about 2 miles to trailhead.

Attractions & Considerations : This trail is excellent during late spring through mid-fall, due to its relatively low elevation and southeast-facing slopes. The trail winds through timber on the lower section, but opens up farther along the trail. The trail climbs steeply for two miles at the beginning, then dips and climbs up to mile 7. From this point, the last 1.2 miles is level to the junction with Stevens Creek Trail. You will find rock ledges, water bars, fallen trees, and switchbacks on this varied trail. This trail is excellent for viewing the fall colors of the Gambel oak and aspen trees. It is not uncommon to see large game such as elk and mule deer in the Missionary Ridge Trail area.

#### Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service maps and other publications are 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](http://www.sjma.org)