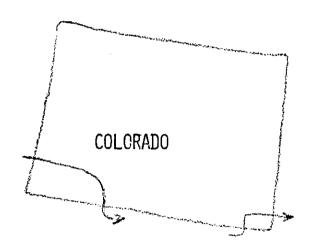
A HIKER'S ROUTE GUIDE FOR CCLORADO



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A HIKER'S ROUTE GUIDE FOR COLORADO

A NATIONAL HIKING ORGANIZATION HAS ESTABLISHED A TRANSCONTINENTAL HIKING ROUTE WHICH TRAVERSES THE SOUTHWESTERN AND THAN LATER THE SOUTH EASTERN PORTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO. THE ROUTE MEANDERS OVER ITS COURSE IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PORT OF THE STATE AND REAPPEARS AGAIN IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE STATE TRAVELING IN A EAST NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION.

The route enters the state near the town of Dove Creek in southwestern Colorado and continues eastward, where it enters a western parcel of the huge fragmented San Juan National Forest. The route than extends southward along the Continental Divide, which is the boundary between the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests and finally exits the state near Cumbres Pass in southern Colorado.

THE ROUTE REAPPEARS AGAIN IN THE COMMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS OF SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO.

The principle points of geographical reference on the route in the San Juan National Forest are the towns of Rico and Silverton Co. There are no towns on the route while in the Rio Grande National Forest and Campo Co is the only town in the Commanche National Grasslands area. There are a few towns adjacent to the route that can be used for support purposes etc. However, there may be as much as ten days hiking along the route between the resupply points.

The altitude of the route varies from SIX to 12 thousand feet in the southwestern portion of the state and remains at approximately 4000 feet in the southeastern corner of the state.

THE HIKERS GENERALLY AVOID THE HEAVILY TRAVELED ROADS AND ATTEMPTS TO STAY IN THE BACK COUNTRY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HIKING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF COLORADO REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE MATTERS RELATED TO GENERAL PHYSICAL CONDITIONING; HIGH ALTITUDE ACCLIMATION; DYNAMIC WEATHER CONDITIONS AND EQUIPPAGE. TO ENSURE A PLEASUREABLE EXPERIENCE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE HIKE BE ACCOMPLISHED IN JULY AND AUGUST, OTHER WISE WEATHER

ADVERSITIES CAN OCCUR ON THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL.

HIKING THAT PORTION OF ROUTE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE STATE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHENEVER THE HIKER DESIRES, AS THE AREA IS NOT SUBJECTED TO SUCH WEATHER AND ALTITUDE EXTREMES AS THE PREVIOUS PORTION OF THE ROUTE.

By careful analysis of the route and conservation of personal energy and supplies, the Hiker should not be apprehensive about making the trek along any portion of the route.

THE BEAUTY OF THE REGION IS CERTAINLY ENHANCED BY THE GIGANTIC MOUNTAIN PEAKS, MEADOWS AND VALLEYS. IN SOME LOCATIONS, THE SPRING FLOWERS WILL JUST BE BLOOMING WHILE NESTLED IN A SNOW BANK AND OVERHEAD SUMMERTIME STORMS MAY SPEW THE HIKER WITH RAIN, SLEET OR SNOW. THE HIKER MUST BE PREPARED TO WITH-STAND THE RAPID CLIMATIC CHANGES THAT CAN OCCUR IN THE REGION.

THE TERRAIN ALONG THE ROUTE VARIES FROM A RELATIVE FLAT TOPOGRAPHY IN THE EXTREME WESTERN AND EASTERN SEGMENTS, TO THE STEEP ASCENTS AND DECENTS IN THE MOUNTAIN AREAS.

The route passes through eight counties within the state. The sequential order of the individual counties crossing is Dolores, San Juan, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos, Archuleta and Baca. To assist the hiker in traversing these counties, it is suggested that a General Highway County Map for each county envolved be procured from the Division of Transportation Planning, State Department of Highways, State of Colorado, Denver Colorado (80222). A second type of map, that is useful for planning purposes is the maps of US Dept Agriculture Forest Service. The three US Forest Service maps that are required for Colorado are San Juan and Rio Grande National Forest maps and Comanche National Grassland map. These maps are available from the US Forest Service office ie (San Juan NF-Durango Co 81301), (Rio Grande NF-Monte Vista Co 81144) and (Comanche National Grassland-Pueblo Co 81003).

There are also the US Geological Survey quadrangles maps that are available from US Geological Survey, Denver Co (80225) for this portion of the HikaNation route. The use of certain quadrangle maps, especially those depicting the Continental Divide Trail, is considered essential for the hiker's route orientation before and during the hike; as the detail of the county road maps and Forest Service maps is considered totally insufficient for several reasons.

THE ROUTE PASSES THROUGH FOUR RELATIVE SMALL TOWNS OF DOVE CREEK, RICO,

SILVERTON AND CAMPO CO. FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION WITHIN THE TEXT A "VILLAGE" IS DEFINED AS A RESIDENTIAL AREA THAT IS WITHOUT A POST OFFIC, BUT MAU HAVE A GENERAL STORE; A "TOWN" HAS A POST OFFICE AND AT LEAST ONE GENERAL STORE; A "CITY" HAS A POST OFFICE AND VARIOUS TYPES OF SERVICE FACILITIES THAT INCLUDE A MEDICAL CLINIC OR HOSPITAL.

THE HIKER IS ASSISTED IN THE USE OF THIS GUIDE BY THE INCLUSION OF POSTAL ZIP CODES FOR THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS ON THE ROUTE, WHILE CERTAIN OTHER LOCATIONS ARE REFERENCED BY GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES EXPRESSED IN TOWNSHIP, RANGE AND SECTION TERMS.

CONVERSELY, NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO CONFIRM THE LOCATION OF PORTABLE WATER RESOURCES, EVEN THOUGH SUCH LOCATIONS MAYBE INCLUDED IN THE TEXT. AGAIN THE HIKER IS ADVISED TO HKKE THE COLORADO PORTION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL ROUTE IN THE SUMMER SEASON. THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER SUPPLY ALONG THE ROUTE IN JULY AND AUGUST IS NOT CONSIDERED A MAJOR PROBLEM.

As noted in the paragraph above, three types of maps are available from separate sources for the Colorado portion of the transcontinental route. If the Colorado General Highway maps are selected for the first (ie: Utah Line to Silverton and the last portion of the route, it is suggested that the hiker visit a map library which is a depository for Colorado USGS quadrangle maps and transcribe the sectional information from the USGS maps to the general highway maps. The general highway maps for each county is subdivided into numbered sheet (ie 58-1). Each sheet depicts a specific geographical area within that county. The sequential numbered sheets that are required for the hike through Colorado are Dolores County 58-1, 58-2 and 58-3; San Juan County 55-1; Hinsdale County 63-2; Mineral County 62-2; Rio Grande County 23-1; Archuleta County 48-2; Conejos County 25-1 and Baca County.

If the hiker elects to use the USGS maps the sequential named quadrangles that are required are Dove Creek, Secret Canyon, Cahone, Doe Canyon, Narrauginepp Mt, Willow Spring, Nepple Mt, Clyde Lake, Rico Hermosa Peak, Engineer Mt, Ophir, Silverton, Howardsville, Storm King Peak, Rio Grande Pyramid, Emerald Lake, Weminuche Pass, Granite Lake, Cimarrona Peak, Little Squaw Creek, Palomino Mt, Spar City, Wolf Creek Pass, Platboro, Elwood Pass, Summit Peak, Chama Peak, Tubs Springs, Campo SW, Campo, Moore Draw SW, Moore Draw SW, Midway NE.

THE TEXT OF THIS GUIDE MAY SEEM TO BE RATHER DETAILED AS AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MATERIAL TO ENABLE THE HIKER TO RECOGNIZE A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.

The abbrevations most often used in this text are; (AG) agricultural lands, (APRCH) approach, (BSR) both sides of route, (BLDG) building, (BRDG) bridge, (CDT) Continental Divide Trail, (CG) cattle guard, (CONT) continue, (CRJ) cross route junction, (CSA) continue straight ahead, (E, W, N and SD) east, west, north and south direction, (FE) fence, (FSR) US Forest Service Road, (GRVLD) graveled, (GSF) government service fence, (LSR) left side of route, (MM) mileage marker, (MT) mountain, (OVT) over varying terrain, (PVD) paved, (PWR) power lines, (RD) road, (RH) ranch house, (RJ) road junction, (RR) railroad, (RSR) right side of route, (SM) US geologic Survery Marker, (SRD) State Road, (TRJ) "T" route junction, (TRVLD) traveled and (YRJ) "Y" route junction, (TRVLD) traveled and (YRJ) "Y"

To further enhance the pleasure of hiking across Colorada, Everyone should be very appreciative of the cordiallity of its residents and the professionalism of the employees of the local, state and federal agencies who are responsible for the management of these outdoor recreational resources. Also, a special salute to the private landowners and business persons who generally avail their private lane holdings and services to responsible hikers is encouraged.

THE DEFINITION OF A "RESPONSIBLE HIKER" IS ONE THAT HAS PERMISSION FROM THE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE OR THE LANDOWNERS TO CAMP ON THE LAND; ALWAYS LEAVES THE CAMP SITE IN BETTER PHYSICAL CONDITION THAN WHEN IT WAS ACCEPTED AND NEVERS BUILDS A CAMP FIRE FOR ANY PURPOSE.

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS COLORADO ROUTE GUIDE IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS COMPILED BY THE AUTHOR AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A PLEASUREABLE EXPERTIENCE WHILE HIKING ACROSS THE BEAUTIFUL STATE OF COLORADO.

THE FOLLOWING TEXT CONTAINS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR HIKING THE STATE OF COLORADO ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL ROUTE.

ENTRY IN COLORADO CAN BE BY AN OPTIONAL ROAD (RD) NETWORK OF BACKCOUNTRY ROADS VERSES THE USE OF US 666 HIGHWAY. THE GUIDE AS NOW WRITTEN, CHOOSES TO USE THE BACKCOUNTRY RDs in liew of the Highway Right of Way, If the group is escorted across private Land, otherwise use US 666 and proceed to Dove Caty Co.

CREEK

APPROACH (APRCH) THE UTAH/COLORADO STATE LINE WEST OF DOVE CREEK ON A GRAVELED (GRVLD) RD AT GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES OF (T40N, R20W, Sec 11) IN DOLORES COUNTY CO.

CONTINUE (CONT) IN EASTERLY DIRECTION (ED), OVER VARYING TERRAIN (OVT), PASS THROUGH A SMALL CREEK VALLEY AND EVENTUALLY APRCH "T" ROAD JUNCTION (TRJ) (T40N, R19W, Sec 3) of GRVLD and paved (PVD) RD.

CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD (CSA) IN ED INTO THE TOWN OF DOVE CREEK CO.
NOTE: SEE CITY HALL ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROUTE (RSR) ACROSS RD FROM GRAINARIES.

CONT ED THROUGH TOWN, APRCH TRJ (T41N, R18W, Sec 1) of GRVLD STREET AND US 666. CSA THROUGH TOWN OF US 666. Note: Dove Creek Co has sufficient SERVICES FOR A HIKER.

CONT ED ALONG US 666, PASS AIRPORT LEFT SIDE OF ROUTE (LSR) TO "Y" ROAD JUNCTION (YRJ) (T40N, R18W, Sec 6), TURN LEFT ON GRVLD RD.

CCNT ED for approximately eight miles OVT on Forest Service Road (FSR) to the western boundary of parcel of the San Juan National Forest, (T40N, R17W, Sec 1). Note: There is private land all along the county RD between the town of Dove Creek and the forest boundary.

CONT ED FOR A SHORT DISTANCE THROUGH FOREST, BEFORE TURNING IN SOUTHERLY DIRECTION (SD) ON MAIN TRAVELED (TRVLD) FSR 267.

CONT SD ON FSR RD 267 TO TRJ (T39N, R18W, SEC 31), TURN LEFT IN ED.

CONT ED on meandering RD for approximately one mile to turn in RD, turn Right in SD.

CONT SD ALONG FSR 267 to TRJ (T39N, R17W, Sec 17) AT TOP OF HILL, TURN LEFT ON FSR 505 AND BEGAN DECENT ON MEANDERING RD DOWN TO THE DOLORES RIVER. Note: Ranch House (RH) RSR NEAR RIVER.

CONT ED, cross Dolores River on modern bridge (BRDG) and began ascent of hill on meandering GRVLD FSR 505. Note: Valley LSR.

CONT ED ASCENDING ON MEANDERING RD FOR ABOUT HALF MILE, APRCH TRJ (T39N, R17W, Sec 9), TURN RIGHT SD ON FSR 504. Note: See valley RSR.

CONT SD FOR 25 YARDS, APRCH YRJ (T39N, R17W, Sec 9), TURN LEFT ON TO UNIMPROVED RD OF THE ORMISTON POINT STOCK DRIVEWAY AND BEGAN ASCENT OF HILL. Note: Dolores River valley still on RSR.

CONT ED ON UNIMPROVED RD, APRCH GOVERNMENT AGENCY FENCE LINE (GSF) AT

TOP OF HILL, ENTER THE SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST.

CONT ED on the Ormiston Point Stock driveway OVT and the unimproved RD. Note: Maintain travel along ridgeline and disregard all side RD'S. Eventually the RD becomes improved FSR 520. Cross at least two cattle guards (CG).

CONT ED, APRCH TRJ (T39N, R15W, Sec 3) TURN RIGHT IN SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION SED TOWARD FSR 520.

CONT SED TOWARD FSR 520, APRCH YRJ (T39N, R16W, Sec 10), TURN LEFT ED ON FSR 520.

CONT ED on FSR 520 to YRJ (T39N, R15W, Sec 1) of FSR 520 and FSR 514, turn Right SD on FSR 514.

CONT SED on FSR 514 cross cattle guard (CG), APRCH TRJ (T39N, R15W, Sec 7) IN OPEN AREA OF SALTER "Y", TURN LEFT IN NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION NED ON FSR 514.

CONT NED ON FSR 514, cross CG, exit the San Juan National Forest. Note: Small RH or cabin LSR.

CONT NED OVT on meandering RD and eventually reenter the San Juan National Forest on FSR 514.

CONT ED on FSR 514, APRCH TRJ (T39N, R14W, Sec 4) of FSR 514 and FSR 526, TURN RIGHT IN SD on FSR 526.

CONT SD on FSR 526 for short distance, cross BRDG and immediate APRCH TRJ (T39N, R14W, Sec 9) of FSR 526 and unimproved Beaver Creek FSR, turn Left in NED.

CONT NED ON UNIMPROVED FSR, PASS RH RSR, FOLLOW RD THROUGH FOREST ASCEND IN SED TO GSF WITH WOODEN GATE.

CONT IN SED TO TRJ (T39N, R14W, Sec 33) of unimproved FSR and FSR 532, turn Left in ND. Note: Improved GSF LSR.

CONT ND on FSR 532, DECEND HILL INTO COTTONWOOD CREEK AREA BEYOND. NOTE: FSR 532 MAKE AN ABRUPT RIGHT TURN IN SED AT BOTTOM OF HILL.

CONT SED DOWN VALLEY, PASS COTTONWOOD SPRING LSR, CROSS CG. NOTE: ABANDONED FS GUARD STATION ON HILL LSR BEFORE BRDG.

CONT SED A SHORT DISTANCE, CROSS ON ONE LANE BRDG, IMMEDIATELY BEYOND BRDG APRCH TRJ (T39N, R14W, Sec 36) of FSR 532 AND GOBEL CREEK STOCK DRIVEWAY,

TURN LEFT IN NED ON STOCK DRIVEWAY AND ASCEND INTO THE FOREST. NOTE: THE GOBEL CREEK STOCK DRIVEWAY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF THE SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST. SEE CREEK AND POND LSR.

CONT NED, ASCENDING INTO FOREST, CROSS STREAM AND CONT NED.

CONT NED THROUGH FOREST, APRCH OPEN AREA RSR WITH FOREST LSR.

CONT NED ON COW TRAIL TO STOCK POND, AT POND TURN RIGHT ED AND ENTER ASPEN GROVE. NOTE: FENCE (FE) ACROSS NORTH END OF POND.

CONT ED ALONG COW TRAIL THROUGH ASPEN GROVE FOR SHORT DISTANCE TO THE CORNER OF A N-S FE LINE, TURN LEFT IN ND ALONG FE LSR.

CONT ND ALONG FE LINE IN SCRUB OAK FOREST, APRCH INTERSECTION OF THREE FE LINES ON HIGH GROUND WITH GATE IN EW FE LINE. CSA IN ND ACROSS OPEN AGRICULTURAL LAND (AG).

CONT ND ACROSS AG DECENDING TO TRJ (T40N, R13W, Sec 29) OF UNIMPROVED FSR AND COW TRAIL, TURN RIGHT IN ED ON FSR.

CONT ED on unimproved FSR which crosses relative shallow valley with open AG and than ascend in SD into forested area. Note: Nipple MT LSR and King's RH in NWD.

CONT SD, ASCENDING IN FOREST AREA, APRCH YRJ (T40N, R13W, Sec 28) of two unimproved FSR, turn Left in SED and CONT ascent toward south side of Nipple Mountain (MT).

CONT SED and ED to pass Nipple MT in counterclock wise direction. Note: See shallow.MT saddle in NED.

CONT NED ASCENT TO SHALLOW SADDLE.

CONT NED BEGAN DECENT FROM SADDLE TO GSF WITH GATE IN VALLEY BEYOND.

CONT ED pass through gate and decend to tree area in meadow. Note: The open area in known as Hugh Ray Flats.

CONT NED and traverse the open area. Pass by a very small man made pond in open area beyond a clump of trees LSR. Note: When directly east of Nipple MT, see in the NED baren peaked pryamid shaped MT'S.

CONT NED decending toward the forested area and toward the unique pryamid shaped MT'S. Note: Exit trail from Hugh Ray Flats to west fork Dolores River is in this NED. See the remains of hunter camps and various unimproved RD'S in area.

CONT NED ACROSS MEADOW TO THE FORESTED AREA AND THAN FOLLOW AN OBSCURE TRAIL FOR A SHORT DISTANCE INTO THE FOREST TO ITS END.

CONT ED TO END OF TRAIL AND APRCH GSF. Pass through FE and than decend on a ILL-defined trail. Note: The Hiker is now on a short segment of private property--stay on the trail.

CONT IN ED, DECEND TO A VERY SMALL STREAM BED. CROSS STREAM BED AND IMMEDIATELY TURN RIGHT. NOTE: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT JUNCTION SO USE CAUTION IN SELECTION OF ROUTE. SEE SMALL MAN MADE POND RSR WITH VARIOUS TRAILS IN THE AREA, DISEREGARD THE POND AND ITS TRAILS.

CONT SED AFTER RIGHT TURN, DECEND MT ON RIDGELINE TRAIL. NOTE: USE CAUTION AS THERE ARE SOME HARDZOUS TERRAIN IN AREA AND MANY ILL-DEFINED COW TRAILS.

CONT SED DOWN RIDGELINE UNTIL A LARGER STREAMBED IS CROSSED, IMMEDIATELY TURN RIGHT AND CONTINUE DOWN SLOPE TO A GATE IN FE LINE.

CONT SED PASS THROUGH THE GATE AND APRCH TRJ (T40N, R13W, Sec 26) OF UNIMPROVED RD AND FSR 515, TURN LEFT IN NED. NOTE: ABANDONED RH FOUNDATION RSR, SEE WEST DOLORES RIVER BEYOND MEADOW. PRIVATE LAND TERMINATES AT FSR.

CONT NED on FSR 515 to TRJ (T40N, R39W, Sec 24) of FSR 515 and FSR 686, TURN RIGHT IN ED on FSR 686.

CONT NED on FSR 686 FOR SHORT DISTANCE, DECEND SMALL HILL, CROSS THE WEST DOLORES RIVER BRDG.

CONT NED, BEYOND BRDG CROSS CG AND WITHIN 100 FEET, TURN RIGHT AND ASCEND STEEP EMBANKMENT INTO FOREST.

CONT SED ASCEND TRAIL, IN SHORT DISTANCE CROSS FSR 686 AT HIGHER LEVEL. CONT ASCENT.

CONT IN ED, ASCEND TRAIL IN DEER CREEK VALLEY TO HIGHER LEVEL AND APRCH TRJ (T40N, R12W, Sec 30) of trail and FSR 686, turn Left NED on FSR 686. Note: Corral near TRJ RSR.

CONT NED on FSR 686 ascend on improved RD. Note: Valley view from this Level LSR.

CONT NED, cross CG near stock pond RSR. CONT to follow RD up MT until a sharp lefthand turn is encountered (T40N, R12W, Sec 28). Note: Stock corral facilities RSR, FSR sign reads "Calico Trail 5 miles" RSR. See remants of a

BUNKHOUSE FOUNDATION RSR THAT IS SETBACK FROM RD. NEAR THIS FOUNDATION, ON NORTH SIDE, IS A ILL-DEFINED TRAIL HEAD LEADING INTO FOREST IN NED.

CONT NED ON TRAIL ASCEND INTO THE FOREST. NOTE: THIS TRAIL WILL EXIT NEAR THE END OF FSR 686 AT HIGHER LEVEL.

CONT NED FROM THE END OF FSR 686, ASCEND MT ON ILL-DEFINED LOGGING RD TO A BETTER DEFINED TRAIL MARKED AS "CENTER STOCK DRIVEWAY".

CONT NED ALONG TRAIL OVT WHILE ASCENDING TOWARD EAGLE PEAK. NOTE: WILL PASS THROUGH GSF GATE, WILL PASS A TRJ MARKED WITH SIGN "FS TRAIL 1625" RSR.

CONT NED ALONG TRAIL, ASCEND TO OPEN AREAS NEAR MT TOP. NOTE: EAGLE MT WILL BE LSR. PASS EAGLE MT IN COUNTERCLOSEWISE MANNER AND DECEND INTO HORSE CREEK VALLEY.

CONT NED DECEND ON EAST SIDE OF EAGLE PEAK, CROSS UPPER LEVEL OF HORSE CREEK.

CONT NED DECENT ALONG HORSE CREEK, PASS OLD MINE SHAFTS BSR. NOTE: EXERCISE CARE NEAR MINE SHAFTS, PRIVATE PROPERTY IN AREA, MAINTAIN HORSE CREEK ON RSR.

CONT ED ON LONG DECENT INTO VALLEY ON TRAIL. MAINTAIN MT STREAM RSR. NOTE: THE TRAIL RECOMES AN UNIMPROVED FSR THAN AN IMPROVED FSR FURTHER DOWN THE MT.

CONT ED DECENT ON IMPROVED FSR TO TRJ (T40N, R11W, Sec 23) OF FSR AND COLORADO STATE RD (COSRD) 145, TURN RIGHT SD ON COSRD 145 TOWARD RICO CO. NOTE: THE TOWN OF RICO CO (81332) HAS SUFFICIENT SERVICES FOR THE HIKER.

To depart Rico, CONT ED ascending a town street that passes the old county court house and the town church LSR, APRCH the town street intersection at the church, turn Left in ND and CONT steep ascent on meandering RD of Silver Creek valley. Note: Ascent is rather rapid and there are many mine roads along the route.

CONT ED ASCEND ON MAIN MEANDERING RD THAT LEADS TO THE TOWNS WATER RESOURCE FACILITY. PRIVATE PROPERTY BSR.

CONT ED ON MEANDERING RD, APRCH MT RD SWITCHBACK NEAR OLD MINE MILL SITE RSR. CONT ASCENT TO RICO WATERSHED BOUNDARY. NOTE: NO CAMPING IN THE RICO WATERSHED.

CONT ED ASCEND ON UNIMPROVED FS RD MAINTAINING CREEK VALLEY BSR.

CONT ED ASCEND ON UNIMPROVED FSR. APRCH YRJ (T40N, R10W, Sec 30) of unimproved RD and Circle Trail, turn Left on Circle trail in NED. Note: Silver Creek valley veers away from RSR. Cliffs on LSR.

CONT ED ASCEND ON STEEP MEANDERING TRAIL. NOTE: ENTER CLEARED AREA NEAR SECTION POINT (T40N, R10W, Sec 27) RSR. Cross the Dolores/San Juan Co county line in this area.

CONT ED THROUGH FORESTED AREA TOWARD HERMOSA PEAK (T40N, R10W, Sec 26) IN THE ED. APRCH TRJ (T40N, R10W, Sec 26) OF CIRCLE TRAIL AND THE UNIMPROVED FS RD THAT PASSES ON NORTH SIDE OF HERMOSA PEAK.

CONT IN NED ON UNIMPROVED RD TO A TRJ (T40N, R10W, Sec 24) IN A CLEAR AREA OF MAIN TRVLD FSR 578 (BARLOW CREEK) AND THE UNIMPORVED RD AROUND HERMOSA PEAK, TURN RIGHT IN ED ON MAIN TRVLD FS RD. NOTE: HERMOSA PEAK RSR.

CONT ED ASCEND ON MEANDERING RD, PASS THROUGH BOLAN PASS. COMMENCE DECENTINTO GRAYSILL MINE AREA. NOTE: SEE THE CLEAR AREAS ON THE MOUNTAIN AND A LAKE LSR.

CONT ED ALONG FSR 578, APRCH TRJ (T40N, R9W, Sec 19) of FSR 578 and FSR 580 in mine area. CSA on FSR 578. Note: Maintain a major portion of the mine area RSR.

CONT ED ALONG UNIMPROVED FSR 578, APRCH TRJ (T40N, R9W, Sec 21) of FSR 578 AND THE HIGHLAND TRAIL, CSA ED ON TRAIL.

CONT ED ALONG THE MEANDERING HIGHLAND TRAIL, CROSS CASCADE CREEK. NOTE: MAINTAIN GRAYSILL CREEK RSR. NOTE: BEYOND CASCADE CREEK TRAIL MEANDERS ND ENTER SECTS WITH THE RICO-SILVERTON TRAIL. SEE ENGINEER MT (12,613 ft) SED, JURA KNOB (12,614 ft) ED, GRIZZLY PEAK (13,748 ft) WD, ROLLONG MT (13,693 ft) ND AND TWIN SISTERS (13,432 ft) ED.

CONT ND ALONG THE RICO-SILVERTON TRAIL, COMMENCE DECENT TO THE SOUTH FORK MINERAL CREEK FORESTED AREA. NOTE: SEE NARROW VALLEY BEYOND.

CONT ND, DECEND TOWARD SOUTH FORK MINERAL CREEK, EVENTUALLY CROSS TWO CREEKS IN VICINITY OF ABANDONED LOG CABIN LSR. NOTE: CROSS ALL CREEKS IN THE LOG CABIN AREA AND INTERSECT UNIMPORVED FSR RD. SEE OLD MINE LSR.

CONT ND ALONG UNIMPROVED FSR 535 TOWARD SOUTH MINERAL CAMPGROUND (T41N, R8W, Sec 17).

CONT ED DECEND INTO VALLEY ON IMPROVED FSR 585 TO YRJ (T41N, R8W, Sec 12) OF FSR 585 AND US 550, WEST OF SILVERTON CO. NOTE: EXIT THIS PORTION OF SAN

JUAN NATIONAL FOREST.

CONT ED ALONG US 550 INTO TOWN OF SILVERTON CO. NOTE: SILVERTON (81433) HAS SUFFICIENT FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR A HIKER.

To DEPART SILVERTON CO, CONT NED THROUGH THE TOWN ON MAIN STREET TO COSRD 110, TURN RIGHT ON COSRD 110.

CONT NED ALONG COSRD 110 TOWARD THE END OF THE PVD HIGHWAY. NOTE: MINE MILL AND TAILINGS PONDS LSR.

CONT NED to YRJ (T41N, R7W, Sec 10) AT END OF PVD RD, TURN RIGHT SED ON IMPROVED GRVLD RD, DECEND INTO VALLEY AND CROSS ARRASTRA CREEK BRDG.

CONT SD BEGAN ASCENT TO ARRASTRA CREEK CANYON AREA.

CONT SD INTO ARRASTRA CREEK CANYON (T41N, R7W, Sec 15), APRCH ARRASTRA CREEK CANYON AND A TRAIL LEADING TO THE LITTLE GIANT BASIN AREA, PASS LITTLE GIANT PEAK (13,416 FT) LSR. Note: See Silver Lake LSR. Reenter the San Juan National Forest prior to next YRJ. The route description from the Little Giant basin to Sawtooth MT does not satisfy the description standards of the remaing portion of the guide. The research notes were lost; the guide will be revised at a later time.

CONT SED ALONG MT TRAILS OVT, CROSS FOUR OR FIVE STREAMS BEFORE APRCH YRJ (T41N, R6W, Sec 30) OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL AND THE STONY PASS TRAIL. NOTE: Use caution in selection of trail. Correct selection will ensure a higher knob LSR and a mountain bog or swamp on LSR beyond trail junction.

CONT IN SD ALONG THE CDT, MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE GENERAL RIDGELINE, IGNORING TRAIL, WHICH TEND TO DECEND EWD INTO THE VALLEYS. NOTE: THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT LAND MARKS ALONG OR ON THE CDT TOWARD WOLF CREEK PASS IE; HUNCHBACK MT LSR HUNCHBACK PASS IN ROUTE, TWIN LAKES RSR, UTE LAKE LSR, THE WINDOW LSR, RIO GRANDE PYRAMID LSR, WEMINUCHE PASS LSR, SQUAW LAKE LSR, SMALL LAKES BEFORE SQUAW PASS RSR, SQUAW PASS, WILLIAMS LAKES RSR, TROUT LAKE LSR, KNIFE EDGE, PALOMINO MT, PIEDRA PASS, SAWTOOTH MT LSR, ARCHULETA LAKE LSR, SPOTTED LAKE RSR AND WOLF CREEK PASS. THE NORTH-SOUTH BOUNDARY BETWEEN SAN JUAN AND RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST FOLLOW THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE. THE ROUTE ALTERNATES BETWEEN THE TWO FORESTS. THE ROUTE ALSO CROSSES THE SAN JUAN/HINSDALE CO COUNTY LINE (T41N, R6W, Sec 32) NEAR STONY PASS. THE ROUTE ALSO CROSSES THE HINSDALE/MINERAL CO COUNTY LINE (T39N, R2W, Sec 18) NEAR THE KNIFE EDGE.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, APRCH YRJ (T38N, R1E, Sec 4) SWD FROM SAWTOOTH MT, TURN RIGHT SD.

CONT SD on CDT MAKE STEEP DECENT TO ARCHULETA LAKE AND SPOTTED LAKE.

CONT SD on MEANDERING CDT OVT, PASS SMALL UNNAMED LAKE WITH ROCK LEDGES 1SR.

CONT ED ALONG CDT OVT TO LEVEL GROUND. NOTE: SEE MICROWAVE TOWER IN ED.

CONT ED ALONG CDT FOR SHORT DISTANCE ON LEVEL GROUND TOWARD THE MICROWAVE TOWER, APRCH TURN IN CDT TURN RIGHT SD AND DECEND MT OVT ON MEANDERING TRAIL.

CONT DECENT IN SD, APRCH CRJ AND CROSS US 160, (T37N, R2E, Sec 5) NEAR THE HYWAY SIGN AT PEAK OF THE PASS. THE TRAILS IN SED FROM PASS LEAD TO THE CDT. Note: Hiker may wish to resupply self before CONT SD on CDT. The city of Pagosa Springs Co (81147) WD of pass has sufficient facilities and services for a hiker. This area is known as Wolf Creek Pass.

CONT SD, ASCEND TO RIDGELINE. NOTE: SEE INSTALLED SKI LIFT APPARATUS AND SKI RUNS LSR.

CONT SD BEYOND SKI LIFT AREA, OVT ABOVE TREE LINE. NOTE: SEE ALBERTA LAKE LSR.

CONT SD pass through timbered areas and decend steeply into Silver Pass (T37N, R2E, Sec 14). Note: Caution conserve water, see a water sources RSR.

CONT SED OVT LUMBERED AREAS. Note: ABRUPT TURNS IN THIS PORTION OF ROUTE MUST BE EXPECTED.

CONT ALONG CDT, MAKE ABRUPT TURN LEFT AND DECEND IN NED INTO BONITA PASS (T37N, R2E, Sec 19). Note: In Bonita Pass there is also the NSD Hot Creek stockway. The route crosses the Mineral/Rio Grande Co county line (T37N, R3E, Sec 19) near Bonita Pass.

CONT ED ASCEND INTO FOREST OVT ALONG CDT. NOTE: BE ALERT FOR CAIRNS OF VARIOUS SORTS IN FORESTED AND CLEARED AREAS.

CONT SD, TO THE FLAT TOP OF A WIDE RIDGELINE WITH MEADOWS.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, APRCH SUMMIT PASS (T37N, R3E, Sec 34). Note: Gas Line Rightway in pass.

CONT SD ALONG CDT ON A FLAT RIDGE AND FOR SHORT DISTANCE ON FSR TO ELWOOD PASS (T37N, R3E, Sec 34).

CONT SD FROM ELWOOD PASS, FOLLOW FSRD THAT CROSSES THE STREAM TO A POINT WHERE IT TURNS LEFT. TURN RIGHT SWD FROM RD AND ASCEND INTO FOREST. NOTE: THE CDT CONT ON THE EITHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE. THE ROUTE CROSSES THE RIO GRANDE/CONJEOS CO COUNTY LINE (T37N, R3E, Sec 34) NEAR ELWOOD PASS AND IN SHORT DISTANCE CROSSES (T36N, R2E, Sec 12) AND LATER ALTERNATES BETWEEN CONJEOS AND ARCHULETA CO COUNTIES.

CONT SWD, ASCEND HILL THROUGH MEADOW AREA, THEN TRAVERSES STEEP SLOPE OF MOUNTAIN, PASSING JUST BELOW THE SADDLE. THAN ASCENDS INTO SADDLE. NOTE: DISREGARD THE WHITE TRAIL MARKERS THAT LEAD TO CARTER LAKE (T36N, R2E, Sec 1) RSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, FOLLOW UNIMPROVED FSR TO A TRAIL THAT ASCENDS TO RIDGE LINE. THAN CONT IN SWD TOWARD SADDLE. NOTE: SEE CARTER LAKE AND CLIFFS RSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT DECEND TO SADDLE, THAN COMMENCE ASCENT ALONG THE EAST SLOPE OF MONTEZUMA PEAK (T36N, R2E, Sec 13).

CONT WD ALONG CDT TRAVERSE AND DECEND SOUTH SLOPE OF MONTEZUMA PEAK TOWARD A SADDLE.

CONT SD ALONG CDT FROM SADDLE AND TRAVERSE THE EASTERN SLOPES OF TWO PEAKS, DECEND TO GAP (T36N, R3E, Sec 14).

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ASCEND OVER SMALL KNOLL AND DECEND INTO SADDLE NORTH OF SUMMIT PEAK (T36N, R3E, Sec 23). Note: Lake LSR.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, TRAVERSE NORTH AND EAST SLOPES OF SUMMIT PEAK (T36N, R3E, Sec 24). Note: Follow markers through alpine meadows.

CONT SD ALONG CDT DECENT INTO VALLEY TOWARD SADDLE, APRCH TRJ (T36N, R3E, Sec 26) TURN LEFT SD AND CONT DECENT TO STREAM VALLEY. NOTE: MAINTAIN STREAM RSR.

CONT SED DECENT, APRCH TRJ (T36N, R3E, Sec 25), TURN RIGHT SD AND CROSS STREAM IN SHORT DISTANCE.

CONT ED ALONG CDT OVT TRAVERSE NORTH SLOPE OF MT. NOTE: STREAM LSR.

CONT ED ALONG CDT OVT, TRAVERSE NORTH SLOPE OF MT, BEGAN ASCEND ON TRAIL SWITCHBACK ON POINT (T35N, R3E, Sec 33) OF A MOUNTAIN.

CONT SD ALONG CDT OVT ASCEND SWITCHBACKS AND THAN TRAVERSE THE EASTERN SLOPES OF MT TO SADDLE (T35N, R3E, Sec 4).

CONT SD ALONG CDT OVT, TRAVERSE THE EASTERN SLOPES OF TWO DIFFERENT MT'S INTO TWO SEPERATE SADDLES.

CONT SD along CDT, decend through open meadows with thick shrubs, cross headlands of two drainages (T35N, R3E, Sec 9) with streams. Note: See headwaters and North Fork Conjeos River.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, TRAVERSE EAST SLOPE OF MT, THAN BEGAN ASCENT OF SWITCHBACKS TO RIDGELINE.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, ACROSS RELATIVELY LEVEL ALPINE MEADOWS AREA (T35N, R3E, Sec 9).

CONT WD ALONG CDT, COMMENCE LONG TRAVERSE AND DECENT OF THE SOUTH SLOPE OF A MT INTO THE VALLEY OF THE MIDDLE FORK CONJEOS RIVER (T35N, R2E, Sec 17).

CONT SD ALONG CDT, DECEND TO THE STREAM OUTLET OF LAKE ANN (T35N, R3E, Sec 13) AND THE MIDDLE FORK CONJEOS RIVER. NOTE: SEE WATER FALL RSR. DONT FOLLOW THE MIDDLE FORK CONJEOS RIVER VALLEY.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ON A TRAVERSE OF THE EASTERN SLOPE OF MT AND CROSS STREAM. NOTE: DO NOT FOLLOW THE STREAM LSR.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, BEGAN STEEP ASCENT ON SWITCHBACKS (T35N, R2E, Sec 22) TO AREA WITH CLIFFS LSR.

CONT SED ALONG MEANDERING CDT, BEGAN STEEP DECENT TO A SADDLE WITH LAKE RSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, APRCH TRJ(T35N, R3E, Sec 22) of CDT and Navajo Trail, CSA.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ASCEND THROUGH FOREST AND TRAVERSE SOUTH SLOPE OF MT AND CROSS MEADOWS.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, CROSS MEADOW, FOLLOWING CAIRNS. ASCEND OVER RIDGELINE AND COMMENCE DECENT ON SWITCHBACKS DOWN TO THE WESTERN SHORES OF BLUE LAKE (T35N, R3E, Sec 26).

CONT SD ALONG CDT to the southern end of Blue Lake, APRCH TRJ (T35N, R3E, Sec 26) CSA through meadow. Note: See small lake (T34N, R3E, Sec 35) LSR.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, COMMENCE ASCENT INTO FOREST AND TRAVERSE SLOPES TO A WIDE SADDLE.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, CROSS SADDLE AND CONT ASCENT TO RIDGE LINE ON A WELL GRADED TRAIL ON FORESTED SLOPE.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, APRCH TRJ (T35N, R3E, Sec 26), TURN RIGHT TOWARDS HIGHER SLOPES AND ASCEND TO ROCKY SADDLE.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ASCEND TO ROCKY SADDLE (T34N, R3E, Sec 1), cross saddle and began gradual decent across rocky terrain to small lakes and Green Lake LSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ASCEND TO RIDGE LINE. NOTE: SEE TRAIL LAKE AHEAD RSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT OVER RELATIVELY LEVEL TERRAIN, THAN ASCEND ON EASTERN SLOPES OF A MT, THAN BEGAN A DECENT IN ED.

CONT ED ALONG CDT, DECEND INTO DRIPPING LAKES AREA (T33N, R4E, Sec 5).

CONT ED ALONG CDT, DECEND STEEP ROCKY TRAIL, APRCH TRJ (T33N, R4E, Sec 5) OF CDT AND ELK CREEK TRAIL, TURN RIGHT SD AND CONT DECENT THROUGH THICK FOREST TO THE MEADOW AREA AROUND THE LAKE.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, APRCH THE LARGEST LAKE OF DRIPPING LAKES LSR, THAN BEGAN STEEP ACENT ON SWITCHBACKS TOWARDS A MT PLATEAU.

CONT SED ALONG CDT, CROSS EXPANSIVE MEADOW, BE ALERT TO CAIRNS PLACEMENT, STAY ON WESTERN SLOPE OF RIDGE. NOTE: SEE SMALL LAKES LSR. CAUTION THE TRJ (T33N, R4E, Sec 4) of the CDT and the Mango trail maybe visible in the AREA LSR. MAINTAIN A SD OF TRAVEL ALONG CDT.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ASCEND TO RELATIVELY LARGE LEVEL AREA OF THE MT CALLED "FLATS" (T33N, R4E, Sec 22), DEEP CANYON RSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, DECEND TOWARD FOREST, CROSS SEVERAL OPEN MEADOWS FOLLOW PREPARED TRAIL OVT.

CONT SD ALONG CDT, ENTER FOREST AND FOLLOW PREPARED TRAIL OVT TO A SHARP RIGHT TURN IN EDGE OF FOREST (T32N, R4E, Sec 2), JUST BEFORE MEADOW, TURN RIGHT SD AND PROCEED THROUGHT THE FOREST TO A LOCATION OF AN ABANDONED SAWMILL LSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT ON BLAZED TRAIL TO UNIMPORVED FSR 119. NOTE: PRIVATE LAND EXISTS IN THIS AREA. STAY ON RD.

CONT SD ALONG CDT ON UNIMPROVED FSR 119, APRCH CRJ (T32N, R4E, Sec 1), CSA in SD. Note: Abandoned car body LSR.

CONT SD ALONG CDT ON FSR 119, DECEND TOWARD CUMBERS PASS AREA. APRCH TRJ (T32N, R5E, Sec 8) OF UNIMPROVED FSR 119 AND EXTENSION OF FSR 118, TURN LEFT ED ON FSR 118. Note: See Railroad (RR) Buildings (BLDG) and Highway IN NEAR DISTANCE.

CONT ED ON FSR 118 FOR A VERY SHORT DISTANCE TO TRJ (T32N, R5E, Sec 8), TURN RIGHT SD TOWARD COLORADO SRD 17 IN CUMBRES PASS (T32N, R5E, Sec 8).

CONT SD to TRJ (T32N, R5E, Sec 8) of FSR 118 and Colorado SRD 17, turn Left ED along COSRD 17. Note: Train tracks and other facilities in the area. Hiker may wish to resupply self before CONT SD along HikaNation Route. The town of Chama New Mexico (87520) in SWD has sufficient services for a hiker. At the present time this portion of the CDT ends at Cumbres Pass.

CONT ED ALONG COSRD 17 FOR ABOUT TWO MILES TO YRJ (T32N, R5E, Sec 16) OF COSRD 17 AND GRVLD RD, TURN RIGHT SD ON GRVLD RD. NOTE: SEE VALLEY AND RR TRACKS RSR, SEE CORRAL LSR.

CONT SD ALONG MEANDERING GRVLD RD, DECEND INTO VALLEY, CROSS RR TRACKS.

CONT SD OVT ALONG GRVLD RD TOWARDS NEW MEXICO STATE BOARDER. NOTE: FLAT TOP MT LSR SED.

CONT SD ALONG GRVLD RD, ASCEND TO AND CROSS CG, PASS THROUGH GATE IN GSF; EXIT RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST AND THE STATE OF COLORADO AND ENTER THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO NEAR MILE POST 186. (T32N, R5E, Sec 22). The HikaNation route CONT SD traverses northeastern portion of the STATE OF New Mexico and Reenters Colorado from the Panhandle of Oklahoma.

THE ROUTE REENTERS SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO ON THE BACA COUNTY RD 13 (T35S, R48W, Sec 17) which is approximately 10 miles northeast of Kenton OK which is located in the Oklahoma panhandle. The Comanche National Grasslands are in this area of Colorado.

CONT ND on BACA COUNTY RD 13. Note: See a portion of the grasslands RSR.

CONT ND ALONG BACA COUNTY RD 13, ASCEND VALLEY TO RIDGE LINE AND WITHIN APPROXIMATELY SIX MILES APRCH CROSS ROAD JUNCTION (CRJ) (T34S, R48W, Sec 20) OF BACA COUNTY RD 13 AND BACA COUNTY RD G, TURN PIGHT ED ON BACA COUNTY RD G. NOTE: PRIVATE PROPERTY ON BSR.

CONT ED FOR APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES BEFORE A CHANGE IN ROUTE DIRECTION OCCURS. NOTE: ALONG THIS TWELVE MILE SEGMENT NEAR BACA COUNTY RD 18 SEE GSF

BORDERING PARCELS OF GRASSLANDS BSR, SEE A GAS PUMP STATION RSR NEAR BACA COUNTY RD 20 (T34S, R47W, Sec 21), cross a CG near Baca County RD 21, pass an abandoned RH at RD 22 and two inhabited RH's near Baca County RD 23. Note: At the CRJ of Baca County RD G and Baca County RD 24 the Eastward extension of RD G is unimproved.

CONT ED BEYOND CRJ (T34S, R46W, Sec 18) ON UNIMPROVED EXTENSION OF BACA COUNTY RD G, PASS THROUGH WIRE GATE. NOTE: PWR LSR.

CONT ND on Baca County RD 25 to CRJ (T34S, R46W, Sec 8) of Baca County RD 25 and Baca County RD J, turn Right in ED on Baca County RD J, toward town of Campo Co.

CONT ED ON BACA COUNTY RD J, APRCH CRJ (T34S, R46W, Sec 2) OF BACA COUNTY RD J AND US 396/287 IN THE TOWN OF CAMPO CO. THE TOWN OF CAMPO (81029) HAS SUFFICIENT SERVICES FOR A HIKER. THE TOWN HAS A TOWN PARK.

CONT ED FROM CAMPO CO ALONG BACA COUNTY RD J FOR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILES TO CRJ (T34S, R45W, Sec 1) OF BACA COUNTY RD J AND BACA COUNTY RD 35, TURN LEFT IN ND ON BACA COUNTY RD 35. Note: Private Agricultural Lands BSR.

CONT ND FOR THREE MILES ON BACA COUNTY RD 35 TO TRJ (T33S, R45W, Sec 25) OF BACA COUNTY RD M AND BACA COUNTY RD 35, TURN RIGHT IN ED ON BACA COUNTY RD M. Note: Grouped RH's LSR.

CONT ED on Baca County RD M for 22 miles to the Colorado/Kansas state line. Enter Kansas on Kansas SRD 51. Note: Enroute along Baca County RD M, cross Baca County RD 44 which leads ND to Walsh Co, also at CRJ (T33S, R42W, Sec 19) of Baca County RD M and Baca County RD 49 see abandoned village store of Midway Co LSR, see private property BSR most of the distance. The Colorado Baca County RD M is designated as Kansas SRD 51 in the state of Kansas.