



San Juan National Forest Trip Planning Information



Photo by Mark Roper

San Juan National Forest

Pagosa Ranger District

Pagosa Springs, CO
(970) 264-2268

Columbine Ranger District

Bayfield, CO
(970) 884-2512

www.fs.fed.us/sanjuan

Piedra Area



Photo by Mark Roper

The Piedra Area contains 61,535 acres in the San Juan National Forest.

The Area is named for the Piedra River which dominates the mountainous landscapes.

Welcome to The Piedra Area!

In the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, the Piedra Area was designated by Congress as an area to be managed to maintain its existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Act provides for grazing and restricts mechanized and motorized travel.

If planning a through trip on the Piedra River Trail, contact the district office to determine if the First Fork Road on the west end of the hike is open.

As you visit, you will join thousands of other who travel in the Piedra Special Management Area each year. You can help protect the management area through your knowledge and skills, and by complying with regulations.

General Safety Information

Navigation

Be sure to carry a current topographical map of the area. Signing is limited to junctions of Forest Service system trails and typically does not provide mileages.

Weather

Expect and be prepared for rain, hail, snow, or biting wind at any time of the year. Carry clothing and equipment which will keep you warm and dry, even when day-hiking.

Altitude

Elevations range from 7,000 to over 12,000 feet. Pace yourself, drink water, and eat snacks to help prevent altitude sickness. Symptoms include headache, loss of appetite, and weakness or drowsiness. If affected, descend quickly. If symptoms persist, seek medical aid.

High Water

During spring snow melt, expect high, fast water. Water levels may rise dangerously with warm weather or after thunderstorms. Use caution when crossing streams or delay crossing until water levels drop.



Special Management Area

The following regulations are in effect to help ensure the protection of the resource.

Please consider, adopt, and practice these regulations in this Special Management Area.

Site Specifics Regulations

The following regulations apply to all areas of the Piedra Area:

Travel

Bikes, carts, snowmobiles, and any other motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment are not allowed in the Piedra Area.

Pets

Pets must be leashed or under voice control. Do this in respect for others and for the protection of wildlife.

General Regulations

Livestock

Restraining recreational livestock is prohibited within 100 feet of streams and lakes or within riparian areas.



Stock Feed

All hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch, and other products in your possession on the Forest must be certified as weed free by a sanctioned certification program.

Outfitters and Guides

Commercial guides and outfitters must hold a legal permit to operate within National Forests. Contact the Forest Service office nearest your destination for permit information or to ensure that your guide has a valid permit.

Reserved Campsites

Camping is prohibited within 300 feet of areas signed as “reserved” or “assigned” to permitted commercial outfitters.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted subject to regulations established by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Others

Pack out and properly disposed of all trash. Do not bury or burn your trash.

Disposing of wash water and human waste is prohibited within 100 feet of any water source.

Cutting or damaging live trees is prohibited.

Caching of any type of equipment is prohibited. Geo-caches are not permitted.

Do not leave campfires unattended. Make sure your fire is out and ashes are cold.

Shortcutting of trail switchbacks is prohibited to limit erosion. Do not cut switchbacks.



Leave No Trace

Practicing a “Leave No Trace” ethic is very simple: make it hard for others to see or hear you and “leave no trace” of your visit. With your help, the resource can be managed to ensure that its unique character and values remain intact.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Sources of Related Information

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Durango Office
(970) 247-0855
<http://cpw.state.co.us/>

Leave No Trace
1-800-332-4100
www.LNT.org

Wilderness Information Network
www.wilderness.net