

FunTreks • Fourth Edition • 100 Trails

GUIDE TO
**Colorado
Backroads &
4-Wheel-Drive
Trails**



EASY

MODERATE



DIFFICULT

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Fourth Edition

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone with whom we traveled or met on the trails for allowing us to use pictures of you and/or your vehicles. If we published pictures that you took, we gave you credit at the bottom of the picture.

We would also like to thank staffers and rangers at the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and other government land agencies for their time and patience answering our many questions.

GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

We guarantee you will enjoy the trails in this book. If not, or if you are dissatisfied with the book in any other way, return it to us for a full refund. Or, call our toll-free number during business hours at 1-877-222-7623. We promise to do whatever it takes to make you happy.

DISCLAIMER

Travel in Colorado’s backcountry is, by its very nature, potentially dangerous and could result in property damage, injury or even death. The scope of this book cannot predict every possible hazard you may encounter. If you drive any of the trails in this book, you acknowledge these risks and assume full responsibility. You are the final judge as to whether a trail is safe to drive on any given day, whether your vehicle is capable of the journey and what supplies you should carry. The information contained herein cannot replace good judgment and proper preparation on your part. The publisher and authors of this book disclaim any and all liability for bodily injury, death or property damage that could occur to you or any of your passengers.

We have made every effort to update trails to match U.S. Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) that were available at the time of this writing. We cannot match maps that have not yet been issued or keep up with annual changes to existing maps. We will attempt to report changes on our website, but make no guarantee of accuracy. You are ultimately responsible for following the latest and correct MVUM.

Note: Telephone numbers and website URLs that appear in this book were verified December 2018.

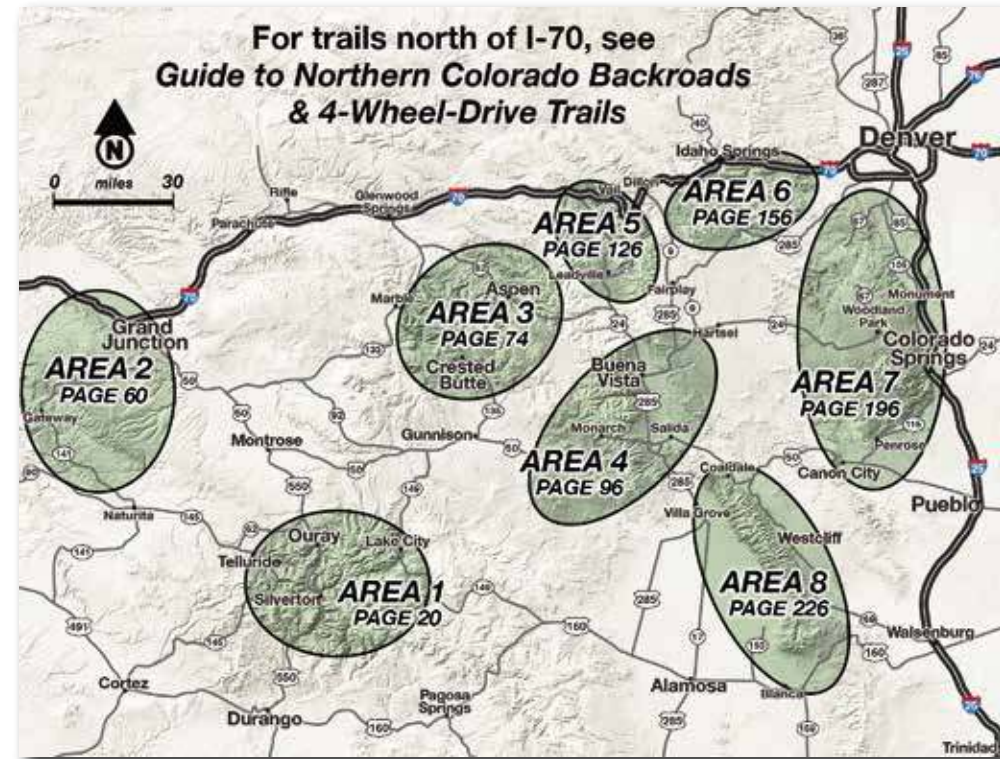
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TRAIL LIST

Green = Easy, Blue = Moderate, Red = Difficult

TRAIL FINDER

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Key for Trail Maps

	Interstate		Public Toilet		Scenic Point
	Paved Road		Gas, Service		Picnic Table
	Unpaved Road		Parking		Fishing
	Easy Trail		Staging		Cabin
	Moderate Trail		Camping		Windmill
	Difficult Trail		Mine		Ghost Town
	Other Trails		Hiking Trail		Arch
	Described in Log		Mountain Biking		Ruins
	Hiking Trail		Waterfall		Obstacle
	Boundaries		Water Crossing		Unlicensed OK
			Bridge		No Unlicensed

TRAIL RATINGS DEFINED

Trail ratings are very subjective. Conditions change for many reasons, including weather and time of year. An easy trail can quickly become difficult when washed out by a rainstorm or blocked by a fallen rock. You must be the final judge of a trail's condition on the day you drive it. If any part of a trail is difficult, the entire trail is rated difficult. You may be able to drive a significant portion of a trail before reaching the difficult spot. Read each trail description carefully for specific information.

Easy

Gravel, dirt, clay, sand, or mildly rocky road. Gentle grades. Water levels low except during periods of heavy runoff. Full-width single lane or wider with adequate



room to pass most of the time. Where shelf conditions exist, road is wide with minor sideways tilt. Clay roads, when wet, can significantly increase difficulty. Some trails can be driven in 2WD under ideal conditions. Others will need 4WD and, in some cases, low-range gearing.



Moderate

Rutted dirt or rocky road. Careful tire placement may be necessary. Some grades fairly steep but manageable if dry. Soft sand possible. Sideways tilt will require caution. Narrow shelf roads possible. Backing may be necessary to pass. Water depths passable for stock high-clearance vehicles except during periods of heavy runoff. Mud holes may be present especially in the spring. Undercarriage may scrape occasionally depending on ground clearance. Rock-stacking may be necessary in some cases. Brush may touch vehicle. Four-wheel drive, low range, and higher ground clearance required in most cases. Standard factory skid plates and tow hooks recommended on many trails.



Difficult

Grades can be very steep with severe ground undulation and large boulders. Sideways tilt can be extreme. Sand hills very steep with soft downslopes. Deep water crossings possible. Shelf roads extremely narrow; use caution in oversize vehicle. Passing may be difficult with backing required for long distances. Brush may scratch sides of vehicle. Body damage possible. Some trails suitable for more aggressive stock vehicles, but most trails require vehicle modification. Lifts, differential lockers, aggressive articulation, and/or winches recommended in many cases. Skid plates and tow hooks required.

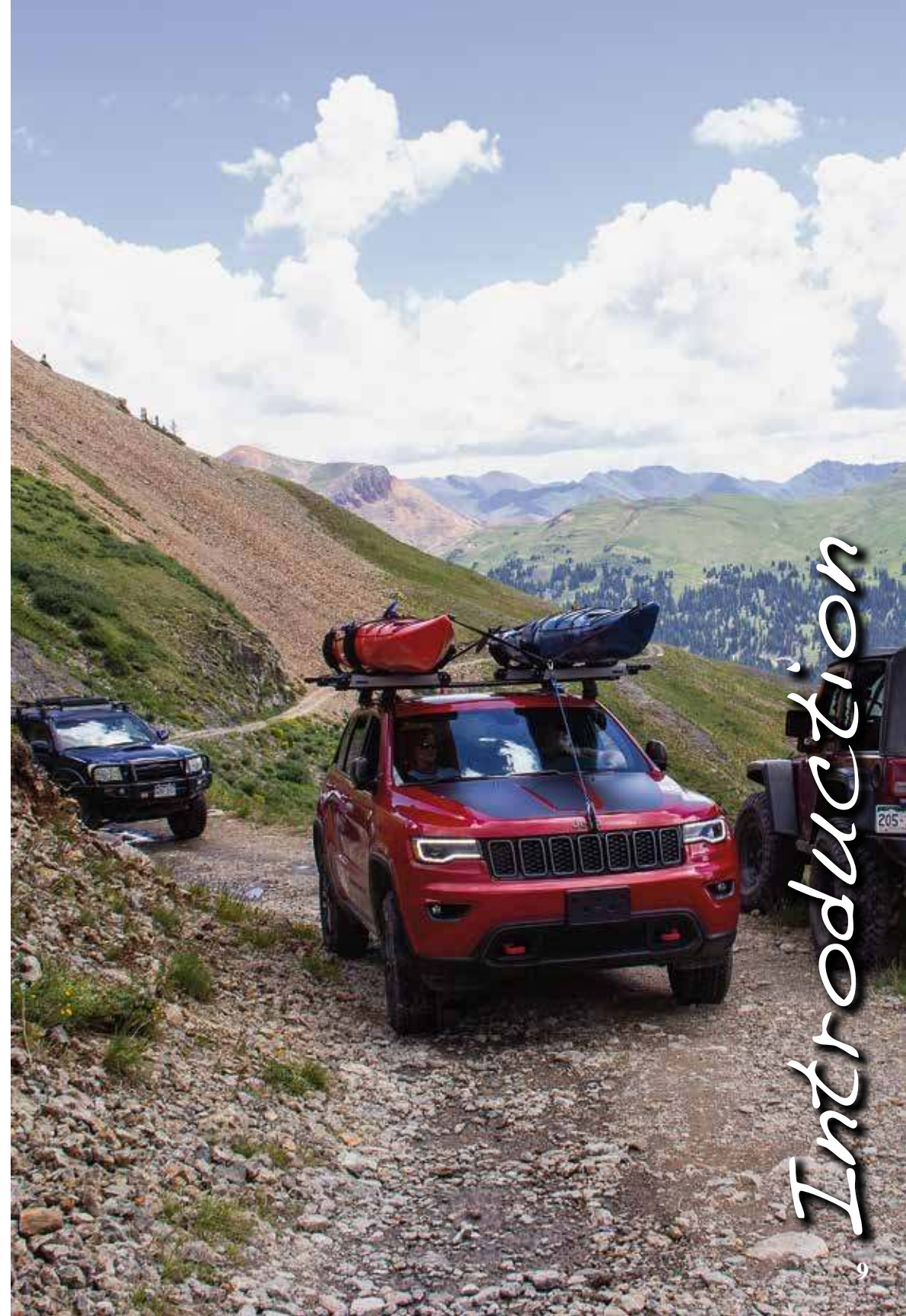
Authors' Vehicles:

A. 2017 Jeep Wrangler Sport: STOCK, 6-cyl. engine 4WD, stock highway tires and aftermarket "Sunrider" soft top.

B. 2017 Toyota Tacoma: STOCK, TRD Offroad package, CBI rock sliders, stock tow hooks, A/T tires and CB radio.

C. 2012 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon: Equipped with JKS 2.5" lift with stock control arms, 9.5TI Warn winch, Dana 44 rear axle; 4.88 gears, stock rubicon 4/1 transfer case, stock lockers front and rear, TERA FLEX skid plates, Notch Custom extended fenders, JCR Offroad bumpers, stock 6-cyl engine, 37 x 12.50 Cooper Discovery STT tires and CB radio.

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Introduction

Got a 4x4 SUV, pickup or Jeep? Missing out on fun because you're afraid to go off road? Want to try it, but don't know how or where to start? Well, we're here to help.

FunTreks has been showing novice and experienced offroaders what to do and where to go for more than 20 years. That includes riders of ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes. As a result, this book has been the top-selling off-road guidebook since 1998 when we went into business.

Other reasons our books are popular: First, we live in Colorado and our business is here. We are out driving trails all the time and just drove every trail in this book yet again. Second, we are dedicated to accurate and complete reporting of trail directions and conditions. Every map is created from scratch to show what's important to the off-road driver. Third, we show lots of photos—not just scenery, but trail conditions. And fourth, we guarantee satisfaction. Return the book for any reason if you're not happy.

What's New in This 4th Edition

We added a new area on the Western Slope with six new trails south of Grand Junction. (New trails north of Grand Junction are included in our Northern Colorado book.)

The number of "difficult" trails jumped by 12, making 42 in all. This occurred simply because the trails got harder. The remaining 58 trails are still easy and moderate trails.

Back by popular demand, the master trail list is shown three ways: numerically, alphabetically, and by difficulty.

And finally, we've switched to a new style of spiral binding that's easier to fold back. We've made the text pages thicker and more durable. The back cover tucks in and serves as a placeholder.

Get Free Trail Updates & GPS Downloads at www.funtreks.com

We have redone our website to include a separate information page for each and every trail in our 4-wheel-drive guidebooks. Now you can search for a trail and, if it's been updated, learn what has changed since the book was first published. Updates come from our own knowledge and from customer submissions. If you know of a change to a trail, please go to our website and submit an update. Sign up for our email newsletter and we'll send you updates free.

In addition, on each trail page of our website, you'll find a free GPS download of that trail that includes waypoints and a tracklog that match the book. Files are in universal .gpx format for use in many common mapping applications.

FunTreks New iPhone App

Now you can enjoy the convenience of having every FunTreks trail available on your iPhone or iPad. See your exact position as you move along the trails. The app includes many other handy features, including directions to the start and end of the trail. It is designed to work when you are not connected to the internet, but it does require GPS capability. (All iPhones have GPS, but iPads may not.)

Please note the app is intended to be used along with the guidebook, not separately. To learn more, go to the iOS App Store and search "FunTreks."

GPS Settings

All GPS coordinates in this book are displayed using datum WGS84. Lat./Long. format is: hh/mm.mmm (not hours/minutes/seconds). Make sure your GPS unit is set the same way or you'll get different readings.

Explanation of Vehicle Symbols

Please read carefully before attempting any trail in this book.



SUV or Pickup Truck.

This symbol represents a street-licensed stock sport utility vehicle or pickup truck with 4-wheel drive. Minimum ground clearance should be 7" to 8" at low point of vehicle and about a foot at rocker panel. Low range is recommended for rocky, steep and high elevation trails. More aggressive models will have higher clearance and factory off-road enhancements such as skid plates, tow points and differential lockers. Longer and wider vehicles require more ground clearance.

In addition to vehicle capability and size, other factors such as driver's skill, tires and tolerance for damage greatly affect which trails can be driven. Every vehicle is different and every trail is different. Judgment as to whether a vehicle is capable of traversing a specific trail lies solely with the owner of the vehicle. Read each trail description carefully.



Hard-core Modified.

This symbol represents street-licensed vehicles that have been significantly modified for difficult hard-core situations. Most modifications are custom, but there are specific factory models that meet hard-core standards. Minimal tire size starts at 32", but 33" to 37" is more typical. Lifts of 3" or more, heavy-duty skid plates and accessories, increased articulation and differential lockers are the norm. Many additional modifications are possible.

These vehicles should be able to handle all trails in this book, with the possible exception of Trails 20, 46 and 96. These extreme trails require maximum modifications or a high tolerance for vehicle damage.



60"-Wide Side-by-Sides.

This symbol represents what are commonly called UTVs, or Utility Terrain Vehicles. They are generally considered unlicensed vehicles; however, some states allow licensing if modified for street use. Out-of-state street licensing is not yet recognized in Colorado, but a few local areas—e.g., Silverton, Lake City and Meeker—allow limited use on some roads. For the purposes of this book, UTV side-by-sides are considered unlicensed vehicles.

Capability of these vehicles ranges from simple utility uses on ranches and farms to extreme modifications for hard-core trail use. Their width prohibits use on 50" ATV trails. For this book, 4-wheel-drive capability is assumed.

When you see this symbol at the top of the page, it primarily indicates the trail allows unlicensed vehicles. The ratings of easy, moderate and difficult are open to far greater interpretation. Only the operator can determine the appropriateness of the trail.



50"-Wide ATVs and Side-by-Sides.

This symbol represents ATVs, All Terrain Vehicles, not wider than 50". It also represents 50"-wide side-by-sides. Both are generally considered unlicensed vehicles; however, some states allow licensing if modified for street use. Out-of-state street licensing is not yet recognized in Colorado, but a few local areas—e.g., Silverton, Lake City and Meeker—allow limited use on some streets. For the purposes of this book they are considered unlicensed vehicles.

These vehicles range in size from tiny 2WD machines for kids to large 4WD machines for adults. Generally, trails in this book are for 4-wheel-drive ATVs, but we know some 2-wheel-drive units can be quite capable.

AREA 1

Green = Easy, Blue = Moderate, Red = Difficult

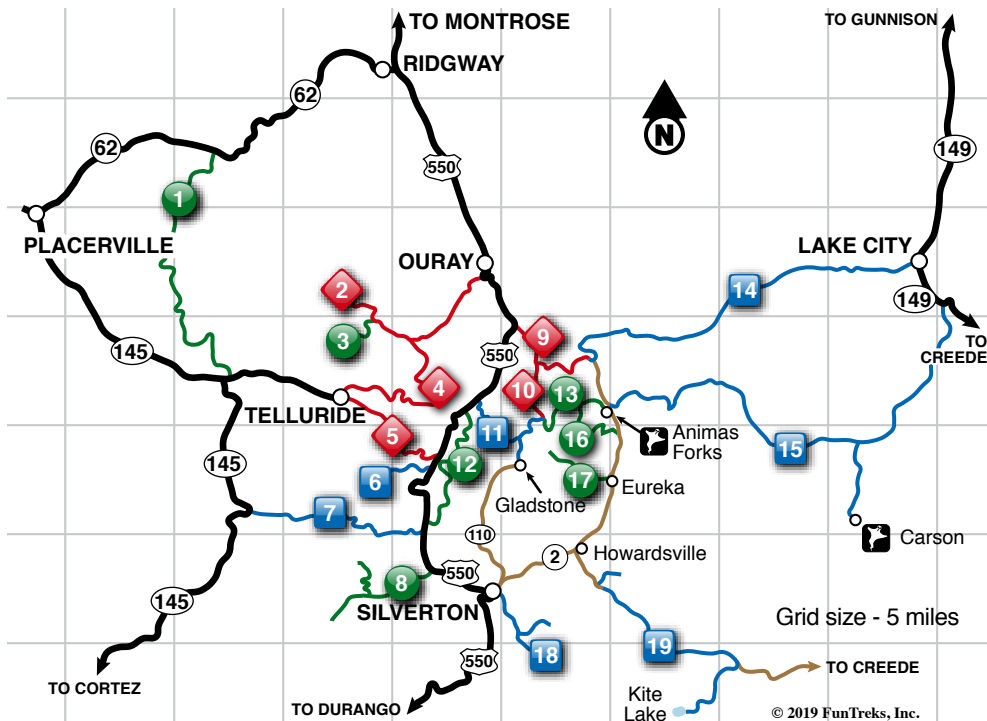
Ouray, Silverton, Lake City, Telluride

The San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado may be the most beautiful and accessible place in America to go off-highway exploring. Here, you are allowed to go deep into the backcountry, visit historic mine buildings, cross high passes and enjoy views reserved for an adventurous few.

The area has just the right balance of easy, moderate and difficult roads to satisfy all driving skill levels. All routes in Area 1 allow riding of unlicensed vehicles, which, in Colorado, include ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes (regardless of whether they are licensed in another state). Many of the routes are county roads that require all riders to have a driver's license and carry proof of liability insurance.

At the end of the day, return to your choice of four remarkable mountain towns. You'll discover unique shopping, hotels, restaurants, museums and full-service RV parks.

#	Name	Pg.
1.	Last Dollar Road	22
2.	Yankee Boy Basin	24
3.	Governor Basin	26
4.	Imogene Pass	28
5.	Black Bear Pass	30
6.	Porphyry Gulch	32
7.	Ophir Pass, Alta Lakes	34
8.	Clear Lake, Bandora Mine	36
9.	Mineral Creek	38
10.	Poughkeepsie Gulch	40
11.	Corkscrew Gulch, Hurricane Pass	42
12.	Red Mountain Mining Area	44
13.	California Gulch	46
14.	Engineer Pass	48
15.	Cinnamon Pass, Wager Gulch	50
16.	Picayune & Placer Gulches	52
17.	Eureka Gulch	54
18.	Kendall Mountain	56
19.	Stony Pass, Kite Lk.	58



Couple enjoys scenic views along Yankee Boy Basin, Trail #2, rated difficult.

Last Dollar Road



AREA 1 map on page 20.



Good camping spots with scenic views on south end of trail.



Easy drive for stock SUVs when road is dry.



Family relaxes above Telluride (Waypoint 03).

Overview: This scenic ranchland and forest backroad is a great alternative to the paved drive between Ridgway and Telluride. You'll see abundant wildflowers through early summer, great fall color and stunning mountain views. Enjoy camping, hiking and mountain biking. Plan plenty of time to visit Telluride, a great summer destination. Information can be found at the visitor center on the west end of town. Open to all vehicles between Waypoints 02 and 05 from May 16 to November 30.

Rating: Easy. Ruttled dirt road suitable for high-clearance, 2-wheel-drive vehicles when dry. Slick clay can be

impassable when wet even for 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

Stats: Length: About 20 miles. Time: About 2 hours. High point: 10,600 ft. Best time of year: Mid June-Sept.

Current Conditions: Uncompahgre N.F., Norwood Ranger District. Call (970) 327-4261.

Getting There: Head west on Highway 62 from Ridgway about 12 miles. Turn left on well-marked Last Dollar Road 0.8 mile west of mile marker 12. Follow signs to airport if starting in Telluride.

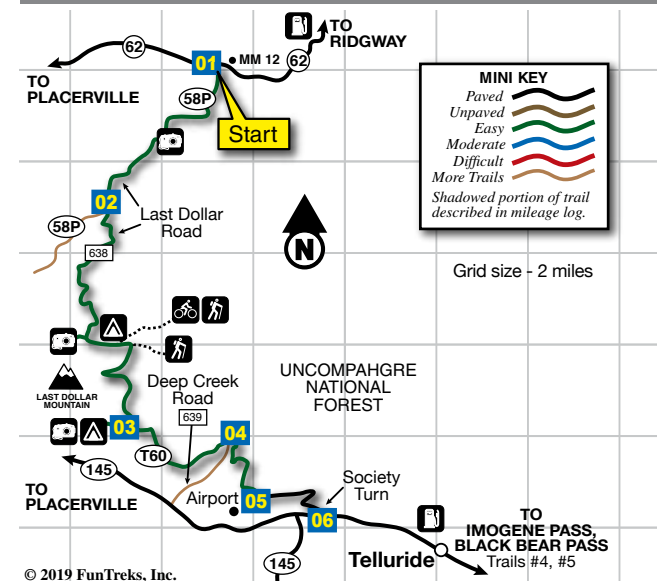
START MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.0** Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles]
Head south on well-maintained C.R. 58P. [20.4]
01 N38 05.994 W107 54.748
- 2.1** Bear left. [18.3]
- 2.5** Bear slightly right. [17.9]
- 5.0** Turn left where Last Dollar Road narrows and heads towards the forest. [15.4]
02 N38 03.041 W107 57.436
- 6.5** Bear right and cross small creek. [13.9]
- 10.5** Continue straight where Alder Creek Trail goes left. [9.9]
- 12.4** Cross broad talus slopes. [8.0]
- 12.9** Road twists downhill with beautiful mountain views and intersects with better road T60. Great camp spot to right (pictured left). Turn left and head downhill through residential area. [7.5]
03 N37 59.008 W107 56.997
- 16.4** Stay left where Deep Creek Road goes right. [4.0]
04 N37 58.414 W107 54.380
- 18.6** After passing Telluride Airport, intersect with paved road and turn left. [1.8]
05 N37 57.188 W107 53.684
- 20.4** End at Highway 145. Left goes to Telluride; right to Placerville. [0.0]
06 N37 57.060 W107 52.120

Trail updates & GPS downloads at www.funtreks.com



Seasonal wildflowers on south end of trail.



South side descends gradually.



Popular with bikes.

Porphyry Gulch



AREA 1 map on page 20



High shelf road entering Porphyry Gulch is very narrow and will intimidate some drivers.



Wildflowers near the lakes.



Hike to Bullion King Lake.

Overview: Although short, this trail is fun to drive and very scenic with lakes and waterfalls at the end. There is very little room to park hauling trailers for unlicensed vehicles at the start of F.S. 822 along Highway 550. Many people go in the entrance to Black Bear, Trail #5, and cut over on the unmarked road shown on map. Jurisdiction of this road is unclear, since it crosses private property. Although this side road is wide and well traveled, it could close without notice.

Rating: Moderate. Mostly easy except for one section of high, narrow shelf

road that may intimidate novice drivers. Hike if you don't feel comfortable.

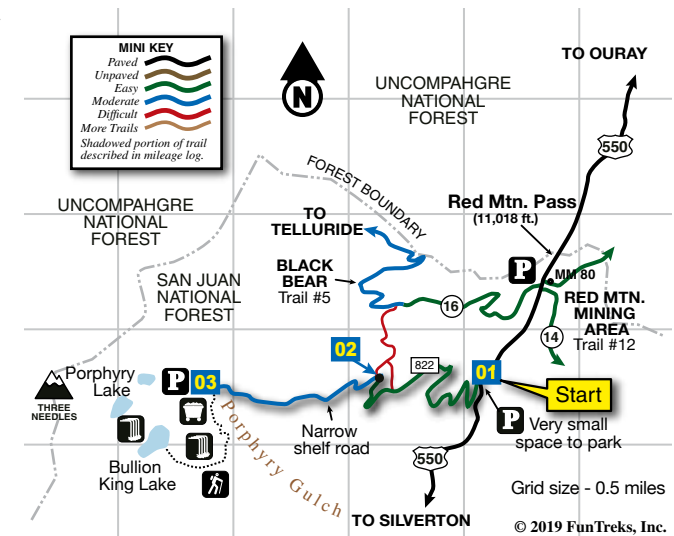
Stats: Length: 2.5 miles one way. Time: 1 to 2 hours. High point: 12,500 ft. Best time of year: Early July-Sept.

Current Conditions: San Juan Mountains Center in Silverton. Call (970) 387-5530 (closed in winter).

Getting There: Head south from Ouray on U.S. 550 about 13.5 miles. Turn right on F.S. 822 about a half mile after milepost 80. From Silverton, drive north on 550 about 9 miles.

START MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.0** Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles] Head uphill on F.S. 822. Narrow road zigzags steeply up the mtn. [2.5]
01 N37 53.410 W107 43.134
- 1.2** Continue straight. Right is a steep climb and connects to Black Bear Pass, Trail #5. [1.3]
- 1.6** Bear left. Road from right comes over from Black Bear Pass. This is alternate way to reach Porphyry Gulch. [0.9]
02 N37 53.413 W107 43.686
- 2.5** End at mine. Take easy half-mile hike to Bullion King Lake. [0.0]
03 N37 53.350 W107 44.547



Not much room to pass on shelf road.



Lots of parking at end of trail at Waypoint 03.



Photo by Roger Marquez

Group waits their turn to try obstacle at Waypoint 03.



Trail climbs valley towards the pass.



Upper part of trail winds along the edge of Lake Como. This photo was taken from Hurricane Pass.

Overview: Scenic, remote valley offers variety of challenges for hard-core enthusiast. Most come to try their luck at the main obstacle at Waypoint 03 or just to watch others. Snow is usually not plowed, so trail opens later in the season. Stay off trail during wet periods. Connects to Trails #11 and #13.

Rating: Difficult. Uphill direction described here. Easier going downhill. Can be muddy at the bottom during wet periods. One long, steep climb of loose rock is challenging without lockers. Winch points available at obstacle. ATVs should use alternate route to avoid obstacle.

Stats: Length: 4.1 miles. Time: About 1 hour in a properly equipped vehicle. High point: 12,500 ft. Best time of year: Late July-September.

Current Conditions: Uncompahgre N.F., Ouray R.D. Call (970) 240-5300.

Getting There: From Beaumont Hotel in Ouray, head south 3.8 miles on Highway 550 and turn left at sign for Alpine Loop and Engineer Pass (County Road 18). Follow Mineral Creek, Trail #9, located on page 38, uphill 2.4 miles and turn right at sign for Poughkeepsie Gulch. To drive trail downhill, access via Trails #11 or #13.

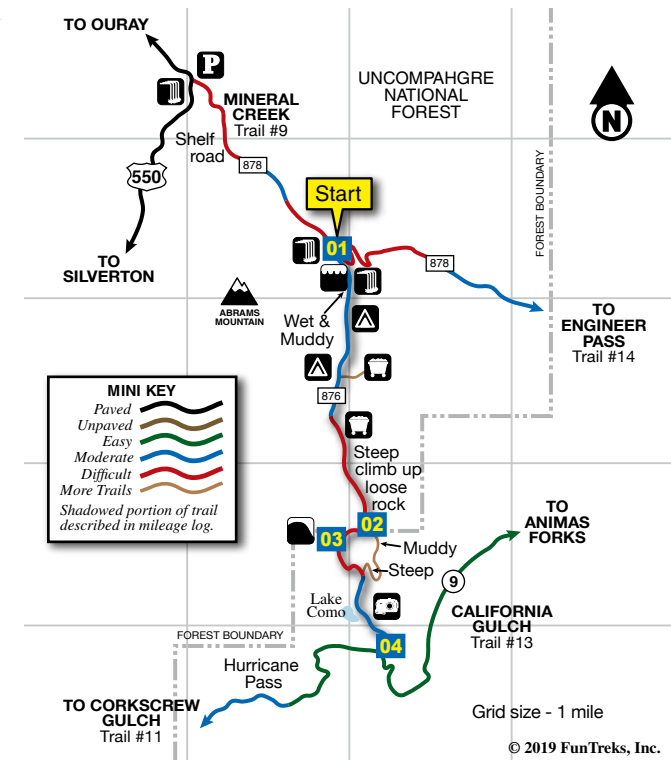
START MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.0** Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles] Head south from Mineral Creek, Trail #9. Stay out of muddy spots along side of trail. [4.1]
01 N37 58.027 W107 37.632
- 0.2** Driver's choice. Left goes up to waterfall. [3.9]
- 1.5** Driver's choice. We stayed left. [2.6]
- 1.8** Camp spots on right. [2.3]
- 2.1** Continue straight. Lesser road on left goes to mine. [2.0]
- 2.2** Continue straight up steep hill with loose rock. Ignore lesser trail to right. [1.9]
- 2.6** At top of hill, stay right. Left is alternate route to Lake Como. [1.5]
02 N37 56.000 W107 37.320
- 2.8** Steep rock has no bypass, turn around and use alternate route if you can't make it. Winch if necessary. Trail turns south after obstacle. [1.3]
03 N37 55.920 W107 37.550
- 2.9** Select from various challenging driver's choices. All trails eventually come back together. [1.2]
- 3.5** Alternate route joins on left. [0.6]
- 4.1** Intersect with major road. Left goes over California Pass to Animas Forks. Right goes over Hurricane Pass to Corkscrew Gulch, Trail #11. Right also goes to Gladstone and Silverton. [0.0]
04 N37 55.224 W107 37.192

Trail updates & GPS downloads at www.funtreks.com



Alternate route at Waypoint 02.



This section of loose rock is usually very wet.



Stock Vehicles

Serious Hard-core



Side-by-sides

ATVs

Dirt Bikes



This part of Colorado covered in *Guide to Northern Colorado Backroads & 4-Wheel Drive Trails.*

This is it—Colorado's top-selling 4x4 guidebook, the one everyone tells you to get if you're going off-roading in Colorado.

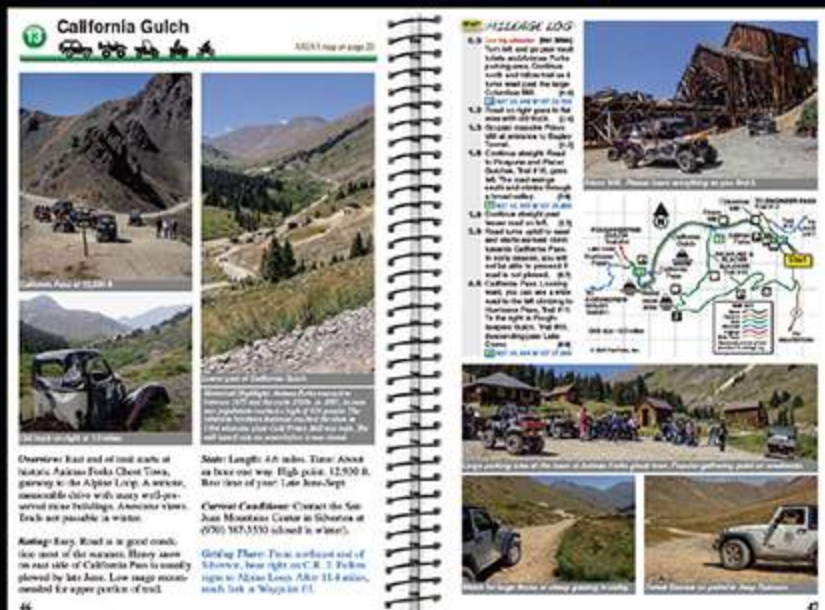
Completely redone, this fourth edition is more fun than ever. All trails have been freshly redriven and updated, and over 520 color photos are included.

Trails are grouped into eight key areas in the heart of Colorado's spectacular high country. All trails are west of I-25 and south of I-70. Many are convenient to Denver and the Front Range.

The book includes a total of 100 trails with eight all new. Six are on the Western Slope in the Grand Junction area.

Check out our website for GPS products that work along with the book to show your exact location as you move along the trails. The website also has trail updates; plus, you can post updates of your own. You can even have updates emailed to you by signing up for our free newsletter.

We also have an iPhone app designed to work with the book. To learn more, search "FunTreks" in the iOS App Store.



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