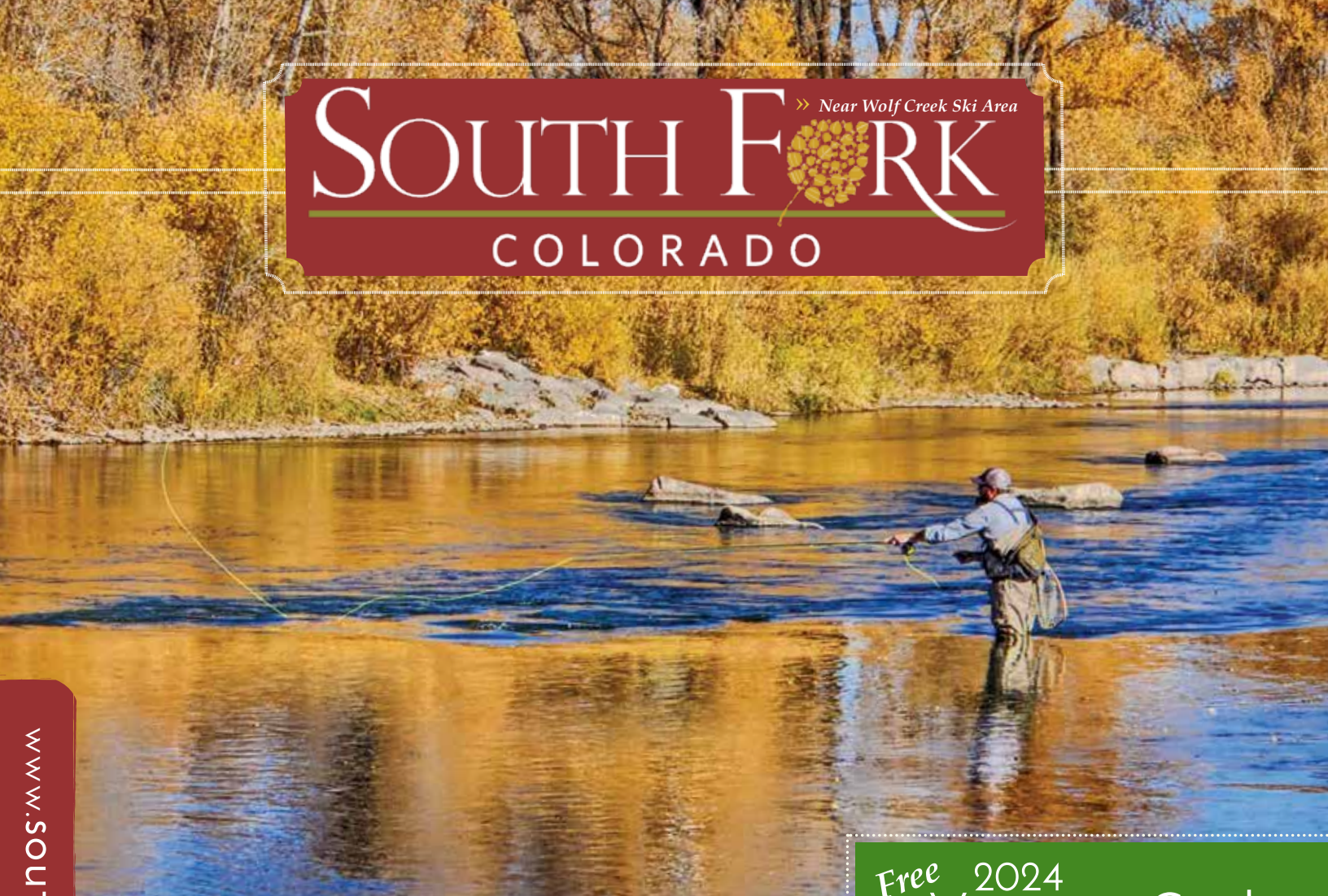


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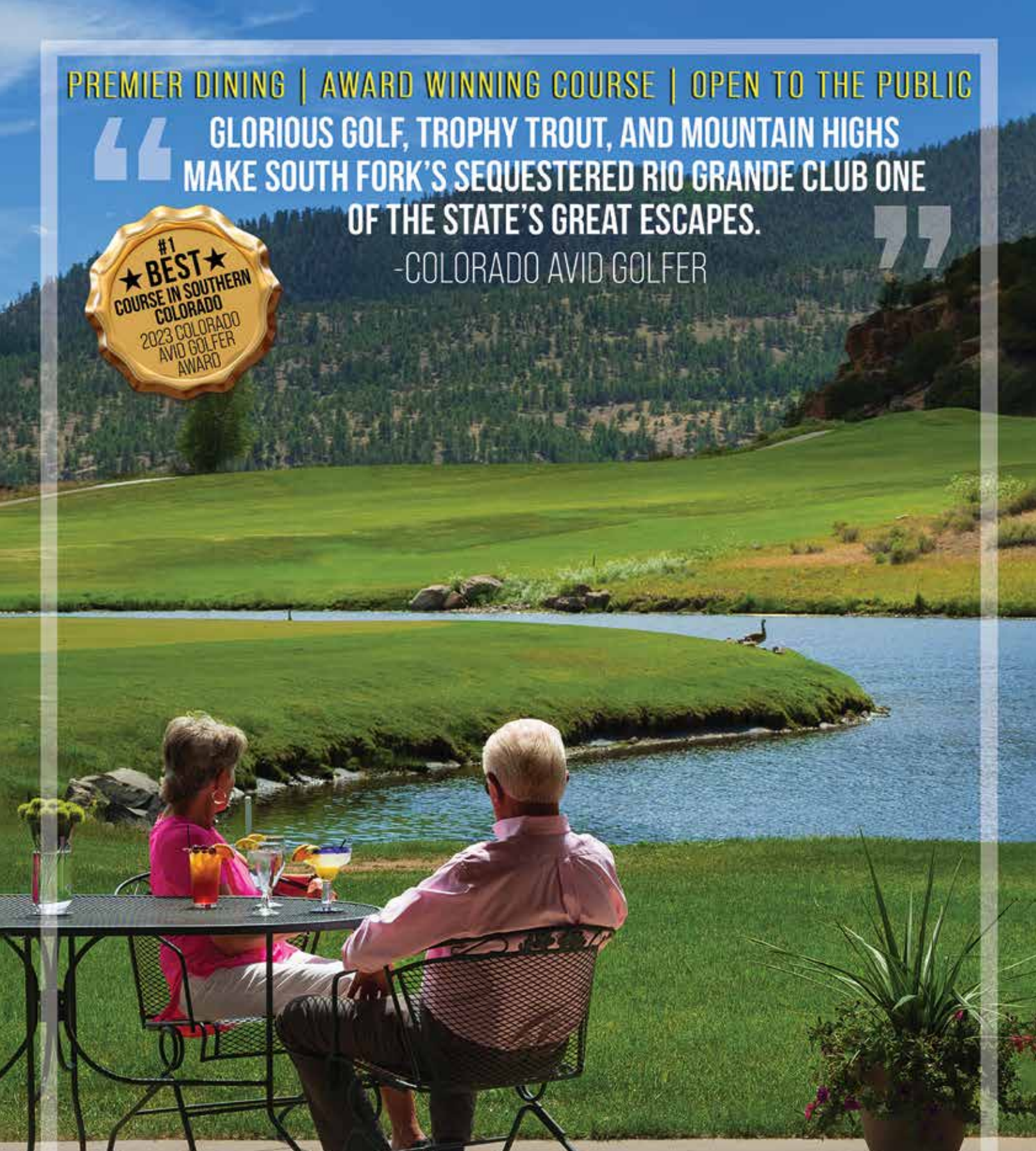
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RAFTING ON THE RIO GRANDE

IF YOU COME TO A FORK IN THE ROAD...

take both



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 GENERAL MANAGER: Kara Brittain
 CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: South Fork Visitor Center, Kara Brittain, Judith Stone, A.D. Dalton, Kit Salway, Monica Klein, Joel Condran, Mark Teders & Karla Roquemore.
 CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kara Brittain, Mark Niederquell, David Clark, Bob Seago, Ashlee Bratton, John McEvoy, FlickrCC, Matt Entz and more.
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Right: South Fork Visitor Center • by John McEvoy • Left: Silver Thread Byway in the Fall • by John McEvoy • Visitor Center • by Staff

South Fork, CO

South Fork provides visitors with abundant all-season activities from hunting and fishing to skiing, golf, horseback riding and wildlife. Surrounded by nearly 2 million acres of national forest, limitless historical, cultural and recreational activities await visitors. Breathtaking scenery and family-oriented adventure will captivate and draw you back, year after year.

Winter brings the “most snow in Colorado” to Wolf Creek. Snowmobilers, cross country skiers and snowshoers will find 255 miles of winter recreation trails, plus plenty of room to play. The area also offers ice fishing, skating and sledding.

Spring/Summer showcases South Fork as a base camp for a multitude of outdoor activities, events, sightseeing, history, culture, family time, and relaxation.

Fall sees nature explode into color, as the dark green forest becomes splashed with shades of yellow, red, and orange. Hunters will delight in the crossroads of three hunting units that boast an abundance of trophy elk and deer.



A Visitor's Guidepost

Although South Fork's official birthday was in 1992, the town has been around a long time, with roots in the railroad and logging industries dating back to the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in 1882. Located at the junction of Highways 160 & 149 on the edge of the San Luis Valley, South Fork is the starting point and gateway to the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway. Stop by for a cup of coffee and to hear the rest of the story at the South Fork Visitor Center, located right next to Town Hall.

See you soon,
 Larry, *Visitor Center Director*

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 719-873-5512
 28 Silverthread Ln • PO Box 1030
 South Fork, Colorado 81154
 vcdirector@southfork.org
 WWW.SOUTHFORK.ORG





Wheeler Geologic Area • by Kara Brittain

SEEK
Adventure

Our Favorite Adventures

A trip to Colorado wouldn't be complete without a 4x4 adventure! The Rio Grande National Forest offers something for everyone, from scenic, leisurely trips along the back roads, to technical trips that might leave your jeep with a new scratch or dent! **Our favorite 4x4 drives:**

Wheeler Geologic Area *A mysterious ghost city*

Spires and minarets that seem to float like a cloud above the surrounding mountains. The formations are contained in a tiny 60-acre section of the Rio Grande National Forest where a mound of volcanic ash has eroded into a landscape that is so bizarre it seems to belong on another planet. After millions of years of erosion, tall spires appear as if a race of giants had sculpted the pinnacles and placed rocks atop them. Those who have written about the area describe the panorama of spires and pinnacles as forming castles, cathedrals and mosques.

The area is a wonderful place to see, but getting there requires a good bit of effort. Wheeler is located 24 miles from South Fork on Pool Table Rd. The 14 mile, 4-wheel drive road to the area is an expert level trail, quite rough and very slick with rain, sometimes impassable. An early start is required, as the trip takes a full day. Check with the Visitor Center prior to making the trip.

Summitville to Elwood Pass & Stunner *Backcountry with History*

Take Hwy 160 southwest for 7 miles, and turn left on Park Creek Rd/FSR 380. Here is an area where Multiple Use Management of the National Forest's resources can be seen: ranchers from the San Luis Valley graze their cattle and sheep in these meadows, and the efforts of many fishermen are rewarded along the banks of Park Creek. After about 15 miles, you will have two choices:

OPTION 1. Turn left on FSR 330 and Summitville is 3 miles down the road. Gold was discovered in this remote area in 1870 by a group of Midwestern friends. The secret of "Wightman's Gulch" quickly leaked out, and the following summer brought hundreds of prospectors to what became the largest camp in the district. By 1885 Summitville had over 2,500 staked claims and a population of 700. A post office, school, daily newspaper, and 14+ saloons allowed miners to live here year-round, enduring the harsh winters. The boom faded and the town was nearly abandoned by 1894. Some mines were reopened in 1935 and a significant amount of copper was extracted during World War II. The area had a \$2,000,000 shot in the arm in 1985 when mining resumed with a new process for extracting ore. However, the company filed bankruptcy and Summitville Mine is now closed and in the reclamation process, as a Superfund Site. *Don't drink the water!*

OPTION 2. Stay on FSR 380 and travel through picturesque Elwood Pass towards another abandoned mine site, Stunner. Continue on and eventually reach Platoro, 41 miles off Hwy 160. This former boomtown now offers a cafe, a general store, vacation cabins and RV sites.



Summitville • Photo courtesy of www.coloradopast.com



Paddleboarding on Big Meadows Reservoir

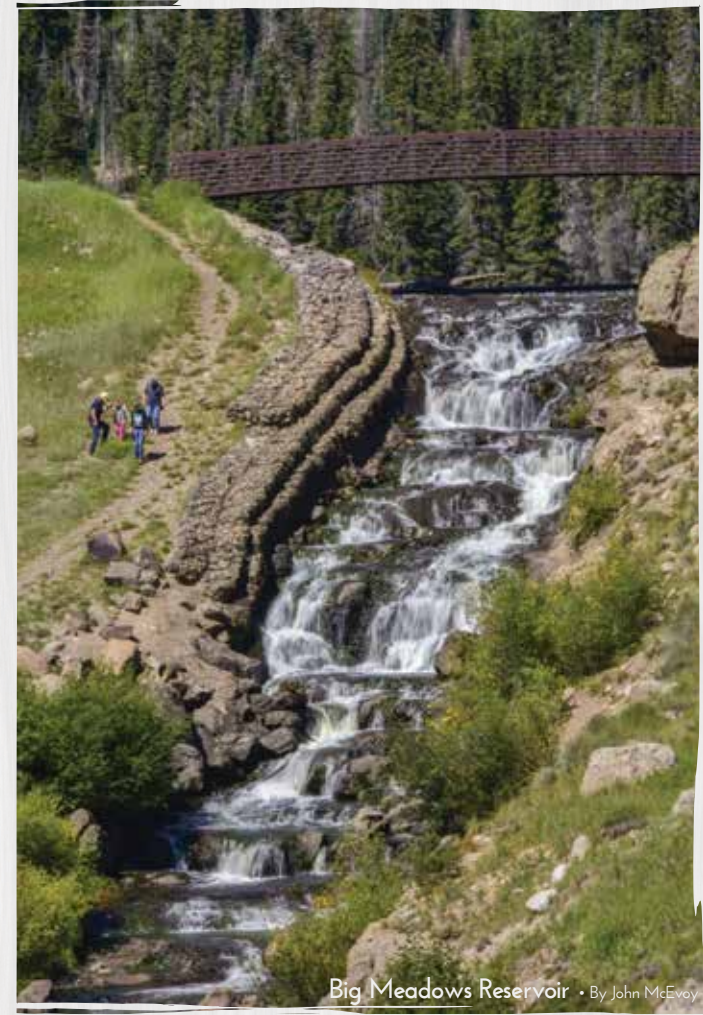
Big Meadows Reservoir, Shaw & Hunters Lakes *Into the high country*

Take Hwy 160 southwest of town 12 miles and turn right on FSR 410 to Big Meadows Reservoir, a 600-acre lake with a spillway waterfall, boat ramp, fishing pier and amenities. This area is a delight to campers, fisherman, hikers, and boaters alike, and is a state wildlife area, where deer, bear and moose are easy to spot.

Depending on road conditions, you may choose to continue past Big Meadows for 3 miles to Shaw Lake. If you still have a few hours of daylight, drive an additional 11 miles to the parking area for a short walk into Hunter's Lake. A nice 1-mile hiking trail circles the lake and gives fishermen access to the trout swimming in its waters.

Beaver Creek Reservoir & Poage Lake *Classic Rocky Mountains*

Go south of town on Hwy 160 and turn left on Beaver Creek Road. Follow this road for 7 miles to the Beaver Creek Reservoir. Fish, boat or just admire the scenery. Great creek fishing stretches below the dam for several miles. Continue on this road another 13 miles to Poage Lake. A short 1/4-mile hike gets you to the banks of the picturesque lake. Back-track to the turnoff, and the route also continues on to Summitville and loops back through Del Norte, for a full day's trip.



Big Meadows Reservoir • By John McEvoy

Auto Tours

Many scenic miles of well-tended gravel roads can be reached from the area and are accessible with conventional vehicles. Download the guide/map to our favorite Fall Color Drives for the best routes through our glorious backcountry.

Hiking

There are miles and miles of trails that offer fun and adventure for the whole family. From 1/2-mile walks for the novice hiker to 5-mile treks that lead to other trails that go on and on into the wilderness... you will not only get a great workout, but will encounter spectacular mountain scenery and a variety of wildlife!

A few of our favorite hikes:

- Big Meadows Lake Trail • moderate
- Giant Fir Tree Trail • easy
- Hunter's Lake • easy
- Middle Alder Creek • moderate
- Million Reservoir • easy
- Tewksberry Trail • advanced

South Fork's Silverthreaders Outdoor Club

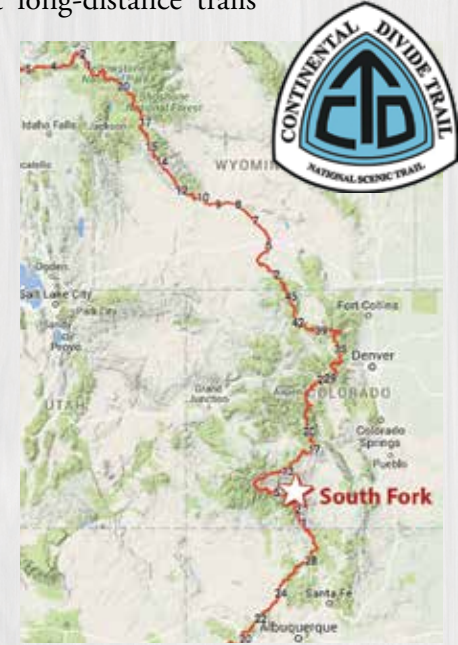
The Silverthreaders are a diverse group of locals, part-timers, and visitors that enjoy ATV riding, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, skiing, and motorcycling. Their many organized activities aim to preserve the multi-use of our magnificent outdoors and impart responsible recreation use. The

group organizes weekly outings for hiking (3x's per week), ATV/4x4 rides, and more. All are welcome. <http://silverthreaders.org>. Learn more on page 47.

South Fork designated a Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community

South Fork was the first designated Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community in Colorado. Considered one of the greatest long-distance trails

in the world, it is the highest, most challenging, and most remote of our National Scenic Trails. The CDT is 3100 miles long, stretching from Mexico to Canada. The CDT passes over US Hwy 160, approximately 17 miles west of South Fork, at the top of Wolf Creek Pass. Hikers use South Fork as a base or a stopping off point during the most beautiful section of the hike, the majestic San Juan Mountains. To volunteer or to learn more visit continentaldividetrail.org.



"Russell has a lie down." Squaw Creek Trail • By rtkloper via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0



Photo Courtesy Mountain Skillz / Matt Entz

ATV & Jeeping

Looking for adventure, but less work than hiking or biking? Try any of the trails designated for motorized traffic. Trails take you to mountain peaks and amazing vistas of the San Luis Valley, to creek bottoms and dense forest growth. No matter your skill level, beginners to advanced riders will find limitless possibilities. Best time to travel the trails is June - November, depending on snow conditions. See pages 28/29 for map of nearby trails. Obtain large map, trail descriptions, and rules/regs from the South Fork Visitor Center.

Camping

The area offers tons of camping opportunities. Whether you stay in a camper trailer, tent, or rough-it under the stars, you are sure to find the perfect location. Almost 2

million acres of national forest surrounds South Fork, and approximately 17 campgrounds have been developed along highways 149 and 160. Most accommodate both camper trailers and tents. Developed campgrounds offer limited amenities and visitors are allowed to stay up to 14 days. Learn more at www.recreation.gov

Mountain Biking

The Rio Grande National Forest is filled with riding opportunities for beginner and advanced riders. Several trails are within a couple miles drive from town, and some are specifically listed as multi-use for bikes...not to mention the hundreds of miles of forest service access roads open to cyclists of all abilities. Many trails are multi use - so be prepared for hikers, horses, and ATV's along the way.



Camping Lounge • By Ryan Scavo



Mountain Biking • By Ryan Graber

Find Your MILLION DOLLAR SHOT

By Reframing Photography

When visiting the area, it's tempting to snap photos of everything, but we invite you to pause. Consider: do I really need 25 shots to get the perfect pose, ideal crop, magical light? Why is it important to take so many photos of the same thing? Are you missing the beauty of the moment? We Invite You to Enter our:



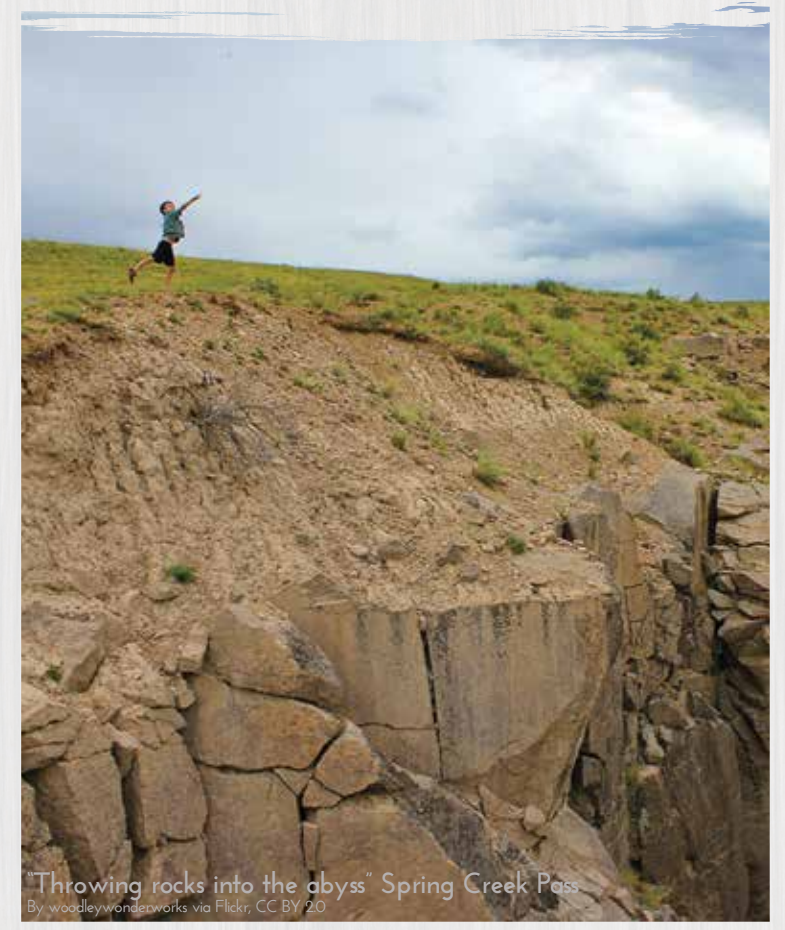
Shutter Speed Limit Zones: put the camera down and examine the world through your eyes, not a screen. Focus on quality, not quantity, to create your million dollar shot!



Filter Free Zones: where places are magnificent just the way they are. Don't ruin the authentic beauty of the shot (or joy of the moment) by manipulating layers, filters, overlays or animations.



Photo Preserve: where we work together to ensure our photo practices leave no trace, keeping the land as pristine as we found it.



"Throwing rocks into the abyss" Spring Creek Pass
By woodleywonderworks via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

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Michael@TeamMurphyRealty.com
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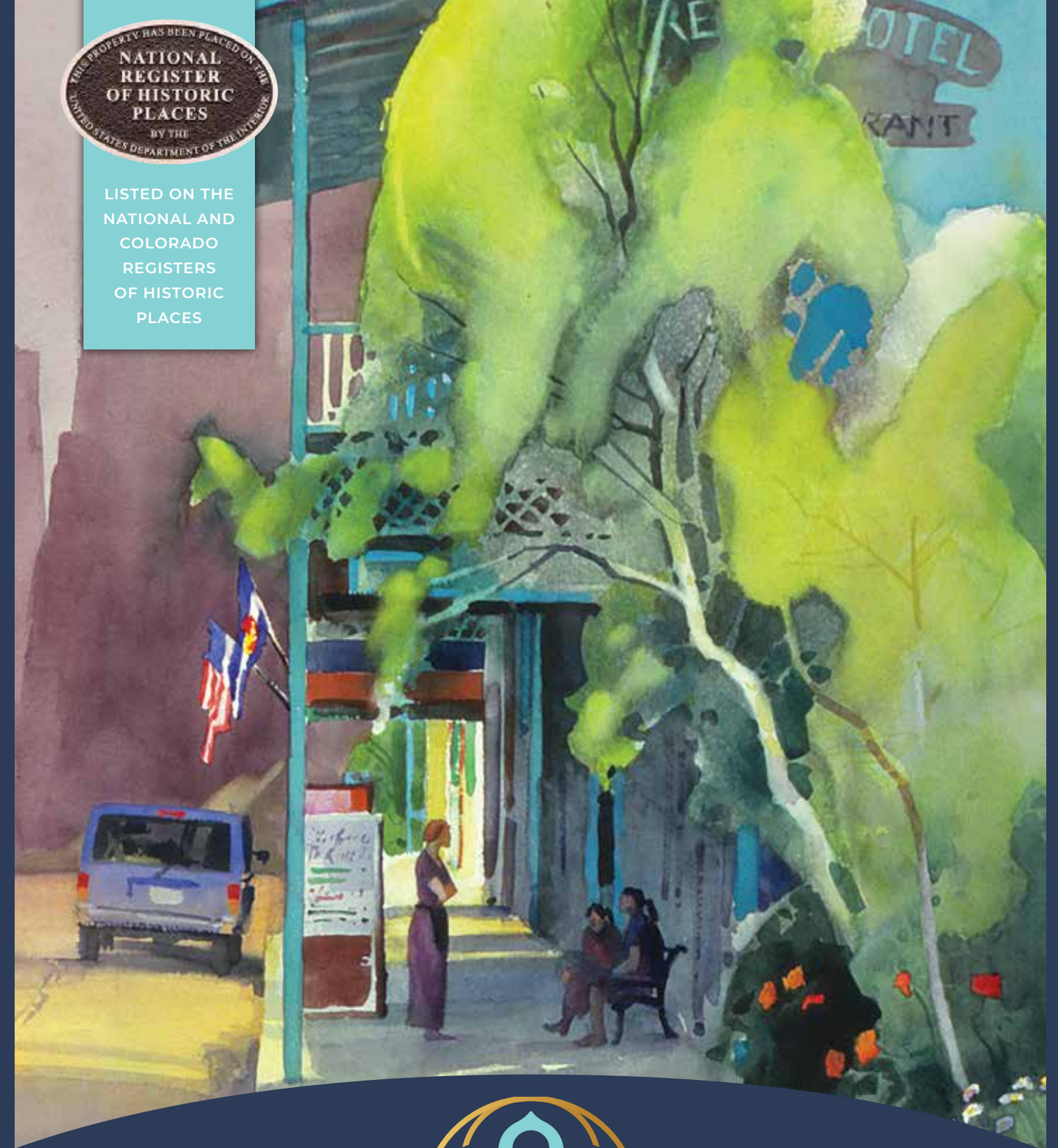
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Hunting in South Fork is classified as BTG

In the early fall, the public lands around South Fork are popular with bow, black powder and rifle hunters. Whether it be a 'guys trip' to the mountains, a father-daughter educational expedition, or a chance to explore the National Forest on horseback, hunting in the area is always an adventure! Local guides and supply stores offer tips about licensing, hot-spots, camping spots and more. Lodging provides a soft place to land after a full day in the back country!

Hunting not only provides people with a unique recreational experience, but also works as an important wildlife management tool. Big Game licenses are distributed each year on a lottery system, with the number of tags determined by current wildlife management information. Over-the-counter licenses are also available for many species, but most have a limited season and/or bag limits. For more info on our three hunting units (76, 79 and 80) and more than 100 huntable species, visit cpw.state.co.us

- Elk • Deer • Moose • Black Bear • Big Horn Sheep • Antelope Mountain Lion • Turkey • Coyotes • Small Game • Waterfowl



Photo courtesy Wade Henderson

SCOPE IT OUT

A likely encounter with 'the locals'



Wildlife • Surrounded by national forest, viewing wildlife is simple. From bugs to bighorn sheep, you are likely to see more animals than you can count. While most commonly seen during early morning and evening hours, attentive drivers and hikers will

find some animals out during the day. Usual suspects include Deer, Elk, Rabbits and Squirrels, but others might be just around the bend so don't forget your camera! Remember to keep your distance from any wild animal. You might find: Big Horn Sheep • Bear • Moose • Coyote • Raccoon • Red Fox • Skunk Lynx • Marmot • Bobcat • Mountain Lion • Pronghorn Antelope



"Columbine" Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

Wildflowers • As you take any of the scenic driving tours in the area, notice the overwhelming variety of wildflowers that are in bloom along the road-side, in open meadows and under the shade of aspen groves. An entire rainbow of colors range from pale yellow to bright reds and purples. Note: Our

San Juan Mountains are famous for their many species and colors of the aster/sunflower family. Please leave flowers for all to enjoy - take a picture instead!



Learn More

Birds • Don't forget to bring your binoculars! Our 260+ species of birds range from shy, modest little brown birds to dramatic, colorful eagles, hawks and hummingbirds. Wild turkeys walk through our snowy yards and roost in nearby pines. A few dippers perform in the Rio Grande and its South Fork, within town limits. The night-songs of owls bewilder with haunting tunes from the forest. Birds-galore show off their colors: bluebirds, hummingbirds, eagles, and jays from shiny black to gray and metallic blue. Soaring predators and flitting prey provide drama, and feeders in town offer a likely sighting from the seat of your car!



"Toad Stool" By Curtis Fry via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Mushrooms • Mushroom hunting is always a lesson in patience. The mountains create a variety of mushroom habitats. Common but sporadic July rain showers create just the right amount of humidity and moisture required for a good mushroom crop! Our high altitude is perfect for two popular mushrooms, the Chanterelles and Boletus. Get insider tips and directions to good hunting spots during our Mushroom Foray, typically held in early August. Learn to correctly identify and collect a variety of species, then hit the hiking trails to hunt for the perfect mushroom! Confirm the validity of your finds at the follow-up discussion, and finish off the evening with a gourmet meal!



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All Photos this page courtesy Rio Grande Club Golf Course

Golfing

South Fork's Exquisite Golf Course

The Rio Grande Club & Resort is an award-winning, 18-hole golf course that borders the Rio Grande National Forest and plays alongside and over the Rio Grande River. The longest par five is a challenging 600 yards, and the course has large stands of cottonwood trees, rugged rock formations and dramatic elevation changes. Six holes on the front nine play along the Rio Grande, offering a unique shot over the river on the number six hole. The back nine alpine holes play at an elevation of over 8,200 feet, through cliffs, fields of wildflowers, native pine and aspen trees, and Alder Creek. Incredible views welcome players to #18, along with a dramatic elevation drop onto a generous fairway. Just a chip and a putt away, and you're headed to the Big River Grill, where the loser buys the first round!

The golf course and restaurants are open to the public. Many tournaments are also open to the public. For info on membership, dining hours & reservations, wedding & event bookings: riograndeclubandresort.com

Explore two more courses in the San Luis Valley, perfect for your next golf vacation.

Alamosa Cattails Golf Course: Praised for superb condition and a challenging 18 holes. One of Colorado's "best courses to play for under \$50."

Monte Vista Golf Course: Nicely cared for 9-hole municipal course with cart rentals and clubhouse.



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Fishing THE GOLD MEDAL WATERS

Fish the Upper Rio Grande

The Upper Rio Grande area offers some of the best fishing in Colorado. Gold Medal waters on the river and an abundance of creeks, lakes, and reservoirs provide year-round opportunities for the avid fisherman!

Gold Medal Waters - South Fork boasts the longest stretch of Gold Medal Waters in the entire state, nearly 20 miles. These designations are given out sparingly by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and represent the highest quality aquatic habitat in the state - your best chance to catch a trophy trout! There are several public access points for the Rio Grande River. Consult state guide book, and observe all posted private property markers. (Read more on next page).

Stream & Creek Fishing - The Rio Grande and its tributaries offer slow running waters, excellent for fly fishing as well as with lures. Many of the river's smaller tributaries offer stream sized fish, and are abundant with aquatic life like cutthroat and rainbow trout. The most popular streams include: Embargo, Beaver, and Rock creeks. The South Fork of the Rio Grande offers good stream and bank fishing, wading, bait, cast and fly fishing for browns, rainbows, and brooks. It is accessible by car with some walk-in areas.

Lakes & Reservoirs - There are over 80 in the area, 13 of which are 20 minutes from town. From high mountain lakes that require a lengthy hike, to nearby reservoirs accessible by any car and outfitted with boat ramps and handicap amenities, you are sure to find water suitable for your style.

Ice Fishing - Several lakes in the area are great for winter ice fishing. A few of our favorites include Beaver Creek Reservoir, Big Meadows Reservoir and Road Canyon Reservoir west of Creede.



Photo courtesy 8200 Mountain Sports



Fishing at Tucker Ponds • Ashography

Fly Fishing, Rio Grande River • By Kara Brittain

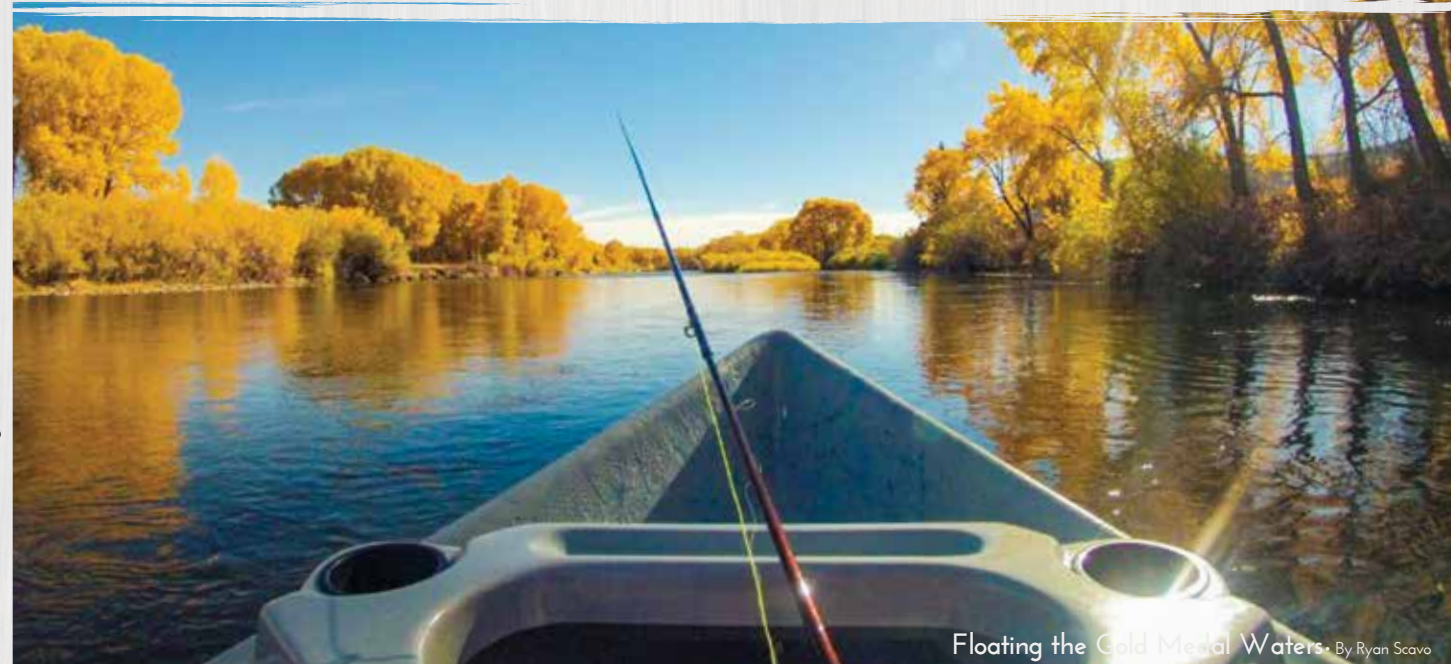
Floating the Rio

No river is more enjoyable to float and fly fish in summertime than the Rio Grande. The river begins in the alpine mountains above Creede, and flows through South Fork, then on to the flattening valley floor at Del Norte. Within this stretch lies one of the most underdeveloped, pristine rivers in all of the Southwest. Both rainbows and browns abound, with many tributaries running into the Rio along the way. The South Fork/Creede area is the perfect destination for a first-time float trip. Fishing guru A.D. Dalton outlines our favorite float:

Floating our Gold Medal Waters

A good start to floating the river through South Fork is just past Masonic Park: a put-in for boats called Lower Coller. This is also a state designated Wildlife Area, so it's likely you will catch a glimpse of a trophy elk or deer as they sip from the mighty Rio.

This adventure takes you through all the good stuff! After putting in at Lower Coller (public access) you will immediately find yourself floating onto private land belonging to the Mason's – view their "Masonic lodges" all along the Rio for about a mile. Strangely, this is the only spot on the river where it is legal to keep a rainbow trout - you conspiracy buffs can do the research to figure out why! This is also one of the last floatable sections when the water gets low in the fall. The float meanders through a few quaint neighborhoods of fishing cabins but mostly enjoys the quiet solitude of cottonwoods, aspens, spruce and pine trees dominating the mountain side.



Floating the Gold Medal Waters • By Ryan Scavo



Photo courtesy: ©200 Mountain Sports/South Fork Anglers

The hamlet of South Fork six miles down from the put-in is a oasis on the east side of the Continental Divide. As you float under the Hwy 149 bridge, you are officially in Gold Medal Waters. (See current fishing regulations for Gold Medal Waters). Floating through downtown takes you past the beautiful Rio Grande Club and Golf Course, with some of the area's most luxurious stay-and-play amenities. It's in these waters that the BIG trout hang out – enjoying deep rock pools and slow-moving water. Big dries or drifting with nymphs -- either way its great fishing every time. The float ends at Franke Excavation/CR 19 with a small take-out located on the north side.

For additional trips, visit www.fishtheupperrio.com



Rafting the Rio Grande • Photo courtesy: Narrow Ridge Outdoors / Mountain Man Tours

Know Before You Go:

- Always wear a life jacket. It's hard to float in ice-cold water
- Our weather changes FAST! Be sure to always pack a raincoat and warm clothes
- Everyone over age 16 must buy a fishing license.
- Check fishing reports and local shops for best water. Particularly during springtime, the runoff can change the creeks and river on a daily basis.
- Check location for restrictions and bag limits.
- Private property is a big deal here. Always observe posted markers, and understand which stretches of the river cross through private property. It surprises many that the rocks and sand on the river-bottom are often privately owned - it's only the water that's public!
- Help preserve our Gold Medal Waters by keeping our fish healthy! NEVER fish the Rio Grande during the heat of the day in the later parts of summer - the water is warm and low, and the fish get easily stressed



Fly Fishing • By Ryan Scavo

Rafting the Rio

The headwaters of the Rio Grande is a very family-friendly stretch of river at it flows past South Fork. The solitude and breathtaking scenery are unparalleled in the state of Colorado and plenty of relaxing stretches of water exist. For the more adventurous, class II-III rapids are available too! May and June are the best months for whitewater action, but no matter the time of season, the river has its own character and each trip is as rewarding as the first. A local rafting company and outdoor shops offer river trips, gear, and information.

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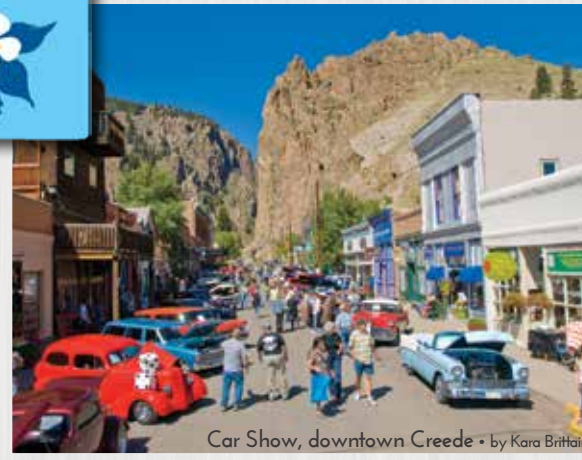


Day Tripper

WANDER-FULL ADVENTURES



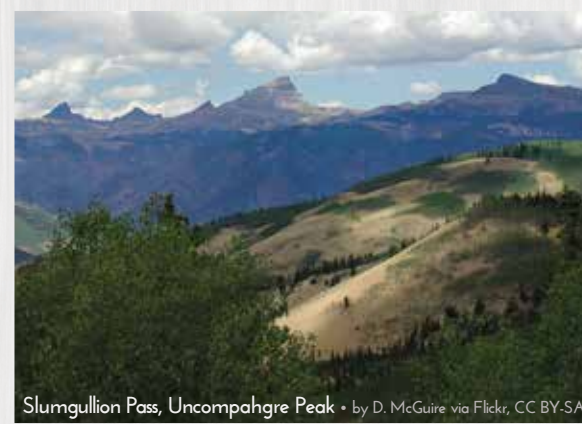
Fall Colors on the Rio Grande near South Fork • by B4 Studio



Car Show, downtown Creede • by Kara Brittain



North Clear Creek Falls • by B4 Studio



Slumgullion Pass, Uncompahgre Peak • by D. McGuire via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0



Blue Mesa Reservoir • by dbking via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Commodore Mines north of Creede, CO • by Kara Brittain



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117 mile road trip through the Rockies

The Silver Thread National Scenic & Historic Byway offers a wealth of history, while the surrounding Wilderness and National Forest serve up a huge dose of scenic beauty. Follow the Byway as it traces the routes of old toll roads, stagecoach lines and railways.

Start the first leg of your trip at the old water tower in **South Fork**, which serviced steam locomotives til 1956. Hwy 149 then winds along the banks of the mighty Rio Grande. Catch a glimpse of an elk or deer as you travel by Collier State Wildlife area (where the Ute Indians set up hunting camps). Marvel at the Palisade rock formations and take a quick peak inside Post Office Rock, where early settlers left notes for those in the mining camps. Pass through Wagon Wheel Gap and travel on to the historic mining town of **Creede**. Browse art galleries on their dramatic main street and tour the Underground Mining Museum. Continue up the canyon a bit for a spectacular view of the mines.

Get back on the road where Bristol Head Mountain looms ahead. You will loop around its southern side, and meet back up with the Rio Grande as it snakes its way through the outer rim of an ancient volcano. Travel by popular Freemons Ranch, and begin climbing Spring Creek Pass. A bounty of natural wonders preside, including the sparkling and spectacular North Clear Creek Falls, the Slumgullion earth slide, and the shark-like fin of Uncompahgre Peak. Spring Creek Pass is steep, and must be traveled carefully. (Legendary John C. Fremont lost 1/3 of his men in 1848 here, and a quarter of a century later Packer cannibalized his companions in two ill-fated winter expeditions). Take in the turquoise-colored Lake San Cristobal from a steep vantage point, and descend into **Lake City**. This picturesque town has over 200 buildings in the historic register.

Head out through the steep canyon walls of the Lake Fork, passing by The Gate, an impressive rock formation. This final leg of the trip takes you towards **Gunnison**, through widening valleys where successful ranching communities sprang up and prospered. End your trip crossing the Blue Mesa Reservoir (a hot-spot for trophy lake trout) and entering Gunnison, a former Ute Indian summer camp - turned ranching community/college town.

The Great Sand Dunes



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

A Sea of Sand

Across the San Luis Valley and against the backdrop of rugged peaks, the Great Sand Dunes provide a stunning sight to behold. Over 30 square miles of dunes appear as a “sea of sand” against the nearly vertical face of the 14,000-foot Sangre de Cristo Mountains. These unique dunes, created by the continuous work of water and wind moving sand, provide a recreation area unlike any other. Medano Creek flows seasonally at the base of the dunes, providing a place where visitors enjoy sand, water and sun in a spectacular mountain setting. Climb the “High Dune,” nearly 700 feet above the valley floor, and sand board or “sled” back down! Before leaving the park, be sure to visit Zapata Falls. A half-mile hike leads uphill to an intriguing waterfall. If you wish to spend a little more time in the area, we recommend a stop by the Colorado Gator Farm, where you may view and feed over 400 gators as well as dozens of pythons, turtles, rattlers, iguanas, dragons, geckos, parrots, tortoises, and more. Learn more at www.nps.gov/grsa - Approximately 80 miles from South Fork.



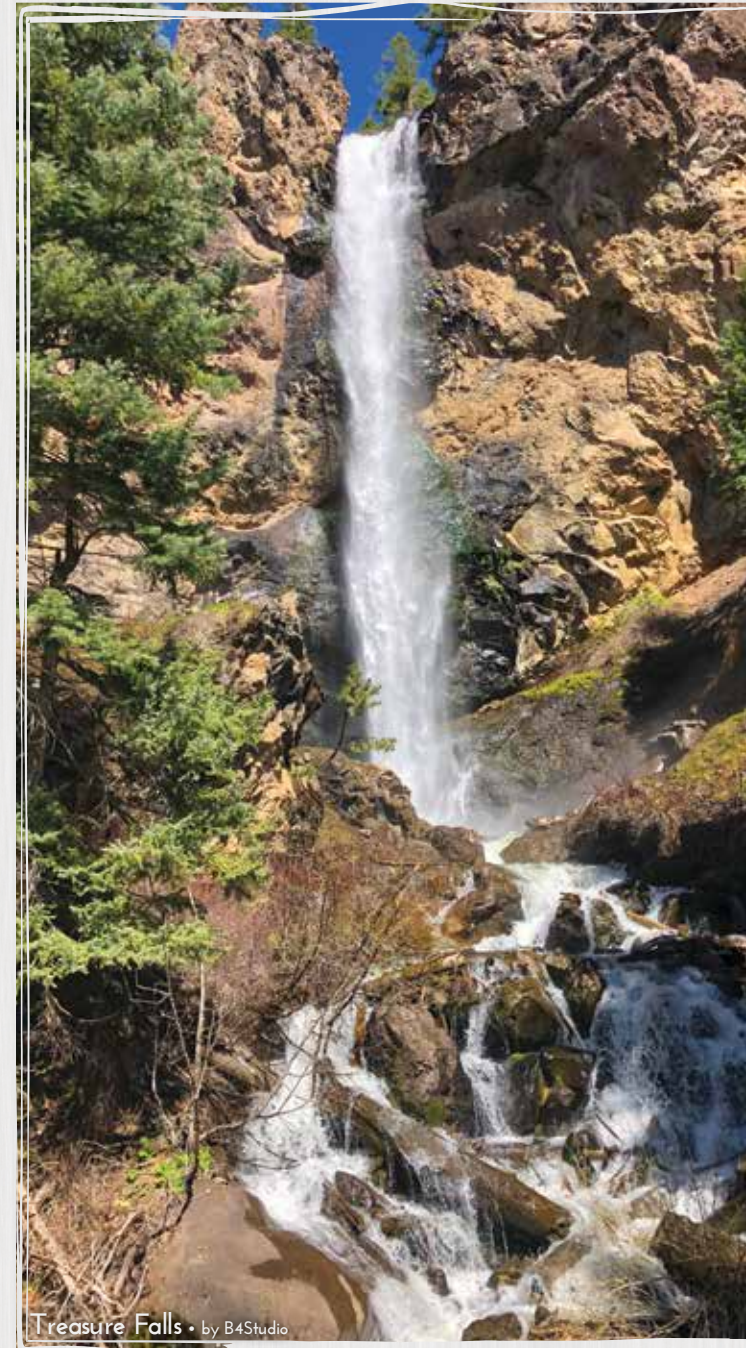
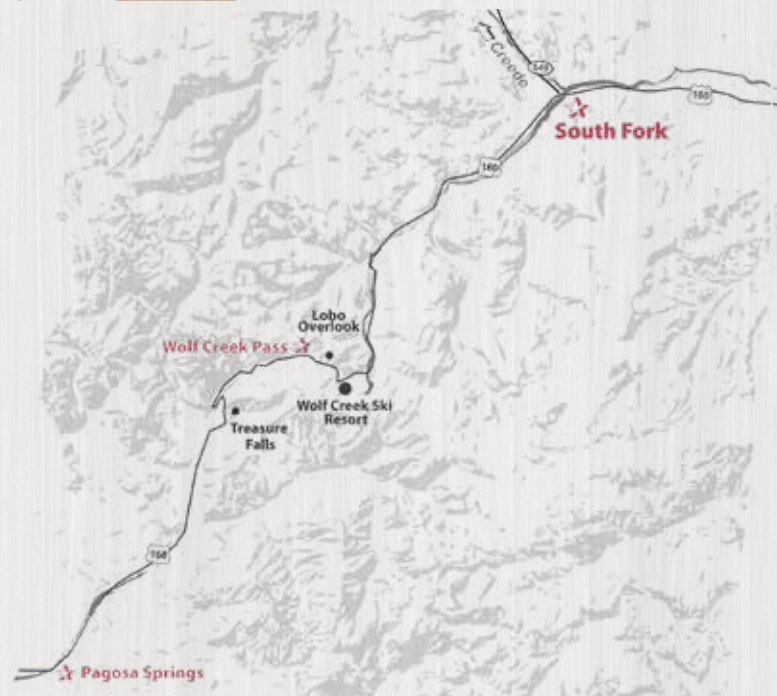
The Great Sand Dunes • By woodleywanderworks via Flickr, CC BY 2.0



Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs

This day trip will take you on a dramatic adventure to the top of the world, on a hunt for lost treasure, and at last to an epic natural hot springs to soak it all in...

Head out of town on Hwy 160, tuning your Spotify to CW McCall’s humorous song “Wolf Creek Pass,” in which an out of control truck driver attempts to navigate the steep and winding road. Just past the ski area, you reach the summit and the top of the Continental Divide. For a view from the top-of-the-top, take a side tour to the Lobo Overlook. A steep 5 miles gets you high atop Thunder Mountain and provides



Treasure Falls • by B4Studio



Hike to Treasure Falls • by B4Studio



Wolf Creek Pass

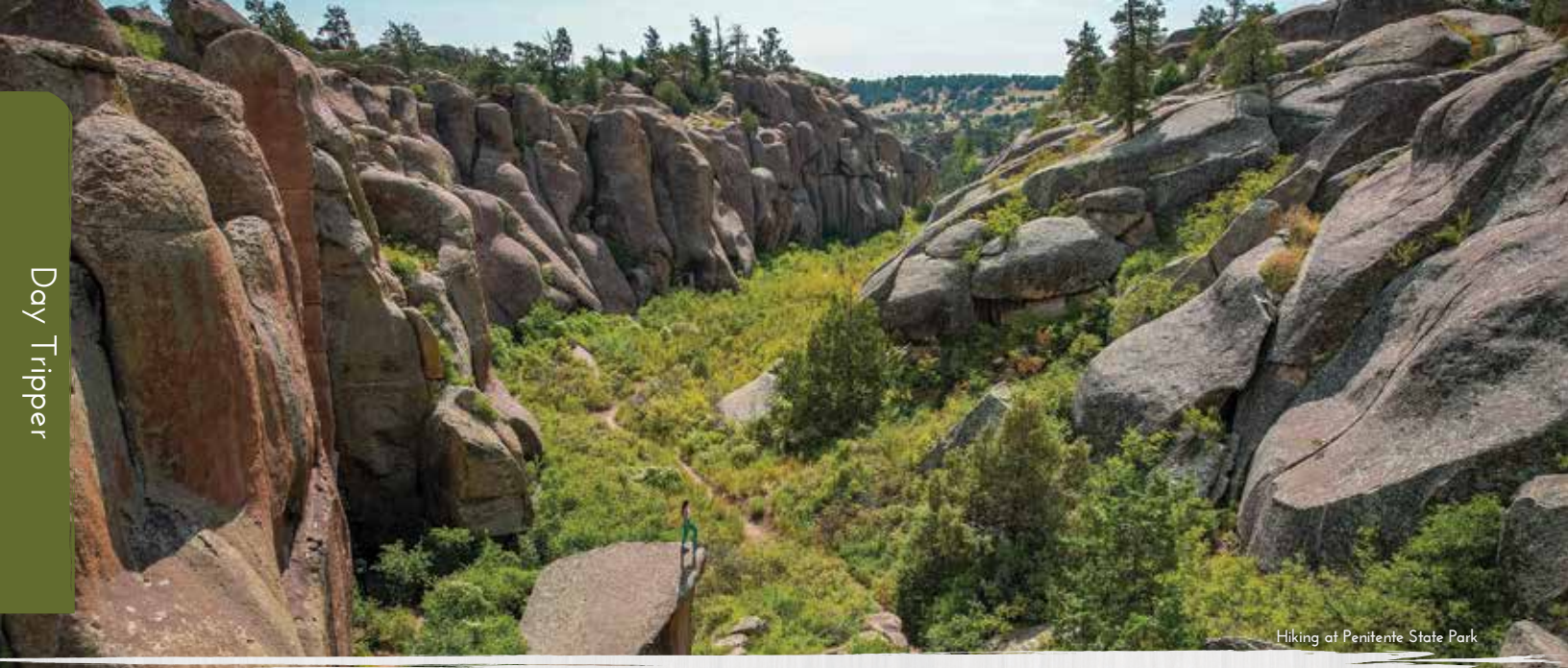
stunning vistas of the surrounding San Juans. To the south you see Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of buried treasure. One legend suggests a chest of gold was buried on the mountain by soon-to-be-captured Frenchmen running from either Spaniards or Native Utes. A hike around the area might result in a huge payout! To the far southeast is the Summitville mining district (a great 4x4 day trip). To the northwest lies the Weminuche Wilderness, the largest in Colorado.

Return to the highway and prepare for a dramatic experience, despite the major highway you are traveling on. Wintertime brings this area the MOST snow in Colorado, so roads are often snow-packed in the winter months. Even summertime sees the occasional snow! As you descend into the valley, stop at the scenic overlook just before the hairpin turns. A spectacular view of the West Fork of the San Juan River will inspire you to snap a selfie! A couple of switchbacks later, and you should pull over again at the large parking area. It marks the entrance to a hiking path leading to the base of Treasure Falls, a beautiful cascade that runs nearly all year, dropping grandly across the face of a rough volcanic cliff. The trail is about ¼ mile, well maintained, and suitable for all ages!

The remaining drive into Pagosa Springs is pleasant, leading you through a scenic valley of large ranches and farmland. Pagosa is known for its year-round arts and music festivals. A lively downtown offers several great dining and shopping. Your final, and ultimate destination will be the Springs Resort. With 23 tubs of natural hot springs mineral water, you will find relaxation and adventure as you travel from tub-to-tub, finding your perfect temperature, mountain view, or proximity to the San Juan River. Bring the whole family, as a full-size pool, mild-temperature tubs, and river-access provide endless hours of fun for the kids, too! -- About 43 miles from South Fork.



The Springs at Pagosa • by Will Keightley via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0



Hiking at Penitente State Park

Penitente Canyon & La Garita Arch

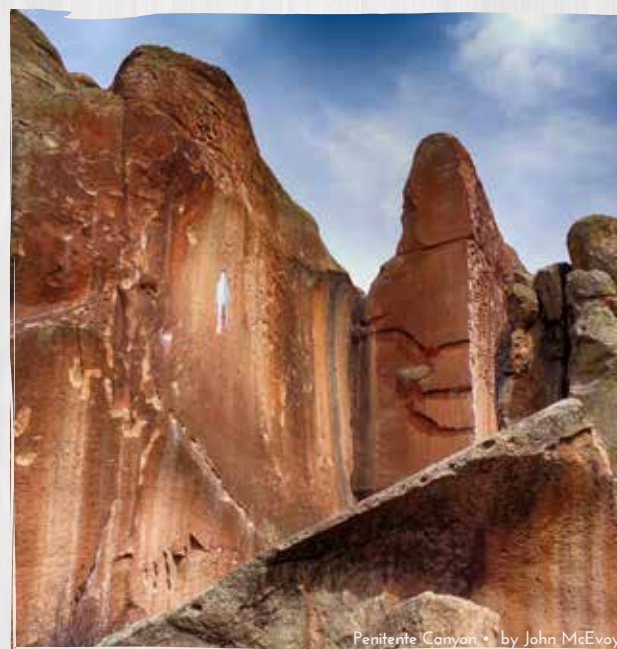
Experience the Power of Place

Grab breakfast in town before heading east towards the San Luis Valley. To take the “scenic route” east, turn off at the Ute Bluff Lodge onto CR 19, cross the mighty Rio Grande and follow CR 15 as it snakes along the river, through scenic ranches and farmland for about fifteen miles. Consider a detour at the sign for Colonel Pfeiffer’s Grave, and visit the land granted to him by the Native Utes. Pass by Indian Head and other unusual and remarkable mountain outcroppings. Zigzag south-east-north just before getting onto CO 112 and travel north along the outer edge of the Valley for just over 2 miles. Turn onto CR33/38A.

You will first take an 11 mile round-trip expedition to see the Arch, or La Ventana (Spanish for “window”), one of southern Colorado’s most unusual natural formations. Note the interesting geology of the area: about 33 million years ago during a period of explosive volcanic activity, large amounts of volcanic debris and ash were ejected into the air. Heat and pressure formed the ash into very hard rock, and millions of years worth of erosion deteriorated the softer material, leaving behind what we see today! The Arch was carved out of a volcanic dike; notice the signs of weathering on nearby companion arches.

To see the Natural Arch: Take a left off of Rd 33/38A onto FS 660/Rd A32. Follow this road for 4.1 miles. Take FS 659/ Rd 35C and go another 1.6 miles north. South Fork to the Natural Arch: aprox 1 hr drive. Return to Road 38A and continue north-bound. Next up is Penitente Canyon, a designated Special Recreation Area with something for everyone!

For the sight-seer, hiker and history buff: Take the short hike up to the Wagon Wheel ruts, along the Old Spanish Trail which served as a pack-animal route for mid-1800s traders traveling west to California. Wander through unusual canyons in search of the San Luis Valley’s largest collection of pictographs. Most is



Penitente Canyon • by John McEvoy



Biking beneath Madonna at La Garita • by Ryan Scavo



LaGarita Arch • Photo by David Clark



Penitente Climber near the Madonna • Photo by John McEvoy

the work of indigenous peoples from 2,000 years ago, but a newer example is the faded blue Madonna high up on a rock face, reportedly painted by locals in the mid 1900s.

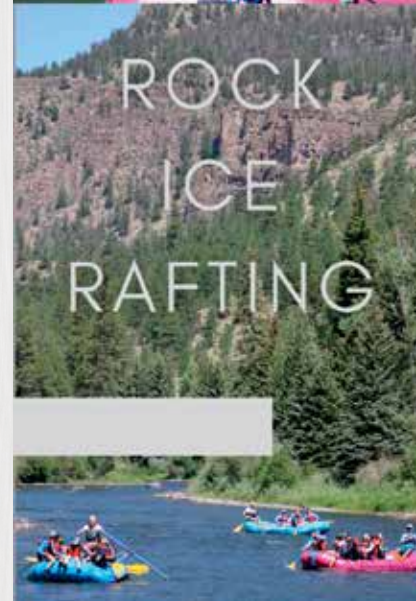
For the rock climber: Penitente Canyon is an internationally recognized climbing area, providing 60-70 incredible sport climbing routes. The unusual volcanic landscape (rock that eroded and cracked over time) not only created a mystical backdrop for recreation, but the smoothed and rounded rock-face provides good hand-holds! South facing routes can be climbed year-round and range from beginner to advanced levels.

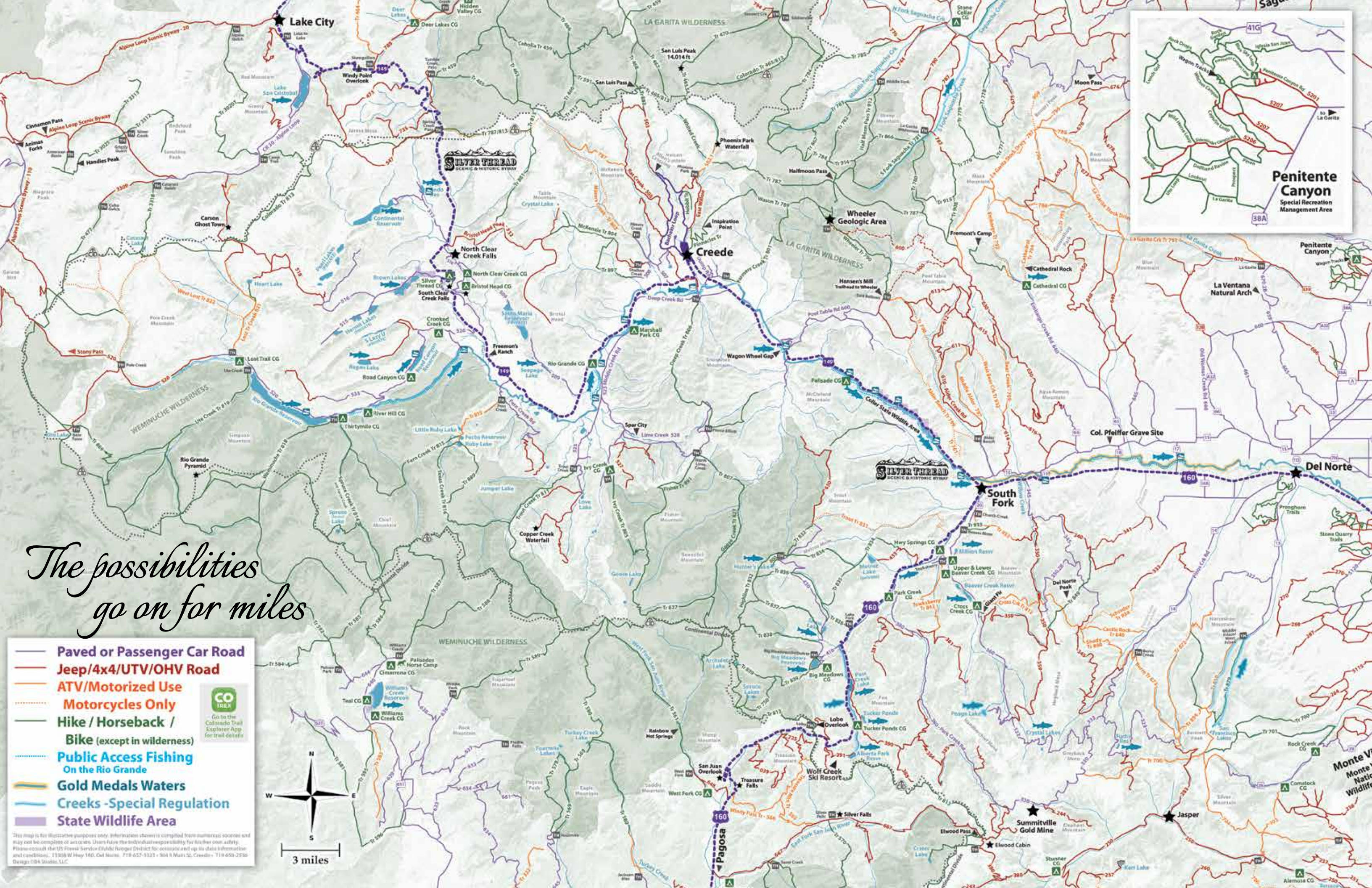
For the mountain biker: 2 mountain bike loops offer a great opportunity to see the area. The B-loop is best for the beginner, while the A-loop is more fun for an advanced rider. Each route is less than three miles, and can also be hiked.

If you need a snack break, return to CR38A and drive the short distance to the town of La Garita. Stop at the Cash Store, an old log cabin turned general shop. Visit the picturesque 1924 Catholic church that today houses the San Juan Art Center. Make your return trip via Del Norte. Consider a stop by the Rio Grande County Museum for more about the local heritage and make a note to ask about Colonel Pfeiffer, a well know and respected Indian Agent! Wander Grand Avenue’s antique shops and art galleries, and have dinner at the Historic Windsor Hotel.



South Fork, CO
www.narrowridgeoutdoors.com
 719.873.0188





The possibilities go on for miles

- Paved or Passenger Car Road
- Jeep/4x4/UTV/OHV Road
- ATV/Motorized Use
- Motorcycles Only
- Hike / Horseback / Bike (except in wilderness)
- Public Access Fishing On the Rio Grande
- Gold Medals Waters
- Creeks - Special Regulation
- State Wildlife Area



3 miles

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information shown is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Users have the individual responsibility for further own safety. Please consult the US Forest Service District Ranger District for current and up-to-date information and conditions. 13358 W Hwy 160, Creede, CO 81629 • 719-657-5323 • 504 N Main St, Creede • 719-650-2930 Design ©24 Stables, LLC



- ATVs shall use shoulder to cross bridge over Rio Grande River.
 - Travel between yellow bollards and guardrail.
 - Travel in the same direction as vehicular traffic.
 - Access closed Nov 1-April 30

Town of South Fork OHV / ATV Rules & Regulations

- All drivers must have a valid driver's license & proof of liability insurance
- All riders 16 years and under must wear approved safety helmet
- All OHV / ATV driving within South Fork must have South Fork safety flag and Permit Sticker
- NO OHV / ATV on Hwys 160 or 149; unless at designated crossings – see X on Map
- OHV / ATV must drive at or under the posted ATV speed limits
- OHV / ATV shall stop and yield right of way to all other users of Access Trails or Crossings
- After sundown, No Driving on Access Trails or at designated crossings
- No OHV / ATV on streets within RED shaded neighborhoods
- OHV / ATV are to proceed directly to their destination – no "joy riding or cruising"
- OHV / ATV must remain on designated trails or roads – no open lot or field riding
- All OHV / ATV utilize routes at their own risk
- All OHV / ATV are subject to Ordinances 15-03, 17-04, and State Statutes under CRS 33 code.

Highway - no ATV access, except at crossings

X **ATV Highway Crossing**

..... **ATV Access Trail** (yield to all non-ATV users)

— **ATV Recommended Route** (yield to all non-ATV users)

X **Proposed ATV Highway Crossing**

..... **Proposed ATV Access Trail**

□ **ATVs Allowed. Proceed straight to destination. No Joy-riding.**

■ **No ATVs Allowed**

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information shown is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Users have the individual responsibility for his/her own safety. Please consult the South Fork Visitor Center, the Town of South Fork, or US Forest Service Divide Ranger District for accurate and up-to-date information and conditions. www.southfork.org • www.colorado.gov/southforkcolorado • www.fs.usda.gov

For more information and detailed maps contact the Rio Grande National Forest Service at 719-657-3321 or the South Fork Visitors Center at 719-873-5512.

Rio Grande National Forest

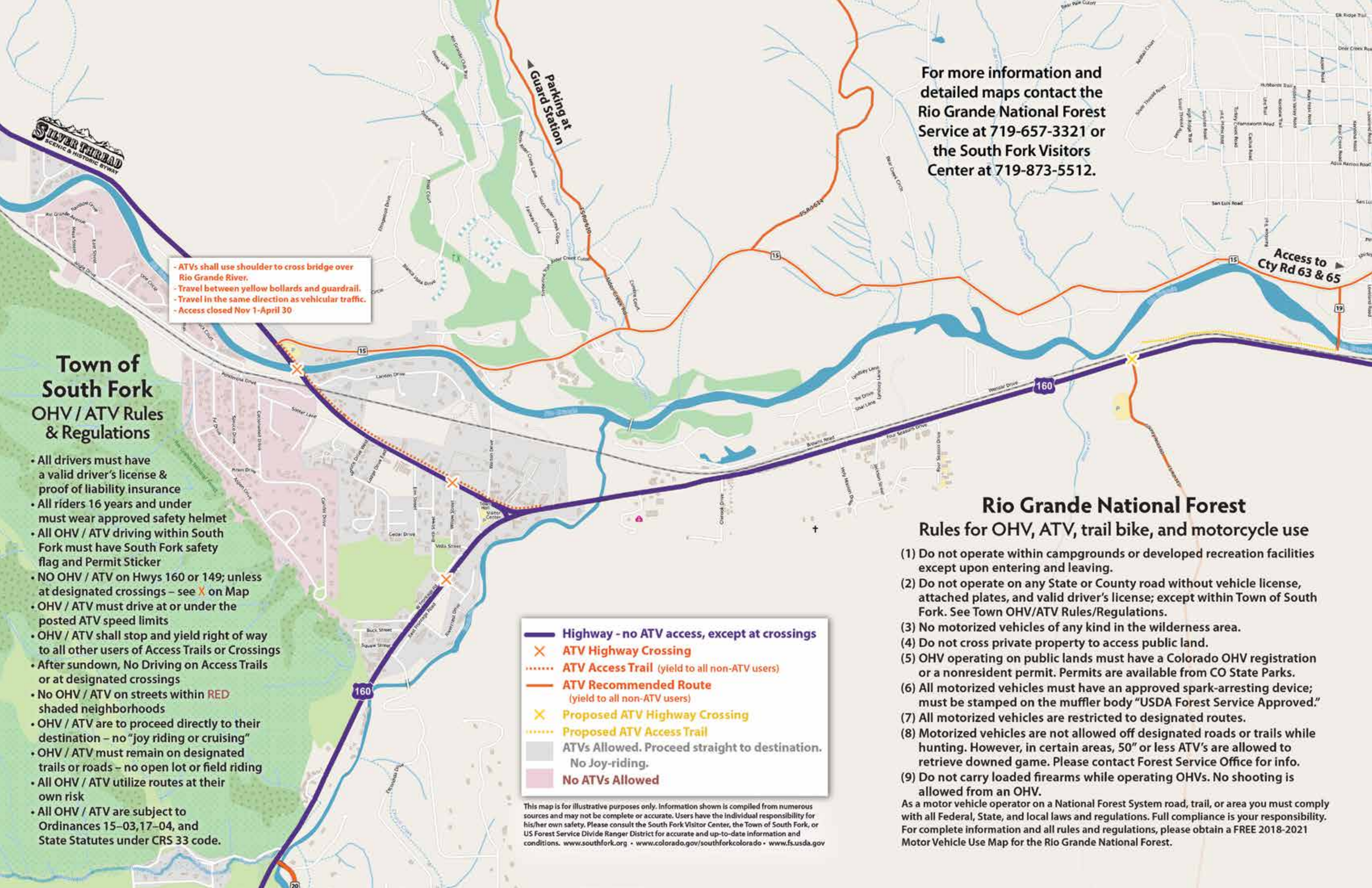
Rules for OHV, ATV, trail bike, and motorcycle use

- (1) Do not operate within campgrounds or developed recreation facilities except upon entering and leaving.
- (2) Do not operate on any State or County road without vehicle license, attached plates, and valid driver's license; except within Town of South Fork. See Town OHV/ATV Rules/Regulations.
- (3) No motorized vehicles of any kind in the wilderness area.
- (4) Do not cross private property to access public land.
- (5) OHV operating on public lands must have a Colorado OHV registration or a nonresident permit. Permits are available from CO State Parks.
- (6) All motorized vehicles must have an approved spark-arresting device; must be stamped on the muffler body "USDA Forest Service Approved."
- (7) All motorized vehicles are restricted to designated routes.
- (8) Motorized vehicles are not allowed off designated roads or trails while hunting. However, in certain areas, 50" or less ATVs are allowed to retrieve downed game. Please contact Forest Service Office for info.
- (9) Do not carry loaded firearms while operating OHVs. No shooting is allowed from an OHV.

As a motor vehicle operator on a National Forest System road, trail, or area you must comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Full compliance is your responsibility. For complete information and all rules and regulations, please obtain a FREE 2018-2021 Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Rio Grande National Forest.

Access to City Rd 63 & 65

Parking at Guard Station





Winter
 WELCOME TO
 POWDER COUNTRY

Wolf Creek Ski Area
The Most Snow in Colorado

- 18 miles from South Fork
- 1600 acres of terrain
- 10 chair lifts
- 79 skiable trails
- 1604 ft vertical drop
- 430+ inches snowfall

While largely unknown outside of Colorado, the area is beloved by powder hounds. Wolf Creek boasts epic snowfall, generally 430+ inches of the fluffy white stuff a year, more than any other ski resort in Colorado. You won't hear the din of snow-making machines fabricating a beaten path between rocks and dirt, but instead, listen for the distant whoops of avalanche-control bombs...

This is powder country.

Downhill skiers and snow boarders alike will love the family-oriented atmosphere and limited lift lines. With 1600 acres of terrain, beginners to advanced skiers and boarders will feel right at home. Wolf Creek also offers individual and group ski lessons for all ability levels starting at the age of 5. The Wolf Pup Center is for smaller children, where access to the "magic carpet," Nova lift, and private kid-friendly lodge create the perfect haven for youngsters to learn a new sport. The Hot Shots program is specifically designed for adventurous children aged 9-12 who are looking to explore the mountain. Adult lessons and clinics are great for learning the sport or refining your technique.

There are several restaurants and bars at the mountain base for après ski, as well as equipment and apparel shops. LOCAL TIP: Pick up your rentals the night before at one of South Fork's shops (this will save you \$\$ and give you more time on the mountain).

For more info and a snow report, visit www.wolfcreekski.com



Photo courtesy Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area - Alberta Peak in the Distance - by Ryan Stevo



Wolf Creek Ski Area • Photo by Robert Tadlock via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

5 Reasons to Plan a Trip To Powder Country

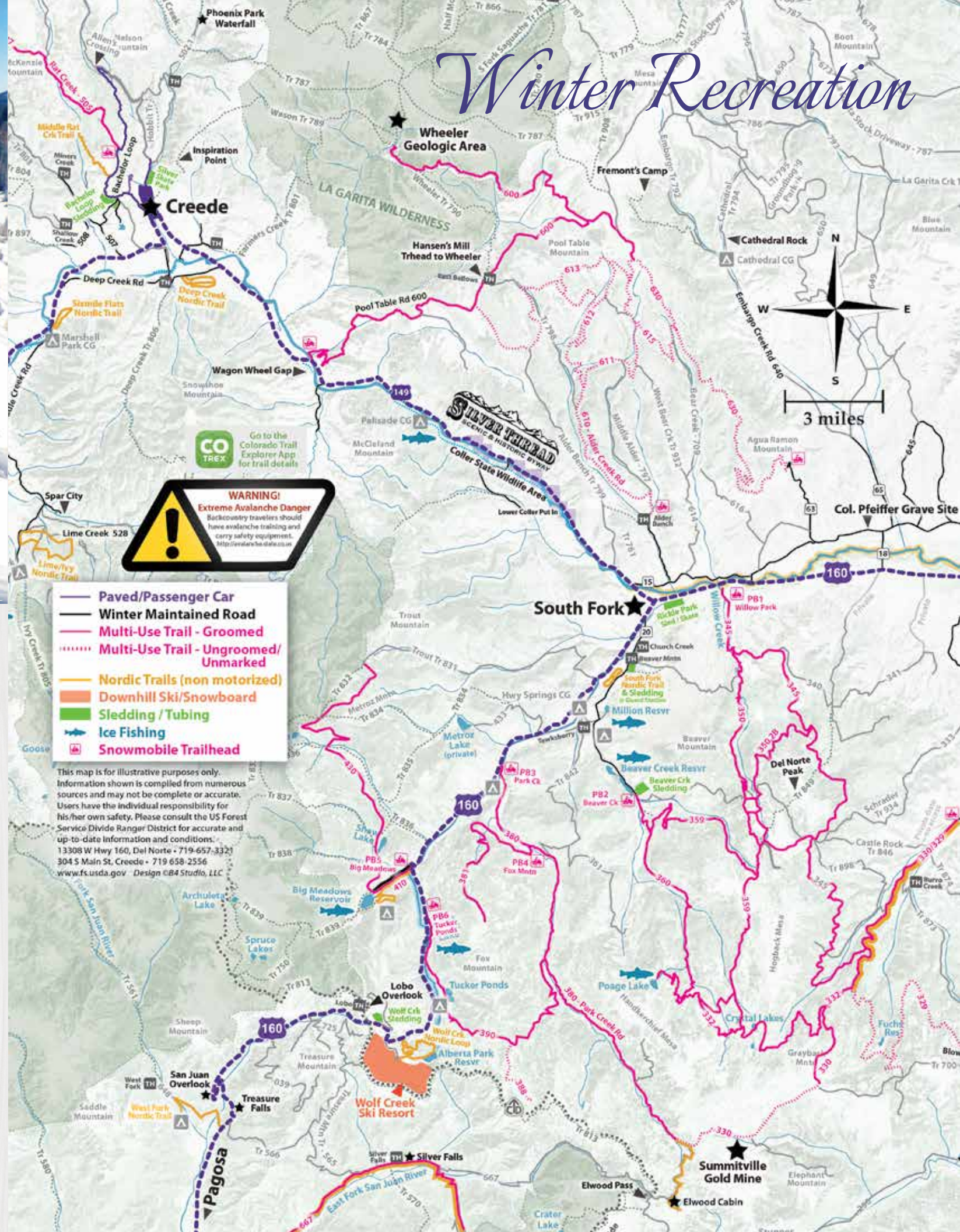
- 1 Powder Country** Wolf Creek Ski Area boasts the most snow in Colorado year after year with an average of 430+ inches. Skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers rejoice!
- 2 Skip the Crowds** Discover little traffic, short lift lines (seriously...maybe 10 people), and untouched powder everywhere.
- 3 Super Affordable** South Fork and Wolf Creek Ski area are so affordable you can stretch a two-day vacation budget for other areas into four days here! Access to Colorado's most scenic wintertime vistas at 12,000+ feet will take your breath away! Affordable rentals won't.
- 4 Remote Yet Accessible** Stop Looking For the Remote. You've found it. Luckily, it's only a four hour drive from Denver...without routing you down the traffic-jammed I-70.
- 5 Did we mention the Powder?** Nothing compares to a winter forest buried in waist-deep powder: dampened silence, crystal clear air and breath-taking vistas shrouded in sun-sparkling snow.



Learn More



Playing in the Snow • Photo by B4 Studio



255+ Miles of Winter Rec Trails

Cabin fever? Winter blues? Get out and enjoy the 255+ miles of groomed rec trails. Stop to enjoy the glittering landscape beneath the bright blue sky. Go ice skating at the public rink at Rickle Park, join a moonlight snowshoe hike with the Silverthreaders, or spend the day knee-deep in powder at Wolf Creek. Snow is abundant in the San Juan Mountains, and a variety of winter recreation is just a snowball's throw from any of South Fork's lodging options.

Snowmobiling

If your idea of a great time involves fast machines roaring through heaps of snow, check out groomed trails with innumerable off-trail opportunities on wide-open ridges, rolling parks and steep climbs. Access to some of Colorado's most scenic wintertime vistas (12,000+ ft) will take your breath away! LOCAL TIP: Check the map for the pink trails marked with a PB number). These are well-marked and frequently groomed by our local snowmobile club.

Nordic Skiing & Snowshoeing

Because of the area's plentiful snow and wide variety of terrain, those who prefer less-developed places to ski have a bounty of options. Local outdoor clubs maintain trails perfect for snowshoers and link cross-country skiers to the freshest back-country available. Both adventurous and inexperienced snow bunnies will find something to their liking.



Snowmobile photos courtesy MountainSkillz.com / Matt Entz



Snowshoeing • Photo by Bob Seago

Ice Fishing

Several of the most popular summer spots for fishing make for great ice fishing, too. Beaver Creek Reservoir, Big Meadows Reservoir and Road Canyon Reservoir west of Creede are a few that freeze over sufficiently for safe access.

Sledding

Great fun for ALL ages! The 2 million acres of National Forest provide endless sledding opportunities! The hill at the top of Beaver Creek Reservoir and the Guard Station hill are two great spots that you can drive right up to. LOCAL TIP: Choose a sled that is simple and made of foam, plastic, or a rubber tube. Saucers and wooden/ metal-rail sleds don't work as well on powder days.

Skating & Hockey

Free skating rink at Rickle Park. Its skate shack holds free-to-use hockey and figure skates, and is usually open mid-December through mid-February. Town puts on a big bonfire every Saturday evening, complete with music, hot drinks, and pick-up hockey games! LOCAL TIP: Pick up a thermos of hot chocolate before you head over - this will keep the little ones happy and skating for hours! A bike helmet and knee pads are also helpful for beginners. A small sledding hill is perfect for those who need a skate-break.

Local Outdoor Clubs

The Silverthreaders and Powderbusters are diverse groups of locals, part-timers, and visitors that organize weekly snowmobile and snowshoeing outings in the winter months. www.silverthreaders.org



Sledding at Beaver Creek Res • by John McEvoy



Fat Biking • by Ryan Seave

LOCAL APPRECIATION DAYS

Dates:

November 8, 15, 27-30
December 4-7
January 31
February 11, 28
March 31
April 1-7

Rates:

\$66 Adult
\$47 Senior
\$33 Child

www.wolfcreekski.com
1-800-ski-wolf

EVERYONE IS A LOCAL!

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THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

RV PARK ASPEN RIDGE
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Sunday, 7am - 11am

Off season hours: Mon through Sat, 7am - 2pm

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www.southforkfriendsfoundation.org

SF South Fork Friends Foundation

2024 Dates to Remember:
June 8 - Town wide Garage Sale
July 17 - South Fork Arts & Crafts Festival
August 31 - Alder Ass Race
November 29 - Yuletide & Tree lighting
November 30 - Winterfest

Rickel Park Ice Rink. Basketball Courts & more brought to you by South Fork Friends Foundation

Tree Lighting

South Fork Arts and Crafts Festival

Alder Ass Race

History of the Area

1868 1874 1881 1882 1883 1891 1892 1916 1935 1992 2002 Today

Heritage: Then & Now



The Utes

THE UTES: Prior to 1868, the Capote (Kapota) band of Ute Indians lived throughout the southwest region that includes the San Luis Valley. A hunting and gathering people, they called themselves "Nuche" or "Nuustiyu," meaning "the people" or "the mountain people." They were called "Yutas" by Spanish explorers, then "Utes" as the United States expanded. In the summer, the "Nuche" lived in extended nomadic family groups and often wintered in New Mexico or Northern Arizona. The Utes made a treaty of peace with the U.S. in 1849. Shortly thereafter, settlers from New Mexico established several settlements in Colorado. In 1868, the Utes were removed to a reservation in western Colorado, until they lost their expansive reservation as a result of the Meeker massacre in 1879.



THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK: Prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1882, South Fork was primarily known as a stage stop where passengers could stretch before continuing north. The railroad brought cheap and reliable transportation, allowing residents to profit from the area's abundant resources. Saw mills sprung up to supply local timber to ever-growing railways and surrounding mining districts. Cattle and sheep were introduced during these early years. In the 1870s, vegetable production, mainly cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes and peas, were the main agricultural resources grown in the area. In the latter part of the 20th Century to present day, the tourism industry proved most important to South Fork's continued economic development. One of Colorado's newest towns (incorporated in 1992), South Fork remains a regional hub for agriculture, timber, breathtaking scenery, boundless wildlife and family-oriented adventure!



MASONIC PARK: This was the first Masonic Park in the United States. The land was homesteaded in 1892, and consisted of 160 acres. In 1914, the San Luis Valley Masonic Association purchased the property to be used as an annual meeting place. After a bridge was built over the Rio Grande and a water system was installed, the park was platted and lots were available for sale to approximately 800 members.

BARLOW AND SANDERSON STAGE COMPANY: In 1874, the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Company's line reached from Missouri to Del Norte but needed to continue west. Alonzo Hubbard was hired to build roads from Del Norte to Antelope Springs, and on to Lake City. Not only a passenger route, it provided freight to the quickly developing mining areas. A few toll roads built by a young Russian, Otto Mears, also became part of this route. From Del Norte going west, the first stage stop was at the Edwin Shaw Ranch, famous for their hay and hospitality. Located at the present day Rest Area on Highway 160, the little cabin overlooking the Highway is part of the original ranch. The way-station for changing horses was at Bunker Hill, a mile down the road. In 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad had achieved building rail lines from Del Norte to Wagon Wheel Gap and on to Lake City, making the Stage Route obsolete. Parts of the Barlow/Sanderson road can still be seen along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway.

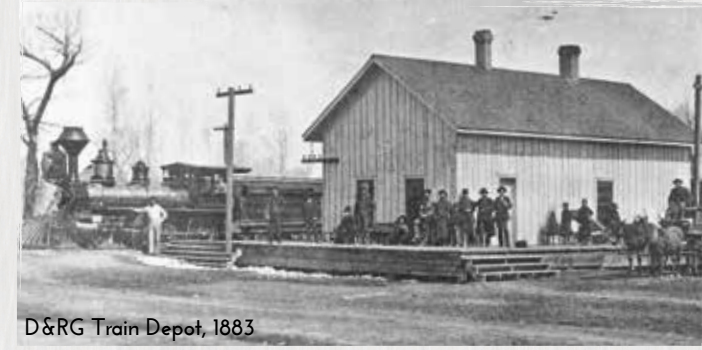


HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC MISSION: By the 1870's farmers and ranchers were well established in South Fork, having filed claims for their land under the 1862 Homestead Act. One of these pioneers, Jose Campos, would have descendants who were still farming his land in the 1930's. For many years, the Campos family invited the mission priest to celebrate Mass services in their home amidst the wheat fields, until they donated the property for a church to be built. The Church was built in the early 1940's where Mass services still continue today.



Holy Family Mission

All photos courtesy of the The Rio Grande County Museum & Cultural Center, located in Del Norte, CO. www.riograndecounty.org



D&RG Train Depot, 1883



D&RG Water Tower • By Ashography



D&RG Train in Creede

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA: By 1930, a movement in the State of Colorado was made to promote skiing. In 1935, Wolf Creek Ski Area had begun. It originated from a San Luis Valley group of men and women who loved to ski. Invitations were sent to various Chambers of Commerce to discuss possible locations. An area near Creede was considered; however, skiers from Monte Vista found a spot on Wolf Creek Pass that offered ski slopes for all levels of skiers. The original area was on the north side of Highway 160. In 1955, the ski area was relocated across the highway to the present location, adding the installation of a rope tow. Shortly thereafter, the Wolf Creek Ski Development Corporation was formed. In 1960, the Corporation sold the area to a Dallas firm who ran it for two years, after which it came back under the control of the Wolf Creek Ski Development Corporation.

DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD

General Palmer: General William Jackson Palmer was a visionary who possessed unbounded enthusiasm for building railroads. His tremendous energy brought the Denver & Rio Grande narrow-gauge line from Denver to Pueblo, and hundreds of miles of track across the San Luis Valley. These narrow gauge tracks (thinner by 1-2 feet) allowed rail cars to navigate the steep grades and sharp curves of the San Juans. Palmer's D&RG routes ensured shipment of San Juan Territory resources throughout the western U.S. Palmer became one of the richest railroad barons in America. 1883, Palmer's rails stretched to Wagon Wheel Gap, home to his newly opened Hotel & Hot Springs Resort, which today is the 4UR Ranch. Due to a crippling horse accident in 1907, Palmer himself did not visit the resort much. His vacation home still stands and serves as the Ranch's rec hall.

D&RG Water Tower: In 1881, South Fork's Denver & Rio Grande Railroad water tower signaled the arrival of the railroad to South Fork, and an end to the famous Barlow & Sanderson Stage Line. A wellspring from nearby Harper Mountain, located just east, fed water to thirsty steam engines. The spring replenished the large tower, and a tin water spout was lowered to fill steam engines before the journey west to Wagon Wheel Gap or the Creede Mining District. The D&RG Water Tower was refurbished in 2002 with a Colorado Historical Society preservation grant.

D&RG Rail Line: By 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Rail Line reached Wagon Wheel Gap, bringing tourists to a mineral hot springs resort owned by the Railroad's founder. In 1891, it was extended to the mining towns north of South Fork to transport precious minerals and metals out of Willow Creek Canyon. Stringtown, Jimtown and Amethyst were thriving mining camps. Jimtown was eventually renamed Creede after Nicholas C. Creede struck silver and opened the Holy Moses mine. The D&RG Railroad shipped millions of dollars in high quality ore and minerals from these mines. The town of Creede was officially incorporated in 1892. It was the second town (Telluride being the first) to have electric lights along streets and in homes. This new phenomenon caused Cy Warman to pen this verse in his infamous poem about Creede: "Its day all day in the day-time And there is no night in Creede."

WOLF CREEK PASS: In 1916 the automobile boom developed the need for a direct route across southern Colorado. The chosen route, known as the Spanish Trail/Grand Canyon Highway, followed along Wolf Creek. The route was funded by local, regional, state and national grants. The purpose was to benefit tourism in one of the most picturesque areas of Colorado. Monte Vista businessmen worked with a federal grant to help improve the roads from Walsenburg to Durango. In August of 1916, the South Fork and Wolf Creek Pass was officially opened with a state-wide celebration.



Opening of Wolf Creek Pass

Where legends whisper to those who listen...

www.southfork.org



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center



John Hansen Saw Mill in South Fork
Courtesy Rio Grande County Museum



Annual Logger Days Festival: July 19-20, 2024

You are surrounded by more than 2 million acres of forest. This mountain land has produced lumber since the 1870s, when the first loggers arrived — and the trees are still growing — a slow dance of green growth. The Annual Logger Days continues a festive tradition of making work skills fun! Loggers and their friends compete in contests to gage their skills as lumberjacks:

- Men, boys, and girls throw spinning hatchets at targets
- Axes or saws drop tall poles to exact spots on the ground
- Cheer along as chain saws cut logs into precise pieces
- Hold your breath as climbers scurry up a 60 foot pole

Who Participates in Events? Experts at logging, milling, and forestry AND Amateurs who want the thrill!

Definitions:

LOGGERS: Woodsmen who use saws and axes to cut down trees, cut and trim them into logs, then move them to the roadside or the sawmill. They must be experts with horses (real or mechanical), saws, axes, poles, ropes, and especially good sense.

MILLERS: Machinery experts who shape logs into finished boards, posts, poles, flooring, railroad ties, and dozens of other products. Around a dozen portable mills were scattered throughout the forest, as well as the center of South Fork from the 1870s until 2001. In the 1950-60s, the South Fork mill was the biggest in the state of Colorado.

FORESTERS: Scientists who plan balanced use of federal, state, and private forests for long-term production of wood, water, wildlife, recreation, grazing, and wilderness. They work all over this area.

Logging History: Life in the Woods

Loggers were tough and alert while doing dangerous work in beautiful country. Some of the loggers and millers in this area were Ute Indians, the original inhabitants. Hispanics, whose ancestors came into the San Luis Valley in the 1850s, were among the most skilled sawmillers and loggers. In the past 50 years, loggers and skidders from Arkansas and Alabama left home to work in these San Juan Mountains.

Some were skilled horse loggers in the 1940s to the 1960s, along with local experts such as John Graeser. Well-trained horses pulled down logs for several hundred yards to roadsides, where trucks could be easily loaded. In rough terrain, the horse was often quicker than a mechanical tractor-like skidder.

From 1870 til the 1950s, loggers often spent summer weeks alone or with one or two others in the forest. They built small cabins with simple kitchens, beds and some were “nice” enough to have a front porch. Remains of these cabins can be found throughout the area. (South

Fork’s hiking group comes across several of them every summer.)

Food was sometimes quite simple in the forest. A welcome logging partner was one who could catch and cook a porcupine and make it taste like a banquet. Loggers went into South Fork on weekends to see the wife and kids, get fresh clothes and food supplies, and go to church.

The logging season lasted as long as the snow and muddy roads would allow, usually 5-7 months. In the winter, men came back to town to settle in until next season, or to work in the sawmill.

Where did the Wood Products Go?

Del Norte was founded in 1871. Naturally, wood was the key building material for the first houses and stores. Trains reached up to South Fork in 1882 and then continued up to Creede. As silver mining grew rapidly, loggers worked hard to harvest Douglas Fir and Pine for strong railroad cross-ties, many thousands of mine props, and related structural timbers.

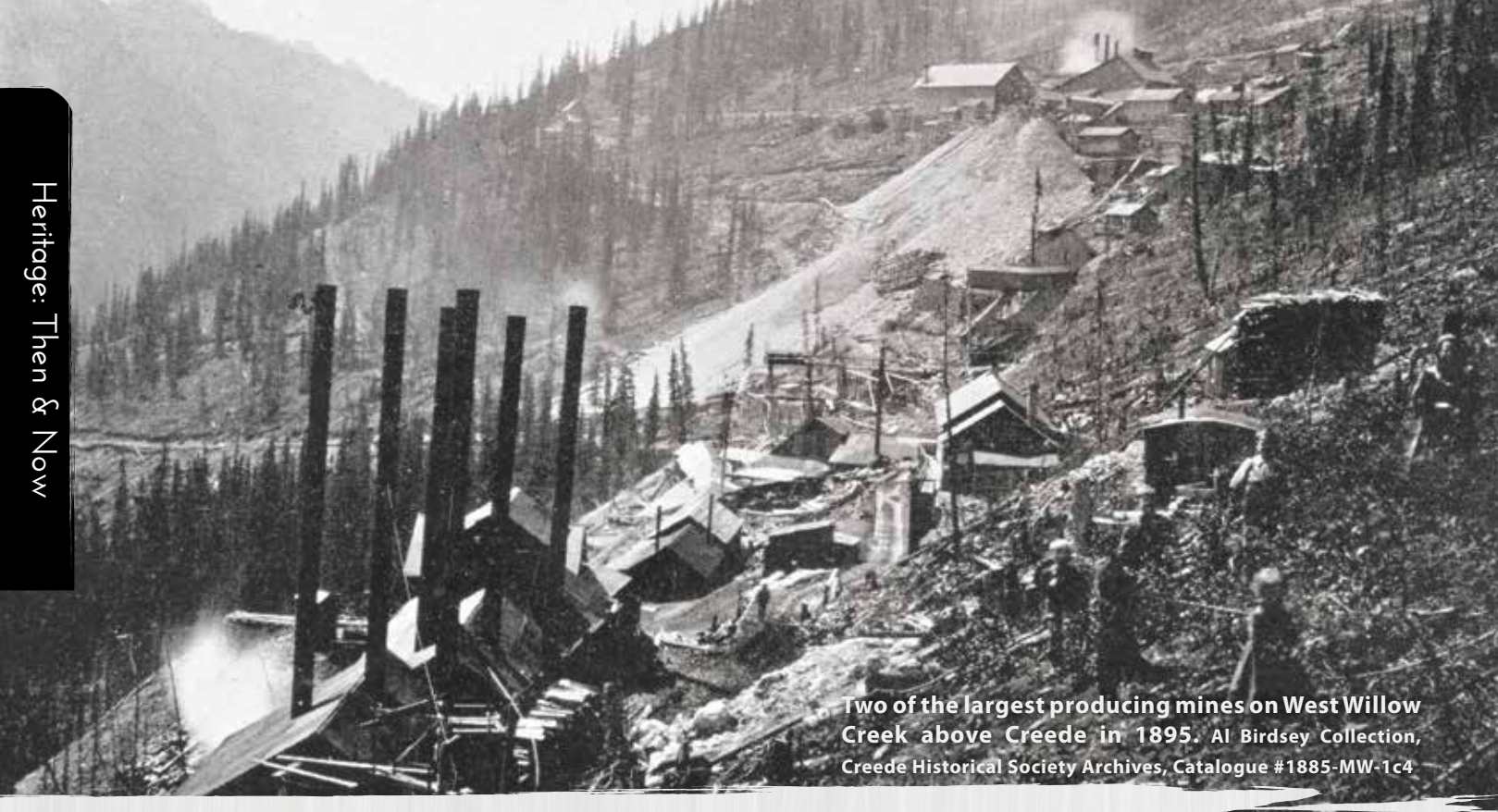
Mills in the area experienced several fires. These often started in sawdust or shavings piles. The Galbreath Mill had a big fire in May of 1920. When renovating, local lumber went into the new sawmill and planer mill. So did a new store, rental log cabins, expanded hotel, community building, and even a museum. By 1940 Galbreath again modernized his mill and planer, employing 50 people. A decade later, the mill employed about 100 people.

A fire in 1967, at what was then the Douglas Studs Mill, burned 10 million board feet of lumber — doing \$2 million worth of damage! This contributed to the already declining timber business. The once proud “biggest mill in the state” was now just producing low-profit 2 x 4 studs. Long-haul costs caused the company to gradually shut down. By 2001, the closure was complete. South Fork’s sawmill days were over, memorialized only in a grassy property across the tracks from the town’s railroad siding in front of the Spruce Lodge.



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center





Two of the largest producing mines on West Willow Creek above Creede in 1895. Al Birdsey Collection, Creede Historical Society Archives, Catalogue #1885-MW-1c4

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Museums

Rio Grande County Museum & Cultural Center

In Del Norte, Exploring the history and culture of Rio Grande County and the Upper portion of the San Luis Valley can be experienced at the Rio Grande County Museum & Cultural Center. There are learning experiences for all ages. Native Americans and photos of "Rock Art", fur trappers, Fremont's Fourth Expedition, the settlers from New Mexico with the Mexican Land Grants and farmers, ranchers, loggers, merchants and the gold seekers who settled the area are all represented in exhibits and research.



The Museum Gift Shop offers a variety of books of local interest and some by local authors as well as showing art work of local artists. During the summer months, art shows by local artists are featured.

Summer Hours: 10am - 4pm Tues-Fri, 10am - 3pm Saturday Admission \$2. Free for Military
www.museumtrail.org/rio-grande-county-museum
rgmuseum@riograndecounty.org • 719-657-2847

Creede Historical Museum & Library

Housed in the Old Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot in downtown Creede next to Basham Park, the museum reflects the efforts of an active and dedicated local historical society. Creede's first hand-drawn fire wagon, early pioneer utensils, a horse-drawn hearse, gambling equipment and devices, a large photo collection, early newspapers, and troves of memorabilia and other artifacts comprise the Creede Historical Society's collections. The museum and library archives provide casual visitors, historians, and genealogical researchers with opportunities to examine the daily lives of the homesteaders, prospectors, miners, entrepreneurs, lawmen and notorious characters who helped shape Creede/Mineral County's colorful history.



The Historical Library is located in a small cabin next to the museum. The Library provides research information, books and photos of Creede, Mineral County and Western Colorado. The Library's photo collection contains thousands of photos. To help archive and maintain the photo collection, copies of individual photos are sold for personal or publication use.

Museum Hours: 10am-4pm Mon-Sat • 1pm-4pm Sunday
 Open Memorial Day to Labor Day
 Library: Open Year-Round • Thurs, 1-4pm or by appt.
www.creedehistoricalsociety.com • 719-658-2004

Creede Underground Mining Museum

A popular attraction in Creede, the Mining Museum comprises a series of rooms and tunnels blasted into the cliff face of the Canyon at the north edge of town. Visitors receive a first-hand taste of a miner's subterranean experience through a series of demonstrations and exhibits in shafts bored specifically for that purpose. Exploring both early silver mining techniques and more recent technology, the Museum provides a fascinating insight into a very important part of western Americana. An exhibit hall with minerals and artifact displays provides a colorful prelude to the tour. Self-guided audio tours are available anytime, and guided tours are available Tues-Saturday at 3pm during the summer.



Summer Hours (Memorial Day - Labor Day) • 9am - 4pm daily
 Winter Hours • 11am - 4pm Tues-Saturday
www.undergroundminingmuseum.com • 719-658-0811



Creede Underground Mining Museum by B4 Studio

Visit www.museumtrail.org
 for info on 20+ area Museums

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Calendar OF EVENTS



Kid's Fishing Clinic at Tucker Ponds • by Ashography

Our Annual Lineup *Lifestyle, Culture & Events*

As spectacular as the recreational opportunities in South Fork are, another highlight of traveling here is getting to know more about the area's history, arts, community, and culture.

Regular Summer Events

South Fork Market

Artisans, farmers and vendors create a welcoming hometown shopping experience, offering items that are grown or produced in Colorado, New Mexico and other nearby States. At the Visitor Center. **Fridays & Saturdays, June - Sept.**

Silverthreaders Weekly Hikes

MONDAYS - A Hikes: Meet at the Visitor Center. These are on-trail, 4-6 mile hikes, that will take about 3-5 hours. We take a relaxed and social approach to these hikes!

WEDNESDAYS - B Hikes: Meet at the Visitor Center. These are off-trail/bushwacking, advanced mile hikes with significant elevation gains. Hikes will take 5+ hours.

ADVANCED SPECIALTY - C Hikes: Time and Location TBD in advance. These hikes will present difficult/technical terrain and will take all day or multiple days. Examples include climbing 14ers and overnight backpack trips.

Creede Repertory Theatre

Since 1966, Creede Repertory Theatre's award-winning company has produced a wide variety of the best contemporary and classic live theatre, special events, and more. Through its rotating repertory format, Creede Rep offers something for everyone: catch a different show nearly every night of the week May-September. CRT also offers educational programming including day camps, The KID Show, and its Young Audience Outreach Tour. www.creederep.org

Pickleball

Weekly Games at the Community Center courts - The South Fork Pickleball Association plays at the Community Center. You may also play on your own. Free racquets/balls are available for those new to the sport and wanting to give it a try. For more info and to purchase passes, stop in the South Fork Visitors Center or call 719-873-5512. Look for details about the Annual Pickleball Smashup Tournament mid-summer.



Alder Ass Pack Burro Race • by John McEvoy

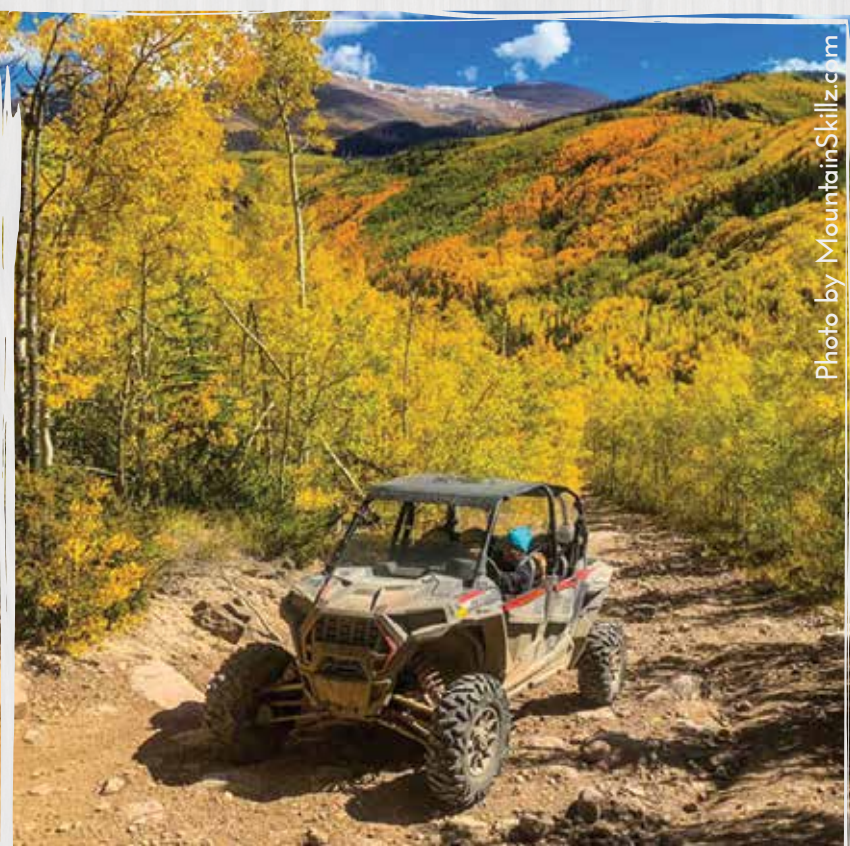


Photo by MountainSkillz.com



South Fork Easter Egg Hunt • by Ashography



3rd of July Parade • by John McEvoy



3rd of July Parade • by John McEvoy

Calendar of Events

February Youth Hockey Tournament

Early February - Open to passionate youth hockey players 14 and under, the casual tournament brings together enthusiastic young players for a day of action and sportsmanship.

April Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday before Easter - Join in on the Easter festivities with over 1,000 eggs to be discovered and an appearance by the Easter bunny! Games and refreshments provided for all our weary egg hunters. Free admission, open to the public.

June SF Clean Up / Yard Sale Days

Second Friday/Saturday/Sunday in June - Clean out your closets, empty your garage, clear out your old inventory and get ready for a community-wide garage sale!

June Kid's Fishing Clinic

Saturday, June 15, 2024 - Celebrate Father's Day Weekend in the South Fork sun. Grab your poles and come fish with us! The Division of Wildlife will be on-hand to give instructions to little anglers. Each child under the age of 16 receives a free rod/reel combo set with registration. Enjoy a hot dog lunch in the great outdoors. Place TBD. Free admission, open to the public. More info: southfork.org

June Salmonfly Hatch Days

Third Week in June - Celebrate the hatch with fly fishing along our Gold Medal Waters. Come by the Visitor Center for a free map. Visit www.fishtheupperrio.org for more information.

July Rodeos at Rickel Arena

You can't visit the area without 'playing cowboy' for a day! Join in on the action during one of the South Fork Rodeos put on

by Burris and Sons at Rickel Arena. Bull riding, roping, mutton busting, barrel racing, steer riding, calf scramble and a sheep race are a few of the events.

July Independence Day Celebration

July 3rd - The South Fork Fire Department hold their annual Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social from 11am-2pm - Come fill your belly with goodies and head over to annual Parade at 3pm! Check out the wonderful shops in town and grab dinner at one of our locally owned restaurants. Finally, don't miss the South Fork Rodeo at Rickel Arena. Bull riding, team roping, barrel racing and more begin at 6:30pm and are followed by a fireworks show!

July Logger Days Festival & Car Show

July 19-20, 2024 - South Fork celebrates the area's culture and history during the Logger Days Festival. Events and competitions taking place throughout the weekend celebrate the time-honored tradition of logging. Crowd-favorite competitions include chainsaw carving, the ax throw, two-man cross cut, and a relay-race with participants pulled from the audience. This annual festival also features music, food, arts & crafts, on-site wood carving, children's activities, raffles and more! Over 70 vendor booths are set up. Free Admission, open to the public. See pages 42-43 for details and a full history of the event!

July Arts & Crafts Festival

Mid July - Held at the Visitor Center, this event features original artwork from 40+ talented artists from 6 western states.

August Silver Thread

Studio Tour Mid August
A self-guided "behind the scenes" tour of studios, art demonstrations, and galleries along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway. Sponsored by the Creede Arts Council - creedeartscouncil.com



Learn More



Photo by Texas Mustang via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

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Logger Days • Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

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Calendar of Events

Labor Day Wknd Alder Ass Pack Burro Race

August 31, 2024 - Pack Burro Racing has a long and colorful history in the West, and South Fork is now host to an annual event sanctioned by The Western Pack Burro Racing Association. Join in as a spectator or as a participant (you'll need to own or rent a burro!). There's no riding in this sport; folks run alongside burros. And this is NOT an average foot race: even the fastest racer can be humbled by their running partner (with a mind of its own!). Brown's Park in town.

September South Fork Hog Roast

September 28, 2024 - Celebrate Fall in South Fork, CO! This family-friendly celebration of fall is the perfect addition to a weekend getaway to see the fall colors! Join in on a free dinner w/ all sides included and a cash beer garden. We'll have a large bonfire (or two!) and live music.

September Colorfest in South Fork

Late September/Early October - It's a glorious time of year to explore the mountains: Access our glorious back-country for an unrivaled tour of Rocky Mountain fall colors! There are no crowds in South Fork, but the roads and trails are abundant! Take your car, ATV, jeep or mountain bike; Hike through the shimmering golden forests, or fish your way down the aspen-bordered Rio Grande. Download our favorite driving tours and schedule of 'peak colors' at southfork.org.

October Chili Cook-Off

October 24, 2024 - Hunters, residents & visitors are invited to sample the delicious recipes, as well as judge and cast a ballot for "The Best Chili and Salsa in South Fork." There are always great desserts and drinks that can be purchased to go with your chili. Hunters are invited to this event as Forest Service and Parks & Wildlife personnel will be on-hand to answer questions before the season opens the following morning.

November Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day - Get served a hearty Thanksgiving meal compliments of the South Fork Kiwanis organization and enjoy turkey, mashed potatoes and pie. Proceeds go towards the four local food banks. Free Admission, open to the public.

Nov/Dec Yuletide & Winterfest

Early Winter - As the year winds down, the Town and South Fork businesses host a party. First is the annual Yuletide Lighting of the trees at the Visitor Center and historic water tower: See the incredible new lights at this event, enjoy Christmas music, Santa Claus (with gifts for every child), snacks, cookies, hot chocolate, and general holiday merriment! Winterfest brings local vendors to display and sell food, crafts, holiday goods, antiques, artwork, and more.



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YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

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by Oscar Wilde

PRIMA'S GUIDE TO FUNERALS
by Leonard Madrid

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
a collaboration of Creede Repertory Theatre & the Creede Musical Arts Collective

22nd Annual KID Show:
MAXIMUM CONFLICT: ETERNAL STRIFE
a comedy by Steve Moulds

41st Annual Young Audience Outreach Tour:
COYOTE & THE COUNTING GAME
Book and Lyrics by Diana Grisanti
Music by Emiliano Messiez



Celebrating Christy Brandt's 50th Season

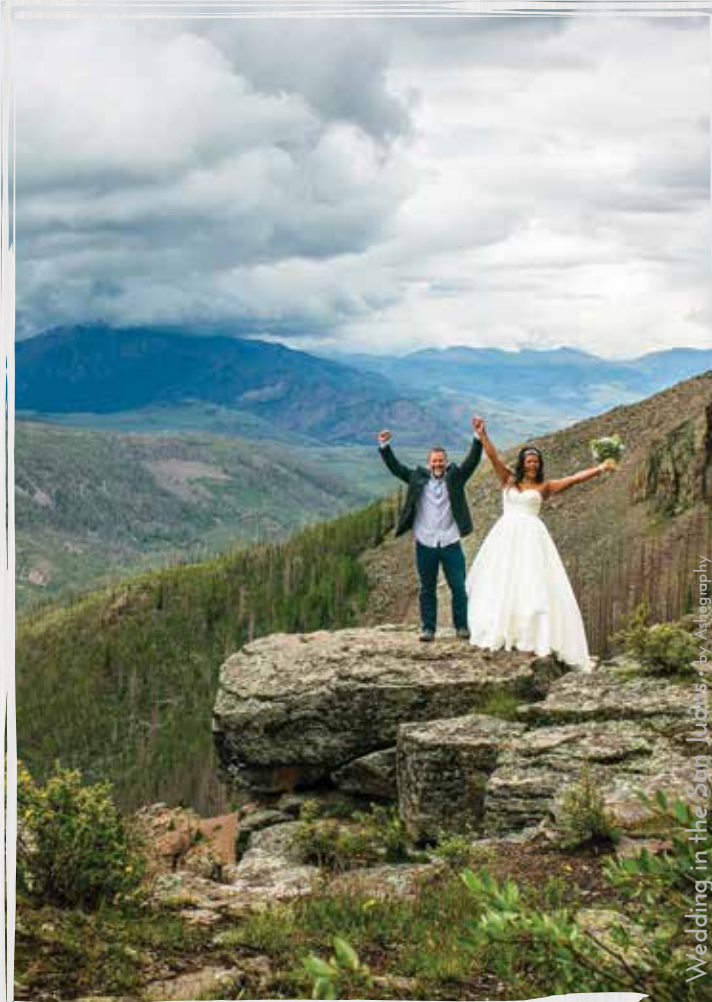
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Weddings & Events

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Wedding in the Sun, June 16, 2018, by Ashography

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What we offer

KIDS

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Fun Things to Do with the Youngsters

- Sled down a Mountain • Ice Skate • Learn to Fish
- Become a Wolf Creek Wolf Pup • Raft the Rio Grande
- Play Lumberjack or Cowboy • Railbike • See a Show
- Take Bikes Out on the Trail • Picnic at Big Meadows

Go Horseback Riding - Imagine you are a child from the Ute Tribe; you have just traded the Spaniards for your first horse and now venture out to explore the area's backcountry. Many of the hunting and traveling trails used by natives are still used today, and most offer the same view from the saddle you would have seen hundreds of years ago! Cottonwood Cove and Freemon's Ranch offer guided trips.

Hike a Trail, any Trail - We suggest the 1/2 mile hike from Million Reservoir, a hike around Big Meadows Reservoir (2 miles), or a hike to the Largest Fir Tree in the Rio Grande Forest (1/3 mile).

Sit around a Campfire at Tucker Ponds - Roast a marshmallow, tell a ghost story, or marvel at the vast expanse of stars overhead.

Ice Skate in Town - Gear up for an afternoon skate and Bonfire! Rickle Park is located right in town, and its skate shack holds free-to-use hockey and figure skates. Town puts on a big bonfire every Saturday evening, complete with music, hot drinks, and pick-up hockey games! A small sledding hill is perfect for those who need a skate-break.

Visit Creede for the Afternoon - Creede is best known for two things: silver mining and live theatre. Get a taste of both in an afternoon: Become a miner for a few hours in the Underground Mining Museum. Enter mine shafts bored into the cliff face, wander through tunnels mined from solid rock, and visit with former hard-rock miners! Next, visit the Creede Repertory Theatre for an award-winning show. Specifically look for the adventurous and entertaining *KID Show* or a seasonal general audience show. Check their website for kid-specific camps and events!



Learn More



Kid's Fishing Derby • by Ashography



Skating • by John McEvey



Fall Exploration • by B4 Studio



Photo by B4 Studio



Throwing Rocks • by B4 Studio

Plan your trip
Creede.com



2024 Calendar of Events

- Jan 13-14 Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament
- May 24-26 Annual of Taste of Creede Festival of Fine Arts & Dining
- June 8 Donkey Dash Pack Burro Race
- June/July - Wednesdays Creede Chute Out Bull Riding/Rodeo
- July 4-6 July 4th Street Festival & Parade Vendors • CO State Mining Championship Days of '92 Mining Events • Elks Lodge Dance
- July 13-19 Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous
- July 20 Creede Gravity Derby Car Race
- Aug 2-4 Rock & Mineral Show, Snowshoe Shuffle
- Aug TBD Silver Thread Artist's Studio Tour
- Aug 24-25 Headwaters Music Festival
- Aug 31-Sept 2 Labor Day Weekend • Salsa Fiesta Creede Mountain Run
- Sept 20-22 Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show Steamroller Printmaking
- Nov 29-30 Thanksgiving Chocolate Festival



Lodging Guide

Find your place to Stay & Play

Rooms
Cabin/Home
RV / Tent Site
Hot Tub / Pool
Pets
Laundry
Kitchen Units
Ski Packages
Golf Packages

Allen's Riverside Meadows Cabins 719-873-5280 www.riversidemeadowscabins.com	Riverside Meadows is located on the banks of the Rio Grande. We have made available 3 beautifully handcrafted log cabins that each offer privacy and seclusion. Amenities include a hot tub, picnic area/fire pit next to the river, kayaks, and more.	•	H	•	•				
Alpine Accents 719-873-0228 • www.alpineaccents.net	5 luxury vacation chalets - with full amenities, hot tub on private porch, stocked pond, 600 feet of the Rio Grande River & 13 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area.	•	H	•	•	•			
Alpine Trails RV 719-873-0261 • www.alpinetrailsrvpark.com	RV park with 42 sites, full hook-up, rec room, laundry and showers. Cabin for rent - sleeps 4. Free WiFi, cable available in office and rec hall. Close walk to the Rio Grande River, 20 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area!			•					
Arbor House Inn B&B 888-830-4642 • 719-873-5012 www.arborhouseinnco.com	Luxurious Inn in gorgeous riverside setting. Five guest rooms: private bath, sat. TV, DVD, Wi-Fi, mini fridge, microwave, coffee service, robes. Romantic honeymoon suite: candelabra fireplace, whirlpool tub. Outdoor hot tub, picnic areas, fire pits. On-site fishing. Gourmet breakfast daily. New: "Cottage on the Creek" extended-stay vacation rental.	•	H				•	•	
Aspen Ridge Cabins and Yurts 719-873-5921 www.aspenridgecabins.com	Located in the heart of South Fork and open year-round. Six cabins of varying sizes and two luxury yurts. All cabins and yurts have full kitchens, private bathrooms, high speed Wi-Fi, and streaming and satellite TV. On-premises walk-in game cooler, ice for guests' hunting and fishing harvests, and an outdoor fire pit for gatherings and picnics.	•		•		•			
Aspen Ridge RV Park 719-873-2248 • aspenridgerv.com	Wonderful, clean, fun RV park with 44-50amp full hook ups. No RV? No problem! Stay in one of our fully furnished campers. Bring OHVs and ride right out of the park to trails or into town! Recreation clubhouse, fish cleaning station, dog park, community campfires & planned activities!	•	•	•	•	•			
Beaver Creek Christian Camp/Retreat • 719-873-5311 www.beavercreekcamp.org	Don't just rent a room. Rent a mountain top! Nestled in the Rio Grande National Forest, we are South Fork's newest large group lodging facility. Open Year Round. Great for weddings, family reunions, retreats, conferences, ski trips, and mission trips.	•					•		
Blue Creek Lodge 719-658-2479 • www.bluecreeklodge.net	Nestled in the heart of the Rio Grande National Forest, Blue Creek Lodge offers the utmost in fine vacationing. Cabins and rooms with private baths and soft mountain water. RV park and gift shop.	•	•	•		•	•	•	
Chinook Cabins & RV Park 888-890-9110 • 719-873-1707 www.chinooklodge.net	Nine log cabins that are nestled in amongst fifty year old Blue Spruce trees. We offer log cabins that sleep from 2-10 people. 18 RV sites with full hookups, along the South Fork.	•	H	•	•	•			
Cottonwood Cove Lodge 855-216-2683 • 719-658-2242 www.cottonwoodcove.com	In continuous operation since 1944, we are a family oriented guest ranch with 1, 2, or 3 bedroom cabins, RV sites, full service restaurant, large gift store, horse rides, rafting and more on the beautiful Rio Grande river with gold medal trout fishing, and scenery second to none.	•	•	•	•	•			
Foothills Lodge & Cabins 800-510-3897 • 719-873-5969 www.foothillslodgeandcabins.com	Our cabins are situated in a quiet but convenient location in the heart of South Fork. We are close to local outdoor sports as well as gift shops, restaurants, lounge and grocery store. Offering a wide selection of cabins with 1 or 2 bedrooms sleeping from 1-11 people.	•	•	H	•	•			
Four Seasons Lodge 719-657-1140 • fourseasonslodgeco.com	We hope new and returning guests will enjoy their stay with us, as we are in the process of being updated! Stop by, stay with us and enjoy our cozy family atmosphere. Free high-speed internet and Wifi access, Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Tea making facilities, DVD player	•	•	H	•	•			
Fun Valley Family Resort 970-661-2220 • frontdesk@funvalley.us https://funvalley.us	Colorado's finest family resort, offering RV spaces, cabins and motel rooms. Full amenities include dining and rec halls, convenience store, gas station, fishing, mini-golf, hiking, bikes, square dancing, boating, gift shop, laundry and more.	•	•	•	•	•			
Grandview Cabins & RV Park 855-713-3251 • 719-873-5541 www.grandview-resort.com	12 cabins and spacious RV sites with full hook-ups are available. Showers, rec hall, spa, cable, pets welcome.	•	•	H	•	•	•		
Lazy Bear Cabins 877-873-1443 • 719-873-1443 www.lazybearcabins.com	Year-round lodging in town. Our tastefully decorated and comfortable cabins offer all the modern conveniences and a fully equipped kitchen. Each cabin sleeps up to six guests, and makes a perfect lodging choice for an outdoor vacation, family reunion, hunting trip, or romantic escape!	•		•		•	•	•	
LOGE Wolf Creek 719-873-1900 logecamps.com/property/wolfcreek	A stylish pet-friendly basecamp for the modern adventurer complete with a cedar hot tub & sauna, full bar, cozy café, and incredible outdoor gear included in your stay.	•	RV	H	•	•			

Lodging Guide

Find your place to Stay & Play

Rooms
Cabin/Home
RV / Tent Site
Hot Tub / Pool
Pets
Laundry
Kitchen Units
Ski Packages
Golf Packages

Moon Valley Resort 719-873-5216 • moonvalleyrvresort.com	Family owned campground with along Wolf Creek Pass. 30 amp hook-ups, laundry, showers, and large public club house and kitchen.			•	•	•				
One In A Million www.airbnb.com/rooms/42740763	3 bedroom, 2 bath house perfect for 4 adults. Located on 1 acre just a few minutes walk from the national forest. Enjoy the sunrises and sunsets from the cozy enclosed porch. ATV parking. Not suitable for young kids.	•			•	•	•			
Peacock Meadows RV park 786-453-7380 www.peacock-meadows.com	New, modern RV Park. Big Rig Friendly and pet friendly - we offer 56 spacious sites with awesome views, picnic tables and fire rings. Every RV site is equipped with 30 and 50 amp electric (some with 100 amp). Free broadband internet. Family friendly "old west" recreation building.			•	•	•				
Quality Inn & Suites 800-285-6590 • 719-873-5600 www.choicehotels.com/colorado/south-fork/comfort-suites-hotels	Spectacular Mountain setting with views in every direction. Located in the center of South Fork. Deluxe King & Queen Rooms & Suites, Indoor Pool & Hot Tub, Complimentary Deluxe Breakfast, Fitness Center, Business Center, Meeting/Banquet Facilities, WiFi, Air Conditioning & more!	•			H P	•	•	•		•
Rachel's KOKO Cabins 719-657-1157 • rachelkoko.com	Three year-round vacation cabins. Each are 1 bed/1bath, sleeps 4. Located in the heart of town and walking/viewing distance to the South Fork river and hiking trails. On-site food truck, coffee shop, and bar.	•				•				
Rainbow Lodge & RV Park 888-873-5174 • 719-873-5571 www.rainbowsouthfork.biz	Groceries, sporting goods, housewares, hardware, RV supplies, Amoco gas, photo developing, hunting/fishing license, motel, RV park, cabins, Blimpie's sandwich shop, frozen yogurt, mini mart, propane, free RV dump. Located at the junction of US Hwy 160 & CO 149	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Rio River Retreat 806-290-2456 • rioriverretreat.com	Rio River Retreat is located on the gold medal fishing waters of the Rio Grande River! With three floors, 6 bedrooms plus a sleeping loft, it will accommodate up to 25 guests. Small Cabin next door; sleeps 6. Perfect for weddings and retreats. On-site horse boarding.	•					•	•		
River Club Vacation Rentals 719-873-1995 www.riverclubvacationrentals.com	Nestled in between the beautiful San Juan and La Garita mountain ranges with breathtaking views. All of the River Club Vacation Rentals are elegantly furnished with fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces, back patios and attached garages.									
Riverbend Resort 800-621-6512 • 719-873-5344 www.riverbend-resort.com	Cozy cabins with fireplaces & decks. Deluxe cabin with private indoor hot tub. FHU RV sites. Riverside tent sites. Sat TV, rec hall, hot tub, game room, gift shop. Pets OK. Stocked river fishing. Ski & Golf packages.	•	•	H		•	•	•	•	
Silver Thread Base Camp 719-873-5500 silverthreadbasecamp.net	Large RV sites with huge cottonwood trees on the banks of the Rio Grande River. Gold Medal Waters flyfishing. 30/50 amp, store, laundry, WiFi, tent sites, rec hall and more.	•	•			•	•			
South Fork Lodge & RV Park 877-354-2345 • 719-873-5303 www.southforklodgeandrvc.com	Come enjoy our rustic cabins, featuring knotty pine interiors; fully furnished kitchens; living rooms & bathrooms. Free wi-fi; satellite tv; hot tub & coin-operated laundry room. RV park w/large FHU sites, 30 & 50 amp service & rec hall.	•	•	H		•	•	•	•	•
South Fork Vacation Rentals 970-247-0967 • www.vbro.com/22555	Recently remodeled 2000sf log home - river, golf course, and mountain views; 3 bedrooms, large hot tub, sauna, BBQ grill, game room and more.	•		H		•	•			
Spruce Lodge 719-873-5605 • www.sprucelodges.com	The Spruce Lodge is in the National Register of Historic Places. Cabins, hotel, luxury B&B. Newly renovated. Free wi-fi, hot tub and hot breakfast.	•	•	•	H	•		•		
The Wolves' Den in South Fork 719-873-3675 • southforkrental.com	Our 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home is nicknamed "The Wolves Den," a place for family and friends to gather for fun and fellowship.	•		H		•	•			
Tiny Timbers Resort 719-469-2500 • tinytimbersresort.com	Offering a variety of cozy cabins and terrific tiny homes for your visit. ATV trails access. Enjoy the on-site Coffee Shop and Restaurant.	•	•					•		
Ute Bluff Lodge 800-473-0595 • 719-873-5595 www.utelblufflodge.com	Creatively decorated rustic log cabins, comfortable lodge rooms, and fully equipped RV spaces on 17 beautiful acres is what you will find at Ute Bluff Lodge. Adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest, close to the Rio Grande River, and just minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area.	•	•	H		•	•	•	•	
Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge 800-522-9653 • 719-873-5371 www.wolfcreekranchco.com	We are the closest lodging to Wolf Creek Ski Area. Coming to the mountains? Why not stay in the mountains?	•	•	H		•		•		

Creede Chamber of Commerce
719-658-2374 • www.creede.com

Del Norte Chamber of Commerce
719-657-2845 www.delnortechamber.org

Pagosa Springs Visitor Center
866-438-4917 • www.visitpagosasprings.com

GAS / GROCERY / LIQUOR

Rainbow Grocery / Gas • 719-873-5545
rainbowgroceryandsportinggoods.com

Switchback Liquor • 719-873-5200

Dollar General Store • 719-873-2218

DINING & DRINKS

Holy Grill • 719-221-5981 • holygrillsf.com

Hunt Brothers Pizza • 719-873-5345
Rainbow Grocery Express

LOGE Wolf Creek • 719-873-1900

Los Chavalos South Fork • 719-657-9038

Mountain Pizza & Taproom
719-873-9801 • mountainpizzataproom.com

Pale Morning Coffee at An Anglers
Bookcase • 719-480-4981

Rachel's "keep on keeping on"
719-657-1157 • rachelsskoko.com

Ramon's Mexican Restaurant
719-873-0231 • ramonssouthfork.com

Rio Grande Club, Restaurant & Grille
719-873-1995 • riograndeclubandresort.com

South Fork Eats • 719-344-3730

South Fork Malt Shoppe • 719-657-1013

The Gaslamp Tavern • 719-657-7419

Tiny Timbers Coffee Bistro
719-657-1134 • tinytimbersresort.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Ooh La Spa & Boutique • Creede
719-658-3070 • www.oohlaspacreede.com

Rio Grande Club & Resort
719-873-1995 • riograndeclubandresort.com

Salon Vita Nova (formerly Keri's Kutz)
719-873-0124 • salonvitanova.com

Spa at Tiny Timbers
719-657-7501 • tinytimbersresort.com/spa

Upper Rio Grande Medical Clinic
719-873-5494 • rio-grande-hospital.org

RETAIL & SHOPPING

8200 Mountain Sports
719-873-1977 • www.8200sports.com

Avon - Karen Miller • 719-873-5466
www.youravon.com/kmiller3546

Blue Eyed Bear Boutique • 719-873-0098

Chapel of the South Fork Thrift Store
719-873-0585

Docs Outdoor Sports
719-873-5151 • www.docsooutdoor.com

Dollar General • 719-873-2218

Eclectic Fiber Arts • eclecticfiberarts.com

Ooh La Spa & Boutique • Creede
719-658-3070 • oohlaspacreede.com

Outdoor Depot, LLC
719-873-1060 • outdoordepot.biz

Rainbow Grocery • 719-873-5545
rainbowgroceryandsportinggoods.com

Tiny Timbers Gift Shop
719-657-1134 • tinytimbersresort.com

The Holy Chic • Online Only
binisboutique.com

Willow Mountain Limited • Online
Only • willowmountainlimited.com

SPORTS & RECREATION

8200 Mountain Sports
719-873-1977 • www.8200sports.com

Burris and Sons
www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

Cottonwood Cove Horseback Rides
719-658-2242 • www.cottonwoodcove.com

Creede Arts Council
719-658-0312 • www.creedeartsCouncil.com

Creede Repertory Theatre
866-658-2540 • www.creederep.org

Docs Outdoor Sports
719-873-5151 • www.docsooutdoor.com

Freemons Ranch - Horseback Rides
Creede • 719-658-2454

Mountain Skillz Guided ATV Tours
719-849-3168 • mountainskillz.com

Narrow Ridge Outdoors (Mntn Man Raff)
719-873-0188 • narrowridgeoutdoors.com

**New Hope Gymnasium and Archery
Range** • 719-873-1202

Outdoor Depot, LLC
719-873-1060 • www.outdoordepot.biz

Rainbow Sporting Goods • 719-873-5545
rainbowgroceryandsportinggoods.com

Revolution Rail Co. Railbikes
(888) 738-0123 • revrail.com

Rickel Arena • (719) 850-1916

Rio Grande Club Golf Course & Resort
(719) 873-1995 • riograndeclubandresort.com

Rocky Mountain Ski and Raft
719-873-2495 • rockymountainskiRaft.com

Snow Country Snowmobile Tours
Pagosa • snowcountrysnowmobiles.com

Wolf Creek Anglers
719-873-1414 • www.wolfcreekanglers.com

Wolf Creek Ski Area
800-SKI-WOLF • www.wolfcreekski.com

Important Numbers

Town Hall	719-873-0152
Visitor Center	719-873-5512
Police Department	719-873-1040
U.S. Post Office	719-873-5611
Fire Department	719-873-1030
Ambulance	719-873-5544
Community Center	719-873-5512
Carnegie Library	719-873-5079
National Weather Service	719-589-3232
Rio Grande County Sheriff	719-657-4000
Road Information	877-315-7623

LODGING - Outside South Fork

See *South Fork Lodging Guide*: pg 56

Creede Hotel & Restaurant
719-658-2608 • thecreedehotel.com

The Windsor Hotel Del Norte
719-657-9031 • windsorhoteldelnorte.com

REALTY / LONG TERM RENTALS

Beau Meyer Realty
719-873-5257 • www.beaumeier.com

EXIT Realty Home & Ranch
Team Cooney • 303-525-7037

Land Properties LLC • 719-873-1012
landpropertyssouthfork.com

RE/MAX Pinnacle, Trisha Taylor
303-525-7037 • trishataylor.remax.com

Steffens & Company Realty
719-873-1700 • www.steffenscorealty.com

Team Murphy Realty, LLC
719-873-5050 • teammurphyrealty.com

Valley Realty
719-873-5559 • century21valleyrealty.com

CONSTRUCTION / HOME DÉCOR

Blount Construction
719-480-5110 • blount.co

Brooke-Stone, LLC
719-873-5277 • www.brooke-stonellc.com

Hathorn Construction, Inc
719-873-5804 • www.hathornconst.com

Helmstetler Architects & Associates, Inc
719-850-8995 • www.helmstetlerarch.com

La Garita Nursery • 719-754-3630

Madlson Construction Corporation
719-873-5417 • www.madlson.com

Musick Construction • 719-873-2233

O'Rourke Excavating • 719-580-9602

South Fork Lumber Co. • 719-873-5481

Stephens Custom Homes • 719-873-5801

The Finishing Edge • 719-873-2221

Tru Grit Excavating • 719-298-1090

PETS/ANIMALS

Ruff Dogs Daycare & Boarding
970-485-4378 • www.ruffdog.net

Shampooch • 719-510-6462

Silo Ranch Stables • 719-657-3208

South Fork Veterinary Clinic
719-451-2210 • www.southforkvetclinic.com

24hr - Alpine Veterinary Hospital
719-852-2561 • alpinevethospital.com

CHURCHES

Chapel of the South Fork
719-873-5753 • chapelofthesouthfork.net

Emmanuel Chapel
719-873-5411 • 719-873-1577
www.emmanuelchapelSF.com

Holy Family Catholic Mission
719-657-3147

New Hope Church • 719-873-1202
www.newhopechurchsf.org

St. Francis Episcopal Church
719-873-5358

South Fork Church of Christ
719-873-1259

SERVICES

Ashography - Photographer Ashlee Bratton
ashography.com • 303-250-6054

Community Banks of Colorado
719-873-5562 • www.cobnks.com

Creede Visitor Center & Chamber
719-658-2374 • www.creede.com

Del Norte Bank
719-657-3376 • www.truelocalbank.com

Elk Country Storage • 719-873-0180

McB's Laundromat • 719-580-3512

South Fork Friends Foundation
southforkfriendsfoundation.org

Harding Dental • 719-873-6021
www.hardingdentalgroup.com

Holiday RV South, Inc
719-873-1800 • www.rvstealsanddeals.com

J&S Appliance Service • 719-580-1185

Kiwanis Club • 719-873-5466

KSLV Radio
719-852-3581 • www.kslvradio.com

La Garita Nursery • 719-754-3630

Master Print & Web Design
866-240-6738 • masterprintandweb.com

Mark's Restoration & Cleaning Service
719-873-1078

McGregor Electric • 719-873-9852

MDS Waste & Recycle
719-658-3060 • mdsWasteandrecycle.com

Mike Musick - Attorney • 719-873-2233

Network Funding, Joe Ford
719-992-3437 • nflp.com

Only Garage • 719-873-9797

Ramona's Car Wash • Four Seasons Drive

Rocky Mountain Beetle Busters
719-873-1000

Ron Howard Law Offices
719-873-5901

SLV Rural Electric Cooperative
719-852-3538 • www.slvrec.com

South Fork Cemetery • 719-873-5805

South Fork Chamber of Commerce
719-873-5556 • southforkchamber.com

South Fork Lumber • 719-873-5581

South Fork Propane • 719-873-5857

South Fork Self Storage • 719-873-5805

South Fork Tines - Valley Publishing
719-852-3531 • www.southforktines.com

South Fork Title
719-873-1776 • southforktitle.com

South Fork Towing & Recovery
719-873-5277

South Fork Visitor Center
719-873-5512 • www.southfork.org
28 Silverthread Lane, South Fork, CO

**Upper Rio Grande Economic
Development Council**
(719) 657-4215 • www.urgedc.com

Western Land Title • 719-873-1740



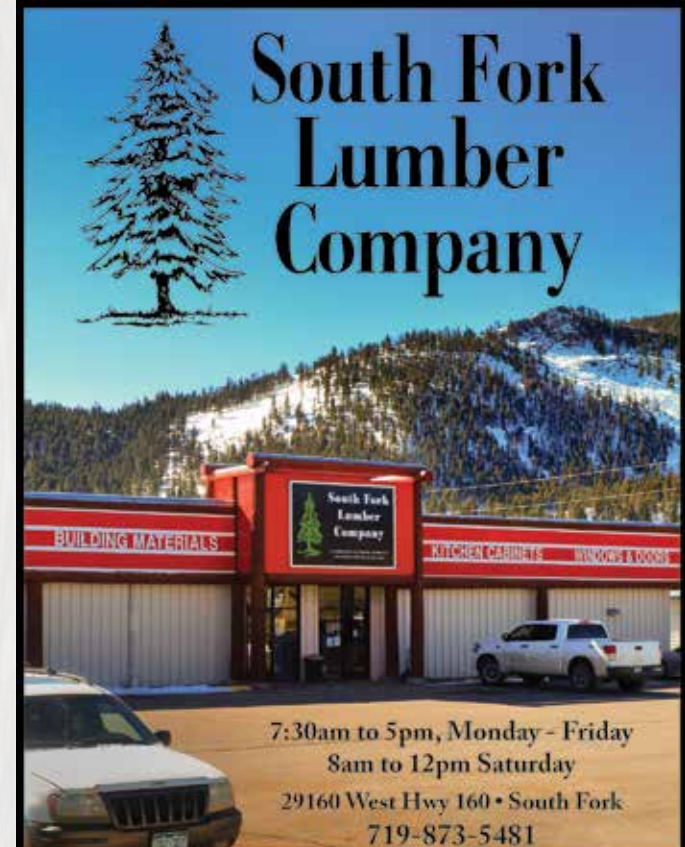
Come see us!
138 Ponderosa Drive, South Fork
Call: (719) 451-2210
Text: 844-431-3169
Email: info@southforkvetclinic.com
SouthForkVetClinic.com



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719-873-5481

Visitor GUIDEPOST

South Fork Fast Facts

- One of Colorado's newest towns, incorporated May 19, 1992
- City limit population of 500 with an area population of 1,200
- Summer peak population reaches 3,500+ residents & tourists
- Located at the southwestern end of the San Luis Valley
- Visitor Center is located at the Junction of Hwys 160 & 149
- GPS 37°40'09"N 106°38'34"W • 37.669065°N 106.642829°W



photo courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

www.
southfork
.org

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Learn More

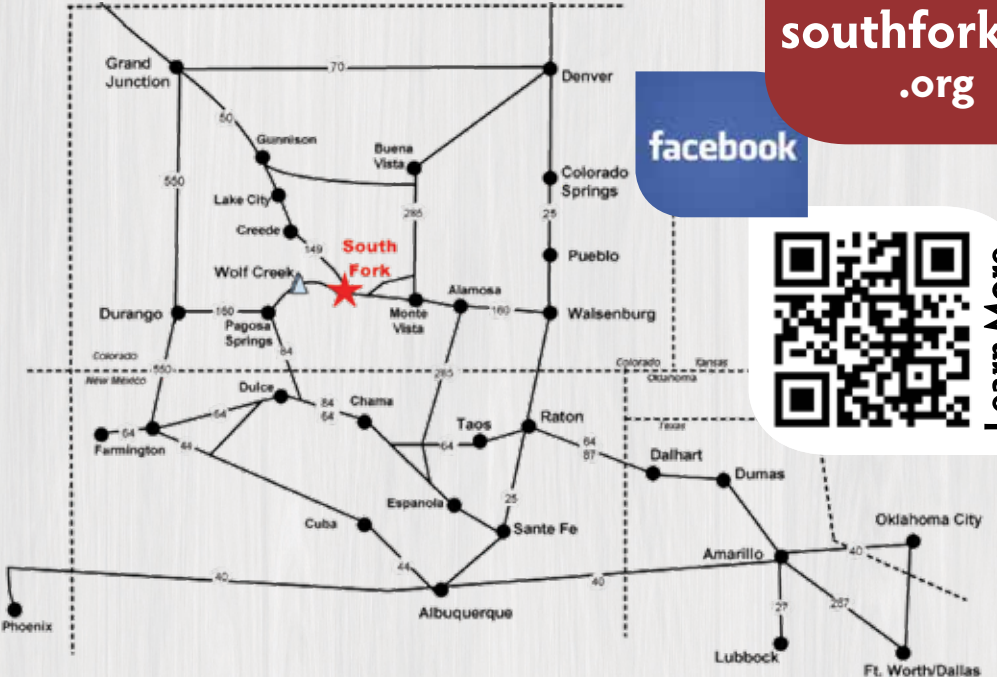
Protecting our Public Lands

*take only photographs,
leave only footprints*

Divide Ranger District • www.fs.usda.gov
13308 W Hwy 160, Del Norte • 719-657-3321
304 S Main St., Creede • 719-658-2556

Distance from South Fork

Wolf Creek Ski Area	18 mi	1/2 hr
Creede, CO	22 mi	20 min
Denver, CO	234 mi	4 hr
Colorado Springs, CO	211 mi	3 1/2 hr
Pueblo, CO	153 mi	2 1/2 hr
Santa Fe, NM	185 mi	3 hr
Durango, CO	99 mi	2 hr
Phoenix, AZ	561 mi	9 hrs
Albuquerque, NM	248 mi	4 hrs
Amarillo, TX	390 mi	6 hrs
Ft. Worth/Dallas, TX	753 mi	12 hrs
Houston, TX	993 mi	16 hrs
Oklahoma City, OK	629 mi	11 hrs



If you yearn to live and work where others can only vacation, visit www.southfork.org to find out how to make this recreational haven your new home.

Today's Weather Forecast: absolutely perfect

South Fork experiences all of the four seasons. However, keep in mind the following saying, "If you don't like the weather in Colorado, wait 15 minutes... and it'll change." Summer temperatures range from 40-50° at night, to 75-85° during the day and light breezes usually keep temperatures relatively mild. Precipitation is variable with an average of 15.8 inches/year, and 80 inches of snow/year. We are also blessed with more than 300 days of sunshine a year, making this an ideal area for outdoor enthusiasts. Warmest Month - July - High: 91°F, Low: 50°F • Coolest Month - January - High: 48°F, Low: 5°F or lower.

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