

## San Miguel River

The San Miguel River begins in the San Juan Mountains above Telluride and ends at the confluence with the Dolores River 72 miles downstream. While the San Miguel is more or less free-flowing, diversion dams dot the river and alter its flow. The San Miguel drops over 7,000 feet from an alpine to a desert ecosystem. The riparian corridor is lush and contains numerous globally rare riparian plant communities.

The San Miguel offers the whitewater boater a variety of runs, within Class II+ to IV range. The consistent gradient and continuous flow of the river provides the boater with an abundance of whitewater rapids. While the river should be easily negotiable by the intermediate whitewater boater, numerous strainers and downed wood from spring floods can make the river more challenging than its rating would suggest. Use caution in maneuvering around these ever-changing obstacles.

### • Caddis Flats Campground

This campground and boat launch is located between the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway (CO145) and the San Miguel River. The canyon in this area makes the transition from forest to high desert and is quite scenic. The campground has three developed campsites, one with a cabana. Four parking areas will accommodate large RVs and boat trailer parking. There is a toilet but no drinking water. There is a hand-carry boat launch.

From Placerville (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), go west on CO 145 1.8 miles. Entrance is on the left (south). From Norwood, go east on CO 145 about 16.5 miles. Entrance is on the right (south).

GPS: N38.02724 W108.09330



## Dolores River

The Dolores River flows for more than 200 miles through southwestern Colorado, starting high in the San Juan Mountains and descending to its confluence with the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah border. The Dolores flows through five major western life zones, from the alpine life zone at its headwaters to the Upper Sonoran life zone along much of its lower reaches.

In an average snowpack year, the river is floatable from late April to early June. In a very dry year, there may be no boatable flows at all. Flows on the lower Dolores River are controlled by spill releases from McPhee Reservoir, 12.5 miles upstream of the Bradford launch site. The spill releases are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). For more information on BOR spill releases call 970-565-7562.

### • Ledges Cottonwood and Ledges Rock House Campgrounds

Located in groves of cottonwoods, the Ledges campgrounds are about one mile apart along the San Miguel River. The river in this section flows over sandstone bedrock where rock ledges form large holes creating rapids during high water.

Cottonwood (14 sites) and Rock House (12 sites) campgrounds have RV and tent sites, a few cabanas, picnic tables, grills, toilets, and hand-carry boat ramps. No drinking water or trash services.

From Naturita, go about 2 miles east on CO 141 to CR 90 on the left (north). Go north 1.1 miles on CR 90 toward the power plant. At the "Y" near the power plant, keep right on CR 90 toward Montrose. Go another 6.8 miles to the bridge over the San Miguel River (unsigned). Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn hard right onto the unsigned road that parallels the river. Cottonwood campground is about 2 miles from the bridge, and Rock House is about 1 mile beyond Cottonwood. Caution: During wet weather, the narrow, one-lane road along the river may become slick and impassable.

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### • Lower Beaver Campground

This campground is also located between CO 145 and the San Miguel River about 0.4 miles down river from the Beaver Creek Boat Ramp. There are three tent sites with tables and grills. Two parking areas will accommodate a few small RVs. A toilet and hand-carry boat launch is present.

From Placerville (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), go west 10.5 miles. Entrance is between MM 94 & 95, and is on the left (south). From Norwood, go east on CO145 about 5.5 miles. Entrance is on the right (south).

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### • Bedrock

The Bedrock site is adjacent to the Dolores River. There is a boat ramp and 4 cabanas with tables and grills plus a large flat area to accommodate additional tents and RVs. There is no drinking water or permanent toilet. Seasonally there is a portable toilet located at the boat ramp. There are opportunities for rafting, fishing, hiking and scenic viewing. Open year-round. Camping is limited to one night.

At **Bedrock**, at the junction of CO 90 & CR Y9 (just west of the Dolores River bridge at the eastern edge of Bedrock), turn south on CR Y9. Go 1 mile on the dirt road to the site. Bedrock is about 21 miles west of Naturita via CO 141/ CO 90, and about 40 miles west of Norwood via CO 145/ CO 141/ CO 90.

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### • Dominguez Campground

Dominguez Campground is nestled among ponderosa pine, cottonwood trees and willows next to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness and the Uncompahgre National Forest. The surrounding red canyon country has opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Off-highway vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed in the adjoining wilderness area. Big Dominguez Creek runs through the campground and is very popular for fishing. There are ten campsites, no fees, and no drinking water or trash service.

**Due to road conditions, RVs and travel trailers are not recommended.**

From **Whitewater** (Jct. US 50 & CO 141), drive about 15 miles south on CO 141 to CR 26.10. A sign at the junction reads "National Forest Access. Divide Road. Uncompahgre National Forest". Turn left onto CR 26.10 and proceed south about 6 miles to the junction of CR 26.10 and CR 24.40. Watch for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area signs. Follow CR 24.40 about 5 miles to the campground.

From **Montrose** to the US 50/CO 141 junction is about 52 miles northwest. Total distance about 63 miles. From Grand Junction, the US50/CO141 junction is about 8 miles east on US50. Caution: CR 24.40 is extremely hazardous in wet conditions. Watch for rockslides on the last 2 miles of road.

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### • Escalante Potholes Recreation site

At Escalante Potholes Recreation Site there are four designated campsites. Camping is allowed only in the designated sites. The site has a toilet, cabanas, tables and grills. There is no drinking water or trash service. Wood fires are not permitted. The sites can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet. There are hiking trails and historical sites nearby.

From **Delta** (Jct. US 50 & CO 92), go west on US 50 about 12 miles to CR 6.50/Escalante Canyon Road on the left (southwest). Watch for the signs pointing to the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Proceed on CR 6.50 about 12 miles to the recreation site. Delta is about 21 miles northwest of Montrose.

## Uncompahgre Plateau

The Uncompahgre Plateau is a distinctive large uplift rising from the Colorado River at 4,600 feet to elevations that exceed 10,000 feet. The plateau extends about 70 miles bordered on the east by the wide valleys of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers and on the west by the narrow gorges of the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers. The summit ridge of the plateau is relatively flat and runs southeast to northwest. The plateau is incised by many multi-colored deep canyons—Big Dominguez, Escalante, Roubideau, Tabeguache, and Unaweep—separated by relatively flat mesas.



### • Iron Springs Campground

Iron Springs Campground has 8 campsites for tents, tent trailers, pickup campers, or small RVs, and one walk-in site suitable for a group. Popular activities in the area are OHV trail riding, hiking, mountain biking, and big game hunting. A toilet is available, but there is no drinking water or trash service.

From **Montrose**: From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 23.5 miles from Montrose to the campground on the left.

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### • Divide Forks Campground

Situated in a large aspen grove, the rustic Divide Forks Campground has 11 campsites. The campsites vary in size from suitable only for tents, tent trailers or pickup campers to suitable for large RVs. Many OHV opportunities, as well as hiking and horse trails, are nearby. There are no fees, water or trash service, but a toilet is present.

From **Whitewater** (Jct. US 50 & CO 141), drive about 15 miles south on CO 141 to CR 26.10. A sign at the junction reads "National Forest Access. Divide Road. Uncompahgre National Forest". Turn left onto CR 26.10 (which becomes FS 402) and proceed south about 15.5 miles to the campground entrance on the right. From Montrose to the US 50/CO 141 junction is about 52 miles. Total distance about 82 miles.

From **Montrose** via Divide Road: From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 24 miles from Montrose to FS 540/FS 402 junction. Take FS 402 (Divide Road) west about 16.5 miles to the FS 402/FS 503 junction. Turn left, continuing on FS 402 for an additional 33.5 miles to the campground entrance on the left. Total distance about 74 miles.

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## Silesca Cabin

The historic Silesca Cabin is located on the Uncompahgre Plateau in a beautiful meadow surrounded by aspen and spruce/fir forests. This rustic cabin will accommodate up to six guests. Amenities include non-potable running water, a shower, flush toilet, electric stove, refrigerator, and a wood burning stove.

Recreation opportunities nearby include hiking, mountain biking, OHV trails, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The cabin is located about 40 minutes southwest of Montrose. For more information and reservations, go online at Recreation.gov or call 1-800-456-2267. Information may also be obtained by contacting the Ouray Ranger District.

### • Columbine Pass Campground

The existing campground has six small to medium campsites suitable for tents or smaller camping units not exceeding 25 feet single/35 feet combined length. There is a toilet nearby, but no drinking water or trash service.

The area is popular for ATV riding and fishing.

From **Montrose via Divide Road**: From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 24 miles from Montrose to FS 540/FS 402 junction. Take FS 402 (Divide Road) west about 16.2 miles to the campground on the left.

From **Montrose** via 25 Mesa Road: Take US 50 north to the Jct. of US 50 & CO 348 in Olatha (about 10 miles). Turn west on CO 348, and follow it about 12 miles to the junction with 25 Mesa Road (CR D.00). Turn left (west) on 25 Mesa Road and follow it about 25 miles southwest until it ends at Divide Road (FS 402). Turn left on FS 402 and go about 0.2 miles to the campground entrance on the right. 25 Mesa Road is named variously CR D.00, CR Q37, and FS 503.

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### • Future Plans for Columbine Pass Campground

Construction may begin during early summer of 2012 on a primitive OHV campground. The 100-acre project includes day-use parking, connections to OHV routes, an open OHV riding area, and designated campsites. Contact the Ouray Ranger District for the current status of camping in the Columbine Pass area before your visit.

Currently, dispersed camping is allowed around the old gravel pit until the improvement project begins. The open, flat area surrounding the old gravel pit will accommodate RVs of any size. No drinking water, toilets or trash service is provided.

The entrance to the dispersed camping area/new campground area (FS 533) is across the road and a few hundred yards east of the Existing Columbine Campground (see above). The camping area, not visible from Divide Road, begins at the top of the small rise.

## Ridgway State Park

Ridgway State Park is a great central location to enjoy mountain scenery and a five-mile long reservoir. The park offers modern, universally-accessible campgrounds with year-round camping, restrooms, three yurts, picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming area and trails. Also, during the high season, coin-operated showers, a laundromat, snack machines, and a change machine are available in the Camper Services Building. All watercraft is subject to inspection.

From **Montrose**, take U.S. 550 south for 22 miles to the park entrance on the right (west) side of the road. From Ridgway, take U.S. 550 north for 4 miles to the park entrance on the left (west) side of the road.

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### • Dutch Charlie Campgrounds

The best mountain views are found in the **Dakota Terraces Campground** at sites 1-79. This campground is within walking distance of the reservoir and swim beach. All campsites have RV electrical hookups and shared water. A dump station is located at the entrance to the campground. This is the only area of the park with year-round RV camping.

**Elk Ridge Campground** is on the top of a mesa covered in piñon pine and juniper trees and offers campsites 80-187. RV campsites have electric hookups and shared water. There are 10 walk-in tent sites.

### • PA-CO-CHU-PUI Campground

Campsites 200-295 are within Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground at the north end of the park. Two loops provide full hookups. Campsites 200-280 are close to the Uncompahgre River. Tent campers can enjoy the 15 walk-in campsites (281-295) located across the river in a secluded ponderosa pine forest.

**For more information, call 970-626-5822, go to [ridgway.park@state.co.us](mailto:ridgway.park@state.co.us). For reservations, call 800-678-2267 or go to [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us).**