

Uncompahgre Mountains-Norwood Ranger District

The mountain division of the Uncompahgre National Forest and surrounding lands consist of rugged northern slopes of the San Juan Mountains, high plateaus, narrow stream valleys, and steep walled canyons like those surrounding the towns of Telluride, Ouray and Lake City.

The San Juan Mountains are characterized by high, jagged peaks and deep, narrow canyons interspersed with open alpine grassland. Several peaks exceed 14,000 feet in elevation. Aspen and oak brush create a spectacular autumn display against dark spruce and pine, and the sky-piercing alpine peaks of the San Juan Mountains.



• Matterhorn Campground

At Matterhorn Campground there are 28 campsites. Many of those sites have scenic mountain views. Hiking and biking trails, fishing and jeep roads are found nearby. Lizard Head Wilderness is about 3 miles away. There are walk-in tent sites, vehicle sites, and several campsites that offer RV hookups for electricity and septic. Showers are available.

Seasonal Information: A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the campground is closed.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for about 9 miles. Entrance is on the left (east).

GPS: N37.84698 W107.88251

• Sunshine Campground

Sunshine is a single paved loop campground with 18 campsites nestled in a mixed aspen/conifer forest. A spectacular view of Sunshine Peak is visible from many of the sites. Drinking water and toilets are available. Large RVs can be accommodated in some sites. Biking, hiking, OHV and 4WD opportunities are in the area.

Seasonal Information: A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the campground is closed.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for 4.9 miles. Entrance is on the right (west).

GPS: N39.88936 W107.88851

• Woods Lake Campground

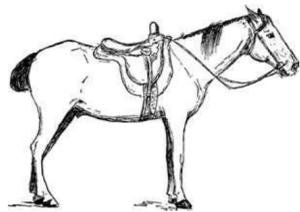
Situated in an aspen stand, the campground has 41 campsites, including 5 with horse facilities. The horse loop, sites 32-36, has a corral with 5 paddocks, a watering trough, hitching rails, feed holders, and stock trailer parking. The main campground has both RV and tent sites, with 4 double sites. Located near Woods Lake and the Lizard Head Wilderness, it serves as an excellent base camp. Mountain bikers and motorcyclists may ride the 11.5-mile Wilson Mesa Trail. Native Colorado Cutthroat trout are found in Woods Lake.

Seasonal Information: A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the Forest Service manages the campground, no fees are charged, and services are limited.

From **Placerville** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), travel east 2.9 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 9.4 miles on CR 57P, FS 618 and FS 362 to the campground.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel west 9.7 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 9.4 miles as above.

GPS: N37.88759 W108.05254



• Alta Lakes Dispersed Camping

At Alta Lakes there are a number of primitive, dispersed camping sites. This scenic location with three small alpine lakes has opportunities for fishing, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, mountain biking, jeeping, and wildlife viewing. One toilet is available but there is no drinking water.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for 5.2 miles to CR64F on the left (east). Proceed 4.3 miles on CR 64F to the Alta Lakes area. Warning: CR 64F is a steep, sometimes rough and narrow road. Beyond 3.5 miles, the road is 4WD/high clearance only. CR 64F is not recommended for RVs or low clearance utility trailers.

GPS: N37.88462 W107.84663

• Priest Lake Dispersed Camping Area

Adjacent to the small man-made Priest Lake, the area has room for about 6 camps. The site has a toilet but no drinking water. High peaks and mixed pine/aspen forest surrounding the area make the views spectacular. Hiking, biking, and OHV/4WD opportunities abound in the area.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for about 11 miles to Trout Lake Road on the left (east). Follow Trout Lake Road about 0.2 miles to Priest Lake Road on the left (north). Follow Priest Lake Road north to the campground. Caution: Portions of Priest Lake Road are narrow, rough, and lined by brush and trees. Not recommended for RVs.

GPS: N39.83466 W107.88049

• Fall Creek BLM Dispersed Camping

This is a dispersed camping area that will accommodate 2 to 3 tents or small RVs. There is a picnic table, cabana and grill on-site. During the summer portable toilets are provided. There is no drinking water available. A few additional unimproved dispersed campsites are along Fall Creek Road north and south of the cabana site. Mountain hiking and biking trails and fishing are nearby.

From **Placerville** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), travel east 2.9 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 1.1 miles to unmarked site on right (west). From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel west 9.7 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 1.1 miles as above.

GPS: N37.97920 W108.03054

• Telluride Town Park Campground

Managed by the town of Telluride, Telluride Town Park is a public park with a campground and festival grounds. There are 28 vehicle campsites & five walk-in campsites. Showers are available on site. Campers can enjoy fishing, a playground, swimming pool, skating rink, skate/trick bike facility, and tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. During festivals and concerts, the campground is reserved for festival attendees. At other times, camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and listing of festivals call (970) 728-2173 or visit www.telluride-co.gov.

In **Telluride** at the east end of town just past the business district. Park is on the south side of Colorado Avenue across the San Miguel River. Entrance is well signed.

GPS: N37.93513 W109.80573

Miramonte Reservoir

Located within the Dan Noble State Wildlife Area, camping is allowed in designated sites within the Miramonte Reservoir tract. The campsites are within sagebrush uplands and are unshaded. There are opportunities for lake fishing, power boating, sail surfing, waterskiing, and wildlife viewing. Facilities within the state wildlife area include a dump station, restrooms, and boat ramps. Miramonte Reservoir is managed by Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. For more information call (970) 252-6000 or go to wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateWildlifeAreas.

From **Norwood**, go 1.5 miles east on CO 145, turn right (south) on Lone Cone Rd/CR 44ZS (between MM 100 & 101). Follow the signs to the reservoir, about 18 miles from CO 145.

GPS: N37.97312 W108.33469



Uncompahgre Mountains-Ouray Ranger District

The Ouray Ranger District is divided into two sections - a portion of each the Uncompahgre Plateau and the San Juan Mountains. The San Juan Mountain Range has four peaks over 14,000 feet and another 100 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation. It includes the Uncompahgre, Mount Sneffels, and Lizard Head Wilderness Areas. Portions of the Mount Sneffels and Uncompahgre Wildernesses are located on this district.

The Owl Creek Pass Road is a scenic loop from Montrose on Highway 50 to the Cimarron Road to Silver Jack Reservoir, over Owl Creek Pass and west to Ridgway. This area gives access to trailheads and areas for dispersed camping. Popular recreation activities include hiking, hunting, fishing, four-wheel driving, sightseeing, picnicking, mountain biking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, backpacking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

Afternoon summer thunderstorms are common. Snow is possible at any time of year in the highest elevations. The high elevation roads and trails are often not clear of snow until at least mid-July.

• Amphitheater Campground

Amphitheater Campground is located in a Gambel oak and mixed conifer forest on a mountainside above the community of Ouray. The area is very scenic with views of the town and the "amphitheater", a geologic feature formed by a volcanic explosion. There are opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and backpacking nearby. Also part of the Amphitheater complex is a day use area with 4 picnic tables and a toilet.

The 35 campsites are primarily designed for tent camping. However, small RVs (under 25' single or 35' combined length) are allowed in sites 3-15. While the roads are paved, they are narrow and the sites are short. Drinking water and toilets are available. The campground is concessionaire managed seasonally and sites may be reserved June 15 - September 15. For more information or to make a reservation visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US 550 0.9 miles to the well-signed Amphitheater entrance on the left. Follow the paved road to the Day Use and campground area.

GPS: N38.01682 W107.66798

• Thistledown Campground

Thistledown Campground, with 9 sites and a toilet, but without drinking water, is adjacent to the historic site of Thistledown and the Weehawken Trailhead. This campground is frequently used by those planning to hike into Mount Sneffels Wilderness or drive up Camp Bird Road to Yankee Boy Basin to enjoy alpine views, wildflowers, waterfalls, abandoned mines and mills and the old townsite of Sneffels. To travel beyond Sneffels requires a high-clearance 4WD vehicle. Of the 9 sites, 7 are for tents and 2 will accommodate small RVs. A campground host is on duty from mid-May to mid-September.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US 550 0.3 miles to Camp Bird Road on the right. Drive 2.6 miles on Camp Bird Road to the campground entrance on the left.

GPS: N37.99363 W107.70076

• Angel Creek Campground

The primitive Angel Creek Campground is near Yankee Boy Basin where alpine views, wildflowers, waterfalls, abandoned mines and mills and the old townsite of Sneffels await. The campground consists of 8 designated camp sites. Portable toilets are provided during the summer months. There is no drinking water. Trash service is at the campground entrance. From mid-May to mid-September, a campground host is stationed at Thistledown Campground. **Caution:** Access to the campground requires a high clearance 4WD vehicle. No RVs.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US550 0.3 miles to Camp Bird Road on the right. Drive 1.9 miles on Camp Bird Road to the campground entrance on the right immediately after crossing the bridge. Go through the parking area (downstream) and look left for the short, steep road to the campground.

GPS: N38.00187 W107.69407



Silver Jack Recreation Area

The Silver Jack Recreation Area is located on the north slope of the rugged San Juan Mountains. Elevations range from 8,600 feet at the National Forest boundary to over 13,000 feet at the summit of Precipice Peak. Views are spectacular as the area changes from aspen and mixed conifer forests to dense conifer and eventually alpine tundra. The Silver Jack Recreation Area is remote with unpaved roads which may be impassable when wet. Plan accordingly and be prepared for emergencies.

Day-use facilities include: two angler parking areas, an overlook and picnic area, and several primitive trailheads. Only hand-propelled watercraft are permitted on Silver Jack Reservoir. The best access to the reservoir is from its angler parking area.

• Silver Jack Campground

Silver Jack Campground has 60 campsites situated in an aspen grove, with a few spruce trees and an understory of tall grass and wildflowers. Fifteen of the sites may be reserved for groups. Nearly all of the sites are suitable for large RVs. Two sites are designed to be universally accessible. There is drinking water and there are vault toilets in each loop. The campground is near the Silver Jack Reservoir and a network of trails around Cimarron Ridge. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 16.9 miles to the campground entrance on the right. Follow the signs to the campground loops.

GPS: N38.23812 W107.53514

• Beaver Lake Campground

Beaver Lake Campground sits south of Beaver Lake with 11 nicely secluded camping sites nestled under spruce trees with lake views. There are opportunities for lake, pond, river and stream fishing nearby. There is no drinking water, but water and trash disposal is available seasonally at Silver Jack Campground. A few sites are suitable for small RVs, however most are better suited for tents/truck campers. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged; the host is at Silver Jack Campground.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 15.6 miles to the campground entrance on the right.

GPS: N38.25021 W107.54292

• Big Cimarron Campground

Big Cimarron Campground stretches along the Big Cimarron River with 12 campsites shaded by a mix of spruce and cottonwood trees. Several sites are adjacent to the river. A horse corral across from the campground may be available when not used by range permittees. There is no drinking water, but water and trash disposal is available seasonally at Silver Jack Campground. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged; the host is at Silver Jack Campground.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 14.9 miles to the campground entrance on the right a short way past the Forest Service boundary.

GPS: N38.25874 W107.54537

Jackson Guard Station

Located near Silver Jack Reservoir, about an hour from Montrose, the Jackson Guard Station is tucked away in a small aspen grove. The cabin easily sleeps four adults. Amenities include a propane stove and refrigerator, and a wood stove. The cabin does not have electricity or potable water, so guests must bring potable water. Recreation opportunities nearby include hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hunting. For more information or to make a reservation visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.