



# HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan  
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Date: February 2003



## PASS CREEK TRAIL #500

Length: 2.2 miles (3.5 km.)

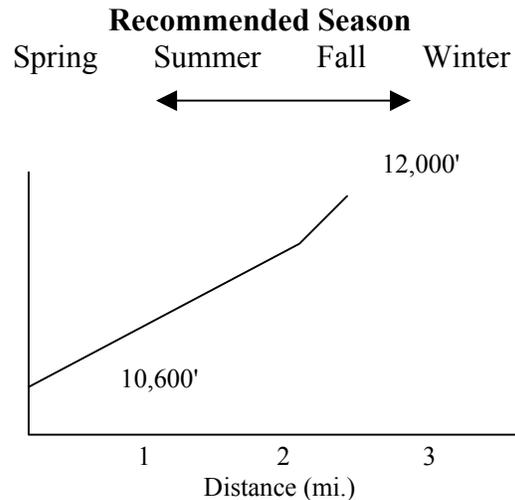
Use: Heavy

Difficulty: More difficult  
USGS Map (s) Engineer Mountain

Starting Elevation: 10,600'  
Coal Bank Pass on U.S. 550

Ending Elevation: 12,000'  
Junction with Engineer Mountain.  
Trail

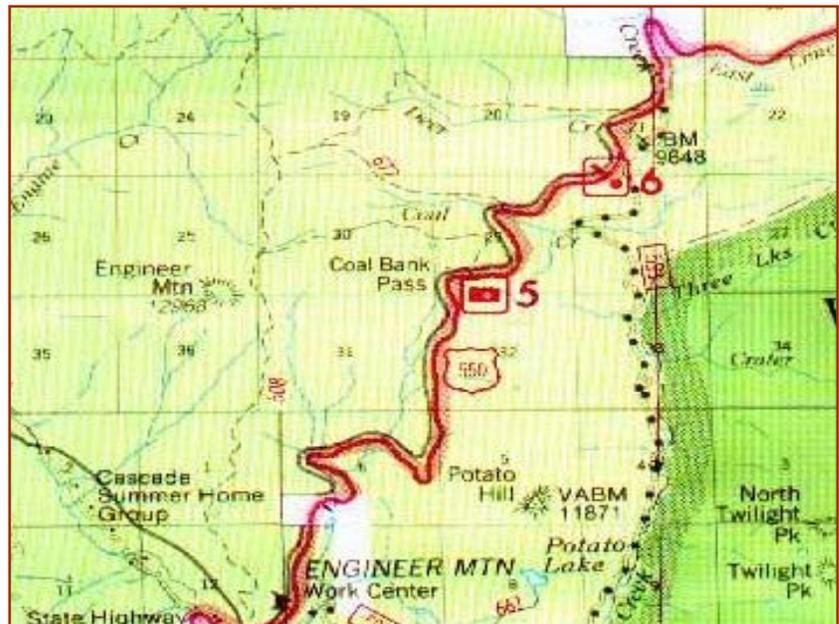
Recommended Season: Summer/Fall



**Access # 1:** Drive about 30 miles north of Durango on U.S. 550, to just past the pull-off area on top of Coal Bank Pass. To reach the parking area, turn at Pass Creek Trail, Engineer Mountain and trailhead sign.

**Access # 2 :** Some 30 miles north of Durango on U.S. 550, turn left at Engineer Mountain Trailhead. Follow this trail 5 miles to intersect with the Pass Creek Trail at the base of Engineer Mountain.

**Attractions & Considerations :** Pass Creek Trail is the quickest access to Engineer Mountain. It



climbs above the highway, up moderate switchbacks.

From there, it's a gradual climb up to the base of Engineer Mountain. Much of the trail is on the heavily timbered northern aspect of the mountain, where patches of snow often linger over the trail until mid-summer. Toward the top, the trail breaks out of the timber into some beautiful alpine meadows at the base of Engineer Mountain. There is a trail north toward Jura Knob. A loop trip could be planned including the Coal or Deer Creek Trails. Water availability is good, but should be filtered, to avoid problems with Giardia.

*Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map*  
Forest Service maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160 or by calling 970-247-4874.  
[www.sjma.org](http://www.sjma.org)