



**HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine**  
**Updated:** February, 2003

**GOULDING CREEK TRAIL #517**

Length: 2.7 miles (4.3 km.)

**Use:** Medium

**Recommended Season**

Spring Summer Fall Winter



**Difficulty:** Most difficult

**USGS Map (s):** Electra Lake

**Starting Elevation:** 7,900'

From trailhead

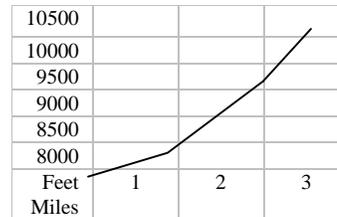
**Ending Elevation:** 10,000'

Junction with the Pinkerton-Flagstaff Trail

**Recommended Season:**

Spring/Summer/

Fall/Winter

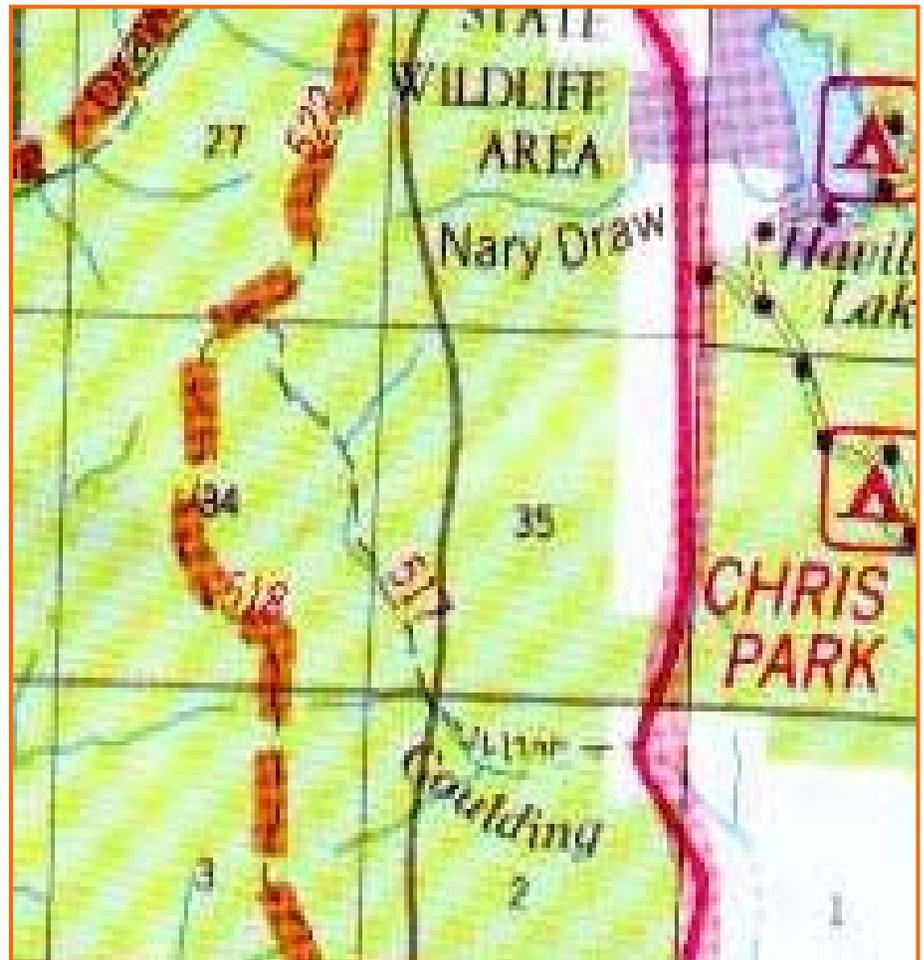


**Access #1:** About 17 miles north of Durango on U.S. 550, ¼ mile past the Hermosa Cliffs Fire Station there is a dirt road and a sign marking the head of the trail. Follow the dirt road south for 100 yards and park next to the old, abandoned car. There should be 4-5 spaces available. The trail leads to a break in the fence.

**Access #2 :** Pinkerton-Flagstaff Trail (cross reference for access points).

**Attractions & Considerations :**

This trail provides access to the Pinkerton-Flagstaff Trail and also to the eastern half of Hermosa Creek. The trail traverses up several steep switchbacks for the first mile and a half and then levels out. It then travels through some open meadows that are full of native plants and flowers and continues slightly uphill through aspen groves to a cabin near the head of the Pinkerton-Flagstaff Trail. Water is available in several streams, but should be filtered, due to problems with Giardia in the area.



**Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map**

Forest Service maps and other publications are 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)