



HIKING

FOREST SERVICE

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

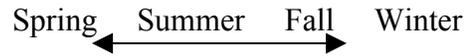
**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Date: January 11, 2002**



**COLORADO TRAIL – Kennebec Pass to
Taylor Lake**

Length: 1.8 miles (2.9 km)

Recommended Season



Use: Heavy

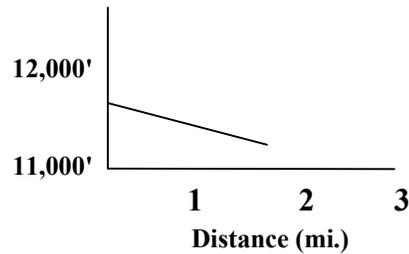
Difficulty: Moderate

USGS Map (s): La Plata, Monument Hill

Starting Elevation: 11,600'
Kennebec Pass (Forest Road 571)

Ending Elevation: 11,000'
Taylor Lake

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall



Access # 1: (Kennebec Pass) Go 11 miles west of Durango on U.S. 160 and turn north on FDR 571. The trailhead is about 14 miles from US 160. The last few miles are unmaintained 4WD road.

Attractions & Considerations:

The beginning of the trail is at Kennebec Pass at nearly 12,000' elevation. Four-wheel drive is recommended to reach the pass. Beginning at the Kennebec Pass trailhead, head west on the trail 1.8 miles to the lake. From the pass to the lake is mostly level without much elevation change. You are heading down in elevation slightly as you hike into the glacial cirque where the lake is. Surrounding the lake are small willow trees. There are usually wildflowers in abundance along this hiking trail.



The trail forks to the northwest and southwest at the lake, turning into the Sharktooth Trail and the Highline Loop National Recreation Trail, respectively.

Sharktooth Trail: The trail heads southwest from Taylor Lake, where it climbs a ridge, drops down into Bear Creek Canyon, and goes up the other side to the pass between Sharktooth and Centennial Peak. 3 mi / 4.8 km.

Highline Loop Trail: Elevations vary from 9,200' in the Bear Creek drainage to over 12,000' along the "Highline." Aspen, spruce-fir, and alpine areas are traversed by the trail, as are scattered mountain peaks. 17 mi / 27.4 km.