



**HIKING**

**FOREST SERVICE**

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan  
RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine**

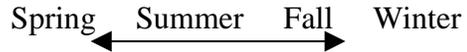
**Date:** February 2003



**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)

12000			
11500			
11000			
10500			
Feet	1	2	3
Miles			

**Ending Elevation:** 11,000'  
Taylor Lake

**Recommended Season:**  
Summer/Fall

**Access # 1:** (Kennebec Pass) Go 12 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.

**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)

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.