



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

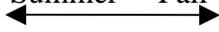
**NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine**

Updated: May, 2003

**Piedra River Trail #596**

Length: 4 mi / 6.4 km

Recommended Season

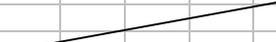
Spring    Summer    Fall    Winter  


**Use:** Heavy use in some areas

**Difficulty:** Easy to Strenuous

**USGS Map (s):**

Devil Mountain, Bear Mountain

8000					
7500					
7000					
Feet	0				5
Miles					

**Starting**

**Elevation:** 7,100'

Trailhead at First Fork

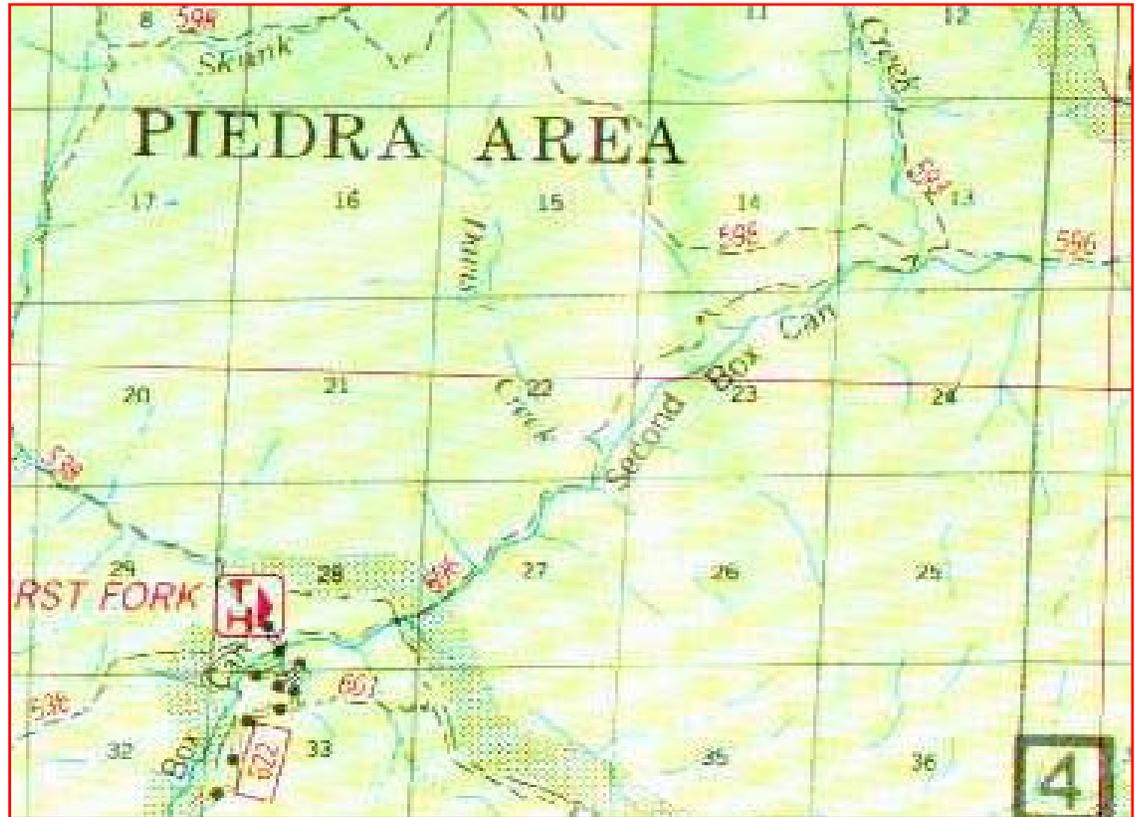
**Ending Elevation:**

7,825'

Sand Creek Trailhead

**Access # 1:**

From Bayfield, head east on Colorado Highway #160 for 19 miles until you reach Forest Road #622 (First Fork Road). Follow the gravel road an additional 12 miles to where it crosses the Piedra River. The trail begins on the north side of the river, to the right.



**Attractions & Considerations:**

The Piedra River Trail begins a steady climb through ponderosa pines, and as you proceed upstream the canyon narrows and there are more Douglas-firs in sight. Farther up, Colorado blue spruce is in evidence.

*This area is part of the prime fly-fishing section of the river.*

The trail ends in the vicinity of the Sand Creek and Skunk Creek Trailheads, but neither is marked well, and the trails themselves are indistinct. The alpine meadows are full of blooming wildflowers in late July and in August. This area provides excellent views and photographic possibilities. Water can be found off the trail in most of the tributaries, but due to Giardia it should be filtered.

**Fishing Considerations:**

Between the First Fork and the Piedra Campgrounds, the river flows through the Second Box Canyon Trail. At mile 1.5 the trail leaves the river for roughly .2 miles to go around the Second Box Canyon, but there are places along the trail with easy access to the Piedra River. The river offers some of the finest fly-fishing found in the area: rainbows, browns, and cutthroats, with many fish in the 12-to-14-inch class. Please check the fishing regulations regarding limits, allowable lures, and restrictions on certain lakes, rivers, etc.