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

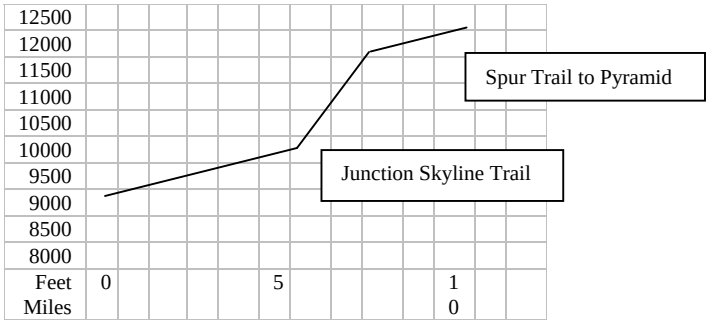
NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine
Updated: April 2003

Pine River Trail #523 or Weminuche Trail #818 to Skyline Trail #564 and The Window

Length: 10 mi / 16.1 km

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Use: Heavy use in some areas
Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous
USGS Map (s):
Weminuche Pass, Rio Grande Pyramid
Starting Elevation: 9,360'
Weminuche and Squaw Creek Trailheads
Starting Elevation: 8,000'
Trailhead at Pine River Campground
Ending Elevation: 12,260'
Spur Trail to Pyramid
Access # 1:
From Pine River Trail to Weminuche Pass (see that trail description)
Access # 2:
From Creede, drive southwest on Colorado #149 for 19.5 miles. Turn left on Rio Grande Reservoir Road. Drive 11 miles and make another left at the signed junction for Thirtymile Campground and the Weminuche and Squaw Creek Trailheads.

Attractions & Considerations:
Take the Weminuche Trail #818 five miles to the junction of the Skyline Trail. Just after crossing Weminuche Creek, you'll meet the Skyline Trail. This is at Weminuche Pass, at an elevation of 10,630'. The Skyline Trail leads to the Rio Grande Pyramid and the rock formation known as The Window. The trail at this point is moderate, albeit steep through the trees, but eventually opens up into a meadow with a small lake and good camping spots.

The alpine meadows are full of blooming wildflowers in late July and in August. There are 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. As with all high-altitude areas, storms can move in rapidly, bringing severe wind, lightning, rain, snow, or hail—any time of year. Plan accordingly.

Weminuche Wilderness Regulations:
- Group size is limited to 15 people.
- Combination of people and stock = 25.
- Dogs must be under control.
- No unattended campfires.
- Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source.
- Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land.
- Possession of motorized equipment and mechanized means of transport are not permitted.
- Please check trailhead signs or Forest Service offices for site-specific camping, campfire, and livestock regulations.

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