




West Mancos #621

San Juan National Forest
Dolores Public Lands Office
P.O. Box 210; 100 N 6th Street
Dolores, CO 81323
www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan



(970) 882-7296

7/2004

Length: 10 miles	Hiking level: Moderate to Difficult
Starting Elevation: 8,900 ft	Facilities: Developed water source and toilet available at Transfer Picnic Area.
Ending Elevation: 10,900 ft, at the junction with Sharkstooth Trail #620.	Amount of use: light
 <p>Use restrictions: This trail was designed as a single-track trail and is not wide enough in several areas to accommodate the width of ATVs.</p>	USGS Map(s): Rampart Hills & La Plata (7.5') Quads.

Trail Description:

The West Mancos Trailhead is adjacent to the Big Al Trail in the Transfer Recreation Area, north of Mancos, Colorado. The first 1/3 of a mile is shared with the Transfer Trail. The combined trails drop immediately into the West Mancos Canyon via several switchbacks. After approximately 1/3 of a mile, the trail splits, with the West Mancos Trail continuing upstream, and the Transfer Trail heading downstream. Due to the steep nature of the upper portion of this trail, it can be very tricky and even more so in wet conditions. If using this trail in early spring, be aware of the potential for downed trees and the trail sloughing off in places. Be especially careful if you are on horseback.

The West Mancos trail continues upstream on the north side of the canyon before dropping down to the West Mancos River. Once at river level, you will see remnants of a foundation from an old post office, called Golconda. Golconda Post Office was briefly used to service a small mining settlement in the early 1900's. Traveling east, motorized vehicles (except snowmobiles in the winter) are prohibited two miles past where the Owens Basin Trail comes in. The trail climbs steeply to Horsefly Flat, an open grassy area, and ends at the Sharkstooth Trailhead, which is located near the base of Hesperus and Sharkstooth Peaks.

Directions: From the town of Mancos, turn north on Highway 184. Go one-quarter mile, and then turn right on County Road 42. Once you come to the Forest boundary, the road becomes FDR 561. Continue for another four miles and turn right into the Transfer Recreation area. The trailhead is about one-quarter mile down this road, on the right.



PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT
LEAVE NO TRACE!!!

