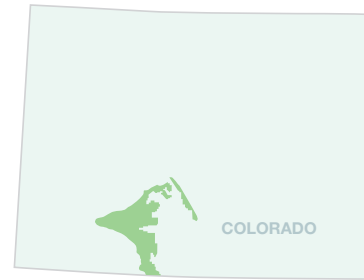


Rio Grande National Forest



Rio Grande Upper Canyon



Current Issues

Wolf Creek Access

Due to a court settlement with environmental groups, the Rio Grande National Forest has started a second environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts of a proposed road and utility corridor across National Forest System lands to the planned Village at Wolf Creek. The forest recently put the EIS on hold until the landowner, Leavell-McCombs Joint Venture, provides the forest with a new application that includes an updated development plan.

Forest Health

The Rio Grande National Forest is currently experiencing a large spruce bark beetle epidemic. In many areas the spruce beetle is killing all spruce trees larger than five inches in diameter. Spruce-fir forests cover approximately 31 percent of the 1.8 million-acre Rio Grande National Forest.

North San Juan Sheep and Goat Allotment Environmental Impact Statement

Fourteen sheep and goat grazing allotments are being analyzed to determine how best to manage domestic sheep bands to prevent their interaction with wild bighorn sheep.

Range Rescission Act of 1995

The forest is conducting analysis on 26 range allotments. Analysis on these allotments will be completed by September 30, 2010.

Headquarters

Forest Supervisor: Dan Dallas
1803 West Highway 160
Monte Vista, Colorado 81144
719-852-5941

Ranger Districts

Conejos Peak Ranger District

District Ranger: Roberto Martinez
15571 County Road T-5
La Jara, Colorado 81140
719-274-8971

Divide Ranger District

District Ranger: Tom Malecek
PO Box 270
Third and Creede Avenue
Creede, Colorado 81130
719-658-2556

Divide Ranger District

District Ranger: Tom Malecek
13308 West Highway 160
Del Norte, Colorado 81132
719-657-3321

Saguache Ranger District

District Ranger: Andrew Archuleta
46525 State Highway 114
Saguache, Colorado 81149
719-655-2547

Forest Size	Total land area is 1,922,767 acres, all within Colorado.
Number of Employees	The Rio Grande National Forest is a Service First organization, which means the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management share services. Regardless of which agency hired them, most employees also provide support to the other agency.
Permanent Forest Service	73
Seasonal Forest Service	43
Permanent Bureau of Land Management	19
Seasonal Bureau of Land Management	12
Average Annual Budget	\$8,405,000
Elevations	Lowest - 7,800 feet above sea level Highest - 14,345 feet above sea level
Wilderness Areas	La Garita South San Juan Weminuche
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None
National Scenic or Historic Trails	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Old Spanish National Historic Trail
National Recreation Areas	None
Scenic Byways	Silver Thread Scenic Byway
Outfitter Guides	44 outfitter guides
Grazing	99 active allotments on 1,326,381 acres 110 term grazing permits
Forest Management and Timber	Timber Volume Sold in fiscal year 2008 – 25,343 ccf Forest Vegetation Improved in fiscal year 2008 – 899 acres
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments	4,854 acres in fiscal year 2008
Unique Features or Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rio Grande River, the third longest in the United States, begins its 1900-mile trek to the ocean on the Rio Grande National Forest. Runoff from the forest sustains the aquifers that provide irrigation water in the highly agricultural San Luis Valley. • Wheeler Geologic Area contains over 60 acres of towers, domes, and castles carved by nature in volcanic tuff. President Theodore Roosevelt designated the area as a national monument in 1908, but the area was later converted to a national geologic area. • Blanca Peak, the fourth tallest mountain in Colorado at 14,345 feet, rises over 6,000 feet above the San Luis Valley in 4.5 miles. The Navajo people know the peak as the Sacred Peak to the East. • The Continental Divide creates a 250-mile horseshoe around the Rio Grande National Forest – the longest stretch on any national forest in Colorado.
Web Address	http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/