

Crag Crest National Recreation Trail

**Grand Mesa National Forest, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service - Crag Crest Trail,
Grand Mesa National Forest**



Description: -

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Crag Crest National Recreation Trail (Colo.)
Trails -- Colorado -- Grand Mesa National Forest
Crag Crest National Recreation Trail
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Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

Today I began at the west trailhead and hiked the entire 10 mile loop.

Crag Crest National Recreation Trail

While only experienced rock climbers reach the top, a fun hike follows the from a trailhead on Needle Rock Road.

Temporary Closure of the East Trailhead of Crag Crest National Recreation Trail

Foot, mountain bike and horse travel are allowed on the loop portion and on the crest portion between the West Trailhead and the Cottonwood Lakes Trail junction.

10 of the Best Hikes on Colorado's Western Slope

The initial start is an ascent but the majority of the hike is super easy until you are about to reach the top. When we reached the junction of the Visitor Center Trail I turned left instead of right but came to my senses after about 100 feet. The forests and meadows provide food and cover for big game animals such as elk and deer.

Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

The trail ascends through a piñon pine and juniper woodland for a quarter mile to the north side of the rock and offers gorgeous views across the river valley to the rugged West Elk Mountains. The north section of the 265-acre city park is a quiet natural area with nesting great blue herons, bald eagles perched in trees, and mule deer rustling through tall grass. The trail can be hiked in a loop by beginning at either the Crag Crest East or Crag Crest West trailheads and incorporating the Lower Loop Trail.

Crag Crest Trail, Grand Mesa National Forest

Portions of the Crag Crest trail will still be accessible from the west trailhead.

Crag Crest Trail, Grand Mesa National Forest

There are hundreds of miles of trails to choose from. I can see how this hike would be absolutely spectacular in the fall with changing leaf colors , in the winter with a dusting of snow or in the spring with blooming wildflowers. When you reach this area you will probably be confused as to where the trail is since the bulldozer obliterated it.

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