

CRAG CREST TRAIL

BACKPACKING TRIP

FYI: The map on the reverse side is not intended for navigation, but rather for general orientation.

P.S. More trail maps available at www.oriconline.org

Location: Grand Mesa
Grand Mesa Nat'l Forest
North of Island Lake

Contact Info: Grand Valley Ranger District
970-242-8211
www.fs.fed.us/r2

Length: 9.76 mile loop (estimate using Nat'l Geo Mapping Software)

Time: Overnight backpack. The average person hikes apx. 2 miles an hour. Adjust your time +/- based on terrain, trail and weather conditions and your skill and fitness level.

Elevation Gain/Loss: +1658' -1665' = -7'

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Trail Users: Hikers, pikas and marmots

Season: July through September

Dogs: On hand-held leash

Permits: None required

Getting There from Denver: Take I-70 west. Get off I-70 at exit 49. Take CO Highway 65 (the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway) south and west apx. 33 miles to the West Crag Crest Trailhead. The trailhead is located just north of Island Lake.

Maps: Nat'l Geographic Trails Illustrated #136E (lower left corner of map) and Grand Mesa USGS 7.5 topographic map. **IMPORTANT:** Stay found with the aid of a topographic map, a compass, a GPS receiver and the skill to use them.

Safety Considerations and Supplemental Info: ■ Lightning ■ Carry plenty of water since there's very little along the trail ■ Exercise caution when passing by the numerous drop-offs along the crest ■ Check www.oriconline.org for fire restrictions ■ Be prepared for mosquitoes from July through September

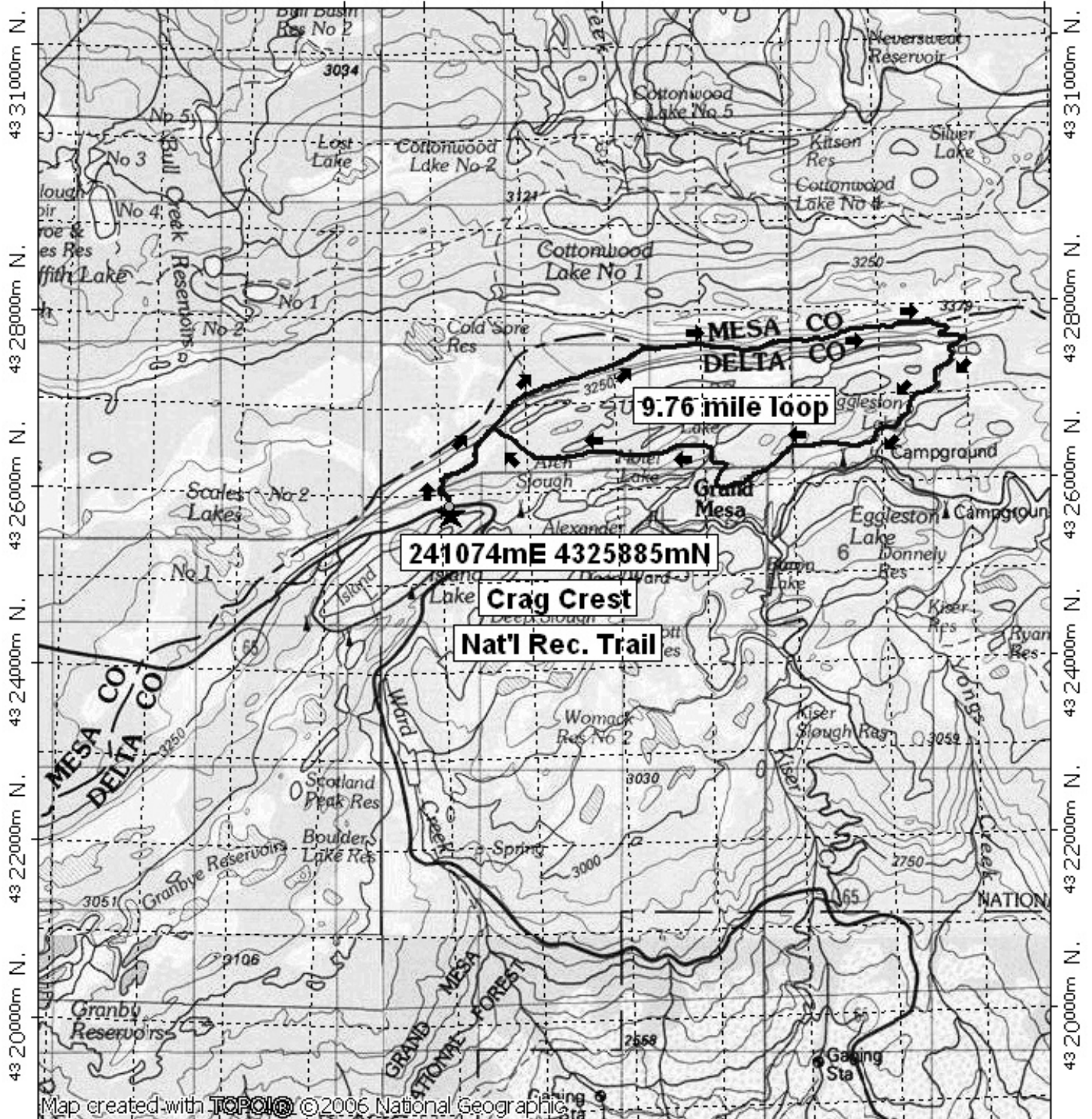
Trail Description: The Crag Crest Nat'l Rec. Tr. 711 traverses a ridge topping out at apx. 11,189 ft before dropping to the other trailhead on CO Highway 65 at apx. 10,100 ft. This route requires a car shuttle and is apx. 5.75 miles long. You can make this a loop hike by turning left on Forest Tr. 711-1A which travels a lower route back to your starting point. This loop is 9.76 miles long.

TIP: Contact the Grand Valley Ranger District for trail updates.

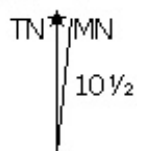
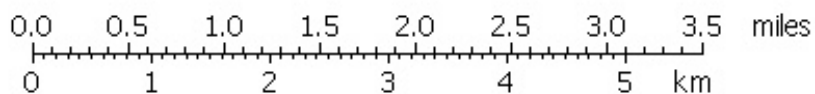
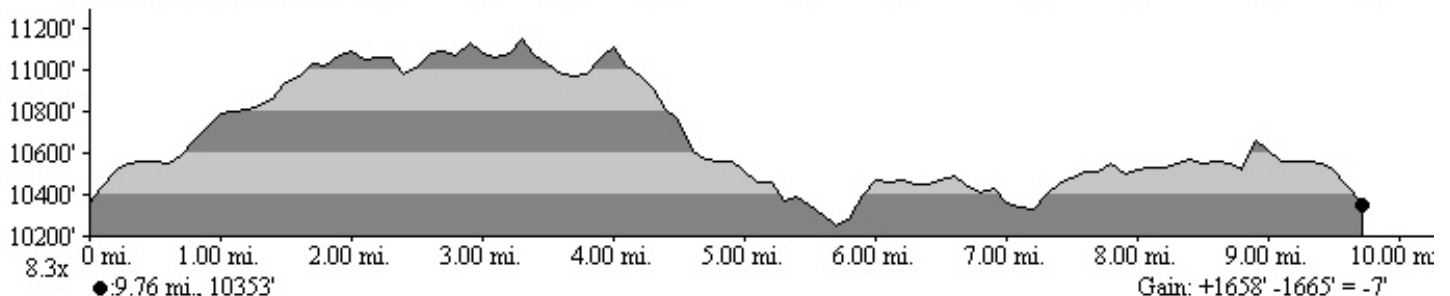
Highlights: ■ Sweeping 360° panoramas of the Raggeds Wilderness, West Elk Wilderness, San Juan Mountains, Battlement Mesa, Roan Cliffs, Uncompaghre Plateau, Utah's La Sal Mountains, Leon Peak ■ Dark basaltic rock formations ■ Open meadows ■ Largest flat-topped mountain in the world ■ Numerous Lakes along the trail ■ Engelmann Spruce-subalpine fir forest ■ Pocket meadows ■ Lava rock falls ■ Wildflowers that peak from late July to early August ■ Golden Eagles have been known to frequent the cliffs ■ Stands of Quaking Aspen

Crag Crest Nat'l Rec. Trail

WGS84 Zone 12S 759000m E, 241000m E, 243000m E, WGS84 Zone 13S 248000m E,



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03/13/08