

Sopris Ranger District
620 Main Street
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United States Department of Agriculture



HUBBARD CAVE ROAD #115

Length: 9 miles one-way (14.5 km);

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 6,950 feet (2118 m)

USGS Map(s): Glenwood Springs, Shoshone

Difficulty: More Difficult

Ending Elevation: 8,400 feet (2560 m)

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This road takes you to the Hubbard Cave trail. Hike the trail for 1/4 mile to the cave entrance. Hubbard Cave has approximately 3,000 feet of passage with a vertical relief of only 50 feet. It was probably formed by erosion from a stream derived from groundwater in the lower beds of Leadville limestone and Dyer dolomite. Remember cave features are protected by law. Help preserve this natural wonder for future generations to enjoy.

ACCESS: From Carbondale, proceed north on Hwy 82 for about six miles. Turn east on county road #114. Continue on #114 past the Colorado Mountain College Campus, turn left at the junction with Country Road #115. Continue north on #115 approximately three miles, then turn right on the Lookout Mountain Road #120. Approximately 1.5 miles north on road 120, turn right on the jeep trail. From this point the road becomes 4-wheel drive and is impassible when wet. After turning onto the jeep trail, continue through the first intersection, then follow the left fork of the second intersection to Bear Creek. After crossing the creek, take the right fork of the intersection and continue uphill. The jeep trail will continue for two more miles and dead-ends at the Hubbard Cave Trailhead.

NARRATIVE: The cave is a rectangular network of three parallel passages, each with its own entrance. There are large quantities of cave coral, but it is mostly restricted to the upper level. The Grape Room, deep in the cave, has unusual small, rounded botryoid formations. The Gypsum room has a large concentration of gypsum flowers, gypsum blisters, selenite needles and angel's hair.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * Be sure your machine is as quiet as possible.
- * Avoid wetlands, streams, and steep hills where your tracks may cause damage.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs and grasses--**Stay on established routes!**
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.

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

