



United States Department of Agriculture

### **LA PLATA PEAK 14,336**

**LENGTH:** 4.3 miles one-way

**ELEVATION GAIN:** 4,350 feet

**AVERAGE HIKING/CLIMBING TIME:**  
6 hours one-way

**USGS MAP(S):** Independence Pass  
Mt. Elbert

**RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):**  
Late Summer

**ACCESS:** From Leadville, travel south on US Hwy 24 to Hwy 82. Go west on Hwy 82 fourteen miles to the turnoff marked "South Fork Lake Cree." Parking is provided on the south side of Highway 82 at this junction. FDR 391 crosses private property for 1.6 miles and parking is not allowed along this stretch. Walk approximately 1/3 mile on the road from the parking area to the signed beginning of the La Plata Gulch Trail.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail crosses private land, heading east to a steel truss bridge over the South Fork. Follow the trail across La Plata Gulch Creek and follow along the east side of La Plata Gulch for two miles to treeline. The route is definted to the summit by rock cairns and recent trail work.

**REGULATIONS:** Remember, you are within the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness. Observe all regulations posted at the trailhead.

- Maximum group size is 15
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times
- All organized groups must contact the US Forest Service Office in Leadville

**SAFETY:** Snow, thunder and rain storms are common. Daytime temperatures range from 40-75 degrees at the trailhead in the summer months. Be prepared for changing weather. Carry rain gear and extra layers of warm clothing.

Lightning storms build rapidly and occur almost daily throughout the summer. It is best to turn around at the earliest sign of thunder and lightning. When bad weather sets in, landmakrs can be obscured by clouds.

Know the symptoms of altitude sickness. Severe headaches, dizziness and nausea are warning signs that indicate a person should descend to lower elevations immediately.

Be aware of exposure to intense sunlight. Wear sunscreen and a hat.

**For further information, please contact the Leadville Ranger District at (719) 486-0749.**

