Only you can prevent forest fires

Typical grazing country near junction of the three forks of the Cimarron River.

The Uncompahgre National Forest, established by President Theodore Roosevelt's proclamation of June 14, 1905, includes over 1 million acres in southwestern Colorado. The northern portion lies on the crest and slopes of the rolling, mesa-like Uncompahgre Plateau, and the southern portion is on the rugged northern slopes of the San Juan Mountains.

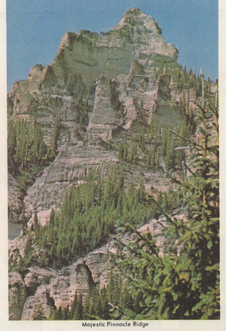
The Uncompahgre Plateau is a high, almost level tableland broken by sharp, rugged canyons extending into the pinon-juniper hills below. Colorful aspen stands, intermingled with spruce and pine forests, are particularly spectacular in the fall.

The southern portion is characterized by high, jagged peaks and deep, narrow canyons interspersed with open alpine grassland. Major mountains include Uncompahgre Peak (14,306 feet), Mt. Sneffels (14,143 feet), and Wetterhorn Peak (14,020 feet). Tumbling streams, fed by banks of perpetual snow, culminate in beautiful waterfalls. The locality around Ouray and Telluride has been described as the "Switzerland of America."

Uncompahgre, meaning "red water springs," was the name the Ute Indians gave to the area north of Ouray. The first white men to explore this region were members of an expedition led by Padres Francisco Silvestre Escalante and Antanacio Dominguez in 1777. In 1837, Joseph Roubideau, a French trapper, explored the country in search of beaver. Mineral Point—the region's first permanent settlement and now a ghost town—had its beginning in 1873 when gold was discovered in paying quantities. Many settlers moved into the region during the 1880's.

The mining of metalic ores (gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc) has been an important industry in and around the area now within the Uncompahgre National Forest, since 1875. The mining camps of Lake City, Telluride, and Ouray once had populations of several thousand people. Smaller, but equally colorful camps included Sherman, Capitol City, Mineral Point, Red Mountain, Ironton, Ophir, and Alta—all of which are now ghost towns. The famous Camp Bird Mine near Ouray has produced gold and silver valued at millions of dollars, and it is still being worked. There are also active mines in the vicinity of Telluride and Lake City. U.S. Highway 550, between Ouray and Red Mountain, offers the visitor a glimpse of mining history within a very scenic setting.

The Uncompahgre National Forest—like other units of the National Forest System—is managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Multiple use means that renewable resources (water, timber, forage, wildlife and recreation) are managed so that they are utilized in the combination that meets the needs of the American people. Sustained yield means that these resources are managed so as to provide a continuous high-level output of products and services without harming the land's productivity.



Majestic Pinnacle Ridge

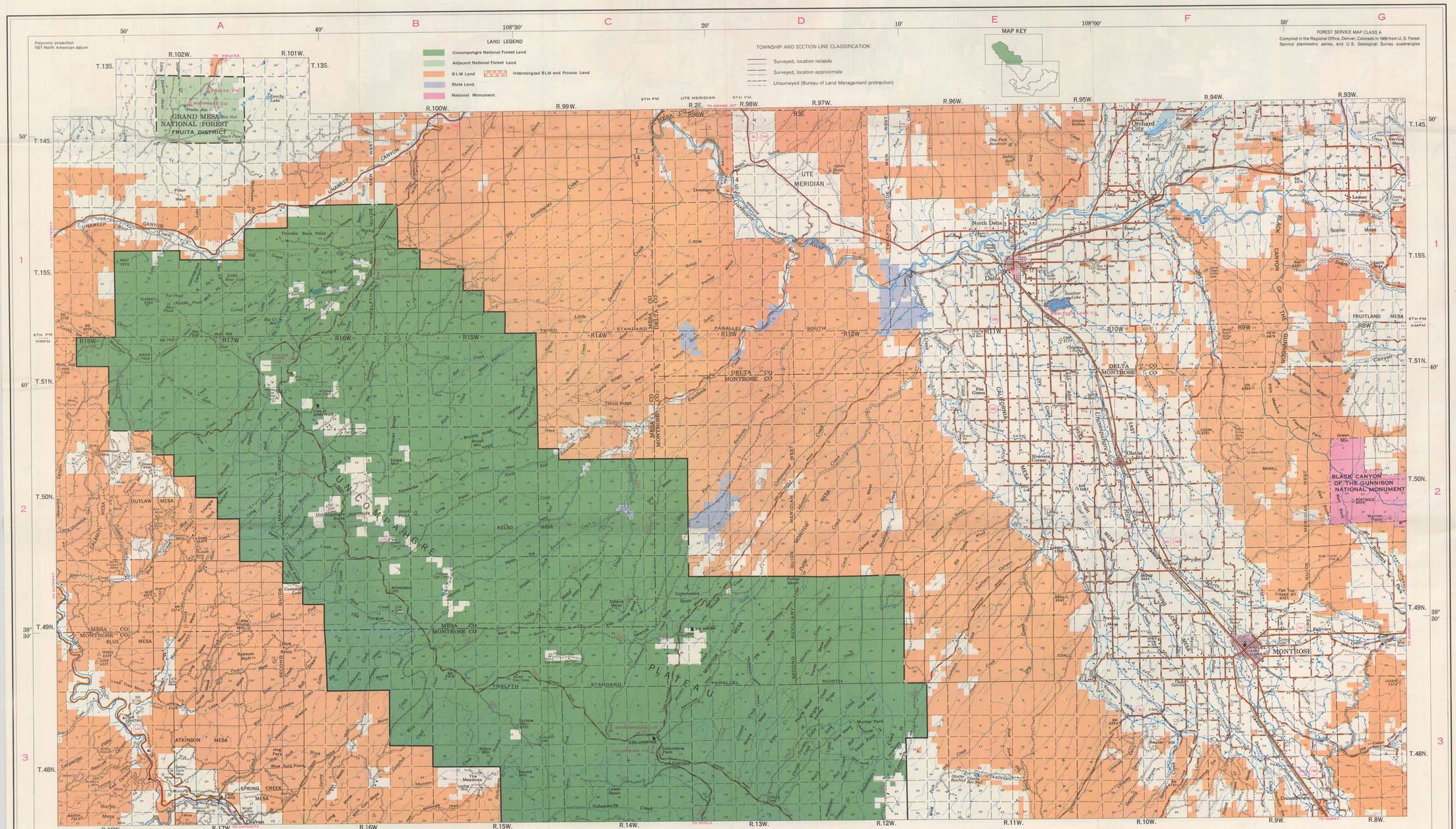
Water production is an important function of the Uncompahgre National Forest. Most precipitation falls in the form of snow, however rain showers are frequent in the summer. A ground cover of plants, leaf litter, and humus helps prevent erosion, provide moist soil for plant growth, and supply water for underground flow to springs and streams. The headwaters of the Cimarron, Uncompahgre, and San Miguel Rivers, tributaries of the Colorado River, are located in the National Forest. About 250,000 acres of irrigated land and numerous communities are dependent upon these streams.

A variety of wood products are produced by private industry from National Forest timber, and shipped to markets in the Rocky Mountains, Midwest, and on the West Coast. Ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, and aspen are the principal species used. Professional land managers administer a broad scope of forest management activities including timber sales, tree planting and tree thinning. They also protect the Forest from damage by wildfires, insects and diseases.

The fertile valleys in and adjacent to the Uncompahgre National Forest help support many local livestock ranches. Cattle and sheep use the Forest under grazing permits issued by the Forest Service. Range managers work to improve the forage resource and prevent watershed damage.

Elk, deer, bear, and mountain sheep are the principal big game animals of the Uncompahgre National Forest. Elk are more numerous in the Lake City, Ouray, and Norwood areas, while deer are abundant on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Mountain lions, lynx, bobcats and coyotes are occasionally seen. Small fur-bearing animals such as fox, marten, mink, weasel, badgers, and beaver are common as are grouse, ptarmigan, and wild turkey. Favored fishing spots are the Lake Fork of the Gunnison river, Big Blue Creek, the Big and Little Cimarron Rivers, East and West Dallas Creeks, Crystal Lake, Trout Lake and Alta Lake. Woods Lake, south of Sawpit, is a quality fishing lake managed by the Colorado Division of Game, Fish and Parks. Hunting and fishing in the Uncompahgre National Forest are regulated by the State of Colorado. For information regarding seasons, limits, etc., write the Colorado Division of Game, Fish, and Parks, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado, 80216.

There are opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities including camping, picnicking, hiking, sightseeing, hunting and fishing. Well-equipped campgrounds are provided at accessible and attractive locations. Check the recreation directory below for locations and facilities. Tourist resorts are located in or near the Forest along most of the major streams. Hotel accommodations, privately operated campgrounds with electricity, showers, laundries and other facilities are located in or near many local towns. Supplies, services and equipment can also be purchased locally.



WON'T YOU HELP PROTECT THE UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST BY OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING OUTDOOR RULES?

- Remove all garbage and rubbish, or deposit it in the receptacles provided.
- Drain waste from trailers and campers only in receptacles clearly identified for such use.
- Follow posted vehicle use restrictions.
- Avoid pollution of streams, lakes, and other water supplies.
- Protect buildings, signs, equipment, and other public structures from defacement, injury, and destruction.
- Keep bicycles, motorbikes, and motorcycles on trails within developed recreation sites.
- Use caution with fire and smoking materials.
- Be considerate of other Forest visitors, particularly in the use of radios and motorized equipment in camping areas.

Your cooperation will help ensure an enjoyable visit for those who follow.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT DISTRICT RANGERS IN COLLBRAN, GRAND JUNCTION, MONTROSE, AND NORWOOD OR THE FOREST SUPERVISOR, 11TH AND MAIN STREET, DELTA, COLORADO 81416.

Sunshine Mountain with Lizard Head to the right. (Cover Photo)

RECREATION SITE DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY KEY
CAMP GROUND – C.G.
PICNIC GROUND – P.G.
GROUP AREA – G.A.

NAME	MAP LOCATION	ELEVATION	CAMP UNITS	PICNIC UNITS	DRINKING WATER	BOAT RAMP	TRAVEL TRAILERS
Amphitheatre C.G.	H5	8,400	28	3	X	–	X
Antone Spring C.G.	D4	9,700	8	2	X	–	X
Beaver Lake C.G.	H4	8,800	11	–	X	–	X
Big Blue C.G.	I 4	9,800	11	–	–	–	X
Big Cimarron C.G.	H4	8,600	16	2	X	–	X
Burro Bridge C.G.	E7	9,000	15	–	X	–	X
Carson Hole C.G.	B1	8,400	5	–	–	–	X
Columbine C.G.	C3	8,700	4	–	–	–	X
Crystal Lake C.G.	I 5	11,700	1	–	–	–	–
Divide Fork C.G.	A1	9,200	7	2	X	–	X
Fruita P.G. – G.A.	A1	9,000	–	14	X	–	–
Hayness C.G.	A1	9,300	3	–	X	–	X
Iron Spring C.G.	E4	9,500	7	3	X	–	X
Lost Trail C.G.	I 7	9,500	7	–	X	–	X
Matterhorn C.G.	F6	9,500	23	3	X	–	X
Mill Creek C.G. – BLM	I 6	9,500	22	–	X	–	X
Miramonte Res. C.G. – Colo.	C6	7,400	12	12	X	X	X
Smokehouse C.G.	C3	9,300	10	–	X	–	X
South Mineral C.G.	G7	9,800	23	–	–	–	X
Sunshine C.G.	F6	9,500	10	2	X	–	X
Sweitzer Lake C.G. – Colo.	E1	5,100	10	12	X	X	X
Williams Creek C.G.	I 6	9,200	23	–	X	–	X
Woods Lake P.G. – Colo.	E6	9,400	–	3	–	–	–

6 GPO 761-310

WOOD · WATER · FORAGE · WILDLIFE · RECREATION

FOREST VISITORS MAP

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
JOHN R. McGUIRE, CHIEF

UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO · SIXTH · UTE PRINCIPAL MERIDIANS
1972

Scale ½"=1 mile
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- County Boundary Line
- Reservation Boundary
- Wilderness or Primitive Area Boundary
- 70 I 6 Interstate Highway and U.S. Highway
- 97 State Highway
- 403 Forest Route
- Paved Road
- All Weather Road
- Dirt Road
- Primitive Road
- Trails
- Railroad
- Forest Supervisors Headquarters
- District Ranger Station
- Forest Service Station
- Mine, Quarry or Gravel Pit
- Recreation Site
- Recreation Site other than Forest Service
- Ski Area
- Overlook
- Point of Interest
- Visitors Center
- House, Cabin or other Building
- Dam
- Well

MAP KEY

VICINITY MAP
RIFLE · GLENWOOD SPRINGS · GRAND JUNCTION · ASPEN · DELTA · MONTROSE · UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST · CORTEZ · DURANGO · UTAH · COLORADO

Longitude West from Greenwich