

# PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



**FREE**



SPRING/SUMMER/FALL 2017 • A PUBLICATION OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN



# Pagosa Springs, Colorado



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# FEATURED SW COLORADO PROPERTIES

RANCHES & LAND | HOMES & ESTATES | INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



## COOL PINES LUXURY

Luxurious 5,485 sq. ft. custom log home on 3 acres in Timber Ridge w/4 bedrooms, gourmet chef's kitchen, movie theater, luxurious guest spaces, outdoor living areas and custom finishes. Huge mountain views. Offered furnished. \$1,850,000 (704826)



## SAN JUAN RIVER GETAWAY

Beautiful custom 3,556 SF riverfront home w/4 bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen, beautiful Master w/walnut handworked flooring. Large deck overlooking river w/outdoor fireplace. Steps from Nat'l Forest. RV Pad w/Hookups. \$1,199,000. (728566)



## ROCKIN' R EQUESTRIAN RANCH

Beautiful custom 4,897 SF home on 35+ acres w/mtn. views & Nat'l Forest access. 5,000 SF 8-stall barn, 25x60 6-bay equipment barn, two loafing sheds w/water & power, 2 large paddocks, outdoor 132 x 208 riding arena, 60' round pen \$1,195,000. (690411)



## RAVEN'S RIDGE

4,600 SF custom home on 10 acres overlooking magnificent views w/3,000+ SF of decks, outdoor fire pit, nature trail & meadow. Home features 4 bedrooms, wine cellar wet/dry sauna/steam room, library w/projection screen. \$795,000 (727374)



## BULL ELK PLACE

Custom built log home on 35 private acres surrounded by tall pines with Pagosa Peak views. Main level Master, 2-story stacked stone fireplace, chef's kitchen. Access to Nat'l Forest & private stocked lake. Offered furnished. \$669,000. (718863)



## CROWLEY RANCH RESERVE

Enjoy beautiful views from this 3,164 SF home on 3 acres. The open, one level floor plan is perfect for entertaining, with a luxurious Master, chef's kitchen. Crowley Ranch offers 1,300 acres open space & private owner hot springs. \$632,800 (715797)



## PANORAMIC VIEWS

Fully furnished 4BR, 3,358 SF home on 5.24 acres. Floor to ceiling windows capture scenic views & light. Spacious deck, main level master suite, wet bar, game/family room. Low maintenance home with A/C. Short-term rental history. \$575,000 (710515)



## BORDERS NATIONAL FOREST

Newly remodeled, energy-efficient, passive solar 2,568 SF home on .7 acres w/3 BR + large bonus room over garage. Big mtn. views, gourmet kitchen with new appliances. Main level Master. Miles of trails out your back door. \$437,000



## PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE

Uptown next to Realtor Board Office. 1,640 SF with 3 offices, two bathrooms plus large open space. Two units are combined, but could be separated with a wall down the center and sold separately. Great rental history. \$119,000. (728816)



## BEAUTIFUL 12 ACRES

A spectacular location for your mountain retreat off a quiet cul-de-sac. Multiple potential building locations with one of them being at the top of the knoll providing you with wonderful mountain views. Mature trees abound. \$89,900. (721675)



## LAKE HATCHER BUILD SITE

A beautiful build site surrounded by pine trees and bordering greenbelt. Big mountain views of Pagosa Peak, a block away from National Forest, and close to Lake Hatcher. Also close to shopping, restaurants and amenities. \$24,900. (725810)

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*Enjoy a beverage at our  
atrium lounge*

*Pamper yourself in our  
on-site 'Pahgosa Spa'*



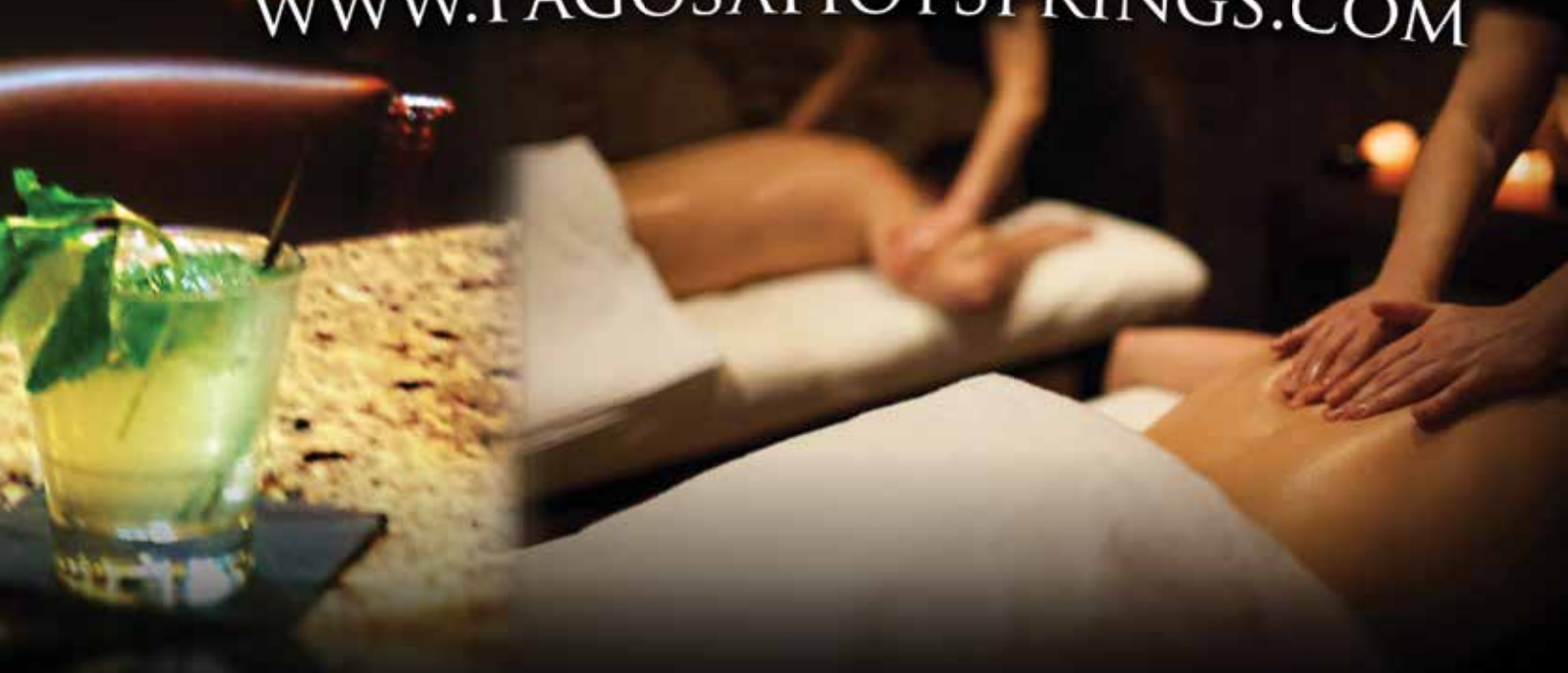


# *The World's Deepest Geothermal Hot Spring*



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[WWW.PAGOSAHOTSPRINGS.COM](http://WWW.PAGOSAHOTSPRINGS.COM)



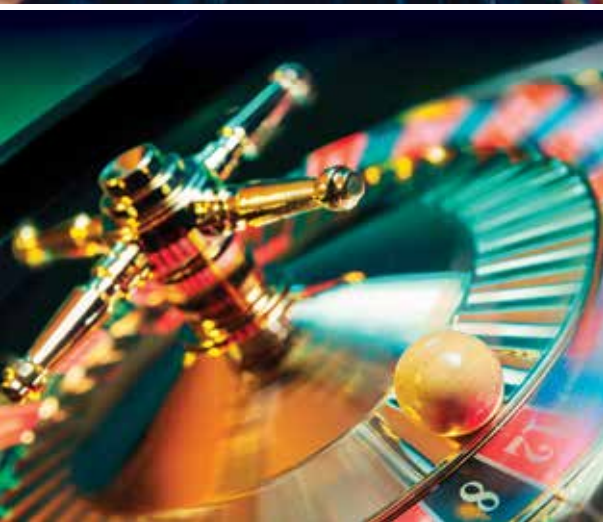


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MIKE BUCKINGHAM





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# About the Area

## Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of U.S. 160 and 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located 30 miles north of the New Mexico border, and 60 miles east of Durango. It is also near the Four Corners region where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

## Physical Description

Archuleta County is comprised of 872,960 acres. Only 34 percent of lands in Archuleta County are in private ownership. Tribal lands comprise 14.4 percent of the county. Most of the northern and eastern portions of the county (51.6 percent) are within the San Juan National Forest. There is a total of approximately 2.8 million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management surrounding Archuleta County.

## Population Archuleta County

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts  
2014 estimate — 12,244

## Housing and Income

Median value owner-occupied housing — \$264,300  
Households — 5,343  
Persons per household — 2.24  
Per capita money income — \$28,506  
Median household income — \$48,186  
Persons below poverty — 14.7 percent

## Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350  
Persons per square mile — 9.1

## Taxes

Sales and User Tax: 2.9 percent state, 4 percent county. County sales tax revenue is divided between county and town.  
Lodger's Tax: A 4.9 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry and used for tourism promotion.  
Primary Source of Town & County Revenue: Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

## Government

Town Government: [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)  
Home Rule Municipality  
Town council with elected mayor and six councilors elected for alternating four-year terms, town manager is appointed. Date of incorporation: 1891.  
County Government: [www.archuletacounty.org](http://www.archuletacounty.org).  
Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

## Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa Springs SUN  
[www.pagosahun.com](http://www.pagosahun.com) (970) 264-2100  
Radio Stations: KWUF AM-1400, FM-106.1  
[www.kwuf.com](http://www.kwuf.com), (970) 264-5983

## Education

District 50 Joint Office (970) 264-2228  
[www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com)  
High School (970) 264-2231  
Middle School, 5th-6th grades (970) 264-2256  
Middle School, 7th-8th grades (970) 264-2794  
Elementary (970) 264-2229  
The Training Advantage (970) 264-5627  
GOAL Academy (877) PRO-GOAL

## Utilities

Electric La Plata Electric Association  
(970) 247-5786, [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop)  
Gas/Natural Black Hills Energy  
(800) 563-0012  
Telephone CenturyLink  
(970) 264-0012, [www.centurylink.com](http://www.centurylink.com)  
Water Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation  
(970) 731-2691, [www.pawsd.org](http://www.pawsd.org)  
Sanitation Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation  
(970) 731-2691, [www.pawsd.org](http://www.pawsd.org)  
Sanitation Town of Pagosa Springs, (970) 264-4151  
[www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)  
Trash At Your Disposal (970) 731-4892  
Elite Recycling & Disposal (970) 731-2012  
Waste Management (970) 264-5622  
County Transfer Station, (970) 264-5660

## Tourism & Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.  
[www.pagosaspringscdc.org](http://www.pagosaspringscdc.org)  
(970) 264-2360  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
[www.pagosaspringschamber.com](http://www.pagosaspringschamber.com)  
(970) 264-2360  
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism  
[www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com)  
[www.explorepagosa.com](http://www.explorepagosa.com)  
(970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917  
Region 9 Economic Development District  
(970) 247-9621, [www.scan.org](http://www.scan.org)  
Fort Lewis College Small Business Development  
(970) 247-7009  
<http://sbdcfortlewis.org/>

## Related Website Links & Info

Association of Realtors,  
[www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com](http://www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com)  
Pagosa Lodging Association,  
[www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com)  
U.S. Postal Service, Hot Springs Boulevard,  
(970) 264-5440  
U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office,  
(970) 264-2268, [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan)  
Colorado State University Extension Office,  
(970) 264-5931, [www.archuleta.colostate.edu](http://www.archuleta.colostate.edu)  
Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, (970) 264-2209,  
[pagosa.colibraries.org](http://pagosa.colibraries.org)  
Stevens Field Airport, (970) 731-3060,  
[www.stevensfield.com](http://www.stevensfield.com)  
AWOS frequency 127.17, (970) 731-0365  
FBO (970) 731-2127  
Durango-La Plata County Airport,  
[www.flydurango.com](http://www.flydurango.com)

## Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation,  
(303) 639-1111, [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)  
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Road Report,  
(970) 264-5555  
New Mexico Road Report, (800) 432-4269,  
[www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com)





# Home & Mountain-time Fun!

Pagosa's home store, where you always have a choice

Southwest Colorado's most unique shopping experience!

## Hardware

*the area's best nuts & bolts choices*



car and home keys  
flashing • locks  
weather-strip  
signs • connectors  
hinges • hooks



## Builder's convenience center

*materials for those small projects*

plywood • lumber  
screws • glue  
connectors  
mouldings • boards  
landscaping • concrete



## Electrical & Plumbing

*a shocking selection of lighting fixtures*



LED light bulbs • repair  
plugs • cords  
TV & computer connections  
toilets • sinks  
fittings • filters • tools  
heat tape • pipe  
vanities • repair



## Paint & stain supply

*southwest Colorado's best selection*

pro brushes • rags • drop cloths  
ladders • spirits • spray paints • hobby  
computer color matching  
zero VOC • for pro and pop alike

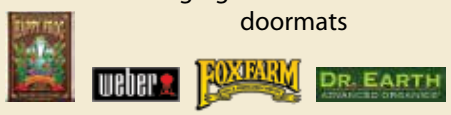


## How does your garden grow?

*the area's best nursery supply*



lighting • starters • seeds • hoses  
sprinklers • fertilizers • shrubs  
outdoor furniture  
trees from the best growers  
grass • flowers • veggies • vines  
hanging baskets • lawn tools  
doormats



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## Housewares

*all the basics*

cookbooks • dinnerware  
gadgets • coffee pots  
appliances • glassware  
totes • organization  
bath & kitchen



## Pet food • Critter supply

*don't forget man's best friend!*

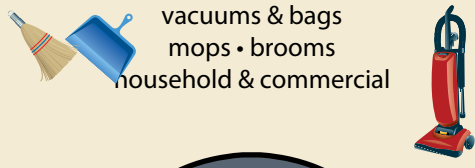
food • treats • leads • toys  
beds • jackets • carriers



## Cleaning and sprucing up

*best selections • best brands*

vacuums & bags  
mops • brooms  
household & commercial



## Books & Gifts

*"The Book Nook"*

maps • regional books  
best sellers • history  
fiction • nonfiction • gardening  
cooking • a complete book store



candles • gadgets • toys • games  
puzzles • plush • frames • & more

## Shoes • Clothing • Hats

*best brands for exploring the outdoors*



## Furniture • Mattresses • Decor

*great choices & special orders*

rustic • log • traditional  
art • entertainment • lamps • rugs • dining



## Sporting Goods

*best selection of outdoor supplies*

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tents • cookware  
food • packs  
fishing • hunting  
hiking • camping



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 Huge Decks  
 Lots of tall Windows  
 Fenced, lush dog park area  
 Game room  
 Call for price

## *Lake and Mountain Views*

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 Custom quality, high end finishes  
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 Granite counters  
 Fireplace  
 On Pavement  
 Close to all Resort Amenities  
 \$346,000



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### *Pagosa Springs Golf Course Home*

2 Master Suites w/fireplaces  
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Hardwood, full of upgrades  
Lots of space  
Tons of storage  
Huge chef's kitchen with views  
Amazingly priced at \$122/sf  
\$495,000

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Minutes from Historic Downtown  
4846 SF, 35 acres, Gated & extremely private  
Hand carved vigas, carved cedar throughout  
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Huge game room/ potential guest apartment  
Unsurpassable views of all ranges  
Priced for summer sale  
\$1,400,000

Mike Heraty, Managing Broker ■ 970.264.7000  
Heraty@frontier.net



# Welcome

If you are planning your first visit to Pagosa Country, rest assured you will enjoy an incredible environment — one full of outdoor recreational opportunities the likes of which are rarely duplicated; one where our unique amenities in this paradise of geothermal waters, flowing mountain streams and alpine delights will satisfy your every need.

If you are returning to Pagosa Country, everything you enjoyed during previous visits remains, and there is even more to sample when you arrive.

In all cases, this will not be your last trip here.

If you are considering a visit, read this guide and get an idea of what awaits when you decide to travel here. You will not be disappointed when you do. You will find yourself in one of the most beautiful places imaginable.

When you are in Pagosa Country, you are in magnificent surroundings. Your task is to determine what you will do once you are here.

Pagosans are eager to help you. The friendly residents of Pagosa Country are ready to help you find great accommodations and, once you are settled in, to provide whatever you need.

We are ready to give you tips on the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation. If there is anything Pagosa Country provides, it is access to fun in the high country during the summer season. Fishing, hiking, boating, rafting, floating, biking — it's all here, in spades. And our local businesses can outfit you for any and all of these pursuits. Don't miss the chance to indulge your passion for outdoor recreation; you are at the heart of it all. Of the best of it all.

We're here to feed you, and feed you well. It doesn't matter where your tastes lead you, chances are you can find the food and drink you desire. Our local establishments give the discerning diner a full range of cuisines and prices.

We're here to entertain you. We boast one of the Southwest's premier theater companies and a number of art galleries.

Indulge the pleasure of soaking in our geothermally heated waters. The giant spring in town issues forth from a mighty aquifer, providing Pagosa Country with some of the most relaxing and restorative waters anywhere in the world.

Finally, shop for the mementoes that will remind you of your visit. Pagosa's shopkeepers can provide you with whatever you need that will remind you that you will return.

Welcome to Pagosa Country.



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**Where is Pagosa Springs?**

Pagosa Springs sits at 7,079 feet in southwest Colorado at the base of the Continental Divide. Featuring rushing rivers and streams, lakes galore, hiking and biking trails, spectacular fall colors, ancient ruins, deep powder in the winter at nearby Wolf Creek Ski Area, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 3 million acres of National Forest surrounding the area, Pagosa Springs offers plenty of opportunities for our valued visitors, any time of year.

**Who can I contact for info?**

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism website at [www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com) will link you to the Visitor Center, or call their vacation line at (866) 438-4917. Visitor information can also be found at [www.ExplorePagosa.com](http://www.ExplorePagosa.com).

Keep up on the news and events with The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with daily updates online at [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://www.PagosaSUN.com).

**What is it like at that altitude?**

Regardless of physical fitness, Acute Mountain Sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To guard against altitude sickness:

- Drink three to four quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion, while keeping caffeine and alcohol intake moderate for the first few days.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of breath occur.

**What is the weather like?**

Archuleta County is located in the "Colorado Sunbelt," just north of the New Mexico border and along the Western slope of the Continental Divide. This combination of high desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusually mild climate compared with much of the surrounding Southwest. We are favored with some 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct seasons. With low wind and warm sunshine, residents can enjoy a variety of year-round recreational activities.

**Average Temperatures and Precipitation:**

Average Days of Sunshine: 300 per year  
 Annual Precipitation: 20.97 inches/year  
 Annual Snowfall: 104 inches/year

Month	High	Low	Precipitation	Month	High	Low	Precipitation
Jan.	37°F	1.4°F	1.48"	Jul.	83°F	45.2°F	1.81"
Feb.	43°F	7°F	1.52"	Aug.	80°F	44.6°F	2.77"
Mar.	49°F	15.9°F	1.63"	Sep.	74°F	36.6°F	2.26"
Apr.	59°F	23.9°F	1.64"	Oct.	64°F	26.3°F	2.26"
May	68°F	30.2°F	1.15"	Nov.	50°F	15.4°F	1.87"
Jun.	78°F	36.3°F	.88"	Dec.	40°F	5°F	1.7"

**Is there a medical facility?**

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Pagosa Springs Medical Center Primary Care Clinic is at the same location. The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services.

**Important phone numbers:**

EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (Ambulance, EMT, Fire, Police)  
 Non-emergency ambulance, fire, EMT or Law Enforcement, dial (970) 731-2160  
 GENERAL

Emergency Medical Services .....	(970) 731-5811
Pagosa Springs Police Dept. ....	(970) 264-4151, Ext. 228
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office .....	(970) 264-8430
Pagosa Fire Protection District .....	(970) 731-4191
USFS Pagosa District Ranger .....	(970) 264-2268
Pagosa Springs Town Hall .....	(970) 264-4151
Archuleta County Commissioners .....	(970) 264-8300
The Pagosa Springs SUN .....	(970) 264-2100
Pagosa Springs Post Office .....	(970) 264-5440
Senior Citizens Center .....	(970) 264-2167
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library .....	(970) 264-2208
Archuleta School District 50 Joint .....	(970) 264-2228
Navajo Lake State Park .....	(970) 883-2208
Southern Ute Indian Tribe .....	(970) 563-0100
Stevens Field Airport, manager .....	(970) 731-3060
Airport Flight Base Operations .....	(970) 731-2127
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation .....	(970) 731-2691
Black Hills Energy .....	(800) 563-0012
La Plata Electric Association .....	(970) 247-5786

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



# SHOPPING FOR PAGOSA PROPERTY?

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[www.JimSmithRealty.com](http://www.JimSmithRealty.com)  
and search the MLS for  
Pagosa homes or land.

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Browse our Listings in  
The Pagosa Magazine!



## Your Local Resource for Real Estate Knowledge

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Call us or stop by our downtown office!  
We would love to help you find your dream property.

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Proven Results.



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**JIM SMITH REALTY**

PAGOSA SPRINGS ... "The Colorado You've Always Dreamed Of"







# Getting Here From There

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Stevens Field Airport

Archuleta County's Stevens Field, located just 3 miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs, is one of the most scenic airports around.

In addition to beauty, the airport boasts a fully lit asphalt runway that is 100 feet wide and 8,100 feet long. That runway has aircraft weight capacities of 70,000 pounds for dual-wheel gear and 59,000 pounds for single-wheel gear. Flight safety at the high-altitude, general aviation airport is reinforced with a Precision Approach Path Indicator system.

The airport has seen a great deal of improvement over the last several years. In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 10/19 and built a new fixed-base operations building at midfield to provide fuel and services to local and visiting aircraft. In 2008, a new 3,000-foot parallel taxiway was constructed. In 2013, Archuleta County acquired additional snow removal equipment solely to be used at the airport. Alongside the other improvements, new hangars have appeared, an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has been installed, and the airport identifier became KPSO.

In keeping with its commitment to Archuleta County and Stevens Field, the Federal Aviation Administration also completed and published a GPS instrument approach for pilot use during nighttime and low-visibility landings.

In 2015, nearly \$6 million was spent to extend the parallel taxiway and complete

other associated projects, further increasing the efficiency of aircraft movement and safety.

Those improvements have not only increased safety, but have also helped solidify the airport's status as an economic driver for the community. According to a recent Economic Impact Study completed by the airport's advisory committee, for every dollar Archuleta County invests in the airport, the county receives a return of \$10.86.

The airport facility also boasts a private, on-site maintenance shop in one of the hangars.

For more information on the airport, visit [www.archuletacounty.org](http://www.archuletacounty.org) or [www.stevensfield.com](http://www.stevensfield.com). For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060.

The AWOS system is available on frequency 127.175, or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

And once you've landed, Pagosa boasts car rental agencies and transportation companies.

## Fixed-Base Operator

For aviation services or to visit Avjet Corporation, the fixed-base operator, travel 3 miles west of town, then approximately 1 mile northwest on Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court.

The FBO offers a number of amenities, including restrooms, telephone, shower fa-

cilities, a flight planning room, pilot snooze room, Internet, vending machines, concierge and catering services, coffee, a lounge area, heated hangar and more. Avjet also provides fuel, Avgas and Jet-A rated fuel.

For more information about these and other airport services, call Avjet at (970) 731-2127.

## La Plata County Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with American Airlines and United Airlines. The airport offers a full range of services within the terminal to make your visit comfortable. The airport has short- and long-term parking, full rental car services and shuttle/taxis.

The airport is located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs at the intersection of Airport Road and County Road 309A, approximately 1 mile from County Road 309.

For more information about flights and ancillary services, visit [www.flydurango.com](http://www.flydurango.com).

## Mileage from Pagosa

Durango, Colo.	61 miles
Cortez, Colo.	104 miles
Denver, Colo.	277 miles
Colorado Springs, Colo.	242 miles
Farmington, N.M.	101 miles
Santa Fe, N.M.	160 miles
Albuquerque, N.M.	212 miles
Phoenix, Ariz.	514 miles
Oklahoma City, Okla.	699 miles
Dallas, Texas	813 miles



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# Pagosa Springs

When John Denver sang “thank God I’m a country boy,” it’s hard to imagine he was talking about what you’ll find along the I-70 corridor today, but get away from the hustle and bustle and noise surrounding the bigger metropolitan centers, come down to the Four Corners area of southwestern Colorado, and you’ll find the kind of small-town charm people still sing about.

There’s plenty to fall in love with: warm sunshine, pristine rivers, abundant wildlife, stately stands of pine and aspen groves, verdant valleys and breathtaking vistas. It’s impossible to describe what it feels like to be sitting around a campfire at night, to look up through the pines at a clear night sky so full of stars it makes your heart race.

It’s just something you need to experience for yourself.

Pagosa Springs still represents the idyllic vision of what Colorado was always meant to be. While many resort towns have become so overrun by the glitz, glamour and flash of Hollywood that real people can’t afford to go there anymore, Pagosa Country has retained its Old West charm while still offering the amenities of the 21st century.

## So small but so much!

With an excellent public library, art galleries, churches (including the Tara Mandala Buddhist retreat center), specialty shops and a digitized movie theater, Pagosa Springs provides more than enough to inspire the

mind and spirit, while offering everything to either heal or exercise the body.

If you need directions or information for any of these (or other) amenities, stop by the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center, which offers a wealth of information on everything from Wolf Creek to Chimney Rock National Monument and beyond.

## Like no other place on Earth!

Backpackers, campers, hikers, mountain bikers and other adventuresome souls will want to visit the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office located at 2nd and Pagosa streets, just two blocks east of Hot Springs Boulevard on U.S. 160. The staff there can provide a wealth of in-





BETH TOLLEFSEN

formation about hiking and biking trails, campsites, fishing spots and horseback riding, as well as various tours of the area including the ancestral Puebloan ruins at Chimney Rock National Monument.

### Pagosa ROCKS!

Needless to say, there is plenty of rock climbing around Pagosa Springs, but once you rappel down, there's plenty of music to greet you. The Pagosa Folk and Bluegrass Festival happens in June, while the Four Corners Folk Festival plays out on Labor Day weekend.

### Water, water everywhere ...

A short walk south from the Visitor Cen-

ter will take you to “The Great Pagosah — the Largest, Hottest Spring in the World.”

If you're a swimmer, the Healing Waters Resort and Spa at the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard offers an outdoor pool and indoor mineral baths. The Springs Resort and Spa also offers an outdoor pool and outdoor geothermal hot tubs located next to the river. The Overlook Spa on Pagosa Street offers an opulent Victorian experience for soaking.

Nevertheless, and nearer still, Pagosa Springs provides ample opportunity to splash and smile. Late summer finds bathers and tubers alike taking to the river, to enjoy a tame — and refreshing — float down the San Juan River.

### More to do than I have time for

Windsurfing? Navajo Lake awaits you. Ballooning? Golf? Tennis? It's all here, under the clearest blue sky you've ever seen.

For the earliest inhabitants of the area, Pagosa was considered a land of healing waters. For today's vacationers, Pagosa is a land of invigorating experiences.

If this is your first time to Pagosa Country, make yourself at home in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and friendliest people in Colorado.

If you've been here before, welcome back. If you've never been here, come find out why so many have said, “The first time I came here, I fell in love with the place.”





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Arboles & Navajo Lake

Pagosa Country is the place for fans of water fun. Navajo Lake is a summer recreation paradise for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, water skiing and wind surfing. The lake is less than an hour's drive from Pagosa Springs and extends 20 miles into New Mexico, with 15,000 surface acres of water.

Fed by the Piedra, San Juan and Pine rivers, Navajo Lake is a wonderful getaway for locals and visitors alike. Getting there is easy, via a relatively short and scenic drive through tall ponderosas and pinon pine country. From Pagosa Springs, travel west on U.S. 160 approximately 17 miles, until you see the spires of Chimney Rock, the site of ancestral Puebloan ruins, and turn south on Colo. 151. From that point on, enjoy the scenery as the 20-minute trip winds through the lower Piedra River Valley to the friendly town of Arboles and on to Navajo State Park. When you reach Arboles, turn left (southeast) on County Road 982, and it's a quick two miles to the park's Visitor Center.

Navajo Lake Marina has almost everything for boating and water skiing enthusiasts. The marina has boat slips and mooring buoys for rent as well as a restroom on the dock. A 200-foot breakwater protects one of the longest boat ramps in the state. Boat rentals are also available. For informa-

tion and reservations, contact the marina at (970) 883-BOAT (2628).

While campsite reservations are not required, campgrounds can fill up during busy summer weekends and holidays, so a reservation is never a bad idea. Campground reservations can be made no more than six months in advance on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us) or by calling (800) 678-2267 toll-free.

A valid Colorado State Parks Pass is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and for travel in all park grounds surrounding Navajo Lake. Daily permits cost \$7 per vehicle. An annual pass is \$70 and Colorado seniors 64 and older can purchase an Aspen Leaf annual pass for \$60.

Whether you're camping, boating, fishing or just spending a sunny day by the water, be sure to visit the "Watchable Wildlife" observation deck, located where Colo. 151 crosses the Piedra River. From the deck, visitors may see mule deer, elk, foxes, coyotes, bears, rare river otters, bald eagles, waterfowl and migratory birds.

The lake itself contains a variety of cold and warm-water game fish. Prized brown trout, rainbow trout and kokanee salmon thrive in the cold waters. Navajo has also become well known to bass fishermen

throughout the southwest, since its warm surface waters harbor largemouth and smallmouth bass. Crappie, bluegill and catfish are also plentiful.

Trotlines are allowed at the lake, but they must conform to Colorado fishing regulations.

The northern part of Navajo Lake lies in Colorado where valid Colorado fishing licenses are required for anglers. Colorado licenses are available at the Visitor Center. If anglers cross south into New Mexico, they need to have a valid New Mexico state fishing license, which can also be purchased at the Visitor Center. Anglers without a boat can access excellent fishing spots on the rivers feeding the lake. Ample parking is located within walking distance of many fishing spots. A fully accessible fishing area is located on the Piedra River just west of Colo. 151.

As a gateway to one of southwest Colorado's finest recreational waters, Arboles has a gas station, cafe, convenience store, motel and post office in addition to boat storage and RV parks.

Check The Pagosa Springs SUN for details about upcoming events and activities.

For additional information and updates on park improvements, call the Navajo State Park office at (970) 883-2208 or visit [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).



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Tabitha Zappone,  
 FNP-BC





# Chromo

DJANE BIGLEY

Part-time residents and fifth generation natives. Mountain peaks and foothills. Cattle ranches and chicken farms. Majestic elk country and cougar territory.

Pagosa Country is a land of variety and contrasts — geographic and cultural.

And the little town of Chromo is a microcosm of the binary observances this land holds.

Chromo is not a far drive from Pagosa Springs; just take U.S. 84 south for 24 miles. And the drive, though short, is full of fun destinations and picturesque viewpoints.

About three miles south of town, you'll see Echo Lake on your right hand side with its exciting cold- and warm-water fishery. Drive only a couple of miles more, and look to your right. There will be a large sign for the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, home to an array of live animals typical of local wildlife, including black bears, a grizzly bear, mountain lions, wolves, coyote, foxes, bobcats and elk. Don't be scared; pull over and take the time to gander at

the wondrous creatures that call Pagosa Country home.

After leaving the wildlife park, if you continue south, you will pass the entrances to several side roads — many of them dead end, but all offer an opportunity for more spectacular Pagosa Country mountain vistas.

The turnoff for Forest Service Road 656 leading to the Upper Blanco River Basin is about 7 miles south of town, and about 10 miles south of town is Forest Service Road 652A leading to the Lower Blanco River Basin.

If you continue south along U.S. 84, you'll enjoy the winding drive through Halfway Canyon and on to wide-open Coyote Park. Much of this portion of the road retraces the pioneer stagecoach route into town. If you look closely, you'll see the bed of a narrow gauge railroad track long since abandoned. You could turn right at Coyote Park onto County Road 392. This will take you to the historic rail hub of Edith. If you continue on, you'll make it to Lumberton in New Mexico,

the old stagecoach destination.

After leaving Coyote Park, you cross a small mountain range. At the top of the range is another dead-end road leading east to Buckles and Harris lakes. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you cross the Navajo River and find yourself in Chromo.

While in Chromo, drive a few miles up County Road 382 for a close look at Navajo Peaks, one of the most highly acclaimed camera points in Archuleta County.

Chromo is one of the best places in Pagosa Country for gaining access to the South San Juan Wilderness Area. During spring and fall, when elk and deer are migrating to and from the high country, a number of migration routes cross the road. Stay alert for elk or deer on the road, but also keep an eye out to the side to catch a majestic sight of the elk or deer running with their herd. If you get a chance while in Pagosa Country, visit Chromo. Allow plenty of time, because there is plenty to see.





YVONNE LASHMETT

# Regional Excursions

Pagosa Country is perfectly located in the midst of some of the most interesting attractions and spectacular scenery in the world, and being here reminds a person what it means to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Sometimes the call of the open road becomes irresistible, and when the urge hits, a little road trip is just the ticket.

## Driving south

Heading south from Pagosa on U.S. 84, your trip offers a wide variety of areas to explore through the mesa country of northern New Mexico.

Just 40-50 minutes away, one can explore the Cumbres Pass area by car or rail.

The car-bound can explore the rich history in Dulce, the center of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe. Be sure to go for the mid-July Little Beaver Pow-Wow and Carnival celebration.

Traveling south on U.S. 84 to Taos (and Taos Pueblo) is a longer, beautiful drive across the scenic Brazos Mountains from Tierra Amarilla (home of Tierra Wools), arriving at a town of artistic notoriety. Likewise, Santa Fe is a three-hour drive south on U.S. 84, offering not only Native American arts and crafts sold near the Governor's Palace, but also numerous art galleries lining a plaza that includes historic churches and places of interest.

Also on U.S. 84 is the quaint and gorgeous town of Abiquiu, which inspired the painter Georgia O'Keefe. For those interested in exploring the spiritual roots of the area, a quick turn on the Forest Service Road 151 not only offers views of the Chama Canyon, but will lead to the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert. Built by famed Japanese architect George Nakashima, the chapel and original monastery show the simple elegance of southwest architecture. Since Benedictines have taken a vow of hospitality, they will be sure to welcome you with arms wide open. Make sure, though, to ring the bell loud!

## Driving west

A short drive west of town leads to the Chimney Rock National Monument, which provides an introduction to the Ancestral Puebloan Indians who settled here over 1,000 years ago. This is a perfect complement to a day trip to Mesa Verde.

Continue south and east on Colo. 151 from Chimney Rock and you will pass through Arboles and Allison and make your way to Ignacio — the home of the Southern Ute Tribe. After checking out the casino, visit the spectacular Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum for a look into the history of one of the most storied tribes of the Southwest.

Mesa Verde National Park, our nation's third most visited national park, offers a look back in time at the lives of the "Anasazi" (Navajo for "Ancient Ones"), the ancient Puebloans who mysteriously disappeared from their spectacular cliff dwellings over 1,000 years ago. The Canyon of the Ancients National Monument is located northwest of Cortez and includes several smaller Anasazi ruin sites for a quieter and more private experience. South of Durango, across the New Mexico state line, is Aztec Ruins National Monument.

Traveling further west beyond Mesa Verde on U.S. 160 is the Four Corners Monument at the junction of Colorado, New Mexico, Ari-

zona and Utah. Closer to Pagosa is Navajo State Park, just 30 miles from Pagosa on Colo. 151, offering camping, water skiing, sailing, fishing, boating and pretty much everything else.

For a more metropolitan experience, Durango is an hour west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 with Fort Lewis College on site and a vibrant historical downtown area.

## Driving north

Directly north of Pagosa Country lies a vast roadless area known as the Weminuche Wilderness, so pretty much anything accessed from the north first requires a drive to the east or west.

From the east (up U.S. 160 to Lake City), a drive up the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway, a 65-mile, four-wheel-drive road over Engineer Pass toward Silverton and Ouray makes for a spectacular — and breathtaking — day trip. To the west, a trip up U.S. 550 from Durango to Silverton, and then on to Ouray (the Switzerland of America), is substantially less taxing on the rear axle.

## Driving east

Almost no one visiting the area misses an opportunity to drive over Wolf Creek Pass. Aside from the opportunity to hike up Treasure Falls, view the Pagosa basin from the overlook, or the short drive up Lobo Overlook on the north side for access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, travelers are provided with some of the most breathtaking miles of road offered anywhere in the world. A swing by Big Meadow Reservoir, a few miles from the summit and on the north side of the highway, is well worth the diversion.

On the other side of the pass, South Fork offers the option of driving north on Colo. 149 on the Silver Thread Scenic Byway toward Lake City, or continuing east on U.S. 160 towards the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

If choosing Colo. 149 to Creede, an old mining town with a deep heritage, a visitor might enjoy the Mining Museum (at the far north end of Main Street) or a performance at the renowned Creede Repertory Theatre.

North from Creede (as mentioned earlier) and over Slumgullion Pass (named for the yellowish dirt that a mudslide uncovered a thousand years ago) is Lake City. With the natural dam forming beautiful Lake San Cristobal, the highest natural lake in Colorado, Lake City also proudly features the history of Alferd Packer, the only U.S. citizen ever charged, tried and convicted for the crime of cannibalism — where judge M.B. Gerry said, famously, "You son of a bitch. There were only seven Democrats in Hinsdale County and you ate five of them!"

Continuing east on U.S. 160 from South Fork takes visitors into the high desert (8,000 feet) and towards the Great Sand Dunes National Park, about 15 miles past Alamosa and left on Colo. 150.

At the base of the intimidating Sangre de Cristo range (four 14,000-foot peaks at Crestone, less than 20 miles northeast), the area has had millions of years collecting the sand of the San Luis Valley into dunes several hundred feet high, creating the backdrop for numerous Westerns and the awe of millions of visitors.

No matter which direction you choose, Pagosa Springs is the hub for a trip to a destination that promises to be both breathtaking and memorable, with amazing views to capture and a rich history left from those who settled in this area.



# Chimney Rock National Monument

Chimney Rock National Monument, a 4,726-acre archaeological site, houses artifacts left by the Ancestral Puebloan People. The Ancestral Puebloans were an ancient culture that inhabited and traveled across areas of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, and Chimney Rock is the northeastern gateway to their past world.

The Ancestral Puebloan people occupied the Chimney Rock area and the Piedra River valley approximately 1,000 years ago, from 900 A.D. to 1150 A.D. Ancestral Puebloan farmers lived in villages and on dispersed homesteads. An impressive testament to this life and community is the Great House Pueblo situated at an elevation of 7,600 feet, just below the Chimney Rock pinnacles. The Great House Pueblo is only one of 91 structures found at Chimney Rock thus far by researchers. Although Chimney Rock is an important link to an ancient culture, several Native American groups, notably the Puebloan Tribes, still have a special spiritual and traditional affinity for this place.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) sponsors programs at the national monument in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Pagosa Ranger District.

Details on all programs are available at [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org) or by calling (970) 883-5359 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily from May 15 to Sept. 30 or (970) 731-7133 from Oct. 1 to May 14.

CRIA officially opens its 2017 season at Chimney Rock National Monument on May 15.

Visit the monument located 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs and three miles south on Colo. 151. Choose between two walking tours during the visitor season May 15 through Sept. 30. Two-hour guided walking tours which include the Great House Pueblo Trail are offered daily. Space is limited and is first-come, first-served. Audio-guided walking tours of the Great Kiva trail are available 10 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, and do not include access to the Great House Pueblo Trail. Visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org) for an up-to-date schedule. All walking tours meet at the visitor center where fees are collected — \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5.

CRIA's archaeoastronomy programs:

**Full Moon:** During this program, guests will learn about Ancestral Puebloan ties to astronomy, Puebloan culture and more while watching the full moon rise from atop Chimney Rock Mesa. Cost is \$15. A package combining the Full Moon program with a guided tour of the Kiva Trail is also available for \$20.

**Night Sky-Stars and Galaxies:** This program is timed for when the moon is absent from the sky so visitors can enjoy the night sky in a

dark environment and see fainter objects that the moon's light would normally obscure. The evening begins with an interactive discussion at the Visitors Cabin on the archaeoastronomy of Chimney Rock. As sunset approaches, visitors drive to the high mesa parking lot where volunteer astronomers await with telescopes to provide a closer look at the wonders of the night sky. Cost for this program is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

**Night Sky — Our Solar System:** Timed for when the moon is present in the sky but not fully illuminated, this program enables visitors to enjoy the night sky unimpeded by artificial light or the brightness of a full moon, and see many of the brighter objects that are visible. The program begins with an interactive discussion at the Visitor Cabin. Guests will learn about naked-eye astronomy of the Ancestral Puebloans and solar system and universe, and will enjoy night-sky viewing through telescopes from the upper mesa. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

CRIA's annual programs:

**Summer Solstice and Fall Autumnal Equinox Sunrise programs:** Wednesday, June 21, and Friday, Sept. 22 — Watch the sun rise from the Sun Tower and Stone Circle sites while a volunteer talks about how the ancients may have lived and why celestial alignments with site geology may have been important to them.

**Life at Chimney Rock Festival:** This free festival, to be held July 22 and 23, includes interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people in addition to a Native American arts and crafts market. No reservations required.

**Dances of the Ancients:** On Saturday, May 27, two Puebloan dance groups will gather at Chimney Rock to dance in the Great Kiva, home to their ancestors. The Acoma Rain Dancers from Acoma Pueblo and the Oak Canyon dancers from Jemez Pueblo are both all-children dance groups and will be performing at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., one day only. This culturally significant event will be both powerful and captivating. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

**Partial Eclipse of the Sun:** Monday, August 21. A coast-to-coast total eclipse of the sun will pass through neighboring Wyoming. Pagosa Springs will experience a partial eclipse of the sun. The tour will include explanations of the eclipse, insights into eclipses historically and live Native American flute music. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

All programs (except Life at Chimney Rock) require reservations and can be booked online at [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org) or by calling (877) 444-6777. Walk-ins are accommodated if space allows.







MARK D. ROPER



# Arts Entertainment Events



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY





# Songs of the Fall

## Songs of the Fall: 'Chemistry in the music'

Stetson and Cia Atkisson are the perfect embodiment of the Americana character.

Their band, Songs of the Fall, dropped their third album, "Confessions," earlier this year, with the duo currently preparing to go on their second European tour.

With Stetson primarily playing guitar and Cia primarily playing the banjo, the two harmonize their voices and instruments for a bold, unique sound that's been described as a mix of folk, bluegrass and delta blues.

"We met through a mutual friend in Nashville," explained Stetson. "She was still touring with her family, and I was writing some songs with some friends out in Nashville and kind of hanging out."

Said Cia, "It was one of the few times that a setup actually worked. This guy at the studio said, 'I met this guy and I think you'll like him,' and I actually did."

Stetson said that originally, himself and Cia were introduced to each other with the original intention of making music together, but they dated for a year and a half before they began jamming together.

"We moved out to New Mexico on Ted Turner's ranch, and we both got a job out there, and we sat down one night and played some songs together and realized there was some chemistry there," Stetson said.

Cia's no stranger to the music scene. A member of the family bluegrass band Cherryholmes, she's been nominated for five Grammys for the musical contributions she's made.

"(The family) played ever since we were little, but the band didn't

come around until I was 15," said Cia, later explaining that three of her Grammy nominations were for best bluegrass album, and the other two were for best country instrumentals.

Stetson said that he started getting into music later than Cia, first getting into songwriting and guitar-playing when he was in college.

The duo's first album, "Stetson and Cia," came out in 2012, a year after the two started playing together. Their second studio album, "Songs of the Fall" was released in 2014. The two have also toured all around America for the past three years as well.

"We were in the studio one day and started talking about the reason that we write songs and what we write songs about, and a lot of times, it's falling in one way or another," said Stetson. "Falling in love, falling out of love, falling on hard times, so falling was kind of a theme. We just decided Songs of the Fall was basically just talking about the fall of mankind, and life from start to finish."

Their music has changed since the first time they sat down and wrote songs together, with Cia saying, "We know each other's styles and we always try to write to each other's strengths." Stetson said that their songs have started to take more of a "grungier, 'let's rock out' a little bit" while touching on subject matter that's a little more taboo.

The two just welcomed their first child, a daughter named Avery, and said that Pagosa Springs will remain their full-time home.

"It's what we love. I love the other things I do for a living," said Stetson. "But there's just something about music, the passion and the emotion behind it... It's just fun."



# Local Event Calendar 2017

All events are correct as of press time.  
Please check with event organizers for  
updates before making travel plans.

## MAY

**May 6**  
**Pagosa Rotary Club's Annual Kentucky Derby Gala**  
Kayah Grande, 1 p.m.  
(970) 946-5619, [pagosaspringsrotary.org](http://pagosaspringsrotary.org)

**May 19**  
**Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**May 26-mid September**  
**Pagosa Springs History Museum**  
**opens with special quilt program**  
1st Street and U.S. 160, [www.pagosamuseum.org](http://www.pagosamuseum.org)

**May 27**  
**Partial Solar Eclipse**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 9 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Dances of the Ancients**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## JUNE

**June 2**  
**Night Sky: Our Solar System Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**June 3**  
**XTERRA Turkey Track Trail Run**  
Turkey Springs, 8 a.m./9 a.m.  
(970) 398-0612, [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)

**June 9**  
**Chimney Rock Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Chimney Rock Full Moon Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**June 9-10**  
**The Car Show and Motorcycle Show at Pagosa**  
Downtown, (970) 264-2360  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**June 9-11**  
**Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival**  
Reservoir Hill  
(877) 472-4672, [www.folkwest.com](http://www.folkwest.com)



**June 11**  
**Ride the Rockies**  
Yamaguchi Park, 3 p.m.  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**June 15**  
**19th Hole Concert Series: Brooks-i Band**  
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

**June 16**  
**Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**June 16-Aug. 25**  
**"Aida"**  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
(970) 731-7469, [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org)

**June 17-Sept. 16**  
**Pagosa Farmers Market**  
Downtown, 9 a.m. -1p.m.  
(970) 264-5232, [www.paulineb@centurytel.net](mailto:paulineb@centurytel.net)

**June 17**  
**Bike Tour of Colorado**  
Yamaguchi Park, 4-8 p.m.  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**June 22**  
**19th Hole Concert Series: The San Juan Mountain Boys**  
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

**June 21**  
**Summer Solstice Sunrise Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**June 23-Aug. 26**  
**"Hairspray"**  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
(970) 731-7469, [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org)

**June 23-24**  
**"Sister Act"**  
Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.  
(970) 731-3370, [www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

**June 25**  
**"Sister Act"**  
Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 2 p.m.  
(970) 731-3370, [www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

**June 29**  
**19th Hole Concert Series: Jack Ellis**  
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)



**June 29-July 1**  
**"Sister Act"**

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.  
(970) 731-3370, [www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

**June 30**

**Night Sky: Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## JULY

**July 1-4**

**Park-2-Park Arts and Crafts Festival**

Downtown, (970) 264-2360  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**July 2-4**

**Red Ryder Rodeo**

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds  
Archuleta County Fairgrounds  
(970) 264-2730, [pagosarodeo.com](http://pagosarodeo.com)

**July 4**

**Star Spangled Shuffle**

Downtown  
(970) 398-0612, [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)

**Rotary Fourth of July Parade**

Downtown, 10 a.m.  
(970) 507-0500

**Community Band July 4th Concert**

The Springs Resort Hotel back lawn, 2 p.m.  
(970) 749-7385

**Live Concert in the Outdoor Amphitheater**

5th Street on the San Juan River  
[pagosagreen.org](http://pagosagreen.org)

**Fireworks**

Downtown, dusk

**July 6**

**19th Hole Concert Series: Songs of the Fall**

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

**July 8-Aug. 27**

**"Big River"**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
(970) 731-7469, [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org)

**July 8**

**Pagosa Duathlon, "The Dirty Du"**

Monument Park/Turkey Springs junction  
[www.pagosaduathlon.com](http://www.pagosaduathlon.com)

**Chimney Rock Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Chimney Rock Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**July 11-12**

**Pine Cone Classic Charity Golf Tournament**  
**Benefiting Vets for Vets**

Pagosa Springs Golf Course  
(970) 731-9774, [Yardt13@gmail.com](mailto:Yardt13@gmail.com)

**July 13**

**19th Hole Concert Series: Bob Hemenger**

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

**July 15-Aug. 26**

**"Sister Act"**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
(970) 731-7469, [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org)

**July 20**

**19th Hole Concert Series: Eric from Philly**

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

**July 21**

**Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**July 22**

**Pirate Plunge Mud Run**

Yamaguchi Park and Pirate Hill, 10 a.m.  
(970) 759-4419, [www.pirateplunge.com](http://www.pirateplunge.com)

**July 22-23**

**Life at Chimney Rock Festival**

Chimney Rock National Monument  
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**July 27-28**

**Cowboy Fast Draw Colorado State Championship**

Town Park, 9 a.m.  
(970) 731-9140, [www.sanjuanshootists.com](http://www.sanjuanshootists.com)

**July 28**

**Night Sky: Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**July 29-30**

**Cowboy Fast Draw Four Corners**  
**Territorial Championship**

Town Park, 9 a.m.  
(970) 731-9140, [www.sanjuanshootists.com](http://www.sanjuanshootists.com)





# Local Event Calendar 2017

## AUGUST

**Aug. 3-6**

### **Archuleta County Fair**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, (970) 264-5931  
[www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com)

**Aug. 7**

### **Chimney Rock Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### **Chimney Rock Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 18**

### **Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 19**

### **Golf Gone Goofy**

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, (970) 264-2360  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

### **Devil Mountain Ultra 50k & 50 miles**

Turkey Springs, 6:30 a.m.

### **Demons of Dust Half Marathon**

Turkey Springs, 8 a.m.

Kids' free run, 8:30 a.m.

(970) 398-0612, [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)

**Aug. 25**

### **Humane Society Auction for the Animals**

Community Center, (970) 264-5549  
[www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz)

## SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 1-3**

### **Four Corners Folk Festival**

Reservoir Hill  
(877) 472-4672, [www.folkwest.com](http://www.folkwest.com)

**Sept. 1**

### **Night Sky: Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 6**

### **Chimney Rock Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### **Chimney Rock Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



**Sept. 15**

### **Passport to Pagosa**

Music Wine and Food Festival, Town Park  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Sept. 16**

### **Second Annual Breakfast with Balloons**

5th Street on the San Juan River  
[pagosagreen.org](http://pagosagreen.org)

### **Colorfest Mass Balloon Ascension**

Downtown, 8 a.m.  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

### **Color Me Cray-Z Colorfest 5K Color Run/Walk**

(970) 264-9075, [www.acvap.org](http://www.acvap.org)

### **Music and Micro Brew Festival**

Town Park, 3 p.m.  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Sept. 17**

### **Colorfest Mass Balloon Ascension**

Uptown, 8 a.m.  
(970) 264-2360, [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Sept. 22**

### **Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 22**

### **Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 30**

### **Mountain Chile Cha Cha Festival**

Town Park, 8:30 a.m.  
(970) 398-0612, [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)

## OCTOBER

**Oct. 5**

### **Chimney Rock Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### **Chimney Rock Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Oct. 14**

### **Seeds of Learning Little Black Dress**

Ross Aragon Community Center, 5 p.m.  
(970) 264-5513, [www.growingseeds.org](http://www.growingseeds.org)

**Check the calendar at  
[www.pagosasun.com](http://www.pagosasun.com) for  
up-to-date events and information.**





Lama Tsultrim Allione



Krishna Das



Pema Chödrön



R. Carlos Nakai

Tara Mandala is a beautiful retreat center on 700-acres of land nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Pagosa Springs. We host a variety of retreats and events throughout the year, with visiting teachers from around the world offering a wide range of teachings from many wisdom traditions.

**Upcoming Events:** Kapala Training Level II: Feeding Your Demons® with Lama Tsultrim Allione & Lopön Charlotte Rotterdam: May 24-29. R. Carlos Nakai & Nawang Khechog in Concert: July 8. Intimate Dialogue with Pema Chödrön & Evening Concert with Krishna Das: July 29. First International Chöd-Zhijé Conference: July 12-16.

**Open House & Meditation 101:** Free for the public. Also includes guided tour and vegetarian buffet lunch. **Open House Dates:** March 18, April 22, May 14, September 2, October 7. Please register online.

20% off any retreat with promo-code PVG17. Offer expires 10/31/17 • [www.taramandala.org](http://www.taramandala.org)

## 19th Hole Concerts



June 15, 22, 29 • July 6, 13, 20

5:30 ~ 7:30

at PAGOSA SPRINGS GOLF CLUB

\$10 cover will benefit six local nonprofits through grants shared equally at the conclusion of the series.

Cash bar and food from the grill available for purchase



[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

## Explore Pagosa. Save Money. What could be better?

Visit [www.ExplorePagosa.com](http://www.ExplorePagosa.com) for great money-saving coupons to use while you visit.



# EXPLOREPAGOSA.COM

HOME OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™

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DOUG CHAPIN PHOTOGRAPHY

# Music & Theater

After a day of playing in the river, hiking a local peak, angling for that wall-worthy brown trout or stirring up some mud with the fat tires of a mountain bike, take advantage of the numerous opportunities in Pagosa for the musically minded and the theater lover.

The summer season opens up restaurant patios and beer gardens for local, regional and national talent, while area establishments host bands almost every night during the summer. Doors open wide to allow a refreshing blast of cool air for patrons and a taste of the excitement indoors for those strolling by.

More than that, area stages come alive with comedies, dramas and musicals, making Pagosa Springs a premier destination for theater.

## Get your groove on

While nationally-renowned music festivals (listed in other pages in this guide) rightfully grab most of the glory, a quick glance at events listed inside the front page of The PREVIEW section (published each week in The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper) will show that the local music scene ranges from acoustic performances to Zydeco — and everything in between.

Two stepping? Techno freestyle? Reggae? Good old rock 'n' roll? Area restaurants and bars offer excitement for everyone in the late-night crowd, while early evening usually offers more low-key performances under the stars.

Check out the “Flavor of Pagosa” section of this guide for phone numbers and

addresses of establishments to find out what’s being offered on any given night.

## Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

The Thingamajig Theatre Company in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (PSCA) has achieved a reputation for featuring Broadway-quality productions, earning the distinction as one of Colorado’s premiere venues for professional theater.

The award-winning Thingamajig Theatre Company brings in professional talent from around the nation to perform in, direct and design its shows, as well as harnessing local talent.

PSCA offers four major musicals five days a week throughout the summer, as well as an ever-changing art gallery, and a summer theater camp for children.



For event and theater information or to purchase tickets, check out the PSCA website at [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

### Curtains Up Pagosa

Pagosa Springs has an outstanding community theater organization. Curtains Up Pagosa, established in 1989, presents two excellent productions each year under the direction of Dale Johnson, production director, and Sally Neel, music director.

Each production includes an auditioned volunteer cast that is accompanied by a live pit orchestra.

This summer Curtains Up Pagosa will be presenting "Sister Act" at Pagosa Springs High School with six performances scheduled. These performances will take place at 7 p.m. on June 22, 23, 24 and 25 (2 p.m. matinee) and June 29, 30 and July 1.

Curtains Up Pagosa is a nonprofit organization whose proceeds support young people in the performing arts. The organization strives to not only entertain residents and visitors, but also to support local public schools by providing funding for arts programs. That support manifests not only in its stage productions, with cast members ranging in age to those young and those better classified as young at heart, but also in the scholarships the group awards for students going on to study performing arts after high school. This support includes local student scholarships for private voice, dance and instrumental lessons.

For more information about the show and tickets, watch The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper.

### Pagosa Springs Community Band

The Pagosa Springs Community Band formed in 2011. The band includes talented community musicians and can be seen throughout the year.

Quickly becoming tradition, the band puts on a Fourth of July concert, as well as its annual fall and spring concerts.

The spring concert, called Band-O-Rama, will be held on Saturday, April 22. This special concert that features Pagosa Springs Middle School and Pagosa Springs High School bands in addition to the Community Band.

The Fourth of July concert will take place at 2 p.m. on July 4 on the back lawn of The Springs Resort. This is an outdoor concert, so bring a lawn chair or a blanket to relax on while you enjoy the performance of patriotic music.

**THE THINGAMAJIG**  
THEATRE COMPANY  
PRESENTS

**BROADWAY**  
IN THE MOUNTAINS

<b>AIDA</b> THE TIMELESS LOVE STORY	JUNE 16 AUG 25 RATED PG-13
<b>hairspray</b>	JUNE 23 AUG 26 RATED PG-13
<b>SISTER ACT</b>	JULY 15 AUG 26 RATED PG-13
<b>BIG RIVER</b> THE MUSICAL	JULY 8 AUG 27 RATED PG

**SUMMER SEASON 2017**

970-731-SHOW (7469)  
2313 EAGLE DR.  
PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO  
PAGOSACENTER.ORG

**PAGOSA SPRINGS CENTER for the ARTS**

PAGOSA SPRINGS Medical Center | Citizens Bank of Pagosa Springs | King Campbell D.D.S. FAMILY DENTISTRY | OLD CROWS SALOON





# Ride the Rockies Bicycle Tour

## » June 11-17

Pagosa Springs will be a host community for The Denver Post Ride The Rockies Bicycle Tour's annual summer event for the seventh time this summer.

Previous years the Pagosa Springs community hosted the event were 2013, 2010, 2006, 2002, 1996 and 1991.

The 2017 ride will take place over seven days from June 11-17. The ride will include 2,000 cyclists from across the country, chosen through a lottery registration. Riders will be treated to the majestic views and challenging terrain of some of the best miles Colorado has to offer to the cycling community.

The 32nd tour will showcase the communities of Alamosa, Pagosa Springs, Durango, Ridgway, Montrose, Gunnison and Salida. Beginning in Alamosa, the "Gateway to Colorado's Great Sand Dunes," cyclists will ride through some of the same mountain passes made famous by the historic Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. From Alamosa, cyclists will cover 447 miles and ascend over 32,000 vertical feet, all the way to the "Heart of the Rockies" in Salida.

Keeping to tradition, the course will feature some of Colorado's most scenic and breathtaking views. Highlights of the route

include: Wolf Creek Pass, the Pagosa hot springs, the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Hesperus Hill, Coal Bank Pass, Molas Pass, Red Mountain Pass, Ouray Hot Springs, Cerro Summit, Blue Mesa Reservoir and Monarch Pass. Cyclists will be treated to some of Colorado's finest mountain towns that host the tour.

"There is a reason why Ride The Rockies is no stranger to the majority of the communities highlighted on this year's tour; the routes between each town are spectacular and the charming hosts do an exceptional job of welcoming everyone associated with the event," said Renee Wheelock, tour director. "We're ecstatic to revisit this region."

Local hotels, restaurants and retailers in each host community benefit from an estimated \$250,000 in economic impact each day of the tour. Increasing this impact, The Denver Post Community Foundation will award a \$5,000 grant to a nonprofit organization in each host town.

For over three decades, Ride The Rockies has showcased some of the state's most beautiful regions, a stewardship made possible by countless volunteers, loyal sponsors, dedicated partners and gracious host communities.





# Bicycle Tour of Colorado

## » June 17-24

The Bicycle Tour of Colorado (BTC) picked Pagosa Springs as the start and finish town for its 2017 tour.

BTC is a 453-mile test of physical and mental endurance. There is no better way to see Colorado's Rocky Mountains than on a bicycle.

The tour's website touts that participants will "experience the climbs and descents for a new perspective on how tall and steep the mountains are. Cruise along rivers and streams and feel the spray of the whitewater. Stop and take pictures, or just memories, almost anywhere along the way. Spot abandoned mines, wildflowers, towering forests, wide open valleys, as you crank out the miles. Peer through the clear night sky in a small mountain town to view the stars clearer than in the big cities. Make new friends along the road, in camp, or at the nightly after ride beer garden."

The BTC is a loop tour finishing in the same town that it started. Cyclists will arrive in Pagosa Springs on June 17 in preparation for the next day's departure, June 18. They will return to Pagosa Springs on June 24 and take advantage of the community's healing waters.

This year, the tour stops include Antonito, Alamosa, Salida, Gunnison, Monte Vista and back to Pagosa Springs. The 23rd annual seven-day loop tour features the San Luis Valley loop and other Colorado towns located a little farther north.

BTC participants will headquarter at Pagosa Springs High School.

And in true Pagosa Springs hospitality style, the Pagosa Area Chamber of Commerce will host a party at Yamaguchi Park, for both the community and the riders to take part in the celebration of cycling.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com) | (970) 264-2360

The 2017 Ride The Rockies route is:

June 11 — Alamosa to Pagosa Springs.

June 12 — Pagosa Springs to Durango.

June 13 — Durango loop.

June 14 — Durango to Ridgway.

June 15 — Ridgway to Montrose or optional Government Springs Challenge.

June 16 — Montrose to Gunnison.

June 17 — Gunnison to Salida.

The route is subject to change pending permits.

Each June, Ride The Rockies participants venture on a six- or seven-day bicycle tour across Colorado's Rocky Mountains. The route is different each year, but always climbs a few challenging passes to showcase the state's spectacular scenery. To date, the tour has visited 47 different towns.

The ride is exceptionally popular and approximately 2,300 applications are received annually. Ride The Rockies is embarking on its 32nd consecutive tour, making the ride one of the longest running bicycle tours in Colorado.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com) | (970) 264-2360



# 22 years of folk

## » Four Corners Folk Festival | Sept. 1-3

This Labor Day Weekend, the 22nd annual Four Corners Folk Festival will take place on beautiful Reservoir Hill Park in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Thousands of people of all ages will once again converge from all around the country for three days of live performances, workshops, campground jams and a children's program that provide the backbone of the popular, music-filled weekend. Nationally and internationally acclaimed performers slated for 2017 (at press time) include Los Lobos, Sarah Jarosz, John Fullbright, The East Pointers, We Banjo 3, The Lil' Smokies, The Accidentals, Session Americana, Quiles & Cloud, The Ghost of Paul Revere, The Drunken Hearts, Finnders & Youngberg plus more to be announced.

The stellar music featured on the festival stages is most commonly labeled Americana but includes a variety of influences — bluegrass, Celtic, newgrass, alt-country, folk rock, rockabilly, blues and everything in between. Rising above downtown from its prime central location, Reservoir Hill Park provides outstanding campsites located in the 140-acre ponderosa pine forest, just a short walk from the main venue. Many festival-goers choose to stay at one of Pagosa's many lodging establishments, taking advantage of the free shuttle service up and down Reservoir Hill during

the show.

Campground jam sessions are a regular feature and a highlight for many attendees of the festival, and go on all day and well into the night. Other activities include late-night performances on Friday and Saturday, music workshops, a food court, beer and wine garden and vendor expo. The large performance tent provides shelter for the stage and seating for more than 1,300 people, plus there is ample room in the meadow outside the tent to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission, except for Festival Patron tickets, which include food and beverage service and a special seating area under the tent.

The Four Corners Folk Festival is an extremely family-friendly event, offering free admission to children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult), as well as a free children's program with arts and crafts, family entertainment, special musical performances and workshops for aspiring young musicians and their families.

Tickets and additional information are available online at [www.folkwest.com](http://www.folkwest.com), or by calling (877) 472-4672. Up-to-the-minute updates and information can also be found on the festival's Facebook page: [facebook.com/fourcornersfolkfestival](https://facebook.com/fourcornersfolkfestival) and you can follow the festival on Twitter, @4cornersfolk.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



## » Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass | June 9-11

Music lovers of all ages will not want to miss the 12th annual Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass taking place June 9-11 on Reservoir Hill Park in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The music kicks off on the afternoon of June 9 at 5 p.m. and continues throughout the weekend — including performances at the Ponderosa Pavilion late night stage on Reservoir Hill on Friday and Saturday nights.

This year's stellar lineup (at press time) for the weekend includes: The Lil' Smokies, Molly Tuttle, Ten Strings and A Goat Skin, Western Centuries, The Last Revel, The Stash! Band, The Barefoot Movement, Moors & McCumber and many more to be announced.

This incredibly fun outdoor music festival is famous for its beautiful on-site camping and ubiquitous campground pickin'

circles, plus music workshops, a free children's program with arts and crafts and entertainment, plus beer, wine, food and crafts vendors. A large tent shelters the stage and provides first-come covered seating for some 600 people, with lots more space on the open festival meadow to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission and the festival is a rain-or-shine event.

Admission is free for children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult. Tickets and full festival information, including performer bios and links to songs and videos, are available online at [www.folkwest.com](http://www.folkwest.com), or by calling (877) 472-4672.

You can also "like" the festival's Facebook page at [facebook.com/pagosafolkbluegrass](https://facebook.com/pagosafolkbluegrass) and follow the latest festival news on Twitter, @folkbluegrass.

[www.folkwest.com](http://www.folkwest.com) | (877) 472-4672

*~12th Annual~*  
**PAGOSA FOLK 'N BLUEGRASS**  
JUNE 9, 10 & 11, 2017  
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

**THE O'CONNOR BAND**  
FEATURING MARK O'CONNOR  
**TEN STRINGS & A GOAT SKIN**  
**THE LIL' SMOKIES ★ MOLLY TUTTLE**  
**DUSTBOWL REVIVAL ★ THE LAST REVEL**  
**WESTERN CENTURIES ★ BAREFOOT MOVEMENT**  
**THE STASH! BAND ★ THE HEARTSTRING HUNTERS**  
**MOORS & McCUMBER ★ & MORE TBA!**

*22nd Annual*  
**FOUR CORNERS FOLK FESTIVAL**  
September 1, 2 & 3, 2017  
Pagosa Springs, CO

**LOS LOBOS ★ THE WOOD BROTHERS**  
**BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN**  
**SARAH JAROSZ ★ JOHN FULLBRIGHT**  
**WE BANJO 3 ★ THE EAST POINTERS**  
**THE LIL' SMOKIES ★ SESSION AMERICANA**  
**QUILES & CLOUD ★ THE ACCIDENTALS**  
**GHOST OF PAUL REVERE ★ THE DRUNKEN HEARTS**  
**FINNDERS & YOUNGBERG ★ & MORE TBA**

**WWW.FOLKWEST.COM ★ 877-472-4672**





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# The Car Show at Pagosa

## » June 9-10

Pagosa's summer season arrives with screaming engines for the ninth annual Car Show at Pagosa Springs on June 9-10.

The event features antique vehicles, model category cars, 4x4s, trucks and motorcycles — all displaying plenty of classic style.

There will be awards for class winners, as well as a special prize for the Best in Show.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 9, in Town Park, with the "Party in the Park" including car registration, a welcome barbecue and concert for the participants and spectators. This is

a great time to get a sneak preview of many of the cars that will be on display Saturday.

On Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the vehicles will remain at the Athletic Field in Town Park for the "Show and Shine." This event gives spectators a chance to admire antique and custom cars. Music, displays, activities for children, food, a beer garden and car-related vendors will be on hand to add to the festivities.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com) | (970) 264-2360

## » Archuleta County Fair | Aug. 3-6

A longtime tradition, the 66th annual Archuleta County Fair will take place Aug. 3-6, and it's always a party, so dust off those boots, break out your western wear and get ready to have a great time.

Fair days are full of fun in the sun with entertainers, games, exhibits and demonstrations. Gates open at 9 a.m. daily, closing around midnight on Friday and Saturday to ensure that you have the time to enjoy the festivities. The fair closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

4-H members will show their animals including horses, dogs, rabbits, goats, sheep, steers, chickens, pigs, turkeys, lambs and more during many livestock shows.

The Horseshoe Tournament and Ranch Rodeo will keep fair goers busy on Saturday. After working up an appetite, head to the 4-H Chuck Wagon Dinner and then to the Livestock Tent.

The Junior Livestock Sale is the culmination of the hard work of 4-H members. The sale exhibits the long-standing livestock traditions and ranching roots of Archuleta County and supports 4-H youngsters who have dedicated themselves

to their projects throughout the year. 4-H members display and have their work judged at the county fair and may even get the opportunity to go to the Colorado State Fair. After a full day, two-step on over to hear some live country western music performed by the High Rollers under the Activity Tent.

The festivities continue into Sunday with the Kids' Rodeo and pie eating contest.

A petting farm for kids to enjoy will also be available each day. During the fair, the exhibit hall will be filled with different projects created by county residents including quilts, photographs, paintings, vegetables, flowers and baked goods. Vendors will also sell delicious fair food throughout the weekend.

The fair is held at the fairgrounds just south of town on U.S. 84. Everyone is invited. Admission is \$2 for kids and \$4 for adults. The full schedule of events will be published prior to the fair in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

[www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com) | (970) 264-5931





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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Celebrating America

## » July 1-4

The Pagosa Springs area is one of the busiest places in the Southwest during the Fourth of July holiday and Pagosa will be in full swing this year.

The annual Park 2 Park Arts and Crafts Fair will kick into gear on Saturday, July 1, and will run until Tuesday, July 4. There will be over 60 vendors at the festival. You'll find artwork, jewelry, woodcarving, glasswork, weaving, specialty foods and so much more at the fair. The location is conducive to shopping as you stroll through Town Park, along the Riverwalk and into Centennial Park enjoying the crafts and tasty food items. The fair opens every day at 9 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. While downtown, don't miss out on the unique local shops located in the historic downtown area.

The "biggest small town parade" in the country, hosted by Pagosa Springs Rotary Club, will be held Tuesday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone loves a parade and Pagosa's is one of the very best. Arrive early for a seat along the route.

The Fourth of July fireworks will be held Tuesday night, July 4. The fireworks festivities will take place on the fields adjacent to Pagosa Springs High School, on South 8th Street in the downtown area. To

best view the fireworks, you can enjoy seating at the Pagosa Springs High School or at Yamaguchi Park, located on South 5th Street. Gather family and friends, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the stellar display. The fireworks display typically begins at dark — around 9:15 p.m. This event is subject to fire restrictions and weather.

The 68th annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, a legendary Fourth of July festivity, will be held three days starting July 2 and running through July 4. The rodeo will begin on Sunday afternoon, July 2, at 4 p.m. The rough-and-tumble rodeo, with regional cowboys and cowgirls, will feature performances at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 3 and at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4. The Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo arena is just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84.

Head down to the carnival at the athletic field at Town Park, June 30 through July 4, for some thrills and chills and, don't worry, there are some sedate rides for the wee ones.

There is still time between all these activities to enjoy a barbecue, a hike or a bike ride away from the bustle of town — or to partake in any of the other fun experiences available in the area. For more information, contact the Visitor Center at (800) 252-2204 or visit the website, [www.visitpagosa.com](http://www.visitpagosa.com).

## » Showdown on the San Juan River | July 27-30

The San Juan Shootists, Pagosa Springs' local chapter of the Cowboy Fast Draw Association, will host the Showdown on the San Juan River, Thursday, July 27 through Sunday, July 30.

Thursday and Friday, July 27-28, you will find shooters competing for the 11th annual Colorado State Championship.

Saturday and Sunday, July 29-30, marksmen will participate in the 2017 Four Corners Territorial Championship.

All events will be held at the Town Park athletic field in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Spectators and participants alike have the opportunity to relive the history of the area and the romance and culture of the old west.

The San Juan Shootists' mission is to promote and teach safe and responsible firearm handling. Cowboy Fast Draw is a friendly sport that teaches and promotes courtesy, integrity, sportsmanship and the cowboy way.

[www.sanjuanshootists.com](http://www.sanjuanshootists.com) | (303) 842-0408





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# ColorFest

## » September 15-17

ColorFest weekend rings in the fall season accompanied by a blaze of gold and red hues, complemented by the bright colors of hot air balloons.

ColorFest weekend also celebrates the harvest season with the Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival and the Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival paying tribute to numerous local and regional foods, microbreweries and music.

Add the crisp and glorious Colorado autumn weather, and you have a weekend of fun, friends and unparalleled beauty Sept. 15-17.

On Friday, Sept. 15, the popular "Passport to Pagosa: Wine and Food Festival" fills the tent in Town Park. Paired with the delicious wines chosen for this event is the scrumptious food provided by many of Pagosa's superb restaurants and caterers. This event is certainly an epicurean delight and often sold out.

Several nonprofit agencies host noteworthy events during this weekend. Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program will host their annual 5K ColorFest Color Run, to begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Town Park. Get doused with color as you walk or run the designated trail in the downtown area where volunteers will welcome you with every color of the rainbow. Sign up for the run at [www.acvap.org](http://www.acvap.org).

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership hosts Breakfast with Balloons at its site in Centennial Park along the San Juan River directly across from the balloon launch site. Enjoy a gourmet breakfast and mimosas in the comfort of your ringside seat to the morning balloon mass ascension and the splash and dash antics of the balloon pilots. Tickets are available at [www.pagosagreen.org](http://www.pagosagreen.org).

You will enjoy the magic of hot air balloons as they ascend around 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A mass ascension on Saturday, Sept. 16, will take place in the downtown area with the beautiful San Juan River in the foreground and the San Juan Mountains as a backdrop. Various locations on the west side of town will host the balloon ascension on Sunday morning, Sept. 17 with Pagosa's

lakes offering fabulous photography opportunities.

The Saturday evening Balloon Glow will be held in the downtown area at the Town Park athletic field. Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews attendees will be able to continue their party while watching the silhouettes of glowing balloons adjacent to the festival as the evening grows dark.

All balloon-related activities are dependent upon the weather.

For more information about ColorFest, call the Chamber of Commerce at (970) 264-2360. Balloon pilots interested in flying, download the pilot application at [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com).

## Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival » September 16

Celebrating the area's penchant for a well-crafted quaff and its commitment to good music, Pagosa Springs brings the annual Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival to Town Park on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 3-7 p.m.

In conjunction with the weekend's ColorFest activities, Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival is another opportunity to spend a fun time in Pagosa Springs while celebrating some of the region's best beers and breweries.

The festival is a chance for residents and visitors alike to raise some suds in a toast to the approach of autumn. Participants can enjoy samples from almost 20 regional, state and local craft breweries and loosen up and dance to a variety talented musicians.

While adults sample beers from the numerous breweries or wine that is also available, the kids (or teetotalers) can enjoy nonalcoholic beverages. With a bounce house, a food court and more offered to keep the attendees occupied, Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival is not just a celebration of the end of summer, good music and great beer, it is a family-friendly event in the tradition of small-town America.

More information about the weekend's festivities and a listing of the musical talent may be viewed at [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com).





TRENT BONA

# Mountain Chile Cha Cha

## » September 30

There are few better ways to spend an autumn day than getting some exercise, then kicking back for a day of food, music and fun in beautiful Town Park at the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

The Cha Cha is a celebration of Pagosa Country's Hispanic heritage that spotlights the love of green chile and provides a cultural and culinary treat for locals and visitors alike, as well as an endurance event that benefits Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors (GECKO).

This year, the Cha Cha will take place Sept. 30 in Town Park, in downtown Pagosa Springs. Admission is free.

The day begins with burning muscles, thanks to a 5k, 10k (with a 700-foot climb in elevation) and half marathon beginning at 8:30 a.m., as well as a kids' run at 7:30 a.m. The run takes place

entirely off-road, using trails over Reservoir Hill and the Reservoir River Ranch.

After the races, the burn moves to the taste buds, at the annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic — a green chile cookoff and tasting (the public tasting beginning after judges have made their rounds) and ever-popular margarita contest. The Classic offers those in attendance the opportunity to sample dozens of delicious homemade green chiles, many made using recipes passed down through generations of local residents.

The event continues with a beer garden, fresh roasted green chile on site all day and fun activities for the kids. In the afternoon, enjoy live dance music, with performers to be announced. Winners of the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic will be announced between performances, with \$600 in prize monies, trophies, medals and bragging rights handed out to winners.

## » Pagosa Farmers Market | June-September

Just in town for the weekend? Making your stay in Pagosa Country an extended trip? Stop by the Farmers Market and pick up some local products to enjoy during your stay or take home with you as a unique token of Pagosa Springs.

The Pagosa Farmers Market is celebrating its 10th year of operation every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 17 to Sept. 16. The market is located on U.S. 160 on the east end of town.

Vendors bring to the market locally produced foods such as vegetables, grass-fed beef, pastured pork, cheeses, milk, eggs, breads, honey, pastries and canned goods. Other products include plants and plant starts as well as tree seedlings, natural skin care products and handmade articles of alpaca, mohair and wool.

The Small Growers Coop is a unique market feature where you can purchase vegetables from a backyard grower who sometimes has an excess of one vegetable or another.

Local products include those made in Pagosa Country with some raw materials from elsewhere given the limited availability of some resources in the area. As such, the market supports both immediately local producers as well as regional sellers of raw products. The market is also a great place to meet people and learn about the agricultural livelihood of many local residents. This is the ideal place to put into practice the excellent advice, "Know your farmer, know your food."

The market is definitely a fun, colorful place to hang out on a Saturday as it brings local producers and community members together and is a relaxed place to socialize, get errands done and even enjoy live music played by area musicians.

In addition to accepting cash or credit cards, market vendors accept SNAP benefits for purchase of market food products.

[www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)



# Fred Harman Art Museum

Last winter did you catch a re-run of the holiday classic “A Christmas Story” about the little boy who only wants a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas?

Fred Harman garnered worldwide distinction with his Red Ryder and Little Beaver comic strip, which, from 1938 until 1964, notched 45 million devoted followers in more than 750 newspapers on three continents. The comic was also turned into numerous movies and commercial products, furthering the Red Ryder fame.

Just a short jaunt west from downtown Pagosa Springs, tucked back in the trees, is a place sure to please fans of comics and cowboys, connoisseurs of drawing and painting, and anyone wanting a unique look at a special Pagosan — the Fred Harman Art Museum.

The museum, located just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and Piedra Road (on the aptly named Harman Park Drive), is also the former home of the famed artist and cartoonist, who used his early experience as a cowboy growing up on his father’s homestead to create his original art and famous comic strip.

Pagosa Springs is also home to the annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo.

Harman was honored with inclusion in The Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Cowboy Artists of America Association and, in 1958, he was presented with Sertoma’s “American Way of Life” award as Colorado’s outstanding citizen.

The museum features a wide-ranging display of Harman’s paintings, drawings, a collection of memorabilia from his long and eventful life, as well as rodeo, movie and western memorabilia. Outside the museum is a collection of aged buildings from the area’s past, further making you feel like you’ve stepped into the time of Harman himself.

For more information, visit [www.harmanartmuseum.com](http://www.harmanartmuseum.com).



Visit the home of Red Ryder & Little Beaver comics and the Red Ryder BB gun!



Original Fred Harman paintings on display!

970.731.5785  
info@HarmanArtMuseum.com  
www.harmanartmuseum.com

85 Harman Park Dr., PO Box 192, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



## Take a walk back in time.

2017 Season Dates:

May 26 to mid-September

open 9 am to 5 pm • Wednesday thru Sunday  
no admission charge • donations appreciated  
gift shop • local history books

**Housed in our town’s old water works building, the museum displays exhibits of early-day life in Pagosa Springs including railroad, business and household artifacts.**

*featuring a special exhibit showcasing antique and vintage quilts*

## Pagosa Springs History Museum

96 Pagosa Street • Pagosa Springs, Colorado • (970) 264-4424 • [pagosahistory.org](http://pagosahistory.org)



# History & Heritage



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY





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# History Museum

For more than four decades, the Pagosa Springs History Museum has offered visitors and locals alike a glimpse back into the history of Pagosa Country, at the same time preserving history and displaying precious artifacts from the past.

The museum, which is overseen by the nonprofit San Juan Historical Society, hosts a one-of-a-kind collection depicting early life and industry in the area. The majority of the items on display were found, used or produced in the area, including metal art; a gem and mineral collection; taxidermied bear, mountain lion and deer; and fossils of the extinct mosasaur, an aquatic reptile, that was discovered in Archuleta County.

A few of the exhibits available to view at the museum include logging and railroad, a plethora of old photographs, a general store, country schoolroom, ranching and textiles, and household exhibits, which include a wood-fired range, clothes washers that show the evolution of doing laundry, kitchen gadgets, sewing machines and even a convertible table/chair made out of redwood that was crafted in Archuleta County.

In addition to the museum's permanent textile exhibits, the museum will again include a special display of quilts this season. In the footsteps of the highly popular shows of the past several seasons, this summer's show will feature antique quilts

made by local quilters. A redwork quilt set for display celebrates local organizations and features the names of well over 100 locals who were involved in the making of our community. You'll also be able to view the friendship quilt "Pine Trees of Pagosa Springs," among others.

The museum is located a short walk from downtown Pagosa Springs at the corner of U.S. 160 and 1st Street. It is partially housed in the old waterworks building constructed by the WPA in 1938.

While visiting the museum, guests are encouraged to browse the gift shop, where historical society members provide carefully selected items, which may be of particular interest to visitors of Pagosa Country. Also available are handmade items from local crafters, making the perfect memento or gifts for friends back home.

The society has also compiled and published a 13-volume book series, "Remembrances," celebrating the people, places and history of Pagosa Springs and surrounding area.

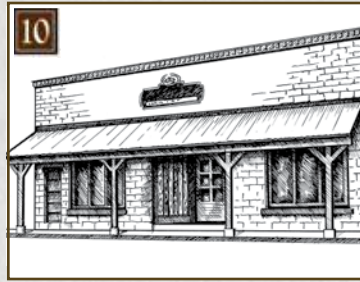
The museum opens for the season on May 26, and will be open five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. including holidays, though mid-September. Admission is free.

Donations are accepted to offset the operating expenses. The museum relies on private funding and grants to operate and all donations are greatly appreciated.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY





# Downtown Historic Walking Tour

## 1. 402 Pagosa Street

### Goodman's Department Store

Following the departure of soldiers from Fort Lewis in 1880, pioneer David Lowenstein opened a clothing store at this location, conducting some of his business with Jicarilla Apache Indians. Through marriage, the Goodman family became associated with the business and eventually remodeled the structure in 1929 by completely enclosing the existing structure and then removing the old store from the inside without closing for a day. In 2000, Goodman's Department Store celebrated its 100th year in the building, continuing its legacy as the longest operating department store in Pagosa Springs.

## 2. 418 & 422 Pagosa Street

### Metropolitan Hotel & Liberty Theatre

Pagosa Lumber Company founder A.T. Sullenberger purchased the two-story brick building at this location in 1918, which was previously occupied by Archuleta Mercantile and built by J.M. Archuleta Jr. in the early 1900s. After a fire destroyed the structure in 1919, Sullenberger constructed the Metropolitan Hotel, which featured modern rooms, hot baths for guests and a motion picture theatre.

## 3. 426 Pagosa Street

### Sparks Hardware

Constructed in 1919, this structure was originally occupied by Sparks Hardware. Archuleta Motors opened a garage in the building several decades later. After fire damaged the building in 1943, Ben Lynch Sr. moved Jackisch Drug to this location, where it was operated by the Lynch family until 2004.

## 4. 452 Pagosa Street

### The Hersch Building

Built by Alice Phillips in 1898 and owned by the Hatcher Brothers from 1905 to 1921, this build-

ing was purchased in 1921 and became Hersch Mercantile. The building operated as Hersch Mercantile until the 1970s and has held numerous social and business functions, as well as the law offices of former Colorado Attorney General Alonzo Hubbard.

## 5. 456 Pagosa Street

### La Cantina

Clock Dry Goods Company operated at this location beginning in 1903. The building was briefly known as the Colorado Tavern from 1937 to 1941. The building was purchased in 1941 and renamed La Cantina by the L.M. Archuleta family. The Archuleta family operated La Cantina into the late 1990s until the building was purchased; renovations followed shortly thereafter, in 2001.

## 6. 468 Pagosa Street

### Hatcher Hardware

Beginning in 1905, Hatcher Hardware operated at this location for several decades, often sharing ownership of the building with Citizens Bank. In 1943, a fire almost completely destroyed the building. The existing building was constructed following the fire. At the rear of the property is the town's second geothermal well, which was drilled in 1920. The wellhead has the ability to pump approximately 675 gallons per minute and was previously used to heat the building.

## 7. 474 Pagosa Street

### Citizens Bank

Citizens Bank operated at this corner location for more than 70 years. Fred Catchpole opened the bank following the closure of First National Bank in 1908. The original building, constructed in 1910, was a two-story structure. The structure was remodeled into a one-story building after a fire damaged the second floor in 1943. Catchpole served as county commissioner and county treasurer and was also influential in the

construction of the Wolf Creek Pass road. The original bank vault and Wells Fargo safe still remain inside.

## 8. 449 San Juan Street

### Archuleta County Courthouse

In 1927, Jay Catchpole approached the Archuleta County Commission and suggested the county purchase the old First National Bank building, along with the adjoining lot to construct a courthouse. The property was purchased for \$5,000 and in 1929, the county moved into its new offices. This building has operated as the Archuleta County Courthouse since 1929 and utilizes a geothermal well behind the building. The original bank vault still exists within the courthouse.

## 9. 480 San Juan Street

### Moorehead Garage

This building originally functioned as a service station and auto garage and was constructed sometime between 1935 and 1937. A fire in 1943 destroyed a large portion of the structure. Numerous renovations have been completed since the fire, including significant restoration in 2005.

## 10. 468 Lewis Street

### San Juan Supply

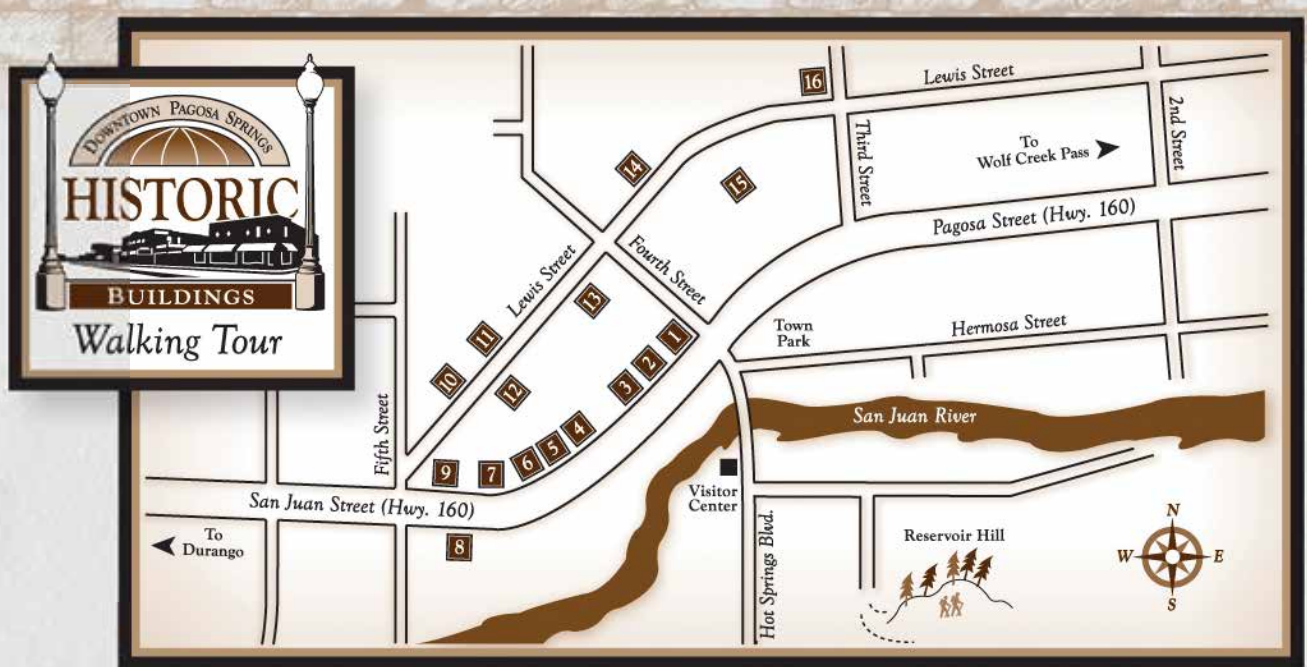
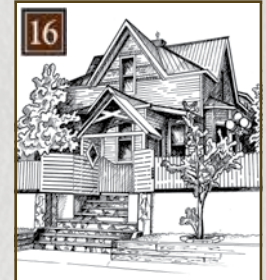
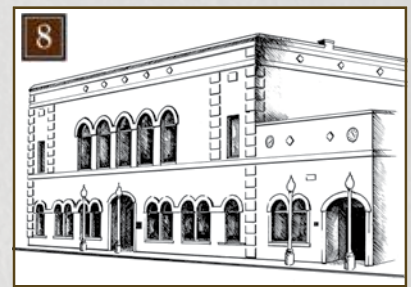
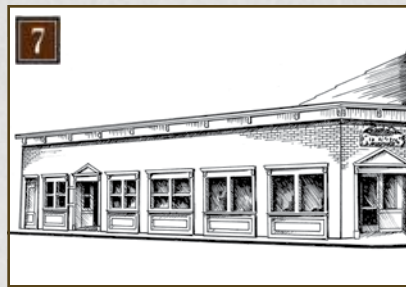
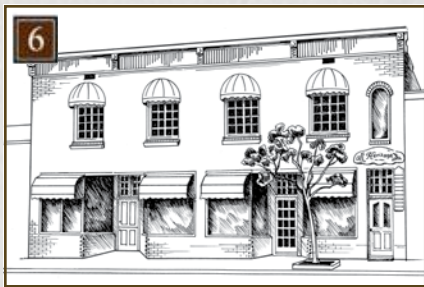
Ralph Morgan constructed this building in 1918 and opened the Electric Garage. The property was purchased by C.O. Dunagan in 1925 and later sold to the Schoonover family. In the 1930s, Paul and Virginia Decker became partners with the Schoonover family and operated San Juan Supply into the mid 1980s. The building has served a variety of commercial enterprises since the closure of San Juan Supply.

## 11. 444 Lewis Street

### Sparks Residence

This ornamental concrete block building was constructed by Ethel Sparks in 1910. The home





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was purchased by Bryce and Julia Patterson in 1912. The Pattersons moved to town in 1904 and operated the Arlington Hotel and Bath House, which was across the street from the residence, until 1936.

**12. 451 Lewis Street  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Catholic Church**

This building was constructed in 1948 to accommodate an increased congregation at the existing Saint Edwards Catholic Church. The church was dedicated as the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on May 22, 1949. The original stained glass windows were imported from Spain. Saint Edwards Catholic Church was destroyed by fire in the 1950s.

**13. 409 Lewis Street  
Ray's Hair Care**  
Located where the old Fort Lewis military

paymaster's office may have stood, this building was constructed in 1902 by either Joseph Clarke or William Kester. The building has housed a number of businesses throughout the years, with Ray's Hair Care operating at this location since 1976.

**14. 380 Lewis Street  
County Jail & Medical Office**  
County records show the jail may have been located on this property prior to 1936. The existing residence was built in the mid-1930s for a local medical doctor. The residence's architecture exemplifies the use of local stone materials.

**15. 338 Pagosa Street  
Pagosa Springs Middle School**  
Pagosa Springs' school was completely destroyed by fire in 1924. For a year, students attended school in churches, businesses and the Odd Fellows Lodge until this building, the new

school, was finished in 1925. The building was constructed to be totally fireproof, with ramps instead of stairs, which was thought to be safer. The school originally housed all grade levels; however, today the school accommodates only fifth- and sixth-grade students.

**16. 302 Lewis Street  
Catchpole Residence**  
This residence was constructed as a Queen Anne-style home by Fred and Mabel Catchpole in 1910. From 1996 to 2002, the home experienced extensive remodeling, including siding, shingles, doors, windows and roof. The Catchpoles were active community members, with Fred serving terms as county commissioner and county treasurer, and Mabel serving terms on the school board and Methodist Church board. The residence is no longer owned by the Catchpole family.





# Pagosa's Past

*By John M. Motter*

"Bold and brash" best describes Archuleta County history, a saga of the Old West prescribed by rugged mountain remoteness and the distinctive characteristics of three proud cultures.

At least three national flags have symbolized ownership of Pagosa Country — claims not always recognized by the indigenous Native Americans who hunted and fished here long before Columbus crossed the Atlantic.

Those flags belonged to Spain, Mexico and the United States, and an argument could be made that France also claimed the area for a period of time.

Evidence of prehistoric human occupation in the San Juan Mountains, including Archuleta County, is fairly abundant. Later, but before white men followed Indian trails into the area, the ancestral Puebloans pursued a sedentary lifestyle near Chimney Rock and along the Piedra and San Juan rivers in the southwestern part of the county.

More recently, perhaps about the same time Hispanics arrived in New Mexico, Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Indians found the fertile mountain valleys surrounding the Great Pagosa Hot Spring to their liking. They enjoyed, even worshiped, the medicinal benefits of the mineralized hot spring waters.

Hispanics wandered into Nuevo Mexico in the 16th century, hoping to fill their packs with gold. Even though they didn't uncover fabulous golden riches, they stayed and, in order to

survive, traded with the Indians. As a result, a trading party led by Juan Maria Rivera visited Pagosa Country in 1765. Not much later, in 1776, the priests Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre Escalante entered Archuleta County near present-day Carracas, intent on finding a path linking Spain's New Mexico colonies with those in California. After reaching the central valley of Utah, the intrepid explorers turned back. Nevertheless, for years, Pagosa Country hills echoed to the clip clop of mule trains trotting back and forth between California and New Mexico, along paths opened by these men.

By 1820, Pagosa Country acquired a new, if still foreign, ruling government. That is the year Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain and began administering her own affairs. Mexico's greater tolerance for Anglos encouraged a steady stream of fur traders to set their traps in the San Juan watershed.

By 1846, trapping was largely a thing of the past and even bigger changes loomed on the horizon. The United States went to war with Mexico. Following the war, the United States owned about half of Mexico's territory, including Pagosa Country.

Anxious to explore their new domain and to find a railroad route to California, the U.S. Army sent an expedition through Pagosa Country in 1859, headed by Capt. John Macomb. Macomb's party included a number of scientists who mapped the route and rendered exquisite line drawings of the Great Pagosa Hot Spring and Chimney Rock. Macomb's report is the first written description in





English we have of Pagosa Country.

Soon after Macomb's visit, in 1860, gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains. For the next 30 years, a steady stream of prospectors and their supporters flowed through Pagosa Country. The growing number of settlers agitated the proud Southern Ute tribes, forcing the U.S. government to respond by sending troops into the area.

The San Juan River adjacent to the great Pagosa Hot Springs was chosen as a good point for locating troops. In 1878, Fort Lewis blossomed on one bank of the river, the town of Pagosa Springs on the other bank. Cattle ranchers chased their four-legged charges through the surrounding foothills.

Pagosa Country assumed all of the attributes of the Old West, with cavalry troops, cowboys and Indians, gunfights and barroom brawls, sheepmen and cattlemen, stagecoach holdups, all of the cherished traditions from which western movies are made.

Then, as suddenly as it had arrived, the Old West disappeared. Filling the void were railroads, lumber mills and loggers. Pagosa had its own narrow gauge railroad complete with a downtown depot. Nothing lasts forever and, after denuding much of the countryside, the railroad and logging industry moved out.

Colorado built a relatively modern highway over Wolf Creek Pass in 1916; trucks began to move most of the freight and telephones, electricity and central water came to town. Local folks were caught between the new and the old. Cattlemen continued to raise beef

for the market. Small lumber mills hacked away at the remaining trees. Then came the Great Depression and World War II. Many of the rural people eking out a scarcely adequate living moved to town, or further away to work in defense plants. The war ended, but few of those who had abandoned Pagosa Country returned. Pagosa had no payrolls.

Along about 1970, a number of land developers, ears tuned to the insistent jingle of change in affluent America's pockets, began to subdivide and sell Pagosa Country land. Buyers responded enthusiastically, infatuated with the mountain panoramas, gurgling streams, seemingly endless ranks of mountain forests, and maybe with the idea that a little of the Old West lived on in Pagosa Country.

Since 1970, the population of Pagosa Country has increased dramatically. Shops have sprung up to meet the needs of new arrivals. Farsighted investors have developed the Great Pagosa Hot Springs and other natural attractions. But, even with change, Pagosa Country has remained unique — a beautiful, off-the-beaten-path refuge for resident and visitor alike.

The history of Pagosa Country, new and old, is etched in her people's dynamic response to change. Even though the Old West is gone, the Old West background of soaring mountains, strident streams and abundant wildlife continue to dominate life here. As it has been from the beginning, Pagosa Country, dominated by God-given natural resources, remains bold and brash.





# Family Fun

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

## Born out of need, the K.I.D.S. Summer Camp uses local resources to find success

With activities such as hiking, fishing, games and activities, science projects, arts and crafts, water days, youth Zumba, field trips and more, the K.I.D.S. (Kickin' It During Summer) Day Camp, hosted by the Town of Pagosa Springs, has no shortage of opportunities to create long-lasting, happy memories.

The goal of the camp, according to Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis, "is to provide a safe, fun, affordable and educational environment for children ages 5-12 and parents."

The program was also designed to benefit families with day care needs during the summer — a benefit extends not only to residents, but also to those visiting the area.

The idea for the summer camp was born a mere three years ago, when a pilot program called Summer of Exploring was implemented, Lewis explained. That program coincided with the Pagosa Springs Youth Center's summer program.

However, in the fall of 2015, the youth center closed its doors, creating a void in the community for day care for school-aged children in the summer months.

Following the closure, numerous parents contacted Lewis to see if the town could help by starting a youth program, and Lewis in turn sat down with staff at the Ross Aragon Community Center (also run by the town) to see what could be done.

What came out of those pleas and discussions was K.I.D.S., which opened in June 2016 with the blessing (and financial backing of) the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

That first summer was considered nothing short of a success, with a wide range of ages participating and positive community feedback and support. And that success came in part from the many community partners that helped with the event.

In addition to using local resources such as parks and rivers, the program explored Chinmeey Rock National Monument and partnered with agencies such as the Division of Wildlife, EMS, Pagosa Fire Protection District, Weminuche Audubon Society, the Archuleta County Fair, school district and area businesses to provide unique content.

"It was extremely satisfying to watch all the children grow within the program as well as the new friendships that formed," Lewis said.

The K.I.D.S. Day Camp operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the summer. Children may not be dropped off later than 9 a.m. nor picked up later than 5:30 p.m. There is a daily maximum of 50 participants.

If space is available, tourists and summer visitors may register children ages 5-12 for daily or weekly activities. Immunization records and registration forms must be completed prior to child participation here is a onetime registration fee of \$15. The camp costs \$25 per day or \$85 per week, with a family discount available for siblings.

For more information, contact Traci Bishop at the Community Center by calling (970) 264-4152, ext. 532 or by emailing [tbishop@pagosasprings.co.gov](mailto:tbishop@pagosasprings.co.gov).



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PAGOSA SKATERS COALITION FOR CONCRETE

# Town Parks

The employees of the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department take great personal pride in their stewardship of the town's facilities and amenities.

The parks of Pagosa Springs run the gamut from the wild and natural pine forest on Reservoir Hill to the well manicured fields of Yamaguchi Park. What follows is a list of each park and a description of what it has to offer.

## Reservoir Hill

The most prominent physical feature of the downtown area, Reservoir Hill towers over the south bank of the San Juan River and is distinguished by the large green water tank visible from U.S. 160.

The park is accessible from three trailheads — located across the highway from the River Center, behind the Healing Waters Spa and next to the U.S. Post Office — and offers miles of hiking and biking trails ranging from gentle and peaceful to steep and technical.

A large meadow right next to the water tank is the home to two of Pagosa's largest musical events: The Folk 'N Bluegrass event takes place in early June and the Four Corners Folk Festival over Labor Day weekend. A large, wooden gazebo in the festival meadow is available to rent for special occasions such as weddings or reunions.

Located one-fourth of a mile east of the gazebo is an overlook that allows one to overlook the town and see stunning views.

Reservoir Hill is also home to one of the best disc golf courses in the region, featuring 18 baskets, 18 regular tee boxes and 18 alternative tee boxes for those experts looking for a bit more

challenging game.

There are restrooms available on the hill.

## Yamaguchi Park

Located on South 5th Street between Pagosa Springs High School and the river, Yamaguchi Park is home to a favorite hang-out for local kids — the Pagosa Skate Park. The Skaters Coalition for Concrete, a local grassroots organization formed over a decade ago, raised funds and added a full-sized bowl to the 4,500 square-foot concrete terrain at the park.

The park was designed to appeal to skaters of all ability levels and includes several plaza elements and a bowl feature.

The park is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year, provided the skating surface is free of ice and snow in the winter months. To learn more about the skate park, or to find out when the annual skater competition and fundraiser will take place, visit [www.skaterscoalitionforconcrete.com](http://www.skaterscoalitionforconcrete.com).

Another amenity of Yamaguchi Park is the kayak/raft launching facility and two whitewater features, complemented by the paved Riverwalk to facilitate viewing activities on the river.

A heated year-round restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills and picnic shelter allow for family gatherings, while a state-of-the-art playground and beautiful soccer and softball fields give plenty of room for the kids to play. A special-events and performance venue with electrical service is also available.

## South Pagosa Park

A true neighborhood park located on the south side of town on Apache Street between 7th and 8th streets, South Pagosa Park has





bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, a playground and a basketball court. The park is well used by local families.

**Centennial Park**

Centennial Park stretches along the river behind the Archuleta County courthouse, and includes several tables for enjoying a nice family picnic while watching the activities in the river and the hot springs beyond. A pedestrian bridge provides a continuous connection for the Riverwalk that winds through the wetlands behind Town Hall and the Ross Aragon Community Center. A pedestrian bridge at the other end of the park connects to The Springs Resort and Spa.

**Town Park**

On the southeast corner of the U.S. 160/Hot Springs Boulevard intersection, Town Park connects to Centennial Park via the Riverwalk and contains a wind harp, bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a playground, two special-event, 200-amp electrical services, a performance space with stage and a white-water feature in the adjacent river. The park and the athletic field across Hermosa Street host several events throughout the year, including the Fourth of July Park 2 Park Arts and Crafts Fair, ColorFest and the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

**Mary Fisher Park**

Along the south bank of the San Juan River directly across from Town Park, and connected to it by another pedestrian bridge,

Mary Fisher Park contains several picnic tables, as well as a changing screen for kayakers and inner tubers to use before hitting another one of the new whitewater river features.

**River Center Park**

Nestled behind the River Center shops on the east end of town (from U.S. 160 go behind the River Center buildings), the River Center Park contains two small fishing ponds with a handicap-accessible pier and access to the river for launching rafts and kayaks.



*All are welcome to join the fun!*

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Typically, the harder the cache is to find, the bigger the treasure inside is.

Treasure is the stuff of legends, and hunts for treasure the stuff of adventure and discovery. In Pagosa Country, there is the legend of Treasure Mountain — millions in gold buried by 300 Frenchmen under the rocks of the San Juan Mountains. Only one man allegedly made it back to France, with a tale and a map. To this day, no one has found that treasure.

These days, treasure hunting has taken on a decidedly more modern flare, in the form of geocaching, and makes treasure hunting a possibility even without the luck of finding a map from days gone by.

Geocaching is a form of hi-tech treasure hunting friendly to all ages, where the treasure is in the form of a cache — some kind of trinket, treasure, landmark, bit of history or otherwise. Sometimes, it is simply a paper on which you write your name, your reward being one of the few to find the cache. Others will have tiny treasures, from key chains to DVDs. Typically, the harder the cache is to find, the bigger the treasure inside is.

When you find the cache, you may take what is hidden inside, but geocaching etiquette suggests that you replace it with something else.

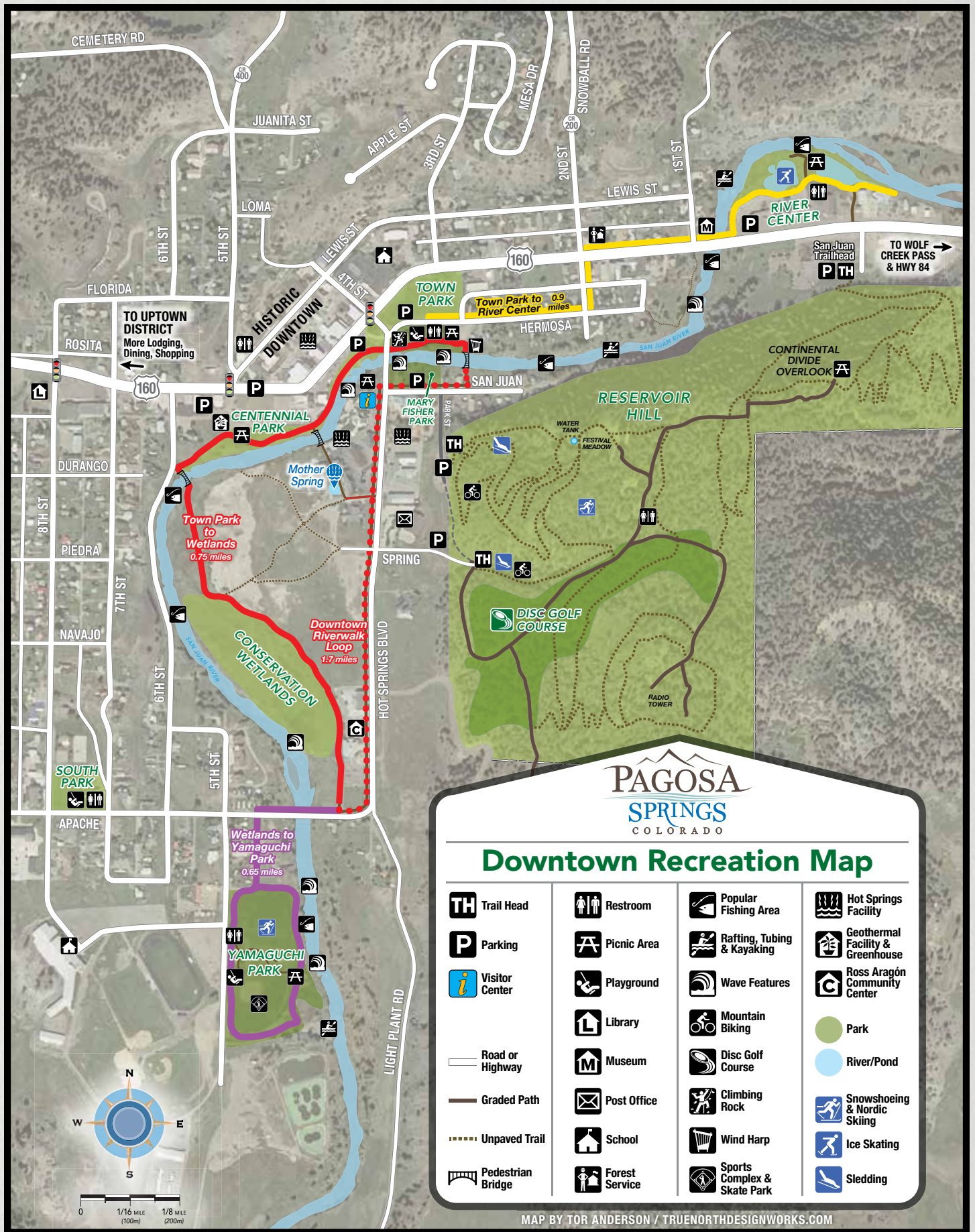
One popular type of cache includes a “travel bug” — an item that moves from cache to cache, often traveling tens or hundreds of thousands of miles as geocachers move it from site to site. Each time the travel bug is found, it is logged into the geocache tracking website ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)), keeping the originator and others apprised of the bug’s whereabouts and miles traveled, then deposited into another cache for the next treasure seeker.

With a handheld GPS or smartphone app, and a compass, anyone and everyone can get in on the hunt for a cache.

To start the search, hunters log on to the geocaching website, [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), and type in a location on the home page. For Pagosa Springs, dozens of caches appear. The site will give you coordinates, and you’re on your way.

From caches hidden in the mountains around Wolf Creek Pass to small caches that will take you around the downtown area, geocaching not only helps you learn your way around and find hidden treasure, but may even lead to the discovery of a beautiful site or view that may have been otherwise overlooked.





**PAGOSA SPRINGS**  
COLORADO

## Downtown Recreation Map

<b>TH</b> Trail Head	Restroom	Popular Fishing Area	Hot Springs Facility
<b>P</b> Parking	Picnic Area	Rafting, Tubing & Kayaking	Geothermal Facility & Greenhouse
Visitor Center	Playground	Wave Features	Ross Aragon Community Center
Road or Highway	Library	Mountain Biking	Park
Graded Path	Museum	Disc Golf Course	River/Pond
Unpaved Trail	Post Office	Climbing Rock	Snowshoeing & Nordic Skiing
Pedestrian Bridge	School	Wind Harp	Ice Skating
	Forest Service	Sports Complex & Skate Park	Sledging

MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUENORTHDESIGNWORKS.COM



# Rest & Relaxation



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



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Austin, TX

Amazing massage and an amazing experience! Thank  
you so much! I feel healed from the whole  
bit! Kati J

I have had the most enchanting  
& fortuitous time here, I will be  
back, and Jen is so accomodating  
and offers excellent top of the  
notch customer service.  
Trish Redwood

We've come here almost every day of  
our a week vacation and just can't get  
enough. The atmosphere is elegant & relaxing,  
the people who work the desk are delightful and  
the tubs are most definitely healing. Loved the  
view and the people we met. Our massages were  
fabulous. Couldn't have been better.  
Susan & Joe, Georgetown Texas

What an unexpected and lovely surprise.  
Suzanne had the most healing hands  
and what a treasure she was I will  
be back. Anika Erikson

I am SO glad it rained  
this morning and chased us  
in your door! Wonderful massage,  
great staff, and we loved the  
rooftop. We'll be back!  
LJL

SD FIVE + Demi MALVAR 2/19/11  
The private tub with candles + wine is a must!  
Coiled off on the roof tubs and enjoyed the  
fantastic views. We'll be back again. Absolutely  
wonderful

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MUCH better than your friends across the road!  
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Judy was fantastic!  
The Swedish massage felt  
so good that she put  
me to sleep twice! Best  
massage ever!  
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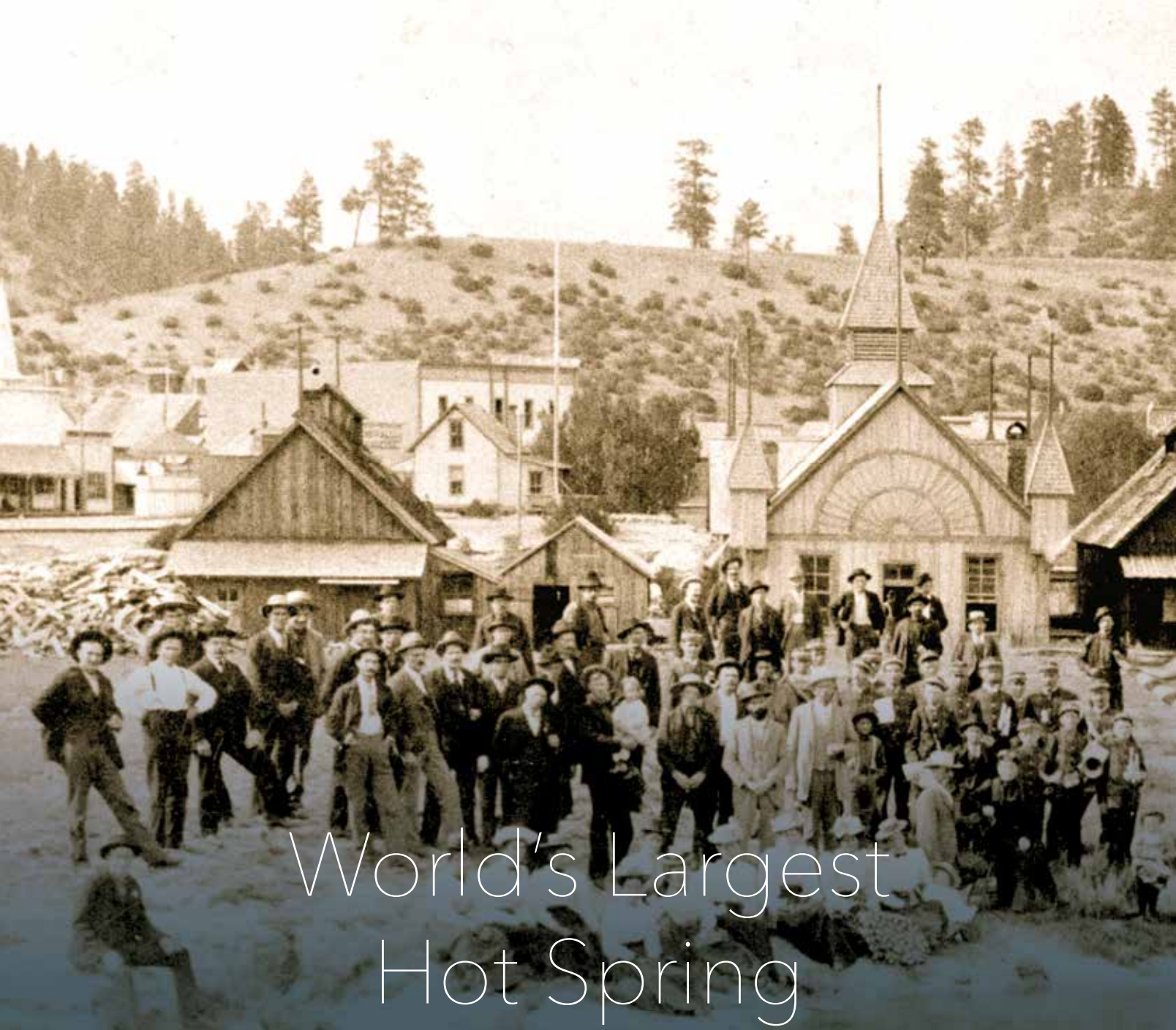
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# World's Largest Hot Spring

## Do people soak in the summer?

After a hard day of skiing or snowboarding, nothing beats the feeling of slowly lowering the body into a tub full of hot water. The muscles relax, the eyes close, a sigh of relief escapes the lips, and especially when the air is really cold, a thick veil of steam rises off the water to block out the rest of the world. If it happens to be storming, you will need to dunk all the way under every so often to melt the snow from the top of your head. This is paradise!

But what about in the summertime?

A poorly kept local secret: soaking in the healing waters is just as nice, if not better, in the summer as it is in the winter.

Imagine getting up early, throwing on your hiking gear, filling a small backpack with a lunch and some water, grabbing your camera, and driving to downtown Pagosa Springs, where you turn from U.S. 160 onto Lewis Street and immediately onto 5th Street, which turns into County Road 400 and then into Forest Road 645. Seven miles north of town you take a right at the junction and 4 miles after

that you reach a trailhead.

After a 3-mile hike, you find the most amazing 300-foot waterfall. You eat lunch. You take pictures. You revel in the peace and solitude. You marvel at the glory and the beauty that is Colorado. Reluctantly, you repack all your stuff and head back to the car. As you drive back to town you start to notice a satisfying tightness in your leg muscles. Your shoulders start to ache where the straps of your backpack dug in.

## What should you do?

The answer hits you and out comes the cell phone (of course, you pull over to the side of the road before you start dialing because driving while distracted is illegal in Colorado). You call up your significant other and say, "Hey! We should go soak."

With three bathing facilities in downtown Pagosa Springs offering either indoor or outdoor pools (or both), and temperatures varying between hot and very hot, soakers have more than enough choices of where to relax and stretch out those sore muscles.





### Three choices for relaxation

Each of Pagosa's three bathing facilities offers its own unique take on the traditional soaking experience, and the savvy soaker does well to switch things up, experiencing how differently each place relaxes the spirit and heals the body.

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs at 432 Pagosa St., the Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian opulence. Offering indoor and outdoor pools, including a private tub room, massage and a steam room, the Overlook provides bathers an opportunity to soak while escaping the elements, or to take in the sights while soaking.

Those sights are best soaked in from the pools located on the building's roof, which give the Overlook its name and notoriety. With a panoramic view of historic downtown and beyond, the pools are a favorite with locals and visitors alike. There's also a sauna and geothermal tub.

The Overlook opened its courtyard in summer 2016. The courtyard features six individual tubs, as well as an eight-person Jacuzzi. Inside, there are four open pools and a private pool room that can be rented by the hour by bathers who prefer to soak in a more intimate setting. Reservations are required for booking the private pool and the massage rooms.

Additionally, the Overlook features massage rooms, changing rooms with regular shower stalls, as well as steam showers. Snacks and drinks (including beer, wine and champagne) are available for purchase to completely sate the appetites of soakers who prefer to ease aching muscles with a tasty beverage and absent a grumbling tummy.

Just around the corner on the east side of Hot Springs Boulevard is the Healing Waters Resort and Spa, offering a large outdoor swimming pool, both indoor and outdoor tubs, 17 living units and pull-through RV spaces with full hookups. The ambiance here is down home, Old West and friendly. Through long years of service, the hosts have learned to satisfy the needs of the most discriminating guest.

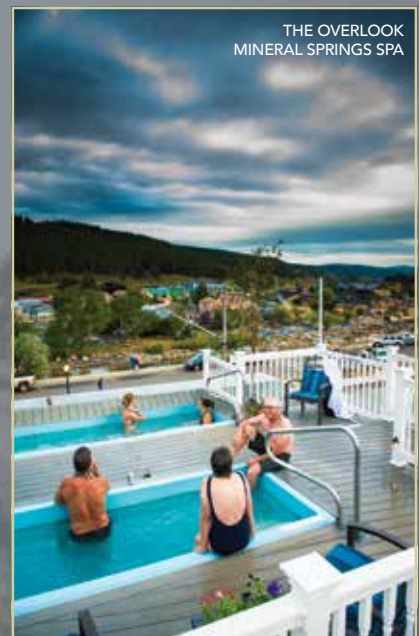
Indoor tubs and steam rooms are segregated at the Healing Waters Resort and Spa as they offer clothing-optional bathing.

Across the street, The Springs Resort offers more than 79 living units and 23 tubs (two of which are jettied) to accommodate 300 visitors at a time. A 6,000-square-foot bathhouse, featuring a pleasing Mediterranean-style architecture, provides complete locker room and changing room facilities.

Small, party-size pools with temperatures ranging from 90 to 114 degrees extend from the bathhouse down to the edge of the San Juan River. Bathers enjoy a satisfying aura of adventure as they move from pool to pool, seeking the temperature of choice with the sound of the river in the background. There is an L-shaped swimming pool of geothermal water with temperature in the high 80s to low 90s. Other amenities include a full-service spa and salon as well as a gazebo that offers snacks and beverages.

For relaxation purposes, five pools are designated as "adults only". However, there are 18 soaking pools and a fresh-water Jacuzzi for the entire family to enjoy. Swim attire is mandatory in all pools.

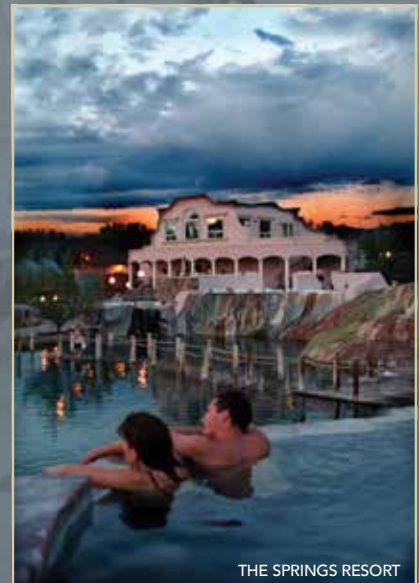
While the Great Pagosa's water remains at a natural temperature of 144 degrees and is far too hot for a relaxing soak, all three facilities cool the water for bathing and recreational purposes.



THE OVERLOOK  
MINERAL SPRINGS SPA



HEALING WATERS RESORT AND SPA



THE SPRINGS RESORT



## History and myth

After visitors to the area comment on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of Pagosans, the next observation they offer is that the locals seem so healthy and vibrant. If you surmised that the reason for that vitality and mellow groove is due to the healing powers of our spring, give yourself a soak; you've arrived at the best answer that we have.

In fact, it's a story that has deep roots in the area's legends. Local spin has it that the Ute phrase "Pagosa" describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters." Historian John Motter writes, "According to the dictionary prepared under the auspices of and with the help of Southern Utes in Ignacio, 'pagosa' comes from two Ute words meaning 'stinking water.'" However, locals almost unanimously prefer the following myth to this likely truth.

According to legend, earlier Native American visitors were certain the Great Spirit had endowed the geothermally heated waters with superhuman virtues, and they came to Pagosa Springs to not just soothe sore bodies, but to replenish their souls. The hot springs, it is told, arose after a plague began devastating the tribes. With the disease confounding the potions and power of tribal medicine men, the people gathered on the banks of the San Juan River to offer a plea to the gods. There, they built a huge fire around which they prayed and danced, eventually falling asleep with complete exhaustion. They awoke the next morning to a pool of boiling water bubbling from beneath the coals of the ceremonial fire. Seeing this as a sign from the gods, the afflicted bathed in the soothing water and were, at once, cured. From then on, the great spring became known as "Pag-Osah," a place

of peace and healing.

Needless to say, reverence for the "healing waters" has not abated with the passage of time; in recent years, The Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And while Motter's account of the spring's history is probably closer to the truth, a growing number of visitors come to Pagosa Springs for the same reasons that color the myth.

## Science and trivia

In recent years, several scientific studies have been conducted to determine the extent and potential of the area's geothermal resources. Although use of the geothermal water has been limited to heating a number of businesses and residences in the downtown core (as well as the obvious application for soaking), recent studies have suggested that enough water is available to greatly expand those uses.

These include commercial applications such as agriculture and aquaculture, with implications for heating the entire town. A study by the Colorado School of Mines cleared up many questions regarding the geological characteristics of the geothermal aquifer and provided some idea of the extent of its volume. Those studies confirmed that the resource is much larger and hotter than previously suspected, so Pagosa Springs could be on the verge of becoming the greenest, most self-sustaining community in the U.S.

Putting aside legends and myth, the "healing waters" that emerge from the Earth's surface in Pagosa Springs are the product of geological processes, hundreds of millions of years in the making, that put the area in a unique (and many say, "blessed") situation.

The process essentially begins as water percolates through the Earth's surface in its endless cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. Eventually, water descends through super-heated rock and magma, gaining a three- to five-degree increase for every 300 feet of depth. Under pressure, the heated water begins to rise, following cracks and fissures in the rock, eventually making its way to the surface. On the way, it picks up a host of minerals, such as sulfur, silica, calcium, potassium, etc., and, if the water retains heat, emerges in the form of hot springs.

While the research has yet to determine the exact size and characteristic of the hot spring, recent measurements put the Great Pagosa into the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest hot spring in the world. In August 2011, when a 1,002-foot long plumb line was dropped into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out. So, while the official measurement is now 1,002 feet, the true depth remains unknown. In fact, a previous attempt at measurement using a 2,500-foot plumb line culminated in results similar to those from Guinness: before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

## The Zen of here and now

While, for the time being, the mystery of the aquifer's ultimate depth remains unsolved, it is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul that appears to take center stage. Indeed, it is the mythopoeia, the unknown, that is half the fun.

And what is known — that the birth of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring begins well above our heads, forms well beneath our feet, and then realizes itself to the benefit of tired muscles and spent spirits — seems hardly worth a thought. Especially when, after it all comes together, a simple sigh is all that needs to be said.

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RANDI PIERCE

# Rest Your Head

## Let Pagosa Springs Visitor Center help enhance your vacation experience

Whether you're looking for information on lodging, restaurants or area activities, you're likely to find it and much more by checking out the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

Located along the banks of the San Juan River, the Visitor Center features a nice park setting with picnic tables, free wifi, restrooms and a wealth of area information.

New this summer are bike racks installed and enhanced landscaping.

Staffed with a team of amazing volunteers waiting to assist you in planning your visit, the Visitor Center is open daily. During the summer, the Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, there are multiple brochures outside of the Visitor Center for information after hours.

Each month, Visitor Center volunteers take tours and participate in scavenger hunts of the local amenities to ensure every-

one has a wealth of experience and information to pass on to area visitors.

To help our visitors stay hydrated, Visitor Center staff and volunteers also provide free water bottles, with a water bottle refill station available.

Also, to keep the young ones occupied while the parents gather information about their visit, a children's play corner is provided with puzzles, games and a chalkboard with colored chalk. As an added bonus, the kiddos can take activity books and crayons to help teach them more about historic sites and area wildlife. If they complete the activity book, fun prizes await the at the Visitor Center.

During hunting seasons, hikers can pick up a loaner blaze orange vest at the Visitor Center to help keep you safe while exploring Pagosa Country's many trails.

You can reach the Visitor Center by calling (970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917, or visit the website [www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com).



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# Flavor of Pagosa





# Cooking for a Cause

## Learning new dishes, helping survivors

The Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program (ACVAP which this winter was in the process of changing its name) has been around for two decades, helping victims and survivors of abuse and domestic violence.

In 2016, the nonprofit's six-person team (half of which are part-time) helped 362 victims, according to Ashley Wilson, ACVAP's evaluation and development coordinator, in addition to hosting a variety of fundraisers to enable the organization to function.

ACVAP is a stand-alone entity, meaning it's in no way mandated they share confidential information. It also means it receives no funding from the county government.

The nonprofit's fundraisers vary and include a push-up challenge, duathlon, color run, the Art Activism project and cooking classes.

The Cooking for a Cause fundraising program is actually a spin-off of another (more costly) idea ACVAP hopes to one day make a reality — a cooking school to help clients and others in the community learn a viable skill to help with employment, Wilson explained.

"As a spin off we opted to ask local chefs to give their time to teach a class once a month," Wilson said.

And local chefs have stepped up to the plate.

Chefs partnering with the program typically donate the time and ingredients for their class, Wilson explained, meaning the proceeds of the class go directly to the organization and its efforts.

Typically, classes consist of learning how to make or bake a dish and tasting the dish. Some classes are hands-on while others are

demonstrative, but all include a taste, either in the form of a taste, a meal or even an entire pie to take home.

Wilson said the goal is to offer a fun experience/services for people to learn a skill/meal.

The cooking classes also often come with a side of education.

Wilson said an ACVAP staff member is often present at the class and will open the door "to discuss issues of violence in our community with those who may not understand the gravity of the issue."

She added, "It is a much larger issue in the community than most people would expect. So, it is great to answer questions and educate the community during fun events. People have a great time at the classes so it is a win-win."

But, fair warning to those interested: The classes typically fill up before ACVAP even has a chance to advertise them due to the program's growing popularity.

To see if there's a cooking class during your stay (and to nab a spot early), follow ACVAP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Archuleta-County-Victim-Assistance-113627808700465/>. Event pages are created for each cooking class with the specifics of what, when, where and the cost (classes range from \$25 to \$40 depending on what is being served). Too, check [www.ACVP.com](http://www.ACVP.com), where the staff hopes to launch a calendar of events soon. Or, sign up for a monthly email just for the cooking classes by calling (970) 264-1129.

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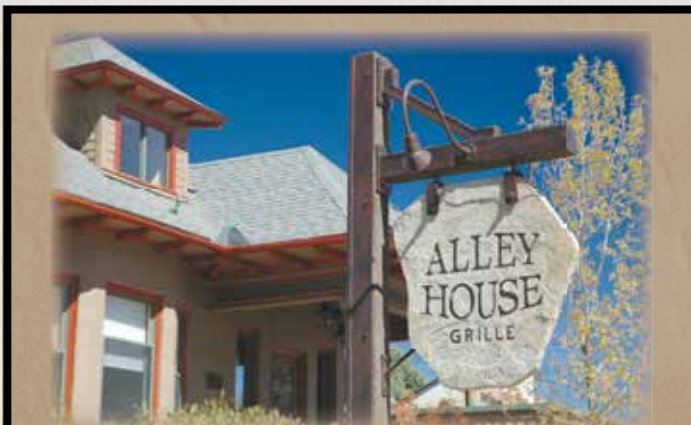
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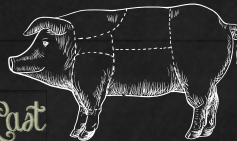
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From a simple, backyard affair to a lavish party for hundreds, Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area might be just what you're looking for to make your wedding or reunion something special.

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In addition to Mother Nature providing her decorating expertise free of charge for your event (bringing the outdoors inside is trendy right now, while being eco-friendly, rustic and natural have been in for years, as have outdoor weddings), Pagosa Springs offers the amenities to help put together all the details for your picture-perfect wedding, reunion, conference or other special event.

Another top wedding trend is craft beer, and Pagosa is home to a variety of award-winning brews. Too, photographers, florists, caterers and jewelers, all complete with Pagosa flair, are at the ready, while hotels, cabins, lodges and bed and breakfasts offer a variety of unique lodging options for every budget and desire. Area rental businesses can help outfit your events for sound and seating.

Marriage licenses can be obtained downtown at the Archuleta County Courthouse, located at 449 San Juan St. (on the main street in downtown Pagosa Springs), between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Licenses can be secured for \$30 cash. Both the bride and groom are required to be present with photo ID to sign the document, which will be issued immediately and is valid for 30 days. No blood test is required in Colorado. Additional requirements exist if either or both parties are divorced.

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# Retail Therapy

## Leona: the embodiment of classiness

Leona sits perched on a counter in the Rainbow Gift Shop in downtown Pagosa Springs, emitting a sense of graceful elegance that one would be hard-pressed to find elsewhere.

She's not one for talking much, which is actually a good thing, because she's a mannequin.

Adorned in green and wearing a plethora of different jewelry types, her calm, relaxed facial expression seems to suggest she knows more about Pagosa's past than most of the locals ever will.

In spite of this, Leona's history is enveloped in multitudes of mystery.

Brenda Eaves, owner of the Rainbow Gift Shop, explained how Leona came to live in her store.

"My neighbor, Shirley Scott, got it from her husband, Gregory, who had bought it from Leona Thayer," said Eaves.

Thayer was the first to remodel the Hill House Manor, a historic house that sits on the hill between South 6th Street and South 7th Street.

Thayer is also the reason that Leona was named Leona, explained Eaves.

Eaves said that prior to that, she believes Leona came from Goodman's Department Store.

"I don't know what age she is," said Eaves, with one of her employees speculating that she was created in the 1920s or 1930s.

"She's been in our shop for about a year," said Eaves. "Shirley sold the house and she left her here, and said, 'I would like for Leona to stay in the neighborhood, in Pagosa, where she's comfortable.'"

Eaves said that since Leona moved into her shop, people have wanted to buy her, and make offers to Eaves constantly.

"I get offers a lot, and I'll say 'Sorry, she's not for sale,' and they'll say, 'But you haven't heard what I'm offering yet,' and I'll tell them it doesn't matter. My agreement was that I don't sell her, and she stays here," said Eaves.

Eaves said that she believes most of Leona's paint is original, but explained that she touched up the paint on her lips and her eyes.

"She models my jewelry, and everyone loves to talk to her," said Eaves, later adding, "We've all grown very fond of her anyway."

One of Eaves' employees recounted the first morning that Leona moved into the shop, saying that, when she first walked into the dimly lit shop to open it for business, Leona was waiting for her in the dark and nearly gave her a heart attack.

"She's elegant, she's classy, she models jewelry really well," said Eaves. "She's just a really, really classy lady."

Regardless of her past, Leona's future is certain: Pagosa Springs will remain her permanent home, as she lives out the rest of her days in the sophisticated, stylish manner that only a mannequin could achieve.



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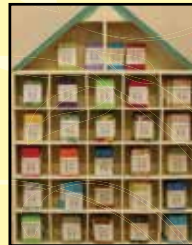
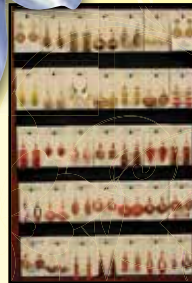
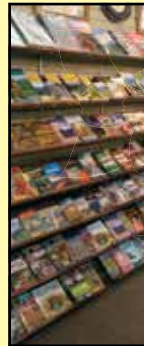
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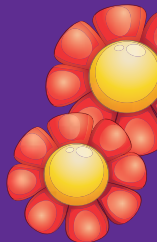
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# Play Outside







JD KURZ

# The Kurz family

‘He could recognize a stinging nettle, but not a mall.’

“I didn’t know anybody, but I knew it was in the San Juans and ... I’d always wanted to live in the San Juans,” said JD Kurz of his move to Pagosa Springs in 1999 to work for a hydrology company, when he was 22 and fresh out of school at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Kurz, a lifelong lover of the outdoors, discovered the San Juan Mountains (which surround Pagosa Springs) through rock climbing expeditions and his love for photography, in a way. His climbing expeditions, over time, took him farther and farther from Denver, where he grew up.

“I climbed mountains and I lived in Denver, and you’d have to wait in line to get to the mountains and you’d have to wait in line to get home,” he said. “And, so, I made a vow to myself that I would never have to wait in line to enjoy nature or get outside, out in the woods.”

The San Juans, he said, were a beautiful, volcanic mountain range always in the distance, a little farther than a weekend trip would allow for.

“I just wanted to get to the San Juans so I could pursue that dream as a photographer, and the San Juans were just the most scenic range in the state,” he said.

The volcanic nature, he notes, means it’s a younger, more rugged, more pristine range with a lot of waterfalls.

So, right after graduation, he jumped at the job opportunity and moved to town.

“It’s just a very welcoming place,” he said, noting it didn’t take long for him to find good friends.

Fast forward 10 years, Kurz is now a science teacher at Pagosa Springs High School, teaching, among others, a class that often works outdoors to collect data local governments and other entities have put to good use. He and his wife of 10 years, Hope, have three

kids — Asher, 8; Kieran, 6; and Clara, 5 — and he loves the outdoors as much as ever.

And, as one might imagine, his kids are following in his footsteps, which tend to head up mountains, down mountain bike trails, through the snow and more.

In fact, the family has an annual tradition of climbing Pagosa Peak, and perhaps other mountains, as well. Clara’s first climb, he notes, was before she was born (Hope was six months pregnant) and her first camping experience was at the Grand Canyon at 6 months old.

The family has racked up memories over the years, from Asher exclaiming, “No more fishing, Daddy!” after being frightened by the biggest fish Kurz ever caught joining him in the canoe to Asher eating a rock atop Alberta Peak, the boys’ reactions and sense of wonder during their first backpacking trip, and s’mores.

“I also remember when Kieran was about 3, he warned me about the stinging nettle alongside the trail. I thought it was so funny that he could recognize stinging nettle, but not a mall,” Kurz recalled.

But, beyond the outdoors, the love of Pagosa and its residents keeps the Kurz family firmly rooted here.

People living in Pagosa, Kurz said he has found, tend to be more compassionate, with a willingness to work hard in order to live in such a beautiful place.

That compassion, Kurz indicated, was on display shortly after Clara was born, while Hope was staying home with the children and money was tight with medical expenses.

“One Christmas, somebody left an anonymous gift on our porch,” Kurz said emotionally, “That’s just the type of thing Pagosans do, and it was like \$300 worth of groceries and just Christmas present type of stuff. ... It just speaks to the compassion of our town.”



# PagosaTrails.org

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### Trail Project Dates

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#### Saturdays

May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26,  
September 23 and October 28

#### Tuesdays

May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8,  
September 12 and October 10

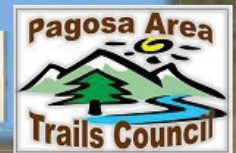


Check the website for additional project dates.

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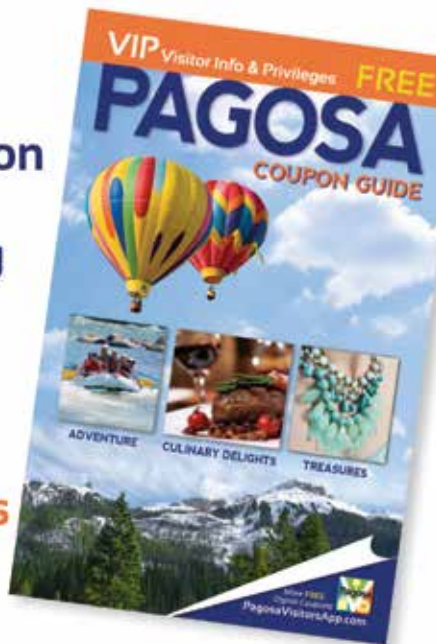
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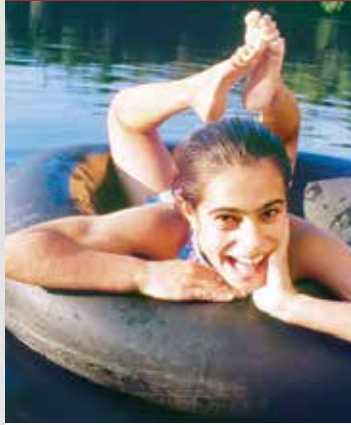
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# World-Class Waters

Fishing for sport or as a leisure activity can be learned and practiced by just about anyone. Whether you like to just sit back with a line in the water and have a nice picnic lunch or more actively pursue fly fishing, wading into the water and practicing different casting techniques, fishing is the perfect activity to help wash the worries of the day away.

For some, fishing is a way to pass time alone or with friends; for others, it's a sport. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, Pagosa Country has what you're looking for — from pristine mountain rivers best for fly fishing to lakes and reservoirs perfect for sitting along the shore or fishing from a boat, Pagosa Country has it all.

Warm, lower-elevation waters in the area at Echo Canyon Reservoir and at Navajo Reservoir hold numerous species, including catfish, bass, perch and pan fish, while higher cold-water lakes, creeks and ponds teem with Kokanee salmon and numerous species of trout.

There are several waters in or near town easily accessible to fishermen, but many other fishing spots lie deep in the extensive wilderness and backcountry surrounding Pagosa. Though access requires greater effort, remote locations to the north, northwest and east of town afford those willing to travel by foot or horseback true tranquility, seclusion and excellent fishing.

Listed below are some of the more popular fishing sites in and near town.

Anglers should note that a Colorado fishing license is required when fishing in any of these areas, including designated wilderness areas. Licenses, lures, bait and spinning tackle are available at area sporting goods stores, supermarkets and hardware stores. One-day, five-day and annual licenses are available. One-day licenses are \$9 for both residents and non-residents with a \$5 charge for additional days. Five-day licenses cost \$21 and annual licenses cost \$56 for nonresidents. Annual licenses are \$26 for residents aged 16-63, \$1 for residents over 64 and free for residents under 16 years of age. Annual licenses, good for 12 months, go on sale April 1, 2017, and are valid through March 31, 2018.

Local fly shops offer equipment, flies, sport fishing clothing and guide services, and most retailers will readily provide directions and up-to-date information about numerous fishing destinations.

When choosing bait, keep in mind that state regulations prohibit the use of live minnows as bait anywhere in the region except for at Navajo Lake. For more information and special, water specific regulations, please reference area fishing rules and regulations. Make sure to pick up a Colorado fishing brochure or visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website to view fishing regulations and restrictions on waters where you're planning to fish — anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations.

Fishing in the San Juan River in the heart of Pagosa Springs can be as good as it gets. Years ago, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) used a Fishing is Fun grant to reconstruct fish habitat and holding waters in sections of the river on both sides of the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge. These structures are located downstream from the town's whitewater play park. They are made from large rocks and have numerous shapes. Their purpose is to create calm pools for fish. Anglers should not attempt to fish in the whitewater park area because those structures churn the water too much for fish to be present. Additional work has further enhanced the fishery near the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge and in areas west toward 6th Street.

The Pagosa Quality Fishing Project also began receiving annual contributions from local merchants to purchase hundreds of large, catchable rainbow and brown trout for placement in the river. As a result, anglers of all ages catch fish weighing up to 10 pounds each summer — right in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The Town of Pagosa Springs also stocks ponds located just off the river near the east end of town. A ramp to one of the ponds allows easy access to disabled anglers, and a gazebo beckons to those who packed picnic lunches. Youngsters particularly enjoy fishing the town ponds. Bag and possession limit for in-town fishing is two fish per angler.

## Cast Your Line

### East Fork of the San Juan

The lower stretch of the East Fork offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, while its pristine upper reaches are more akin to brook trout and native cutthroat trout.

The East Fork Road turnoff is approximately 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. This well-traveled gravel road parallels the river for several miles, a portion of which passes through posted private property.

### West Fork of the San Juan

In addition to good rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing, the West Fork offers quality camping in a nearby campground. A left turn from U.S. 160 on to FS road 648 about 13.5 miles east of Pagosa Springs affords easy access to West Fork waters via public and private lands. The best fishing is in the forest beyond the trailhead at the end of the road.

### Echo Canyon Reservoir

Echo Canyon Reservoir and State Wildlife Area is a cool-water fishery located approximately four miles south of U.S. 160 on U.S. 84. It contains rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, green sunfish and channel catfish.

Trout are best caught with lures, flies or natural bait, while bass are taken with top-surface lures, crank-baits, pork frogs or rubber worms. Perch and sunfish are most easily taken with worms or a fly and catfish seem to prefer cut baits such as suckers or commercial stink baits. There is good early fishing at the reservoir from mid April to mid June. During this time, bank fishing is adequate, but thickening of aquatic vegetation later in the season makes a canoe, float-tube or a small boat and trolling motor useful. Remember, live bait is not allowed in Colorado on any water west of the Continental Divide.

### Lake Capote Recreation Area

Lake Capote Recreation Area is owned

and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Properly permitted anglers can catch stocked rainbow trout, largemouth bass and channel catfish in the shadow of Chimney Rock. No state fishing license is required, but anglers must obtain a valid license from the Southern Ute Tribe. The 45-acre lake is open to daytime bank fishers, non-motorized boaters and belly-boaters using bait, spinning tackle or flies.

To get to Lake Capote, travel approximately 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. The well-marked entrance is on the left.

### Navajo Reservoir

Navajo Reservoir and Navajo State Park are Colorado's version of Lake Powell. The park offers a full-service marina with visitor center and conference room, rental cabins, ample tent and RV camping, picnicking areas and nature trails in addition to great fishing.

Large catfish, trout, bass, pike,





# Fishing

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



crappie, perch and Kokanee salmon inhabit this 15,000 surface-acre lake. About a third of Navajo Reservoir is located in Colorado, while two-thirds lie in New Mexico. Anglers wishing to fish both in Colorado and New Mexico waters must have both valid Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses.

Anglers can use live bait at Navajo, but only live bait purchased from an authorized vendor at the reservoir. Anglers cannot bring their own live bait. Live minnows may be used as bait in both Colorado and New Mexico waters within Navajo State Park.

To access the park from Pagosa Springs, travel approximately 17 miles west on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. Drive another 18 miles to Arboles, then turn left onto County Road 982 and proceed another two miles to the park.

### Williams Creek Reservoir

This 508-acre mountain lake affords fine fishing for rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout and kokanee salmon. Surrounded by lush forest and towering peaks, anglers will find that all standard forms of fishing prove productive at Williams Creek, though salmon are best taken with artificial lures and worms. In the morning and evening hours, bank fishing, a float tube or canoe provides sufficient access to surface-feeding fish. A sturdy motorboat will provide superior safety and access to fish during breezy afternoons. Keep in mind that whitewater wakes are not allowed.

Four Forest Service campgrounds are in the vicinity of Williams Creek Reservoir. To access the reservoir, drive 2 miles west from downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn north onto Piedra Road. Continue north for approximately 24 miles following signs to Williams Creek.

### Wilderness

Some of the finest fishing in Pagosa Country is found in remote waters in designated wilderness areas. At higher elevations, the chance of anglers finding native cutthroat trout in streams and lakes protected by special regulations increases. In these pristine areas, solitude is the rule.

As in all federal wilderness areas, mechanized travel is prohibited in the Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas — anglers must travel by foot or horseback only. Bicycles and carts are not allowed. Because travel distances can be great in these areas, visitors should be in shape, acclimated to the higher altitudes of the area, and plan well for treks into the backcountry.

Weather is unpredictable and high-country travelers should pack accordingly. Layered clothing, relevant forest and topographic maps, a compass or GPS, adequate shelter, food, water, matches and a headlamp or flashlight are essential. Anglers should also inform a responsible party about where they intend to fish and when they plan to return.

Up-to-date information about back-country fishing is available from the Pagosa Ranger District office located at 180 Pagosa St. You can call the office at (970) 264-2268.

## How to release a fish:

Any fish you plan to release must be returned to the water immediately.

A fish played for too long will be too exhausted to recover.

Keep fish in the water as much as possible.

Remove the hook as quickly as possible. Single barbless hooks can often be removed while the fish is still in the water.

Gentle handling is essential. Avoid squeezing or placing your fingers in the gills or eye sockets. It's best to hold a fish gently by its belly or by the area in front of the tail.

To revive an unconscious fish. Hold it upright in the water. Move the fish forward and backward so that water runs through the gills. This may take a few minutes.

When it begins to struggle, release it.

When photographing a fish. Hold it horizontally and do not squeeze the fish. Do not put your hands in its gills or hold it vertical by its gills.

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# San Juan River Quality Fishing Project

## Game Fish 2 Fish Limit



**Cutthroat Trout**

Crimson slash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail



**Brown Trout**

Spotting pattern is made up of black spots and red-orange spots inside light blue circles



**Brook Trout**

Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins often orange, edged with black and white; body is dark with white and red spots inside blue circles



**Rainbow Trout**

Black spots on a light body and red stripe along sides

We hope you've enjoyed your time in Pagosa Springs and we want to make your fishing experience as wonderful as possible. In order to maximize the quality of fishing in Pagosa, the town merchants, along with support from local government, have joined together to plant trophy size trout in the river each summer.

Ideally, we'd like for everyone to enjoy hooking into a playful rainbow or a large brown and, because of that, we're asking that careful catch and release is practiced.

If you do keep fish, please stay at or under the daily two-fish limit, so that we can keep more fish in the river for everyone to catch. Also note the wild, native fish to the Western Slope and release these immediately, as they are protected species and taking them from the water is illegal in Colorado.

Please enjoy our wonderful river. Happy fishing!

## Native Western Slope Fish Release Immediately



**Colorado Pikeminnow**

Adults may be green-gray to bronze on backs and silver to white along sides and bottoms



**Razor Back Sucker**

Bronze to yellow fish with a sharp-edge keel behind the head



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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# River Sports

Feeling lazy on a summer day? Grab a tube and take a float down the San Juan River.

Bored and can't take the heat? Grab a kayak and test your skill set on the rapids in and around town.

Group of friends ready for an adventure? Hop in a raft and let the river be your guide.

Pagosa Country is a popular destination for rafters, kayakers and tubers. With waters both inviting for beginners and challenging to experts, area rivers including the San Juan, Piedra and Animas provide something for everyone.

Flowing through the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River is perfect for those new to river sports and those who enjoy a gentle float. Offering superb views of the town and, farther downstream, spectacular shale cliffs, rafting or kayaking trips down the San Juan begin as early as March and continue as the season peaks in May or June.

By mid-summer, river flows dramatically taper off and, while rafts and kayaks largely disappear from the river, activity continues as tubers take to the waters. Beating the summer heat in the cool, refreshing waters of the San Juan, tubers can bring their own tubes or rent them from local businesses. Tubers can enjoy surfing several river features in town or just relish a relaxed float down the lazy river. During this time of year, people wade in the cool waters and gather on the banks of the river in this superb recreational corridor running from one end of town to the other.

Even when flows are at a minimum and river speeds drop to a gentle flow, young children should always enter the river with a life vest and never without direct adult supervision.

More experienced boaters can test their skills about 23 miles west of Pagosa on the Piedra River. During a brief 6-8 week season (from May through June), waters rush over class III to IV rapids through a pair of breathtaking box canyons offering kayakers and rafters a challenging ride on nearly 20 miles of wild river and whitewater.

Further west, the upper Animas River has a reputation as one of the top five stretches of river for rafting thrills in North America. Boasting dramatic scenery and intensely long stretches of rapids, the upper Animas can be rafted and kayaked from late May to early August. In high water from early to mid June, the Animas runs with continuous class III rapids and stretches of intermittent class IV and V whitewater.

Several Pagosa Springs companies offer guided rafting trips of varied lengths. Visitors are encouraged to call at least a week in advance to secure the date of their choice. Local companies also offer equipment rental including kayaks, rafts and associated gear as well as daily tube rental.

From raging rapids to gentle flows, scenery of soaring cliffs and deep, deep canyons in the backcountry to a small-town landscape, Pagosa Country has it all when it comes to river rafting, kayaking and tubing.



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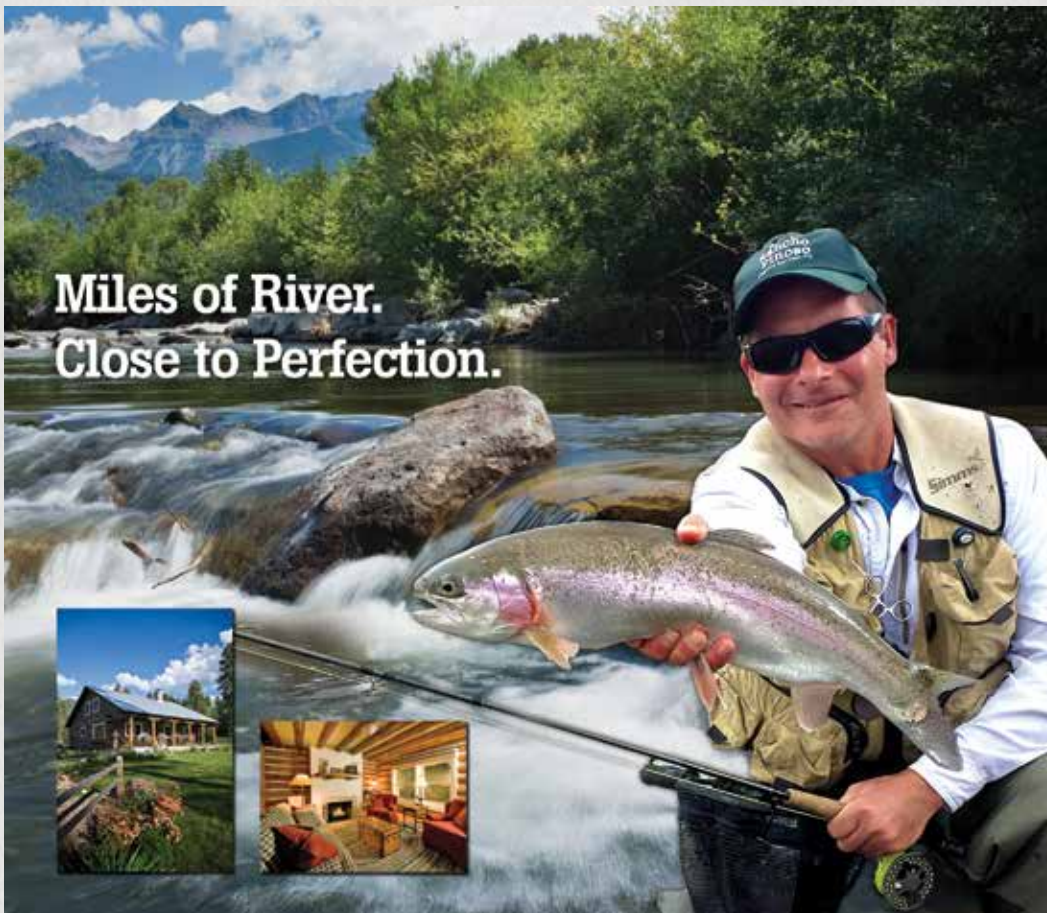
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# Mountain Biking

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



If the mountains surrounding the town weren't hint enough, be assured, there are plenty of places to go mountain biking in Pagosa Country. Many years ago, the Pagosa Springs area was heavily logged, resulting in a multitude of Forest Service roads and trails. Now, 80 years later, those trails mean virtually limitless opportunities for mountain bikers. With a wide variety of routes and terrain, Pagosa Springs is an ideal mountain biking destination for riders of all skill levels. Be forewarned, however, that most area rides begin above 7,000 feet. Therefore, flatlanders should factor in time to acclimate before setting out on longer and more demanding rides.

## When mountain biking, please observe a few precautions:

1. Wear a helmet.
  2. Mountain weather changes rapidly — wear or bring clothing for capricious weather conditions.
  3. Bring plenty of water.
  4. Carry bike repair tools, including a spare tire, tire pump and tube patch kit.
  5. Ride in control and with a friend.
  6. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
  7. A few of the trails are hours away from outside help — plan accordingly.
  8. Plan to return to your car before dark.
  9. Remember to stay off private land and out of wilderness areas.
  10. Wear blaze orange in the fall during hunting season.
  11. Yield to horses. They are easily spooked.
- Please pay heed to the International Mountain Biking Association Rules of the Trail:
1. Ride on open trails only.
  2. Leave no trace.
  3. Control your bicycle.
  4. Always yield to hikers.
  5. Never spook animals.
  6. Plan ahead.

Listed below are several of the many rides to be found in the Pagosa Springs area. For more trails information, visit [www.wolfcreekwheelclub.com](http://www.wolfcreekwheelclub.com). There are many mountain bike rides in and near the Pagosa Springs area. Most of the rides described are loop trails. Many start from downtown Pagosa Springs. Changes can occur on roads and terrain during the winter and early spring. For this reason, bikers need to be alert to their surrounding area at all times and, of course, carry the appropriate maps.

## Rideable trails in the Town of Pagosa Springs

### Reservoir Hill Mountain Park

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced

Mileage: 1.4 to 4 miles

Route: Out and back, or loop

Trails: Dirt, single and double track

Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet

Maps: Available at each trailhead, at local bike shops and the Visitor Center.

It is extremely lucky to have this little loop in the center of town. Though quite challenging and secluded, the trail is easily accessible. Wildlife to watch for includes squirrels, deer, turkey, elk and bears.

Trailheads — Two trailheads access Reservoir Hill: Spa (above the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on Hot Springs Boulevard) and San Juan (behind the San Juan Motel, on U.S. 160). Both trailheads have maps and suggested rides. Reservoir Hill trails are color-coded for your convenience: green is easy; blue is intermediate; red is advanced. There is one looped ride in each difficulty range, but they are by no means the only trails available.

Green: Start at the Spa Trailhead and go up Trail 2 for .6 miles. Halfway up the seven switchbacks at .3 miles, you can opt to join Trail 7, which goes to the top of the hill,

but is much steeper and more difficult.

Trail 2 continues up to the water tower and a meadow. Take a right at that point on Trail 7. At .8 miles, the trail crosses a road and heads downhill. At 1.1 miles, the trail joins up with the road. Take a left and go downhill to the gate at 1.3 miles and you are back at the trailhead. 1.4 miles, 13 minutes.

Blue: Start at the Spa Trailhead and go up the road behind the post office, around the gate and right on Trail 8 for .3 miles. Turn left at the fireplug then right on Trail 8 at .4 miles. Follow the trail through Trail 13 switchbacks for .5 miles, then cross a road (Trail 11) and proceed to the next road (Trail 2) at the 1-mile mark. Turn left on Trail 2 and follow it down through the meadow next to the water tank and down the switchbacks to the trailhead. 1.7 miles, 17 minutes.

Red: Start at either the Spa or San Juan Trailhead. The route described is from the Spa Trailhead. Go right up the road behind the post office, around the gate, and take a right on to Trail 13 at .3 miles. Follow Trail 13 through the trees and up the switchbacks where Trail 8 crosses at .5 miles.

At .8 miles, the trail tops out at the radio towers and crosses a road where it starts downhill. Follow Trail 13 along the fence line, crossing Trail 2 at 1.2 miles. Then go uphill again to the San Juan Overlook at 1.4 miles. At this point, you can choose to go back down on Trail 2 for a distance of 1 mile to the Spa Trailhead, or go down Trail 14 for 1 mile to the San Juan Trailhead. From the San Juan Trailhead, it is 1.5 miles back to the Spa Trailhead via the San Juan Riverwalk. 3.9 miles, 35 minutes.

### Hot Springs Boulevard

Class: Beginner

Mileage: 6 miles

This is an easy 6-mile ride that begins and ends in Pagosa Springs Town Park. To begin, exit Town Park on Hermosa Street, go south on Hot Springs Boulevard, across the bridge and follow until the road turns east. Continue until you reach U.S. 84, where you will turn left to return to town. There is a nice view of the Continental Divide to your east as you ride. This route has no steep sections and is good for beginners. Be sure to stay far to the right as you ride on the highway.

## Rideable trails near town

### Eightmile Mesa

Difficulty: Intermediate; long mileage with one steep 4-mile hill

Mileage: 14.4 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads

Elevation Range: 7,200 to 8,040 feet

Maps: San Juan National Forest, Serviceberry Mountain USGS Topo Map

Eightmile Mesa provides an interesting contrast to other rides surrounding Pagosa Springs. After a steep and relentless 2-mile climb, you reach the top of the mesa, then your route becomes a pleasant, rolling

journey through pine/oak woodlands interspersed with grassy meadows.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at the east end of town, drive 5 miles south on U.S. 84 to Eightmile Mesa Road, identified by a brown Forest Service sign on the right. After traveling up Eightmile Mesa Road a little over a mile and passing the entrance to the Loma Linda subdivision, you will reach the Forest Service gate. Park here.

0.0 — Starting at the parking area, and after making two short climbs, you reach an open meadow area at 0.9 miles.

1.1 — The road, Forest Road 651, bends

westward and begins a steady climb.

2.0 — A final steep climb begins at the 2-mile mark.

2.3 — The climb tapers off and the route rolls along the top of the mesa, passing through oak, pine and grassy meadows.

3.7 — The Forest Road 651 forks, giving riders a variety of options.

Ride Option 1: The fork to your right leads to the Eightmile Mesa lookout tower in 0.6 miles. This tower, positioned directly above the Eightmile Mesa "clamshell" affords spectacular views of Pagosa Springs and the surrounding mesa, as well as the San Juan Mountains. The tower also provides a





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convenient turn-around point.  
 Ride Option 2: Continue straight ahead at the fork to stay on Forest Road 651, the main route, which turns into a primitive unmaintained road. At mile 3.8, Forest Road 651B forks to your left. This doubletrack road rolls gently through wildflower meadows and woodlands for 1 mile to an overlook of the Blanco River Basin and the San Juan Mountains to the east.  
 Ride Option 3: Continue past the fork on the main road to mile 5.1, where Forest Road 651C junctions to your left. Follow Forest Road 651C southward for 2.3 miles, passing an old, abandoned sawmill site on the way.  
 Ride Option 4: Stay on the Forest Road 651, which is deeply tracked or sandy in places, but otherwise smooth. Passing one more side road (Forest Road 651D) on your way, pass through large open meadows at mile 5.9. Wildflowers abound in late spring and early summer. The route ends at mile 7.2, overlooking the Blanco and San Juan river basins.

**Snowball Road (CR 200) and Jackson Mountain Loop (FS 037)**

Difficulty: Beginning skills with intermediate fitness level, two river crossings  
 Mileage: 22 miles  
 Route: Loop

Trails: Graveled county road, dirt road, double track dirt trail, highway with good shoulders  
 Elevation Range: 7,200 to 8,200 feet

Maps: San Juan National Forest, Jackson Mountain USGS Topo Map

Taking the entire loop from town is a great workout, however, if you shuttle, the ride can be divided up so one skips the highway or county road portion. There are about three gates on this ride. Remember to leave them either open or closed as you found them. This ride has two river crossings. Obviously, take precautions in the spring or early summer when the water level is up.

Getting there: The loop starts and ends in downtown Pagosa Springs.

0.0 — Starting from the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge in downtown Pagosa Springs, ride east on Pagosa Street (U.S. 160) toward Wolf Creek Pass. Turn left at the Forest Service building on 2nd Street. This street turns into Snowball Road, and eventually the pavement ends. Continue on this graveled county road for 4.3 miles.

4.3 — This is the entrance to Fourmile Ranch. Ranch owners have agreed to allow access to the Forest Service road through the ranch, by proceeding through the ranch entrance and staying on the road. You will pass the ranch manager's house on the right. Looking to the north, one can begin to see Pagosa Peak.

5.3 — At this point, there is a Y in the road. The road to the left goes to the house and the iron gate to the right gains access to the national forest. Proceed through the gate on the right (FR 646), leaving the gate as you found it. The next 3 miles are on a pleasant dirt road along Snowball Creek. You will often see and hear hawks on the last part of this trail.

6.3 — At this point you will ford Fourmile Creek.

8.5 — A driveway passes through a gate onto private property. Follow the road, which curves



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# Turkey Springs Trails System

The Turkey Springs mountain bike trail system consists of fourteen interconnected single-track non-motorized routes, providing more than 30 miles of trail to ride.

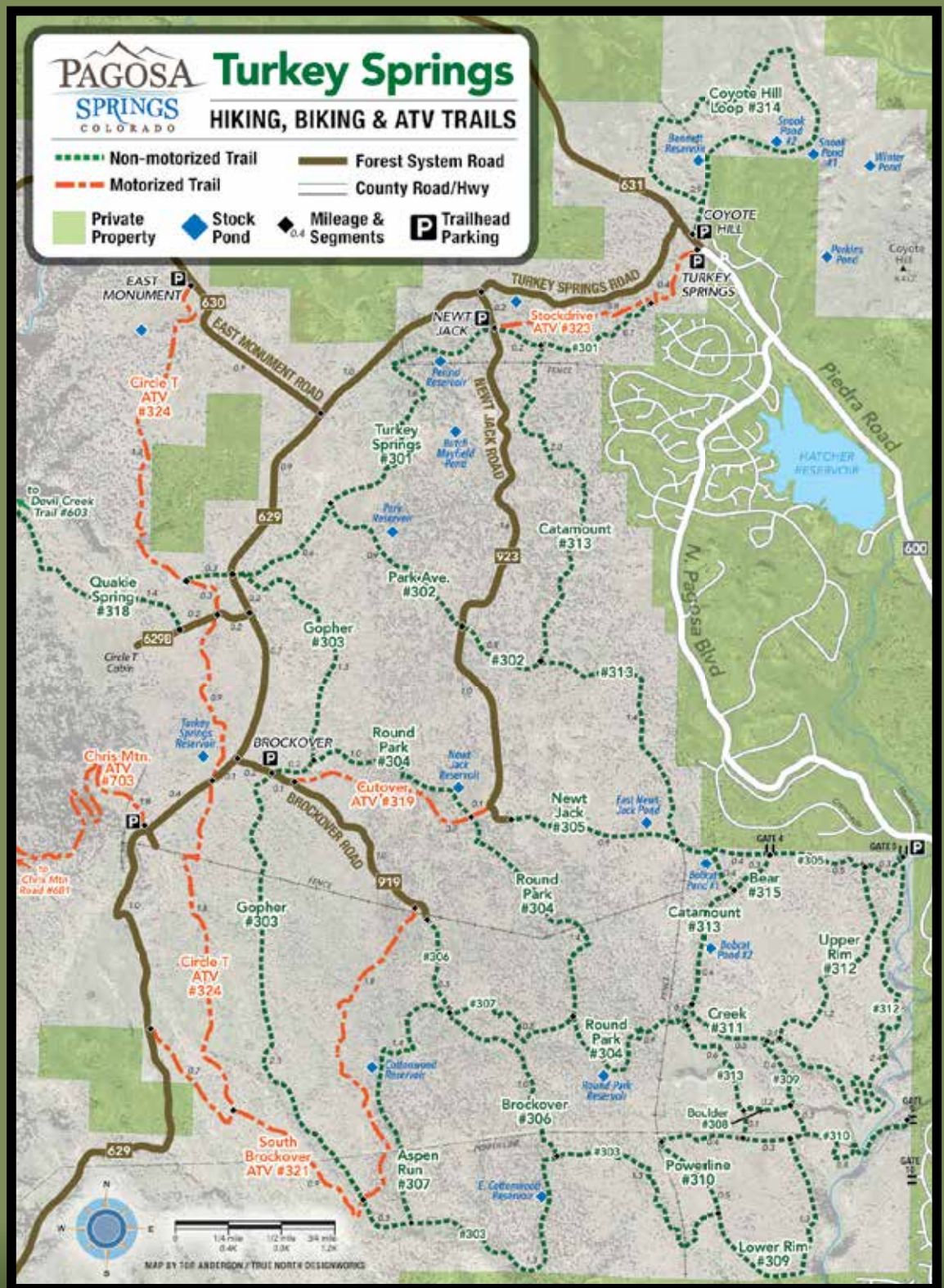
Numerous loops originating from several different trailheads in the Turkey Springs, Brockover Mesa and Martinez Creek areas offer riders a variety of options from which to choose. Graveled forest roads and ATV trails provide additional connectivity and loop options, creating a system in which one may ride for one hour or 12 hours without duplicating routes.

The greater Turkey Springs area offers cross-country style riding opportunities, with gentle slopes in ponderosa pine forest. Aspen stands, large open parks and rock outcroppings provide variation throughout the trail system, with outstanding views of the Weminuche Wilderness and Pagosa Peak available in many locations.

Most trails are suitable for novice to intermediate riding abilities, with the primary challenges being rocks, short steep pitches and side slopes. Advanced users will find the relatively smooth, undulating terrain wonderful for extended, leisurely rides. Riders are encouraged to treat the trails as potentially difficult until becoming familiar with them.

Although this trail system is wonderful for mountain biking, it is also open to all other non-motorized uses, including hikers, horseback riders and trail runners.

Too, pets are permitted on all trails and will be frequently encountered.



Consequently, appropriate caution and consideration of other users and use types should be exercised. Several motorized trails and roads

bisect the area, which are also open to non-motorized users. Please note that this map is intended for general route finding

purposes only. Mileage segments are approximate and represent the distance between the dots located at trail and road intersections.



to the right to a ford of Snowball Creek.

9.6 — Proceed through the gate, go forward and curve to the right, joining a more pronounced trail. Next, stay left for a mile, ignoring the roads that exit to the right.

10.7 — Proceed through the gate. The next .1 mile down to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 037) is very steep.

10.8 — Jackson Mountain Road. Turn right onto the road and proceed for 3 miles to U.S. 160.

13.7 — U.S. 160. Turn right onto the highway and continue for about 8 miles to Pagosa Springs. It is very easy to eliminate this highway ride by leaving a shuttle here. The sign on U.S. 160 calls this the Jackson Mountain Road.

### Left Hand Canyon to the Rito Blanco

Difficulty: Intermediate

Mileage: 18 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads, doubletrack (there is not an open ATV trail at this location)

Elevation Range: 7,400 to 8,400 feet

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated South San Juan-Del Norte (map #142)

Beginning in the pine/oak valleys of Blanco Basin, this route climbs steadily into aspen/fir forest along Porcupine Road, ending at the tumbling Rito Blanco Creek. The first half of the ride travels along a mostly smooth, unmaintained primitive dirt road. At the end of this road, a steep and somewhat rocky double-track leads you to the top of Lefthand Canyon and onto the graded, maintained Porcupine Creek Road. From here, a moderate climb and descent ends at the Rito Blanco Creek, an excellent spot for a picnic lunch. Your return will be rewarded with an exhilarating descent back to the trailhead. (This trip can be done as a one-way, mostly downhill — see below.)

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive south for 8.2 miles to Blanco Basin Road. Make a left and drive 3.3 miles up Blanco Basin Road to its junction with Lefthand Canyon Road (FR 011), on your left. Park and start here.

0.0 — Follow the steadily ascending Lefthand Canyon Road as it meanders north through rolling hills of pine, oak and meadow. You will climb about 600 feet to a fork in the road.

1.0 — Take the right fork. The road becomes primitive and less used while winding along a densely vegetated north-facing slope. To the left is Lefthand Canyon, mostly obscured by vegetation and topography. The canyon drains the lower reaches of the Rito Blanco. Look carefully for a doubletrack ascending a hillside meadow on your right.



3.4 — Follow the doubletrack to the top of the meadow. From here a rough doubletrack continues upward, in a northeasterly direction. Take this trail as it climbs over rocks and gullies for almost three-quarters of a mile.

4.4 — The trail ends, exiting onto the southern end of the graded and graveled Porcupine Road (FR 024). The rest of your ride to the Rito Blanco will be on this road. Continue on Porcupine Road as you ascend into the cooler forests of fir and aspen. Reach the high point of the ride at mile 5.8, which also marks a good turn-around spot for tired riders. A cool shady

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respite awaits those who continue the descent to the banks of the Rito Blanco at mile 9.0. Ride option: This ride may be done as a shuttle by leaving a car at the junction of Blanco Basin Road and U.S. 84. If you choose to do so, your trailhead then becomes the northern end of Porcupine Road. To get there, you must drive back to Mill Creek Road (CR 302, which becomes FR 662) located on U.S. 84 one-quarter mile south of the U.S. 160/U.S. 84 junction. Drive up Mill Creek Road about 9 miles, then take FR 665, which branches to the right. Porcupine Road (FR 024) intersects FR 665 in a little over 2 miles. Park here and ride. The Rito Blanco is about 1 mile downhill from here. The ride back to the shuttle car is mostly downhill.

### **Continental Divide Trail Alberta Peak Loop**

Difficulty: Difficult

Mileage: 8.6 miles

Route: Loop

Trails: Singletrack, dirt road, pavement

Elevation Range: 10,800 to 12,000 feet

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated Weminuche Wilderness (map #140)

Follow the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) south from Wolf Creek Pass as it circles behind the ski area and around the south face of Alberta Peak. This route has it all: smooth, technical, single-track, challenging ascents and descents, and “top of the world” riding as one emerges from the subalpine forest into the alpine meadows and talus slopes surrounding Alberta Peak. This is a memorable ride for experienced mountain bikers.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive north on U.S. 160 for 22 miles to Wolf Creek Pass. Park in the large parking area on the south side of the highway. The ride starts behind the kiosk on the Continental Divide Trail.

0.0 — From the parking area, follow the CDT across the meadow, crossing a headwater tributary of Wolf Creek on a wooden bridge before entering the forest. Then you will begin a tough and somewhat technical climb. Stay left after crossing the bridge, ignoring hiker-created trails on your right.

0.4 — The trail switchbacks to the right (a trail on your left climbs to the ski area). Continue following the trail, which switchbacks and climbs, often steeply, up the ridge.

1.1 — Switchback up a technical, rocky outcrop leading to a view over a “rock garden” below and to the west. The trail merges into a short section of ski area service road and arrives at the Bonanza Run lift tower.

1.7 — From the lift tower, head west 20 or 30 yards — here the trail continues into the forest along the top of the ridge, heading south then east. Emerge from the forest into subalpine meadows (look for a CDT trail post) at the edge of the ski area, mile 2.5.

2.5 — Climbing southeast, the trail tops out, then makes a gentle descent to a log drift fence at mile 3. Beyond the drift fence, the trail circumvents the south face of Alberta Peak. Here it is narrow with exposure to steep dropoffs. Drop down and around the peak, with a last steep descent to a ski patrol hut.

3.4 — From here, the trail continues eastward

along the lip of the Knife Ridge and its north-facing ski chutes. The first 0.2 miles beyond the hut are technical and exposed, but soon the route eases and wanders over alpine meadows. 4.0 to 4.2 — The trail veers left through a meadow (the trail disappears briefly, look for CDT trail posts) and back into the forest. 4.3 — Begin a steep drop, passing under the Horseshoe Bowl.

4.4 — Continue your steep descent, passing a narrow saddle with easterly views at mile 4.8.

4.8 — You now enter a clear-cut area (heading northeast). Look carefully for a CDT trail post and grown-over doubletrack coming into the trail at a sharp angle on your left.

5.2 — Take this doubletrack down to a jeep road and go right. The road soon bends west and takes you through the ski area and the ski area parking lots leading to the highway.

7.4 — Route arrives at U.S. 160. Turn left onto the highway and return to your car at mile 8.6.

### **Willow Draw**

Class: Intermediate

Mileage: 16 miles

This is a scenic loop from U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 junction. Road conditions range from highway to double-track. From downtown Pagosa, ride east on U.S. 160 to the junction of U.S. 84. Turn right onto U.S. 84, then left onto Mill Creek Road. Go 4 miles. You will cross three cattle guards. Immediately after the third cattle guard, look for a double-track dirt road on your left. If you cross over the bridge at Mill Creek, you have gone too far. Once on the double-track, you will cross Mill Creek, which may need to be forded on foot. Follow this dirt road generally north for the next 6 miles through Willow Draw and Dry Gulch to Fawn Gulch. Pass through two gates, which are usually closed. When you reach Fawn Gulch Road, turn left for a downhill to U.S. 160. Turn left onto U.S. 160. It is 4 miles back to town.

### **East Fork**

Class: Beginner

Mileage: 8 miles

This is an easy route for beginners as it is fairly flat. Road follows the East Fork of the San Juan River through beautiful canyons into the pristine East Fork Valley (private property for 2 miles), before terminating at Silver Falls guard station. Silver Falls can be seen cascading down the mountainside directly behind the station. The road is a gravel road from U.S. 160 to the forest boundary (.25 mile). The rest is dirt, which can be very slick when wet. Watch for high water across the road in the springtime.

### **Piedra Falls**

Class: Beginner/Intermediate

Mileage: 7.5-11 miles, depending on starting point

Drive 17.8 miles north on Piedra Road (County Road 600/FS 631). Turn on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) to the left of Sportsman's Supply and Campground. Find parking along Middle Fork Road beyond the private property. From Piedra Road, it is 2 miles to the junction with East Toner Road (FS 637). Ride East Toner Road about 7.5 miles to its end. There is a single track trail that continues to Piedra Falls. The trail to the falls (about a 15-minute hike) may not be suitable for bicycles.



# Endurance Events

Runners and bicyclists of all stripes — from the most dedicated competitor to the casual harrier or cruiser — have ample opportunity to test themselves with several races and events scheduled this summer that emphasize fun as much as endurance, and support great causes, to boot.

Endurance races throughout Archuleta County are consistently drawing more elite, amateur and casual athletes to the area to train and race at more than 7,000 feet in altitude.

One of the primary drivers for endurance events in the area is GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors), a Pagosa Springs nonprofit that aims to inspire kids to unplug themselves and take to the great outdoors (website: [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)). Other annual events are put on to benefit the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program, which seeks to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault (website: [www.acvap.org](http://www.acvap.org)).

Additional events have a tendency to pop up throughout the year, so keep an eye on the local Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper for more information.

## Turkey Track Trail Run

The XTERRA Turkey Track Trail Run kicks off the season with an awesome, early season trail marathon and half marathon on June 3.

There are plenty of scenic single-track, rolling hills and mellow climbs through aspens, ponderosa pines and open forest in this classic mountain trail run.

The killer trail system follows the edges of dynamic canyons with incredible vistas and spring blooms. Plus, you'll experience your share of roots, rocks, turkeys and, perhaps, a little bit of mud. This course is the perfect transition from a "road" to a "trail" race and serves as an ideal primer for the area's summer races. Oh, and there's an after party, too.

This race, as with all GECKO running races, is iPod friendly, chip-timed, features awards handmade by local students and artists, swag bags, and includes a free event for kids age 10 and under.

To get to the start/finish location, take Piedra Road north from U.S. 160 for about 6 miles; stay on the road until the pavement turns to dirt. Continue about 1/4 mile and turn left on Turkey Springs Road. Go 2 miles on the left, and you're there.

## Star Spangled Shuffle

Start the Fourth of July with a bang at the Star Spangled Shuffle.

Another of GECKO's fun-oriented events, the Star Spangled Shuffle is a 3k and 5k fun run, walk and jog on July 4.

The Star Spangled Shuffle will start and finish in the Ross Aragon Community Center parking lot. Finish and get your Star Spangled Finisher's medal in time to watch the parade at 10 a.m.

All ages and abilities welcome; bring your dogs, strollers and the whole family. Wear red, white and blue — and stars and stripes if you can. Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed.

## Pagosa Duathlon

Get dirty at the "du" and help the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program in the process on Saturday, July 8.

An off-road racing event, the Pagosa Duathlon features three epic races, all of which are run on single track. The Dirty Sprint is a 3-mile run and 8-mile mountain bike. The Dirty Du is a 6-mile run and 14-mile mountain bike. For the extreme racers, there's the Double Dirty, a 12-mile run and 28-mile mountain bike.

Not a runner? Not a problem. Find someone who is and enter as a two-member relay team.

For the youngsters, the Dusty Kids Fun Race is a 1-mile run, 2-mile "gravel-growler" dirt road race.

The fun is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 a.m.

## Devil Mountain Ultra 50/50, Demons of Dust 5k/10k/half marathon

The Devil Mountain 50-mile and 50k ultra on Aug. 19 is "one hell of a run."

This remote and beautiful classic ultra brings runners together for two days in forests of the South San Juan Mountains around Pagosa Springs. It includes 7,500 feet of climbing, 10,000 feet in elevation, a bonfire party at the finish line and a pancake awards breakfast.

For those a little less ultra, the Demons of Dust includes 5k, 10k and half-marathon distances. The course will still feature big climbs, high elevations, mountain vistas and plenty of single track through wooded trails.

## Mountain Chile Cha Cha

The Mountain Chile Cha Cha celebrates trail running, combining our incredible in-town trails with the famous Pagosa Springs music and green chile festival (the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic).

This 5k, 10k and half-marathon event will be held on Sept. 30.

Celebrate the season, trail running and getting kids outside on Pagosa's killer downtown trail course. It's beautiful, challenging and remote, and it's all right downtown.

Races will kick off in the morning with a 5k, 10k (with a 700-foot climb in elevation) and half marathon beginning at 8:30 a.m., as well as a kids' run at 7:30 a.m. (which many GECKO runs have). The run takes place entirely off-road, using trails over Reservoir Hill and the Reservoir River Ranch.

## Color Run

Brilliant colors will be flying at Pagosa's iconic 5K Color Run.

As color runners, and walkers, venture out on the course, colorful balloons will be filling the skies along the entire run route.

Iconic turns to stunning with runners and ballooners joining in on a color-filled adventure.

Be transformed into a running rainbow as you run through vibrant colors at each color station you pass.

Not a runner, no problem. You can walk, skip, hop, or roll your way to the finish line!

This un-timed, noncompetitive event is for everyone — from young to the young at heart, you're going to love it.

Add some color to your life and come out for a colorful good time.

The event will be held on Sept. 16 beginning at 8 a.m.

Registration and more event details will be released as ColorFest weekend nears in September and will be available in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Proceeds benefit the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program.



# Hiking & Horseback Riding

Bright blue sky, a sky as big as the ocean. Wildflowers and their brilliant colors. A new spring cascading down the mountain's jagged rock. A still lake tucked high near a summit.

This is Pagosa Country.

To look upon these sights is breathtaking, and to see these sights ... that's the reason many people come back time and again for the experience.

Leave the roads behind, kiss the asphalt goodbye. The San Juan National Forest is all around you. Pull off the side of the road. Park by a trailhead. Lace up your boots and saddle your horse. Strike out into nature and tread where few have gone.

Backcountry excursions offer visitors an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the San Juan National Forest firsthand. Many trails are easily accessible and within relative proximity to downtown Pagosa Springs.

Use your car to reach one of the convenient starting points listed below, then leave it behind to wander trails winding beneath towering pines or along clear mountain

streams.

The trails described here cover a variety of terrain and skill levels. U.S. Forest Service trail numbers are in parentheses next to the trail name.

## Hiking and riding tips

- Set easy-to-achieve objectives. Unless you are backpacking, plan to return well before dark.

- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion and is hazardous to your safety, as well as to the safety of hikers below you.

- Think safety. Carry a map, water, snacks and clothing to keep you warm and dry. Weather conditions change rapidly in the mountains and it may rain or snow at any time. Always travel with a friend and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

- Pack out your trash. Help keep the forest clean and pack out trash someone else left behind.

- During hunting seasons, you can pick up a loaner blaze orange vest at the Visitor Center to help keep you safe in the woods.

- Share the trails. The trails listed are shared by many visitors, some using horses, and in some areas, bicycles or ATVs. For the safety of all involved, give horse riders the right-of-way by moving well off the trail on the downhill side, when it is safe to do so. To avoid startling the horses, say "hello" so they know you are a person, not a predator.

- Trail signs are usually found at trailheads and major junctions of maintained trails. Take a moment to read the information posted at trailheads. Not all junctions or cross-country routes are signed.

- A Pagosa Country map is available to direct you to the various trailheads. It is also a good idea to pick up a national forest map that clearly shows all access roads, trails and special area boundaries.

You can also check out the Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map at <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/>. Maps and current information about trail conditions are available at the Visitor Center, located at 402 San Juan Street, and the Pagosa Ranger District office at U.S. 160 and Second Street.

## #1 Fourmile Falls (569)

Length: 7.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

From U.S. 160, turn north onto Lewis Street and take an immediate left onto 5th Street. Stay right on Fourmile Road (County Road 400 — this becomes Forest Road 645). Drive north 7 miles from Pagosa Springs. Turn right at the junction, then travel 4 more miles to the trailhead. The trail follows Fourmile Creek with Eagle Mountain to the east. The trail is bordered by stands of aspen and spruce. At mile 3 you will reach the waterfall, which drops 300 feet from the cliff above.

## #4 Opal Lake (564)

Length: 1 mile | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive south on U.S. 84 from Pagosa Springs approximately 8 miles to Blanco Basin Road (CR 326). After driving 10 miles, turn right across the Blanco River Bridge. Follow the Castle Creek Road (CR 660) to the signed junction for the Opal Lake Trailhead. Turn right and drive a short distance to the trailhead on the right. The trail to Opal Lake is 1 mile and takes about 45 minutes to hike. A portion of the trail is steep before it traverses an open meadow to the lake. The lake is bordered by wooded hillsides and a sheer mountain face. Minerals deposited at the inlet give the lake its milky color.

## #2 Piedra Falls (637)

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 17 miles to the junction at Sportsman's Supply. Leave the Piedra Road and continue on the Middle Fork Road (Forest Road 636) for 2 miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FR 637), and follow it to the end. Do not attempt to travel this road in wet weather. Walk up the river to a head gate, where the trail begins. The falls are impressive, thundering off a cliff into a V-shaped canyon of huge boulders. The hike takes about 15 to 30 minutes each way.

## #5 Williams Creek (587)

Length: 10.1 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 22 miles. Turn right on Williams Creek Road (FR 640) and go past Williams Creek Reservoir and Cimarrona Campground, continuing on to the trailhead at the end of the road. The trail follows Williams Creek northward into the Weminuche Wilderness. The old Spanish name for Williams Creek was Huerto — garden-like. The first few miles of Williams Creek trail give the impression of a gigantic walled garden. Across the creek to the right is a group of peaks eroded from volcanic rock. Set your own destination — it continues on to the Continental Divide.

## #3 Treasure Falls (563)

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Travel 14 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to the base of Wolf Creek Pass. You will see a parking lot on your right. A 1/4-mile interpretive trail begins near the upper end of the parking area and continues to the bridge at the base of the falls. While standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush hundreds of feet down the cliff toward you. During winter, the frozen falls become a beautiful, sapphire ice sculpture.

## #6 Turkey Creek Trail (580)

Length: 5.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive 7.3 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Jackson Mountain Road on the left. Follow it for 4 miles to the end of the road. This trail is the longest in this section of the Weminuche Wilderness. It is 20 miles from the trailhead through breathtaking scenery to the Continental Divide. Choose your own destination here. The 5-mile hike will take you to the first creek crossing.





#### #7 Piedra River Trail (596)

Length: 11.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

The upper terminus of the trail begins on the Piedra Road (CR 600), about 16 miles north of Pagosa Springs. After crossing the Piedra River the trailhead parking lot is on the left. The trail starts on the canyon rim and then descends to the river. Sheer cliffs rise on both sides for over several hundred feet. This is an easy trail if you only go the 3.5 miles to the footbridge. For a longer hike, follow the river for another 8.5 miles. The trail passes several box canyons to end at the bridge on the First Fork of the Piedra Road. Confirm that First Fork Road is open and shuttle a vehicle to the First Fork Bridge for the longer hike.

#### #8 Continental Divide Trail North (813)

Length: Depends | Difficulty: Easy/Difficult

Turn left on the dirt road just past the Continental Divide marker at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Drive 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook parking area and microwave tower site. The trail begins behind the microwave tower and follows the Continental Divide, which is the backbone of the continent and the dividing line for eastern and western watersheds. From the trailhead, you can embark on an easy day hike or begin an extended backcountry journey. Hiking options along the Continental Divide trail seem limitless.

#### #9 Anderson Trail (579)

Length: 9.3 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

See Fourmile Falls Trail for directions. This trail begins at the Fourmile Trailhead, to the left of the Fourmile Trail. This trail climbs steadily for about 4 miles to skirt the east side of Pagosa Peak. There is a 2,600 foot ascent. The summit of the peak is 12,640 feet. The trail continues on to Fourmile Lake. It is about 2 miles to the junction with the Fourmile Trail. From the junction, it is 6 miles back to the trailhead and very steep in some areas. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.

## At Altitude

The hikes described here begin at altitudes above 8,000 feet and several top out at 12,000 feet. Each hike is classified as "easy" to "difficult." Only those in good physical condition should attempt the difficult hikes. Remember, when you go downhill you will have to climb back up when you return. Pace yourself, drink water and eat snacks to help prevent altitude sickness. Symptoms include headache, loss of appetite, and weakness or drowsiness. If affected, descend quickly. If symptoms persist, seek medical aid.



### #10 Cimarrona Trail (586)

Length: 8.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) to Williams Lake Road. The trail begins on the left side of Williams Lake Road just beyond the entrance of Cimarrona Campground. The first 2 miles of trail are moderately easy, wandering through conifer and aspen stands. Then, many switchbacks start a steep ascent. Choose your destination — the trail continues on to the Continental Divide Trail at Squaw Pass.

### #11 Continental Divide, Alberta Peak (813)

Length: 2.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Travel east on U.S. 160 22.6 miles to the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. The trail begins on the south side of the road, just east of the Continental Divide information kiosk. A trail travels south and climbs to the west of Wolf Creek Ski Area. It then leads to rocky ridges on the west side of Alberta Peak. The trail to the top of the peak (11,870 feet) is not marked, although a 15- to 20-minute scramble will take you to the top. There are many beautiful vistas along the ridge.

### #12 West Fork or Rainbow Trail (561)

Length: 11.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Travel to this trailhead from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. Drive northeast for 15 miles, then turn left on the West Fork Road (FR 648). Travel 3 miles to the trailhead. The first portion of this trail passes through private property. Hiking 3 miles will take you to the West Fork of the San Juan River, and 1/4 mile further is Beaver Creek. Either are pleasant day hikes. The trail continues on to the Continental Divide.

### #13 Ice Cave Ridge Trail

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive to the Piedra River Trail (596) parking area to access this trail. From the parking area, start on the Piedra River Trail for several hundred yards, then follow the old road bed to the right. This is an easy, short trail up Ice Cave Ridge. The fissures on the side of the ridge contain snow deposited through the winter and hidden from the sun. After melting and compressing, the ice remains in the fissures as late as the end of June. From the ridge at the top, you have a good view of the Piedra Valley and other ridges. Use caution when viewing the ice fissures. Watch your footing, keep children near you and dogs leashed.

### #14 Treasure Mountain Trail (565)

Length: 8.1 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

A spectacular trail to Windy Pass starts from the East Fork Road. Drive 8 miles northeast on U.S. 160, turn right on the East Fork Road and travel approximately 7 miles to the trailhead. A small sign on the left side of the road marks the trailhead. After approximately 3 miles, the Windy Pass Trail from the southwest intersects this trail in a large scenic park. Windy Pass is about 3/4 of a mile to the west of this junction. You can return the way you came up, or go down to U.S. 160 (if you left a car there). You could go to the top of Windy Pass from U.S. 160, but it isn't as scenic.

### #15 Little Blanco Trail (571)

Length: 8.3 miles | Difficulty: Difficult

Travel south on U.S. 84 for approximately 1/4 mile and turn left on Mill Creek Road (CR 302). Drive for approximately 15 miles and bear right on the Nipple Mountain Road (FR 665). Follow it nearly to the end. You will see a trailhead sign on the left. The first 2 miles of the Little Blanco Trail are steep and winding. You will travel through aspen stands and pine forest to a narrow ridge with a sweeping view to the west. Follow the trail to the junction of the Quartz Lake Trail. The trail continues to the left for another mile to Quartz Lake — a relatively small, but pristine lake. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.

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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Big Game Hunting

The public lands and forests surrounding Pagosa Springs provide exceptional big game habitat, and licensed sportsmen and women enjoy some of the finest hunting in North America while visiting Pagosa Springs.

The adjoining San Juan and Rio Grande national forests, together comprising nearly 4 million acres of varied elevation and diverse terrain, are home to black bears, cougars and bighorn sheep, as well as considerable herds of mule deer and elk that migrate seasonally between winter and summer ranges. Though far fewer in number, Shiras moose may also be seen grazing in the high country.

Access to the remarkable hunting grounds surrounding Pagosa Springs is gained via a network of forest service and Bureau of Land Management roads. If hunters prefer to trek into the forest by foot or on horseback, they may use the many foot and horseback trails, which offer passage into vehicle-restricted regions such as the rugged and remote Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas. Designated wilderness areas are closed to all forms of mechanized travel (including bicycles, game carts and wheelchairs) at all times. Hunters should call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268 for travel policy information and travel details including posted road closures and other travel restrictions that may affect specific hunting units. Information related to other activities that might coincide with big game seasons — such as domestic livestock grazing, prescribed burns and special recreational events — is also available.

Through direction from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado Parks and Wildlife governs bag limits, hunting regulations, season dates and licensing for big and small game hunts. Though subject to yearly changes, the first of the 2017 big game seasons, archery deer and elk, begins Aug. 26. The final limited deer and elk rifle season will end Nov. 19.

Obtaining a license to hunt big game in Colorado may require participation in a drawing. Deer licenses can only be obtained through a lottery. Other limited license species include Rocky

Mountain Bighorn Sheep, mountain goat, pronghorn, moose and black bear. For elk, hunters must enter and be drawn from a lottery for licenses to hunt in the first and fourth seasons, and for all seasons in other specified units. The deadline for entering select season draws is always the first Tuesday in April. Hunters can enter these drawings online at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us) or by filling out a paper application found in the Colorado Big Game Brochure available at all license agents.

Over-the-counter licenses for elk are available in most units in the state for the second and third rifle seasons and archery season. Colorado is the only state in the nation that sells over-the-counter elk licenses.

In addition, leftover licenses go on sale Aug. 1, and can be purchased at licensed dealer locations, CPW offices and by phone. Purchases can be made through the CPW website beginning Aug. 2.

A mandatory 25-cent Search and Rescue surcharge is added to the cost of all Colorado hunting and fishing licenses. To improve wildlife habitat and wildlife education, a 75-cent Public Education Advisory Council surcharge and a \$10 Habitat Stamp fee are also added to all license costs. The Habitat Stamp fee is added only to one license purchased by an individual in a given year.

Documentation proving completion of a hunter education course is mandatory for all hunters born Jan. 1, 1949, or after who wish to pursue any game species in Colorado. Licenses will not be granted without hunter education verification. Check the CPW website for information about hunter safety classes.

For complete information on hunting seasons, pick up one of the Colorado hunting brochures at any local sports store. You can also go to the CPW website: [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us).

For more information regarding hunting opportunities unique to Pagosa Country, stop by the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District office, located at 180 Pagosa St. (U.S. 160 on the east side of town); or call the Durango Colorado Parks and Wildlife office at (970) 247-0855.



# Self-Guided Vehicle Tours

Sometimes, there is no destination, and that provides the freedom to truly appreciate the beauty, the history and the culture of Pagosa Country. Sure, you can stand outside on a main street and gaze at the peaks of the San Juan Mountains that surround you, listening to the San Juan River as it rolls by. And if that's all you choose to do, you've done well.

Perhaps, however, your interest was piqued. "What else is out there? What views, what wonders, lie just behind the mountain?"

You don't have to be a member of the explorer's club to find out.

Much of this incredible natural wonder can be observed from the comfort of a conventional vehicle. However, one must be warned: Just because the car may be comfortable does not mean the driving conditions are always easy. Before taking a drive of high altitude discovery, know that high-mountain driving offers

hazards as well as unforgettable views; weather conditions are liable to change in the blink of an eye. While most of the roads recommended for the tours listed here are all-weather gravel roads, conditions can vary. Some roads require four-wheel drive vehicles; many will test your driving skills and courage.

Go prepared. A forest service map, available at the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center, is a benefit.

Excellent scenic vantage areas are located along all routes. Many of the trips are in remote areas with little traffic, so plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map and compass for those who prefer to remain old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone else is highly recommended.

Check road conditions and check for closures before heading out; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

## Motor Vehicle Use Map

The San Juan National Forest provides a Motor Vehicle Use map that identifies all roads and trails that are open to wheeled motorized travel on the Pagosa Ranger District. The map is the legal document used to enforce travel rules. It does not identify non-motorized recreational routes.

The map is free, district specific and available both electronically at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3814672.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3814672.pdf) or at all San Juan Public Lands offices.

You can also check out the Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map to find out about recreational opportunities on the San Juan National Forest. <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/>.

For more information, please contact the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

### East Fork of the San Juan River

10 miles to turnoff



This route is suitable for high clearance vehicles as far as Silver Falls, about eight miles from U.S. 160. From town, start by traveling 10 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Take a right at the gravel road signed, "Forest Service Access Road East Fork of the San Juan." The route goes through the East Fork Canyon and passes some dramatic "beehive" rock formations on the left. The canyon opens up into a privately-owned mountain valley, but through which public access is permitted. At the upper end of this valley, there is a fork — stay left toward Elwood Pass, if you are ready for an adventure and have an ATV, dirt bike or a four-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance and a short wheel base. This route will take you past the historic Joe Mann Cabin, the old Black Diamond Mine, over the Continental Divide and to the old mining town of Summitville. From there, one may return by (1) the same route, (2) go down Park Creek to U.S. 160 and back to Pagosa over Wolf Creek Pass, or (3) proceed to Chama. Please note that the road over Elwood Pass is often impassable in early summer and during heavy rains due to multiple river crossings and extremely slick road surfaces. Additionally, because the road is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its passage.

### Plumtaw – Piedra Loop

35-mile round trip



From U.S. 160, turn north at the corner of Lewis Street near Subway, then an immediate left on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400) about 8 miles, then take the left fork and follow the Plumtaw Road. It is substantially higher in elevation than most other back roads in the county and affords spectacular vistas and autumn colors. It is also the summer home for many deer and elk. Keep an eye peeled for grouse and turkey. When you descend to Piedra Road (CR 600), you can continue your trip in two directions. If you turn right, you will head toward Williams Creek Road and Williams Creek Reservoir, a scenic high mountain reservoir with a reputation for good fishing, hiking and camping. On your way, where Piedra Road crosses the Piedra River, take a little hike (half-hour or longer) down the Piedra Gorge past caverns of maidenhair ferns and mini waterfalls. If you turn left, you will head back toward Pagosa. These gravel roads are suitable for conventional vehicles and this is a great route for viewing fall foliage.

### Blanco Basin

8.5 miles to turnoff



This is one of the most scenic drives in the state when fall colors are bright. The route is south on U.S. 84 for 8 miles to the Blanco Basin turnoff (CR 326). Follow the road to the head of the basin and to magnificent views of the Continental Divide, Square Top Mountain and Oil Mountain. For a spectacular side trip, turn right onto Castle Creek Road, cross the Rio Blanco and proceed to the end of the road at Fish Creek, approximately 6 miles. The last 2.5 miles of the road to Fish Creek are very slick when wet.

### Mill Creek – Nipple Mountain Road

0.7 miles to turnoff, 32 miles round trip



This route is suitable for all vehicles to the vicinity of Little Blanco Trailhead. Four-wheel drive vehicles are required beyond that point. Turn onto Mill Creek Road just north of the County Fairgrounds from U.S. 84. At approximately 7 miles, take the right fork and proceed about 9 miles east to the Little Blanco Trailhead. At this time, the road is closed less than a mile past the Little Blanco Trailhead, due to a washout that makes it impassible. The trip will provide a vast panorama of the upper San Juan Valley. Return by the same route.





#### Pagosa Junction

45-50 miles round trip



Go south on 8th Street out of Pagosa Springs, turning right on Apache Street, which becomes Trujillo Road (CR 500), through the early-day settlements of Juanita and Trujillo. See historic Pagosa Junction. From there, the route goes up Cat Creek Gap (CR 700) past the now-deserted Talian Mine and the Lone Tree Catholic Church, a landmark. Return to Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, the Navajo Trail. Continuing on CR 500 will take you to Navajo Lake and Navajo State Park. Return to Pagosa Springs via Colo. 151, past Chimney Rock National Monument and U.S. 160. Roads are all suitable for conventional vehicles.

#### Radio Transmitter – Continental Divide

22 miles to turnoff



Suitable for conventional vehicles and as close to the top of the world as you can get by vehicle in this area. Turn north off U.S. 160 at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, follow the road up to the transmitter site. A spectacular vantage point and a picnic area are provided at the topographical crest of the mountain.

#### Platoro – Cumbres Pass – Chama

18 miles to Silver Falls, 10 miles to Platoro



The trip to Platoro can begin as described in the “East Fork of the San Juan River” description, turning south after crossing Elwood Pass, a trip that requires a four-wheel drive vehicle, preferably with high clearance and short wheelbase. Another route to Platoro is to proceed northeast from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, cross Wolf Creek Pass to Park Creek Road (approximately 5-1/2 miles from the summit). Turn south on Park Creek Road and proceed to Elwood Pass and south to Platoro. Enjoy some excellent fishing on the Conejos River, which parallels your route south of Platoro. At times the route between Platoro and Highway 17 can be very rough. Call Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest at (719) 274-8971 for current conditions. Upon reaching Colo. 17, turn right and cross Cumbres Pass. You will follow the route of the Cumbres & Toltec narrow gauge railroad to Chama, N.M. From there, it is only 48 miles back to Pagosa Springs via U.S. 84. This is an exceptional route for observing the fall foliage. The mileages for this trip do not indicate that the full route may take all day. Except for the portion of the route crossing Elwood Pass and, at times, the route south of Platoro, roads are suitable for conventional vehicles.

## Be Safe

Many of the trips listed here are in remote areas with little traffic – plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map, coordinates and compass for those who prefer to keep old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone is highly recommended.

Please use the recreation map as a guide. Conditions change quickly, check with the ranger district office in the area you plan to visit to get the most current information on road conditions and closures; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

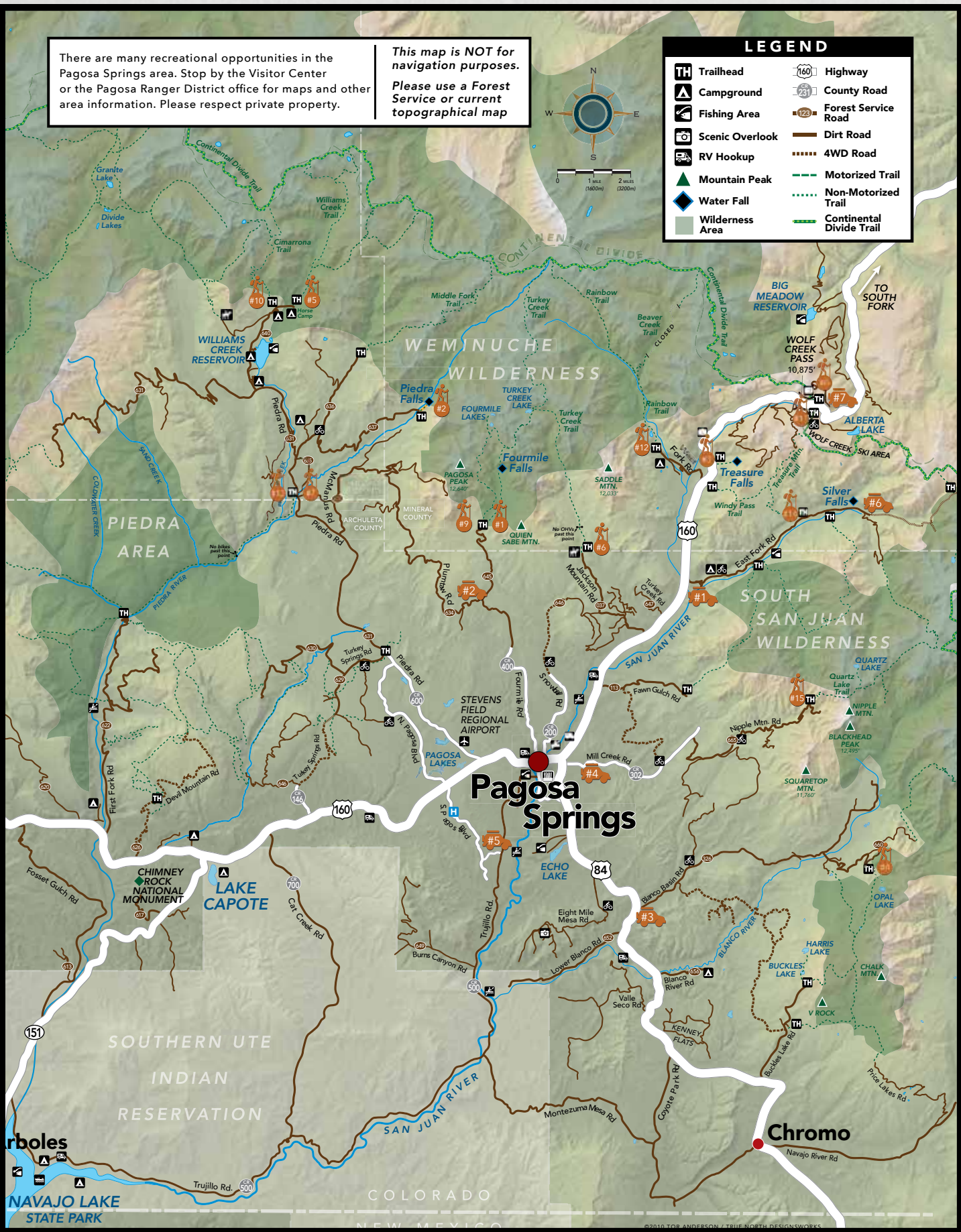


There are many recreational opportunities in the Pagosa Springs area. Stop by the Visitor Center or the Pagosa Ranger District office for maps and other area information. Please respect private property.

This map is NOT for navigation purposes. Please use a Forest Service or current topographical map

### LEGEND

Trailhead	Highway
Campground	County Road
Fishing Area	Forest Service Road
Scenic Overlook	Dirt Road
RV Hookup	4WD Road
Mountain Peak	Motorized Trail
Water Fall	Non-Motorized Trail
Wilderness Area	Continental Divide Trail







MARK MEIER

# Wildlife

If you've brought your camera and are inclined to trek through the extensive wilderness that composes the greater portion of Pagosa Country, be prepared for the chance to snap the shot of a lifetime.

In a region that ranges from 6,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the 1.8 million acre San Juan National Forest not only hosts a complex diversity of climate zones, ecological niches and microenvironments, but also is home to a vast array of wildlife that call these diverse habitats home. As the country climbs in elevation from the south and east to the mountains north and west, that diversity becomes apparent as high-desert plateau gently transitions into alpine forest, then dramatically ascends beyond the tree line to alpine tundra. While many species of wildlife prefer to inhabit a specific ecological zone, others travel throughout Pagosa Country, seeking resources and habitat wherever they can find them.

Coyotes, foxes, cougars and black bears may roam the region at almost any elevation and are a common site (and sometimes a nuisance) for residents and visitors alike. A special but not uncommon sight is the symbol of our country — the American Bald Eagle — soaring majestically above meadows, lakes or rivers at all elevations. Snapping a photo of one of these birds perched atop a ponderosa pine is a rare treat.

In the lower reaches, short-horned lizards, eastern fence lizards, western rattlesnakes and ringtail cats share sandy sage flats, arid rocky slopes, deep canyons and sandstone mesas with jackrabbits, prairie dogs, elk and mule deer. Piñon jays, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles commonly grace the sun-drenched skies above the high desert plateau.

In the high country, observers may see Rocky Mountain goats, bighorn sheep, snowshoe hares, ptarmigan or a rare Canada lynx. Although normally a denizen of high-country meadows, willow flats, forests and lakes north of Pagosa Springs, it is not unusual for the Shiras moose to be seen at most elevations. The largest member

of the deer family, these solitary individuals occasionally wander the streets and outskirts of town.

While the encroachment of civilization on some of the region's wilderness has decreased the numbers of several species in the area, many other species are thriving and even increasing in numbers, including foxes and coyotes, mule deer, bears, magpies, crows and ravens, golden and bald eagles, wild turkeys and vultures. While mountain lions are normally solitary and secretive, reported sightings have become frequent, particularly between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Visitors and residents are cautioned not to feed local wildlife, especially as prey species can attract lions into residential areas. Food should never be left out to attract bears.

In the spring and early summer, infrequent hikers and wildlife watchers will invariably stumble upon a newborn fawn or elk calf. Baby birds, rabbits, foxes and squirrels may appear quite approachable, yet mother is almost certainly nearby. As long as a potential predator lurks about, she'll not return to feed or coddle her young. Therefore, it is always best to back away and leave little ones as they're found. Survival in the wild is challenging enough without avoidable human interference.

In a bountiful area as rich and diverse as Pagosa Country, vigilant observers will enjoy an array of wildlife matched by few places on earth. The adventurous visitor traveling the canyons, mesas and forests early or late, moving in silence and employing a pair of good field glasses, is almost guaranteed to be rewarded with the sight of wildlife in their natural habitat — and the experience of a lifetime.

For more information about the best hiking trails for wildlife watching in the San Juan National Forest and surrounding wilderness areas, visit the U.S. Forest Service website at [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/) or stop by the Pagosa ranger station at 180 Pagosa St.

For information about Colorado's wildlife and hunting and fishing licenses, go to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).





# Waterfalls, Canyons & Rapids

ELISE SONIAT/SOURCE OF LIGHT IMAGERY

Past noon on a clear winter day, cup your hand full of snow and hold it to the sun.

If you are patient, you will see the snow begin to melt and start dripping, drop by drop, through your fingertips.

Now, imagine this is what happens to all the snow capping the mountains surrounding Pagosa Springs. As the seasons change, and the rugged land begins once more to be warm, the water, at first as a drip, begins to roll from the mountain peaks. Before long, the drip turns into a rush, and the mountainsides are filled with waterfalls, streams and rivers.

Many water wonders await the hiker and back-country mountain runner, horse-back rider and biker. Find one of the area's waterfalls and take time to sit and enjoy the calming and beautiful spectacle.

## Treasure Falls

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 15 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa

Springs. As you approach the base of Wolf Creek Pass, turn right into a large parking area, with a well-maintained interpretive trail leading to the base of the falls.

While the falls and accompanying trail are visible from the highway, the appropriate footpath begins to the left of the stream. Many visitors photograph the falls and surrounding vistas from the parking area and nearby Overlook Bridge at the base of the falls.

## Silver Falls

Day travelers can easily view or visit Silver Falls near the old historic Silver Falls Forest Service Guard Station. Following a scenic drive on a maintained gravel road into the backcountry, a trail to the falls is short, but fairly steep.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 10 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. Just after crossing the West Fork of the San Juan River, turn right (east) on East Fork Road (FR #667) leading to the East Fork River and campground. Follow the road and river approximately 8 miles where, on the north side (left), you'll see the falls, an old guard station and primitive parking area beyond.

A word of caution — in early spring, there are two vehicle stream crossings that are often hazardous during high water. Also, the last 2 miles of road crosses private land

where visitors must respect private property rights and remain in the roadway.

To reach the base of the falls, follow the footpath through a gate and hike about an eighth of a mile.

## Elwood Creek Cascades

The route to Elwood Pass and the Elwood Creek Cascades turns to a four-wheel-drive road best suited to high-clearance vehicles with a short wheelbase. Late summer or early autumn, when the aspens are shimmering gold, may be the ideal time to negotiate this rather precarious course. Because travelers must ford the East Fork of the San Juan River near where it begins at the confluence of Elwood and Crater creeks, spring high-water season is not the time to go.

To view these cascades, proceed up the East Fork Road as you would to Silver Falls. About a mile past the old guard station and parking area, East Fork Road branches left from Quartz Meadow Road to the right. From there on, this narrow and primitive course offers many steep grades and seemingly bottomless mud holes. Beyond the river crossing, the road climbs abruptly out of the canyon. From high on the mountainside, Elwood Cascades is visible.

Another word of caution — because the road to Elwood Pass is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its passage.



## Fourmile Falls

The first of two spectacular falls is a tall “bridal veil” fall on aptly-named Fall Creek, but viewing its splendor requires a 3-mile hike (one way) into the Weminuche Wilderness north of Pagosa Springs. A bit further along Fourmile Trail (on the right), the more voluminous Fourmile Falls tumbles hundreds of feet over a sheer precipice of dark volcanic rock.

The route to these popular summertime destinations begins in town at U.S. 160 and Lewis Street. Turn north on Lewis, then an immediate left on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400/FR 645) roughly 13 miles to the trailhead at road’s end. Keep in mind, with Fourmile Falls being one of the more popular points of interest in the Pagosa Ranger District, the trail in can be quite crowded on pleasant summer days.

## Piedra Falls

Piedra Falls is one of the most popular in the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest. Located at the end of a gentle, quarter-mile-long trail, where the East Fork of the Piedra River meets the Weminuche Wilderness boundary, it cascades over two large steps among sheer volcanic cliffs.

To reach Piedra Falls, drive 2 miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right and proceed beyond a cattle guard (at approximately 6 miles) where the road turns to gravel and becomes FR 631. Travel roughly 11.8 miles more, to the Middle Fork Road (FR 636). Veer right from FR 631 onto FR 636 (left side of a country store, campground and cabins). Continue on FR 636 approximately 2 miles, then turn right on East Toner Road (FR 637). Follow East Toner Road about 8 miles, where it ends at a primitive parking area near an irriga-

tion diversion. Park there and follow a footpath upstream to the base of the falls.

A word of caution — East Toner Road is graveled and typically accessible May through November, depending on snow conditions.

## Safety and precautions

Backcountry travelers should always prepare for unforeseen emergencies before venturing far past civilization. Even relatively minor injuries in a remote area can turn serious, particularly if the victim faces spending a night (or more) in the woods. Sliding off road or getting stuck will almost certainly result in very expensive assistance.

Before setting out, hikers and motorists should review maps and weather reports, determine intended routes and travel times, and inform at least two close friends or family members of their planned destination and when they expect to return. Wilderness trail users should register their entry and departure times at all Forest Service trailheads.

Much of the Weminuche Wilderness has been affected by a large outbreak of spruce beetles, which have killed the majority of mature spruce trees. Recent fires have also weakened the trees. As a result, visitors must use extra caution when traveling in the vicinity of dead or dying trees. Always be aware of your surroundings.

Adventurers ought never travel alone, should dress appropriately for current and forecast conditions, should carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. If serious injury does occur, tend to the victim’s immediate needs, then get to a landline or within cell phone range and dial 911. For less serious matters where help is still required, call the Archuleta County Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.



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Likewise, with 360 degrees of spectacular mountain views, the Pagosa Springs Golf Club provides scenery that very few courses in the U.S. can offer.

Yet, if it were merely the view of close-by mountain ranges and forests, as well as the overall pastoral beauty, the course would not enjoy the reputation and popularity it has as one of the most enjoyable in the southwest. Combining the challenges of an Alpine course along with professionally designed fairways and greens, the Pagosa Springs Golf Club provides even the most jaded golfer an experience that is sure to be unforgettable.

More than that, the small-town, family-friendly ambience that the Pagosa Springs Golf Club boasts is decidedly the result of the personal and attentive service provided by everyone from the outside service to the instructors to the employees in the clubhouse.

While Pagosa Springs has long enjoyed a reputation for its wholesome, friendly atmosphere, the Pagosa Springs Golf Club only serves to add to the status that is so well deserved in Pagosa Country.

Again, if it were just the scenery or the atmosphere, the links themselves would rarely feel the sting of cleats or hear the whoosh of a wood. Fortunately, summertime finds the course well traveled, with golfers on the course from dawn until dusk.

Each day two nines are joined to make the 18-hole course for the day (Meadows, Pinon and Ponderosa) which offers several 18-hole options, with the 72-par Pinon/Meadows circuit rated 72.2 and logging in a distance of 7,228 yards.

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# Real Estate & Home Guide







# Hill House Manor

MARSHALL DUNHAM

## Bringing the house back to life

On the top of a hill in downtown Pagosa Springs sits a house with quite the history. The Hill House Manor has watched over the town in between 6th and 7th streets since 1903.

Jason and Wendy Dockter recently purchased the house and have big plans for it.

Dockter explained that he has lived in Pagosa Springs for 16 years, and had his eye on the house for some time.

"When I first moved to Pagosa, this was one of the houses that really stood out to me," said Jason Dockter. "Just driving around, it was one of the first houses I noticed. I drove around, and it was forever vacant. You could see someone was doing a little bit of upkeep on it, but you would never see anybody."

When asked what about the house drew himself and his wife to it, he said, "It was just a feeling, it was almost a calling. I can't describe it in any other way besides that we were just drawn to it."

The house has four bedrooms and five bathrooms.

Dockter explained that the house was originally built by a ship builder from Maine in 1903, which is why the house has a widow watch.

He said that the pristine white picket fence that surrounded the house is new, and that it required 45 post holes to complete.

Jason explained that everything he and his wife want to change about the house is very expensive.

"Luckily, the plumbing and electricity is updated from the 1980s, but everything about this house literally costs thousands of dollars, so we kind of have to pick and choose what we're going to do and what we're going to attack," he said.

"There's still a lot of things we'd have to do first," he explained,

later adding, "We have to put a new roof on it, redo all the trim, and that's just to start with."

"About 90 percent of the house is original glass," explained Dockter while he pointed out the stained glass windows in the house, with colors based off of the Colorado flag.

"The yellow is for the sunset, the red is for the dirt, the blue is for the sky, and the white is for the snow-capped peaks," he said.

He said that, if he were going to replace the windows, he would keep the theme of single-pane glass.

"As much I hate to pay those electricity and heating bills, I want to keep things true to the house," he said.

Dockter has tried to find pictures of the original house, but explained that the best thing he's been able to recover was a picture taken from Reservoir Hill, which made the house extremely small.

"I'm truly surprised, because there's only a few of these houses that have been around 114 years," said Dockter. "So you'd assume there would be more pictures."

He also stated that the house isn't on the historic registry, which is something he's going to work to change after he's completed all of the projects that he wants to complete.

When asked if the couple ever wondered if the house might be haunted, Wendy said, "No, I've never felt like it's been haunted," with Jason saying, "This house has got good feelings."

Jason joked that, "It does hurt every once in a while, but just in the wallet."

"We want to bring the house back to life because it deserves it," said Jason. "This house deserves to be restored back to its splendor and glory that it used to have."



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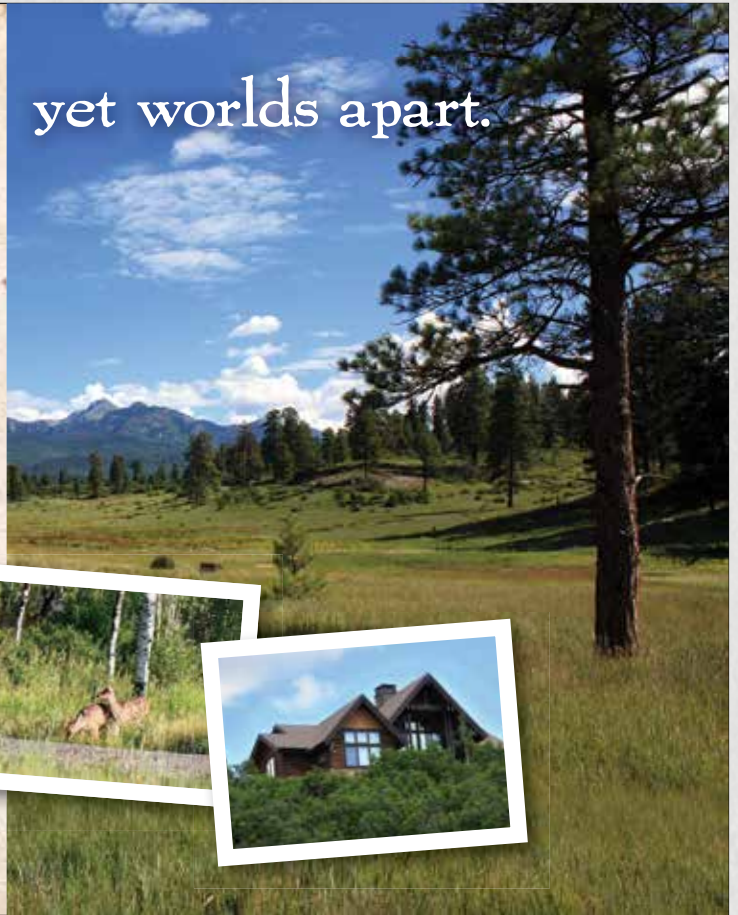
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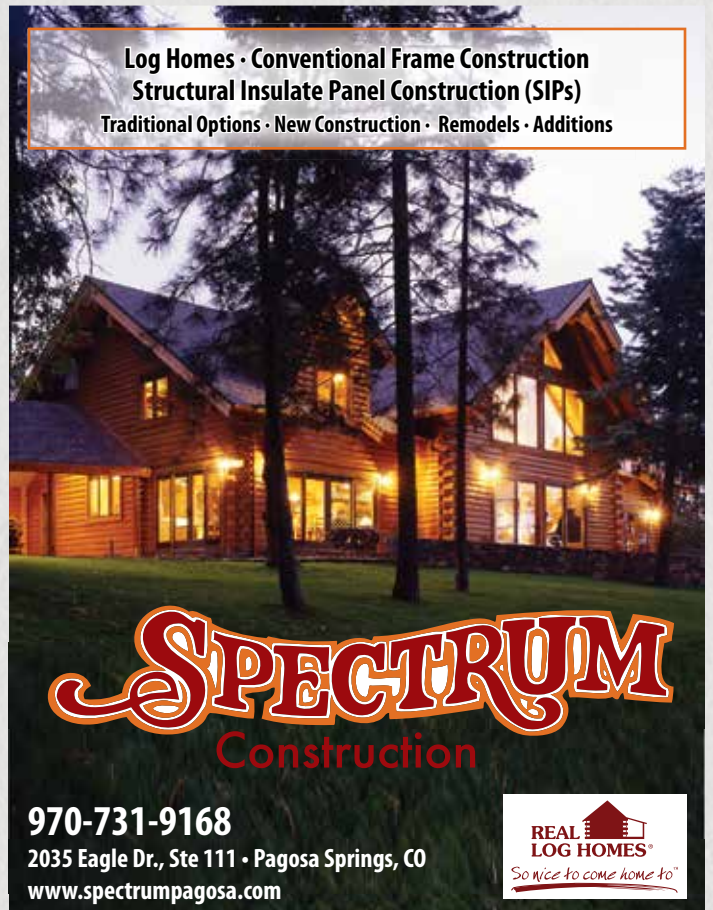
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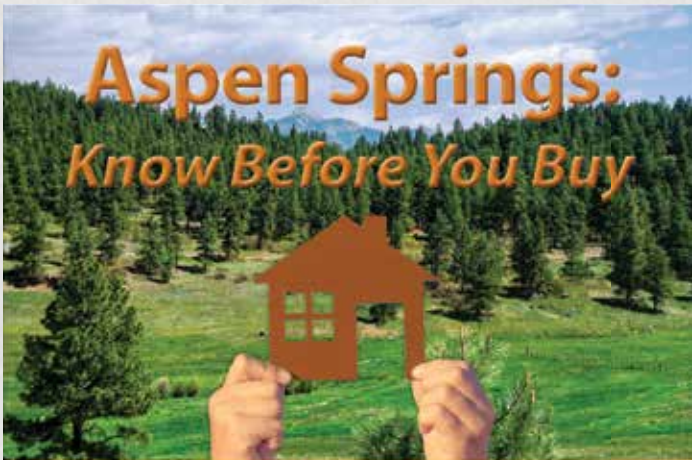
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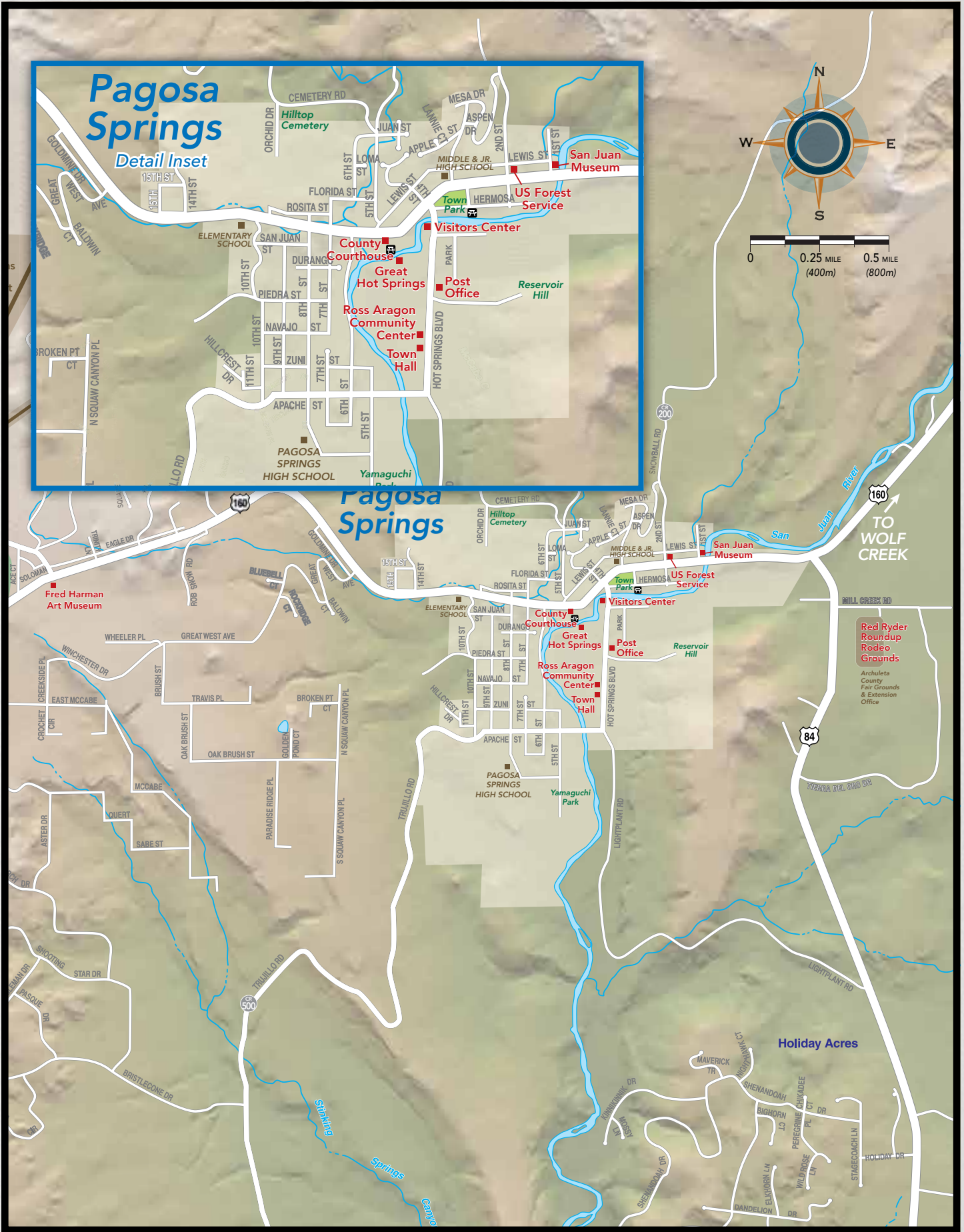


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## Growing food and community with local energy

### By Leslie Wustrack

A remarkable all-volunteer community project, the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP), began in 2009 as the idea of a small group of community members and local officials. This idea ignited a passionate movement to build three greenhouses that would draw their energy from the town's pride and joy, the deepest geothermal pool in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

The GGP's mission is to educate the community in sustainable agricultural practices by producing food year-round using local renewable energy.

As visitors stroll along the San Juan River Walk in downtown Pagosa Springs, it's impossible to miss the first of the three greenhouses, the Education Growing Dome. The geodesic dome sits on a beautiful .78 acre site in Centennial Park, leased to the nonprofit by the Town of Pagosa Springs, along with 100-gallons-

per-minute of geothermal water.

In 2010, the project was heralded by state representatives, senators, the Colorado governor, and national energy officials. Major grants have included the Laura Jane Musser Fund, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs award and a Colorado Water Conservation District award. In 2013, the GGP was selected by the Colorado Environmental Film Festival to officially host a mini-festival, or caravan, to serve the community with education and entertainment, which financially benefits the GGP.

By 2016, the first greenhouse, the Education Dome, and the adjacent amphitheater were built. Much of the on-going labor and needed materials have been donated by Pagosa Springs businesses and community volunteers. Local school sports teams donated their time to fill all the beds with soil. A section of the beds within the structure is managed by the nonprofit's





GEOHERMAL GREENHOUSE PARTNERSHIP

all-volunteer Seeds, Soil, and Water Committee and is dedicated to supporting the project.

Visitors can see GGP's volunteers in action at least two work-days each week.

As its name suggests, the first dome's main purpose is education. Growing beds within the dome are dedicated largely to youth, and the GGP's Programming Committee collaborates with local schools and Colorado State University 4-H to bring the youth programs into the dome.

The GGP is also offering six Lifelong Learning Workshops in 2017 to explore varied topics from greenhouse growing to birds on Pagosa's River Walk to cooking with native foods.

A membership-based organization, the nonprofit christened its outdoor amphitheater in 2016 with a special thank you party for all its contributors.

The outdoor amphitheater also served as the site of its signature fundraiser, Breakfast with Balloons. It's the perfect viewing spot for the balloon ascension of the community's annual

ColorFest celebration. The GGP's first gourmet breakfast with champagne was a sold-out event.

What's ahead? The year 2017 should bring more grant awards and plans are in the works for the second dome, the Community Garden Dome. This greenhouse will be made available to local community organizations whose objectives address community needs. The third greenhouse will be dedicated to innovation. Fundraisers, including live outdoor concerts and workshops, will be held at this perfect location on the San Juan River.

As you stroll by the domes, if doors are open, please come in. The volunteers will share more about the GGP with you and your family.

Grab a lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy the Pagosa Springs sunshine at the GGP amphitheater.

Growing food and community with local energy, the domes are a true community collaboration meant to be enjoyed by all. Visit [pagosagreen.org](http://pagosagreen.org) for all the latest information.





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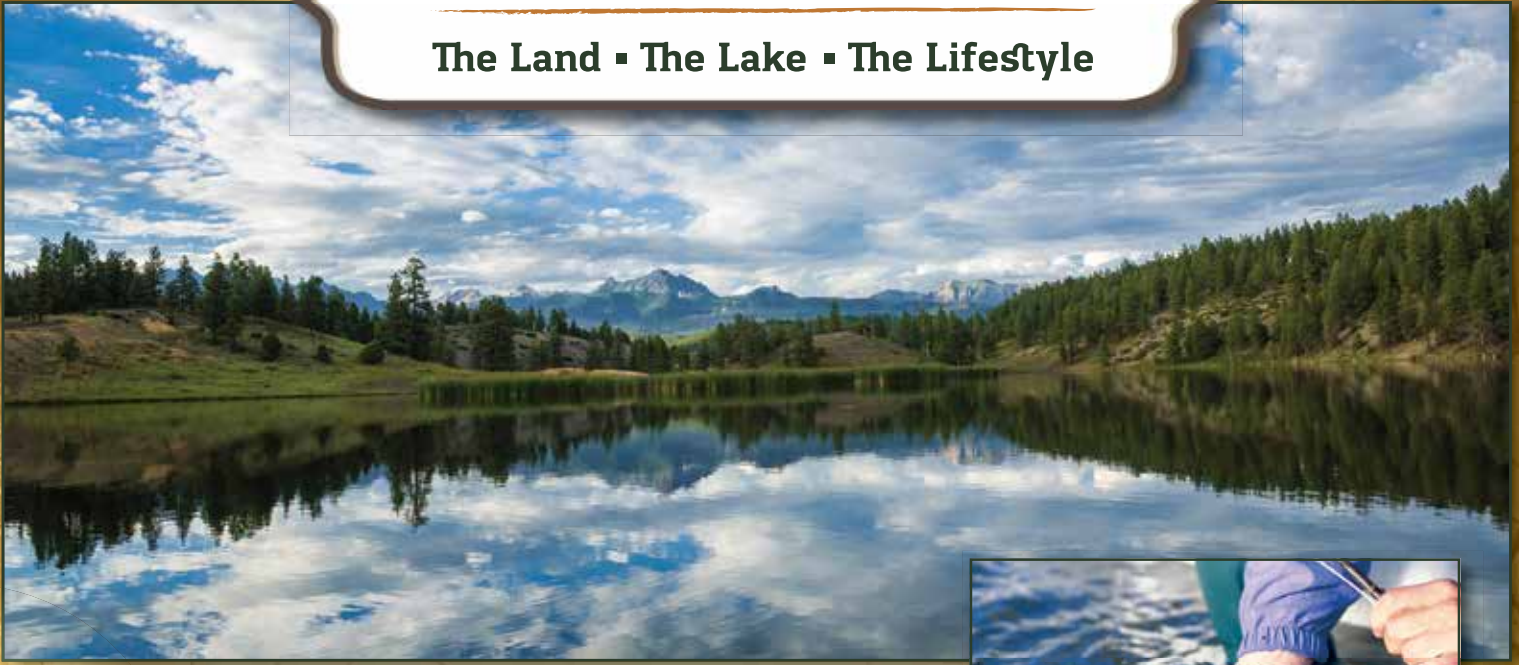
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