



All vehicles are required to stay on roads identified on this map.
~ Photo courtesy of Ouray County

Welcome to the Alpine Loop Back Country Byway, one of the finest examples of our nation's Back Country Byway system. Seventy-five miles of road carve through the breathtaking San Juan Mountains connecting the towns of Lake City, Ouray, Telluride, Ophir, and Silverton. Routes through the mountains follow ancient paths worn by Native Americans traversing the region as they returned to traditional summer camps. In the late 1800s miners, in search of precious metals, widened these paths to accommodate horse- and mule-drawn wagons and built additional roads to access mines. Today, the remains of ghost towns, mines, mills, aerial trams, and railroads, are prominent reminders of the region's extensive mining history.

While most of the Alpine Loop and some side routes are open for use by all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) and unlicensed motorcycles, you cannot go completely around the loop. These vehicles cannot be driven within the city limits of Ouray, Silverton, Lake City, Ophir, or Telluride and are not allowed on State Highways. Plan your trip accordingly by bringing an adequate amount of gas and allowing plenty of time to return to your shuttle vehicles.

Five ATV staging areas are provided for your convenience, one each at Eureka, Henson Creek near Lake City, Canyon Creek, .5 miles southwest of Lake San Cristobal, and on Hwy 550 south of Ouray at Engineer Pass turnoff.

The majority of visitors to the Alpine Loop Back Country Byway arrive by motor vehicle. Surveys indicate that visitors and locals alike are concerned about vehicle damage to vegetation, increases in erosion, and the overall impacts of vehicles on the fragile tundra environment. In response to these concerns, all motorized vehicles including jeeps, licensed and unlicensed motorcycles, humvees, and all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) are required to stay on designated roads identified on this map. In addition, all ATVs and unlicensed motorcycles are required to stay on roads designated for their use. If in doubt, please check with the local BLM, Forest Service, Chamber of Commerce, or Sheriff's office for travel information on these routes.

When visiting the Alpine Loop, you will see a number of old trails and routes that take off from the main road. These routes are abandoned mine roads and they are not open to motorized travel. Please do not attempt to travel on them.

Although vehicles must stay on established roads for camping, picnicking, or driving, you may park immediately adjacent to a road where such use will not damage the environment. Signs are posted in areas where parking is not permitted.

Please stay on the main designated roads, especially if you encounter rocks, logs, gates, or other barriers blocking your route. These barriers are used to protect private property, to prevent vehicle damage to fragile meadows or tundra, or to prevent vehicle access to Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas as required by law.

Please note: Colorado law requires unlicensed motorcycles and all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) to display an off-highway-vehicle (OHV) permit. Annual permit stickers may be purchased at:

- Silverton Conoco station - 864 Greene St., Silverton
- Red Mountain Motel - 664 Greene St., Silverton
- Ridgway State Park - on Hwy 550 north of Ouray
- Lake City Auto - 809 N. Hwy 149, Lake City
- www.parks.state.co.us

In addition, liability insurance is required for all unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs in San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, and Hinsdale counties.

REGULATIONS:

- Colorado state law requires all ATVs and unlicensed motorcycles to have an annual OHV registration permit.
- All operators must possess a valid drivers license, except in Ouray County.
- Licensed vehicles may travel on all roads that are designated routes, however unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs are required to stay on roads identified on this map.
- All vehicle operators must observe authorized barriers, closed signs, and other obstacles meant to restrict vehicle travel or access.
- Liability insurance is required for all unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs in San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, and Hinsdale counties.
- ATVs cannot be driven within the city limits of Ouray, Silverton, Lake City, Ophir, or Telluride.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forest and Bureau of Land Management
Gunnison Office (970) 641-0471
Norwood Office (970) 327-4261
Montrose Office (970) 240-5300
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo.html

San Juan National Forest/Bureau of Land Management
Durango Office (970) 247-4874
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html

Ouray Chamber Resort Association
Visitor Information Center
(970) 325-4746 (800) 228-1876
www.ouraycolorado.com

Silver Thread/Alpine Loop Interpretive Center
(970) 944-2527 (800) 569-1874
www.lakecity.com

Silverton Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Information Center
(970) 387-5654 (800) 752-4494
www.silvertoncolorado.org

Telluride & Mountain Village Visitor's Bureau
(970) 728-3041
www.visittelluride.com



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ALPINE LOOP

ATV'S AND UNLICENSED MOTORCYCLES SUMMER TRAVEL ROUTES



To protect fragile alpine areas, stay on designated roads.
~Photo by Scot Jackson, Bureau of Land Management



VEHICLE SAFETY:

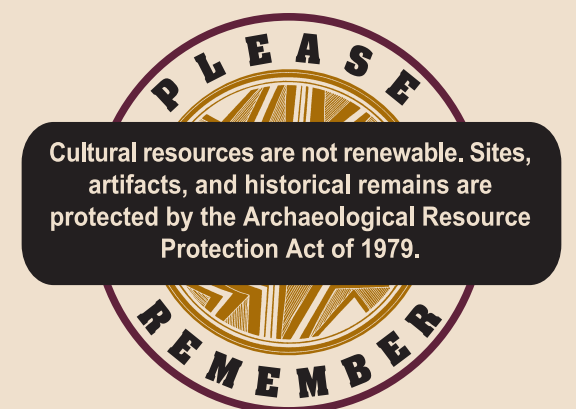
- Four-wheel drive and high-clearance vehicles are recommended in many places.
- Uphill traffic has the right of way but common courtesy works best.
- Loose gravel and rocks can be found on many routes. Please drive slowly and in control at all times.
- Drive slowly around blind turns and near other traffic.
- Do not park where you will obstruct the road.



Access to the high country requires drivers to be aware of safety and the need to protect the fragile alpine tundra.
~ Photo courtesy of Jim Lokey, Red Mountain Motel & RV Park


SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

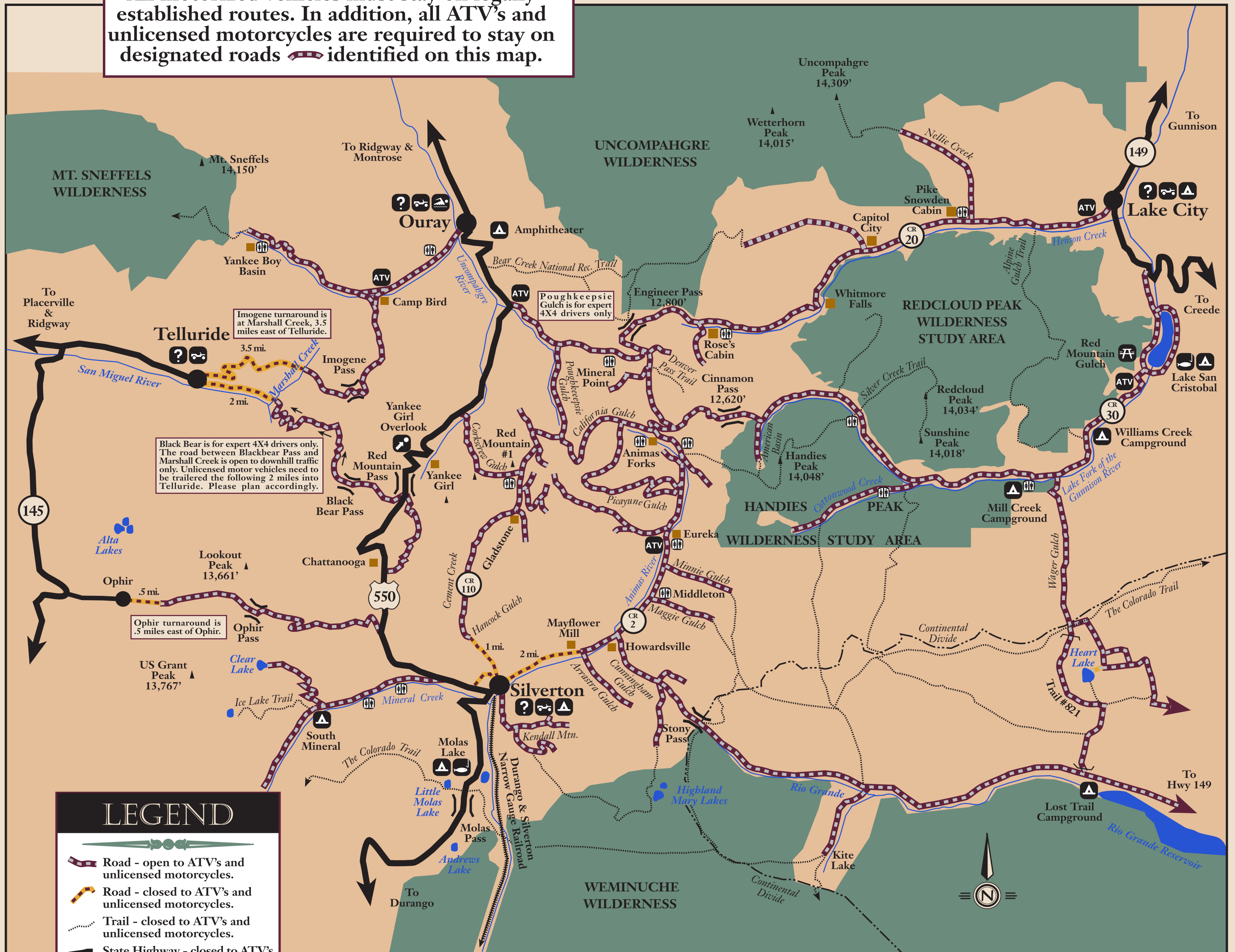
- Let others know your travel plans.
- Plan your route and carry essential equipment and water.
- Be prepared for changing weather.
- Keep track of your time.
- Stay out of mine buildings, tunnels, and shafts. Buildings and mines are unstable and may collapse at any time. Mines may have unstable explosives on site.
- Watch for nails, spikes, and rusty metal.
- Please respect private property. Most mines and mill sites are privately owned.
- Dial 911 in the event of an emergency, but realize cell phones may not work in all areas and do not provide location information.
- Contact the sheriff's office:
Hinsdale County 970-944-2291
Ouray County 970-325-7272
San Juan County 970-387-5531
San Miguel County 970-728-1911



ALPINE LOOP

ATV'S AND UNLICENSED MOTORCYCLES SUMMER TRAVEL ROUTES

All motorized vehicles must stay on legally established routes. In addition, all ATV's and unlicensed motorcycles are required to stay on designated roads  identified on this map.



LEGEND

-  Road - open to ATV's and unlicensed motorcycles.
-  Road - closed to ATV's and unlicensed motorcycles.
-  Trail - closed to ATV's and unlicensed motorcycles.
-  State Highway - closed to ATV's and unlicensed motorcycles
-  ATV Staging Area
-  Point of Interest
-  Information & Museum
-  Jeep Tours or Jeep Rentals
-  Restroom
-  Picnic Area
-  Campground
-  Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas - closed to all motorized or mechanized travel.

The towns of Lake City, Ouray, Silverton, Ophir, and Telluride do not permit unlicensed motorcycles and ATV's within town limits. Please plan gas and supply needs accordingly.

From	To	Miles	Est. Time
Silverton	Animas Forks	13	.5 hours
Animas Forks	Lake City (via Cinnamon Pass)	28	2.0 hours
Lake City	Animas Forks (via Engineer Pass)	26	2.0 hours
Ouray	Animas Forks (via Mineral Creek)	11	1.5 hours
Silverton	Lake City and Return	78	6.0 hours
Silverton	Ophir	14	2.0 hours
Ouray	Telluride (via Imogene Pass)	18	4.0 hours