

What to know for those wishing to climb Uncompahgre

At 14,309 feet, Uncompahgre is the highest peak in Hinsdale County and the 6th highest in Colorado. The trailhead starts at 11,400 feet, making for a 3,000-foot elevation gain in less than 3 miles. Most of the trail is moderate, but there are some steep parts near the end and the altitude can make it a slow climb. Those wishing to climb Uncompahgre must have their goats loaded and ready to go at 6:45 a.m. There is a 4.5 mile OHV road to the trailhead which takes about an hour. Due to the rockiness of that road, you may want to air down your tires to 1/2 normal pressure. The parking area is small, so we will try to carpool as much as possible.

We strongly recommend only one goat per person on this hike. This is a popular hiking trail through Bighorn Sheep habitat, so we'd like to keep goat traffic to a minimum. One person will not need enough gear to pack two goats. Also, there is a safety issue. There is a steep boulder scramble near the top and it is dangerous to allow goats to wander freely in this area. Each goat *must* be kept on a lead in this spot so that he can't run ahead and kick rocks on people.

Sun is intense and weather is unpredictable at high altitudes. Most of the trail is above timberline. There may be snow in some spots, and it may be windy. Dress accordingly. Someone in our group will have a first aid kit.

Here is a list of essentials:

- Water (2 liters/person)
- Lunch
- High-calorie snacks
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Lip Balm
- Warm layers (avoid cotton)
- Rain/wind gear
- Sturdy shoes
- Hat

Optional:

- Extra socks
- Trekking poles
- First aid kit (someone in our group will have one, but it can't hurt to bring your own)