MIDLAND

Bike Trail

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Bike Trail

Fourmile Travel Management Area



Downloadable map at www.friends-of-fourmile.org





Expect and respect other users!

The Colorado Midland Railroad provided the Upper Arkansas Valley passenger and freight service from 1887 until 1918. Much of the Midland Bike Trail follows the old grade which remains virtually intact since the removal of its rails and ties.

A triumph of engineering, the Midland held the descent from Trout Creek Pass into the Arkansas Valley to a maximum of 1.65%. The route stayed high on the northern side of the Trout Creek Canyon using sidehill construction, cuts, fills and large wooden trestles thrown across tributary gulches. Today, mountain bikers and hikers must follow four specially constructed steep detours circumventing missing trestles. Several are being rerouted in 2015.

The Midland Bike Trail, established in 1991, extends

Trailhead and be met in Buena Vista when riding the full route.

and intermediate riders, the central section over the Lenhardy

long downhills where speed must be controlled. On the old RR

gentle but is interrupted by four steep singletrack detours (see

rerouted in 2015.

about 18.8 miles between Trout Creek Pass and Buena Vista at the

Arkansas River. It is best to be dropped off at the eastern Trout Creek

(Other options on reverse side.) Minimum ride time is about 3 hours in the downhill direction. The profile below illustrates the full route

east to west. Although primarily a downhill ride suited to beginning

Pass requires high fitness, and has some steep rocky sections and

grade from Shields Gulch to CR 304, the route is mostly wide and

Midland Trail Out and Back on reverse). Several of these are being

On April Fool's Day 1908 a passenger train speeding upgrade from Buena Vista saw the wooden Shield's Gulch trestle on fire! The crew applied the brakes and jumped. The locomotives crashed through the blazing structure, but the rest of the train came to a stop, poised on the brink. No one was seriously injured.

Buena Vista's Midland Depot was nearly 400 feet above the town, high on Midland Hill. The Colorado Midland Stage carried passengers from the depot to the town via a steep and winding route down to the Arkansas River, and across it on an old stage bridge. This stage line is now the central segment of the Whipple Trail.



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Elevation and distance statistics

(Trout Creek Pass Trailhead, be			e Ridge Pass	total dis climbing descend	g 800	min/ma	J	-1580' 9750'/7920' 4%
9600′	enter FR 309	enter Lenhardy Cu	itoff FR 376		enter Shields Gulch F				
9400′					Citici Silicius Guici I	1 (313)			
9200′					Shield	ls Gulch Trailhea	d) BLM CR304 Tr	ailhead Bu	ena Vista Trailhead
9000′							4.0.0.4		_
8800′							etours 1 2 3 4		
8600′									leave CR 304
8400′									
8200′									
8000′									
0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18 miles

Trail advice All routes described are usually open from April through November and can often be ridden between snowfalls December through March – ask locally. Temperatures in the summer can be hot, so begin rides early and take plenty of water. Bicyclists share the route with motorized vehicles on most sections, so exercise caution and respect the rights of others. Always yield to horses; slow down and speak up when approaching hikers. Please stay on designated trails and roads. In addition to the Midland Bike Trail, the Fourmile area has dozens of other options for cyclists on wide but unmaintained Forest Roads – see map on reverse, and also refer to the Fourmile Travel Management brochure.

The Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and Friends of Fourmile patrol the area regularly. They can answer questions and advise on responsible use of the area.

To report a violation or for information

US Forest Service, Salida Ranger District San Isabel National Forest 719 539-3591

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Salida 719 539-7289

Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office, Canon City 719 269-8500

Fire or other emergency 911

To join, volunteer or to make a donation

Friends of Fourmile, a GARNA chapter 719 539-5106 www.friends-of-fourmile.org

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