

# GATHERING of XTERRAS COLORADO CROSSING

Welcome to GATHERING of XTERRAS – COLORADO CROSSING. This is the 5th annual GOX event, and the first to attempt a new structure, a trip across Colorado.

The event has been designed to follow the most scenic and challenging trails from Denver to Ouray. The trails are rated 6-8 on our 10 scale of difficulty and will provide challenge for moderately modified Xterra's and seriously built rigs. The majority of the trails are through routes which will decrease the boredom of up and back trails, and keep us headed toward our destination.

COLORADO CROSSING will take 7 days, departing just West of Denver on Sunday July 25th, finishing in Ouray on July 31st. The event will take us over the Continental Divide four times and over the first and second highest pass roads in the United States. Weather will vary from 90 degree days with no shade to 30 degree nights and possible snow at 12,000 feet.

Seventeen trails are planned with 5 optional trails for those with enough energy to tackle them and still get up in the morning. Two hot spring stops and two brewery stops are also on the schedule to keep things entertaining.

COLORADO CROSSING won't be the most difficult trip you've made in regards to obstacles, but it will be from a standpoint of keeping a large group of Xterra's together and in one piece over 500 miles.

I hope you enjoy it.

## SCHEDULE

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>5</b>
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## NOTES:

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# SUNDAY

JULY 25th - 10AM  
FRS 7-25  
CB 7

GOX COLORADO CROSSING will meet at the base of Red Cone from 8:30 to 9:00 AM. Departure may be as late as 10:00 AM.

If you arrive early, air down, disconnect and wait for others.

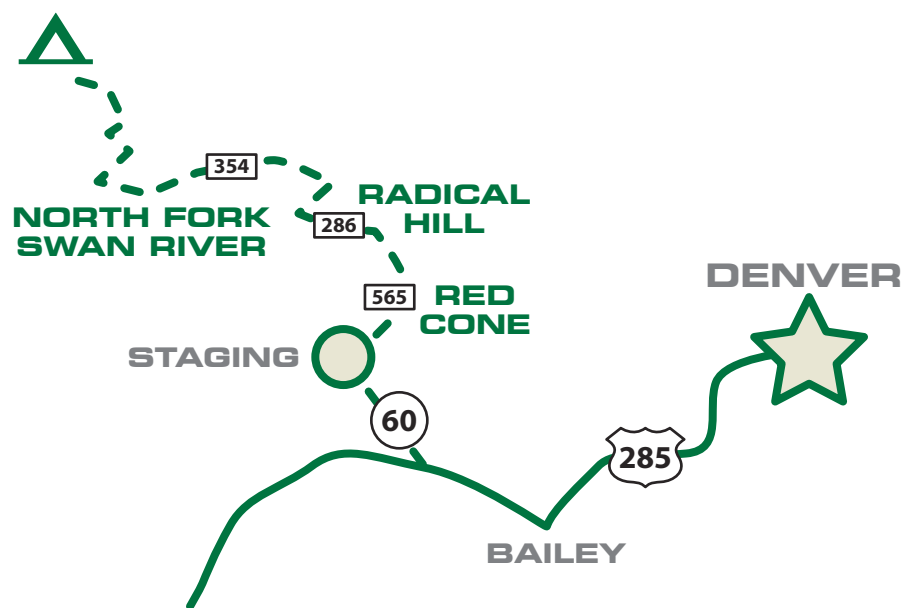
**Red Cone** – Our first trail gets right down to business as we climb a steep rocky trail to the top of an extinct volcanic cone. From the top at over 12,000 feet we drive one of the steepest descents in Colorado to the saddle of Webster Pass. There are three separate drops that require slow speeds and control. Don't let the backend come around on you.

**Radical Hill** – A very short trail that gets us back up above tree line, Radical Hill has one obstacle early on that is more annoying than difficult. It can grab the spring hangers on an Xterra and turn you sideways. From there to the top there is a tight off camber shelf road, and a very loose mogul filled climb.

**North Fork of the Swan River** – From the top of Radical Hill we will drive across a large expanse of tundra toward a steep drop to Wise Mountain. Keep your eyes open for mountain goats. From Wise Mountain the trail drops quickly down a very tight trail with no room for passing. At the bottom we will select from several camping locations for the group.

After setting up camp, we should have time to drive Georgia Pass, Glacier Ridge and S.O.B. Hill. Those who dislike sidehills and big rocks can explore Middle Fork of the Swan River.

Drive about an hour West from Denver on highway 285. Shortly after the tiny town of Grant turn right on County Road 60 (also FR 120). Drive about 10 minutes up to some camp sites and parking areas to find the group. Watch your speed, the Sheriff likes to clock speeders.



GPS coordinates for staging are N39 37 – W105 43

# MONDAY

JULY 26th - 10AM

FRS 7-26  
CB 7

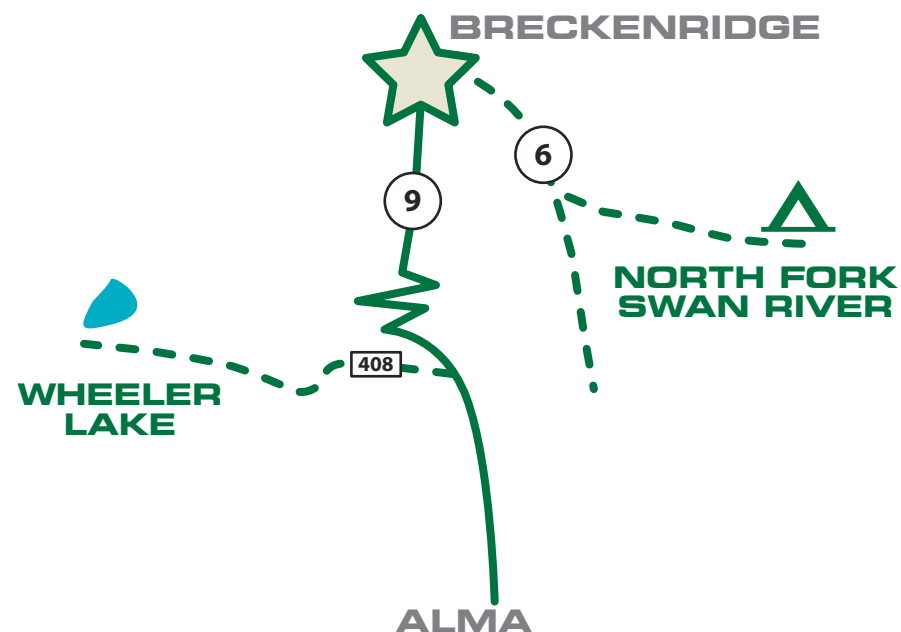
Since we're camping in the same spot for two nights, this is your only chance to sleep in. Drink heavily the night before.

**Wheeler Lake** – After a 40 minute drive to the trail-head, Wheeler Lake offers the first good obstacles of the trip. Only 3 miles each way, the trail will still take roughly 6-7 hours to complete. We'll have lunch at the lake in a beautiful high alpine bowl.

If we finish early Mt. Bross is an option if you've never driven over 14,000 feet.

On the way back to camp we might stop at the Breckenridge Brewery in Breckenridge. Feel free to shop in town.

After returning to camp we can explore any other trails in the area, or get right down to drinking beer.



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# TUESDAY

JULY 27th - 8AM

FRS 7-27  
CB 7

Tuesday involves a lot of travel, both on- and off-road. We will be making an early departure from camp so get up early.

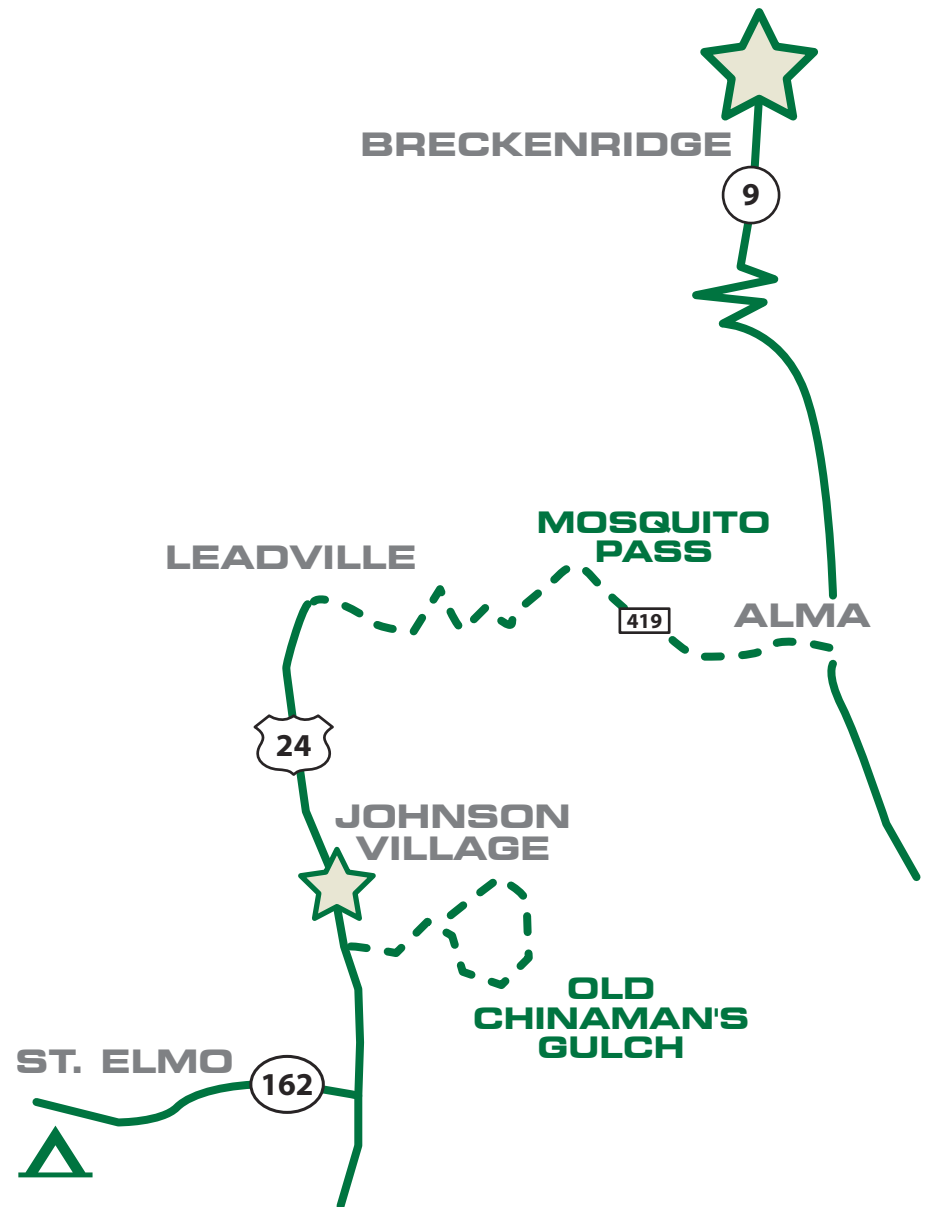
**Mosquito Pass** – The highest pass road in America, Mosquito Pass is only a moderately difficult trail involving only a small section of challenging rocky shelf road.

After arriving in Leadville we need to air-up for a 45 mile drive South to Buena Vista. Make it quick, time saved now can be spent soaking in the hot springs at Mt. Princeton. When arriving in Johnson Village everyone needs to gas up, as it's the last chance for 2 days.

**Old Chinaman's Gulch** – The first hardcore trail of the trip. OCG will put dents in your Xterra, so be ready. It starts off with a half mile long rock garden that splits into a loop trail in a dry creek bed. Several optional obstacles will keep the modified Xterras busy while others continue on toward Whale Rock. The trail eventually returns to the rock garden which looks completely different going downhill.

Stock height trucks may need to bypass OCG, they will travel up toward St. Elmo and our camping area and decide on which of several trails in the area to run (Baldwin Lakes is my recommendation).

We will set up camp a few miles West of St. Elmo, feel free to stop and feed the chipmunks on the way through town. After camp is set up, we'll head to Mt. Princeton Hot Springs for a relaxing soak in the creek.



# WEDNESDAY

JULY 28th - 9AM

FRS 7-28  
CB 7

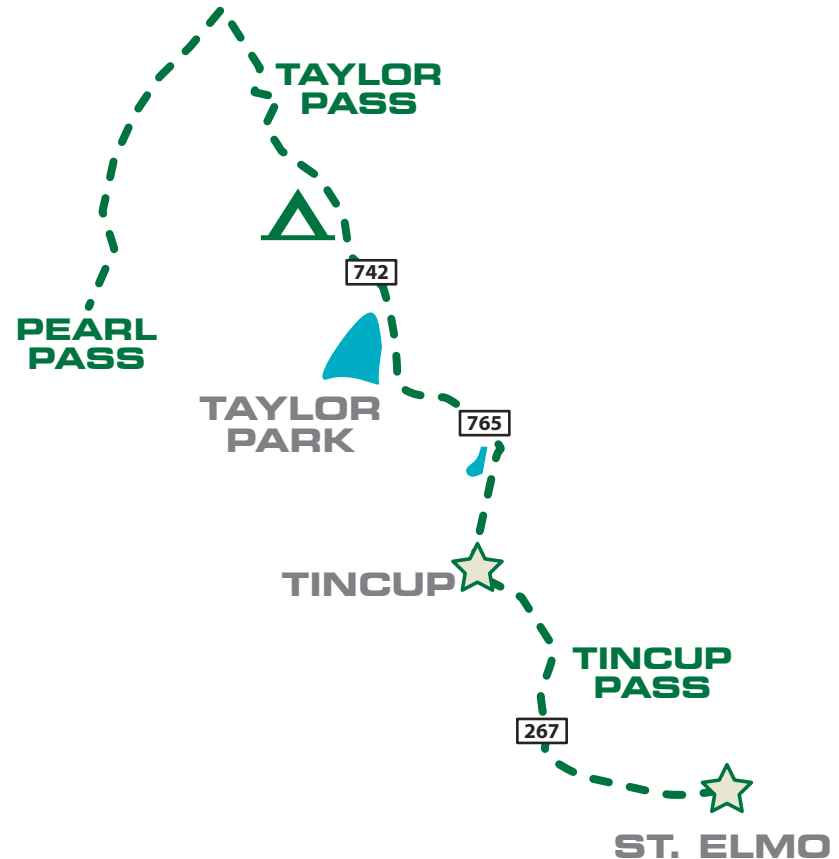
We can sleep in a bit on Wednesday morning, as we only have one trail and some dirt road before making camp again.

**Tincup Pass** – A somewhat dull pass road challenge-wise, Tincup Pass offers breathtaking views of the surrounding area and Mirror Lake. Halfway down the North side we'll take a detour over Old Tincup Pass, which is strewn with rocks, but over far too soon.

From Mirror Lake we have a dusty, bumpy stretch of road to our campsite near Taylor Pass trailhead. This could be one of the best sites on the trip with possibly every vehicle around one big campfire. After setting up camp we should have a fair portion of the day for some fun 4 wheeling.

**Taylor Pass** – Taylor Pass is a mixed bag of medium sized rocks, tight turns, broken levees and creek beds which ends up at a fantastic view of the Maroon Bells Wilderness area near Aspen. From the top it's an easy shelf road down to the start of my favorite trail.

**Pearl Pass** – 24 miles of the best Colorado has to offer. Shelf roads, rock ledges, mud, rock glaciers, you name it, it's on Pearl Pass. At this time Pearl Pass is still blocked by snow so we will travel up it as far as possible, then return over Taylor Pass to Camp



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# THURSDAY

JULY 29th - 8AM

FRS 7-29  
CB 7

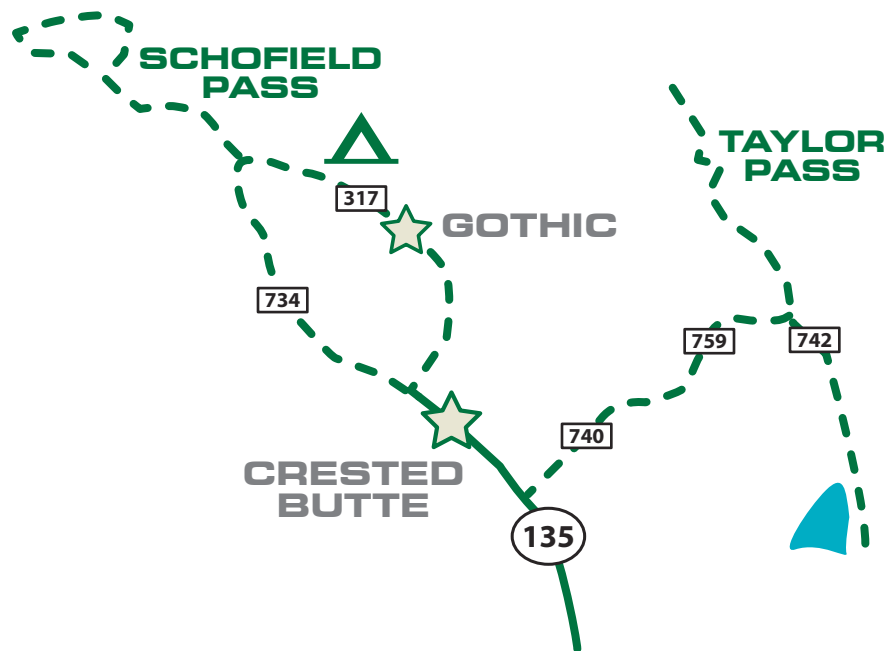
Another early start as we have a long way to go today.

**Italian Creek – Cement Creek** – Italian creek offers a lot of challenge. Along the way we'll take a side trip up American Flag Mountain for a group shot at the top of the world. The shelf road on Italian Creek is similar to driving on surfboards that tilt back and forth with a 400 foot drop a few feet to the side. Lot's of fun!

**Schofield Pass – Devil's Punchbowl** – After a quick stop to setup camp near Gothic, we'll run Schofield Pass and the Devil's Punchbowl. The Devil's Punchbowl is famous for killing 9 people in the 70's but you'll have to figure out how they managed to do it, since the trail is not as difficult as it looks. A recent rockslide has made the trail a bit more challenging.

After the Punchbowl we'll drive the Lead King Basin loop trail around to Marble—where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier came from—then back to the Crystal townsite and Crystal Powerhouse, which is featured on just about every Colorado book and calendar ever printed, you may recognize it when you see it.

If people are interested, we could head into Crested Butte to the Brewery for a dinner out. Those wishing to take a shower can do so for a few bucks at the youth hostel in town (last time I checked).



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# FRIDAY

JULY 30th - 9AM

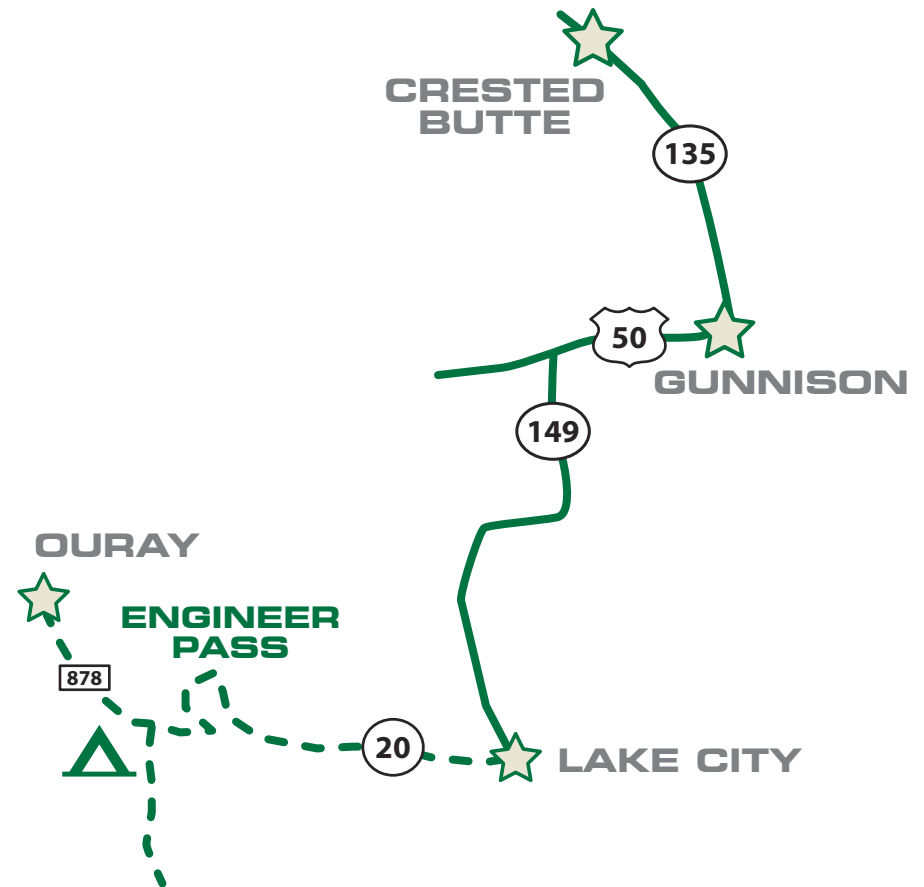
FRS 7-30  
CB 7

Sleep in a bit, we have a long way to go today as we head into Ouray, but it's mostly asphalt. Air-up the night before if you remember. We'll gas up in Gunnison, prices should be lower there.

**Engineer Pass** – We'll drive almost the full length of Engineer Pass after lunch in Lake City. Poker Alice's Pizza has been a favorite stop during GOX events in the past, so we'll probably eat there.

We'll try to make camp at the junction of Poughkeepsie Gulch and Engineer Pass, although I'm not sure how many people we can fit in. We'll take a group vote and possibly head down toward Ouray.

Either way we'll head into Ouray in the evening for a nice shower and soak in the hot spring pool, then maybe stop by and see Chris at the Outlaw Saloon for some steaks and shingles.



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# SATURDAY

JULY 31st - 8AM

FRS 7-31  
CB 7

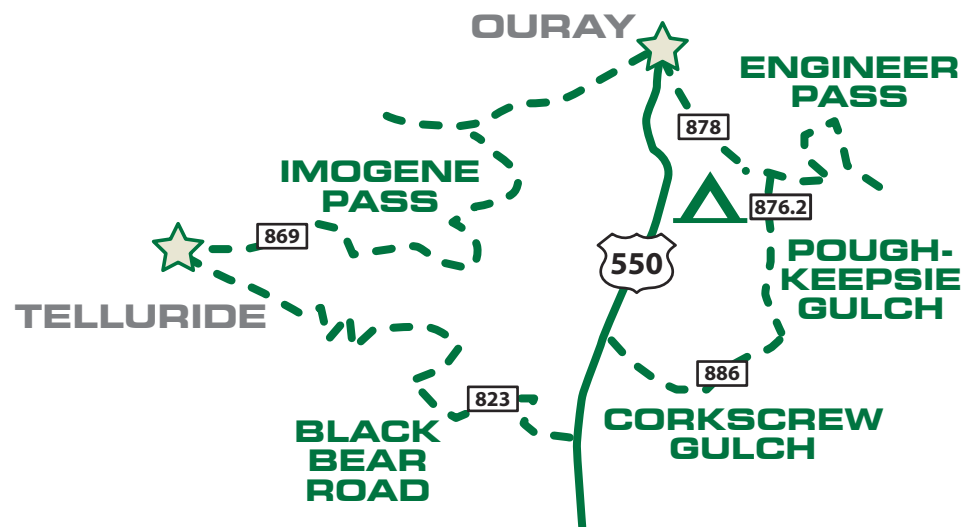
The end of a long week, but the beginning of some of the best trails of GOX. The San Juans are where GOX started, and it's fitting we finish here. It will be a long day as we run the three best trails in the area.

**Poughkeepsie Gulch** – Every year someone breaks something on the Gulch, but every year most Xterras get through just fine. The trail starts out easy but gets difficult on a bowling ball hill about half way up. You've driven on these before, go up 3 feet, slide back 2, repeat. After that is "The Wall" the point where most problems happen. There are several lines up it and we'll spend some time investigating them. At the top we'll take a break at Lake Como.

**Black Bear Road** – C.W. McCall made this road famous in the 70's with his hit song, and once you drive it you'll know why. Looking down onto Telluride from 2000 feet up is something you will remember for a lifetime.

**Imogene Pass** – One of only two ways back to Ouray, Imogene Pass is only a moderate trail in terms of difficulty, but it makes up for any challenge with length and scenery. On the Ouray side we will make a stop at an optional obstacle that may put you on your side 15 feet down a waterfall.

Once back to Ouray I don't know what we'll do... probably hugs and "good-byes" after a long and satisfying week with friends.



## NOTES:

# INFORMATION

## **Be prepared**

Drink lots of water, Colorado is dry and you'll dehydrate quickly.

Wear sunscreen, you'll burn easily at this altitude.

Use insect repellent, we have West Nile Virus up here.

We'll have an EMT (Nate) with us from Tuesday–Saturday.

If you're bringing your dog, they need insect repellent too, Frontline Tick and Flea Prevention is recommended.

We will have a custom first-aid kit available for dog injuries and illnesses along with a veterinary technician (Leslie).

## **Be very careful with campfires.**

## **Stuff to remember**

Bring a swimsuit and towel, we'll be visiting hot springs.

You don't need to bring all your liquor for the entire week, we'll be shopping Tuesday and Thursday so you can travel lighter and use less ice.

Non-supercharged Xterras can use 85 octane fuel at this altitude.

Those without air compressors or tanks can air up at gas stops, or they should find a buddy for the week who can offer air.

Don't bug Ian at the end of a day until camp has been set-up.

Always listen to your radio and make sure you're on the correct channel.

Beer in cans makes for a lot less trash than bottles, that's why I drink Guinness.

Bring trash bags.

Ask Vince and Eric about their Water Bottle Rockets at camp.

Ivan is not allowed to break anything.

No whining.

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