

**ACCESS POINTS:** Take U.S. Hwy 9 from Fairplay or from Breckenridge to the center of the Town of Alma. Turn west on to CR 8. There is a small wooden sign for Kite Lake and Buckskin Gulch to mark the road. Continue on this road and turn right at 2.8 miles on to FS Road 787 at an intersection marked by a sign for the Windy Ridge Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area. Continue on past Sawmill Creek (10.4) to a point where the road seems to empty into a mining area (11.8). Bear left and wind uphill through the remains of this Mineral Park Mill area). The road curves to the right (ignore side road FSR 857 on the left). Non-4WD vehicles may park here. Ford a small stream and continue up the hill, curving around some concrete foundations. A small parking area (12.4) is provided on the right side. From here you can wander out onto the ridge and enjoy the pines and view of South Park.

**LENGTH:** 6.4 MILES VIA ROAD

**SEASON:** SUMMER (2 HRS)

**DIFFICULTY:** 4WD RECOMMENDED

**USGS MAP:** ALMA (7.5 QUAD) PIKE NATIONAL FOREST OR TRAILS ILLUSTRATED #109 BRECKENRIDGE TENNESSEE PASS

**USE:** HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING (ROAD ONLY), CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING (LOWER ROAD). THERE CAN BE AVALANCHE DANGER HIGHER ON THE ROAD.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Check with the Forest Service Office in Fairplay for more detail about bristlecone pines and for an informational brochure of sites along the Buckskin Gulch Road. The road will pass the right turn to the cemetery at 1.4 miles. The road passes through the Town site of Buckskin Joe, the county seat from 1862 to 1867.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The U.S. Forest Service established The Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area in 1964. It encompasses an area on the eastern flank of Mount Bross. The winds from which the ridge gets its name can be very strong and cold so bring appropriate apparel.

**ATTRACTIONS:** You will see widely spaced specimens of the gnarled Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*). Tree-ring dating indicates that the oldest tree in this particular area is over 800 years old. Wind, sand and snow gradually erode and sculpt exposed bristlecone pine wood into the intricate and twisted forms we see today.

*"The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, through cooperative efforts, seeks to conserve unique natural areas, preserve historic and cultural sites, and promote diverse recreation".*



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## *Windy Ridge ~ Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area*



