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Trail to iconic dinosaur trackway will undergo maintenance this weekend

The Forest Service recommends using an alternate route



Aerial view of a fossilized dinosaur trackway known as the West Gold Hill Dinosaur Track site. USDA Forest Service photo. (U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service)

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OURAY, Colo. (KJCT) - A trail in the Uncompahgre National Forest leading to the iconic West Gold Hill Dinosaur Track Site will undergo significant maintenance work soon to shore up loose areas and improve tread following the trail’s sudden popularity.

Work on Silvershield Trail will begin on September 28 and end the following day. The site features the longest-known dinosaur trackway in the world, featuring 134 footprints over a span of 106 yards.

The Forest Service said that it expects about 50 volunteers to participate in the work of fortifying steep sections of the trail and improving long-term viability.

Officials said that the work is being prioritized due to increased numbers of visitors following the Forest Service’s acquisition of the site. Volunteers from Outdoor Colorado, the City of Ouray, Ouray Trail Group, and the Ouray Ranger District will participate in the work.

If you’re planning a hike to the trackway during the maintenance, the Forest Service recommends avoiding the lower section of Silvershield Trail. The service suggests the Twin Peaks Trail or the East Dallas Trail as alternative routes to the trackway.

For help planning a trip or to learn more about the trackway, the service recommends contacting its Ouray Ranger District at (970) 240-5300.

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