

# Bonanza Mines Off-Highway Vehicle Tour



At the top of the main raise in the Rawley 12 mine, 1917. Photo: Saguache County Museum

## Follow the Roads Once Traveled

and see old mines, historical buildings, and remnants of old time mining equipment. Along the way, you can also view present-day environmental restoration projects and beautiful vistas overlooking the San Luis Valley. Keep a lookout for elk, bighorn sheep, sage grouse, and mule deer. Enjoy your travels!



1917. Ore train at the Rawley 12 Mine. Photo: Saguache County Museum

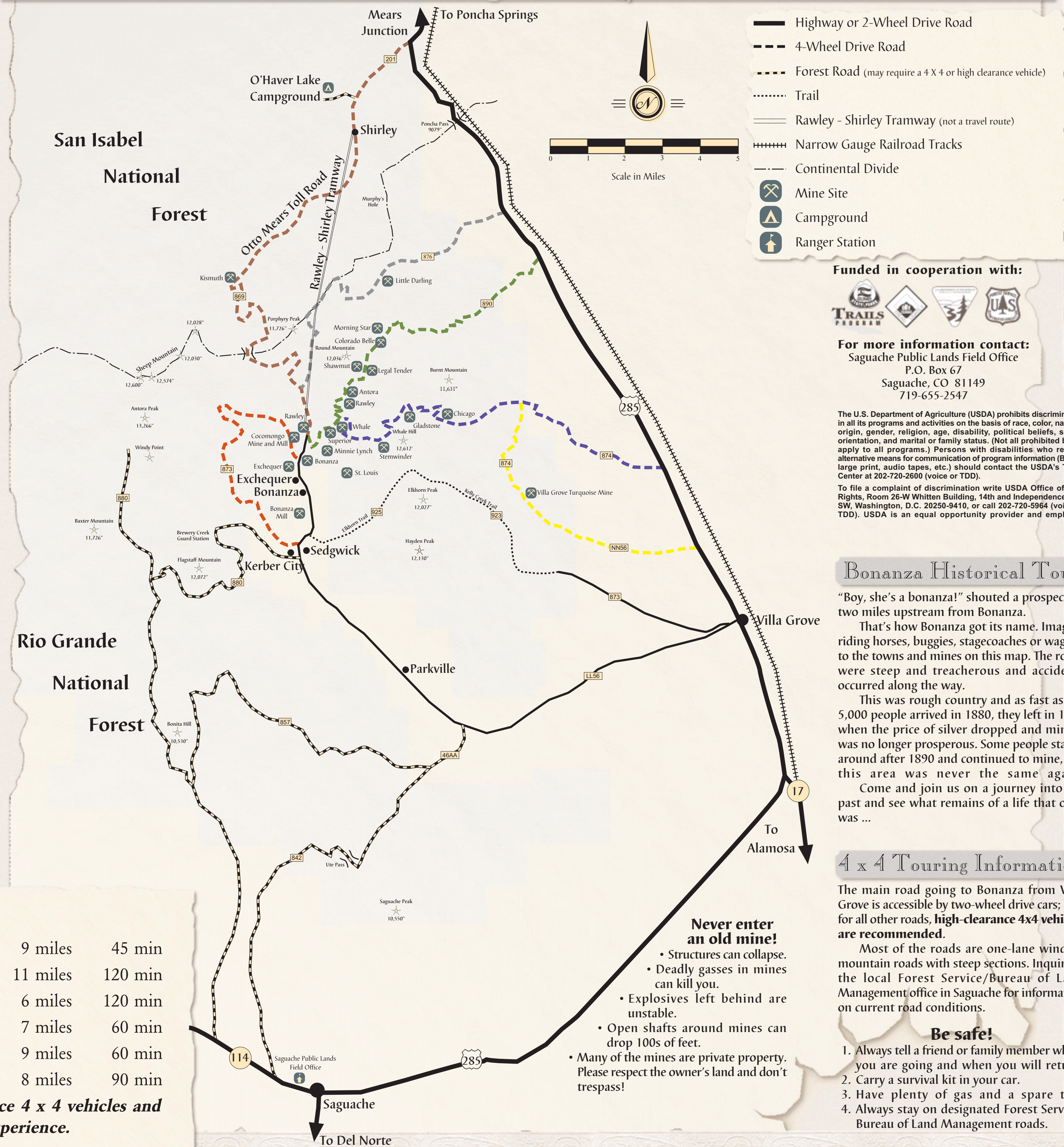
This linecar derailed on a curve. It was intentionally loaded into this rail car to get it back to where it was needed. Photo: Kemper/Stinton Collection

## Route Information

----- Slaughterhouse/ Kerber Creek	9 miles	45 min
----- Otto Mears Toll Road	11 miles	120 min
----- Whale Hill	6 miles	120 min
----- Turquoise Mine	7 miles	60 min
----- Alder Creek	9 miles	60 min
----- Clover Creek	8 miles	90 min

**All routes require high-clearance 4 x 4 vehicles and off-road driving experience.**

# Bonanza Off-Highway Vehicle Tour



Funded in cooperation with:



For more information contact:  
Saguache Public Lands Field Office  
P.O. Box 67  
Saguache, CO 81149  
719-655-2547

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## Bonanza Historical Tour

"Boy, she's a bonanza!" shouted a prospector two miles upstream from Bonanza.

That's how Bonanza got its name. Imagine riding horses, buggies, stagecoaches or wagons to the towns and mines on this map. The roads were steep and treacherous and accidents occurred along the way.

This was rough country and as fast as the 5,000 people arrived in 1880, they left in 1890 when the price of silver dropped and mining was no longer prosperous. Some people stayed around after 1890 and continued to mine, but this area was never the same again.

Come and join us on a journey into the past and see what remains of a life that once was ...

## 4 x 4 Touring Information

The main road going to Bonanza from Villa Grove is accessible by two-wheel drive cars; but, for all other roads, **high-clearance 4x4 vehicles are recommended.**

Most of the roads are one-lane winding mountain roads with steep sections. Inquire at the local Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management office in Saguache for information on current road conditions.

### Be safe!

1. Always tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you will return.
2. Carry a survival kit in your car.
3. Have plenty of gas and a spare tire.
4. Always stay on designated Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management roads.

- Never enter an old mine!**
- Structures can collapse.
  - Deadly gasses in mines can kill you.
  - Explosives left behind are unstable.
  - Open shafts around mines can drop 100s of feet.
  - Many of the mines are private property. Please respect the owner's land and don't trespass!