

The path less taken

by Jennaye Derge

It's becoming more and more obvious that summer has arrived in Southwest Colorado. Snow is mostly gone from the peaks, and bank thermometers read into the 80s and 90s. Tank tops and shorts have been dug

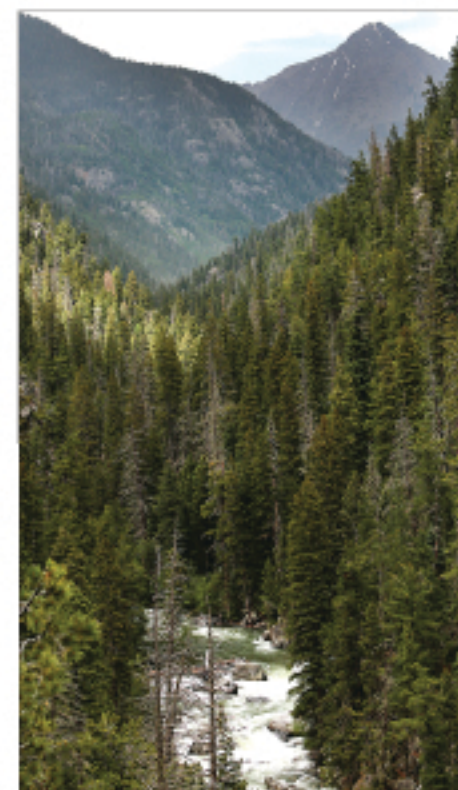


out of dusty closets, and you get sweaty and sunburned just walking to the mailbox. The sidewalks are filled with visitor folk, and suddenly it's an hour wait to get a table at your favorite restaurant. Yep, the busy season has arrived. But there is always that special spot where we can

retreat, to escape the bustle and heat of the city. For some it's lounging in the back yard with a beer, for others it's a favorite trail into the Weminuche or a hike along a bubbling stream. For many, it's both. So pack up a few cold ones and hit your favorite wilderness route. It's sure to revive your love of summer, at least until you have to wait in another line.



Mother Natures' sculpture.



A view for the books.



Squirrel!



Spanish moss lends a rainforest feel.



Vallecito Creek running high.