Geologic Highlights of Animas Valley

Leaders – Gary Gianniny
Date – Sunday, August 11, 2024
Times – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Animas River Valley in which the town of Durango lies includes some of the best geologic exposures of Precambrian to Tertiary geology in the Southwest U.S. This field trip will focus on outcrops of various Mesozoic formations including the Triassic arkosic sandstones of the Cutler Formation deposited in alluvial fans and streams that flanked the Ancestral Rocky Mountains, the Triassic Dolores Formation of the Chinle Group which includes floodplain deposits of siltstones and sandstones, Jurassic dune deposits of the Entrada Sandstone, and cliff-forming upper Cretaceous sandstones and conglomerates of the Dakota and Burro Canyon Formations. These beautifully colored formations are tilted to the south and southwest as a result of the uplift of the San Juan Mountains area during the Laramide and mid-Tertiary orogenic events.

Transportation in vans will be provided. Because of limited space for parking at field trip stops, the number of participants will be limited.

You should expect unpredictable summer weather; hikes up to 0.5 miles.