



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

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# Colorado Recreation

Backyard to Backcountry

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Guide



# BLM Colorado Recreation

## Backyard to Backcountry

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**B**LM Colorado is committed to serving the American public and providing exceptional access to recreational opportunities on public lands as part of its multiple use mission. More than a quarter of public lands in Colorado are managed specifically for recreation and tourism. Recreation on BLM lands is all about the visitor's freedom to choose where to go and what to do. Unlike many other recreation destinations, the BLM's public lands are still quite rustic. There are no entrance stations and comparatively few developed recreation areas.

Colorado's local communities are essential to our shared conservation stewardship ethic. Dozens of nearby communities provide permitted guiding and outfitting services, gear and equipment sales, and lodging. BLM Colorado works with our local partners to promote multiple uses such as livestock grazing and energy development on public lands and provide quality recreation opportunities.

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Public lands are not set aside solely for recreation; they offer energy potential and—in an increasingly urban world—vast open spaces. In many places, the flavor of the Old West is still plainly visible—in historic mining structures as well as contemporary ranching activities.

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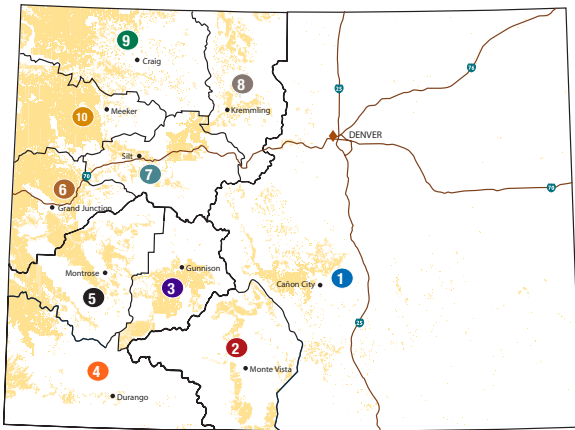


### SYMBOLS LEGEND

	Camping		Dirt Bike Trail
	Hiking		Rafting
	Horse Trail		Hunting
	Historic Site		ATV Trail
	Rock Climbing		Scenic Geology
	Mt. Biking		Fossil Site
	4WD		Scenic Area
	Wildlife Viewing		Winter Rec Area
	Petroglyph		Snowshoeing
	Fishing		Canoeing
	Back Country Byway		OHV Off-Highway Vehicle
	Kayaking		

Cover Photo: BLM Photo by Beth Malone, Gunnison Gorge NCA  
 Top: Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Animas Forks  
 Right: BLM Photo by Matt McGrath, McInnis Canyons NCA

# Know Before You Go



## BLM Colorado Offices

- 1 ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE
- 2 SAN LUIS VALLEY FIELD OFFICE
- 3 GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE
- 4 TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE
- 5 UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE
- 6 GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
- 7 COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE
- 8 KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE
- 9 LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE
- 10 WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE

For additional information, contact the local BLM field office for the area you are planning to visit, or go to [www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/colorado](http://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/colorado).

**B**LM Colorado wants you to have the best experience possible on your public lands. When planning your trip, take all necessary safety precautions and be aware of regulations. Take into consideration the weather conditions, necessary equipment and wildlife inhabiting the area. Don't forget to pack out all trash.

## CAMPING

BLM-managed public lands provide a variety of options for overnight trips:

- **Developed campgrounds** may include a variety of facilities, such as restrooms, potable water, fire rings, picnic areas, garbage cans, tent pads, etc.
- **Dispersed (undeveloped) campsites** are normally recognized by a hardened surface with no vegetation, where others have already camped. Use pre-existing fire rings or firepans, and be sure you know the local fire restrictions.

## TARGET SHOOTING

Target shooting is permitted in most locations on BLM lands in Colorado. However, some areas are closed to target shooting for safety and resource protection. To ensure the well-being and enjoyment of all visitors on public lands, please follow laws, regulations and guidelines.

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

To ensure that all visitors have a chance to enjoy their public lands, visitors must abide

by vehicle travel designations. In most BLM areas, OHVs are limited to operating on roads and trails that are identified on travel maps and/or posted as available for motorized use. Please check in with your local field office for more information on the best locations for motorized recreation.

## CULTURAL SITES

Archaeologists study cultural sites to help understand the past. These important sites act as an outdoor classroom for all ages and provide insight into the lives of previous cultures. Collecting artifacts—including arrowheads—from federal public lands or Indian Tribal lands is illegal under federal laws and regulations. Violators may face prosecution and prison sentences of up to one year or more and possible fines.

Never touch painted or plastered walls, petroglyphs or pictographs. The oil and dirt from hands can eventually destroy these remnants of past lives. Leave all artifacts exactly where you find them for others to enjoy.

# BLM Colorado offers a diversity of recreation activities and destinations. Here are a just few of the highlights:

## FISHING

With four gold medal trout waters and three blue ribbon waters, some of Colorado's best fishing is found on BLM public lands. Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and the Upper Colorado River are just a few areas that offer excellent fishing opportunities.

## BYWAYS

Several scenic and historic byways such as the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway, and Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway pass through BLM Colorado lands. Each of these routes offers a multitude of activities and interpretive sites highlighting their unique attractions.

## WATER RECREATION

Colorado's many rivers provide a range of rafting experiences from the leisurely floats through the Ruby-Horsethief River Corridor, to the Class II-IV river rafting opportunities in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, as well as the challenging rapids in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

Some of the nation's best mountain biking can be found on Colorado's public lands. The Lunch Loops Trail System near Grand Junction offers challenging terrain for mountain bikers; Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is home to 44 miles of single-track trails with views of the Gunnison Basin; and Red Hill Recreation Area's outstanding mountain biking is available in close proximity to Carbondale.

## OHVs

BLM Colorado offers a variety of motorized recreation opportunities from the OHV play areas in Flat Top-Peach Valley and Grand

Valley, to extreme rock crawling at Wolford Mountain Recreation Area or Independence Trail in the Gold Belt Recreation Area.

## ROCK CLIMBING

A variety of rock types, such as sandstone and limestone, offer visitors the chance to enjoy traditional climbing, sport climbing, scrambling and more in areas like Penitente Canyon and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

## WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports enthusiasts can enjoy Nordic skiing at the Emerald Mountain Recreation Area just outside Steamboat Springs or seek adventure at the experts-only Silverton Ski Area.

## HERITAGE TOURING

BLM lands also offer recreation with scientific and cultural education opportunities available at the Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality, Canyon Pintado Historic District, Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

## HUNTING

The majority of the 8.3 million acres of BLM lands in Colorado are open to hunting under Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations, including some of the best big game opportunities in the state. Later seasons are particularly popular as elk and mule deer move to lower elevations. BLM Colorado works closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to ensure wildlife have healthy habitat on public lands.



# NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The Bureau of Land Management’s National Conservation Lands contain some of the West’s most spectacular landscapes. The mission of the National Conservation Lands is to conserve, protect and restore these nationally significant landscapes that are recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values. National Conservation Lands are part of an active, vibrant landscape where people live, work and play. They offer exceptional opportunities for recreation, solitude, wildlife viewing, exploring history, scientific research, and a wide range of traditional uses. For more information visit [www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands](http://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands).

## DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



Congressionally designated in 2009 for its distinctive canyon country, the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area includes the remote Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, recreation along the Gunnison River, and a network of OHV trails. The conservation area allows for a wide variety of activities, including hiking, boating and wildlife viewing. The area also provides heritage tourism opportunities, and the rugged canyons and bluffs here hold geological and paleontological resources spanning 1.4 billion years. For overnight stays, the Big Dominguez and Potholes campgrounds are available.

See both the Uncompahgre and Grand Junction Field Office maps (pg. 15 & 17).

## GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area encompasses Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, Flat Top-Peach Valley, and Gunnison River Recreation Area. The river cuts a wide path through the breathtaking sandstone and black granite canyon. The area, known for its exceptional and challenging whitewater boating, also features world-class Gold Medal trout waters. The upland desert landscape of the Flat Top-Peach Valley area provides outstanding OHV riding for enthusiasts. Visitors to Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area can also observe cultural resources, including prehistoric rock art and historic mines.

See the Uncompahgre Field Office map (pg. 15).

Top: BLM Photo by Bob Wick  
Bottom: Photo ©Jerry Sintz



## MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



Located adjacent to Colorado National Monument near Fruita and Grand Junction, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area is one of BLM Colorado's most diverse desert recreation areas. Hikers will be stunned by the red-rock cliffs and arches of Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness while the Ruby-Horsethief River Corridor offers Class I and II flatwater boating and permit camping nearby. The area is home to mountain lions, desert bighorn sheep, elk, deer, eagles and collared lizards. The area also offers mountain biking on Kokopelli's and Mack Ridge trails and OHV riding in Rabbit Valley. The Trail Through Time, Dinosaur Hill and Fruita Paleontological Area provide visitors a chance to learn about fossils and paleontological finds in the area.

See the Grand Junction Field Office map (pg. 17).



## BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT



For centuries, the granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and stunning mountain vistas of Browns Canyon National Monument have attracted visitors from around the world. The area's 3,000-foot range in elevation supports a diversity of life and a wealth of geological, ecological, riparian, cultural and historic resources. The Arkansas River is one of the

nation's most popular whitewater rafting destinations. Browns Canyon provides a different rafting experience than other segments, allowing visitors the chance to enjoy solitude while taking in the scenery of the area. The Arkansas River's Gold Medal waters provide opportunities for anglers to test their skills at catching brown and rainbow trout.

See the Royal Gorge Field Office map (pg. 7).

Top: BLM Photo by Matt McGrath  
 Bottom: BLM Photo by Bob Wick



## CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT



Located in southwest Colorado, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is home to thousands of Ancestral archaeological sites reflecting Pueblo and other Native American cultures. Visitors can view a variety of Pueblos or hike the popular Sand Canyon Trail. Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum offers information about the area and is an important place to stop before heading into the Monument. For those wishing to learn about the greater Four Corners region, the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway runs through the Monument and provides a scenic tour of the area.

See the Tres Rios Field Office map (pg. 13).



## POWDERHORN WILDERNESS



The lower elevations of Powderhorn Wilderness are characterized by sage-covered slopes and ponderosa pines that lead up into lush aspen stands. At higher elevations, shadowy spruce and fir forests give way to pristine alpine tundra. The runoff from Powderhorn Lake and Devil's Lake flows down wide, willow-filled valleys dotting the landscape with small beaver ponds. This idyllic scenery is a perfect backdrop for hiking, fishing or wildlife viewing. The winter months also provide ample opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing.

See the Gunnison Field Office map (pg. 11).



## UNCOMPAGHRE WILDERNESS



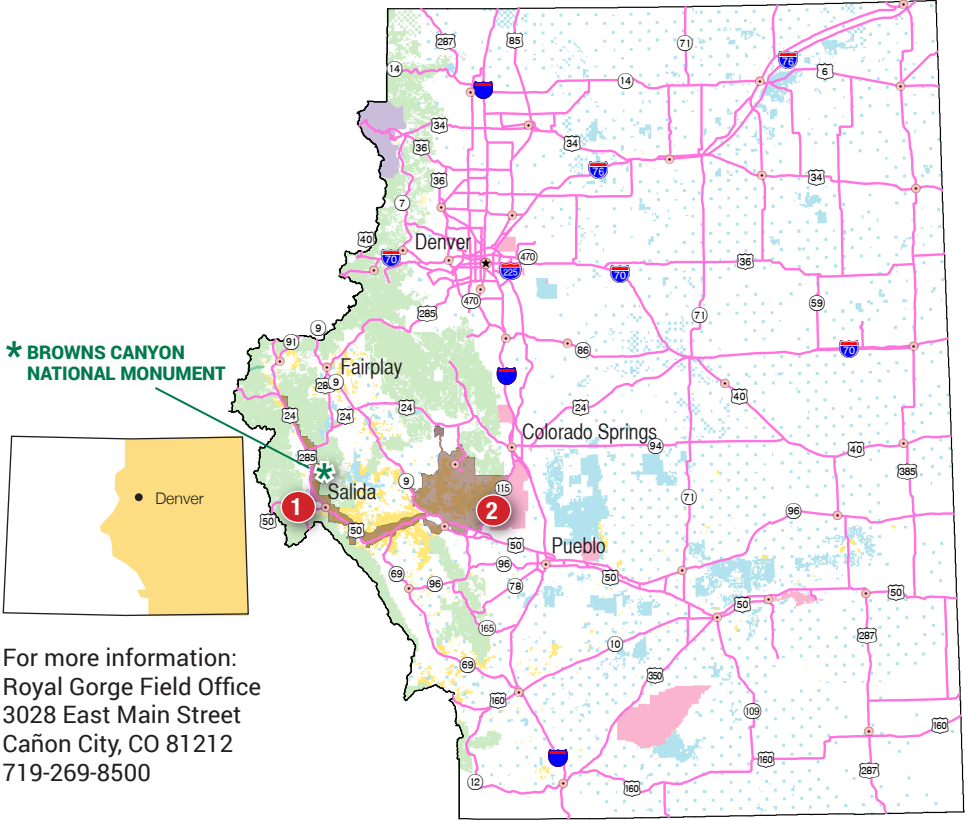
The Uncompahgre Wilderness Area, located within the San Juan Mountains, boasts two fourteeners and more than 34 peaks that tower over 13,000 feet in elevation. The area encompasses alpine tundra meadows, rock castles and densely-forested canyons. More than 100 miles of trails make this wilderness area perfect for hikers, backpackers and horseback riders. The varied landscape provides opportunities for camping,

hunting and rock climbing as well. Several forks of the Cimarron River roar through the wilderness, creating numerous alpine lakes and streams, many available for fishing.

See the Gunnison Field Office map (pg. 11).

Top: BLM Photo by Renee Garfias  
Middle and Bottom: BLM Photos by Bob Wick

# Royal Gorge Field Office



BLM Photo by Bob Wick, Kayaking on the Arkansas River





## 1 ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA



The steep canyons and towering peaks of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area feature some of the state's best whitewater rafting with rapids ranging from Class II to V. The Arkansas River offers world-class fishing and was designated as Gold Medal waters in 2014. Campgrounds, picnic areas and boat ramps can be found along the entire length of the river. For those looking to add variety to their trip, trail systems outside of Buena Vista and Salida offer great hiking and mountain biking. Big Bend OHV Park and Texas Creek offer exceptional OHV opportunities.



BLM Photo by Kyle Sullivan, Rock Climbing at Shelf Road

## 2 GOLD BELT RECREATION AREA

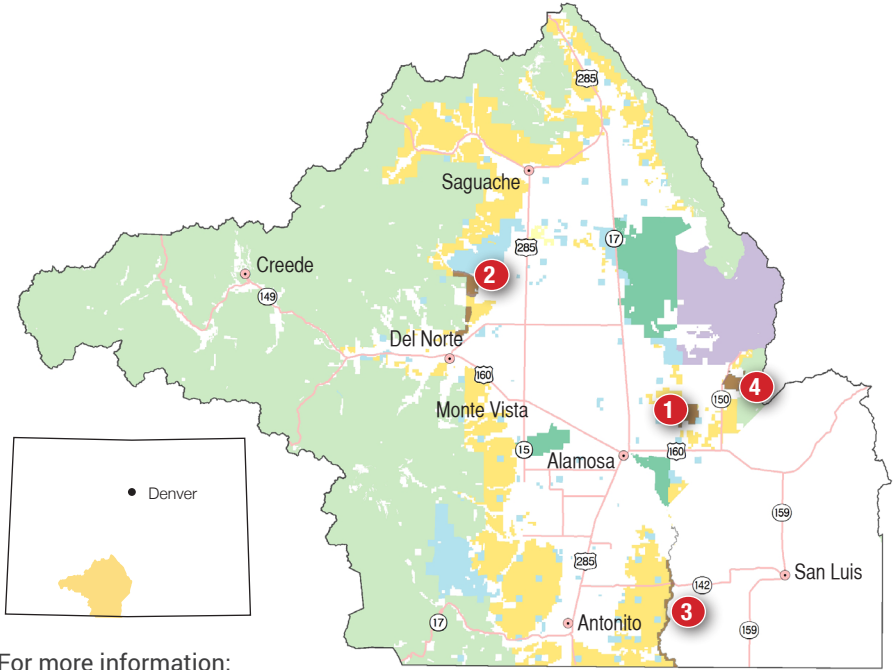


The aptly named Gold Belt Recreation Area is the site of the world's largest gold rush. The Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway features a historic railroad bed and an old stage road connecting the mining locations of Cripple Creek, Florence and Victor National Historic Mining District. Stops along the byway, audio driving tours and videos interpret this interesting chapter in Colorado history. Garden Park, considered the birthplace of modern paleontology, has a number of interpretive exhibits for those wanting to learn more about the dinosaur fossils found in the area. Gold Belt Recreation Area also offers high-quality trail opportunities ranging from primitive hiking in Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area to ATV adventures in Seep Springs or Penrose Commons. This recreation area is also home to the world-famous Shelf Road Rock Climbing Area, which boasts nearly 1,000 climbing routes and is supported by two campgrounds.

BLM Photo by Kyle Sullivan, Phantom Bridge



# San Luis Valley Field Office



For more information:  
San Luis Valley Field Office  
1313 E. Hwy. 160  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
719-852-7074



Photo Courtesy of Wendy Shattil/  
Bob Rozinski  
©2008, American Avocet at Blanca Wetlands

BLM Photo by Denise Adamic, Rio Grande Natural Area



**1 BLANCA WETLANDS RECREATION AREA**

These unique Colorado wetlands are home to more than 200 ponds, marshes and playas, making this recreation area an excellent habitat for a diverse population of waterfowl. The complex trail system winding through Blanca Wetlands allows visitors to appreciate the diverse landscape while hiking through the area. Boardwalks located throughout the wetlands offer exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. Seasonally open July 15 – February 15.

**2 PENITENTE CANYON RECREATION AREA**

The pinnacles of Penitente Canyon attract rock climbers from far and wide. Technical climbers can enjoy more than 300 world-class routes through the canyon. Developed and primitive camping are available for overnight stays, while an extensive trail system caters to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Penitente Canyon also holds remnants of its unique history ranging from rock art to wagon ruts from early settlers. Originally a spiritual haven for a Spanish religious group that gave the canyon its name, the area also features a modern painting of the “Virgin de Guadalupe.”

**3 RIO GRANDE NATURAL AREA**

Located in southern Colorado, the Rio Grande River slowly meanders down to the Colorado-New Mexico border. The generally calm nature of the river offers fishing, kayaking and paddle boarding opportunities. A hike, takeout and trail are available to avoid challenging whitewater rapids where the river enters New Mexico.

**4 ZAPATA FALLS RECREATION AREA**

A short, yet slippery hike leads to the view of a 25-foot waterfall at Zapata Falls Recreation Area. During the summer months, the falls provide a cooling oasis, but during the winter months, the waterfall freezes into an enormous column of ice, perfect for the experienced ice climber. Travelers along Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway can stop for an overnight stay at one of 24 campsites in Zapata Falls.

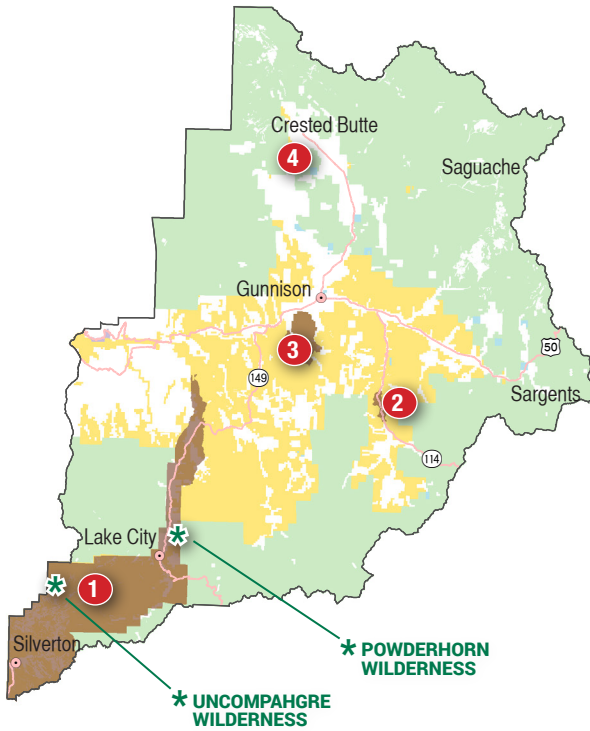
BLM Photo by Renee Garfias, Rock Climbing in Penitente



BLM Photo by Renee Garfias, Zapata Falls



# Gunnison Field Office



For more information:  
Gunnison Field Office  
210 W. Spencer Street  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
970-642-4940

Photo ©Jerry Sintz, High alpine scenery in the Alpine Loop

Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Animas Forks



## 1 ALPINE LOOP



In addition to three fourteeners and more than a dozen alpine peaks, the Alpine Loop features spectacular landscapes, winding streams and picturesque wildflower displays. Not only does this area cater to those who love wildlife and nature viewing, the area also offers trails designated for OHVs and other types of motorized recreation. Historic mining areas are found throughout the Silverton area, including the Animas Forks townsite and Sound Democrat Mine. During the summer months, the area features four-wheel trails and tours, which make it easy to explore the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway. The winter season offers a variety of winter sports including skiing at the expert-level, 1,300-acre Silverton Ski Area and adjacent 13,000-acre permitted heli-skiing area.

## 2 COCHETOPA CANYON



This scenic recreation area is a destination perfect for a day of fishing. The dense vegetation and steep canyon walls that line Cochetopa Creek provide a calm and relaxing place to fish with developed campsites and picnic areas located along the creek. Beautiful rock

formations line Highway 114 and lead down to this little oasis located between Saguache and Gunnison.

## 3 HARTMAN ROCKS



Hartman Rocks is a popular recreation area just a few miles southwest of Gunnison. The central attraction to this area is the "Ring Dike," a spectacular rock formation approximately six miles in diameter. This rugged landscape features high quality trails and dirt roads for mountain biking.

## 4 OH BE JOYFUL RECREATION AREA



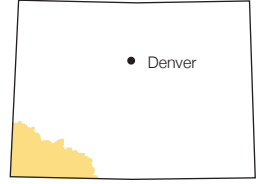
Named after a nearby mountain stream, Oh Be Joyful features beautiful waterfalls and world-class kayaking during high water flow. Filled with lush forests and colorful fields of wildflowers, this area offers horseback riding, hiking and backpacking opportunities during the summer months. For those who are looking for an overnight stay, Oh Be Joyful Campground is conveniently located along the Slate River. The recreation area is also close to Crested Butte, where lodging, restaurants and shops are available.

Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Cochetopa Canyon

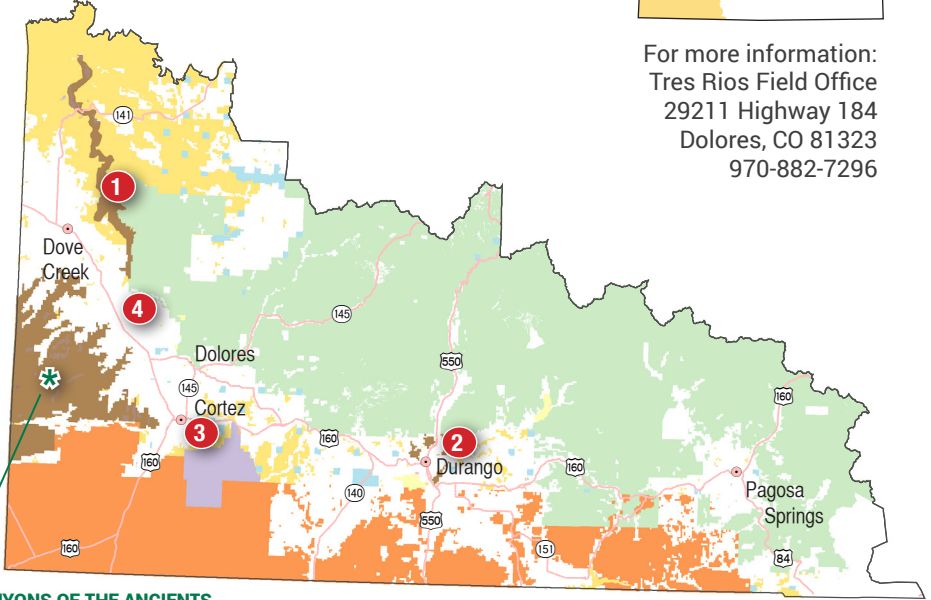
Photo by Petar Dopchev, Hartman Rocks



# Tres Rios Field Office



For more information:  
Tres Rios Field Office  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
970-882-7296



★ CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT

BLM Photo by Bob Wick, Dolores River



**1 DOLORES RIVER RECREATION AREA**



Beginning high in the San Juan Mountains, the Dolores River descends into the red canyons of the Dolores River Recreation Area. In select segments of the river, and in certain years, technical rapids are available for remote, multi-day rafting trips. Check with the Tres Rios Field Office or the Dolores Water Conservancy District for flow information. The dense vegetation of the canyon and surrounding mesas is home to species such as bighorn sheep and river otters, making this area perfect for wildlife viewing. The portion of the river from Slickrock to Bedrock flows through the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area, where desert canyon primitive recreation opportunities are available.

**2 DURANGO RECREATION AREA**



Situated alongside the town of Durango and punctuated by smaller foothills of the San Juan Mountains, the Durango Recreation Area is perfect for a variety of recreational activities. Hiking and mountain biking trails are readily accessible throughout the area with facilities for renting equipment in nearby Durango. Elk and deer in the area make for exceptional wildlife viewing. Visit the Grandview Ridge and Animas Mountain areas for extensive non-motorized trails and exceptional views of the Animas River Valley. Visitors can also head to Turtle Lake and

East Animas just north of Durango for great rock climbing opportunities close to town.

**3 CORTEZ RECREATION AREA**



This comparatively low-elevation (6,000-7,000 feet) area offers a unique combination of terrain, scenery, and climate that allows for nearly year-round recreation close to towns and surrounded by panoramic backdrops. The relatively small blocks of public land are particularly well-suited to non-motorized trail use with opportunities for short motorized trails. This area also contains the only "open" (to cross-country travel) motorized areas in the field office, providing rock crawling, OHV play and skill-building. Mountain biking trail systems are currently the greatest draw, highlighted by Phil's World just east of Cortez, which is one of the BLM's 20 premier mountain biking destinations.

**4 CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS VISITOR CENTER & MUSEUM**



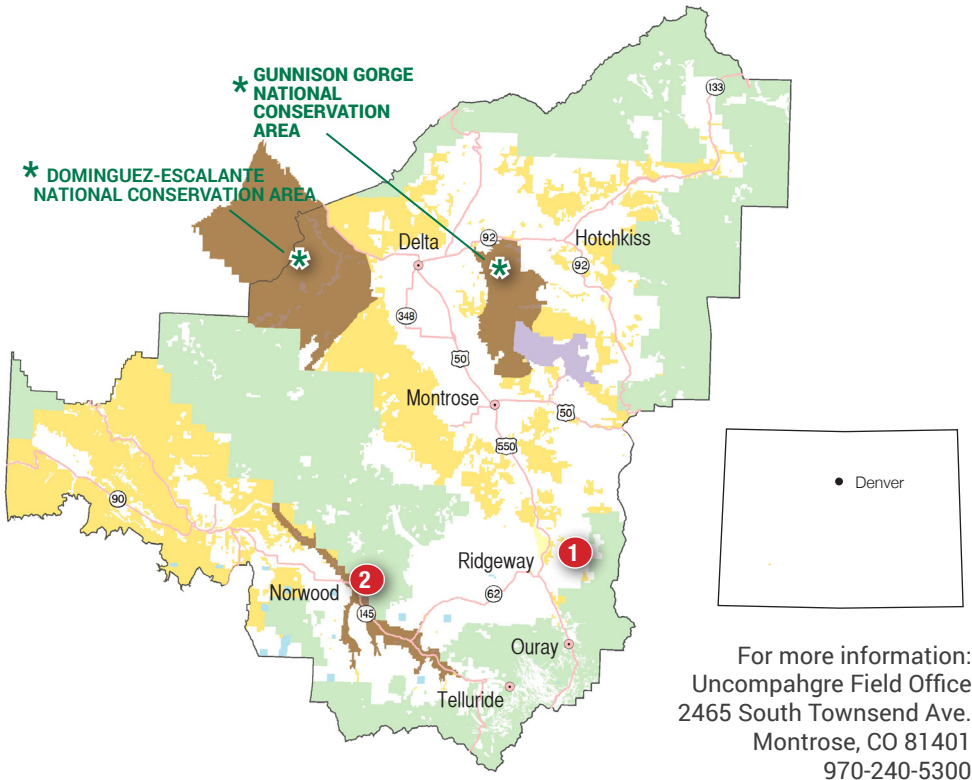
The Visitor Center & Museum serves as headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and is southwest Colorado's premier archaeological museum of Native cultures in the Four Corners region. The museum curates artifacts from several units in the area and hosts special exhibits, films and programs regularly.

Photo by International Mountain Bicycling Association, Phil's World

BLM Photo by Bob Wick, Visitor Center & Museum



# Uncompahgre Field Office



For more information:  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-240-5300

BLM Photo by Amy Sharp, Ridgeway Area Trails





## 1 RIDGWAY AREA TRAILS



Located at the base of the San Juan Mountains, these multi-use trails are perfect for the avid mountain biker. While most popularly associated with mountain biking, these trails also cater to hikers and equestrians. Conveniently close to Montrose, Ouray and Ridgway, the trails are easily accessible for a quick day trip for both community members and visitors.

## 2 SAN MIGUEL RIVER RECREATION AREA



This diverse ecosystem is home to a wide variety of rare riparian plant communities. Ample brown and rainbow trout populations make for excellent fishing opportunities. Along the river, whitewater rapids ranging between Class II and IV allow boaters to enjoy a variety of river trips. Visitors can also travel along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. Four campgrounds found alongside the river are available for overnight stays.



Photo ©Rich Durnan, Ridgway Area Trails

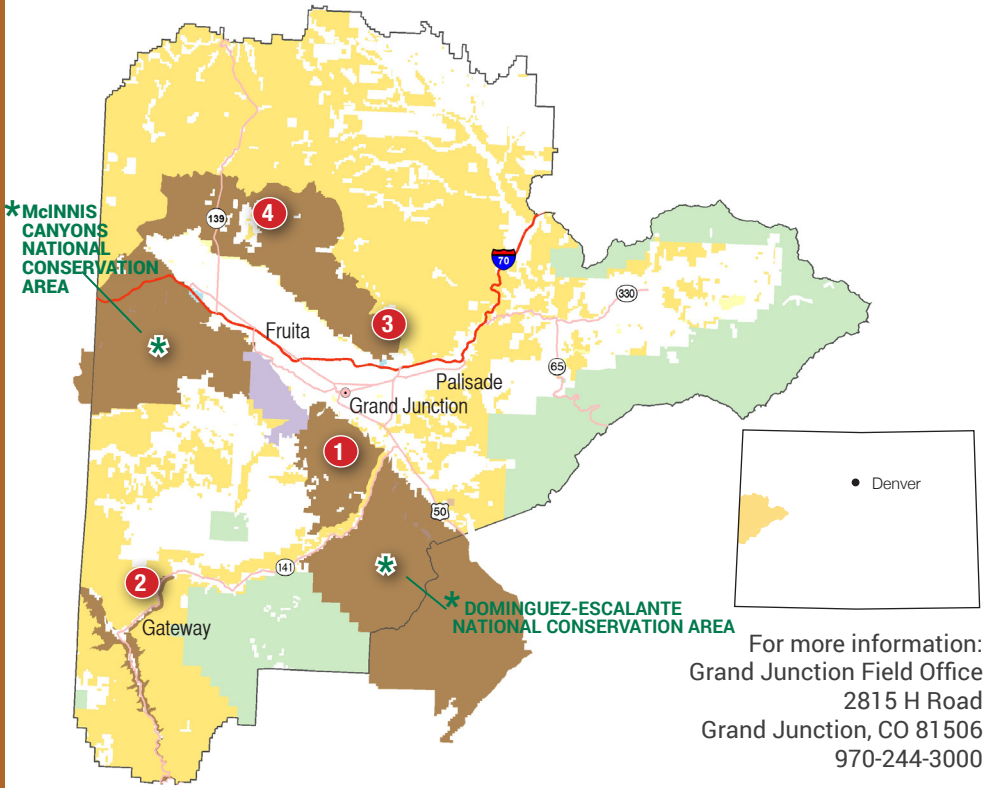


BLM Photo by Amy Sharp, San Miguel River Rec Area

Photo ©Rich Durnan, Ridgway Area Trails



# Grand Junction Field Office



Photos ©Jerry Sintz, Bangs Canyon



**1 BANGS AREA**

Located near Grand Junction, this fascinating desert terrain of slick rock canyons and plateaus offers an extensive system of trails that are ideal for morning, mid-day and evening outings. The area includes intensively visited mountain bike and OHV playgrounds, as well as primitive backcountry areas, appealing to locals and visitors alike. Ladder Canyon and Rough Canyon are particularly popular with hikers and rock climbers. Visitors will enjoy hiking and mountain biking on the Lunch Loops Trail System, while other routes extending from the Bangs Canyon Trailhead are great for horseback riding, OHV use and four-wheeling.

**2 GATEWAY AREA**

Spectacular red-walled canyons line the Dolores River's winding course through the heart of the Gateway area. A scenic and historic byway and two Wilderness Study Areas found here brim with breathtaking scenery, cultural history and fascinating geology. Miles of all-terrain vehicle and OHV routes also provide spectacular riding through historic uranium mining country. The area also offers opportunities for canyoneering and hiking. Commercially-outfitted services for climbing, horseback riding and other diverse

activities; a world class adventure center; and a museum are also nearby.

**3 GRAND VALLEY AREA**

The Grand Valley is made up of imposing badlands topography on the southern toe of Mt. Garfield. Just opposite I-70 from the City of Grand Junction, the area offers an "open" OHV playground. The limitations of this challenging terrain are those of rider and machine. Readily accessible to visitors and locals, this rugged terrain offers challenging and exciting riding as well as opportunities for onlookers to enjoy the sport.

**4 NORTH DESERT AREA**

The North Desert Area boasts an extensive trail system that has become a popular mountain biking destination. Dozens of designated mountain bike and OHV trails spread for miles throughout this huge riding area at the base of the Book Cliffs. In addition, there is a small OHV "open" area, offering an ideal warm-up or family play area. The area also offers a developed campground comprised of 58 campsites. The user fees from these sites help maintain the campground and support trail maintenance and associated riding opportunities.

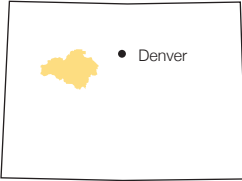
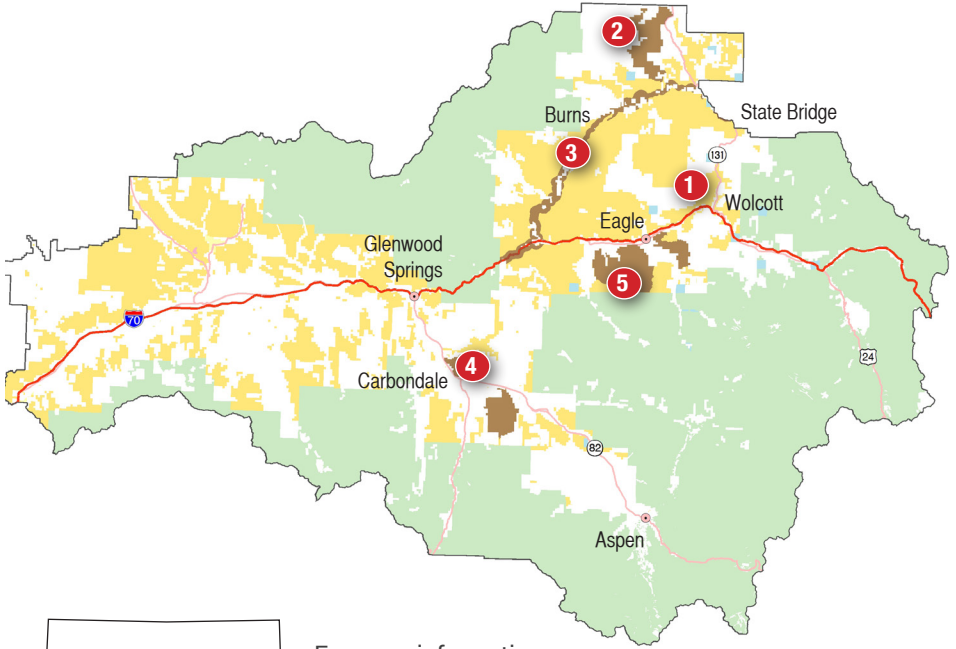
Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Dolores River



Photo ©Jerry Sintz, North Desert



# Colorado River Valley Field Office



For more information:  
Colorado River Valley Field Office  
2300 River Frontage Road  
Silt, CO 81652  
970-876-9000

BLM Photo, King Mountain



**1 BOCCO MOUNTAIN**



Bocco Mountain is a small motorcycle riding area north of I-70 at Wolcott. This riding area offers 20 miles of difficult motorcycle trails through rugged terrain and scattered piñon-juniper woodlands. It is popular with experienced riders in the spring before the snow melts in the high country.

**2 KING MOUNTAIN**



Enjoy the area's wildlife and scenery while hiking, horseback riding, hunting and camping in the 12,000-acre King Mountain recreation area off Highway 131 in Routt County. The area offers uncrowded recreation outside of the fall big game hunting seasons.

**3 UPPER COLORADO RIVER, STATE BRIDGE TO DOTSERO LANDING**



This scenic section of the Colorado River has fewer rapids than the stretch above State Bridge. The stretch between State Bridge and Horse Creek is prized for trout fishing. The lower sections are popular for floatboating, canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding and tubing. Numerous developed recreation sites provide river access between State Bridge and Dotsero Landing, enabling visitors to plan trips to fit their own abilities and interests.

BLM Photo, Upper Colorado River



**4 RED HILL & THE CROWN**



Red Hill and The Crown offer Carbondale residents and visitors a wide variety of mountain biking and hiking opportunities close to town. Red Hill lies just north of Carbondale and The Crown is about 4 miles southeast of Carbondale off Prince Creek Road. From mid-April through October, The Crown offers more moderate biking trails compared to the steeper and more difficult hiking and biking trails on Red Hill. Note: Red Hill trails can be crowded and parking is limited. Parking is not allowed along County Road 107. Overflow parking is available 1/2 mile south at the Carbondale Park-n-Ride.

**5 HARDCRABBLE -EAST EAGLE**

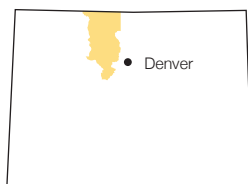
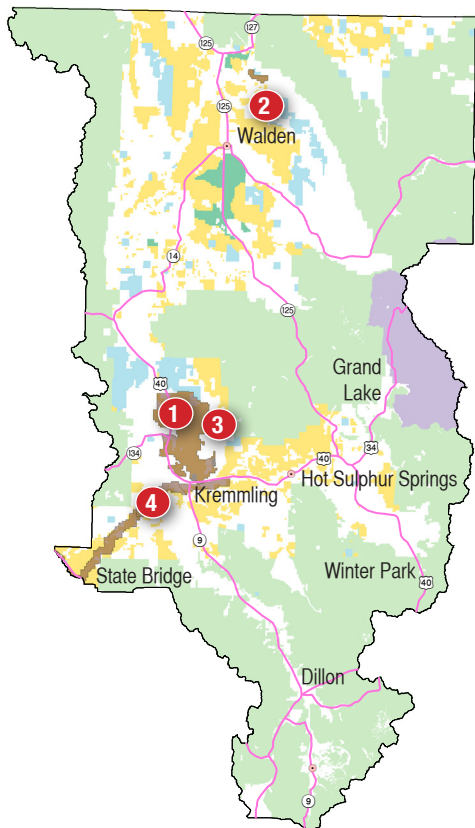


From mid-April through October, mountain bikers can enjoy single-track trails on BLM lands that connect with the Town of Eagle's trails. The western side of the recreation area near the Town of Gypsum offers OHV trails for motorcycles, ATVs and 4x4s. These diverse trail systems help locals and visitors maintain active, healthy, outdoor-oriented lifestyles. Visitors can access the area at Spring Creek just south of the Eagle County Airport.

BLM Photo by Courtney Whiteman, Red Hill



# Kremmling Field Office



For more information:  
Kremmling Field Office  
2103 E. Park Avenue  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
970-724-3000

BLM Photo, Upper Colorado River



BLM Photo by Kyle Sullivan, Ammonite Fossils



## 1 KREMMLING CRETACEOUS AMMONITE LOCALITY



This unique locality is home to the fossils of more than 100 invertebrate species. The Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality takes visitors 72.5 million years back in time where they can view well-preserved specimens of tropical and subtropical mollusk fossils. Even the smallest rocks may contain scientifically valuable finds. This area has the highest concentration of such fossils in the world and is perfect for avid fossil enthusiasts as well as those visiting for the first time. These sites hold scientific and educational values; fossil collection is prohibited.

## 2 NORTH SAND HILLS RECREATION AREA



Colorado's only open sand dune area for OHV recreation is situated at the eastern edge of North Park at the toe of the Medicine Bow Mountain Range. North Sand Hills provides unique riding opportunities for dirt bike, ATV, side-by-side and sand rail riders. Due to the area's extreme landscape, it is important to be prepared and alert when riding OHVs. The area also has connecting trails into the State Forest State Park and adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands, all while providing the scenic backdrop of the Park and Medicine Bow Mountain Ranges. A developed campground and other dispersed camping sites are available within the area.

BLM Photo, North Sand Hills



## 3 WOLFORD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA



Wolford Mountain Recreation Area, located immediately north of Kremmling and bordering Wolford Mountain Reservoir, is a destination for a wide variety of recreation activities. This multiple-use area offers motorized and non-motorized trails, as well as a small, open, off-highway area that allows beginner to advanced four-wheeler, ATV and motorcycle riders to practice their skills. Wolford Mountain's variety of recreation opportunities makes it a favorite among local residents.

## 4 UPPER COLORADO RIVER RECREATION AREA

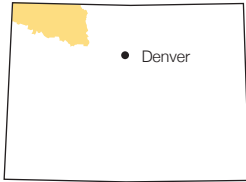
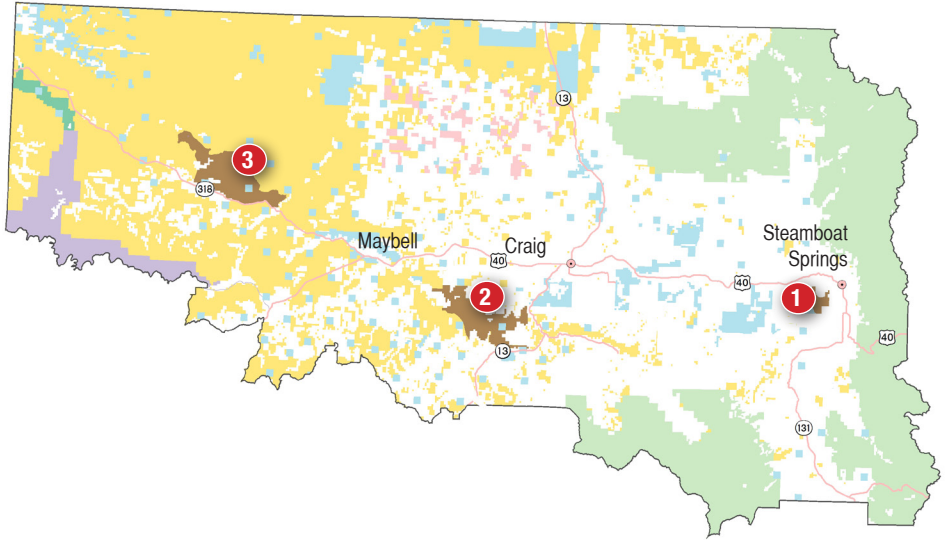


The Upper Colorado River is a unique and beautiful recreation area, known for its diverse water features, wildlife and cultural landscapes accessible along the Colorado River Headwaters Scenic Byway. Notable segments of the Upper Colorado River include Reeder Creek to Blue River, Gore Canyon, Pumphouse to State Bridge and State Bridge to Dotsero. The most popular of these segments, from Pumphouse to State Bridge, offers camping facilities at both Pumphouse and Radium. The area combines placid boating waters through pastoral heritage ranchlands with more challenging Class II and III rapids in the intervening canyons. Extreme Class IV and V whitewater rafting and kayaking are available in Gore Canyon (not recommended without a commercial outfitter). The Pumphouse Recreation Site also offers the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park with large boulders placed on the bed of the river to create waves and whitewater for kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders and other whitewater enthusiasts.

BLM Photo by Vanessa Lacayo, Wolford Mountain Rec Area



# Little Snake Field Office



For more information:  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625  
970-826-5000

Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Sand Wash Wild Horse Herd

BLM Photo, Emerald Mountain





**1 EMERALD MOUNTAIN**

This day-use-only recreation area located near Steamboat Springs provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking in the summer as well as moderately challenging Nordic and back-country skiing in the winter.

The Howelson Hill Ski Area, which gave Steamboat Springs the name "Ski Town USA," adjoins Emerald Mountain and provides additional trails. The trails within Emerald Mountain provide views of Mt. Werner, Sleeping Giant Mountain and other scenic icons of the Yampa Valley while meandering through Gambel oak, aspens, sage, and pine forests. A seasonal closure is in effect December 1-June 30 to protect wintering and calving elk within the area south of Ridge Trail.

**2 LITTLE YAMPA CANYON**

Within the Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area, the Yampa River meanders through Duffy Mountain and Iles Mountain, providing open canoeing and flatwater rafting opportunities. The river is home to various species of bass, pike, trout and even catfish, making it a hotspot for fishermen. Bald and golden eagles inhabit the riparian areas, attracting wildlife viewers, while mammals such as elk, mule deer and pronghorn make this area a destination for hunters. Undeveloped camping

is available along the river, with the town of Craig only 35 minutes away. The Yampa Valley Trail and the Vista Trail also provide scenic overlooks for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. The Little Yampa Canyon is included in the *65 Million Years in 65 Miles* Interpretive Drive.

**3 SAND WASH BASIN**

The Sand Wash Basin is located northwest of Maybell, Colorado. The Basin is a large, scenic expanse of high desert country that is a destination for OHV enthusiasts. The area is also home to the world-renowned wild horse herd that can be viewed throughout most of the year.

BLM Photo by Deanna Masterson, Emerald Mountain



Photo ©Jerry Sintz, Hunting near Craig



# White River Field Office



For more information:  
White River Field Office  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, CO 81641  
970-878-3800

BLM Photo, Rock Art at Canyon Pintado



**1 CANYON PINTADO**

Spanish for “Painted Canyon,” this archaeological heritage attraction contains hundreds of Native American Fremont and Ute pictographs (rock paintings). Interpretive panels explaining this fragile rock art are featured at seven locations throughout the area. Canyon Pintado is one of several heritage tourism attractions along the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway. Visitors can take advantage of opportunities to camp and hike in the canyon while reaping the educational benefits of the area’s history.

**2 WHITE RIVER**

White River is readily accessible at County Road 2 just west of the Town of Rangely. Scenic canyon vistas and wildlife can be seen from the river as it winds its way through the lower river canyon. Flows above 1,500 cfs require intermediate to advanced canoeing experience. This 47-mile stretch of flat water, which includes putting in at the Big Trujillo site and taking out at the Bonanza site in Utah, can be extended into a 100-mile trip to the confluence with the Green River in Utah.

**3 BULL CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**

Bull Canyon is more characteristic of the arid canyon scenery found in the Colorado Plateau than the surrounding Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Geographically, the area is cut by deep ridges and canyons of sandstone eroded by rain and snowmelt runoff. Colorful cliffs, a maze of canyons, and unique rock formations are a result of deep erosion. The canyon can be easily viewed from the Plug Hat Butte Picnic Area and the Escalante Interpretive Overlook.

**4 MEEKER TRAIL SYSTEM**

This approximately 10-mile trail system is designed for hiking and mountain biking only and provides opportunities for all skill levels and abilities. The area includes views of the White River Valley from the top of China Wall Trail as well as a challenging downhill flow course for mountain bikers. The trail system connects Sanderson Hills Park, Jensen Memorial Park, Ute Park and BLM lands. Trailhead access and parking is available at the Sanderson Hills Park and at the end of Hill Street in Ute Park.

BLM Photo by Bob Wick, Bull Canyon Wilderness Study Area





# Partners and Volunteers

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Creative and cooperative management is vital to the health and well-being of our country's lands. BLM Colorado benefits from an active and vibrant network of partners and volunteers. The following are just a few of our recreation partners who help make Colorado such a great place to visit:

Bicycle Colorado: [www.bicyclecolorado.org](http://www.bicyclecolorado.org)

Colorado Canyons Association: [www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org](http://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org)

Colorado Mountain Club: [www.cmc.org](http://www.cmc.org)

Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition: [www.cohvco.org](http://www.cohvco.org)

Colorado Outfitters Association: [www.coloradooutfitters.org](http://www.coloradooutfitters.org)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife: [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us)

Colorado River Outfitters Association: [www.croa.org](http://www.croa.org)

Colorado Youth Corps Association: [www.cyca.org](http://www.cyca.org)

Conservation Lands Foundation: [www.conservationlands.org](http://www.conservationlands.org)

International Mountain Bicycle Association: [www.imba.com](http://www.imba.com)

Stay The Trail: [www.staythetrail.org](http://www.staythetrail.org)

USDA Forest Service, Region 2: [www.fs.usda.gov/r2](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r2)

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado: [www.voc.org](http://www.voc.org)

Wildland Restoration Volunteers: [www.wlrv.org](http://www.wlrv.org)

Contact your local BLM field office if you're interested in partnering with the BLM's recreation program.