



Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area

What is a Wilderness Study Area?

A Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is a parcel of public land, found during a nationwide inventory process in the late 1970s, to contain wilderness characteristics including size, natural appearance, and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation or solitude. There may also be 'supplemental values' such as geology and archaeology, for example. The designation of a WSA served to identify areas for Congress to consider adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Until Congress determines otherwise, these areas are managed by the Bureau of Land Management to protect these unique characteristics.

Why the Dolores River Canyon?

The Dolores River Canyon WSA-with canyons 1,100 feet deep in some locations-has exposed layers of sedimentary rock recording nearly 300 million years of Earth's history. Tucked along the canyon floor, against cliff faces, and in hidden hanging gardens are a collection of rare, unique, and globally threatened plants ranging from towering old-growth ponderosa groves to bright red Eastwood's Monkey Flowers. The canyon also provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife species including desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and peregrine falcons. Evidence of human use, dating back at least 11,000 years, can be seen and experienced along the length of the river. Humans today enjoy the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation as they hike, raft, backpack, camp, and hunt within this amazing landscape.

Visit with Respect:

This area is special, so we need your help to protect it. Take only photographs and memories, leaving artifacts and other natural items where you found them for others to enjoy. This area is closed to motorized vehicles. Please use trails, sandy, or rocky places when walking or riding your horse. If these surfaces are not available, spread out and avoid newly impacted areas. When camping, look for already established campsites.

Know Before you Go:

Be sure you know the area and what hazards to expect. Bring adequate food, water, and equipment-including a map or compass and know how to use them. It can be difficult or impossible to call for help, so let someone know where you will be and when you plan to return. Always pack out everything you packed in, and enjoy your experience.

Total area: 29,000 acres
Elevation: 5,000 to 6,400 feet

The Access Points identified on this map are not signed or designated trailheads. Instead, they represent a few possible points of access to the WSA. There are no planned or maintained trails within the WSA. However, this map is a GeoPDF and is intended for use in Avenza's PDF Maps APP available for Android and IOS devices. When used with Avenza's Map app, you can locate yourself within the map area for navigational purposes. Please refer to the AvenzaMaps web site for more information about using the APP.

PLEASE DO NOT

- Construct new trails.
- Use bicycles or motorized vehicles (including OHVs) in the area.

For More Information Contact { BLM Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, CO 81323
Phone: 970-882-1120

- County Roads
- Streams
- BLM Field Office Areas Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State
- State, County, City: Recreation Areas
- US Forest Service



Scale: 1:30,000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

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