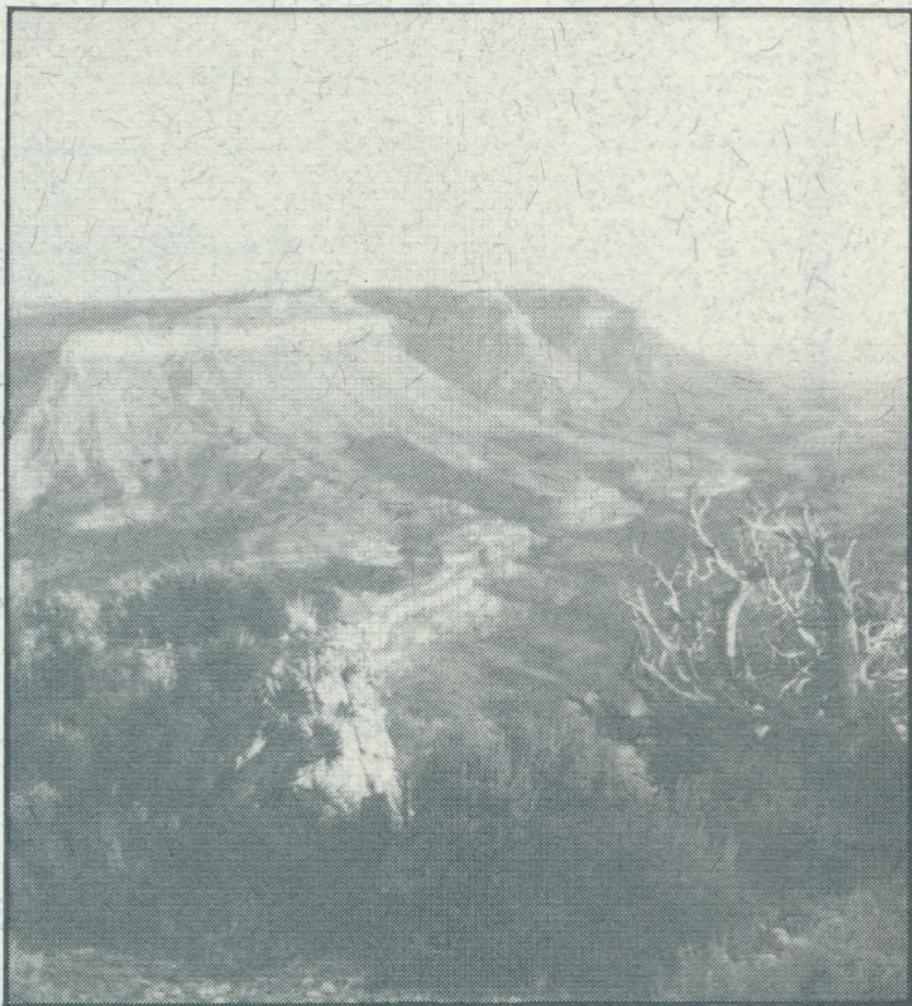


**BLM**

Grand  
Wash  
Cliffs  
Wilderness

Arizona Strip Field Office

---



ARIZONA



# Grand Wash Cliffs

Dramatic escarpments, hidden canyons and desert expanses combine to produce the scenic grandeur of Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages Grand Wash Cliffs to preserve and protect its natural resources and primitive character.

The name of this rugged 36,300-acre wilderness in northwest Arizona refers to the two sets of steep cliffs separated by a bench. The lower cliffs rise 1,600' (488m) above the Mojave desert floor and are dissected by several deep, narrow canyons. When viewed from the west, the upper cliffs form a dramatic backdrop to the wilderness area by abruptly climbing another 1,800' (549m). These cliffs mark the western boundary of the Colorado Plateau and the eastern boundary of the Basin and Range physiographic province.

The canyons of the lower cliffs are home to a herd of desert bighorn sheep. Once native, these animals were reintroduced to Grand Wash Cliffs in the 1980s. Other native species include mule deer, hawks, rabbits, quail and rattlesnakes. The threatened desert tortoise and the Gila monster, North America's only poisonous lizard, inhabit the lower slopes.

Vegetative communities range from Mojave desert shrub at lower elevations to pinyon-juniper woodlands on the bench and upper cliffs.

Archaeological evidence shows human use of the area dating back to the Archaic period of six to eight thousand years ago. Bands of Paiutes used the area into the 20th century. There is also evidence of

Anasazi presence more recently. Cultural artifacts from these desert dwellers are a part of America's heritage. If you find an artifact, please leave it where found.

Today, visitors to Grand Wash Cliffs enjoy the outstanding views of the Pakoon Basin and Virgin Mountains as well as hiking, hunting and photography.

## Leave No Trace

People enter wilderness to escape civilization and commune with nature. The BLM requires your help as a wilderness visitor to maintain the natural setting and preserve wilderness characteristics.



Remembering a few tips will make your visit more enjoyable and less damaging to the environment.

- Travel in small groups and stay on established trails. If no trail exists, spread out to avoid creating new ones.
- Choose a campsite away from trails and, if possible, hide it from view of other parties.
- Arizona state law requires that you camp no closer than 1/4 mile to any water source to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- A lightweight campstove is easier to cook with and less damaging than a campfire. If you do make a fire: scrape down to the mineral soil, don't circle it with rocks, burn only dead and down wood, make sure the fire is dead out, scatter the ashes and replace the topsoil before you leave.
- The proper way to dispose of human waste is to dig a small hole in the top layer of soil and cover it when finished. Burn toilet paper with caution.
- As for other waste, if you packed it in, please pack it out. It benefits everyone to pick up any other trash you see along the way.

Finally, when you leave a site, look back and see if you can tell someone has been there. If not, you are practicing correct wilderness etiquette. Everyone's goal should be to Leave No Trace of their wilderness visit.

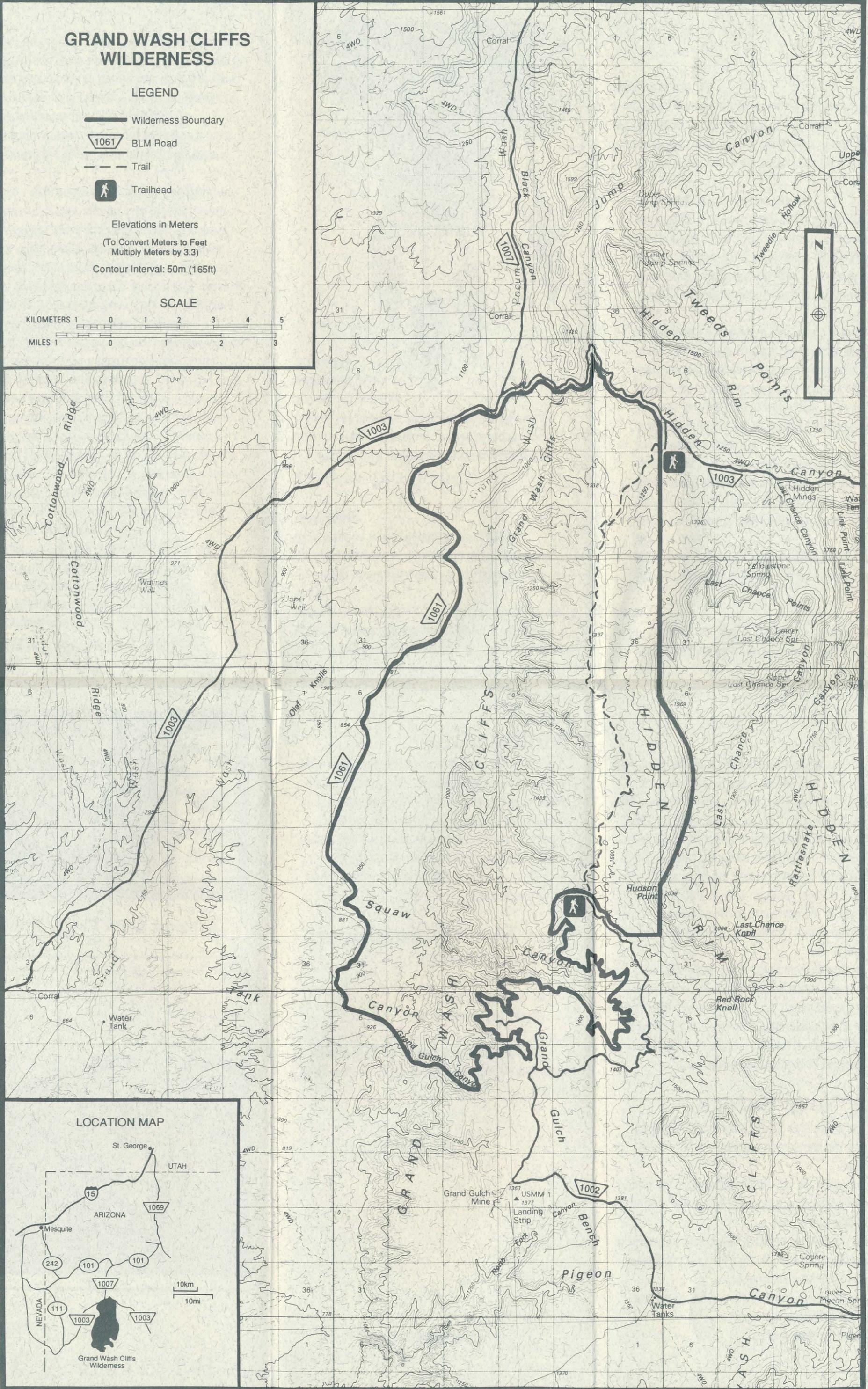
# GRAND WASH CLIFFS WILDERNESS

## LEGEND

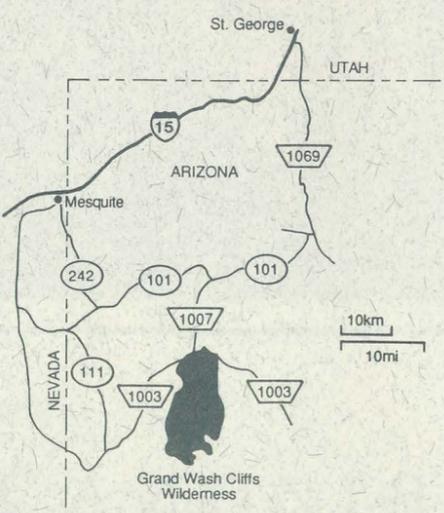
-  Wilderness Boundary
-  BLM Road
-  Trail
-  Trailhead

Elevations in Meters  
 (To Convert Meters to Feet  
 Multiply Meters by 3.3)  
 Contour Interval: 50m (165ft)

## SCALE



## LOCATION MAP



## Access

Access to Grand Wash Cliffs is by dirt roads from St. George, Utah, or Mesquite, Nevada. From St. George, take road No. 1069 to Wolf Hole, then take road 1004 to road 101 and travel south for about 15 miles to No. 1007. Travel south on 1007 to the junction with 1003. From Mesquite, take the Gold Butte road to its junction with the Whitney Pass road (No. 111). Travel south on 111 to 1003. Take 1003 northeast to the north end of the wilderness or take one of the several connecting roads to the western boundary.

Access to the interior of the wilderness area is by foot or horseback. Closed to public motorized travel, the old bench road provides a trail through the center of the wilderness. A trailhead is at the north end of the road. Federal regulations prohibit motorized vehicles or mechanized equipment.

## For Your Safety

- The entire area is very remote and extremely dry. You should carry in all the water you will need.
- Summers are hot! Avoid being out in the hottest part of the day. Spring and fall are the best times to hike in this area.
- No permits are needed, but visitors may want to check with the BLM office for road conditions and additional information.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Watch for rattlesnakes.

## Multiple Use

The BLM provides for many uses of public land. In Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness these include live-stock grazing, wildlife water catchments and various recreational pursuits. Motorized use of the bench road is allowed by law for administrative and maintenance purposes. Researchers may use the diverse geology, ecology and cultural resources found here for various studies.

## For More Information

Arizona Strip Field Office  
345 E. Riverside Dr.  
St. George, UT 84790  
Phone: (435) 688-3246

Road numbers are found on the BLM Arizona Strip Visitor's Map, available at the BLM office listed above.