

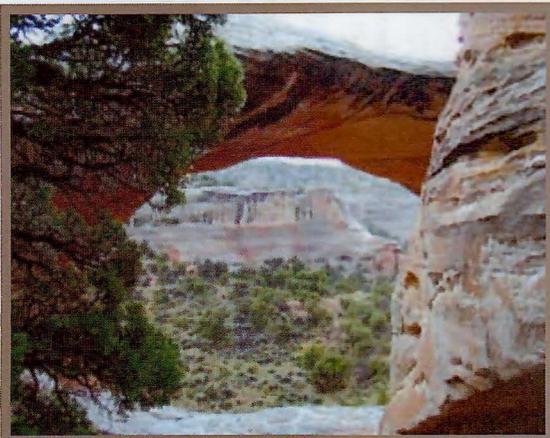
Regulations

- No motorized or mechanized vehicles allowed within Wilderness, except wheel chairs.
- No overnight camping at the trailhead or along the cherry-stem road.
- No camping in or around the arches area.
- Limit party size to twelve.
- Do not disturb, deface or remove plants,



Visitor Safety

- The high desert climate, rugged landscape and 4WD roads of the NCA can present safety problems for visitors.
- Moisture of any kind can make the access roads impassable.
- Summer daytime temperatures can exceed 100 degrees F.
- Pack in your water. One gallon per person per day minimum is recommended. Water sources are limited and unreliable. The Colorado River is sediment laden and hard to filter.
- Biting gnats are prevalent May thru August.



View through an arch - Rattlesnake Arches overlook trail

In October 2000, Congress designated the 75,550-acre Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, which forms the core of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA). This legislation provides for the protection of the NCA's nationally significant resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

DIRECTIONS - Upper Trailhead - from Grand Junction take I-70 west to the Fruita exit. Turn left at the off ramp and cross back over I-70, follow the signs to the Colorado National Monument (CNM). Enter the CNM and travel 11 miles to the Glade Park Store turn off (it will be on your right). Travel 0.2 miles to the "Black Ridge Access Road" on the right. Travel on the open access road for approximately 13 miles to the Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead.

DIRECTIONS - Pollock Bench - from Grand Junction take I-70 west to the Fruita exit, turn left at the off ramp and cross back over I-70, travel 1.5 miles to the Kingsview Estates. Turn right in to the subdivision and stay on the main road for approximately 3 miles, you will see a short road leading to a parking area on your left.

Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office

2815 H Road

Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

970.244.3000

www.co.blm.gov/mcnca/rattlesnakecyn.htm

GJFO_Webmail@co.blm.gov

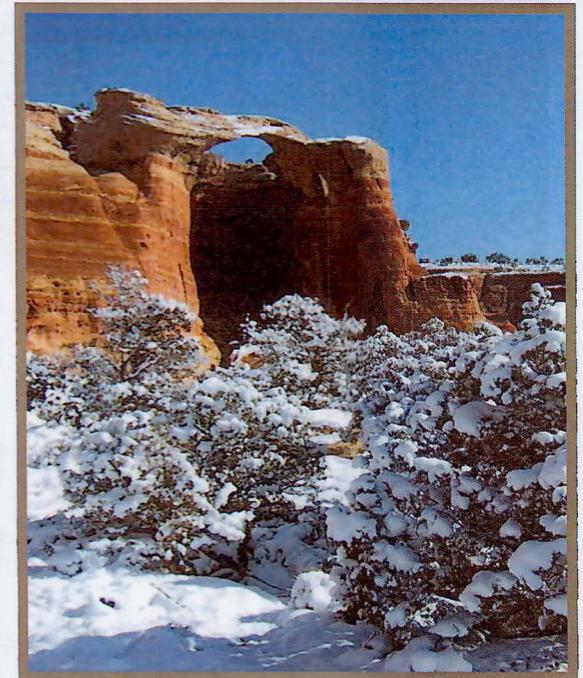
USGS 7.5 Minute maps that cover this area:
Mack, Ruby Canyon, Battleship Rock
Available at local sporting goods stores



Bureau of Land Management

Grand Junction
Field Office

Rattlesnake Canyon Arches & Mee Canyon



Snowfall on Rattlesnake Arches Trail

McINNIS CANYONS

NATIONAL · CONSERVATION · AREA

Rattlesnake Arches and Mee Canyon Trails



Rattlesnake Canyon Arches Trail

- Lower arches trail is about 5 miles roundtrip. A short section connecting the top of the mesa to the bench below the arches is rocky and steep and requires extra caution. Trail is mildly strenuous.
- NO CAMPING or overnight parking in Day Use Area (see maps).
- Hiking off trails can be dangerous and destroys cryptobiotic soils.
- Some visitors climb through the first arch. This route is very steep and requires some climbing. *This is not part of the designated trail.*

Rattlesnake and Mee Canyons provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Geological features in these canyons include arches, spires, windows, giant alcoves and desert patina. Between these canyons are pinyon-juniper covered mesas which slope downward to the Colorado River.

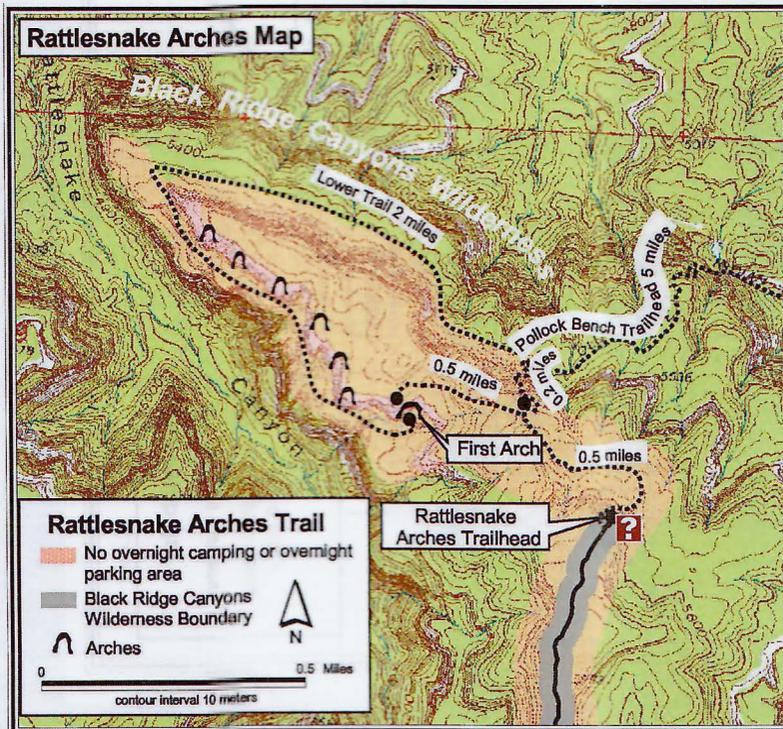
All motorized and mechanized activities are prohibited inside the wilderness. In order to preserve the integrity of the wilderness, directional signs and other evidence of human imprints are limited. Your cooperation is crucial in maintaining the area's wilderness values.

NOTE: Motorized travel is prohibited from February 15 - April 15 of each year. Rattlesnake Arches trail can be accessed from the Pollock Bench Trailhead. The BLM does not encourage access to Rattlesnake Arches from the Colorado River.



Mee Canyon Trail

- The trail into Mee Canyon is primitive and only marked with rock cairns. The route steeply descends both the Entrada and Wingate sandstone layers. Both of these layers create exposed cliffs with limited access. The trail is difficult and not recommended for inexperienced hikers.
- There is vehicle access to the Mee Canyon Trailhead when the Upper Road is open (4/15 - 8/14 of each year). When the Upper Road is closed and the Lower Road is open (8/15 - 2/14 of each year), vehicle access is to the "T" intersection, requiring hikers to hike to Mee Canyon Trail.
- Carry water at least 200ft from source to wash your dishes and to bathe. Never wash in the water source.
- Strain your wash water and pack out the food particles with your other trash.
- Use biodegradable soaps.



Rock formation - Mee Canyon



LEAVE NO TRACE

Skills & Ethics

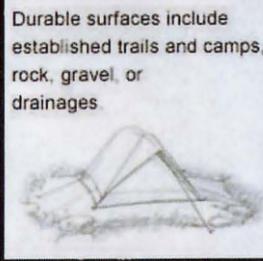


PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE



- Obtain topographic maps and become familiar with the major travel routes
- Register at the trailhead
- Plan a trip that matches your skills and expectations
- Prepare for emergencies

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES



- Know which roads and trails are open for travel and stay on them
- Camp at a site that has been used before (avoid creating new sites)
- Leave the site clean for future use

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY



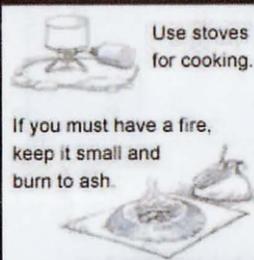
- Deposit human waste in a "cathole" 6 - 8 inches deep
- Pack out toilet paper with your other trash
- Use a portable toilet system to pack out human waste
- Check with local sporting goods stores for bag systems to pack human waste out with other trash

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND



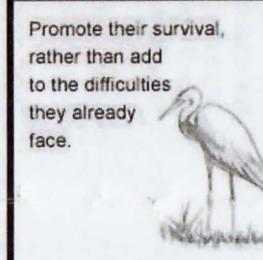
- Paleontological and cultural sites help us understand our past
- Please do not remove material from these sites
- Help children understand the natural roles plants and animals have in their environment

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS



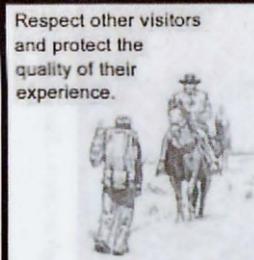
- Use stoves to cook
- Use a firepan, fire blanket, or a mound fire rather than a fire ring
- Use dead and down wood for fires
- Pack out trash

RESPECT WILDLIFE



- Never feed wild animals
- Store your food in secure places
- Observe wildlife from a distance
- Avoid being in wildlife habitat at sensitive times (i.e. lambing season)

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

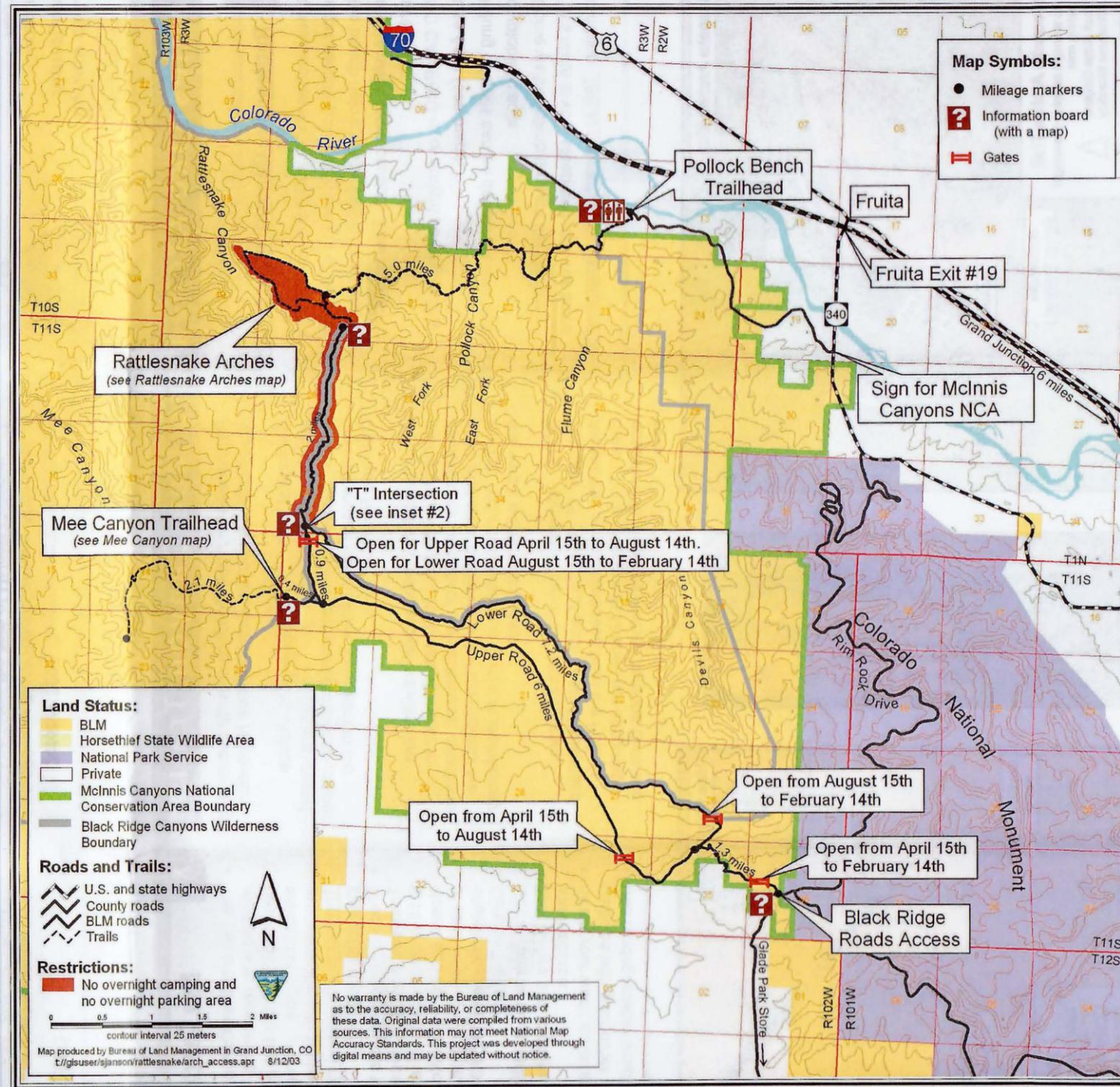


- Choose to maintain a cooperative spirit in wildlands
- Yield to others
- Take breaks a short distance from trail on durable surfaces
- Let nature's sounds prevail, keep noise to a minimum



For further information contact:

Leave No Trace, Inc.
Po Box 997
Boulder, CO 80206
800-332-4100



1:100,000 scale topographic maps of this area are available for purchase at the Grand Junction Bureau of Land Management office.