

Site Information

Dwarf Bearclaw Poppy

The poppy (*Arctomecon humilis*) is a federally-listed endangered species that is endemic, or found only in certain locations, to Washington County, Utah.

Fragile Habitat – Designated Trails

Bearclaw Poppy Trail System is in an ecologically sensitive area. Riding your bike across cryptobiotic crust can damage poppy habitat for decades. Use only designated trails that are signed as shown on the map side of this brochure.

Recommended Trail Users

Designated trails are open to hikers and mountain bikers only. The area is closed to equestrians and all motorized use.

How Serious It This?

Riding these trails is a privilege, not a right. Failure to stay on designated trails damages poppy habitat and could result in the area being closed to mountain bikes permanently.

Unauthorized Construction & Maintenance

Do not modify trails, construct alternate routes, or perform maintenance activities without written authorization. Doing so will damage critical plant habitat and could potentially harm other trail users.

Permits

A Special Recreation Permit is required for all commercial or competitive use, vending, and organized group activities or events on BLM-managed lands.

State Lands

This area is comprised of public and state lands as shown on the reverse map. All users must stay on designated trails on both state and BLM-managed land.

Trail Etiquette

Bicyclists must yield to hikers.

Trash

There is no trash collection in the area. Please follow the “Pack It In - Pack It Out” ethic.

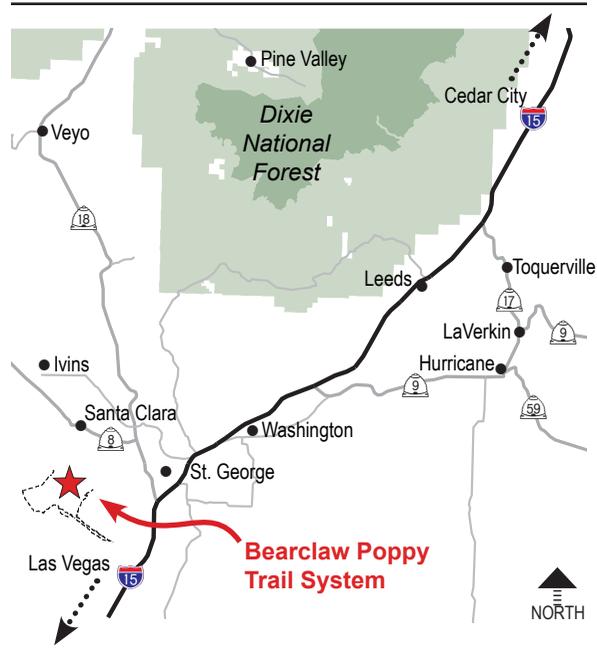
Pets

Please keep pets under control. Dogs running at large can damage fragile habitat and endanger themselves and other trail users.

Emergencies

Call 911 for life threatening emergencies. For search and rescue assistance and other law enforcement issues, call Washington County Sheriff (435) 634-5730.

Vicinity Map



Directions

From City of St. George

Bloomington Trailhead – From Interstate 15 Exit 5 turn west on Dixie Drive. Turn left on 600 W. Turn right on Tonaquint Drive. Turn right on Bloomington Drive. Turn right on Navajo Drive and continue until it turns to a gravel road. Just past the cattleguard, park in the open area on the right.

Gap Trailhead – From Interstate 15 Exit 5 turn west on Dixie Drive. Turn left on Canyon View Drive and continue until it turns into a gravel road. Turn right and head north .15 miles. Turn left to drop down off the mesa. Continue .8 miles heading uphill and west to the parking area on the right. High clearance vehicles are recommended.

For more information about Bearclaw Poppy and other recreation sites contact:

Bureau of Land Management
St. George Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
(435) 688-3200
www.blm.gov/sgfo



Bearclaw Poppy

Non-Motorized Trail System



Utah • St. George Field Office



Public Lands
Use • Share • Appreciate

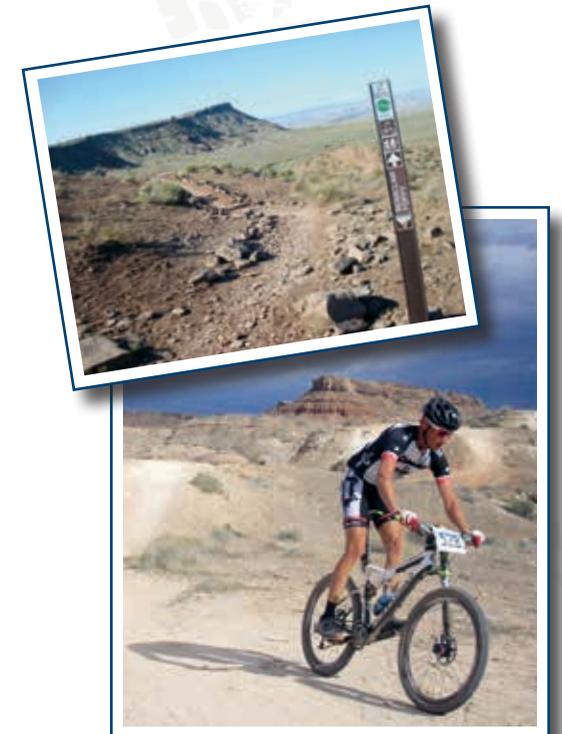
Welcome



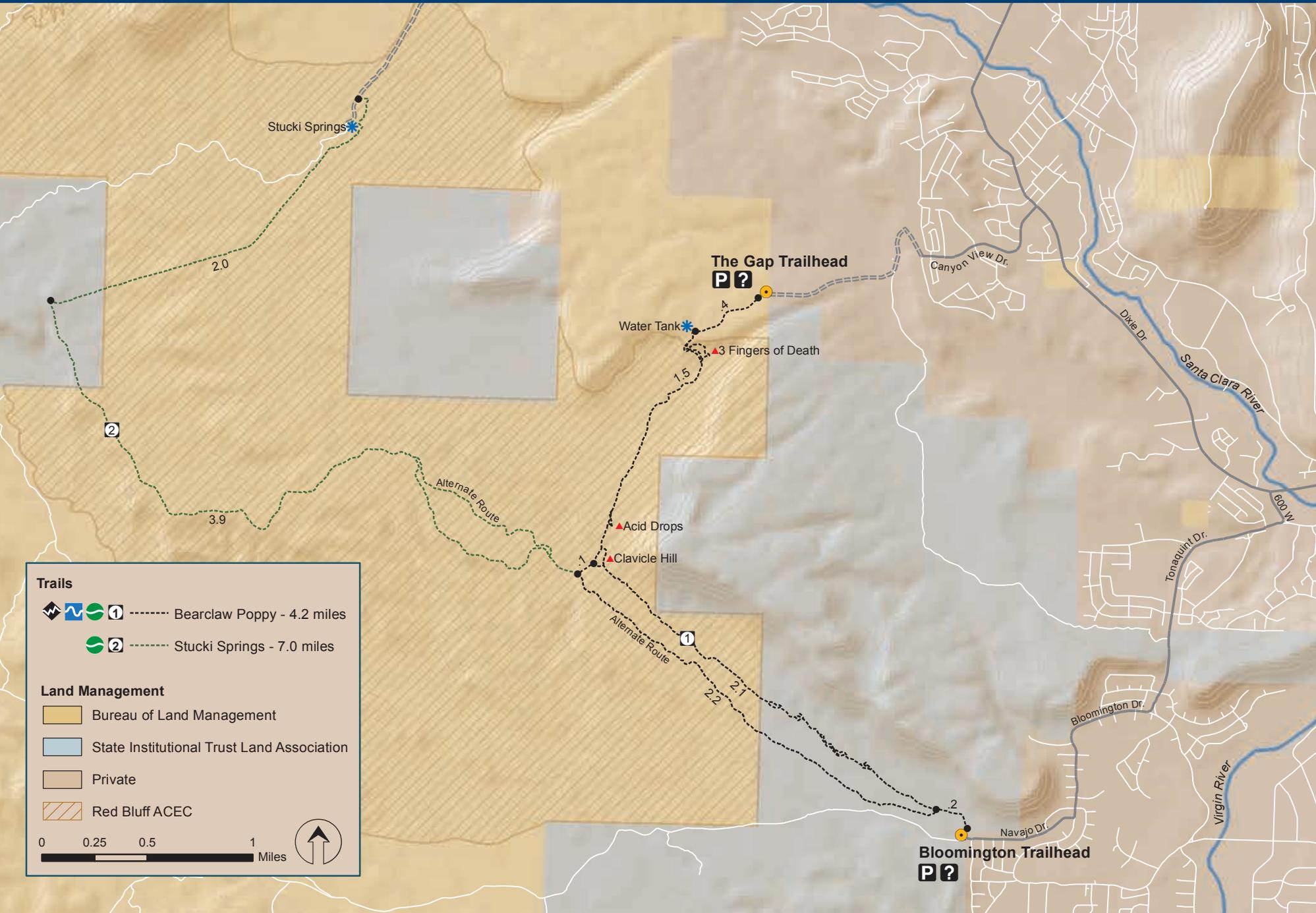
Bearclaw Poppy Trail System is within one of the most fragile and ecologically sensitive areas in Southwestern Utah. The dwarf bearclaw poppy is a federally-listed endangered species, and Washington County is the only place on earth where it grows. The poppy thrives in the cryptobiotic and gypsiferous clay soils unique to this area.

It is crucially important that you ride on designated trails only. A single bike track across the cryptobiotic crust can damage poppy habitat for decades. The area is considered so important that the BLM has designated it as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). It is closed to all motorized use and the designated trails are open to mountain bikers and hikers only.

Remember: Riding on the Bearclaw Poppy Trail System is a privilege, not a right. Failure to stay on designated trails could result in this area being closed to mountain bikes. Enjoy the trail, but respect the habitat.



Bearclaw Poppy Trail System



Difficulty Ratings

Ratings are based on the IMBA Trail Difficulty System and categorize the technical challenge of the trail, not the physical exertion.

-  **Easiest:** Gravel or natural surface that is generally firm and stable. Trail grades average 5% or less with a maximum trail grade of 15%. May have unavoidable obstacles three inches tall or less and taller avoidable obstacles.
-  **More Difficult:** Mostly stable natural surface with some variability. Trail grades average 10% or less with a maximum trail grade of 15% or greater. Unavoidable obstacles eight inches tall or less and taller avoidable obstacles.
-  **Most Difficult:** Widely variable natural surface. Trail grades average 15% or less with a maximum trail grade of 15% or greater. Unavoidable obstacles fifteen inches tall or less and taller avoidable obstacles. Steep drop-offs, tight turns, low overhangs, and other conditions may exist.

Note: The Bearclaw Poppy Trail System has a mix of difficulty ratings from Easiest to Most Difficult. At the Most Difficult sections, there are alternate routes that are Easiest and/or More Difficult. These sections have trail markers indicating their difficulty rating so riders can select the route suited to their ability. Always use caution as weather and use can increase a section's difficulty. If you are unsure of your technical skills or the trail's condition, please look before you leap.

Trail Markers

Trails *open* for use are designated by markers as shown on the right. All trail intersections are signed. Some reassurance markers can be found along the trails.

Do not ride or hike on trails not signed for use. Non-designated trails are closed and have, or will be rehabilitated for plant and wildlife habitat.

- System Logo
- Difficulty Rating
- Trail Length
- Authorized Users
- Direction
- Trail Name
- BLM Logo



Know Your Limits » The desert is a land of extremes: sun, heat, cold, and water. Never venture further than what your knowledge, experience, and supplies can handle. Be prepared, and know what to do in the event of lightning, flash flooding, a medical emergency, or other life threatening event.