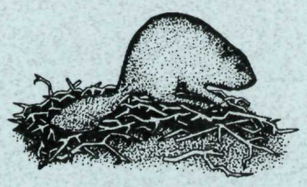
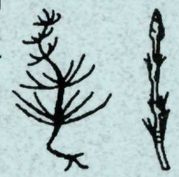
11 The ponds and marshy areas (riparian areas) below the trail were formed by beaver dams across Calf Creek. These dams help control spring flooding, reduce siltation downstream, and provide habitat for mature fish. Riparian areas are one of the most productive and important types of ecosystems. These areas display a greater diversity of plant and animal life than adjoining ecosystems. A healthy riparian zone filters and purifies water passing through it, reduces sediment loads, enhances soil stability, and contributes to groundwater recharge and flow.



12 Straight ahead of you on the north wall of this side canyon, you can see another Indian storage structure and the remains of living quarters.

13 Horsetail (Equisetum hiemale) is a living fossil of the dinosaur age. This jointed rush-like plant is found only on moist sites near springs or creeks. Its nickname "scouring rush" comes from its use by the pioneers for cleaning their pots and pans.



14 Stop for a few moments and listen. How many different bird calls can you count? Many species of birds find the lush vegetation and abundant water of the canyon bottom ideal habitat. A few of the birds you may observe are the hummingbird, downy woodpecker, golden eagle, mourning dove, western bluebird and common crow.
Lower Falls - 1/2 mile

15 Lower Calf Creek Falls. Mist from the 126-foot-high falls and shade provided by the canyon, combine to keep temperatures cool and comfortable even during the hottest of summer days. Notice the darker colored, rounded rocks scattered about. These volcanic rocks washed down from lava flows originating on the Aquarius Plateau to the north.

16 Dogwood (Cornus sericea) is easily identified by its smooth mahogany red bark. It grows in thickets, near streams and seeps throughout local canyons. In ideal locations dogwood reaches 8 to 10 feet, though it is commonly shorter. It produces faintly-fragrant, white blossoms in May followed by opaque-white berries. Dogwood is one of the few native shrubs that have been widely introduced into our gardens. Note the distinctive vein formation of the leaves.

17 Cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) is an annual grass introduced from Europe. The specific name tectorum means "of roofs" and originates from the use of the plant for thatched roofs for houses in the Old World. Cheatgrass becomes very abundant during wet springs and causes a serious fire hazard when it becomes dry in early summer.

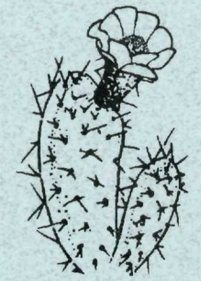
18 Squawbush (Rhus trilobata) was highly sought after by early Native Americans.. They ate the red berries and used the pliable branches for making baskets. Due to its pungent aroma, this plant is sometimes called skunkbush.

19 In prehistoric times, people ground the seeds of Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides) to make a cereal. Early settlers cut it for hay. Today, it provides excellent forage for livestock.

20 Buffalo berry (Shepherdia rotundifolia). The striking and unusual features of this plant are its color and the scaly nature of the thick leaves. It appears as though it were covered with a thin coat of aluminum paint through which the green shows faintly.

21 Hollygrape (Berberis fremontii) is an appropriate name for this shrub, as it has a leaf like a holly and a fruit like a grape. A yellow dye can be made from the root extracts.

22 The name prickly pear (Opuntia sp.) is given to the many cacti with flat, jointed stems. These plants are excellent examples of adaptation to arid conditions. Their shallow roots are capable of absorbing large quantities of water during brief wet periods. The stems or pads are especially well adapted to storage of water. The waxy outer layer on the pad prevents evaporation. These factors enable the plant to live successfully in a very dry environment.



23 Early in this century, a local farmer used the waters of Calf Creek to raise what were reputed to be the "best melons west of Boulder". A wooden flume is all that remains of this agricultural venture.

24 The scars or wounds you see on this pinyon pine are the work of the porcupine (Erethizon dorsatum). Often in his search for the tender inner bark, he will remove the bark completely around a tree, killing it from that point up.

We hope that you enjoyed this hike and that it has added to your appreciation of the world around you. If you choose not to keep this leaflet, please put it back in the box at the trailhead.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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P.O. Box 225
Escalante, Utah 84726
(801) 826-4291

Cedar City District
176 East D.L. Sargent Dr.
Cedar City, Utah 84720
(801) 586-2401

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM-UT-GI-92-014-8000

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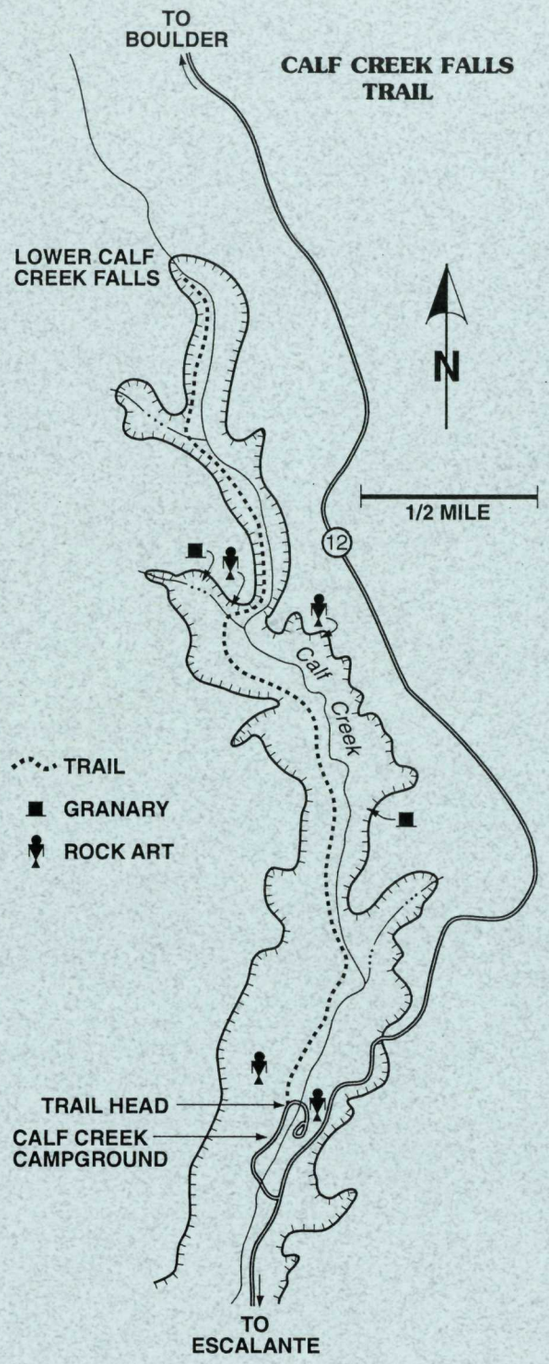
Calf Creek Falls Trail Guide



Welcome

Calf Creek Falls is a southern Utah landmark and the major feature of the BLM's Calf Creek Recreation Area.

Walking between mineral-streaked cliffs of Navajo Sandstone, hikers pass beaver ponds and prehistoric rock art sites enroute to the 126-foot-high Lower Calf Creek Falls.

Roundtrip distance to the falls is 5-1/2 miles. While little elevation change is encountered, most of the trail is sandy, and can be very strenuous walking, particularly in warm weather. However, the falls area, once reached, is a delightfully cool, shady haven well worth the effort.

The Upper Falls, located farther upstream, can be reached only by a difficult one-mile hike over sandstone slickrock from the Escalante-Boulder highway, 5-1/2 miles north of the campground.

Please Help Protect Your Public Lands

- Pack out your trash (and a little extra).
- The water in Calf Creek does not meet standards for drinking. Potable water is available in the campground.
- Historical and archeological sites are protected by federal law. Please report vandalism to the local Sheriff or the BLM.

Interpretive Trail Stops

1 Calf Creek, the clear stream below you, runs yearlong from its headwaters some 7 miles north. The road you see across the canyon to the east, State Highway 12, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) in 1938. Until then, mail and supplies were carried to Boulder by mules and pack horses over Hell's Backbone Road or the Boulder Mail Trail, both hazardous routes. Boulder is said to be the last town in the United States to have mule train mail delivery.

2 This miniature arch was formed by the erosive action of wind and water. Even though this arch is small, it took thousands of years for wind and water to carve through the sandstone.

3 The tree on your right is a Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma). Commonly called "cedars", these junipers are used locally for fence posts. The seeds ("berries") are eaten by wildlife. Dried seeds are used by Native Americans for making jewelry.

The tree on your left is a pinyon pine (Pinus edulis). Pinyon is popular for Christmas trees and produces an edible nut long used as a staple food by Indian people. The nuts are an important food source for rodents and birds. Resin from these trees was also used by Indians to waterproof baskets and to cement turquoise stones to jewelry.

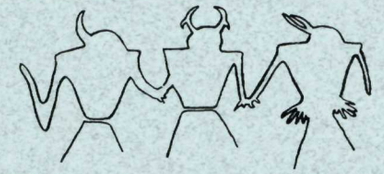
4 Four-winged saltbush (Atriplex canescens) on your left, and rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus) on your right are prominent among the shrubs found in the canyon. Four-winged saltbush can be identified by its seeds which have four parts, or wings. Wildlife and livestock browse this plant. Native people used rabbitbrush to make dyes: yellow from the flowers and green from the inner bark. The inner bark also contains latex which can be used to make rubber products, but it has not proven practical as a commercial source of rubber.

5 Box elder (Acer negundo), a member of the maple family, is abundant in this canyon. This tree provides ground cover, streambank protection, and shade for animals and man.
Lower Falls - 2 miles ahead

6 Just below the rim, high on the cliffs east of the creek, you can see an ancient storage structure (granary) built some 800 to 1,000 years ago by Indians who farmed the canyon bottoms and stored their produce in these high, dry, probably rodent-proof structures. Peoples of both the Anasazi and Fremont cultures were residents in the area at the time these structures were built. Further archeological work is needed to determine which group built these structures.

7 The predominant geologic formation in this area is the cliff-forming Navajo sandstone. As you look at the canyon walls you can see the typical cream to red-colored sandstone layers formed millions of years ago by ancient sand dunes. Vertical discoloration is created by rain water running down the cliffs.

8 This old fence is a reminder of the settler's early use of Calf Creek. Weaned calves, just taken from their mothers, were turned into the natural pasture created by the box canyon above the fence. Hence the name "Calf Creek".



9 Near the bottom of the smooth cliff on the east wall of the canyon are four large figures painted in red. Typically Fremont in style and form, these thousand or so year-old pictographs could represent deities or culture heroes, or a ceremony or event may be depicted.

10 Gambel oak (Quercus gambelii) is abundant in the canyon in the form of shrubs or small trees. The acorns, leaves, and twigs are important foods for deer, birds and other wild animals.
Lower Falls - 1 1/2 miles