



Bureau of Land Management 2815 H Road • Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

## BLM GRAND JUNCTION NEWS

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### **Hundreds expected at Rabbit Valley mountain bike race this weekend**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.** — The Bureau of Land Management expects several hundred mountain bikers to attend this weekend's Rabbit Valley Rally in McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area west of Grand Junction.

This is the second year for this competitive event, which is sponsored by Bigfoot Productions, a Golden, Colo.-based company. More than 400 mountain bikers attended last year's event. The race is part of the Mountain States Cup series and is a qualifier race for USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships in Granby, Colo.

"We're excited to have this event return to Rabbit Valley," said Katie Stevens, McInnis Canyons NCA manager. "Rabbit Valley remains open to the public during this event, but we want to be sure folks know this event is happening and that several hundred mountain bikers are expected on the trails this weekend."

Competitors will be practicing on the roads and trails that are part of the race courses Thursday and Friday, with races taking place Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's race begins at 9 a.m. at the kid's motocross course. Sunday's race begins at 8 a.m. on the Kokopelli Trail south of the frontage road. The race course will be closed to the public an hour before the races start until the last racer finishes.

A camping area has been set aside for participants about a mile east of the main parking lot and will be available on a first come, first served basis. More details about the race, camping and other lodging are available at <http://www.racemsc.com/events/rabbitvalleyrally>.

"Last year's Rally went very smoothly. Participants, spectators and other people using the area were very flexible and cooperative, and everyone seemed to help take care of these special resources," Stevens said. "We're asking for the same friendly, flexible attitude among everyone this year as well."

The Rabbit Valley Rally is administered under a BLM Special Recreation Permit, which includes a variety of conditions to minimize impacts to the area and other users. Racers are required to stay on designated open roads and trails. Race organizers are required to remove litter and provide extra toilet facilities. Race-associated camping is confined to a designated area.

Large crowds are also expected in this area the following weekend, April 25-26, for the Fat Tire Festival, which brings thousands of mountain bikers to Western Colorado.

Rabbit Valley is part of the larger McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, which was designated by Congress in 2000. It is part of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, which contains some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. The mission of the NLCS system is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values.

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