Upper Road open Easter weekend to August 15

Lower Road open August 15 to February 15

Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead

Jones Canyon Trailhead

Knowles Canyon Trailhead

No motorized vehicle access to Upper and Lower Roads February 15th to Easter Weekend

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Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

About the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness lies at the northwest edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The Wilderness contains seven major canyon systems for you to explore. This area is home to spectacular sandstone cliffs, spires, alcoves, desert patina, and the second largest concentration of natural arches in the world. Black Ridge Canyons offers limitless adventures such as hiking, camping, backpacking, and horseback riding. The Wilderness is part of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, which was designated by Congress on October 24, 2000.

Camping
Black Ridge Canyons provides many opportunities for primitive camping and solitude. Some camping options exist along the Upper and Lower Black Ridge Access Roads as well as along BS Road to Knowles and Jones Canyons, otherwise numerous backpacking options exist. Camping is not allowed in day-use only areas. See map for more information.

Wilderness Trails
Wilderness trails are accessible via four-wheel drive BLM roads. These roads are closed seasonally. See “Seasonal Closures” section for dates. Trails range from 2 to 16 miles and provide exceptional views and wilderness experiences.

Visitor Safety
- Summertime temperatures can exceed 100° F (37° C) with little access to shade.
- Pack in your own water. A minimum of one gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Biting gnats are prevalent May - August.
- Roads to trailheads can be slick and impassable if wet. Do not attempt to drive on roads in wet weather.
- Plan ahead and prepare. This remote and rugged area contains few amenities.
- Hiking with pets in wilderness areas can increase stress on wildlife. Please keep your pet under visual, audible or physical control at all times and leash pets when approaching other users or within close proximity to wildlife. Properly dispose of pet waste.

The Leave No Trace Seven Principles
- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- Note: A permit is required to camp along the Ruby-Horseshoe section of the Colorado River. Permits can be obtained through Recreation.Gov.

Directions to Trailheads
Directions to Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead via Black Ridge Access Road: From Grand Junction, take I-70 west to Fruita, exit 19. Take Rim Rock Drive through the Colorado National Monument. Drive to 16.5 Road and turn right (sign for Glade Park Store turnaround). In 0.2 miles, turn right onto Black Ridge Access Road. Take the Upper or Lower Black Ridge Access Road depending on which is open. Both meet at a “T” intersection with a kiosk.

Directions to Pollock Bench Trailhead: Take I-70 west to Fruita, exit 19. Turn left at the traffic light. Drive 1.5 miles to Kingsview Rd and turn right. Stay on Kingsview Rd for about 3 miles. The trailhead is up the road on your left after the Devil’s Canyon Trailhead.

Directions to Mee Canyon Trailhead: Follow directions to Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead. If you take the Upper Black Ridge Access Road, drive about 9 miles. The trailhead will be on your left. If you take the Lower Black Ridge Access Road, park at the “T” intersection and hike to the trailhead (about 0.4 miles one way).

Direction to Knowles and Jones Canyon Trailheads: From Grand Junction, take I-70 west to exit 19. Take Rim Rock Drive through the Colorado National Monument. Turn right at 16.5 Road (Glade Park Store turnaround). Turn right on BS Road and drive for about 14 miles. Knowles Canyon is the first trailhead and Jones Canyon is farther up the road. If continuing to Jones Canyon Trailhead, a high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

Contact Information
BLM Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81506
970-244-3000

Regulations and Rules of Conduct
- Motorized and mechanized travel are prohibited in wilderness areas.
- BLM access roads require high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles, and are not suitable for trailers and RVs.
- Maximum group size is 12 people.
- Leave No Trace - remove all garbage, including organic waste and human and dog waste.
- Please stay on trails and camp on durable surfaces. Biological soil crust (cryptobiotic soil) is fragile, easily damaged by foot traffic, and takes decades to grow.

Seasonal Closures
The Upper Black Ridge Access Road is open from Easter weekend until August 15.
The Lower Black Ridge Access Road is open from August 15 to February 15.
Both roads are closed from February 15 until Easter weekend. This affects access to the Rattlesnake Arches and Mee Canyon Trailheads.

BLM Photo by Bob Wick
BLM/CO/GI-19/005
Map & Guide
Note: A permit is required to camp along the Ruby-Horseshoe section of the Colorado River. Permits can be obtained through Recreation.Gov.