

# San Juan River

**Land Status**

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Navajo Reservation
- State
- Private
- BLM Wilderness Study Area
- National Park Service
- State Park
- Bears Ears National Monument

**Roads**

- State Highway
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Hiking Trail

**Visitor Information**

- Boat Ramp
- Boat Launch
- Potable Water
- Campground
- Group Campsite

**Class I**  
Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training. Risk to swimmers is slight; self-rescue is easy.

**Class II**  
Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium-sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers. Swimmers are seldom injured and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed.

**Class III**  
Rapid with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers; scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. Injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually easy but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims.

**Scale:** 0 1 2 4 6 Miles / 0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

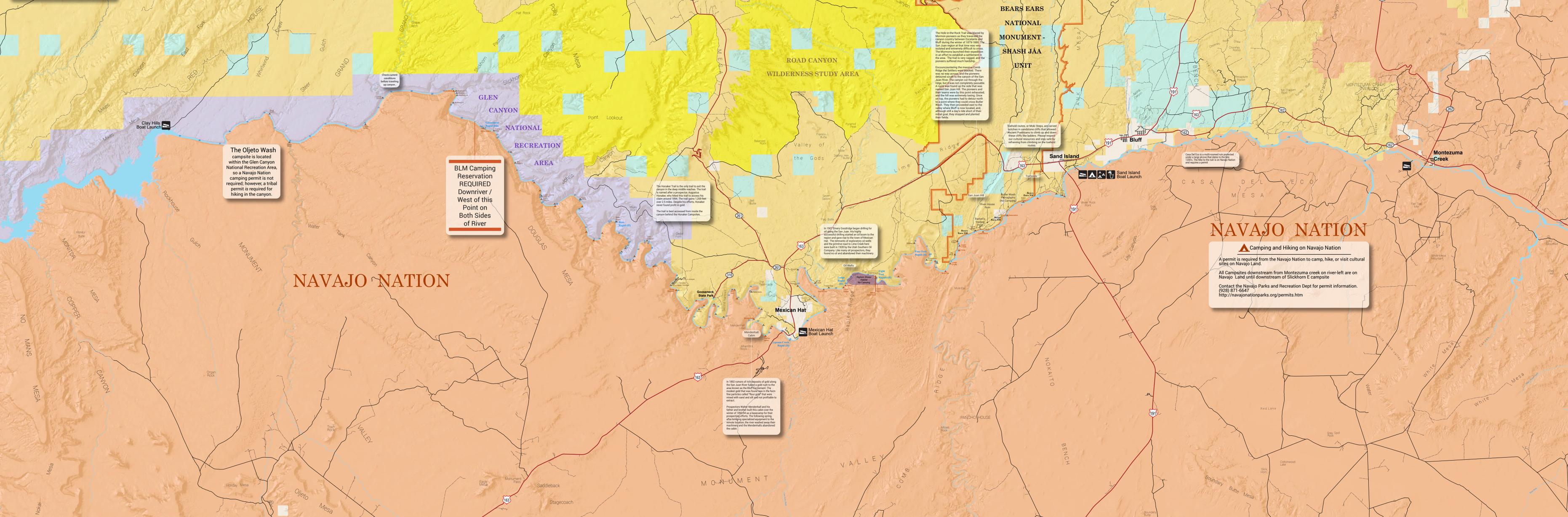
**Monticello Field Office: (435) 587-1500**

**DISCLAIMER:** This information is provided by the BLM as a courtesy only. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the current validity of this information. The BLM is not liable for any incidents arising from the use of this information. Trail ratings are intended to serve as a general overview of difficulty levels and may vary from ratings in other areas or additional sources. Weather events can quickly alter trail conditions and increase difficulty levels; be prepared for changing conditions at all times. Unsecured, abandoned mines may be present near trails; for your safety, do not enter these areas. Users are solely responsible for their own safety while enjoying public lands. Please respect the rights of others, including private property owners. Check in with the field office to confirm road closures, restrictions, and current conditions. Map edited March 2018.

**RESPECT AND PROTECT**

**Leave No Trace**

Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org



The Ojeto Wash campsite is located within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, so a Navajo Nation camping permit is not required; however, a tribal permit is required for hiking in the canyon.

**BLM Camping Reservation REQUIRED Downriver / West of this Point on Both Sides of River**

The Horseshoe Trail is the only trail to exit the canyon to the west side meadows. The trail is named after a horseshoe-shaped meadow that was discovered in 1894. The trail gains 1,200 feet over 1.2 miles. Despite the trail's name, hikers never found profit in gold.

In 1892, miners of thousands of gold along the San Juan River failed a gold rush to the area known as the Trail of the Ancients. The modest gold that was found was in the form of particles called "flour gold" that were mixed with sand and all gold not profitable to extract.

Prospectors Walter Mendenhall and his father and brother built this cabin over the winter of 1894 as a base camp for their prospecting efforts. The following spring, after having specialized equipment to the mine, they returned to the river and used their machinery and the Mendenhalls abandoned the cabin.

In 1907 Emory Goodridge began drilling for oil along the San Juan. His highly successful drilling started an oil boom to the region and gave rise to the town of Mexican Hat. The remnants of exploratory oil wells and the abandoned mine to Lime Creek have been built in 1928 by the Utah Southern Oil Company. Like many oil prospectors, they found no oil and abandoned their machinery.

The Hole-in-the-Rock Trail was blazed by Mormon pioneers as they traveled the canyon country between Tropic and Bluff during the winter of 1870-1880. The San Juan region at that time was very isolated and extremely difficult to cross. The Mormons blazed their way across the area. The trail is very rugged, and the pioneers had much trouble.

Bobbed routes, or Made Steps, are carved together to sections with that allowed Abenah Pukhams to climb up and down these cliffs. The hikers should respect our cultural resources and stay safe by following from climbing on the bobbed routes.

Casa Del Eco is a multi-seasonal rain-protected camp. Large downriver camps to the west of 1200'. The flow to the east is on Navajo Nation and requires a permit.

**NAVAJO NATION**

**Camping and Hiking on Navajo Nation**

A permit is required from the Navajo Nation to camp, hike, or visit cultural sites on Navajo Land.

All Campsites downstream from Montezuma creek on river-left are on Navajo Land until downstream of Slickhorn E campsite

Contact the Navajo Parks and Recreation Dept for permit information.  
(928) 871-6647  
<http://navajonationalparks.org/permits.htm>