FLAT TOP - PEACH VALLEY Recreation Area

Welcome to the Gunnison Gorge NCA
Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area

The Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area is part of the 14,000-acre Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the NCA to protect and improve the health of the land while providing quality recreational experiences for all users. Areas within the NCA are designated for a variety of uses including wilderness, recreation, grazing, native plant and animal habitat, landscape restoration, sensitive soils and wetlands conservation, geologic values, and scientific research and education.

The spectacular Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area is managed for challenging whitewater boating, Gold-Mitol trout fishing and back-country experiences.

The BLM manages the 7,510-acre Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area for recontoured motorized areas and motorized trails.

The Recreation Area offers two designated "play areas" where cross-country motorcycle, ATV, and mountain-biking is permitted. Motorized travel in all other NCA areas is limited to designated, signed roads.

Elephant Skin, Flat Top and Peach Valley staging areas provide access to large expanses of abdomen hills and arroyos, as well as pre-pioneer-appearing areas along the NCA west side, offering scenic settings and 95-mile challenging single track and primitive dirt road trail systems for a multitude of mountain-biking, hiking, backcountry and off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding adventures.

Preserve this place for everyone

Public lands are our heritage, but the privilege to use them comes with the responsibility to protect them for the use and enjoyment of all visitors.

Most routes are two-way single track trails open to motorized and non-motorized users. A number of routes are suitable for DTV and UTI; 50 inches or less in width. Many trails are tight, narrow, and maintained to provide challenging experiences.

Expect blind turns, steep hills, uneven drainage, rocks and other obstructions. Many trails trail in and out of deep arroyos, making it difficult to see or hear others approaching.

Always respect private property. YOU are responsible for knowing where you are, and travel routes are designated by signs. Failure to respect these designations may result in fines and/or legal action.

Know BEFORE you GO!

Look for signs intended to notify you of changes in regulations and travel restrictions within the Gunnison Gorge NCA and Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area. Some of the signs you may encounter include:

State OHV Vehicle Regulations
Your Vehicle must be LEGAL to ride here

• All OHVs must be registered when on public lands. You may register at any Colorado State Park, via their website (parksofcolorado.com) or at most OHV dealers.

• Out-of-state OHVs must have a Colorado non-residents OHV permit.

• OHV registration decals must be properly affixed to your OHV, and the operator must have possession of the registration card.

• Where applicable, OHV operators must stay on designated routes.

• Headlights and taillights must be used when operating OHVs during nighttime hours (1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise).

• All OHVs must have good brakes and an approved, installed spark arrestor.

• OHVs must pass the SAE J2107 Static Tabular sound test.

Don’t harass domestic animals or wildlife. The BLM closely monitors all travel routes and users to identify potential problems. Our OHV trail crew works with local user groups to repair trail damage, address user conflicts and educate all visitors about responsible use.

This best way to ensure your privilege to ride in the NCA and on all other public land units is in the future by riding responsibly and showing respect for all users.

Be a RIGHT ROADER! Know where, when and what to ride on your public lands.

How Do I Get There?

Peach Valley Recreation and Staging Area – From Hwy 50, turn onto Falcon Road, one mile south of Stater. Look for “Gunnison Gorge NCA Access” signs. Drive three miles on pavement to the end of Falcon Road, then continue east on the signed Peach Valley Road to the Gunnison Gorge NCA. The Peach Valley Recreation site located at the NCA entrance provides picnic tables, restrooms, informational kiosk, vehicle and trailer parking, loading ramps, and OHV training and practice areas.

Flat Top Recreation and Staging Area – From Hwy 50 west in Montrose, turn north onto San Juan Avenue. Turn north onto 65.30 Road. Continue north, past the nursery and sawmill on left, pass to the right onto Flat Top Road and follow it to the base of Flat Top.

Elephant Skin Staging Area – From Hwy 50 west in Montrose, turn north onto San Juan Avenue. Turn north onto 65.30 Road. Continue north, past the nursery and sawmill on left, and pass to the intersection of Flat Top Road and the NCA entrance. Follow Elephant Skin Road east approximately one mile to the staging area. Travel is limited to designated trails.

Want to Learn to Ride?

Have fun while learning to ride right! Thanks to a special partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the BLM OHV trail crews are AT-SAF certified and HS-40 OHV Bike Certified.

The crews are available to assist you with your training and even provide a motorcycle or ATV for you to practice on. Call us for more information.

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Use Road Signs identify “designated routes” through travel-restricted areas and inform travelers of the modes of travel allowed on the route.

Travel Restricted Area Signs are posted at boundaries between “open” play areas, where cross-country travel is permitted, and “timed” use areas, where travel is restricted to “designated routes.” The signs depict which modes of travel are allowed or restricted in the area.

Trail Signs, which are common at trailheads and major intersections, communicate which modes of travel are allowed or prohibited on an entire trail or trail section.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and abide by travel restrictions where you are riding.

Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area USER REGULATIONS

You are responsible for following these special area regulations, which are designed to protect you, other visitors, and the NCA’s natural landscapes and native inhabitants.

Motorized and Mechanized Vehicles: Outside of open play areas, motorized and mechanized vehicles must stay on signed, designated roads and trails as shown on BLM signs and maps. Travel routes are designated by white arrows, trail names or other travel management signs.

All vehicles more than 10 inches in width must stay on main access roads and designated jeep routes.

Off-road riding for mountain bikes, motorcycles, and all-terrain or utility terrain vehicles (50 inches or less in width) is permitted only in designated “open play” areas on Peach Valley and Flat Top Recreation Areas shown on the map. The Elephant Skin “Limited Area” is not an “open play” area.

Rock crawling and rock-racing is prohibited in all areas. Be advised that these activities, along with deliberate riding on saturated, muddy soils with the intention to create ruts, high marks and other visible impact scars (mud-bogging), is considered resource damage and punishable by fines.

Hunting, Target Shooting and Firearms: Hunting is permitted during designated game seasons with appropriate firearms except within 500 yards of developed recreation sites (trailheads, campsites, etc.). Recreational target shooting is prohibited in all NCA areas to protect sensitive soils, geological formations, and wildlife. Other activities involving projectile-shooting from weapons or recreational equipment (paintball guns, fireworks, etc.) are also prohibited.

Camping: Camping is allowed at the Peach Valley and Flat Top OHV staging areas, other NCA recreation sites and on signed BLM roads up to six consecutive nights unless the area is to be closed as a result of a camping ban by a BLM sign or map. Elephant Skin Staging and Road are closed to vehicle camping to protect sensitive soil, scenic and watershed values. Campsites must be kept free of trash, litter and debris.

Bonfires, Campfires and Wood Collecting: You may not cut, collect or use live, dead or down wood for campfires. Fires must be totally contained in a metal fire grate, fire pan or other metal device to contain ash.

Pets: Pets and pack stock must be under visual, audible or physical control at all times, and are not permitted to harass or drool onusch on other dogs, wildlife or pets. Keep pets leashed in developed recreation areas and carry a leash with you while hiking. Remove pet and stock solid waste at campgrounds and trailheads and dispose of it properly.

Thanks to our partners and Colorado Parks & Wildlife!

This great riding area wouldn’t be what it is today without the support of many passionate individuals. Our OHV crew, trail crew works with local user groups to repair trail damage, enhance trail systems, minimize environmental impacts, promote etiquette sharing,ző at and educate trail users.

Special thanks to local OHV, mountain bike, hiker and equestrian groups for their dedication and support of the NCA.

This great riding area wouldn’t be possible without the help of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which supports the OHV Program grants. Keep trail systems clean and enjoy the special area.

Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

The Gunnison Gorge NCA scenic and motorized areas will challenge your riding abilities and can be unforgiving if you are not prepared. We recommend quick heavy rains make routes impassable and create dangerous flash floods in arroyos. Some roads, including Elephant Skin and Chukar 65.30 Road, are usually closed during weeks following large precipitation. Travel is restricted to designated routes.

• Carry a map, compass and extra GPS, extra water, food, first aid kit, rain gear and warm clothing.

• Become familiar with and practice your route before you return, or travel with a group.

• Be prepared for changing weather.

• Never carry more food or water than you can carry.

• Be sure you are familiar with and practice your route.

• Even if the event of an emergency Cell phone coverage for emergency or local information may not be available at all places. Have a back-up plan.

• For non-emergency situations require law enforcement, contact the sheriff’s office or the BLM.

Monteresse Country (970) 240-6606
Delta County (970) 874-2000
BLM Ranger (970) 240-5300

GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 240-5300
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

Enjoy and Protect your Public Lands

The BLM proudly partners with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to promote safe and responsible OHV riding opportunities on public lands. OHVs are partially funded by your OHV registration, promotes safe, responsible OHV use, and enhancing trail systems, minimizing environmental impacts, promoting etiquette sharing, and educating trail users.

BLM-Colorado OHV Program

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