



# McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

## Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

McInnis Canyons NCA, which was designated by Congress on October 24, 2000. The NCA was originally known as Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and renamed in honor of Representative Scott McInnis on January 1, 2005.

Located in the high desert canyon country of western Colorado and eastern Utah, McInnis Canyons is a prime recreation destination spanning approximately 123,000 acres. The Colorado River flows through the NCA's Ruby and Horsethief canyons, providing boaters with shady beach camps, winding canyon side hikes, and astounding scenery. Adventurous hikers, mountain biking, equestrians, and OHV enthusiasts will discover hundreds of miles of trails branching off from the historic corridor of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, once called the "longest, crookedest, most arduous mule route in the history of America."

Visitors to the NCA's abundant rock art sites may quietly ponder the mysterious messages and art of the Ute and Fremont peoples, who have called these canyons home for millennia.

The BLM works with local government, community organizations, and businesses, in concert with volunteers and local ranching families, to steward the NCA and make it accessible to all Americans. The NCA contributes significantly to the socioeconomic health and quality of life of the local community, providing a "Backyard to Backcountry" escape for the residents of nearby Fruita and Grand Junction, Colorado.



Rattlesnake Arches McInnis Canyons NCA, Colorado

### Did you know...

- McInnis Canyons NCA is 123,000 acres of protected public land with 76,000 acres of wilderness, amazing red rock canyons, the second highest concentration of natural arches, world-class hunting opportunities, and the historic Old Spanish Trail.
- McInnis Canyons contains outstanding geological, cultural, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, environmental, biological, wilderness, wildlife habitat, and scenic resources which creates highly sought educational experiences.
- World-class mountain biking draws visitors from many countries to Mack Ridge and the Kokopelli Loops.
- The NCA provides outstanding recreation opportunities including: hiking, world-class mountain biking, off-highway vehicle riding, equestrian, and river activities.
- The NCA designation also allows traditional uses, such as grazing, hunting and fishing, dog walking, and motorized recreation.



Colorado River flowing through McInnis Canyons NCA, Colorado



Hiker in McInnis Canyons NCA, Colorado



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### Multiple Use Landscape

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area has 27 trailheads with over 250 miles of designated trails as well as the popular stretch of the Colorado River known as Ruby-Horsethief Canyons with 34 designated river campsites for multi-day river trips for over 20,000 yearly river enthusiasts.



Hikers in McInnis Canyons NCA

Mountain bikers enjoy world-class trails through the NCA, such as the 142-mile Kokopelli Trail, which runs from Fruita, Colorado to Moab, Utah.

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area is a working landscape with 10 grazing permits over 21 grazing allotments.



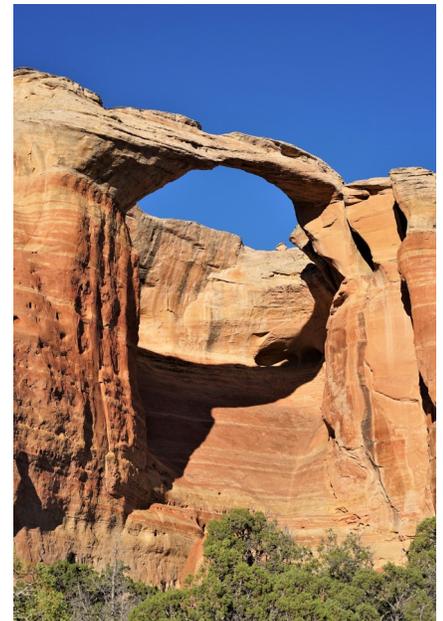
View from McInnis Canyons NCA

BLM works closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to manage a desert bighorn sheep herd within McInnis Canyons NCA. This unique landscape offers once-in-a-lifetime hunting opportunities for desert bighorn sheep.

Over 50 permitted outfitters provide guided hunts, hikes, rides, and river trips in the canyons and five permitted biking, running and equestrian events occur annually providing economic contributions to the local economy.

### Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area

The Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness contains a total of 75,439 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management, of which 5,120 are in Utah. The area's east-west Black Ridge is dissected by seven red rock canyons. These canyons feature geological characteristics such as spires, windows, giant alcoves and desert patina. Waterfalls can be found here during spring runoff and after summer thunderstorms. Deer, mountain lion, desert bighorn sheep, as well as golden and bald eagles make the area home. Recreational use of the area focuses upon visiting the canyons in conjunction with calm water float trips through Ruby Canyon and hiking the canyons to view the arches in Rattlesnake and Mee canyons. Visitors can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, and primitive camping, as well as rafting, canoeing and kayaking on the Colorado River.



Rattlesnake Arches

- Rattlesnake Arches contain the highest concentration of natural arches in the world, outside of Arches National Park.
- Mee Canyon provides popular rock climbing opportunities.
- McInnis Canyons NCA is managed as part of BLM's National Conservation Lands, which include about 35 million acres designated by Congress and the President to conserve special features, from winding rivers to mountain vistas. The BLM manages these public lands for the benefit of current and future generations, supporting conservation as a part of the BLM's multiple-use mission.