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From: Ginn, Allison
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[CrackCanyonWSA_SiteSpecificGuide.pdf](#)
[GeneralOrientationGuide_BasicsofWSAMonitoring.pdf](#)

Hello!

BLM-Utah and American Conservation Experience (ACE) partnered to develop an electronic citizen science based monitoring program for Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The partnership began in 2012 and beta versions of the app have been made available to volunteer groups and BLM staff in FY14-16. The application, called WildSNAP, is hosted on an external website (WildSNAP.org) and will initially be available for download only to iPads. ACE and BLM-Utah have tentatively scheduled a public launch of WildSNAP on March 31, 2017.

The app will be available to BLM employees and to members of the public who complete a brief required training module. The app allows users to collect information about disturbances, impairments and resources within certain WSAs managed by BLM-Utah using the internal GPS system in an iPad.

The WildSNAP application has several major components

- An Online Training Module for Users with foundational information about WSAs
- A General Orientation Guide within the app with generic WSA management information
- Site-Specific Guides for each WSA within the app (currently 9 individual WSAs)
- The iOS app itself
- A back-end Monitoring Report electronically submitted to BLM for each WSA visit

WildSNAP app users have an individual account that stores information they collect in the field within the app. Once the user reaches a WiFi connection, they can submit a complete report, which is automatically forwarded to the generic email at the appropriate BLM office.

BLM-Utah has developed site specific guides for nine WSAs: Crack Canyon, Mexican Mountain, San Rafael Reef, Sids Mountain, Deep Creek Mountains, North Stansbury Mountains, Spring Creek Canyon, Wah Wah Mountains, and White Rock Range WSAs. In total, BLM manages 86 WSAs in Utah. Additional monitoring guides will be released on a rolling basis.

This is where GSENM comes in... we're looking to add site guides for WSAs near population centers such as Kanab, Escalante, Moab, Monticello, Vernal, etc.

Emily was hired to draft site guides for field review. We wanted to capitalize on my trip to Kanab next week and hit two birds with one stone by focusing on some WSAs near Kanab. After discussions with Lora, we began drafting guides for Paria-Hackberry, Wahweap and The Cockscomb. Emily has used sources we have on

record at UTSO, including the DEIS, FEIS and Final Wilderness Study Report and GSENM's backcountry monitoring database to draft a "skeleton" document.

Emily's objectives next week are to 1) confirm that the driving directions to trailheads or point-of-entry are logical/easily understood; 2) collect photos and information that will more accurately describe allowable uses and/or non-conforming uses within the WSA; 3) collect photos facing north, east, south and west from potential key observation points (KOPs); and 4) gather information that will assist WildSNAP app users in understanding any applicable rules or best practices during their monitoring trip (e.g., including information about how/where to get permits if they plan to also camp overnight).

KOPs are points that WildSNAP users are directed to visit to take panoramic photographs and accompanying notes about a particular location. Monitoring areas and KOPs are generally areas of high-use, that experience surface disturbance, or provide a viewpoint where pictures of the landscape can be taken to track impacts and/or changes to wilderness characteristics over time. They are intended to be areas that may have issues that require more frequent monitoring to determine whether the area is improving (or degrading) over time. They should also be points of interest for volunteers. We are hoping to identify KOPs to ~2-6 high priority locations within each WSA (smaller WSAs may be adequately covered by just one KOP). KOPs can be changed in the future. *(Note: KOPs are BLM-identified points for consistent monitoring efforts, but volunteers can use the app to document conditions anywhere within the WSA).*

I'm attaching the General Orientation Guide that applies to all WSAs as well as an example site-specific guide for Crack Canyon.

Regards,

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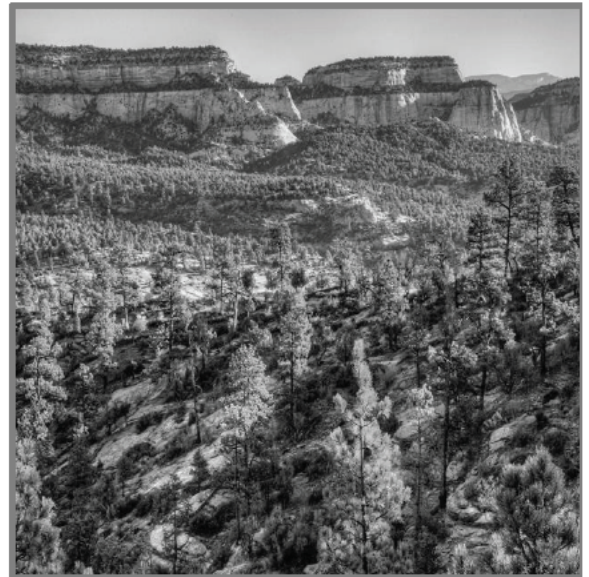


**NATIONAL
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Utah

General Orientation Guide

Basics of Wilderness Study Area Monitoring



1 General Information

Welcome to WildSNAP

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and American Conservation Experience (ACE) partnered to develop an electronic citizen-science based monitoring program for Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The application, called WildSNAP, is hosted on an external website (wildsnap.org) and will initially be available for download only to iPads. The app will be available to members of the public who complete a brief required training module available on the wildsnap.org website. The app allows users to collect information about disturbances, impairments and resources within certain WSAs managed by BLM-Utah using the internal GPS system in an iPad.

The WildSNAP application has several major components:

- An Online Training Module for Users with foundational information about WSAs
- A General Orientation Guide within the app with generic WSA management information (i.e., this document)
- Site-Specific Guides for certain WSAs
- The iOS app itself
- Monitoring Reports electronically submitted to BLM for each WSA visit

WildSNAP app users have an individual account that stores information they collect in the field within the app. Once the user reaches a WiFi connection, they can submit a complete report to the appropriate BLM office. BLM and ACE are grateful for your contributions to monitoring efforts in WSAs!

“What is a Wilderness Study Area?”

A WSA is a special designation that applies to lands managed by the BLM to protect wilderness characteristics until Congress designates the area as wilderness or directs BLM to manage the area for other uses. From the definition of wilderness characteristics in Sec. 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, wilderness characteristics are summarized as: size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and can potentially include “other features,” sometimes referred to as “supplemental values”. Since only Congress can designate a wilderness, WSAs remain under the BLM’s “non-impairment” protection until Congress makes a decision about them. Additionally, these areas often do not receive as much

visitation as designated wilderness areas, making them one of the “best kept secrets” on public lands.

BLM’s WSA Management Strategy

WSAs are managed to ensure they are unimpaired for preservation as wilderness until Congress has determined to designate them as wilderness or release them from WSA status. BLM must also protect and maintain wilderness characteristics so that they remain in the same or better condition as existed at the date of WSA establishment (generally considered 1976, with some exceptions), as documented in the original inventory file.

WSAs are managed according to the non-impairment standard, which requires that new (meaning since the date of the WSA’s establishment) uses and facilities must be temporary and create no new surface disturbance. For example, placing a temporary electric fence to exclude cattle from grazing for two growing seasons after a wildfire would meet the criteria of temporary. The second part of the non-impairment standard requires that the use or facility creates “no new surface disturbance”, which means no new disruption of the rock, soil, or vegetation that would necessitate reclamation, rehabilitation, or restoration in order for the site to appear and function as it did prior to the disturbance. In the practical sense, this management strategy involves preventing the mechanical maintenance of routes or placement of any new permanent structures.

Certain activities and uses that are allowed in wilderness areas (e.g., recreational hiking, use of pack stock, domestic livestock grazing) are also recognized as acceptable within a WSA even though, in the literal sense, they do cause surface disturbance.

Additionally, in certain situations, the BLM may authorize a use or facility that creates surface disturbance or that is not temporary. Such authorizations must meet one of the seven allowable exceptions: emergency, public safety, restoration of impacts from unauthorized use, valid existing rights, grandfathered use, protection or enhancement of wilderness characteristics or other legal requirements. However, even when an exception applies, BLM must still manage the project to minimize impairment to wilderness characteristics.

Motorized use is not allowed except on pre-existing routes that have not been closed to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use within the WSA. Construction of vehicle routes or

trails and cross-country OHV travel is strictly forbidden (except in emergencies). Additionally, while the public may gather dead and downed wood for campfires, standing trees may not be cut for personal or commercial use.

Permissible activities include camping, backpacking, traditional rock climbing, skiing, caving, hunting, and other primitive pursuits. Installing fixed anchors or bolts for climbing is generally prohibited unless the anchors were placed prior to the WSA designation. Activities such as geocaching, rock hounding, gold panning, and aerial activities like hang gliding or paragliding may be permissible as long as they do not create new surface disturbance or establish the precedent of a new discretionary use in a WSA where it did not previously exist. If you have a question regarding specific types of use, including whether or not a permit would be required, please contact the local BLM office. If you encounter an issue in the field and experience any doubt about its authorization, document the issue and bring it to the attention of the BLM.

Additional information is available at <http://www.wilderness.net/BLM> or in BLM Manual 6330 Management of Wilderness Study Areas.

2 Monitoring

Monitoring Objective

BLM's objective is that all WSAs will be monitored to ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness, as required by law. The BLM endeavors to protect the **wilderness characteristics** of a WSA from impairment. In essence, monitoring is the first step in identifying potential adverse impacts to such characteristics and whether or not the areas are being managed so as not to impair the suitability of the WSA for preservation as wilderness.

Wilderness Characteristics

In agency terms, WildSNAP users are collecting valuable data about the WSA's **wilderness characteristics**, as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Characteristics include size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation and may also include supplemental values.

Size: Areas with wilderness characteristics, including WSAs, are either roadless areas of public lands that are greater than 5,000 acres, roadless islands within lakes, rivers or oceans, or areas found to be of a size practicable for management as wilderness (i.e., small tracts of BLM-administered land adjacent to wilderness areas managed by another agency). *Note: The BLM has adopted the "road" definition in FLPMA's legislative history in the House of Representatives Committee Report 94-1163. The word "roadless" refers to the absence of roads that have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.*

Naturalness: The BLM defines naturalness as, "The degree to which an area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of people's work substantially unnoticeable" (BLM Manual 6310, p. 10). Thus, a WSA may have fences, non-motorized trails, campsites, and even livestock reservoirs, so long as they are substantially unnoticeable within the context of the WSA's surrounding landscape. *Note: Naturalness differs from "natural (ecological) integrity."*

- Document any evidence of mechanical construction within the WSA, such as berms, gravel, etc.

- Monitor existing vehicle routes for widening, significant deterioration, or motorized use beyond any marked closure points. Provide photos and GPS points at key locations. Report all violations observed within the app. If you witness any potential illegal activity (e.g., people who are driving off-road in the WSA), avoid approaching the illegal use or engaging in potentially confrontational discussions. Your personal safety is your highest priority. Only attempt to collect identifying information (e.g., license plates and photos) if you feel it is safe to do so.
- If possible, rake out vehicle tracks found beyond closed routes so that they are no longer visible from the closure point. Place dead and downed vegetation across closed routes to provide camouflage. Document and report signs that have been damaged or need replacing.
- Document and pack out modern trash or debris whenever possible. Objects that may be historic (older than 50 years) should not be disturbed.
- Document with photos and GPS any structures or surface disturbance found away from designated routes.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation:

Solitude: The state of being alone or remote from others; isolation.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Non-motorized, non-mechanized (except as provided by law), and undeveloped types of recreational activities.

Information about the visitation and uses within WSAs can also assist in documenting the current opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. However, members of the public should not approach other visitors under the pretense of enforcement or engage in any potentially controversial discussions. Simply record the following information:

- Document the number of vehicles or persons encountered
- Document any unauthorized uses, such as mountain biking or OHVs

Other Features of Interest/Supplemental Values: Supplemental values include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values may or may not be present in a given WSA. The site-specific monitoring guide will include possible or known supplemental values. However, WildSNAP users may uncover potential undocumented resources. Please document:

- Threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species
- Significant cultural resources (*Note: Please do not disturb any cultural or archeological resources. Additionally, information regarding the location of such resources is sensitive and may be redacted from public records in order to prevent destruction, looting, or vandalism. Please do not disclose the location of any archeological sites to other members of the public.*)
- Outstanding scenic or geological features

Most WildSNAP users will be using the app to document potential violations of WSA policy and identify any unauthorized uses in WSAs and their associated impacts. The BLM has identified several key observation points (KOPs) for each WSA as suggested locations to visit and collect panoramic photos. You may also document any other physical disturbances or issues within the app.

Monitoring information and photographs assist in recording the location and extent of impacts so that the area can be restored or reclaimed. Information collected during your visit may also assist in identifying resource conditions (e.g., rangeland health) or features that could constitute supplemental values. Even when no disturbances are encountered, submitting a record of a monitoring visit where no unauthorized conditions exist is still valuable in assessing the condition of an area over time.

Other requested information:

The BLM also requests that WildSNAP users document:

- Impairments to access points (i.e., major washout of the primary vehicle access route that prevents vehicles from reaching the WSA boundary)
- Missing or damaged signs, particularly at WSA access points
- Other maintenance concerns (e.g., broken gate)

Refer to Site Specific Monitoring Guides for each WSA

Each WSA within the WildSNAP app will have a corresponding site-specific monitoring guide that includes a map of the boundaries of the WSA. WSA boundaries are usually delineated by land tenure (WSAs exclude state or private land) or other legal subdivision (such as a section line) or some form of development including roads, power lines, or other rights-of-way. Occasionally, WSA boundaries use physical features such as the edge of a cliff. BLM makes every effort to ensure that the GIS

data to create the maps is correct. BLM also attempts to mark boundaries near access points and in strategic locations. However, if you encounter information in the field that causes confusion or concern, please report it.

Many WSA boundaries also include a “cherry-stemmed” road, which is a maintained road that partially enters (but does not completely bisect) the WSA and is not technically within the WSA. These routes are not part of the WSA and you may encounter vehicles on such routes. Such routes should be clearly displayed on a map within the WSA’s site-specific monitoring guide.

Note: Please limit the amount of general photos that are taken for the WildSNAP app. All photos taken through the app become part of the administrative record and a large quantity creates a filing challenge. However, BLM-Utah’s social media team welcomes photos taken on your personal camera or phone. Photos can include, but are not limited to, landscape photos, WildSNAP users at work, staged photos, sunrises and sunsets, wildlife and vegetation. While archaeological resources are listed on the app, they should not be submitted to social media due to modern camera geo-tagging. If interested, please follow the Bureau of Land Management-Utah on our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. When posting to your personal social media accounts please tag @BLMUTah and use the hashtag #mypubliclands. The social media team love to have access to these photos for future media projects. If willing to share, please email photos with a detailed description to: blm_ut_newmedia@blm.gov. If you actively use Flickr, we encourage you to join the BLM-Utah Group and share your photos on that forum. Photo credit will be given for all pictures used. We thank you for your assistance in this project.

Monitoring Activities Must Conform to the Non-Impairment Standard

Monitoring activities need to meet the non-impairment standard. Thus, your use of vehicles or motorized travel for monitoring purposes must follow the same rules that the general public is required to follow. In other words, please do not drive off of any established routes and be sure to follow the information in the WSA’s Site-Specific Monitoring Guide regarding vehicle access and parking or trailhead locations.

Adjust the timing of your visit to avoid negative impacts to resources. For example, avoid using primitive routes when they are wet and driving would cause rutting, and avoid visiting during periods of high sensitivity for wildlife. For example, if a Site-

Specific Monitoring Guide notes that elk are present, avoid visiting that WSA when elk are calving or nursing their calves (late spring and early summer).

3 Practice Leave No Trace

The Seven Principles of “Leave No Trace”™

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you’ll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
 - In popular areas:
 - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
 - In pristine areas:
 - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
 - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are allowed, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/learn/leave-no-trace> to learn more about the Leave No Trace program.

4 Safety Considerations

Safety Recommendations

WildSNAP users should have a foundational understanding of outdoor safety and backcountry travel. Users of the WildSNAP app are responsible for personal safety and for researching conditions and properly planning for a site visit. The following table of safety recommendations should be adhered to before and during monitoring visits.

Never compromise your personal safety for the sake of monitoring. Be vigilant at all times about the weather, terrain, and personal physical condition.

A number of reputable sources, including this [Forest Service Outdoor Safety website](#), provide information on preparedness and risk management. Be sure you have sufficient shelter, clothing, equipment, food, water (1 gal/person/day), artificial light sources, first aid, and survival gear for potential backcountry conditions. Be sure to wear bright colors (specifically orange) during hunting season. Additionally, adjust the timing of your visit to avoid negative impacts to resources. For example, avoid using primitive routes when they are wet and driving would cause rutting, and avoid visiting during periods of high sensitivity for wildlife, such as areas/seasons that elk are calving.

The table below summarizes the potential hazards visitors may experience in the field, and recommended measures to manage the hazards.

Table 1: Risk Management

Hazard: Slipping, tripping or falling on rocky or uneven terrain
Be aware of conditions. Wear lug soled boots with good ankle support. Walk, don't run. Side step down hills. Carry any heavy items on downhill side.
Hazard: Snakes, insect bites, bees, encounters with wild animals and poisonous plants.
Walk slowly through brush. Be aware of surroundings. Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and leather boots. Avoid scented lotions. Familiarize yourself with regional hazardous species, such as insects and poisonous plants. Carry medication if you have known allergies; over-the-counter allergy medicine is recommended for all first aid kits. Avoid attracting predators and other hazardous wildlife by keeping a clean camp. Be bear aware and know how to react if encountered by bears or other wild animals. Visit the Center for Wildlife Information website for additional information.

Hazard: Cuts, scrapes and splinters from fencing and/or barrier materials
Use gloves, long sleeved shirts, long pants and boots. Keep first aid kit close by.
Hazard: Sprains, strains from hiking, lifting loads, etc.
Use caution crossing uneven terrain. Use proper lifting techniques. Hike with a group or in pairs.
Hazard: Weather related illness or injury; extreme heat or cold
Check weather forecast prior to going to the field and avoid traveling in inclement weather. Monitor weather closely. Wear clothing suited to weather. Carry and drink plenty of water. Research signs of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, frostbite, hypothermia and understand initial treatment options. First aid training is recommended.
Hazard: Lightning or thunderstorm
Check weather forecast prior to going to the field and avoid traveling in inclement weather. Monitor weather closely and watch for approaching storms. Get to vehicle if possible, but be careful to avoid touching any bare metal portions of the vehicle and do not use the car radio. Do not seek shelter under a tree. Stay away metal objects, and high ground. First aid training is recommended.
Hazard: Flash flood
Check weather forecast prior to going to the field and avoid traveling in inclement weather. Monitor weather closely when travelling in slot canyons as flash flood danger can be high and roads become impassable when wet. Watch flow in streams and washes, do not enter or cross if water is rising.
Hazard: Confrontation with verbal and/or abusive public
Maintain a calm demeanor. Do not engage in confrontation. Walk away and retreat to a safe position. Contact BLM or Law Enforcement when necessary.
Hazard: Lost, missing, or overdue hiker
Travel with a group or in pairs, whenever possible. Leave a trip itinerary and your return time with the ACE WildSNAP coordinator, friends, and/or family. Plan routes in advance and minimize deviation. Carry both hard copy maps, and GPS units. Regroup at predetermined times and locations.
Hazard: Motor vehicle breakdown or accident
Inspect vehicle prior to departing for the monitoring visit. Ensure that the vehicle is in proper functioning condition and that lights, brakes, and other mechanical features are working. Ensure that tire pressure is within recommended limits and always bring a spare tire, or two. Check weather forecast prior to going to the field

and avoid inclement weather. When in the field, park the vehicle and walk potentially dangerous portions of a route prior to driving them. Drivers and vehicles should not attempt to drive into areas beyond their capabilities.

Liability Disclaimer

The WildSNAP app is a citizen-science project developed to assist in connecting interested members of the public to their public lands. Use of the app and participation in the monitoring program is completely voluntary and self-directed. Persons using the app are not considered “volunteers,” unless they have signed a separate Volunteer Agreement with the BLM. The BLM and American Conservation Experience accept no responsibility related to any potential incidents related to the use of the app or associated visits to public lands.

What it’s all about...

Enjoy yourself and have fun! Take pride in your contribution to public land conservation. Remember to submit your final reports through the WildSNAP app. Thank you for your public service!



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Utah

Crack Canyon Wilderness Study Area Site-Specific Monitoring Guide



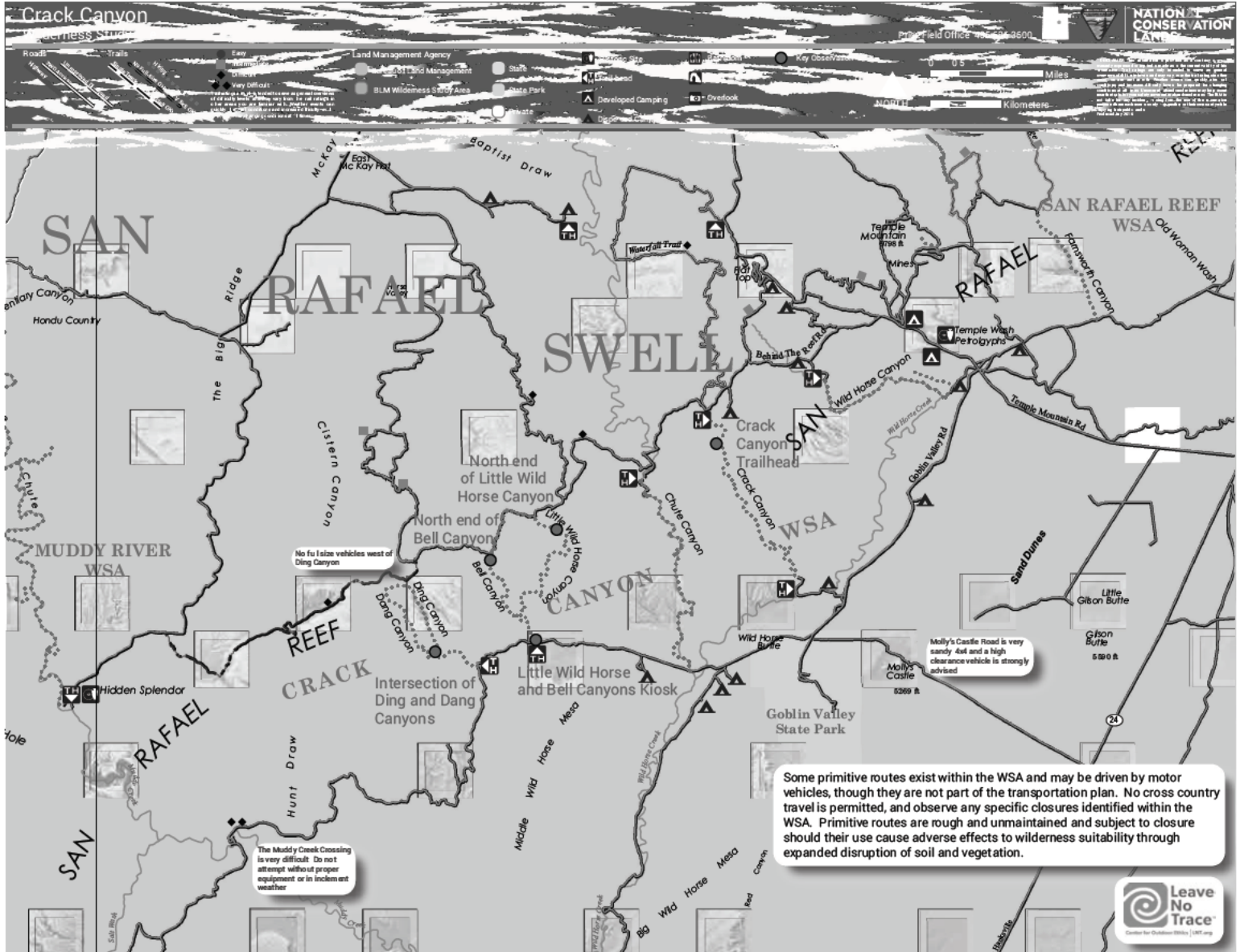
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General Information

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BLM Field Office	Price Field Office
Phone	(435) 636-3600
E-mail	BLM_UT_PR_Mail@blm.gov
Hours	Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm. Closed federal holidays.
Mailing Address	125 South 600 West Price, UT 84501
District Office Name	Green River District
State Office Name	Utah State Office
Website	https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah

For Emergencies: Call 911



Preparing to Monitor

Preparing for a Field Visit

Print a copy of the “General Orientation Guide: Basics of Wilderness Study Area Monitoring” and this site-specific guide from wildsnap.org. Take printed copies of relevant maps. Copies of the San Rafael Desert 1:100K surface management maps are available for purchase from local BLM offices (<https://www.blm.gov/contact/utah>). Long-term volunteers may qualify for free maps under administrative use and a volunteer agreement; discuss with your BLM liaison.

Setting and Terrain

Crack Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is located in Emery County, Utah about 15 miles north of Hanksville and directly west of Goblin Valley State Park. It runs approximately 16 miles from northeast to southwest and three miles from northwest to southeast. The unit consists of 25,335 acres of publicly managed land bounded by roads and state lands.

Crack Canyon is part of the greater San Rafael Swell, a large, uplifted geologic phenomenon located in south-central Utah. The WSA also includes a portion of the southeastern San Rafael Reef. Elevations range from 4,700 feet along the southern margin to 6,000 feet in the northeastern portion of the WSA. Vegetation consists primarily of desert shrub, salt brush, and pinyon-juniper woodlands although most of the land is barren. Both threatened (Jones cycladenia, Last Chance Townsendia) and endangered plant species (Maguire daisy, Wright fishhook cactus) have been found within the WSA. The unit is home to wildlife such as cougars, desert bighorn sheep, wild horses, peregrine falcons, and eagles. Geologic features such as colorful badlands of eroded soils, cliffs, rock monuments, arches, and canyons that span 200 to 500 feet deep are abundant as are pictograph and petroglyph panels.

This WSA has outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. In addition, visitors have the opportunity to recreate in a unique and landscape that offers dramatic desert views and challenging canyon terrain.

Access Routes

The closest towns are Green River or Hanksville, Utah. General access directions are given below; please see the “Monitoring Areas and Key Observation Points” section starting on page 6 for additional directions.

General Access from Green River, Utah

From Green River, Utah travel west on I-70 approximately 11 miles to exit 149. Then head south on highway 24 for approximately 24 miles to Temple Mountain Road. Turn west (right) at Temple Mountain Road and travel approximately 5 miles to the intersection of Temple Mountain Road and Goblin Valley Road.

Access from Hanksville, Utah

From Hanksville, Utah travel 20 miles on Highway 24 to Temple Mountain Road, turn west (left) on Temple Mountain Road. From the intersection of Temple Mountain Road and Highway 24 drive approximately 5 miles to the intersection of Temple Mountain Road and Goblin Valley Road.

Transportation to and from the Crack Canyon WSA is not provided by the BLM or ACE. Due to the remote nature of this site, all vehicles should be equipped with at least one spare tire, tools, and supplies to deal with emergencies. Be sure to leave any gates as they are found.

High-clearance 4WD and all-terrain tires are recommended for all vehicles, although 2WD low clearance vehicles can also reach the Little Wild Horse/Bell Canyon, and Ding and Dang Canyon Monitoring Areas. The Chute Canyon Key Observation Point (KOP) cannot be accessed without a 4WD, high-clearance vehicle. Access to individual KOPs is described in detail below.

Water Availability

Water is scarce in the WSA. Be sure to pack in adequate water (recommended at one gallon/person/day) as no dependable source is available.

Services and Facilities

There are no services immediately near the Crack Canyon WSA. Toilets, showers, and campsites can be found in Goblin Valley State Park. Campsites and toilets are also available in several other locations throughout the San Rafael Swell area. The nearby town of Hanksville (pop. 219; 15 miles south of Crack Canyon WSA) offers limited opportunities to purchase food, fuel, and water although other supplies may be difficult to find in the small town.

Communications

Cell phone coverage in the Crack Canyon WSA is spotty at best. Use of satellite phones or messengers is the only reliable means of communication with the outside world. Personal location devices are not provided by the BLM or ACE; WildSNAP users

without access to personal location devices should develop a communication or check-in procedure with family or friends prior to visiting the WSA.

Monitoring the WSA

Signs

Portal signs and visitor kiosks have been placed at strategic access points off of main routes along the WSA. Where the WSA boundary occurs at the end of authorized vehicle routes, fiber-glass signs and/or posts have been placed to notify the public that motorized access is not permissible beyond that point. Monitors should report damage of signs to BLM through the app.

Allowable Uses or Exceptions to the Non-Impairment Standard within the Crack Canyon WSA

BLM has an active grazing allotment within the WSA from October through April. Volunteers may encounter cattle and authorized grazing lessees during that time. Volunteers should not expect to encounter any other motorized use within the WSA, except for on designated and cherry-stemmed routes.

Identified Resource Issues

The main resource concerns in the WSA are illegal OHV use and BLM sign vandalism and litter. Please pack out litter and trash when possible. The highest visitation occurs during big game hunting seasons and on holiday weekends.

Potential or Documented Supplemental Values

Supplemental values include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values. The BLM has identified the following as "special features" in the Crack Canyon WSA: rock shelters and pictographs, wild horses, potential habitat for desert bighorn sheep, black-footed ferret, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Maguire daisy, Wright fishhook cactus, Jones waxdogbane, Last Chance Townsendia, and other sensitive species. Please document any features of interest, such as occurrence of a threatened or endangered species. Please be advised that the location of cultural and archeological resources is protected and should not be shared with other members of the public.

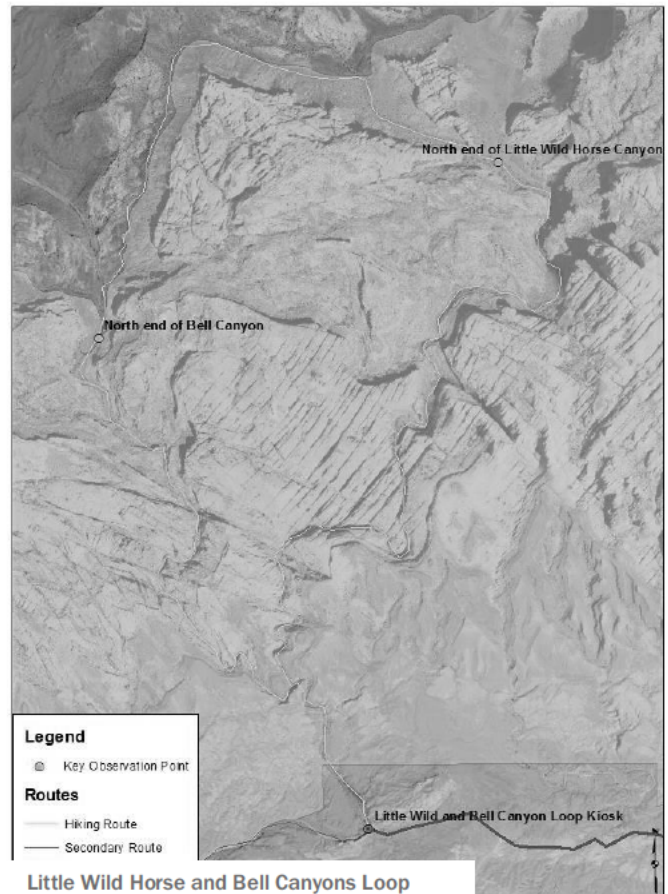
Monitoring Areas and Key Observation Points

Volunteers are encouraged to explore the entire Crack Canyon WSA at their discretion. The BLM has identified monitoring areas, which are general areas of monitoring interest, and Key Observation Points (KOPs), which are exact locations of significant management interest within a larger monitoring area of focus. Monitoring areas and KOPs are generally areas of high-use, that experience surface disturbance, or provide a viewpoint where pictures of the landscape can be taken to track impacts and/or changes to wilderness characteristics over time. The following is a map and list of the monitoring areas of the Crack Canyon WSA, and their associated KOPs. The Crack Canyon WSA has three monitoring areas, and five KOPs.

The three monitoring areas are: 1) Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop; 2) Ding and Dang Canyons; and 3) Chute Canyon.

The following maps and tables show the exact locations and coordinates for each KOP within each monitoring area. Following each table is a short description for reaching each monitoring area.

All of the KOPs are located on established hiking trails within their respective monitoring areas. The Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons loop KOPs are located at designated points along the hiking trail, the Ding and Dang Canyons KOP is located at the entrance to the Canyon hikes, and the Chute Canyon KOP is also located at the canyon entrance. These monitoring areas have been chosen due in part to their popularity, and to ensure adequate monitoring of disturbances/impairments that such high levels of visitation can cause.



Monitoring Area 1: Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons

The Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop is one of the Swell's most popular hikes. The hike consists of slot canyons and requires some rock scrambling. It is

approximately eight miles round trip. Directions to the parking area are as follows:

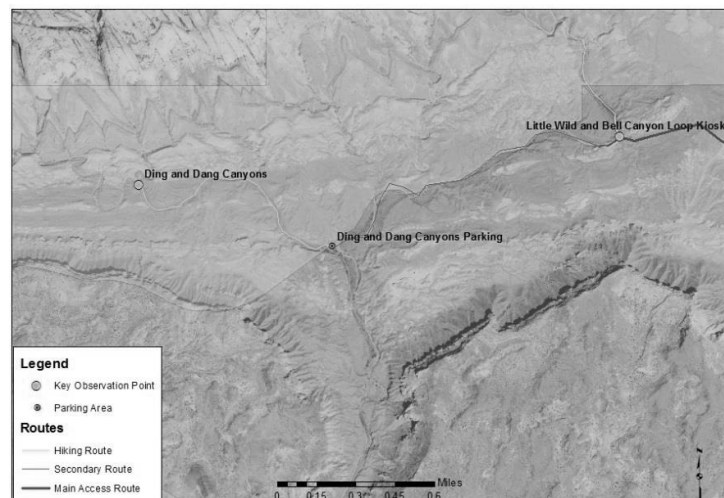
- From Price, take Highway 6 traveling south. Continue on Highway 6 for approximately 60 miles, until Highway 6 intersects with I-70.
- Turn right at this intersection and drive west for 8.5 miles to the 4 Corners Mine Road Exit.
- Exit and turn left, traveling south on UT-24 for 24 miles, until reaching Temple Mountain Road to your right.
- Turn onto Temple Mountain Road and drive five miles until reaching Goblin Valley Road.
- Turn left onto Goblin Valley Road and continue for six miles until you reach Wild Horse Road.
- Turn right onto Wild Horse Road, and drive just over five miles to the Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Trailhead.

Table 1: Monitoring Area - Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop

Key Observation Point (KOP) Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees, minutes, seconds	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop Kiosk	38.582583	-110.80232	38° 34' 57.3" N	110° 48' 8.35" W
North end of Little Wild Horse Canyon	38.611622	-110.795101	38° 36' 41.84" N	110° 47' 42.36" W
North end of Bell Canyon	38.603967	-110.817253	38° 36' 14.28" N	110° 49' 2.11" W

Monitoring Area 2: Ding and Dang Canyons

The Ding and Dang Canyons monitoring area is located slightly west of the Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop kiosk and parking area. From the Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Loop parking area, continue traveling west on Wild Horse Road. Drive on Wild Horse Road for an additional 1.2 miles until reaching a gravel parking area. Park at this location, and begin the hike to the Ding and Dang Canyon Intersection KOP, located approximately one mile from the parking area. Volunteers are encouraged to explore



Ding and Dang Canyons

the canyons and surrounding area during their visit. Ding and Dang Canyons can be hiked as a five-mile technical loop hike; this hike is more challenging than the Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons loop. We recommend carrying canyoneering equipment, such as ropes, and avoid traveling the loop solo. A 4WD high-clearance vehicle is also recommended to access this monitoring area.

Table 2: Monitoring Area - Ding and Dang Canyons

Key Observation Point (KOP) Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees, minutes, seconds	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Ding and Dang Canyons Intersection	38.5800	-110.8357	38° 34' 48.00" N	110° 50' 8.52" W

Monitoring Area 3: Crack Canyon

The Crack Canyon KOP is located north of Goblin Valley State Park, and several miles east of the Ding and Dang Canyon and Little Wild Horse and Bell Canyons Monitoring Zones. From the intersection of Temple Mountain road and Goblin Valley road, drive northwest 2.1 miles to Behind the Reef road. Turn left on to Behind the Reef road. Travel 4.1 miles to the Crack Canyon trailhead. These roads will become rocky and require a high-clearance vehicle. From the trailhead walk approximately one mile south, following the wash until the wash enters the WSA.

Table 3: Monitoring Area - Crack Canyon

Key Observation Point (KOP) Name	Decimal Degrees		Degrees, minutes, seconds	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
Head of Crack Canyon	38.633817	-110.741053	38°38'1.7412" N	110°44'27.7908" W

Illustrations of Potential Supplemental Values

The figures below were sourced through [Wikimedia Commons](#) (licensed for reuse) to illustrate the potential supplemental values that have been identified within the Crack Canyon WSA.



Left to Right: Pictograph; Wild Horses; Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)



Left to Right: Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*); Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*); Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)



Left to Right: Maguire daisy (*Erigeron Maguieri* var. *maguieri*); Wright fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus wrightiae*); Jones cycladenia (*Cycladenia humilis* var. *jonesii*)



Left to Right: San Rafael cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*); Last Chance Townsendia (*Townsendia aprica*); Agat Winogronowy (agate grape)