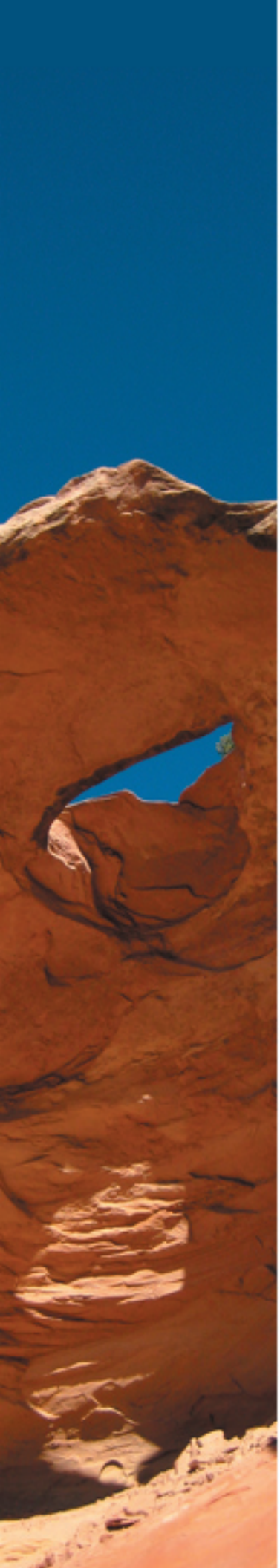


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

Rattlesnake Canyon Arches Trail

Length: 2.5 miles (one way)
Low Elevation: 5400'
Elevation Gain: 450'

Open To: hiking
High Elevation: 5850'

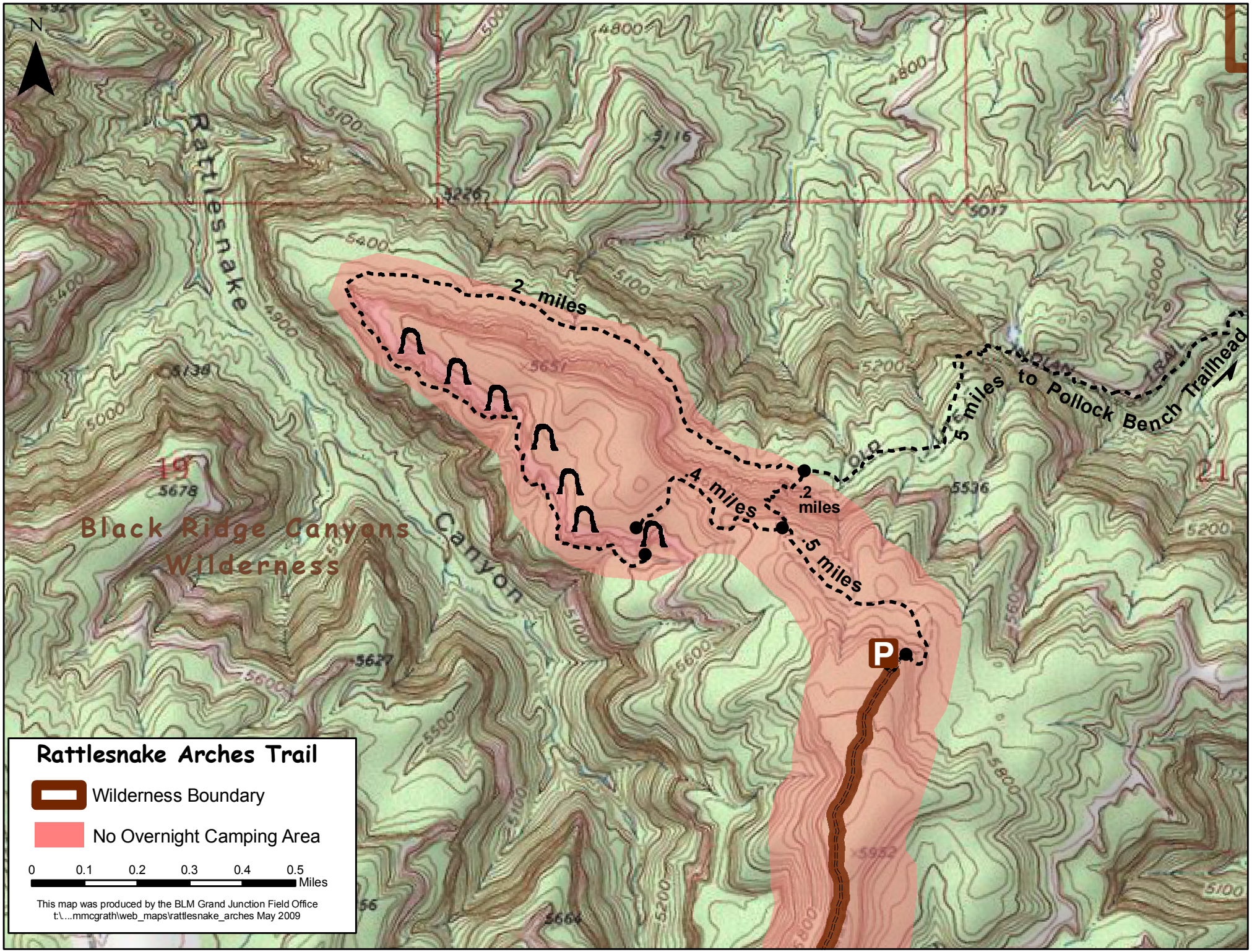
Trail Highlights: Rattlesnake Canyon provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Geologic features in this area includes arches, spires, windows, giant alcoves and desert patina. Between these canyons are pinon-juniper covered mesas which slope downward to the Colorado River.

Trail Notes: A short section connecting the top of the mesa to the bench below the arches is rocky and steep and requires extra caution. Trail is mildly strenuous. From the TH, travel 0.5 miles to intersection. The trail to the left takes you 0.5 miles to a view area. The trail to the right accesses the Lower Trail that traverses under the arches and is about 5 miles round trip. In 0.2 miles the trail splits again. The trail to the left continues along the Lower Trail and the trail to the right travels 5 miles to the Pollock Bench TH.

Access From Grand Junction/Fruita: From Grand Junction take I-70 west to the Fruita Exit. Turn left (south) at the off ramp and follow the signs to the Colorado National Monument (CNM). Enter the CNM and travel 11 miles to the Glade Park Store turn off at 16.5 Road (it will be on your right). Travel 0.2 miles to the "Black Ridge Access Road" on the right. There is a cattle guard and a kiosk at this point. Travel on the open access road for approximately 13 miles to the Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead. We recommend that a high clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicle be used to access this trail. Driving the last 2 miles is only recommended if you are experienced with a 4-wheel drive vehicle. These roads are impassable when wet, so keep the weather in mind. The Upper Road access is open from April 15 to August 14. The Lower Road access is open from August 15 to February 14. **Motorized travel is prohibited from February 15 - April 15 each year (weather permitting).**

Important Information: The trailhead and trail are day use only. Overnight camping is prohibited. Follow Leave No Trace and Stay the Trail ethics to preserve the beauty and integrity of the area.

Contact Info
McInnis Canyons NCA
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 244-3000
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca.html


N
Rattlesnake Canyon
Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
2 miles
4 miles
.2 miles
.5 miles
.5 miles to Pollock Bench Trailhead
OLD
TRAIL
P
19
21
Rattlesnake Arches Trail
Wilderness Boundary
No Overnight Camping Area
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
This map was produced by the BLM Grand Junction Field Office
t:\...mmcgrath\web_maps\rattlesnake_arches May 2009