



Roan Plateau

Although the Roan Plateau itself stretches from western Colorado to the Utah border, the area most people consider the Roan Plateau encompasses about 54,000 acres northwest of Rifle, Colorado. It's a rugged, remote area rich in biological and energy resources.

Much of the area was set aside as Naval Oil Shale Reserves early in the 20th Century. The reserves were transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of Energy in 1977. The Bureau of Land Management acquired these lands in late 1997, through the Defense Authorization Act of 1998. That act directed the BLM to manage the reserves for multiple-use as well as to lease the area for oil and gas exploration and development.

Visiting the Roan

The Roan Plateau offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy a remote, diverse landscape ranging from shale cliffs, open sagebrush parks and high country meadows to spruce-fir and aspen forests with spectacular panoramic vistas. There are no developed campgrounds, few signs and a limited system of rough four-wheel-drive routes. The only restroom is located at the Hubbard Mesa trail head.

Like most BLM public land, the Roan Plateau is managed for multiple-uses. Sheep and cattle graze throughout the spring and summer. Some visitors come to enjoy its remoteness, others to ride off-highway vehicles on its road network, and others to hunt or fish. Please help us protect these public lands and minimize conflicts with other users.

Motorized and mechanized (bicycle) travel is limited to routes designated on this map. The only exception is the Hubbard Mesa Open Area, which is open to cross-country motorized and mechanized travel.

Most roads and trails on the Roan are rough four-wheel-drive roads. High clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended. Roads may get hazardous or impassable when wet. Avoid traveling on roads when they are muddy for your safety and to prevent road damage.

Road and Trail Information

The rolling meadows, dark timber and aspen stands provide excellent summer range for mule deer and elk. Visitors to the Roan may also see a variety of other wildlife typical of the elevation, including blue grouse and a variety of raptors.

Pure strains of native Colorado River cutthroat trout live in the streams on top of the Roan Plateau. Non-native brook trout compete with the cutthroats in the East Fork Parachute Creek. You can help the native cutthroat when fishing the East Fork by immediately releasing any cutthroat and keeping any brook trout you catch.

The Roan Plateau is home to several rare plants found few other places in the world. The small Parachute penstemon is found on sparse, wind-swept ridges. Hanging gardens of Sullivantia grow where moisture seeps between layers of shale in the Roan's canyons.

Unique Resources

For the latest news about the Roan Plateau, including road closures, potential oil and gas activity and prescribed fires, visit <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html>.

weed free hay suppliers. Your animals may graze on public land during your visit, but avoid overuse. Use portable electric fence, hobbles, pickets or highlines to prevent damage to vegetation when camping with horses. Locate overnight holding areas away from water sources, and dismantle them after use. Please do not build permanent corrals.

Public and Private Land

Please respect private property. Private land is not necessarily marked or fenced. Private land is not open to the public without permission. The BLM is open to public use as long as it was legally accessed. If you suspect public land has been posted with no trespassing signs, please alert the local BLM office.

Please leave gates as you find them. Help the local ranchers by closing gates if you open them, and by keeping your distance from their livestock. Closing gates also helps to ensure proper grazing management.

Target Shooting

Unless specifically closed, BLM public lands are available for recreational target shooting. The area below the Roan Cliffs, including the Hubbard Mesa area, receives heavy use from target shooters. To ensure that Hubbard Mesa remains open to recreational target shooting, please shoot in a safe, responsible manner.

Contact Information

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, CO 81652
(970) 876-9000
www.blm.gov/co/crvfo

The 2,640-acre Hubbard Mesa Open Area below the cliffs of the Roan Plateau is the only area open to cross-country travel for motorized vehicles and bicycles in the Roan Plateau vicinity. Just outside of Rifle, Colorado, it receives high use from off-highway vehicle enthusiasts as well as mountain bikers, trail runners and horseback riders. A new trailhead has been constructed at Hubbard Mesa. The new amenities include a track, shade structures and picnic tables, restrooms, informational kiosks,

Hubbard Mesa Open Area

All OHVs, including those unregistered from other states, must be registered to legally operate on public lands in Colorado. Registration can be obtained at any Colorado State Park, via their website (parks.state.co.us), and at most OHV dealers. These registration fees go directly to benefit off-highway opportunities in Colorado, including the Hubbard Mesa Open Area. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife website also details the Colorado rules and regulations for operating OHVs.

Off-highway Vehicle Information

Please respect private land and do not trespass. Respect trail and road closures and recommended use signs. Ask the BLM for clarification if you are uncertain about the status of a road or trail.

These designations are in place to allow good access across the area while protecting sensitive resources, including wildlife. Administrative motorized use on foot-and-horse-only routes may be authorized by the BLM.

loading ramps and expanded parking. These improvements were partially funded by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV program.

Because the area receives such high use, the BLM depends on the visitors to this area to use the area responsibly to help ensure this cross-country opportunity can continue.

The BLM could not provide this great area to ride without the help of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, your support through the purchase of OHV registrations, and many local businesses and groups who help protect and maintain this area.

Activities such as mud-bogging or deliberately riding on saturated, muddy soils with the intention to create ruts or other visible scars is prohibited on public lands. Causing this resource damage is punishable by fines regardless of whether you are in the open area or not.

Camping Information

Although there are no developed campgrounds on the Roan Plateau, dispersed camping is allowed. The camping limit from April 1 to August 31 is seven days, and from September 1 to March 31 it is 14 days. Campers must relocate at least 30 miles away and may not return within 30 days to a previous campsite. Personal property may not be left unattended on public land for longer than 24 hours.

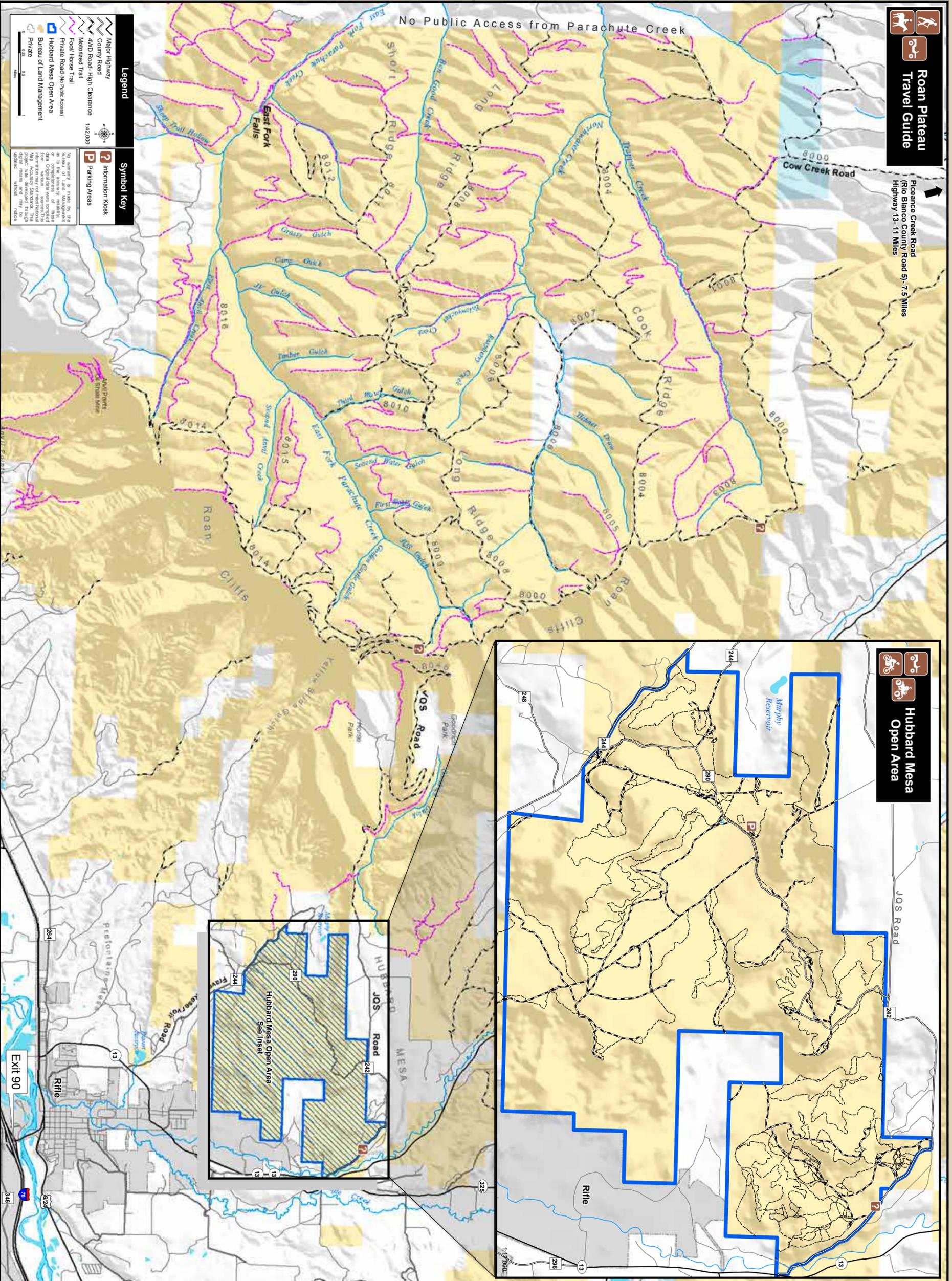
Help keep public lands clean. Do not bury trash. Please help clean up trash that others may have thoughtlessly left behind.

Horses and Other Stock

If you plan to bring horses or other stock with you, remember that hay must be certified weed free. Contact the BLM office for information on local

Roan Plateau
Travel Guide

Piceance Creek Road
Rio Blanco County Road 57 - 7.5 Miles
Highway 13 - 11 Miles



Legend

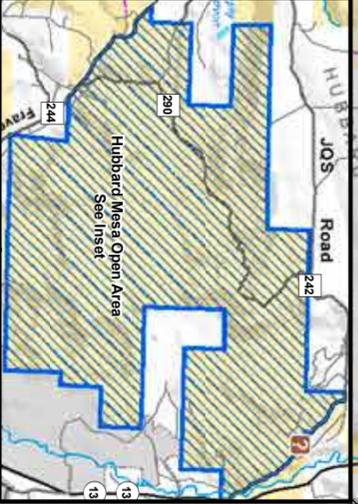
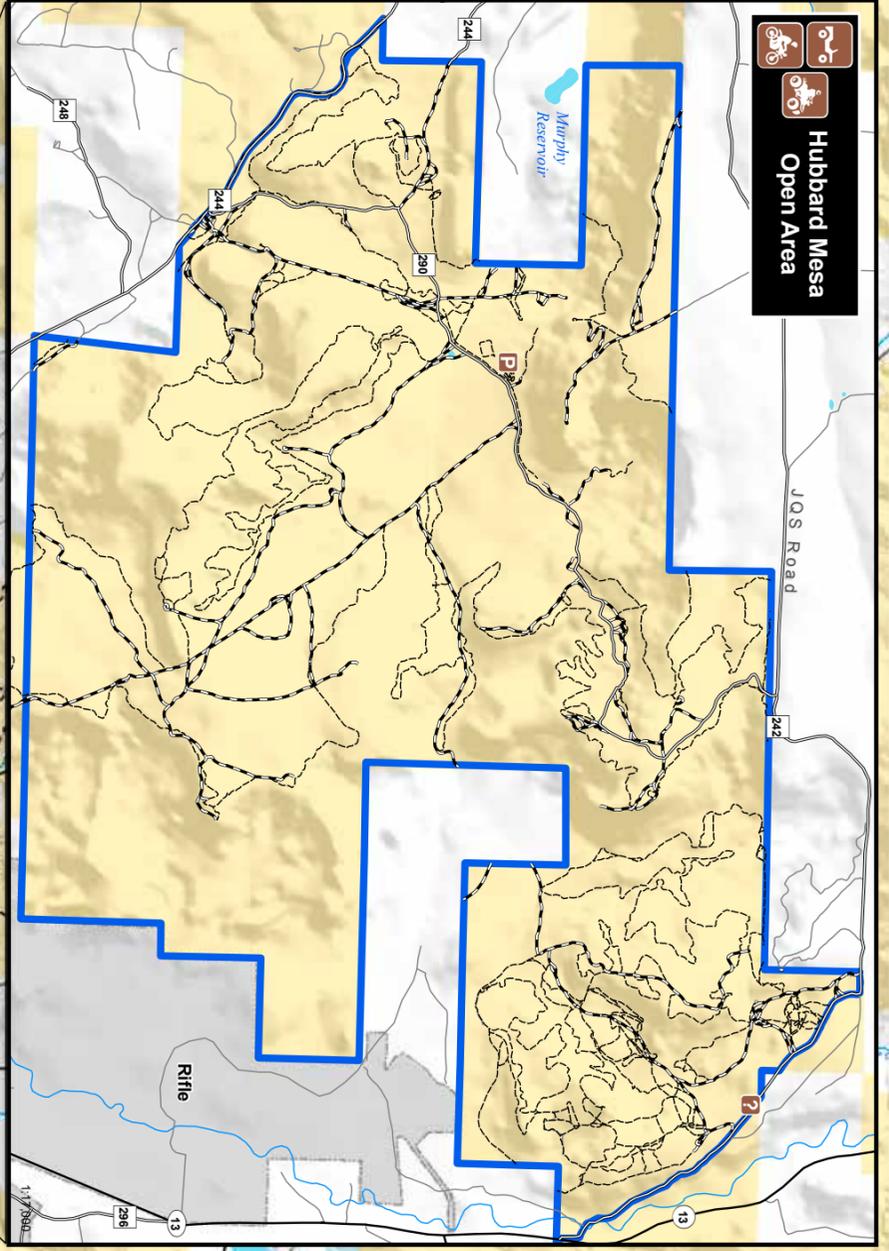
- Major Highway
- County Road
- 4WD Road - High Clearance
- MotORIZED Trail
- Food/Horse Trail
- Private Road (No Public Access)
- Hubbard Mesa Open Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

Symbol Key

- Information Kiosk
- Parking Areas

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data. Original data were compiled by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies. The data were last updated without notice.

Hubbard Mesa
Open Area



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