# Uncompahgre Valley Public Lands
# Camping Guide

Photo by Priscilla Sherman

## How to Use this Guide

Inside this guide you will find maps and descriptions of public lands campgrounds and camping areas in the Uncompahgre Valley region. **Located on pages 6 and 7 of the guide is a map and table listing each campground and its facilities.** Using the map you will be able to easily see which page of the guide has more information about each indiviudal campground.

In the first few pages of the guide you will find general information about camping. This information includes topics such as facilities and amenities, fees, passes, stay limits, pets, general camping rules, information on dispersed camping, and motorized transportation.

**Enjoy camping on YOUR public lands!**

## Camping in the Montrose Area

Camping season is generally from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. However, weather is always a factor in opening and closing campgrounds. Some campgrounds open before or remain open after these dates with limited services, meaning water may be shut off and garbage collection may have stopped for the season. It is advisable to check with the local public lands office for current conditions before starting your trip.

## Plan Ahead

This guide offers only basic information on roads, trails, and campgrounds. The Montrose Public Lands Center offers more detailed information on current conditons of trails and roads, travel restrictions, campground opening and closing dates, etc.

Please keep in mind that during the camping season some campgrounds may be full either by reservations or on a first come first serve basis.

## Contents


Camping in Campgrounds ..... 2
Campground Rules..... 2
Campgrounds During Hunting Season .... 2
Dispersed Camping..... 3
Motorized Transportation..... 3
Map ..... 6
List of Campgrounds..... 7
General Information..... 12
Montrose Public Lands Center..... 12
San Juan Mountains Association ..... 12
Additional Contacts ..... 12
**Camping by Area**
Gunnison River Basin..... 4
Gunnison Gorge NCA.....5
San Miguel River..... 8
Dolores River..... 8
Dominguez-Escalante NCA..... 8
Uncompahgre Plateau..... 9
Uncompahgre Mountains - Norwood ... 10
Uncompahgre Mountains - Ouray ..... 11


For More Information Contact


**Montrose Public Lands Center**
BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
FS Ouray Ranger District
2505 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
**Phone: (970) 240-5300**

# Camping in Campgrounds

**Facilities and Amenities**

Most developed campgrounds provide designated campsites, toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings. Some campgrounds also provide water and RV hook ups. Please use dumpsters or other trash receptacles when they are available, otherwise, be prepared to follow the "pack it in/pack it out" rule with your waste.

**Accessibility**

Accessible facilities, such as picnic tables, fire rings, and restrooms are available at some campsites in some campgrounds. For more information refer to the campground table or descriptions or contact the local public lands office.

Campground hosts

Campground hosts are stationed at many of the campgrounds listed in the guide. They are there to help and will be more than happy to provide directions, answer your questions, and listen to your comments.

fees

Fees apply at most developed campgrounds. Fee information is posted at the entrance to each campground and payment is required to camp. Fees are payable to the campground host on site or the self-serve registration and fee-payment stations. Fees range from $5 – $20 per campsite and additional fees may apply to extra vehicles, picnicking, or day use.

**Federal Recreation Passes**

At many sites operated by the Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation holders of the America the Beautiful Senior Pass (for US residents over 62) or the America the Beautiful Access Pass (for those with a permanent disability) receive discounts on Expanded Amenity Fees (such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours).

**Advance Reservations**

Some campgrounds have campsites that can be reserved in advance through the National Recreation Reservation System. Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance for individual sites and up to 360 days in advance for group sites. You may pay by credit card over the phone or on-line. In addition to a camping fee, a non-refundable reservation fee is charged. Changes, no-shows and cancellations are subject to service fees. To book reservations, call toll-free 877-444-6777; TDD 877-833-6777, or go to www.recreation.gov.

**Stay Limits**

**National Forest.** Generally, throughout the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests occupying one campsite is allowed for a maximum of 14 days. However, within specific designated campgrounds, the allowed lengths of stay may vary from 7 to 30 days. Please note that leaving unattended property within a campsite is also considered to be occupancy. For more information refer to the campground description and contact the local public lands office for more information.

**Bureau of Land Management**. Generally, camping in one location is allowed for 14 consecutive days, including any developed campground. After 14 days, campers must move a minimum of 30 air miles away and not return for 30 days. However, within specific designated campgrounds or camping areas, the allowed lengths of stay may vary from 3 to 7 days. Unattended property (campsites that are being established for the purpose of securing campsite locations for later use) may be left on public land for no more than 48 hours. For more information refer to the campground description and contact the local public lands office for more information.

**Pets and Livestock**

Pets are welcome in all campgrounds. Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. _Do not allow pets to harass other visitors, dogs, or wildlife. Do not leave pets unattended at any campground. Campgrounds do not allow pack stock unless specifically designated. For designated campgrounds and more information refer to the campground descriptions and contact the local public lands office for more information.

## Campground Rules

**Upon entering a campground take a moment to read the posted regulations and information. Please remember that many campgrounds and camping areas are patrolled and it is your responsibility to know and follow the current regulations.**

**The following are general regulations for all campgrounds.**

**Quiet Time**

Please be a good neighbor in campgrounds. Don't make loud noise or play loud music, especially at night. Posted quiet hours are typically from 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. At other hours of the day, be respectful of others and limit the use of generators to no more than one hour at a time.

**Vehicles**

Drive slowly through campground loops and watch carefully for children and pedestrians.

Off-highway vehicles, such as motorcycles, ATVs, and UTVs, are generally, but not always, permitted to travel on campground roads to and from campsites and other locations; look for posted signs for regulations. Recreational driving of OHVs within campgrounds is not permitted anywhere.

**Campfires**

Before you light a fire, make sure that there are no fire restrictions in effect; it is your responsibility to know and follow the current regulations. For more information contact the local agency office and look for posted signs. Buying firewood from a local source, such as campground hosts, is the best practice. Cutting of standing trees, shrubs, and other vegetation is prohibited. Campfires must be kept inside fire rings and put out when no one is physically attending the fire. Pour water on the fire and stir the ashes until there is no heat.

**Trash**

Use the trash receptacles and dumpsters provided in campgrounds. In some campgrounds you may be required to pack out your own trash. Never burn or bury trash. Keep and leave your campsite clean.

**Protect Vegetation**

Do not break off limbs, drive nails into, or carve into bark of trees. Such damage allows insects and disease to enter and can weaken or kill trees. When possible walk on dirt or gravel paths to keep grass and plants alive. Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy and to seed next year's beauty.

## Campgrounds During Hunting Season

Colorado's wildlife is managed by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, which has jurisdiction over all hunting seasons on federal lands. For recorded information on hunting season dates and licenses call 303-291-7529.

Shooting is not allowed within 150 feet of developed recreation areas, trails or roads. During hunting seasons, backcountry visitors should wear orange or brightly colored clothing and stay on well used trails.

In the fall, some campgrounds may stay open with limited services at discounted prices, while others remain open with full services at full price. Generally, if the gate to a campground is open, the campground is open to use at some level. Read and obey campground entry signs.

For information on which campgrounds may be open during hunting seasons contact the managing agency. This situation is weather dependent and hard to predict.



# Dispersed Camping

Finding a site to camp and enjoy remote areas in relative solitude has become increasingly popular. Dispersed camping outside of campgrounds is usually allowed, but some areas may be posted as closed. Due to intermingling of private and public lands, be sure to use a current land status map showing public and private land ownership.

**How You Care for Your Favorite Camping Spot**

Developed campgrounds are designed and maintained to protect vegetation, soils and natural settings. When camping in undeveloped areas, campers are responsible for taking care to protect vegetation, soils, water sources, and natural settings with thoughtful placement of vehicles and tents.

·To avoid damaging vegetation, camp in areas previously used.
·Select a level site with good drainage. Do not try to level a site or dig trenches.
·Protect riparian areas by camping and parking at least 200 feet (70 adult-sized steps) from all water sources.
·Leave plants, rocks, and historical artifacts as found.
·Do not build structures or furniture.
·Use existing fire rings, fire pans, or stoves.
·Protect wildlife and your food by storing provisions securely. Do not leave food out and unattended. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
·Do not allow pets to harass wildlife or other visitors.

**Dispose of Human Waste Properly**

The use of portable toilets is highly recommended and may be required in some dispersed camping areas. In areas where portable toilets are not required and if no portable toilet is available, solid body waste and urine should be buried in a hole six to twelve inches deep. The disposal site should be located well away from streams, campsites, and other use areas. Place toilet paper, wipes, diapers and hygiene products in a plastic bag and add it to your camp trash bag.

**Washing**

To wash yourself, dishes or clothing, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes. Use biodegradable soap. Strain dishwater and pack out food remnants. Scatter wash water away from your campsite.

**Fire**

Fires may be prohibited in some areas or during times of high fire danger. Follow posted regulations regarding fire use.

Carry a lightweight stove for cooking. When and where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. If you use these carefully, it is possible to leave a campsite with no scars or evidence of your use.

Keep fires small, using sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Do not snap branches off live trees. Do not put items such as plastics, cans, bottles, or aluminum foil into a fire ring. Do not attempt to burn food, as it will not burn completely and will attract wildlife to your camp.

Before you leave camp, always douse your fire with water, stir it with a stick, and douse it again to make sure it is completely out.

## Getting Along With Residents

Wild animals are the residents of this diverse terrain and vegetation. Campground visitors are likely to see squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, deer, elk, skunks, porcupines, raccoons, and many of the some 300 species of birds. Backcountry visitors may catch a glimpse of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black bear, beaver, river otters, or even mountain lions. View wildlife from a safe distance and treat wild animals with respect—for your safety as well as theirs.

**Unwanted Visitors**

Don't attract unwanted visitors to your campsite. Small and large mammals may be lured into your campsite by the aroma of goodies or trash; they can cause a lot of damage. Some rodents have a taste for leather and anything sweaty or salty; store these items carefully. Never feed wild animals or encourage them to become unafraid of humans; this is as dangerous to you as it is to them.

**Dogs and Wildlife DO NOT Mix!**

Dogs must be leashed or otherwise physically restrained in campgrounds and should be under voice control at your side at all times elsewhere. Dogs can severely stress and endanger wild animals by chasing them. In addition, many wild creatures pose dangers to dogs. Your pet can be attacked by predators or suffer when a skunk or porcupine defends itself against curiosity or attack.

**Store Food Properly**

Black bears can cause a lot of damage to your belongings and if a bear is desensitized to humans by your behavior it may have to be destroyed. Food, containers, packaging, cooking utensils, garbage, and pet food or bird feeders must also be stored in a bear-proof manner. Store these items inside a hard-sided vehicle or camper; hung at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet away from a tree or other support; inside an approved bear-resistant container; or within an electrified enclosure.

# Motorized Transportation

**Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)**

It is your responsibility to know and abide by regulations relating to motor vehicle travel. Federal law prohibits operation of any mechanical or motorized equipment within the boundaries of Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or other special closure areas.

All OHVs and over-snow vehicles operated on public lands in Colorado must have a current Colorado State registration. For more information, visit http://parks.state.co.us/OHVsandSnowmobiles/Pages/OHVsSnowmobiles.aspx.

**Bureau of Land Management**

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) designations on BLM administered public lands are: Open, Limited, and Closed.

**Open:** off-road use is allowed, as long as it does not result in significant, undue damage to or disturbance of soil, wildlife, wildlife habitat, improvements, cultural, or vegetative resources, or other authorized uses of the public lands.

**Limited:** vehicle use is restricted as defined in the appropriate land use plan. Limitations could include such designations as "limited to existing roads and trails," "limited to designated roads and trails," or seasonal limitations such as "no vehicle use during elk calving season".

**Closed:** motorized vehicle use is not allowed.

**Forest Service**

Other than winter snowmobile use in unrestricted areas, motorized travel is restricted to designated roads and trails as shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUMs are free to the public and available at all forest service offices and online at www.fs.fed.us.

National Parks and Recreation Areas

Motorized travel is allowed only on designated roads.

# Gunnison River Basin

**Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is renowned for its steep and deep canyon carved over millennia by the Gunnison River. Prepare yourself for 2,000 foot high, narrow canyon walls dropping almost vertically to the Gunnison River. For more information go to www.nps.gov/blca.

- **East Portal Campground**

Situated in the shade of a grove of box elder trees, the campground is located at the bottom of Black Canyon, one and a half miles downstream from Crystal Dam. The campground is located near the historic Gunnison River Diversion Tunnel where exhibits tell the story of the tunnel and town. The road into the area is among the most impressive scenic drives in the US.

There are 15 tent sites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Ten of the sites are walk-in. The campground and picnic area is open spring through fall. Water is available mid-May to early October. Both the campground and picnic area have vault toilets. The picnic area has a large cabana, 2 grills, and several tables. The entrance fee to the national park applies to those accessing the East Portal area.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), go 8.3 miles east on US 50 to CO 347 on the left (north), a well-signed junction. Proceed 5.6 miles on CO 347 to the park entrance station. Turn right just past the entrance station and go 5.4 miles to the bottom of the canyon. Turn hard left for the campground and continue straight ahead to the picnic area. **Due to the steep grades of the East Portal road, use lowest gear and watch for rock fall. Vehicles exceeding 22 feet in length (including trailer) are not permitted on the East Portal road because of the steep 16% grade and sharp, narrow curves.**

GPS: N38.52658 W107.64919

- **North Rim Campground**

On the north rim of the canyon, this campground offers 13 first come first serve campsites within the piñon-juniper forest. A nature trail to the North Chasm View, some 1,800 feet above the river, begins at the campground and there are many opportunities for hiking and climbing in the area. The trail leads to a second overlook with views of Painted Wall and Serpent Point where swifts, swallows and raptors are frequently seen.

There are no hook-ups at the North Rim and vehicles greater than 35 feet total combined length are not recommended. There is a maximum of 8 people and 2 vehicels per site. Water is trucked to the campground; therefore, RV water filling is not available. Vault toilets are available. There is not a RV dump station. Bears frequent the area. All food must be kept in approved containers. Bear boxes are provided.

From **Delta** (Jct.US 50 & CO 92), take CO 92 east 35 miles through Hotchkiss and Crawford to Black Canyon Road (about 3 miles south of Crawford). Turn right (west) on Black Canyon Road and follow the signs 12.2 miles to the North Rim Campground (6.6 miles are gravel road).

GPS: N38.58677 W107.70491

- **South Rim Campground**

On the south rim of the gorge, this campground offers 88 sites within an oak brush forest. There are opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, bird watching, interpretive tours and evening programs. The self-guided Rim Rock Nature Trail begins at the campground. There are many excellent views of the Gunnison River and the sheer walls of the canyon. Bears frequent the area. All food must be kept in approved containers and bear boxes are provided. Water is trucked to the campground; therefore, RV water filling is not available. Electrical hookups (30 amp) are available in Loop B. However, only Loop A is open year round. Vehicles greater than 40 feet are not recommended and no generator use is allowed in the campground. For RVs longer than 25 feet, reservations are strongly recommended. Sites can be reserved through www.recreation.gov or by calling (877)444-6777.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US50 & US550), go 8.3 miles east on US 50 to CO 347 on the left (north), a well-signed junction. Proceed 5.6 miles on CO 347 to the park entrance station. Continue another 0.2 miles to the campground entrance on the right (east).

GPS: N38.54097 W107.68940

**Curecanti National Recreation Area**

Three reservoirs, named for corresponding dams on the Gunnison River, form the heart of Curecanti. Blue Mesa Reservoir is Colorado's largest body of water, and is the largest Kokanee Salmon fishery in the U.S. Morrow Point Reservoir is the beginning of the Black Canyon, and below, East Portal is the site of the Gunnison Diversion Tunnel, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

All motorized watercraft at Curecanti are required to be inspected for aquatic invasive species before and after launch. For more information go to www.nps.gov/cure.

- **Cimarron Campground**

The campground has 22 sites, some suitable for large RVs, on a paved loop road. Toilets are available seasonally (mid-May – Oct. 1) at the campground, picnic area and visitor center. Drinking water is available seasonally in the campground and picnic area. There is an RV dump station (open seasonally) across from the picnic area restroom. The picnic area has 5 tables with grills partially shaded by large cottonwoods and one cabana with several tables.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), travel east on US 50 about 20 miles. Turn left at the sign "Cimarron, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Train Exhibit, Morrow Point Dam". Cross the bridge. The picnic area is to the right. The campground is to the left just past the visitor center.

GPS: N38.44294 W107.55504

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

In response to the threats posed by Aquatic Nuisance Species, like Zebra and Quagga mussels, many waters in Colorado now require inspections before launch. All boats and other floating devices of any kind including their content, motors, trailers and other associated equipment are subject to inspections prior to launch or departure in these waters. For more information visit http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Pages/MandatoryBoatInspections.aspx.

## Crawford State Park

Open year-round, Crawford State Park with its 400-acre reservoir and 337 land acres offers camping, fishing, water sports, hunting, and scenic mountain terrain. Winter recreation includes ice fishing and cross-country skiing. The park offers convenient access to the North Rim portion of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. In addition to four day use areas, playgrounds, and trails, the park offers two modern, universally-accessible campgrounds. Campsites may be reserved from May 1st through Labor Day. All watercraft must be ispected before launching into the reservoir.

From **Delta** (Jct. US 50 & CO 92), take CO 92 east about 33 miles through the towns of Hotchkiss and Crawford to the park's Visitor Center where detailed, current information on facilities and activities may be obtained. GPS: N38.68743 W107.59531

- **Clear Fork Campground** offers 20 sites for basic camping. While it can accommodate all types of camping units, it is best suited for tents and small RVs. Pay showers, restrooms, and drinking water are available. Cabanas at some sites provide the only shade.
- **Iron Creek Campground** offers 45 sites suitable for all types of camping units, has electric and water hookups, with some sites having 50-amp service. The campground also has an RV Dump Station, restrooms, pay showers, boat ramp, accessible fishing ramp and walk-in picnic area. Cabanas at some sites provide the only shade.



# Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

**Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area**

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) is just downstream from the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and is a unit of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. The NCA offers a range of hiking, biking, equestrian and motorized riding adventures on primitive roads and trails that wind their way through imposing adobe badland formations, scenic sandstone canyons, and diverse native plant communities.

Motorized watercraft are prohibited on all river sections in the NCA.

**Gunnison Gorge Wilderness**

Located in the heart of the NCA, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness encircles a spectacular double canyon formed by the Gunnison River. The wilderness area encompasses approximately 17,700 acres of public lands, including 14 miles of the river, extending from the northwestern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park north to a point approximately one mile downstream from the confluence of the Smith Fork and the mainstem of the Gunnison.
The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness offers a wild and pristine backcountry experience, spectacular geology, world class trout fishing, and challenging whitewater boating adventures.

- **Camping within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness**

The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is managed to preserve and protect its wilderness, scenic and recreational values. Motorized river craft, other motorized vehicles, and mountain bikes are prohibited in the wilderness.

Day use and camping fees are charged in the wilderness area and can be paid at trailheads. Interagency passes are not valid for wilderness permit fees.

Camping within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness and Gunnison River corridor is allowed in primitive campsites that are designated for either boater or hiker use.

Visitors must purchase camping permits, register, and reserve river campsites at the wilderness trailheads upon arrival. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Maximum group size is 12; maximum length of stay is 2 nights. Wood fires are prohibited. Use camp stoves and/or fire pans with charcoal. Portable toilet systems are required for all overnight boater use. Backpackers may use primitive pit toilets located in Ute Park, at the Duncan river access or at the Chukar river campsite.

Check the BLM website, signs and maps for additional regulations and information.

**River Rafting**

All boaters are all required to carry adequate safety equipment and comply with rafting regulations. Boaters must use either a camp stove or charcoal in a fire pan and pack out all ashes. Portable, reusable camp toilets are required. A boater waste station is located at the Gunnison Forks takeout for disposal of human waste. One person from each group must register at the either the Chukar put-in, Gunnison Forks, Bobcat, Duncan, or Ute trailheads.

- **Non-Wilderness River Camping**

Camping is allowed only at the Cottonwood Grove campground and designated river campsites identified on BLM maps and signs. Use of portable toilet system is required in all river sites without restrooms. Maximum stay length is six nights/seven days for sites downstream of Gunnison Forks.

- **Dispersed Vehicle Camping**

Camping is allowed in the remainder of the NCA for up to six consecutive nights, unless otherwise posted. Check BLM maps,signs and website for camping information.

**Gold Medal Fishing Regulations**

The following fishing regulations apply on the Gunnison River from the upstream boundary of the Black Canyon National Park, through the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, and downstream to the Relief Diversion Ditch located 5 miles below the North Fork of the Gunnison River:

· Fishing by artificial flies and artificial lures only.
· All rainbow trout caught must be returned to the water immediately.
· Four-fish limit on Brown trout.

- **Cottonwood Grove Campground**

The Cottonwood Grove Campground has six sites. Three have cabanas with tables and grills and three have only tables and grills. One of the cabana sites provides universal access camping. It is located near the wheelchair accessible fishing pier. There is a toilet and hand-carry boat launch ramp but no drinking water or trash service. There are additional designated primitive camp and day use sites along the river. Visitors must provide their own portable toilet to use these sites.

From **Delta** (Jct. US 50 & CO 92), go east on CO 92 for 5.5 miles to CR H75 Road on the right (south). Veer right onto H75 Road and continue for 4.3 miles, passing a parking area with toilet before coming to a junction with South River Road. Turn right onto South River Road and go 4.1 miles to the campground entrance on the left. **Caution:** The last 2.6 miles of South River Road is narrow, rough and steep with few opportunities for vehicles to pass. Check the road conditions before taking RVs into this area. The road may be impassable if wet.

GPS: N38.77872 W107.85281

- **Chukar Trailhead**

Although it requires a one-mile hike to the river, Chukar Trailhead is the main boater access for rafting the Gunnison Gorge section of the Gunnison River. It also provides four designated campsites with cabanas, picnic tables, and grills for a maximum of 25 people. There is a toilet but no drinking water or trash service.

Although there are no fees to use the trailhead, permits and fees are required for entering the adjacent Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Further information is posted and a self-register fee station is located at Chukar Trailhead.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), take US 50 north 8.4 miles to Falcon Road. Turn right onto Falcon Road and go 3.6 miles. At that point, Falcon Road becomes the unpaved Peach Valley Road. Continue for 1.4 miles on Peach Valley Road to the sign on the right, "Chukar Trail 7 Mi." Turn right onto Chukar Road, a rough 4WD road that is not suitable for RVs.
**Warning:** Past 3.7 miles on Chukar Road, a 4WD, high-clearance vehicle is required and the dirt road will likely be impassable when wet.

GPS: N38.61283 W107.83625

- **Ute Trailhead**

The Ute trailhead provides access to a hiking and equestrain trail into the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Outside the Wilderness Area, there are additional opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and four-wheel driving in this area. The trailhead provides two sites with cabanas, picnic tables, and grills. There is a toilet and hitch rail for horses, but no drinking water or trash service.

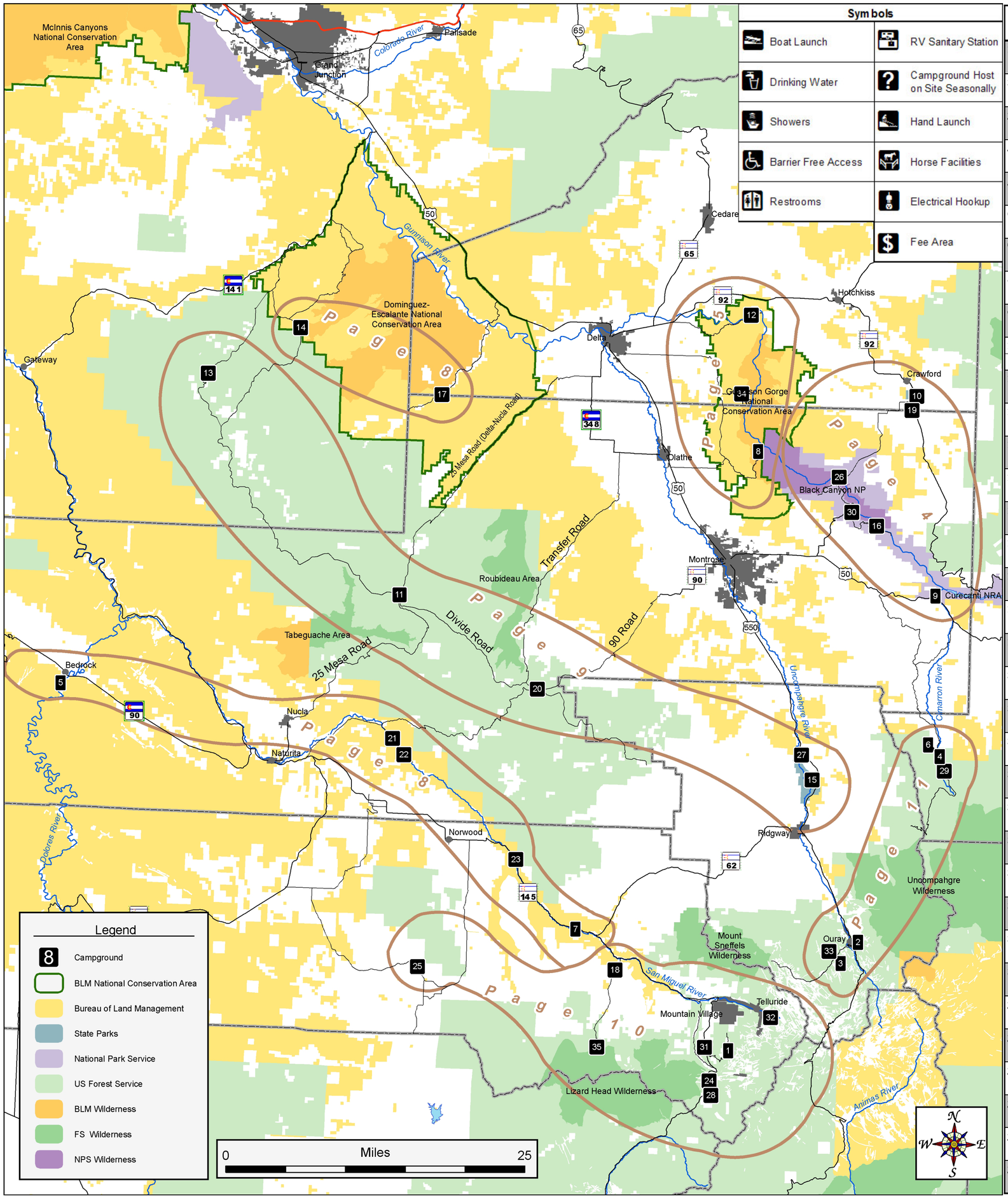
Although there are no fees to use the trailhead, day use or camping fees are required for the adjacent Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Further information is posted and a self-register fee station is located at Ute Trailhead.

From **Delta** (Jct. US 50 & CO 92), go south on US 50 for 9.3 miles to Carnation Road. Turn left (east) and go 3 miles to 6200 Road. Turn left (north) onto 6200 Road and continue 3.8 miles to where 6200 Road dead-ends at Peach Valley Road. Turn left onto Peach Valley Road and go 0.4 miles to the sign on the right "Ute Trail 2.5 Mi." Turn right and proceed to the trailhead.
**Warning:** Past the Peach Valley Road turn-off, a 4WD, high-clearance vehicle is required and the steep, rough, rocky dirt road may be impassable when wet. RVs are not recommended.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), take US 50 north. 2.2 miles north of the stoplight in Olatha, look for Carnation Road on the right. Turn right (east) and follow the above directions.

GPS:
N38.68270
W107.86401

GUNNISON GORGE
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA & WILDERNESS
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT




| Map Key # | Name | Campsites<br>Location | Reservable? | RV size<br>Stay Limit | Services/Fee |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alta Lakes | Dispersed camping<br>10 mi. S of Telluride at 11200' | No reservations | RV not rec.<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 2 | Amphitheater | 35 campsites<br>1 mi. S of Ouray at 8100' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 3 | Angel Creek | 8 campsites<br>2 mi. S of Ouray at 8500' | No reservations | RV not rec.<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 4 | Beaver Lake | 11 campsites<br>38 mi. E of Montrose at 8800' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 5 | Bedrock | 4 campsites<br>21 mi. W of Naturita at 5000' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 60'<br>Max. stay 1 day | |
| 6 | Big Cimarron | 12 campsites<br>38 mi. E of Montrose at 8700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 7 | Caddis Flats | 3 campsites<br>2 mi. W of Placerville at 7200' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 60'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 8 | Chukar Trailhead | 4 campsites<br>29 mi. NE of Montrose at 6000' | No reservations | RV not rec.<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 9 | Cimarron | 22 campsites<br>20 mi. E of Montrose at 6900' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 40'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 10 | Clear Fork | 20 campsites<br>33 mi. E of Delta at 6600' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 40'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 11 | Columbine Pass | 6 campsites; dispersed camping<br>40 mi. W of Montrose at 9000' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 12 | Cottonwood Grove | 6 campsites<br>14 mi. E of Delta at 5000' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 13 | Divide Forks | 11 campsites<br>31 mi. S of Whitewater at 8700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 40'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 14 | Dominguez | 10 campsites<br>26 mi. S of Whitewater at 7100' | No reservations | No max. RV size<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 15 | Dutch Charlie | 187 campsites<br>22 mi. S of Montrose at 7050' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 40'<br>No max. stay | |
| 16 | East Portal | 15 campsites<br>20 mi. E of Montrose at 6600' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 22'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 17 | Escalante Potholes | 4 campsites<br>23 mi. W of Delta at 5500' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 45'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 18 | Fall Creek | 2 campsites<br>4 mi. E of Placerville at 7700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 19 | Iron Creek | 45 campsites<br>33 mi. E of Delta at 6600' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 40'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 20 | Iron Springs | 8 campsites<br>23 mi. W of Montrose at 9600' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 22'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 21 | Ledges Cottonwood | 14 campsites<br>12 mi. E of Naturita at 5900' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 45'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 22 | Ledges Rockhouse | 14 campsites<br>13 mi. E of Naturita at 5900' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 45'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 23 | Lower Beaver | 5 campsites<br>6 mi. E of Norwood at 6700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 25'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 24 | Matterhorn | 28 campsites<br>9 mi. S of Telluride at 9500' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 50'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 25 | Miramonte Reservoir | 32 campsites<br>19 mi. S of Norwood at 7700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 60'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 26 | North Rim | 13 campsites<br>46 mi. E of Delta at 8400' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 35'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 27 | Pa-Co-Chu-Puk | 96 campsites<br>22 mi. S of Montrose at 7000' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 40'<br>No max. stay | |
| 28 | Priest Lake | 6 dispersed campsites<br>10 mi. S of Telluride at 9600' | No reservations | RV not rec.<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 29 | Silver Jack | 60 campsites<br>40 mi. SE of Montrose at 9000' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 60'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 30 | South Rim | 88 campsites<br>14 mi. E of Montrose at 8400' | Reservable | Max. RV size: 40'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |
| 31 | Sunshine | 18 campsites<br>5 mi. S of Telluride at 9600' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 60'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 32 | Telluride Town Park | 33 campsites<br>In Telluride at 8700' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 30'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 33 | Thistledown | 9 campsites<br>3 mi. S of Ouray at 8800' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 22'<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 34 | Ute Trailhead | 2 campsites<br>15 mi. E of Delta at 6500' | No reservations | RV not rec.<br>Max. stay 7 days | |
| 35 | Woods Lake | 31 campsites<br>12 mi. S of Placerville at 9400' | No reservations | Max. RV size: 35'<br>Max. stay 14 days | |

# San Miguel River

The San Miguel River begins in the San Juan Mountains above Telluride and ends at the confluence with the Dolores River 72 miles downstream. While the San Miguel is more or less free-flowing, diversion dams dot the river and alter its flow. The San Miguel drops over 7,000 feet from an alpine to a desert ecosystem. The riparian corridor is lush and contains numerous globally rare riparian plant communities.

The San Miguel offers the whitewater boater a variety of runs, within Class II+ to IV range. The consistent gradient and continuous flow of the river provides the boater with an abundance of whitewater rapids. While the river should be easily negotiable by the intermediate whitewater boater, numerous strainers and downed wood from spring floods can make the river more challenging than its rating would suggest. Use caution in maneuvering around these ever-changing obstacles

- **Caddis Flats Campground**

This campground and boat launch is located between the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway (CO145) and the San Miguel River. The canyon in this area makes the transition from forest to high desert and is quite scenic. The campground has three developed campsites, one with a cabana. Four parking areas will accommodate large RVs and boat trailer parking. There is a toilet but no drinking water. There is a hand-carry boat launch.

From Placerville (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), go west on CO 145 1.8 miles. Entrance is on the left (south). From Norwood, go east on CO 145 about 16.5 miles. Entrance is on the right (south).

GPS: N38.02724 W108.09330

- **Ledges Cottonwood and Ledges Rock House Campgrounds**

Located in groves of cottonwoods, the Ledges campgrounds are about one mile apart along the San Miguel River. The river in this section flows over sandstone bedrock where rock ledges form large holes creating rapids during high water.

Cottonwood (14 sites) and Rock House (12 sites) campgrounds have RV and tent sites, a few cabanas, picnic tables, grills, toilets, and hand-carry boat ramps. No drinking water or trash services.

From Naturita, go about 2 miles east on CO 141 to CR 90 on the left (north). Go north 1.1 miles on CR 90 toward the power plant. At the "Y" near the power plant, keep right on CR 90 toward Montrose. Go another 6.8 miles to the bridge over the San Miguel River (unsigned). Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn hard right onto the unsigned road that parrallels the river. Cottonwood campground is about 2 miles from the bridge, and Rock House is about 1 mile beyond Cottonwood. Caution: During wet weather, the narrow, one-lane road along the river may become slick and impassable.

GPS: N38.24701 W108.39197

- **Lower Beaver Campground**

This campground is also located between CO 145 and the San Miguel River about 0.4 miles down river from the Beaver Creek Boat Ramp. There are three tent sites with tables and grills. Two parking areas will accommodate a few small RVs. A toilet and hand-carry boat launch is present.

From Placerville (Jct CO 145 & CO 62), go west 10.5 miles. Entrance is between MM 94 & 95, and is on the left (south). From Norwood, go east on CO145 about 5.5 miles. Entrance is on the right (south).

GPS: N38.11134 W108.18991.

# Dolores River

The Dolores River flows for more than 200 miles through southwestern Colorado, starting high in the San Juan Mountains and descending to its confluence with the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah border. The Dolores flows through five major western life zones, from the alpine life zone at its headwaters to the Upper Sonoran life zone along much of its lower reaches.

In an average snowpack year, the river is floatable from late April to early June. In a very dry year, there may be no boatable flows at all. Flows on the lower Dolores River are controlled by spill releases from McPhee Reservoir, 12.5 miles upstream of the Bradfield launch site. The spill releases are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). For more information on BOR spill releases call 970-565-7562.

- **Bedrock**

The Bedrock site is adjacent to the Dolores River. There is a boat ramp and 4 cabanas with tables and grills plus a large flat area to accommodate additional tents and RVs. There is no drinking water or permenant toilet. Seasonally there is a portable toilet located at the boat ramp. There are opportunities for rafting, fishing, hiking and scenic viewing. Open year-round. Camping is limited to one night.

At **Bedrock**, at the junction of CO 90 & CR Y9 (just west of the Dolores River bridge at the eastern edge of Bedrock), turn south on CR Y9. Go 1 mile on the dirt road to the site. Bedrock is about 21 miles west of Naturita via CO 141/ CO 90, and about 40 miles west of Norwood via CO 145/ CO 141/ CO 90.

GPS: N38.30394 W108.89414

# Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

The Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA), a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System, encompasses 209,610 acres of BLM-managed land in Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties in western Colorado. Within the NCA, 66,280 acres make up the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area. Known for their scenic value, these lands are popular for those wanting to see the spectacular canyon country of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Red-rock canyons and sandstone bluffs hold geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years, as well as many cultural and historic sites. Nearly 30 miles of the Gunnison River flow through the NCA. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, a 19th Century land trade route, lies within the NCA.

- **Escalante Potholes Recreation site**

At Escalante Potholes Recreation Site there are four designated campsites. Camping is allowed only in the designated sites. The site has a toilet, cabanas, tables and grills. There is no drinking water or trash service. Wood fires are not permitted. The sites can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet. There are hiking trails and historical sites nearby.

From **Delta** (Jct. US 50 & CO 92), go west on US 50 about 12 miles to CR 6.50/Escalante Canyon Road on the left (southwest). Watch for the signs pointing to the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Proceed on CR 6.50 about 12 miles to the recreation site. Delta is about 21 miles northwest of Montrose.

- **Dominguez Campground**

Dominguez Campground is nestled among ponderosa pine, cottonwood trees and willows next to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness and the Uncompahgre National Forest. The surrounding red canyon country has opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Off-highway vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed in the adjoining wilderness area. Big Dominguez Creek runs through the campground and is very popular for fishing. There are ten campsites, no fees, and no drinking water or trash service.

**Due to road conditions, RVs and travel trailers are not recommended.**

From **Whitewater** (Jct. US 50 & CO 141), drive about 15 miles south on CO 141 to CR 26.10. A sign at the junction reads "National Forest Access. Divide Road. Uncompahgre National Forest". Turn left onto CR 26.10 and proceed south about 6 miles to the junction of CR 26.10 and CR 24.40. Watch for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area signs. Follow CR 24.40 about 5 miles to the campground.

From **Montrose** to the US 50/CO 141 junction is about 52 miles northwest. Total distance about 63 miles. From Grand Junction, the US50/CO141 junction is about 8 miles east on US50. Caution: CR 24.40 is extremely hazardous in wet conditions. Watch for rockslides on the last 2 miles of road.

GPS: N38.74516 W108.54980



# Uncompahgre Plateau

The Uncompahgre Plateau is a distinctive large uplift rising from the Colorado River at 4,600 feet to elevations that exceed 10,000 feet. The plateau extends about 70 miles bordered on the east by the wide valleys of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers and on the west by the narrow gorges of the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers.
The summit ridge of the plateau is relatively flat and runs southeast to northwest. The plateau is incised by many multi-colored deep canyons—Big Dominguez, Escalante, Roubideau, Tabeguache, and Unaweep—separated by relatively flat mesas.

- **Iron Springs Campground**

Iron Springs Campground has 8 campsites for tents, tent trailers, pickup campers, or small RVs, and one walk-in site suitable for a group. Popular activities in the area are OHV trail riding, hiking, mountain biking, and big game hunting. A toilet is available, but there is no drinking water or trash service.

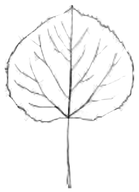
From **Montrose:** From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 23.5 miles from Montrose to the campground on the left.

GPS: N38.31673 W108.16328

- **Divide Forks Campground**

Situated in a large aspen grove, the rustic Divide Forks Campground has 11 campsites. The campsites vary in size from suitable only for tents, tent trailers or pickup campers to suitable for large RVs. Many OHV opportunities, as well as hiking and horse trails, are nearby. There are no fees, water or trash service, but a toilet is present.

From **Whitewater** (Jct. US 50 & CO 141), drive about 15 miles south on CO 141 to CR 26.10. A sign at the junction reads "National Forest Access. Divide Road. Uncompahgre National Forest". Turn left onto CR 26.10 (which becomes FS 402) and proceed south about 15.5 miles to the campground entrance on the right. From Montrose to the US 50/CO 141 junction is about 52 miles. Total distance about 82 miles.



From **Montrose** via Divide Road: From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 24 miles from Montrose to FS 540/FS 402 junction. Take FS 402 (Divide Road) west about 16.5 miles to the FS 402/FS 503 junction. Turn left, continuing on FS 402 for an additional 33.5 miles to the campground entrance on the left. Total distance about 74 miles.

GPS: N38.68375 W108.68787

# Silesca Cabin

The historic Silesca Cabin is located on the Uncomopahgre Plateau in a beautiful meadow surrounded by aspen and spruce/fir forests. This rustic cabin will accommodate up to six guests. Amenities include non potable running water, a shower, flush toliet, electric stove, refrigerator, and a wood burning stove.

Recreation opportunities nearby include hiking, mountain biking, OHV trails, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The cabin is located about 40 minutes southwest of Montrose, For more information and reservations, go online at Recreation.gov or call 1-800-456-2267. Information may also be obtained by contacting the Ouray Ranger District.

- **Columbine Pass Campground**

The existing campground has six small to medium campsites suitable for tents or smaller camping units not exceeding 25 feet single/35 feet combined length. There is a toilet nearby, but no drinking water or trash service.

The area is popular for ATV riding and fishing.

From **Montrose via Divide Road:** From the Jct. US 550 and CO 90 (Main & Townsend), go west on CO 90. As CO 90 leaves Montrose, it makes several turns – watch for direction signs. Highway 90 becomes a gravel road and becomes FS 540 at the Forest Service boundary. Travel about 24 miles from Montrose to FS 540/FS 402 junction. Take FS 402 (Divide Road) west about 16.2 miles to the campground on the left.

From **Montrose** via 25 Mesa Road: Take US 50 north to the Jct. of US 50 & CO 348 in Olatha (about 10 miles). Turn west on CO 348, and follow it about 12 miles to the junction with 25 Mesa Road (CR D.00). Turn left (west) on 25 Mesa Road and follow it about 25 miles southwest until it ends at Divide Road (FS 402). Turn left on FS 402 and go about 0.2 miles to the campground entrance on the right. 25 Mesa Road is named variously CR D.00, CR Q37, and FS 503.

GPS: N38.42534 W108.38148

- **Future Plans for Columbine Pass Campground**

Construction may begin during early summer of 2012 on a primitive OHV campground. The 100-acre project includes day-use parking, connections to OHV routes, an open OHV riding area, and designated campsites. Contact the Ouray Ranger District for the current status of camping in the Columbine Pass area before your visit.

Currently, dispersed camping is allowed around the old gravel pit until the improvement project begins. The open, flat area surrounding the old gravel pit will accommodate RVs of any size. No drinking water, toilets or trash service is provided.

The entrance to the dispersed camping area/new campground area (FS 533) is across the road and a few hundred yards east of the Existing Columbine Campground (see above). The camping area, not visible from Divide Road, begins at the top of the small rise.

# Ridgway State Park

Ridgway State Park is a great central location to enjoy mountain scenery and a five-mile long reservoir. The park offers modern, universally-accessible campgrounds with year-round camping, restrooms, three yurts, picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming area and trails. Also, during the high season, coin-operated showers, a laundromat, snack machines, and a change machine are available in the Camper Services Building. All watercraft is subject to inspection.

From **Montrose**, take U.S. 550 south for 22 miles to the park entrance on the right (west) side of the road. From Ridgway, take U.S. 550 north for 4 miles to the park entrance on the left (west) side of the road.

GPS: N38.21267 W107.73384

- **Dutch Charlie Campgrounds**

The best mountain views are found in the **Dakota Terraces Campground** at sites 1-79. This campground is within walking distance of the reservoir and swim beach. All campsites have RV electrical hookups and shared water. A dump station is located at the entrance to the campground. This is the only area of the park with year-round RV camping.

**Elk Ridge Campground** is on the top of a mesa covered in piñon pine and juniper trees and offers campsites 80-187. RV campsites have electric hookups and shared water. There are 10 walk-in tent sites.

- **PA-CO-CHU-PUI Campground**

Campsites 200-295 are within Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Campground at the north end of the park. Two loops provide full hookups. Campsites 200-280 are close to the Uncompahgre River. Tent campers can enjoy the 15 walk-in campsites (281-295) located across the river in a secluded ponderosa pine forest.

**For more information, call 970-626-5822, go to ridgway.park@state.co.us. For reservations, call 800-678-2267 or go to www.parks.state.co.us.**

# Uncompahgre Mountains-Norwood Ranger District

The mountain division of the Uncompahgre National Forest and surrounding lands consist of rugged northern slopes of the San Juan Mountains, high plateaus, narrow stream valleys, and steep walled canyons like those surrounding the towns of Telluride, Ouray and Lake City.

The San Juan Mountains are characterized by high, jagged peaks and deep, narrow canyons interspersed with open alpine grassland. Several peaks exceed 14,000 feet in elevation. Aspen and oak brush create a spectacular autumn display against dark spruce and pine, and the sky-piercing alpine peaks of the San Juan Mountains.

**• Matterhorn Campground**

At Matterhorn Campground there are 28 campsites. Many of those sites have scenic mountain views. Hiking and biking trails, fishing and jeep roads are found nearby. Lizard Head Wilderness is about 3 miles away. There are walk-in tent sites, vehicle sites, and several campsites that offer RV hookups for electricity and septic. Showers are available.

**Seasonal Information**: A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the campground is closed.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for about 9 miles. Entrance is on the left (east).

GPS: N37.84698 W107.88251

**• Sunshine Campground**

Sunshine is a single paved loop campground with 18 campsites nestled in a mixed aspen/conifer forest. A spectacular view of Sunshine Peak is visible from many of the sites. Drinking water and toilets are available. Large RVs can be accommodated in some sites. Biking, hiking, OHV and 4WD opportunities are in the area.
Seasonal Information: A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the campground is closed.

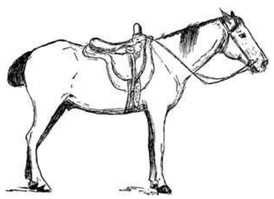
From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for 4.9 miles. Entrance is on the right (west).

GPS: N39.88936 W107.88851

**• Woods Lake Campground**

Situated in an aspen stand, the campground has 41 campsites, including 5 with horse facilities. The horse loop, sites 32-36, has a corral with 5 paddocks, a watering trough, hitching rails, feed holders, and stock trailer parking. The main campground has both RV and tent sites, with 4 double sites. Located near Woods Lake and the Lizard Head Wilderness, it serves as an excellent base camp. Mountain bikers and motorcyclists may ride the 11.5-mile Wilson Mesa Trail. Native Colorado Cutthroat trout are found in Woods Lake.

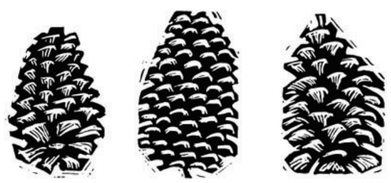
**Seasonal Information:** A concessionaire manages this campground with daily camping fees from Memorial Day through mid-September. In the off-season, the Forest Service manages the campground, no fees are charged, and services are limited.



From **Placerville** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), travel east 2.9 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 9.4 miles on CR 57P, FS 618 and FS 362 to the campground.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel west 9.7 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 9.4 miles as above.

GPS: N37.88759 W108.05254



**• Alta Lakes Dispersed Camping**

At Alta Lakes there are a number of primitive, dispersed camping sites. This scenic location with three small alpine lakes has opportunities for fishing, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, mountain biking, jeeping, and wildlife viewing. One toilet is available but there is no drinking water.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for 5.2 miles to CR64F on the left (east). Proceed 4.3 miles on CR 64F to the Alta Lakes area. Warning: CR 64F is a steep, sometimes rough and narrow road. Beyond 3.5 miles, the road is 4WD/high clearance only. CR 64F is not recommended for RVs or low clearance utility trailers.

GPS: N37.88462 W107.84663

**• Priest Lake Dispersed Camping Area**

Adjacent to the small man-made Priest Lake, the area has room for about 6 camps. The site has a toilet but no drinking water. High peaks and mixed pine/aspen forest surrounding the area make the views spectacular. Hiking, biking, and OHV/4WD opportunities abound in the area.

From **Telluride** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel south on CO 145 for about 11 miles to Trout Lake Road on the left (east). Follow Trout Lake Road about 0.2 miles to Priest Lake Road on the left (north). Follow Priest Lake Road north to the campground. Caution: Portions of Priest Lake Road are narrow, rough, and lined by brush and trees. Not recommended for RVs.

GPS: N39.83466 W107.88049

**• Fall Creek BLM Dispersed Camping**

This is a dispersed camping area that will accommodate 2 to 3 tents or small RVs. There is a picnic table, cabana and grill on-site. During the summer portable toilets are provided. There is no drinking water available. A few additional unimproved dispersed campsites are along Fall Creek Road north and south of the cabana site. Mountain hiking and biking trails and fishing are nearby.

From **Placerville** (Jct. CO 145 & CO 62), travel east 2.9 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 1.1 miles to unmarked site on right (west). From Telluride (Jct. CO 145 & CO 145 Spur, the "T"), travel west 9.7 miles to Fall Creek Road (CR 57P). Turn left (south) and continue 1.1 miles as above.

GPS: N37.97920 W108.03054

**• Telluride Town Park Campground**

Managed by the town of Telluride, Telluride Town Park is a public park with a campground and festival grounds. There are 28 vehicle campsites & five walk-in campsites. Showers are available on site. Campers can enjoy fishing, a playground, swimming pool, skating rink, skate/trick bike facility, and tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. During festivals and concerts, the campground is reserved for festival attendees. At other times, camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and listing of festivals call (970) 728-2173 or visit www.telluride-co.gov.

In **Telluride** at the east end of town just past the business district. Park is on the south side of Colorado Avenue across the San Miguel River. Entrance is well signed.

GPS: N37.93513 W109.80573

## Miramonte Reservoir

Located within the Dan Noble State Wildlife Area, camping is allowed in designated sites within the Miramonte Reservoir tract. The campsites are within sagebrush uplands and are unshaded. There are opportunities for lake fishing, power boating, sail surfing, waterskiing, and wildlife viewing. Facilities within the state wildlife area include a dump station, restrooms, and boat ramps. Miramonte Reservoir is managed by Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. For more information call (970) 252-6000 or go to wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateWildlifeAreas.

From **Norwood**, go 1.5 miles east on CO 145, turn right (south) on Lone Cone Rd/CR 44ZS (between MM 100 & 101). Follow the signs to the reservoir, about 18 miles from CO 145.

GPS: N37.97312 W108.33469



# Uncompahgre Mountains-Ouray Ranger District

The Ouray Ranger District is divided into two sections - a portion of each the Uncompahgre Plateau and the San Juan Mountains. The San Juan Mountain Range has four peaks over 14,000 feet and another 100 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation. It includes the Uncompahgre, Mount Sneffels, and Lizard Head Wilderness Areas. Portions of the Mount Sneffels and Uncompahgre Wildernesses are located on this district.

The Owl Creek Pass Road is a scenic loop from Montrose on Highway 50 to the Cimarron Road to Silver Jack Reservoir, over Owl Creek Pass and west to Ridgway. This area gives access to trailheads and areas for dispersed camping. Popular recreation activities include hiking, hunting, fishing, four-wheel driving, sightseeing, picnicking, mountain biking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, backpacking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

Afternoon summer thunderstorms are common. Snow is possible at any time of year in the highest elevations. The high elevation roads and trails are often not clear of snow until at least mid-July.

**• Amphitheater Campground**

Amphitheater Campground is located in a Gambel oak and mixed conifer forest on a mountainside above the community of Ouray. The area is very scenic with views of the town and the "amphitheater", a geologic feature formed by a volcanic explosion. There are opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and backpacking nearby. Also part of the Amphitheater complex is a day use area with 4 picnic tables and a toilet.

The 35 campsites are primarily designed for tent camping. However, small RVs (under 25' single or 35' combined length) are allowed in sites 3-15. While the roads are paved, they are narrow and the sites are short. Drinking water and toilets are available. The campground is concessionaire managed seasonally and sites may be reserved June 15 – September 15. For more information or to make a reservation visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US 550 0.9 miles to the well-signed Amphitheater entrance on the left. Follow the paved road to the Day Use and campground area.

GPS: N38.01682 W107.66798

**• Thistledown Campground**

Thistledown Campground, with 9 sites and a toilet, but without drinking water, is adjacent to the historic site of Thistledown and the Weehawken Trailhead. This campground is frequently used by those planning to hike into Mount Sneffels Wilderness or drive up Camp Bird Road to Yankee Boy Basin to enjoy alpine views, wildflowers, waterfalls, abandoned mines and mills and the old townsite of Sneffels. To travel beyond Sneffels requires a high-clearance 4WD vehicle. Of the 9 sites, 7 are for tents and 2 will accommodate small RVs. A campground host is on duty from mid-May to mid-September.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US 550 0.3 miles to Camp Bird Road on the right. Drive 2.6 miles on Camp Bird Road to the campground entrance on the left.

GPS: N37.99363 W107.70076

**• Angel Creek Campground**

The primitive Angel Creek Campground is near Yankee Boy Basin where alpine views, wildflowers, waterfalls, abandoned mines and mills and the old townsite of Sneffels await. The campground consists of 8 designated camp sites. Portable toilets are provided during the summer months. There is no drinking water. Trash service is at the campground entrance. From mid-May to mid-September, a campground host is stationed at Thistledown Campground. **Caution:** Access to the campground requires a high clearance 4WD vehicle. No RVs.

From **Ouray**, from the south end of Main Street, go south on US550 0.3 miles to Camp Bird Road on the right. Drive 1.9 miles on Camp Bird Road to the campground entrance on the right immediately after crossing the bridge. Go through the parking area (downstream) and look left for the short, steep road to the campground.

GPS: N38.00187 W107.69407

**Silver Jack Recreation Area**

The Silver Jack Recreation Area is located on the north slope of the rugged San Juan Mountains. Elevations range from 8,600 feet at the National Forest boundary to over 13,000 feet at the summit of Precipice Peak. Views are spectacular as the area changes from aspen and mixed conifer forests to dense conifer and eventually alpine tundra. The Silver Jack Recreation Area is remote with unpaved roads which may be impassable when wet. Plan accordingly and be prepared for emergencies.

Day-use facilities include: two angler parking areas, an overlook and picnic area, and several primitive trailheads. Only hand-propelled watercraft are permitted on Silver Jack Reservoir. The best access to the reservoir is from its angler parking area.

**• Silver Jack Campground**

Silver Jack Campground has 60 campsites situated in an aspen grove, with a few spruce trees and an understory of tall grass and wildflowers. Fifteen of the sites may be reserved for groups. Nearly all of the sites are suitable for large RVs. Two sites are designed to be universally accessible. There is drinking water and there are vault toilets in each loop. The campground is near the Silver Jack Reservoir and a network of trails around Cimarron Ridge. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 16.9 miles to the campground entrance on the right. Follow the signs to the campground loops.

GPS: N38.23812 W107.53514

**• Beaver Lake Campground**

Beaver Lake Campground sits south of Beaver Lake with 11 nicely secluded camping sites nestled under spruce trees with lake views. There are opportunities for lake, pond, river and stream fishing nearby. There is no drinking water, but water and trash disposal is available seasonally at Silver Jack Campground. A few sites are suitable for small RVs, however most are better suited for tents/truck campers. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged; the host is at Silver Jack Campground.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 15.6 miles to the campground entrance on the right.

GPS: N38.25021 W107.54292

**• Big Cimarron Campground**

Big Cimarron Campground stretches along the Big Cimarron River with 12 campsites shaded by a mix of spruce and cottonwood trees. Several sites are adjacent to the river. A horse corral across from the campground may be available when not used by range permittees. There is no drinking water, but water and trash disposal is available seasonally at Silver Jack Campground. During the summer, a concessionaire manages the campground and fees are charged; the host is at Silver Jack Campground.

From **Montrose** (Jct. US 50 & US 550), drive east on US 50 for 22.7 miles to Cimarron Road on the right (south). Watch for the sign "National Forest Access Silver Jack Reservoir". Proceed south on Cimarron Road/Big Cimarron Road/FS 858 (same road, varying name) for 14.9 miles to the campground entrance on the right a short way past the Forest Service boundary.

GPS: N38.25874 W107.54537

## Jackson Guard Station

Located near Silver Jack Reservoir, about an hour from Montrose, the Jackson Guard Station is tucked away in a small aspen grove. The cabin easily sleeps four adults. Amenities include a propane stove and refrigerator, and a wood stove. The cabin does not have electricity or potable water, so guests must bring potable water. Recreation opportunities nearby include hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hunting. For more information or to make a reservation visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

# General Information

## Montrose Public Lands Center

For those who want to explore, hike, mountain bike, flat and white water boat, fish, hunt, and ride ATVs, a visit to the Montrose Public Lands Center, 2505 S. Townsend Avenue, is a must. The visitor center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office and Forest Service Ouray Ranger District both operate from the Montrose Public Lands Center with the National Park Service represented as well.

Every day friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers, who have first-hand experience exploring and preserving the scenic surroundings, are available to assist you in planning your next adventure.

The Montrose Public Lands Center sells the America the Beautiful Federal recreation passes, permits for firewood cutting, rock removal, and Christmas tree cutting.

A valuable partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association provides visitors with a bookstore offering a large selection of maps, books that include bird, field and trail guides, historic lore, geology and children's books. There is a large selection of gift items, shirts, and hats. When you purchase items from the bookstore 10% of all profits come back to the Montrose area to help operate education and volunteer programs benefiting public lands.

If you visit the Montrose Public Lands Center when it is closed, a large outdoor kiosk is updated frequently and offers free Colorado maps, brochures and seasonal information about what's happening in the area.

Welcome to Montrose and enjoy your public lands!

### San Juan Mountains Association

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION
www.SJMA.org

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation located in Durango, Colorado whose mission is to promote responsible care of natural and cultural resources through education and hands-on involvement that inspires respect and reverence for our lands.
SJMA manages bookstores in many public lands visitor centers with all profits going back to education and outreach efforts.
For more information visit www.sjma.org.

### National Landscape Conservation System

The Bureau of Land Management is the steward for many of the great American landscapes. The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) highlights some of the West's most spectacular public lands. These special places have helped shape the character and heritage of our nation and of many people through the ages. The NLCS consists of designated lands with special resource, cultural, ecological and scientific values. NLCS areas are congressionally or presidentially designated and include: national monuments, national conservation areas, national scenic and historic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas. The NLCS is managed by the BLM as an American treasure of vast, wide-open spaces. The purpose of the NLCS is to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for these public land treasures, and to focus more management attention and resources on these areas.

### COLORADO CANYONS ASSOCIATION

Colorado Canyons Association fosters community stewardship of National Conservation System Lands with a focus on Dominguez-Escalante, Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas in Western Colorado. They are a non-partisan, non-profit organization encouraging cooperation among all National Conservation Area (NCA) users and interests.

For more information or to become a member visit www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org.

# Additional Contacts

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest
2250 Highway 50
Delta, Colorado 81416
(970) 874-6600

Grand Valley Ranger District
2777 Crossroads Blvd, Suite 1
Grand Junction, CO 81506
(970) 242-8211

Grand Mesa Visitor Center
(970) 856-4153
Open Seasonally

Gunnison Ranger District
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-0471

Ouray Ranger District
2505 S. Townsend Ave
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 240-5300

Norwood Ranger District
1150 Forest
Norwood, CO 81423
(970) 327-4261

Paonia Ranger District
403 North Rio Grande Avenue
Paonia, CO 81428
(970) 527-4131

BLM Gunnison Gorge
National Conservation Area
2465 South Townsend
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 240-5300

BLM Gunnison Field Office
650 South 11th Street
Gunnison, Colorado 81230
(970) 642-4940

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
(970) 240-5300

BLM Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506
Phone: 970-244-3000

Colorado Division of
Parks and Wildlife
2300 S Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 252-6000

National Park Service
Black Canyon of the Gunnison
Curecanti National
Recreation Area
Mailing Address:
102 Elk Creek
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-2337 Ext. 205

Ouray Visitor Center
1230 Main Street
Ouray, CO 81427
(970) 325-4746

Telluride Visitor Center
700 W Colorado Ave
Telluride, CO 81435
(970) 728-3041

Delta Chamber of Commerce
301 Main St.
Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-8616

Montrose
Chamber of Commerce
1519 East Main Street
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-5000