

# National Landscape Conservation System

## Bureau of Land Management Colorado

The National Landscape Conservation System's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes and places that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations.

The BLM's vision for the National Landscape Conservation System is to be a world leader in conservation by protecting landscapes, applying evolving knowledge, and bringing people together to share stewardship of the land.

Colorado is home to 65 of these landscapes encompassing more than one million acres — about 1/8 of all public land in the state.



Little Book Cliffs WSA © John Fielder 1



The Palisade WSA © Jerry Sintz 2



Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness 3



Squaw/Papoose Canyon WSA © John Fielder 4



Powderhorn Wilderness © Bob Wick 5

### COLORADO BLM CONTACTS

**COLORADO STATE OFFICE**  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
303-239-3700 • 303-239-3934 fax  
www.blm.gov/co

**FRONT RANGE DISTRICT OFFICE & ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE**  
3028 E. Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212  
719-269-8000 • 719-269-8599 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html

**ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA**  
307 W. Sackett Avenue  
Salida, CO 81201  
719-539-7289 • 719-539-3771 fax  
www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/arkansasheadwaters

**SAN LUIS VALLEY FIELD OFFICE**  
46525 Highway 114  
Saguache, CO 81140  
719-655-2547 • 719-655-2502 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc.html

**DEL NORTE INFORMATION CENTER**  
13308 W. Highway 160  
Del Norte, CO 81132  
719-657-3321 • 719-657-6035 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/dnplc.html

**LA JARA INFORMATION CENTER**  
15071 County Road T-5  
La Jara, CO 81140  
719-274-8971 • 719-274-6301 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc.html

**MONTE VISTA INFORMATION CENTER**  
1803 W. Highway 160  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
719-852-5941 • 719-852-6250 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc.html

**NORTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE, GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE, MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA & DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html

**COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE**  
2300 River Frontage Road  
Silt, CO 81652  
970-876-9000 • 970-876-9090 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo.html

**KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 68  
2103 E. Park Avenue  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
970-724-3000 • 970-724-9590 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/kfo.html

**LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE**  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625  
970-826-5000 • 970-826-5002 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/lfo.html

**WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE**  
220 E. Market Street  
Meeker, CO 81641  
970-878-3800 • 970-878-3805 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo.html

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE, UNCOMPAGHRE FIELD OFFICE, GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA & DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
2465 S. Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-240-5300 • 970-240-5363 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

**GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE**  
216 N. Colorado  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
970-641-0471 • 970-642-4425 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo.html

**TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE**  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
970-882-7276 • 970-882-6641 fax

**CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT & ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER**  
27501 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
970-882-5600 • 970-882-7035 fax  
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html

Please contact the appropriate field office for more information on activities and permits in these special areas.

### Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

invites you to travel back in time to learn about Ancestral Puebloan culture and the area's fragile resources. The Monument has the highest known density of archaeological sites and is one of the most studied archaeological landscapes in the nation.

The Anasazi Heritage Center is a world class museum and headquarters for the Monument. Before visiting the Monument, stop at the Heritage Center for maps and information. Exhibits, films, and special programs interpret the history and culture of the Ancestral Pueblo people, the Monument, Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway, and the Four Corners region. Visitors can enjoy a range of experiences, from visiting the Lowry Pueblo to exploring the more remote Painted Hand Pueblo. The six-mile Sand Canyon Trail is a favorite spot for hiking.

**Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area** is home to cascading waterfalls, rugged sandstone canyons, and the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. The area has long been known for amazing scenery in the remarkable canyon country of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Red-rock canyons and bluffs hold geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years, as well as many cultural and historic sites from the past 10,000 years.

The Escalante, Cottonwood, and Little and Big Dominguez Creeks tumble through canyons that empty the eastern Uncompahgre Plateau to the Gunnison River, which flows nearly 30 miles through this beautiful desert landscape. Along with impressive scenery, the area is home to a variety of wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, golden eagle, turkey, elk, mountain lion, black bear, and the collared lizard.

### Gunnison Gorge Conservation Area

is set against a backdrop of landscapes ranging from adobe badlands and rugged pinyon-juniper-covered slopes, to the breathtaking river canyon of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Visitors enjoy numerous activities, such as kayaking and rafting, flat-water boating, big-game hunting for mule deer and elk, off-highway vehicle riding, mountain biking, sightseeing, photography, hiking, and backpacking.

Many native plant and animal species call this area home, including clay-loving buckwheat, Colorado hookless cactus, and Gunnison sage-grouse. The Gunnison Gorge boasts a world-class, gold medal trout fishery and some of the best whitewater boating opportunities in Colorado.

### McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

encompasses a diverse landscape of salt brush desert and the dramatic red-rock canyons of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The area is located on the flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau, which rises like a giant rolling wave over the Grand Valley in western Colorado.

Rugged canyons descend to the Colorado River and contain some of the most spectacular landforms found anywhere in the country. Rattlesnake Canyon, Dinosaur Hill, Devils Canyon, and Mee Canyon are just a few of the areas that contribute to the mystery, splendor, and diversity of this landscape. You will not find paved roads, visitor centers, or manicured trail heads; however, you may discover a sense of wonder, exploration, and adventure in a landscape of humbling beauty.

### BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WILDERNESS

features distinctive spires and arches, massive alcoves, beautiful desert patina, and seven major red rock canyon systems. The wilderness is located within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. The area is home to deer, mountain lion, and desert bighorn sheep, as well as golden and bald eagles.

Visitors can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, and primitive camping in the wilderness; as well as rafting, canoeing, and kayaking on the Colorado River.

**Elevation Range:** 4,300 to 7,130 feet  
**Total Area:** 75,550 acres  
**Field Office:** Grand Junction

### DOMINGUEZ CANYON WILDERNESS

offers excellent hiking and horseback riding opportunities through its sandstone canyons and pinyon-juniper-covered mesas. The wilderness is located within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Desert bighorn sheep graze at the base of the cliffs in the wilderness. Water runs through the Little Dominguez Creek year-round, creating a great habitat for many birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Rock art on the canyon walls and wickiups on the mesas are evidence of thousands of years of Native American use, including hunting and travel from the Gunnison River Valley to the Uncompahgre Plateau. The wilderness also contains historic features left by the early miners and settlers who lived and worked throughout the area.

**Elevation Range:** 4,700 to 8,200 feet  
**Total Area:** 66,280  
**Field Office:** Grand Junction and Uncompahgre

### GUNNISON GORGE WILDERNESS

runs through the black granite and multi-colored sandstone double-canyon system of the Gunnison River and the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. Encompassing 14 miles of river, the wilderness spans the canyon rim to rim; and north from the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park downstream past the confluence of the Smith Fork and the Gunnison River.

This area is managed for its outstanding wilderness, scenic, and recreational values, and offers technical (Class III-IV) remote boating experiences. The wilderness offers world-class Gold Medal trout fishing, backcountry hiking, and camping opportunities.

**Elevation Range:** 5,200 to 8,000 feet  
**Total Area:** 17,784 acres  
**Field Office:** Uncompahgre



Photo Location Map

### POWDERHORN WILDERNESS

is found in a glacier-carved landscape consisting of large expanses of alpine tundra, spruce forests, and several natural lakes at nearly 12,000 feet in elevation in the northern reaches of the San Juan Mountains. Elk, mule deer, black bear, and bighorn sheep call the plateaus of this area home. At lower elevations, visitors can wander through stands of aspen, pine, and fir trees.

Within the wilderness, visitors can explore more than 45 miles of trails that provide access for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and camping. This area is jointly managed with the U.S. Forest Service.

**Elevation Range:** 8,600 to 12,644 feet  
**Total Area:** 47,980 acres (BLM) and 14,270 acres (FS) for total of 62,250 acres  
**Field Office:** Gunnison

### UNCOMPAGHRE WILDERNESS

contains gently rolling alpine tundra meadows, mountainous landscapes, rock castles and densely-forested canyons managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service in the north-central San Juan Mountains. This wilderness boasts two "fourteens" and more than 34 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation. Several forks of the Cimarron River roar through the wilderness, and numerous alpine lakes and streams are scattered throughout the area. Visitors can explore more than 100 miles of trails that provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, mountaineering, rock-climbing, and camping.

**Elevation Range:** 8,400 to 14,309 feet  
**Total Area:** 3,390 acres (BLM) and 99,331 acres (FS) for a total of 102,721 acres  
**Field Office:** Gunnison

### TABEGUACHE AREA

consists of pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine and oak brush lands. The BLM oversees this congressionally designated Management Area for its wilderness values. Visitors can enjoy hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing throughout this remarkable area.

**Elevation Range:** 6,500 to 8,000 feet  
**Total Area:** 17,240 acres  
**Field Office:** Uncompahgre

### WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

are managed to not impair their suitability for designation as wilderness until Congress makes a final decision on their designation or releases them for other uses. Many of these areas are remote, some have limited access and few have developed facilities. There are 54 WSAs that encompass nearly 540,000 acres of dramatic landscapes in Colorado.

### THE OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

recognizes the land route traveled by traders between 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico (today's New Mexico) and California. The BLM manages more than 85 miles of the trail in Colorado. From 1829 to 1848, this trail was the shortest known route from Santa Fe to Los Angeles, following a loose network of Native American footpaths crisscrossing the Colorado Plateau and Mojave Desert.

### THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

navigates diverse ecosystems through mountain meadows, granite peaks and high-desert surroundings. Coined the "King of Trails," it is the longest and most challenging long-distance scenic trail within the National Trails System. BLM Colorado manages many trails that provide access to this scenic trail, as well as one mile of the 800-mile trail itself.

### RIO GRANDE NATURAL AREA

was established in 2006 to conserve, restore, and protect the natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of the 33-mile stretch of the Rio Grande between the southern end of Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Colorado-New Mexico border.

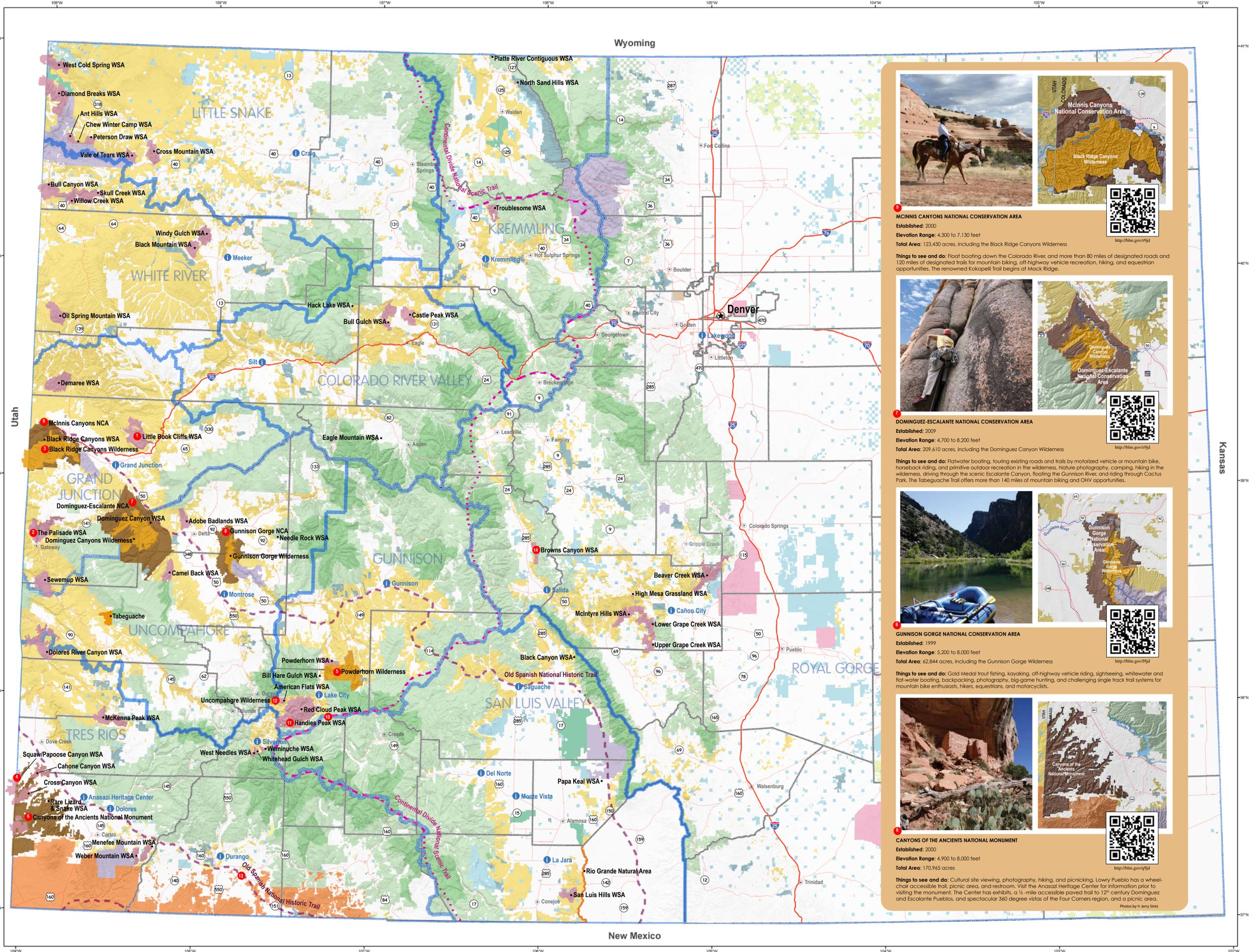
**Elevation Range:** 7,463 to 7,690 feet  
**Total Area:** 2,900 acres (BLM) and 5,900 acres (private) for a total of 8,800 acres  
**Field Office:** San Luis Valley

Photo captions clockwise from top:  
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail © Bob Wick, Handies Peak WSA  
© Bob Wick, Uncompahgre Wilderness  
© Bob Wick, The Old Spanish National Historic Trail photo by Denise Adamic, Browns Canyon WSA © Bob Wick

Remember that public lands belong to and are used by millions of people each year. Anything left behind detracts from the beauty of the area, disrupts natural processes, and presents health hazards to humans and wildlife. Leave No Trace.

# BLM National Landscape Conservation System in Colorado

Additional Information can be obtained by calling 303-239-3600 or visiting our website at [WWW.BLM.GOV/CO/](http://WWW.BLM.GOV/CO/) " Visit Us - SpecialPlaces "



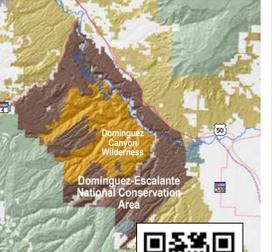


**1** MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Established: 2000  
Elevation Range: 4,300 to 7,130 feet  
Total Area: 123,430 acres, including the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

<http://blm.gov/99jd>

**Things to see and do:** Float boating down the Colorado River, and more than 80 miles of designated roads and 120 miles of designated trails for mountain biking, off-highway vehicle recreation, hiking, and equestrian opportunities. The renowned Kokopelli Trail begins at Mack Ridge.

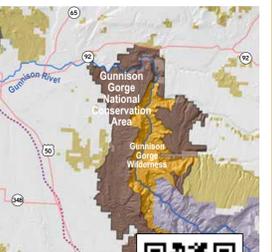



**7** DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Established: 2009  
Elevation Range: 4,700 to 8,200 feet  
Total Area: 209,610 acres, including the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness

<http://blm.gov/99jd>

**Things to see and do:** Flatwater boating, touring existing roads and trails by motorized vehicle or mountain bike, horseback riding, and primitive outdoor recreation in the wilderness. Nature photography, camping, hiking in the wilderness, driving through the scenic Escalante Canyon, floating the Gunnison River, and riding through Cactus Park. The Tabeguache Trail offers more than 140 miles of mountain biking and OHV opportunities.

**8** GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Established: 1999  
Elevation Range: 5,200 to 8,000 feet  
Total Area: 62,844 acres, including the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness

<http://blm.gov/99jd>

**Things to see and do:** Gold Medal trout fishing, kayaking, off-highway vehicle riding, sightseeing, whitewater and flat-water boating, backpacking, photography, big-game hunting, and challenging single track trail systems for mountain bike enthusiasts, hikers, equestrians, and motorcyclists.




**6** CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Established: 2000  
Elevation Range: 4,900 to 8,000 feet  
Total Area: 170,965 acres

<http://blm.gov/99jd>

**Things to see and do:** Cultural site viewing, photography, hiking, and picnicking. Lowry Pueblo has a wheelchair accessible trail, picnic area, and restroom. Visit the Anasazi Heritage Center for information prior to visiting the monument. The Center has exhibits, a 1/2-mile accessible paved trail to 12<sup>th</sup> century Dominguez and Escalante Pueblos, and spectacular 360 degree vistas of the Four Corners region, and a picnic area.

Photos by © Jerry Sirtz



- Bureau of Land Management
  - BLM National Monument or National Conservation Area
  - Congressionally Designated Management Area
  - BLM Wilderness Area
  - BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - U.S. Forest Service Wilderness
- Private Lands
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - State
  - National Park Service
  - Indian Reservation
  - Military Reservation
  - National Grasslands
  - State, County, City, Areas
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- BLM Office Location: Maps and Information
  - BLM District Office Boundary
  - BLM Field Office Boundary
  - Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
  - Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- Photo Locations
  - State Capitol
  - County Seat
  - State Boundary
  - Interstate Highway
  - U.S. and State Highway

