

Salvation Knoll Trail Construction

This project consisted of reconstruction of the trail leading to the top of Salvation Knoll. Salvation Knoll is an important site relating to the Hole-in-the-Rock expedition to settle the town of Bluff in 1880. The site is a popular visitor destination. It is located alongside State Road 95, and the base of the knoll is easily accessible. An existing vehicle pullout and an interpretive sign are present along the highway. A poorly designed trail led part way up the knoll. Toward the top, the trail had never been constructed, and it was braiding and severely eroding. The was redesigned and reconstructed.

The Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation, which is an organization committed to the preservation and interpretation of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, strongly supported this project. Descendents of L. H. Redd provided the labor to construct a new trail. The hiking trail accesses the top of Salvation Knoll, where visitors can enjoy a 360 degree panorama of incredible views. Round trip to the top is one-half mile.

Salvation Knoll is a historic site located a few miles off the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. This trail was blazed by Mormon pioneers during the winter of 1879-1880 as they came to settle along the San Juan River. Scouts exploring in advance of the wagon train through the terribly rugged terrain became lost and ran out of food as they sought to determine whether the route was even possible. On a snowy Christmas Day morning in 1879, they climbed what is now known as Salvation Knoll in search of landmarks. From its top they were able to see the Blue Mountains off to the northeast, which allowed them to orient themselves. Subsequently they were able to design a route for the wagon trail that followed them.





