

BLM Price Field Office



Recreation Insider

BLM

Upcoming

Meeting

We will be holding a recreation planning meeting to discuss travel management and future projects on Wednesday, October 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Court house in Castle Dale, UT (61 East 100 North) Everyone interested in recreation is invited.

Project

Building three tier kiosks at the BLM Price Field Office. Project date will be announced as soon as the materials arrive.

“Stay on Designated Trails. Being responsible doesn’t mean being boring. Have a blast out there. Just use common sense and simple outdoor ethics to keep your riding areas beautiful, healthy, and open.” Tread Lightly
Jaydon Mead OHV / Volunteer Coordinator

Public Lands Day Volunteer Project

The Price Field Office hosted a National Public Lands Day volunteer project on September 22, 2012. The day was spent doing trail maintenance in Coal Wash.

Coal Wash is located inside the Sid’s Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Sid’s Mountain WSA has been carved from massive sandstone rock layers into a dramatic array of scenic formations such as buttes, arches and deep canyons. It is also home to the largest herd of desert bighorn sheep in Utah.

18 volunteers assisted with this project. To get more done, we decided to split into two work groups. Josh Winkler (Outdoor Recreation Planner) took one group up the Devils Race Track, and Jaydon Mead (OHV/Volunteer Coordinator) along with Matt Blocker (Outdoor Recreation Planner) took the other group up North Fork Coal Wash to Fix It Pass.

The group that went up Devils Race track focused on fixing and replacing trail carsonites. The trail travels over sandstone rock and can

sometimes be hard to follow without signs. Some signs have been there for many years and have become damaged which makes them hard to follow. This group replaced signs and raked out tracks where needed.

The other group that went to Fix It Pass worked on a variety of projects. They replaced and installed trail carsonites to ensure that everyone stays on the same route in the wash. They updated all of the kiosks with new tread lightly posters, WSA information, and fresh maps.

The group also stopped at the ZCMI Mine where they did some rehabilitation. It’s about a 1/4 mile hike into the mine from the road. There had been four different trails developed to get to the mine. We marked the best trail, along the old road as the hiking trail all the way to the stone structure near the mine. While some of us were putting in trail carsonites, the others were raking out the other three trails and putting down seed.

Both of the groups had a fun and successful day cleaning up the trails. There was a total of 252 volunteer hours donated toward this project.

Article by: Jaydon Mead



Pictures from the trail maintenance project in Coal Wash provided by and Jason Callaway and Terry Sanslow.



Emery County Helps Out at the Wedge

Anyone interested in participating in volunteer projects or have questions or concerns about OHV trails, please contact Jaydon Mead through the BLM at 435-636-3646.

Work to keep designated routes open at the Wedge Overlook continues thanks to the help from Emery County.

The BLM has been working at the Wedge Overlook to stop user created trails off the designated routes, because it is one of the few areas populated by the San Rafael Cactus which is on the endangered species list.

Emery County helped the BLM by delivering large rocks to the area and placing them along side the road where issues have been occurring.

The BLM thanks Emery County for using their time and equipment to do this.

Article By: Jaydon Mead



Labor Day Weekend in the Swell

Members of the recreation staff, Josh Winkler, Matt Gochis, and Jaydon Mead spent multiple days in the San Rafael Swell over the Labor Day Weekend. We stayed in a dispersed camping site near Swaseys Cabin with many objectives for the weekend.

Our first objective was to have a BLM presence. We like to make our BLM presence as positive as possible for the people that we encounter. We talked with many people about their plans for the weekend and recommended sites to visit when they asked about the different opportunities in our area. We gave a free travel map to everyone we talked with.

Our second objective was to monitor the impacts and uses in the area and on the trails. To our surprise, we saw a lot less people than we had expected to see.

Our last objective was to spend some time in Coal Wash to discuss and plan what we wanted to do for our volunteer project later that month.

We were already seeing great vegetation recovery results from the work we had done just months before. The pictures below show a before shot from around Easter weekend 2012 and an after shot during Labor Day weekend 2012.



At Devils Racetrack Trailhead



Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry

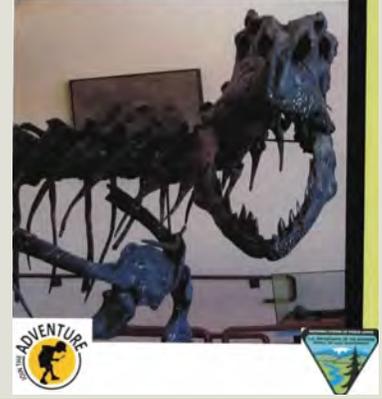
With financial support from the Washington Office's National Landscape Conservation System and the Division of Education, Interpretation, and Partnerships, and technical graphics support from the Utah State Office of External Affairs, the Price Field Office is happy to announce that the Junior (formerly Jurassic) Explorer booklet for the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry National Natural Landmark is finally going to

print! Final proofs were sent off to the publisher the last week of September. Hopefully the finished product will arrive at the quarry this year but if not then certainly in 2013. Children visiting the quarry will have the opportunity to deepen their experience of dinosaurs and the mystery of Cleveland-Lloyd by working through the booklet, and take home a memento of their visit!

Article by: Mike Leschin

Junior Explorer

Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry



Picture of a adult size Allosaurus mount at the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry

River Ranger—David Kelly

This morning as I drove over the pass from Spanish Fork to Price and saw snow on the high peaks, I realized just how quickly the river season has gone by. While this year's high flow 11,100CFS (cubic feet per second) didn't quite match up with the high river flow of 48,000 CFS of last year, it was still a great season. As rangers, we get to see the canyon as it changes throughout the season. This means battling low and high water; and bugs once the water starts to decline.

Two of the constants in Desolation and Gray Canyon are the rocks and getting to share the river with

specialists and volunteers. One trip that stands out this summer was with Matt Blocker (PFO), Bunny Sterin and Byron Loosle of the BLM State Office.

I had a chance to spend a lot of time on this trip floating and hiking with Byron. As the state archaeologist, he was most interested in the Fremont Culture that lived in Desolation Canyon in years (many years) past. We stopped at a number of different rock art sites and it was very interesting to talk to Byron about what the sites mean. It turns out there isn't a lot of knowledge as far as interpreting

each individual site, and there's a lot of room for interpretation. So take a look at some of the attached photos and see if you can interpret what was being communicated by the ancient cultures.

If you come up with an idea of what this rock art means or want to join one of us on a river patrol next season, stop by and let us know. You're sure to see some amazing rock art, get an opportunity to see what the river corridor looks like, and how it applies to your specialty.

Article by: David Kelly

Pictures were taken by River Rangers David Kelly and Ryan Hygon in Desolation Canyon.



BLM

Ask A User Article—Lynn Blamires

User Articles

These articles about recreation experiences from the users eyes are great articles for the newsletter. But I need help from you, the users, to keep putting them in.

If you have a favorite trail, or had a good recreation experience in the BLM Price Field Office Area then share it with us and other enthusiasts like yourself.

You may ask, where do I start? Or What makes a good article?

If you can answer some of the following questions, then we can make a great article.

- What is one of your favorite trails on BLM managed land in Carbon or Emery Counties?
- What makes that trail one of your favorites?
- How did you learn about the trail?
- What is a good memory about that trail?
- Do you have any pictures of the trail?
- Tell me about yourself and how you recreate? Are you a part of any groups?

We are looking for motorized and non-motorized experiences or favorite trails.

If you would like to author an “Ask A User” article, contact Jaydon Mead at the BLM Price Field Office, 435-636-3646 or jmead@blm.gov

With ATV trails in Northern Utah still a cold prospect, I took some friends and headed south to the San Rafael Swell. The variety of scenery and challenging trails make the Swell one of my favorite places to ride.

We staged this ride at the Buckhorn Corral situated about 13 miles east of Castle Dale near the entrance to the Buckhorn Draw. While the morning was cool, the sky was clear with the promise of great riding weather.

As we entered the draw we encountered towering rock formations with sheer walls blackened and streaked from exposure to the elements. These blackened walls were made more interesting where sections had broken away, exposing a lighter, fresher face, the old sections strewn at the base.

We passed Furniture Draw and stopped to climb up on a ledge for a view of a dinosaur foot print. The Swell is rife with evidence of these Jurassic creatures.

We were anticipating our approach to the famous Buckhorn Panel featuring some fascinating Indian rock art when off to our right we spotted some big horn sheep. Some of the art in the Swell depicts these sheep etched into the rock.

We passed Calf Canyon and came to the San Rafael River. In 1937 a suspension bridge was built opening a huge portion of the Swell

not easily accessed. It was only wide enough for one-way traffic and the swaying motion felt while crossing the 167 foot structure gave it the “Swinging Bridge” title. The bridge was used up until 1994 when a steel two lane bridge was built beside it. It is now restricted to foot traffic.

Passing Assembly Hall Peak, Bottleneck Peak, and Window Blind Peak we turned into Cane Wash. Riding this winding wash with the wind in my face was a highlight of the trip.

Climbing out of the wash, we encountered a more challenging section of the trail. With rock benches and ladders to negotiate, I wasn’t paying attention to the scenery so I may have missed something.

We came around Locomotive Point to another rock art panel and then before crossing under I-70, we stopped at the Dutchman Arch. This arch is more accessible than others in the Swell and we took time to enjoy it.

We stopped at the rock art they call the Lone Warrior on the south side of the freeway. This piece of work is unique in that it depicts a man holding a shield, but you can see the outline of the man through the shield.

We were in Sinbad Valley, the stomping grounds of Joe Swasey, whose cabin we took time to visit. Inhabited only by bats, what is left

shows the ingenuity that allowed him to survive this wild and rugged setting. We took time to visit the “Ice Box,” a crevice in the cliff near the cabin that was cool enough to preserve perishable food year-round.

From here we took the Temple Mountain road east through Earl’s Draw and across Page Flat then back north under I-70. Passing a pointy peak called the Wickiup, we rode though Road Hollow, across Oil Well Flat, and closed the loop by riding once again into the Buckhorn Draw.

On our way back we stopped to learn about another piece of San Rafael history; The MK Tunnels. During the 1950’s the government conducted some secret experiments looking for a suitable place to store munitions. They drilled hundreds of feet into the fissured sandstone and set off large amounts of dynamite above the tunnels to see if the project could withstand the impact of an atomic bomb. The explosions caved in the ceilings and the idea was scrapped. While these gaping black holes are now sealed with grids of rebar, their very existence creates an aura of mystery.

The Swell still holds much to see and experience. The best time to go is in the spring and fall. When you go, become familiar with the maps, take plenty of water, and keep the rubber side down.

Article by; Lynn Blamires

Thank you Lynn for sharing your experiences and pictures.

