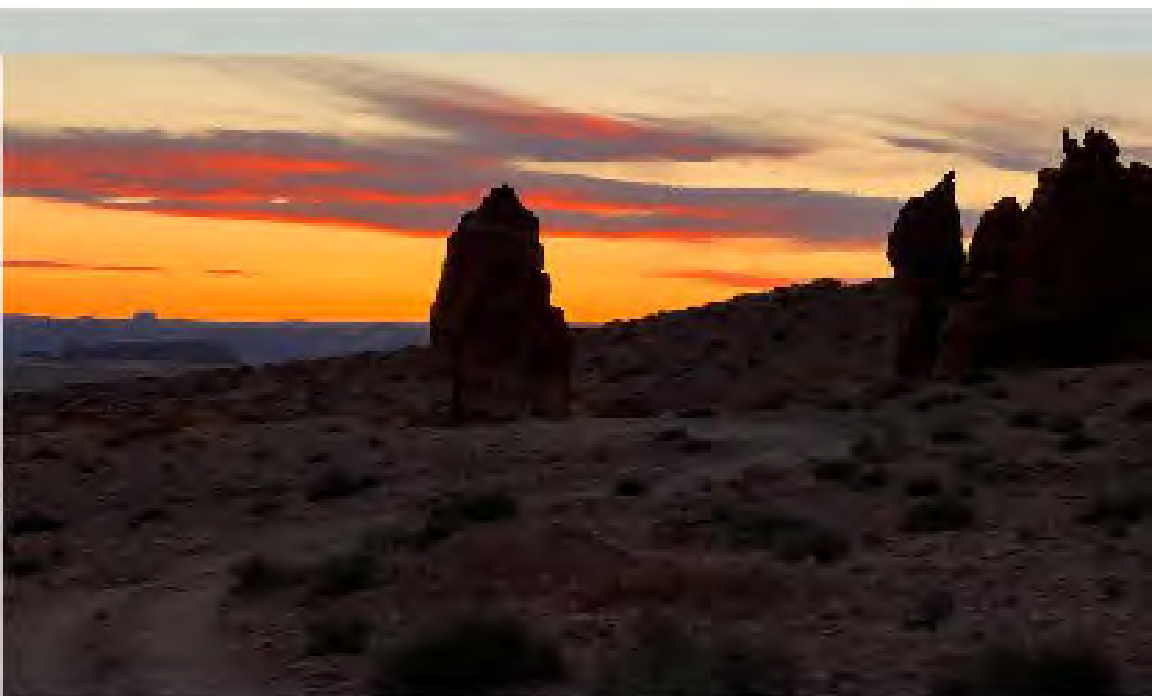


The Lost Trails Guidebook



Vol. I



BLUERIBBON
COALITION

The Lost Trails Guidebook

Vol. I

A Publication By
BlueRibbon Coalition,
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MAP

San Rafael Desert

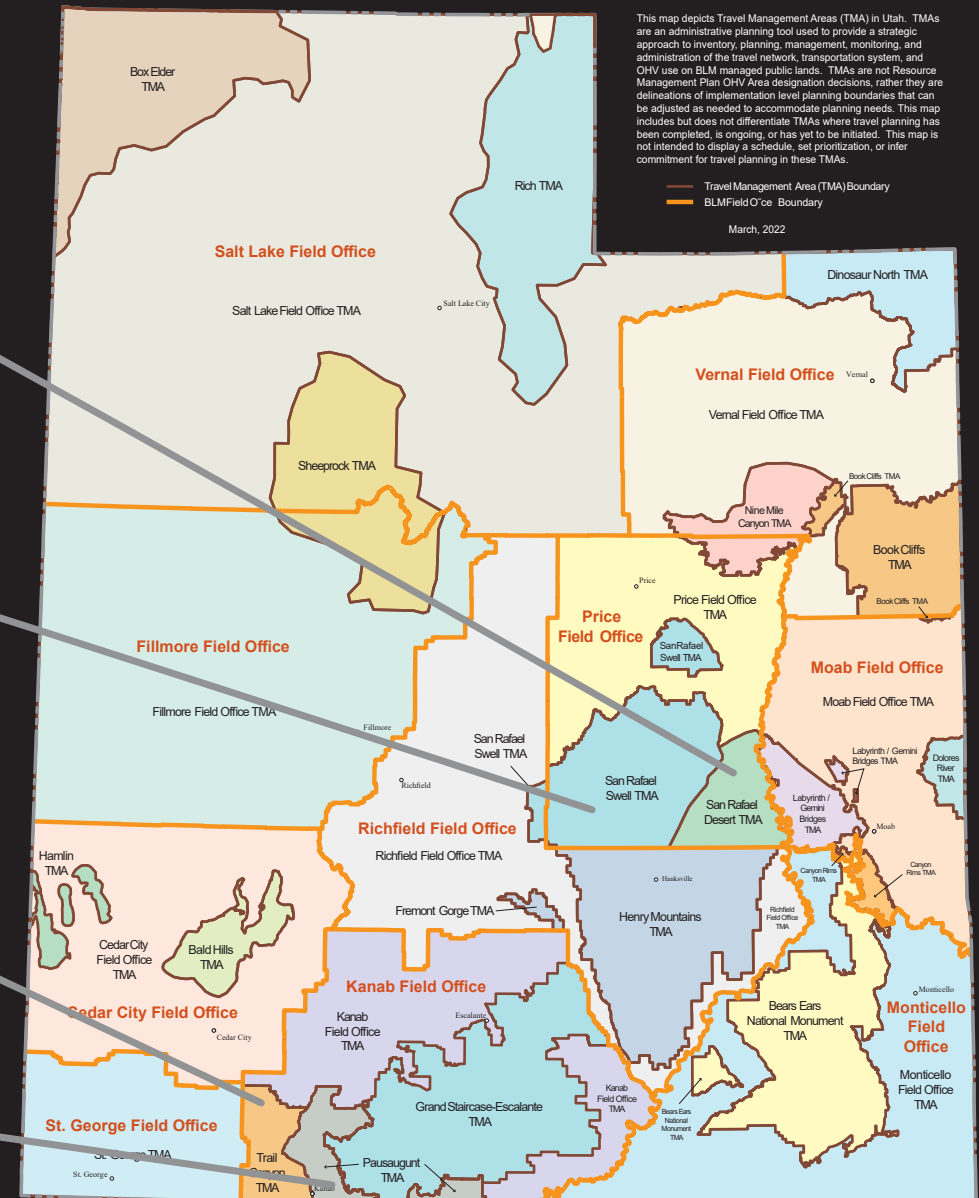
San Rafael Swell

Trail Canyon

Paunsaugunt

Each route in this guidebook has a digital reference page on the BlueRibbon Coalition webpage. These include detailed maps of route locations. To view specific maps for each route in this guidebook, please visit: <https://www.sharetrails.org/category/lost-trails-guidebook/>

BLM Utah Travel Management Areas



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Key



2-Wheel Drive



4-Wheel Drive



High
Clearance



ATV



Dirtbike



Scenic Route



Challenging



Scenic Viewpoint



Historical



Dispersed

Introduction

*Every trail tells a story, but some trails
tell it more eloquently than others.*
- Robert Moor, *On Trails: An Exploration*

Routes and trails want to exist. I learned this truth from my dog. Before my yellow lab, Clyde, made my backyard into his territory, trails were strategically placed by landscape designers. Flagstone paths existed in beds of gravel. The dog didn't recognize these trails.

I don't know if it was instinct, magnetic fields, or some kind of cosmic joke, but Clyde decided to design his own trail system in my backyard. There is an instinctual logic to some of the trails when they create a graceful line between point A and point B. Sometimes, they don't make sense, such as the 3 foot trail that cuts off a small corner of the lawn. Over time these trails have been hardened from use and the landscape has evolved around them. Even when I erase them with my tractor, Clyde reestablishes them with what can only be described as canine doggedness.

Shortly after Clyde developed his own route system in my backyard, the Bureau of Land Management released its final decision for a route network in an area called the San Rafael Desert in southeastern Utah through a process called "travel management planning." In the decision, they decided to adopt the OHV friendly alternative, which would recognize over 800 miles of existing routes as open for the public to use.

As someone who believes that more routes create an invaluable public good, I was pleased with the decision. As someone who also values the primitive experience of

exploring places rarely visited by others, the route network that would only impact less than 1% of the area seemed like a more-than-fair balance with those who want to erase all human trails from a landscape.

Nevertheless, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed an appeal to challenge the plan. Reading their legal complaints and public statements on the challenge was head-spinning, to say the least. According to them, on one hand the area was poised to be destroyed by excessive OHV use. Yet, their biggest concern was that the BLM had chosen to leave open roads that showed signs of little, if any, use. In addition to these concerns, they challenged that the BLM didn't do enough to restrict vehicle-based camping in the area.

A multi-year legal fight ensued with BlueRibbon Coalition, the State of Utah, Colorado Trails Preservation Alliance, and Ride with Respect defending the BLM against SUWA's legal challenges. All of this effort was made to determine whether the BLM should close trails because they receive little use.

It was in the middle of this fight that I got the idea for the Lost Trails Guidebook. Just like the trails in my backyard exist for reasons that in some cases are only known to my dog, these trails in the San Rafael Desert exist for a reason. I wanted to go find these reasons and educate those who love exploration, adventure, and new experiences, and show them that they need to become part of the story to keep these trails open.

With a generous grant from the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative, I spent several days exploring the lesser known routes of the San Rafael Desert along with BRC staff and volunteers. Because we are part of a legal settlement that requires the BLM to analyze these travel networks on public land, we also knew that the San Rafael Swell and two areas near Kanab, UT (Trail Canyon and Paunsagaunt) were also going to go through this process.

While each of these areas have their popular trails and destinations, our focus in this project was to document the trails less traveled. Our hope is that the more intrepid explorers among us will go discover what we found: that each of these trails is there for a reason. Some provide access to scenic and beautiful destinations. Some take you

to areas of historic interest. You will experience some of the most geologically dynamic landscapes in North America. You will find spectacular, remote dispersed camping sites. You will find wildlife thriving in desert ecosystems. What you won't find is evidence of excessive OHV use or reckless behavior. We looked hard for this to see if there was justification to be closing any roads. After logging thousands of miles, all we can say is there are infinite adventures waiting for you to come find them. In many cases, because these areas are remote and lightly traveled, they will become uniquely your adventures. There is a story out in these landscapes that is waiting for you to become a part of it.

So go find yourself, or lose yourself, in these public lands that belong to all of us. The biggest reason for keeping these trails is because they're closer to that point of being lost. Traveling them is a different experience than the old, beaten paths you might be used to. If the primary reason we are losing trails is because they're not being used enough, then the best way to defend our trails is to show them some love and to go on an adventure.

We hope you will join us!



Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition

Lost Trails #1:

Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness

San Rafael Desert, UT
BLM Route 679



Overview: BLM Route 679, located in the San Rafael Desert south of Green River, UT, is a 1.5 mile spur that leads to a spectacular overlook of the Green River as it skirts along the cliffs into the heart of the Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness.

As one of the congressionally designated cherry-stemmed roads in this wilderness area, it cuts through some of the most spectacular scenery in the San Rafael Desert. As a cherry-stemmed road, it is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

The trail boasts several existing dispersed campsites and is accessible to any well-equipped, 4WD vehicle. This route would make a great destination for anyone wanting to get off the beaten path in one of Utah's most remote and lightly visited areas.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach SD679 within the many existing routes of the San Rafael Desert. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and

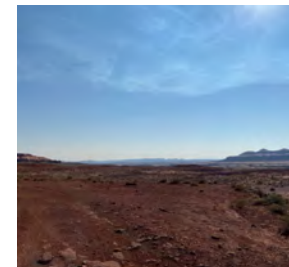
coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the wilderness alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. SD679 turns off from the main road, SD421, at GPS coordinates 38°42'39.09"N and 110° 8'45.82"W.

The main road is a well maintained, graded route and is accessible to most vehicles; however, all motorists who drive past the main road will best served with a 4WD vehicle.

About three to five minutes up route SD679, you will find the route's first existing dispersed campsite. It is located far enough up the road that you feel isolated from the main road and provides a nice site for camping. While this first dispersed campsite serves as an excellent site, we strongly recommend that you head to the end of the route for an even better dispersed camping experience.

This trail forms a fun, curving detour along some of the San Rafael Desert's most beautiful red rock cliffs, canyons, and overlooks. It is well used and has plenty of bumps, twists and turns, giving the well-equipped motorist an adventurous, rugged trail experience. Be sure to stay on the trail and use LEAVE NO TRACE practices.

As you reach the end of route SD679, you will find several additional fire rings for dispersed camping, views of beautiful rock formations in every direction, and a jaw dropping overlook that sits several hundred feet above the Green River. You know you are at the right spot if you reach GPS coordinates 38°42'35.20"N and 110° 7'31.59"W.



Above: the cherry-stemmed road at SD679. Above left: the welcome sign to the Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness. Above middle: a picturesque view of the desert. Above right: the pull off for Route SD 679. Bottom left: dispersed camping at 38°42'35.20"N and 110° 7'31.59"W.

Lost Trails #2 & #3

Horse Bench

San Rafael Desert, UT
BLM Route 781



Overview: The horse bench area, located in the San Rafael Desert south of Green River, UT, contains a series of trails that traverse vast tracts of remote, open desert landscape and end at one of the most spectacular dispersed campsites this desert has to offer. The trails included in this article are at risk of closure under claims of reclaiming if they are not used. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road. These trails are accessible to any well-equipped, 4WD vehicle. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help to keep our roads open.

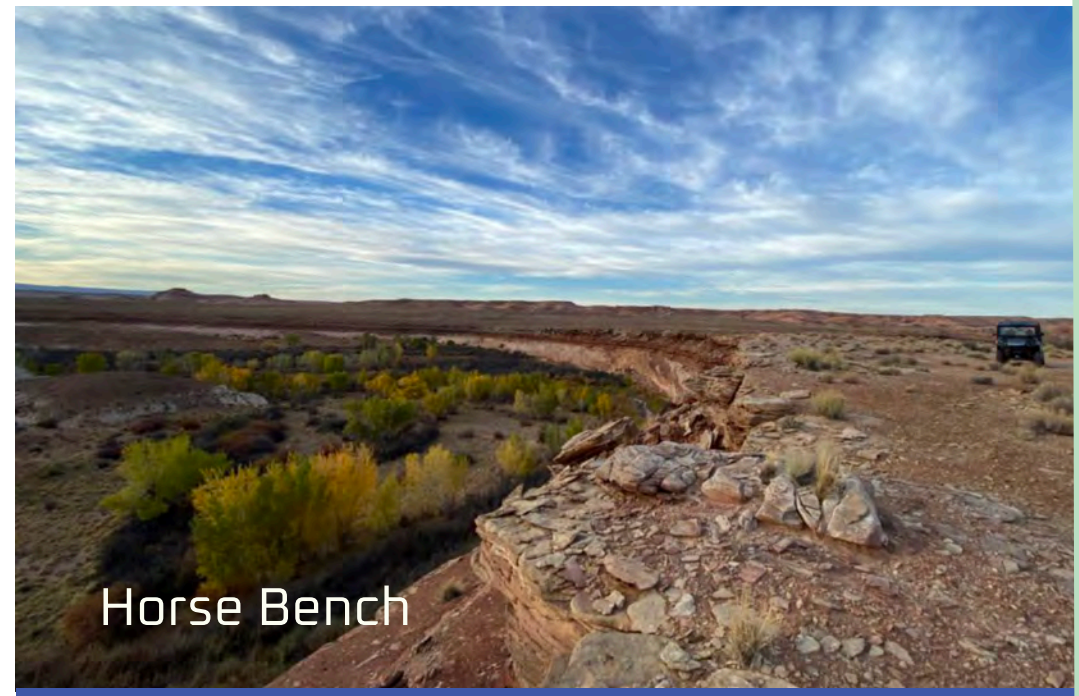
Getting There: To get the most out of this network of trails and experience as much terrain as possible, we recommend starting at SD765 and then proceeding in order from SD788 to SD787, followed by SD771, SD772, and finally, SD781.

There are several ways to approach this cluster of routes within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Desert. Take

time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. You will find the dispersed campsite at the end of SD781 at GPS coordinates 38°44'0.18"N and 110°11'11.08"W.

Trails Conditions and Access: Like all regular OHV roads, the trails on this route are two-track dirt roads that occasionally feature grass or hearty bushes growing between the tire tracks where soil is not disturbed by the tires of passing vehicles. As you traverse the network of routes in this article, you may occasionally run into areas where the trail seems to disappear because of sandstone sections or other terrain features. If you continue straight forward, the trail will quickly reappear. SD781, for example, is a lightly used OHV road and cow path that traverses several stretches more susceptible to erosion.

Where the trails featured in this article are remotely located and receive less use and or see heavy rains during annual monsoons, the casual passersby or agenda-oriented

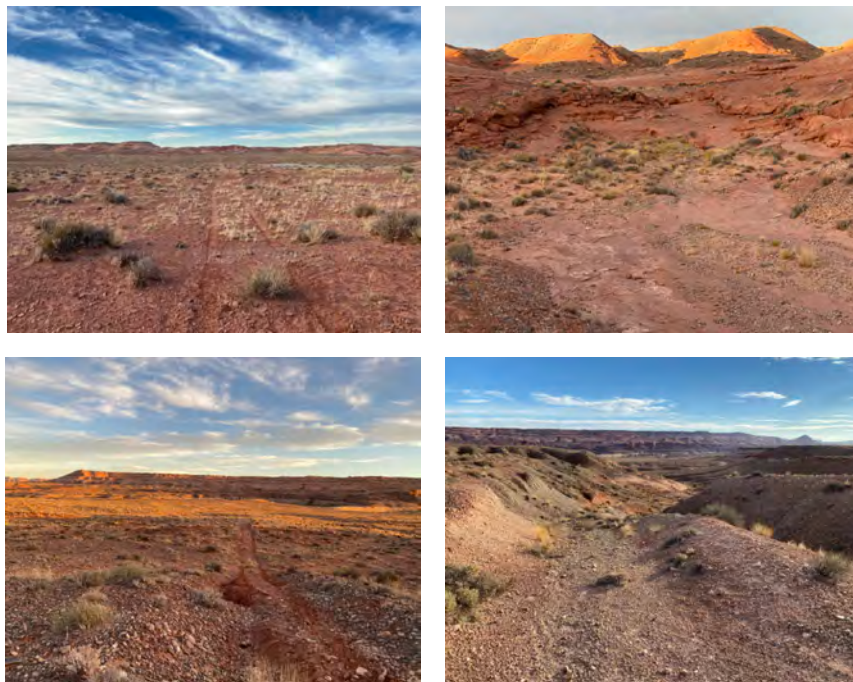


Horse Bench

environmentalist activist will frequently claim that these trails are reclaiming when they in fact see regular, light or moderate, valid use. We hope publicizing these routes will encourage volunteer restoration projects while also ensuring country road departments maintain them.

Trails marked as reclaiming are often closed in travel management plans, even when a short trip past an obtrusive bush or rocky wash reveals a trail that clearly stretches on for mile upon mile. Traveling more frequently in these areas helps to keep them on the map. Please help us in our fight to keep these trails open by visiting and responsibly recreating on them with your family and friends.

As evidenced in the pictures included here, many of these trails have also seen purposeful bulldozing and graveling, intended to open these areas to OHV use for recreational and other purposes. The light vegetation invading these trails could be cleared out by a volunteer crew in a few hours.



Above: Pictures from the Horse Bench trail, BLM route 781.



Anti-access organizations and other extreme environmentalist groups claim that the San Rafael Desert is blanketed with OHV routes. Although this may appear true on a zoomed out map, covered with thick trail lines, the actual experience of the land in the San Rafael Desert is quite different. As you drive through this area, you will see vast stretches untouched by human hands or tire-tracks, adding to the beauty of what there is to be enjoyed in this area. According to trail density calculations, this is one of the least traversed areas across Southern Utah's public lands, boasting a trail density of less than 1%.

Lost Trails #4: Canaan Mountain

Trail Canyon, UT
BLM Route 10G



Overview: The Trail Canyon Travel Management Area includes terrain between Zion National Park and the Coral Pink Sand Dunes. The landscape is part of the Greater Zion Area, and has all the features that attract people to Utah's most popular National Park. Iconic sandstone formations, a wide variety of desert wildlife and plants, and memorable trails that offer a broad range of options for adventure. The Trails in this area are mostly sandy dirt roads that require capable off-road vehicles.

Getting There: The trail after the blockade is clearly visible on the ground and not reclaiming. While it does travel through a wilderness study area, if this area were to ever be designated as wilderness, it is likely this road would be included through a cherry stem. While the route provides scenic views and an enjoyable riding experience, we would like to see it reach the overlook. We have requested the BLM include this route in their inventory in the travel management process with hopes it will be opened. We encourage the



Canaan Mountain

public to become familiar with this route, so you can become part of the story to keep it open and accessible. For now we recommend exploring the area beyond the barricade on foot.

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Route 10G in the Trail Canyon area is accessible by any 4WD OHV. It does involve a decent gain in elevation, and the trail is compacted sand that is typical of trails in the area.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Don't go around the barricade. We will work to get the remainder of the trail open through the official process.



Above: the Canaan Mountain pat, pictures of a blockade, and the continuing trail. Make sure to explore the rest of the trail on foot.

Lost Trails #5: Moquith Mountain

Moquith Mountain, UT
KNFO Route No. 50



Overview: Sand Spring Road (KNFO No. 50) is a 3.5 mile OHV route that leads from Hancock Road into the Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area to a 1.73 mile destination hike. The Moquith Mountain Wilderness Study Area is a scenic and remote area located east of Utah's Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park and west of the city of Kanab.

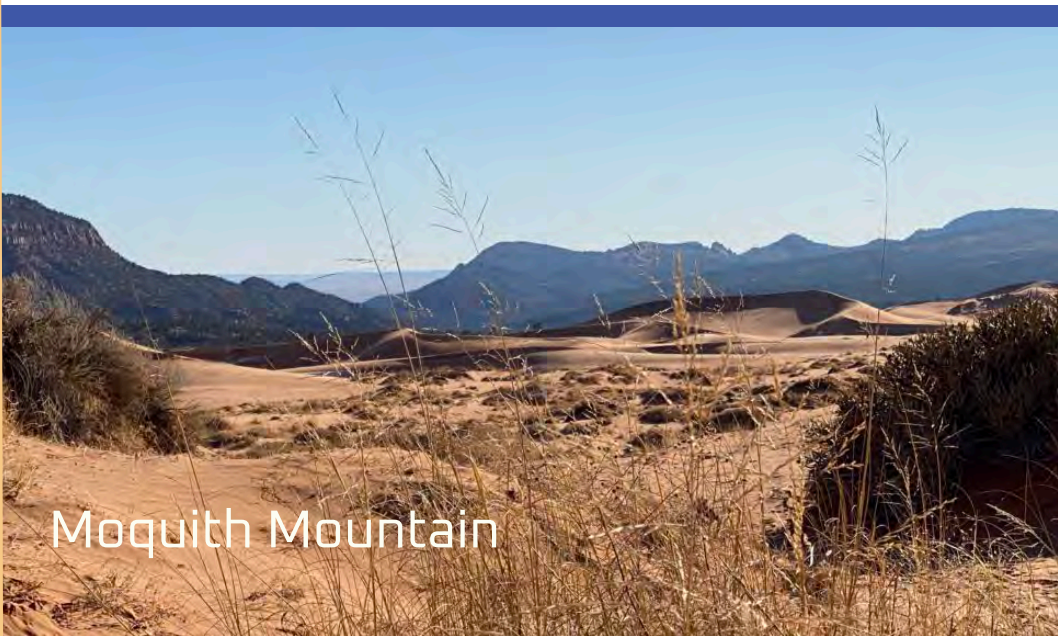
Located within the Trail Canyon TMA, it is characterized by its sandy, desert terrain and broad vistas; standing at approximately 7,000 feet above sea level, this area provides stunning views of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes and its surrounding landscape. Exploration on Sand Spring Road is well suited for any lightly equipped 4WD/AWD vehicle. The route features many twists and banked curves, leads past a primitive campsite, and ends at a footpath that leads to Native American pictographs.

If you are already staging out of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, exploring from Kanab or overland camping in the surrounding area, it is well worth your while to spend a day in this naturally and culturally rich area.

Getting There: Sand Spring Road can be reached from Hancock Road, which connects to both Highway 89 and Yellowjacket Road. Its proximity to the Coral Pink Sand Dunes makes an approach from the dunes via Yellowjacket Road and onto Hancock road a great option for those already exploring the dunes.

Sand Spring Road turns off from Hancock Road at GPS coordinates 37°5'53.11"N and 112°38'42.33"W. Once you turn off of the main road, the route becomes a nice all-terrain trail. When exploring on this route, be sure to use a 4WD or AWD vehicle to avoid getting stuck in the area's deep sand.

Throughout the Moquith Mountain WSA, there are several uninventoried routes that do not show up on existing maps, including the one pictured above. These trails are clearly established and well used trails, but have been missed in route inventories. This area is currently in the scoping phase for Trail Canyon's travel management planning and all routes which are not officially inventoried are at risk of closure. BlueRibbon Coalition has fought and continues to fight to keep trails like these open and available for public use. If you encounter trails like this that do not show on your map while you are out on your adventure, please take down the trail coordinates and contact us so that we can continue to fight for the existence of these trails. Knowledge is power.



Moquith Mountain

Following the Sand Spring Road: Sand Spring Road skirts along the edge of the Moquith Mountain WSA for almost two miles before stemming into it. Be sure to use appropriate caution; use a sand dune flag, watch for other motorists, hikers and wildlife, and use extra caution around blind turns.

As always, please also leave this area as beautiful as you found it by staying on the trail. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage and route closures. BlueRibbon Coalition fights hard to keep these and other similar areas open to the public for responsible motorized and general recreational use. Recreate responsibly and keep this area open and pristine for everyone.

Just before entering the wilderness area, you will pass Sand Spring campground. This campground is best suited to primitive camping and is located just outside the WSA boundaries. Again, it is ideally situated for a remote camping experience. We would not recommend full RV camping in this area. There are no hookups and there is a high risk of getting your rig trapped in the sand. Should you choose to camp in this area, please be sure to dispose of all waste properly and pack out all garbage. LEAVE NO TRACE.

As you continue along this trail, you will find that thick vegetation often closely lines both sides of the trail. Don't expect to come out of this adventure with your vehicle looking pretty, but do expect to leave with memories of great riding, spectacular views from the side of a desert mountain, and the awe-inspiring solitude of a remote desert experience.

Sand Springs Road ends at the trailhead for South Fork Indian Canyon Trail at coordinates 37° 3'27.30"N and 112°40'40.62"W. This trail is designated for hiking. You will need to park and continue the adventure on foot. South Fork Indian Canyon Trail continues from this point for approximately 1.5 miles.

The petroglyphs are located as you approach the bottom of the canyon and are marked by a boardwalk and fenced off area. Please respect this cultural resource and do not alter or touch anything along the cliff face. Acts of vandalism frequently lead to area closures.



Above left: the trailhead at Moquith Mountain. Above right: a snapshot from the Moquith trail. Left: Pictographs on the Sand Spring Road. Please look and don't touch. Bottom: the turnoff for Sand Spring Road. Off-road equipment recommended.



Lost Trails #6: Elephant Cove

Parunuweap Canyon WSA
KNFO Route 20Q



Overview: KNFO Route 20Q is a short side spur leading off of KNFO 20, located within the Parunuweap Canyon WSA. This unique detour features rugged sand formations and spectacular, sweeping views of the surrounding desert cliffs. The scenery and sand features encountered on this route make the area feel like a Star Wars-themed park ride. Once at the end of the BLM marked route (see description below), the trail can be continued on foot into a steep sandy gulch where evidence of mountain lion activity may be found. This route is a great destination for anyone looking to get off the beaten path on an adventure in Utah's Elephant Cove area.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach KNFO 20Q within the existing routes bordering on the Parunuweap Canyon WSA. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the wilderness alone and tell someone where you are going.

before starting your trip. KNFO 20Q turns off from KNFO 20 approximately halfway through the Parunuweap Canyon WSA.

Both KNFO 20 and KNFO 20Q are very sandy routes. We recommend the use of a 4WD/AWD capacity vehicle in order to avoid getting stuck. Because of its sandy terrain, you can cruise at higher speeds and lean into the trail's banking turns. Be sure to use appropriate caution: use a sand dune flag; watch for other motorists, hikers, and wildlife; and, use extra caution around blind turns. As always, please also leave this area as beautiful as you found it by staying on the trail. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage and route closures. BlueRibbon Coalition fights hard to keep these and other similar areas open to the public for responsible motorized and general recreational use. Recreate responsibly and keep this area open and pristine for everyone.



Approaching Elephant Cove
from the east

Further along the spur, you will encounter gorgeous red rock gulches and sweeping views of the surrounding area. This is a great place to pause with your group and snag a photo for your next social media post or family photo album entry.

The end of this route is not clearly marked in a way that is consistent with publicly available maps. Stick to the existing trail, use your best judgement, and stay tuned for future travel management decisions. As it appears currently, the motorized portion of the trail seems to go much further on the ground than has been inventoried on existing BLM maps. When we inventoried the route, we chose to hike in from the end of the route as it appears on BLM maps, but it was clear the trail was receiving abundant use from motorized travelers. As always, respect the trail and use LEAVE NO TRACE practices.

At coordinates 37° 9'57.996" 16611 123°46'48", you will encounter a sandy gulch. This gulch is surrounded by vibrant red rock formations. Evidence of cougar activity within the gulch is clearly apparent; gnawed-off deer legs and hooves litter the area. Should you choose to walk down into the gulch, you will find that the path is very steep and the sand will make it very easy to slide down in and descend all the way down to the Virgin River. Should you choose to add this spur to your outdoor adventures, you will come home with memories of a true, rugged wilderness experience, and (very likely) the pictures to prove it.





Above left: the view on the Elephant Cove trail. Above right and bottom left: snapshots from the trail. Bottom: the sandy gulch. Watch out for cougars!



Sandy Gulch

Lost Trails #7: Poverty Road

Trail Canyon, UT



Overview: The Trail Canyon Area is located just northwest of Kanab, UT, and the route system in this area provide unique access to landscapes that are similar to those found in Paunsaugunt and Zion National Park. Trail conditions range from sandy and smooth to rocky routes that will challenge any machine. The trail is popular for the access it provides to scenic overlooks over the Virgin River and Zion from a distance.

Getting There: Poverty Road is South from Zion Park Scenic Byway (you're not in the park yet) with easy access from St. George or Kanab, UT. Within the first half mile of Poverty Road there are several areas to stage. From the beginning of the road to the end of Poverty Road, it is about 9 miles. At the beginning of the trail you will see the Wilderness Study Area sign. To reach the end of the trail, you will go through two different State Trust Land parcels. There is good signage to let you know when you are on SITLA land and BLM land. GPS Coordinates: 37.17019, -112.81416

Trails Conditions and Access: There is an Instagram account of a recovery service that documents photos of tourists who take rental cars and less-than-capable vehicles into areas like this. Don't be that person. A UTV or well-equipped Jeep are the best vehicles for exploring this route. A full-size truck or SUV will likely not be able to make certain parts of the trail. This is a popular area for hunters so you may come in contact with other users, so please be careful going around some of the tight turns. Be respectful of all users of the trail, and be sure to have a tall flag installed on your machine to prevent collisions on blind corners and hills. The route is a mix of deep sand, rock gardens and tight turns.



Poverty Road



Above: pictures from the Poverty Road trail, including the marker and trail head.

Lost Trails #8 & #9:

Devil's Racetrack Spur

Sinbad Valley, UT

Loop SS3275 & #SS3278

Petroglyphs and Dispersed Camping



Overview: Devil's Racetrack is one of the most well-known and well-travelled tracks of Southern Utah. Less well-known are the many side-spurs currently open for exploration. Located just outside of Green River and north of the San Rafael Swell, Sinbad Valley offers fantastic variety in terrain and scenery; with banking turns, dramatic sandstone cliffs, and hidden destinations, this area is well worth your while to explore. If you are out exploring the Devil's Racetrack and want to get away from the crowds, the network of trails we are about to reveal offer a great option for a remote adventure. Featuring some of the area's best views and located near several ideal dispersed campsites, these trails extend into the Sinbad Valley and provide access to an ancient petroglyph site that is sure to add a memorable experience to your adventure.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach this spur within the many existing trails within the Sinbad Valley area. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and

coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.

BLM trail SS3278 turns off of Devil's Racetrack at 38°52'19.82"N and 110°46'52.51"W. Approximately two thirds of a mile up the spur, SS3278 becomes SS3274 where it continues for approximately another quarter of a mile before ending at a high quality and remote dispersed campsite. SS3278 branches off to the East, joining with a network of trails that skirt along a sandstone cliff face. Trails in this network include SS3279, SS3282, and SS3277. SS3277 curves back down south to rejoin Devil's Racetrack at GPS coordinates 38°52'32.71"N and 110°46'19.02"W. These trails provide access the breathtaking scenery and several high quality dispersed campsites.

Just adjacent to this network of trails, SS3283, turns off of Devil's Racetrack approximately 0.25 miles to the East of SS3277. SS3283 then extends about 0.27 miles from the main trail and ends at ancient, Native American petroglyphs. You will find the petroglyphs at the end of SS3283 at GPS coordinates 38°52'46.90"N and 110°45'54.83"W.



Trails Conditions and Access: These spurs are accessible to most high clearance vehicles during the dry seasons of the year, although we highly recommend using an AWD or 4WD vehicle. As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

These and other nearby spurs discussed in this article are at risk of closure under claims of natural reclamation if they are not used. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help to keep our roads open.



Above left: A successful run. Above right and bottom left: Snapshots from the trail. Note the areas for dispersed camping.

Lost Trails #10:

Rods Valley Mine Overlook

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4083



Overview: Located within Utah's San Rafael Swell, the Family Butte area contains a vast network of trails that explore breathtaking cliffs and remote, desert landscape. Located within this network, many BLM trails lead to hidden adventure sites, including dispersed campsites, abandoned mines, and other remote gems. BLM Route SS4083 stands out as an excellent example of one of these trails. Located just to the west of Family Butte, BLM Route SS4083 ends at a spectacular dispersed campsite, overlooking an old, abandoned uranium mine. With plenty of interesting features for explorers of all ages to enjoy, this route stands out as a must-see for any group looking to get off the beaten path and enjoy a remote, camping experience and historic adventure.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach this spur within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Swell. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the back country alone

and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.

SS4083 turns off of SS4062 at coordinates 38°48'44.09"N and 110°49'10.43"W. There are two primary routes that lead to this area (many others could be selected to fit you and your group within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Swell). For those looking for the most direct route along an easy, open road, we recommend traveling south along BLM Route SS4001 to SS4002 from I-70 (see picture below on the left). For those looking for a more scenic, exploratory route, we recommend taking Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats to BLM Route SS4059.

Should you and your party select BLM Route SS4001, you will pass into a SITLA public lands parcel. This is where



your main route would connect with BLM SS4062, prior to the turnoff for BLM SS4083.

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4002 is an easy, broad route, located adjacent to Family Butte Road. This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Eagle Canyon to BLM route 4059 features more rugged, technical terrain and access to a plethora of routes and spurs located throughout the San Rafael Swell. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle and being mindful of weather conditions, should you take the second route.



Above: driving out on BLM Route SS4002. Right, Opposite: snapshots from the trail with a panoramic view.

As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources.

Route SS4083 continues less than a quarter of a mile from SS4062. You will find that the route ends in a small turnaround with a quiet dispersed campsite at the edge of the overlook. You will know you have arrived at your destination when you reach GPS coordinates 38°48'34.36"N and 110°49'3.25"W.

These and other nearby spurs discussed in this article are at risk of closure under claims of natural reclamation if they are not used. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help to keep our roads open.



Lost Trails #11:

NW Family Butte Spur

San Rafael Swell, UT

BLM Route SS4071 to SS4072



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just south of Green River, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. Within its vast network of trails, the Family Butte area contains a broad network of trails that overlook much of the swell. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and remote landscapes. Many of the trails in the Family Butte area lead to hidden adventure destinations, including dispersed campsites, abandoned mines, and other remote gems. The NW Family Butte Spur (also known as BLM Route SS4071), along with its companion spur (BLM Route 4072), is a must see for any adventurer on the lookout for dramatic overlooks, rugged off-roading terrain, and an undisturbed, out-of-the-way experience.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach this spur within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Desert. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your

group. Be sure to not head off into the back country alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.

There are two primary routes that lead to the Family Butte area (many others could be selected to fit you and your group within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Desert). For those looking for the most direct route along an easy, open road, we recommend traveling south along BLM Route SS4001 to SS4002 from I-70. For those looking for a more scenic, exploratory route, we recommend taking Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats to BLM Route SS4059.

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4002 is an easy, broad route, located adjacent to Family Butte Road. This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Eagle Canyon to BLM route 4059 features more rugged, technical terrain and access to a plethora of routes and spurs located throughout the San

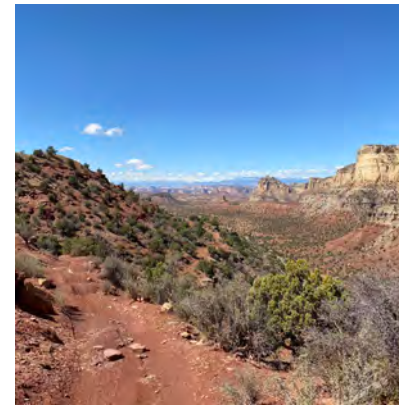


Rafael Desert. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle and being mindful of weather conditions, should you take the second route.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources.

The NW Family Butte Spur (BLM Route SS4071) turns off of BLM Route SS4060 at coordinates 38°47'57.71"N and 110°50'25.59"W. Route SS4071's companion spur, BLM Route SS4072, turns off of the NW Family Butte Spur just over a quarter of a mile up the trail. The NW Family Butte Spur curves off along the cliffs toward the southwest, turning into BLM SS4073. BLM Route SS4072 continues for about another quarter mile before ending at an ideally remote dispersed campsite.

These and other nearby spurs discussed in this article are at risk of closure under claims of natural reclamation if they are not used. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help to keep our roads open.



Left: the view from trail SS4071. Right: a shot of the dispersed campsite at the end of the route.

Lost Trails #12:

North Half Family Butte Trail

San Rafael Swell, UT

BLM Route SS4100 through BLM Route SS4109



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just east of Green River and south of Price) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. Located within its vast network, the North Family Butte Trail Network covers a broad mesa that overlooks broad swaths of the Swell's geologically rich area. This area rewards the off-road adventurer with miles of scenic, breathtaking cliffs and remote, desert landscape in every direction. Many of the trails in the Family Butte area lead to hidden destinations, including dispersed campsites, abandoned mines, jaw dropping overlooks, and other remote sites. This is an area you and your party won't want to miss. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience is sure to be one of silence and rugged beauty.

Getting There: There are two primary routes that lead to this area (though many others could be selected to fit you and your group within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Desert). For those looking for the most direct route

along an easy, open road, we recommend traveling south along BLM Route SS4001 to SS4002 from I-70. For those looking for a more scenic, exploratory route, we recommend taking Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats to BLM Route SS4059.

Trail Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4002 is an easy, broad route, located adjacent to Family Butte Road. This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Eagle Canyon to BLM route 4059 features more rugged, technical terrain and access to a plethora of routes and spurs located throughout the San Rafael Desert. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle, should you take the second route.



Above, opposite: the dispersed campsite at BLM route SS4002. Bottom right, opposite: spars of wood dragged across the trail.



The North Half Family Butte area is of special concern to those of us looking to not only enjoy the scenery, but to keep our public lands open for responsible recreation. While clearly visible and open to motorized use on official BLM maps, there was evidence on our visit of illegally blocked segments of the trail network in order to discourage motorized use. As you can see in the above image, dead wood has been dragged across the trail to make it appear disused or blocked off. A consultation of BLM maps and a quick trip down the road, however, confirms that these trails are very much open and well used as evidenced by the earlier pictures in the post showing fire rings and well-maintained trails.

These and other nearby spurs discussed in this article are at risk of closure under claims of natural reclamation if they are not used. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help to keep our roads open.

Lost Trails #13: Abandoned Mine

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4065



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just east of Green River, UT and south of Price) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and remote landscapes. Located within the swell, BLM Route SS4065 stands out as a must-see for anyone looking to get off the beaten path and enjoy a remote, camping experience and historic adventure. Featuring an excellent, out-of-the-way dispersed campsite in route and the remains of an abandoned uranium mine, this is a destination you won't want to miss. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience is sure to be one of solitude and adventure.

Getting There: BLM Route SS4065 turns off of BLM Route SS4060 at GPS coordinates 38°47'49.66"N and 110°49'11.50"W. There are two primary routes that lead to this area (though many others could be selected to fit you and your group within the many existing trails of the San

Rafael Swell). For those looking for the most direct route along an easy, open road, we recommend traveling south along BLM Route SS4001 to SS4002 from I-70. For those looking for a more scenic, exploratory route, we recommend taking Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats to BLM Route SS4059.

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4002 is an easy, broad route, located adjacent to Family Butte Road. This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Eagle Canyon to BLM route 4059 features more rugged, technical terrain and access to a plethora of routes and spurs located throughout the San Rafael Desert. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle and being mindful of weather conditions, should you take the second route.

As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road



closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

As you plan your trip, take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the back country alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.



Above: shots of the abandoned mine on BLM route SS4065.
Bottom: the trail to get to the abandoned mine.

Lost Trails #14: Copper Globe Area

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4555



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just east of Green River, UT and south of Price) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and sweeping sands. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry, leading to the extreme solitude that many outdoor recreationists crave. Within these networks, BLM Route SS4555 provides access to a stunning view of the Swell and access to a remote dispersed camping experience. This route is one you won't want to miss.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach BLM Route SS4555 within the many existing routes in the San Rafael Swell. If you choose to approach SS4555 directly from I-70, you can reach it by traveling south through Justensen Flats, past Devil's canyon, along Copper Globe Mine Road toward the network of routes connected to

SS4554. We recommend, however, approaching Copper Globe Mine Road more organically through networks connected to the other areas you choose to explore within the San Rafael Swell TMA during your trip.

Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the wilderness alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. BLM Route SS4555 turns off of BLM Route SS4554 at GPS coordinates 38°48'3.06"N and 110°53'8.76"W.

Trail Conditions and Access: As shown in the above left image, BLM Route SS4555 features more rugged, technical terrain. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle.

As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. While this trail features a possible dispersed campsite at its end, there is no fire ring. We recommend using a fire pan.



Careless recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

Where BLM Route SS4555 is remotely located, the casual passersby or agenda oriented environmentalist activist may claim that this trail is reclaiming when it in fact sees regular, light or moderate, and valid use. We hope publicizing this route will encourage volunteer restoration projects while also ensuring that the county road departments maintain it.

Trails marked as reclaiming are often closed in travel management plans, even when a short trip past an obtrusive bush or rocky wash reveals a clear trail. Traveling more frequently in these areas helps to keep them on the map. Please help us in our fight to keep these trails open by visiting and responsibly recreating on them with your family and friends.



Above: a shot from the trail. Bottom: the rugged, technical terrain of BLM Route SS4555.

Lost Trails #15 & 16: Canyon Overlook

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Routes SS4554 & SS4556



Overview: The San Rafael Swell (located just South of Price, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and sweeping sands. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry. Within these networks, BLM Routes SS4554 and SS4556 provide access to a stunning canyon overlook, two level and graveled dispersed campsites, and rugged rock crawling features. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience will be one of solitude and adventure.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach BLM Routes SS4554 and SS4556 within the many existing routes in the San Rafael Swell TMA. If you choose to approach SS4555 directly from I-70, you can reach these routes by traveling south through Justensen Flats, along Copper Globe Mine Road toward the network of routes connected to

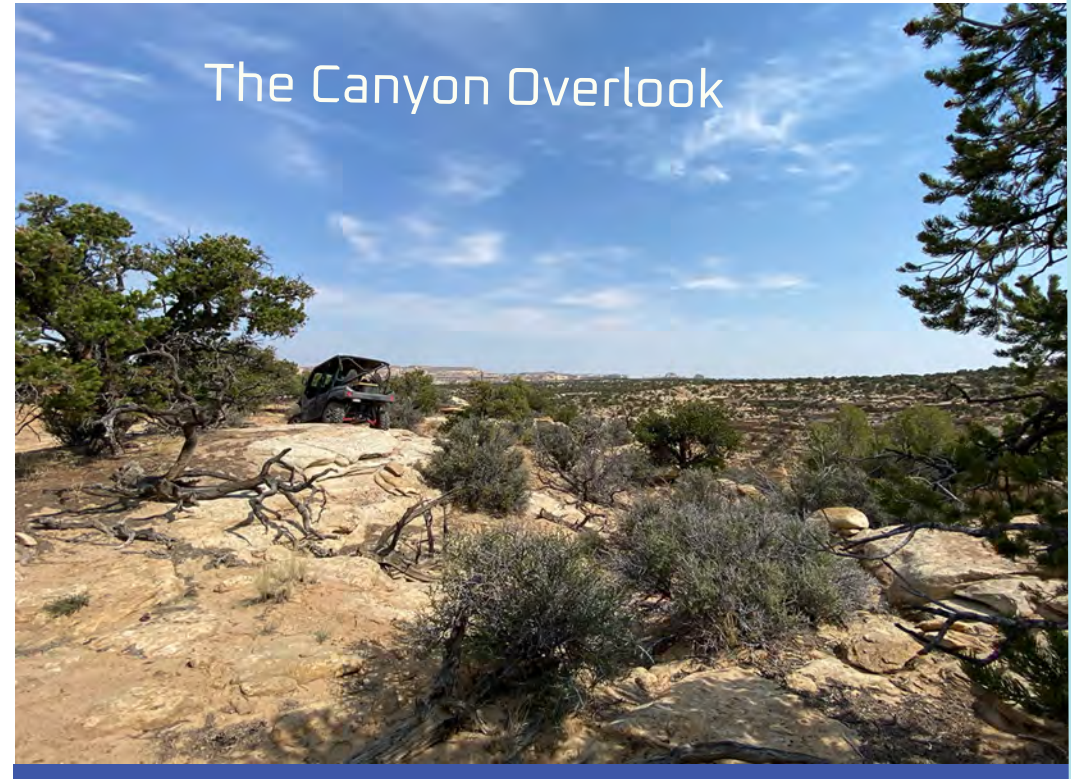
SS4554. We recommend, however, approaching Copper Globe Mine Road more organically through networks connected to the other areas you choose to explore within the San Rafael Swell TMA during your trip.

Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the wilderness alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. BLM Route SS4555 turns off of BLM Route SS4554 at GPS coordinates 38°48'3.06"N and 110°53'8.76"W.

Trails Conditions and Access: As pictured in the lower left image, BLM Routes SS4554 and SS4556 are characterized by rock crawling features and technical terrain. A 2WD vehicle will not cut it in this area. We recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to both routes.

After about 3/4 of a mile, BLM Route SS4556 branches off of BLM Route SS4554 at GPS coordinates 38°48'26.97"N and 110°53'33.41"W. BLM Route SS4556 continues for about 1/4 of a mile before ending in a flat, graveled area. This endpoint is ideal for overlanding or dispersed camping

The Canyon Overlook



The Canyon Overlook

with great views of nearby buttes and sandstone formations. Cell service is also accessible from this site. We strongly discourage pulling trailers into this area. While the site itself is broad and level, the terrain leading up to the site is extremely rugged with washouts; you will get stuck or damage your trailer.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

Lost Trails #17: Sulphur Canyon

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4570



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just west of Green River, UT and south of Price) is home to some of the most spectacular desert trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs, rugged dirt roads, slot canyons, washes, and canyons. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry, leading to the extreme solitude that many outdoor recreationists crave. The main access route to this area is a well-maintained 4WD road that can be accessed by a wide range of vehicles when conditions are good. By following an easy, open route that extends out along the edge of a dramatic overlook, this route is one you won't want to miss.

Getting There: BLM Route SS4570 leads off of E Kimball Draw (also known as Cat Canyon Road) at GPS coordinates 38°47'6.72"N and 110°55'10.80"W. There are several routes that lead to this area within the many existing

trails of the San Rafael Swell TMA. For those looking for the most direct route from I-70, E Kimball Draw can be reached by traveling south from Justensens Flat onto Copper Globe Road. For those with the vehicle capability to explore a more scenic, rugged route, we recommend approaching BLM SS4570 more organically through official trails that connect directly to the other areas you choose to explore during your trip.

Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. BLM Route SS4570 curves and extends along Sulphur Canyon's cliff edge for about 0.3 miles before rejoining E Kimball Draw at GPS coordinates 38°47'3.97"N and 110°55'25.61"W.





Above: shots from the trail along Sulphur Canyon.

Trail Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4570 is an easy, broad route. The first segment that leads from E Kimball Draw is slightly steep, but still wide and clear. This route is passable for any 4WD vehicle, and could probably be handled by stock SUVs and small campers.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Careless recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

These and other nearby spurs are at risk of closure if they are not used. Where BLM Route SS4570 is remotely located, and serves as a "secondary road," the casual passersby or agenda-driven activist may claim that this trail is redundant or reclaiming when it in fact sees regular, light or moderate use and provides access to a high-value recreational opportunity. Please help us in our fight to keep these trails open by visiting and responsibly recreating on them with your family and friends.



Lost Trails #18:

Copper Globe Landing Strip

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4588



Overview: Utah's San Rafael Swell (just west of Green River, UT and south of Price) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. The Copper Globe reason provides access to historic mines, scenic overlooks, and a remote backcountry airstrip. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry, leading to the extreme solitude that many outdoor recreationists crave. Within these networks, BLM Route SS4588 stands out for its historic value. Located on a bench adjacent to the old Copper Globe mine, this route provides access to a historic landing site and a stunning view of the surrounding landscape.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach BLM Route 4588 within the many existing routes of the San Rafael Swell TMA. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and



Cooper Globe Landing Strip

your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip. BLM Route SS4588 turns off of Copper Globe Landing Strip Road at GPS coordinates 38°48'30.22"N and 110°55'56.67"W.

Trails Conditions and Access: This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Like all regular OHV roads, BLM SS4588 is a two-track dirt road that occasionally featured grass or hearty bushes growing between the tire tracks where soil is not disturbed by the tires of passing vehicles.

Where this trail is remotely located and receives less use and or sees heavy rains during annual monsoons, the casual some may try to assert that the route is redundant, unused, or in reclamation status. Trails like this are often labeled as reclaiming when they in fact see moderate, valid use. Traveling more frequently on these trails helps to keep them on the map.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.



Above: a shot from BLM SS4588, the Copper Globe Landing Strip.

Lost Trails #19: Willow Springs Road

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route 5502



Overview: The San Rafael Swell (located south of Price, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular desert trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to some of Utah's best backcountry adventures. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry. Within these networks, BLM Route 5502, known as Willow Springs Road, is one of the less-explored roads in the southwestern slope of the Swell. Unlike many remote trails, this route not only offers profound solitude, but is easily accessible to larger campers, trailers, and—given good weather—high clearance 2WD vehicles. If you are looking for a quick getaway or accessible staging area, this is the route for you.

Getting There: The best way to access Willow Springs Road is from the Lone Pine exit off of I-70. Just south of the freeway is a staging area, that is a good starting point for exploration of this area (Coordinates 38° 50' 23.9274", -111°

3' 41.7594"). While Route 5502 is a well-maintained route, we selected it for inclusion because it is less-prominently featured in other guides to the area. The terrain mostly consists of red dirt badlands that are filled with unique geological features.

Keep your eye out for basalt, because every time you find some it will leave you scratching your head about how it got there. From blades of black rock that appear to be slicing red dirt hills in half to randomly placed basalt boulders, the geology in this area is fascinating. Willow Springs Wash itself tells part of the story of the forces of water that periodically shape this desert through floods. Muddy Creek flows through the area, and you will cross it over a bridge. Because of the water source, there is plenty of wildlife to observe, and it is unlikely you will run into any other people.





Above: a cicada on a frond near the trail. Below: snapshots from Willow Springs Road.



Trail Conditions and Access: BLM Route 5502 is an easy, broad route. This route is passable for any 4WD vehicle and some high clearance 2WD vehicles during most seasons of the year. It is also an excellent choice for those pulling a camper or a trailer.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Careless recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

Like with many main access routes in the Swell, you will find side roads and spurs that allow you to explore even more of this area. These spurs often make great campsites, and they are at risk of closure under claims of natural reclamation if they are not used. Please come and enjoy this beautiful area and help keep our roads open.

Lost Trails #20: Devil's Canyon

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS5023

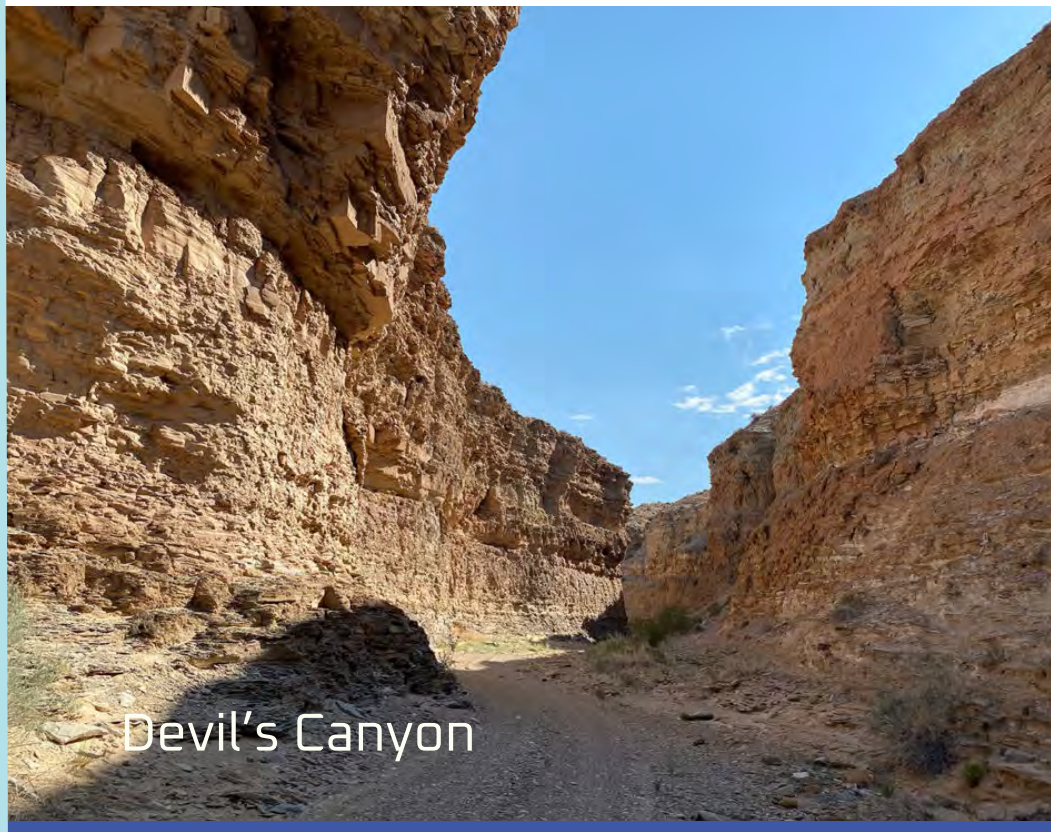


Overview: Devil's Canyon, located just to the west of the San Rafael Swell, is a favorite among off-roaders. Featuring stunning, stratified canyon cliffs and rugged, technical terrain, it does not take a newcomer long to see why this area is popular. For the explorer who is looking to lengthen the experience and get off of the beaten track, BLM Route SS5023 is an excellent choice. Extending past the more well-known portions of Devil's Canyon, this route offers the same off-road features with the added benefit of a remote experience. If you are out exploring Devil's Canyon, this is a route that you will not want to miss.

Getting There: Devil's Canyon can be accessed from I-70 from the Lone Pine Exit. If you are approaching from the freeway, we recommend following the Willow Spring's Wash trail south toward BLM Route SS5013. BLM Route SS5013 continues from Willow Spring's Wash for just over a mile before reaching BLM Route SS5022 at the mouth of Devil's Canyon.

If you are already in the area and exploring the trails located to the south, there are several other route options that will lead you to the mouth of the canyon. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the wilderness alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.

BLM Route SS5023 can be found by following the trail through the natural course of the canyon. As Devil's Canyon curves up to the north-east, the trail cuts through a SITLA land parcel before continuing and becoming BLM Route SS5023. The trail through the SITLA land parcel is open and authorized for motorized use. Many would-be visitors may miss BLM Route SS5023 because the trail, as shown on on BLM maps, does not appear between BLM Route SS5022 and BLM Route SS5023. This is not because it is not an authorized trail but because this segment is managed by a different public lands agency.



Devil's Canyon

On the ground, all three routes appear as one continuous trail. As the trail begins to turn from the north-east to the east, start checking your map and GPS coordinates. The motorized trail ends before Devil's Canyon Wilderness, but the entrance into the WSA is not well marked on the ground. Be sure to educate your group and park your vehicles before continuing on foot if you choose to visit Devil's Canyon Wilderness. We recommend using a well-equipped mapping app for navigation in this area.

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Routes SS5022 and SS5023 are characterized by rough, technical terrain. We recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to this area.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices and leave the area as pristine as you found it. Careless recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail.



Above: the glorious rock formations in Devil's Canyon.

Lost Trails #21:

San Rafael Reef Overlook

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Routes SS2346



Overview: The San Rafael Swell (located just South of Price, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and sweeping sands. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry. Within these networks, BLM Route SS2346 provides access to a San Rafael Reef overlook, historical mine shafts, dispersed campsites, and rugged rock crawling features. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience will be one of solitude and adventure.

Getting There: You will exit north from exit off of I-70. Just to the east there is a staging area which you can see in the first picture. As you can see there are many trails in this area that are fun to explore and offer a wide variety overlooks and dispersed camping areas. You will also be able to find several historical mine shafts. Please be careful as you are looking at these shafts.

From the staging area you will head north on SS2296 which is a well maintained county dirt road. There are several routes within a mile of the staging area which will take you west up some rocky terrain to connect onto SS2346.

Trail Conditions and Access: A 2WD vehicle will not cut it in this area. We recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to both routes.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.





Above: shots from the San Rafael Reef Overlook, including parts of the trail, the abandoned mine, and the mile marker. Dispersed camping pictured opposite.



Lost Trails #22:

Family Butte Side Trail

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS4121



Overview: The Family Butte area, located within the San Rafael Swell, contains a network of trails that explore breathtaking cliffs and remote, desert landscape. Located within this network, BLM Route SS4121 stands out as a must-see for anyone looking to get off the beaten path and enjoy a remote, camping experience. This short spur leads off of BLM SS4115 to one of the most breathtaking dispersed campsite areas within the San Rafael Desert. Featuring multiple dispersed sites along the edge of a dramatic and vibrant red rock overlook, this is a destination you won't want to miss. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your camping experience is sure to be one of silence and rugged beauty.

Getting There: SS4121 leads off of SS4115, just south of the main network of trails running across the Family Butte Mesa. There are two primary routes that lead to this area (though many others could be selected to fit you and your group within the many existing trails of the San Rafael

Desert). For those looking for the most direct route along an easy, open road, we recommend traveling south along BLM Route SS4001 to SS4002 from I-70 (see picture below on the left). For those looking for a more scenic, exploratory route, we recommend taking Eagle Canyon from Justensen Flats to BLM Route SS4059 (see picture below on the right).

Trails Conditions and Access: BLM Route SS4002 is an easy, broad route, located adjacent to Family Butte Road. This route is passable for any high clearance, 4WD vehicle during most seasons of the year. Eagle Canyon to BLM route 4059 features more rugged, technical terrain and access to a plethora of routes and spurs located throughout the San Rafael Desert. We recommend using a well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle, should you take the second route.

Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.



Dispersed Camping at the Side Trail

As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

BLM Route SS4121 turns off from SS4115 at GPS coordinates 38°46'51.97"N and 110°50'36.17"W. The trail extends for approximately 0.05 miles before reaching the edge of a large drop off. The trail lines the edge of a vibrant overlook and is dotted with several spectacular dispersed campsites. This area contains five of the areas best dispersed campsites located within the San Rafael Desert. Due to the trail configuration, you can camp along the entire ridgeline. You will find these dispersed campsites at GPS coordinates 38°46'49.75"N and 110°50'34.74"W.



Opposite: snapshots from BLM SS4121 and SS4115, known as the Family Butte Trail. Beware of tunnel clearance.



Lost Trails #23: Ghost Rock Spur

Cold Wash Wilderness, UT
BLM SS3300 to SS3301

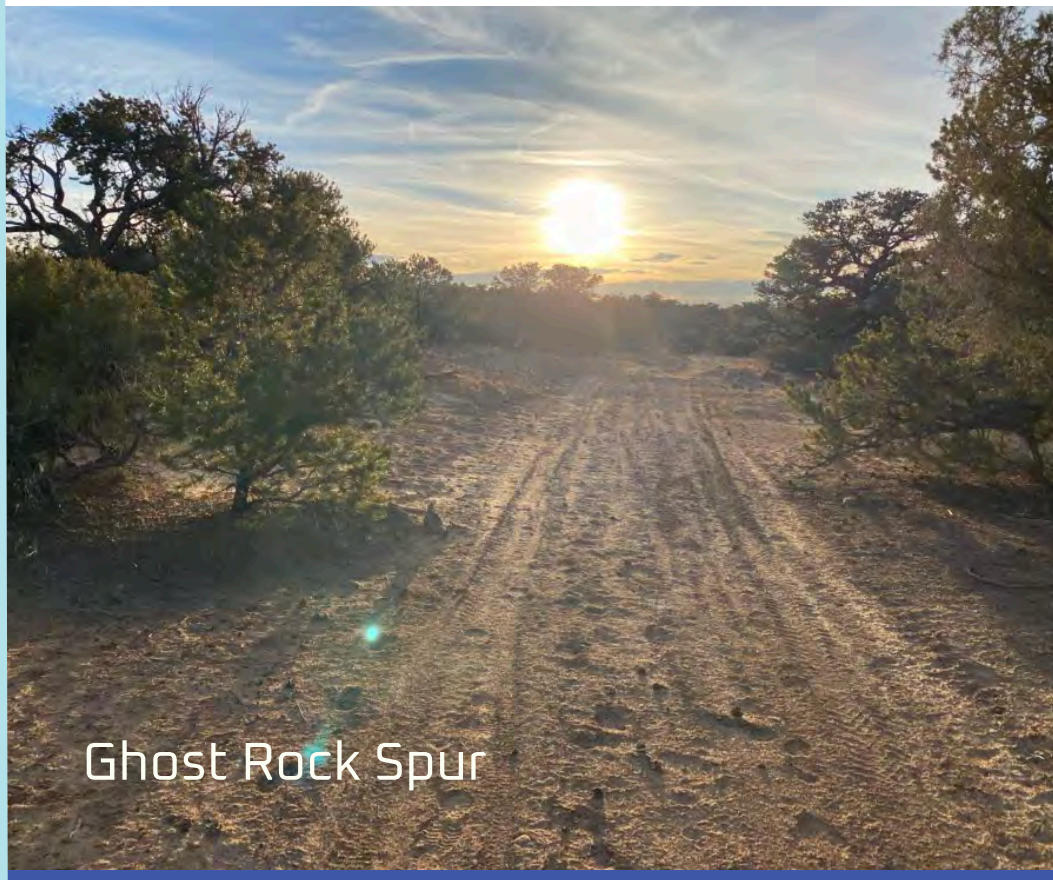


Overview: Devil's Racetrack is one of the most well-known and well-travelled tracks of Southern Utah. Less well-known are the many side-spurs currently open for exploration. Located just outside of Green River and north of the San Rafael Swell, Sinbad Valley offers fantastic variety in terrain and scenery; with banking turns, dramatic sandstone cliffs, and hidden destinations, this area is well worth your while to explore. If you are out exploring the Devil's Racetrack and want to get away from the crowds, the trail we are about to reveal is well worth your while to explore. Located near Chimney Rock and numerous other destination locations, these trails are sure to offer memorable experiences for you and your group.

Getting There: There are several ways to approach these spurs within the many existing trails of the San Rafael Desert. Take time to familiarize yourself with the map and coordinates and plan a route that best fits you and your group. Be sure to not head off into the backcountry alone and

tell someone where you are going before starting your trip.

Ghost Rock Spur (BLM trail SS3300) turns off from the Devil's Racetrack at GPS coordinates 38°52'36.25"N and 110°47'40.85"W. Approximately 0.35 miles from the turnoff, Chimney Rock Trail (BLM trail SS3301) turns off to the west at GPS coordinates 38°52'32.20"N and 110°47'59.79"W and continues to the border of the Cold Wash Wilderness. At this point, you will need to park your vehicle and continue on foot. Below, you will see the sign marking the entrance to the Cold Wash Wilderness. It is badly sunfaded and difficult to make-out. Please be careful not to pass this sign with your vehicle as you approach the Cold Wash area. Broad vistas of dramatic sandstone cliffs and desert skies open as you approach this pristine area.



Ghost Rock Spur



Trail Conditions and Access: Ghost Rock Spur and Chimney Rock Trail offer terrain experiences that are best suited to an AWD or 4WD vehicle (see image on the bottom right). The combination of open stretches, rocky terrain, and banking curves gives this route exhilarating variety.

As always, utilize LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.

Opposite, Left: the Ghost Rock Spur trail (BLM trail SS3300) under a low sunset. Above: the sunfaded sign marking the Cold Wash area.

Lost Trails #24: Sandstone Cliffs

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS2348

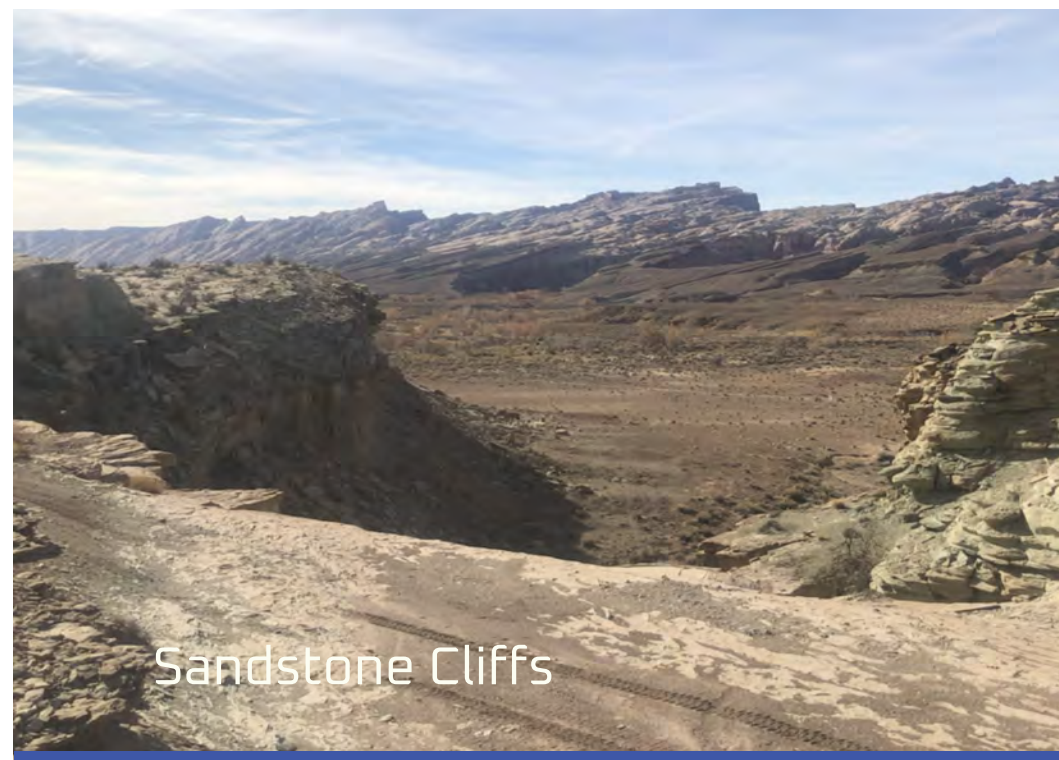


Overview: The San Rafael Swell (located just South of Price, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and sweeping sands. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry. Within these networks, BLM Route SS2348 provides access to a San Rafael Reef overlook, historical mine shafts, dispersed campsites, and rugged rock crawling features. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience will be one of solitude and adventure.

Getting There: You will exit north from exit 149 off of I-70. Just to the east there is a staging area which you can see in the first picture. As you can see there are many trails in this area that are fun to explore and offer a wide variety of overlooks and dispersed camping areas. You will also be able to find several historical mine shafts. Please be careful

as you are looking at these shafts. You can see from the map there are several routes that can take you to this scenic overlook from the staging area. One way is using SS2337 to SS 2338 which will connect you to SS2348. From here you can stay on top of the ridge and explore or you can drop down the ridge to the Tidwell Bottoms and explore closer to the San Rafael Reef.

Trail Conditions and Access: A 2WD vehicle will not cut it in this area. We recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to both routes. As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.





Above: dispersed camping and an abandoned mine along the Sandstone Cliffs trail.

Lost Trails #25: San Rafael River Spur

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Routes SS2288 & SS2379



Overview: The San Rafael Swell (located just South of Price, UT) is home to some of the most spectacular deserts trails of the Intermountain West. This area is home to breathtaking sandstone cliffs and sweeping sands. Along the outskirts of the San Rafael Swell TMA, there are several lesser-known networks of BLM managed trails. These networks provide access to a nearly untouched backcountry. Within these networks, BLM Routes SS2288 and SS2379 provide access to stunning views of the San Rafael Reef and the San Rafael River. Located miles from the more popular routes in this area, your experience will be one of solitude and adventure.

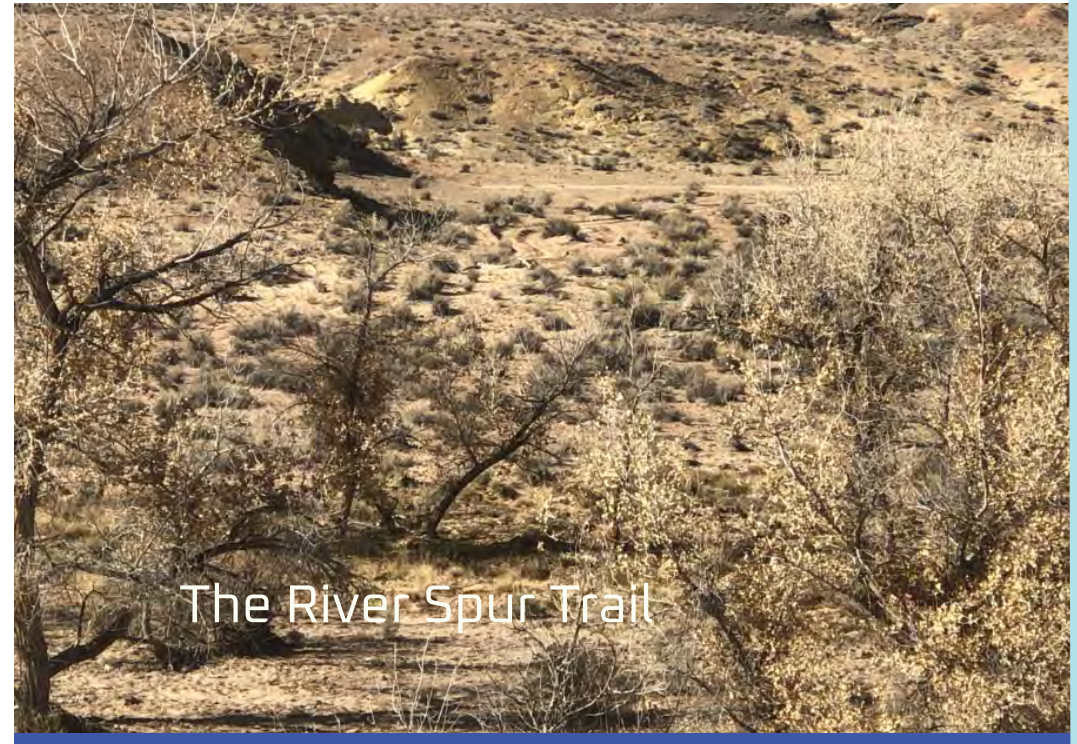
Getting There: You will exit north from exit 149 off of I-70. Just to the east there is a staging area which you can see in the first picture. As you can see there are many trails in this area that are fun to explore and offer a wide variety of overlooks and dispersed camping areas. You will also be able to find several historical mine shafts. Please be careful



as you are looking at these shafts. From the staging area you will head north on SS2296 which is a well maintained county dirt road. This road will then connect to SS2293 until you hit a fork in the road there you will head west onto SS2288. You can continue west until you reach the dead end that will take you to an old mining shaft, cabin and cattle corrals. However, before that you can turn South onto SS2379 to explore the Tidwell Bottoms, San Rafael River and get better views of the San Rafael Reef. There are two routes that go south SS2372 as well as SS2379 which we show in the video. SS2372 will not loop back around to the staging area and follows the base of the San Rafael Reef. SS2379 if connected to SS2370 will allow you to go back over the ridge to connect to SS2296. If you do not go East over the ridge you will hit a dead end as you can see in the bottom picture. The entire loop will take you a couple of hours.

Trails Conditions and Access: These routes are more accessible than others in the area and a 2WD should be able to access these specific routes. However, if you wish to explore more routes along these trails it is recommended to have a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to explore routes near here or if you intend to make a full loop.

As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.



Lost Trails #26: Slaughter Slopes Spur

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS5158

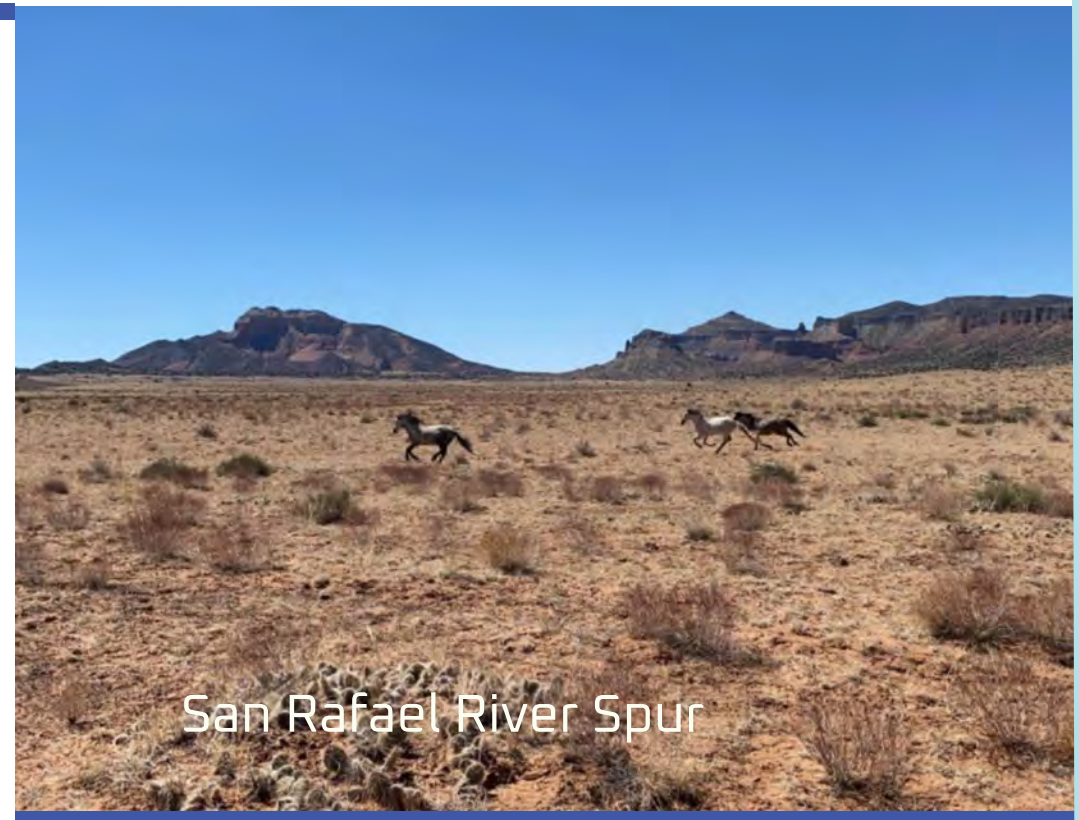


Overview: The Southwest quadrant of the San Rafael Swell has some of Utah's most remote terrain. The area is rich with varied geological features, abundant wildlife, and recreation experiences that will be remote and secluded. While some of the roads provide general access into the area, most of the routes are rugged and lightly used. BLM Route SS5158 is one of several routes that provides access into the Slaughter Slopes area of the San Rafael Swell. You will pass the burial site of someone's beloved horse. We also encountered a herd of wild horses on the way to the Hebe Canyon Overlook. The routes in this area are likely there for access to range infrastructure for local ranching operations. Be considerate of livestock and enjoy having this area to yourself.

Getting There: You will exit north from exit 99 off of I-70. You will then travel south-southeast along Willow Springs Road. This is a well maintained road that is passable by most vehicles in good conditions. Once you reach the junction with

Segers Hole Road (GPS Coordinates 38.68875, -111.17503), you turn east to Follow Segers Hole Road. On your way to Segers Hole Overlook, numerous primitive routes branch off to the East. SS5158 is one of these routes, and you can find the junction at GPS Coordinates 38.66914, -111.14076.

Trail Conditions and Access: A 2WD vehicle will not cut it on this route. We recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to this route. It also provides access to some unique single-track dirtbike trails. As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.



San Rafael River Spur



Above: shots of Willow Springs Road, a horse burial site, Hebe Canyon, and the trailhead.

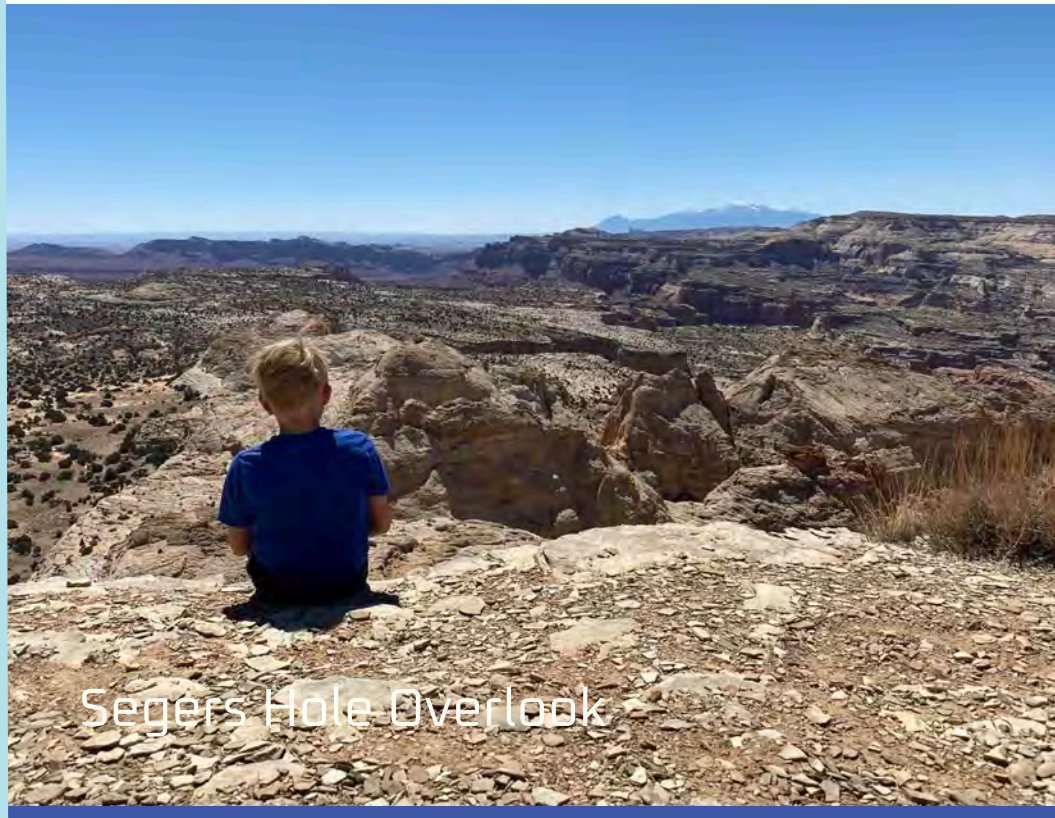
Lost Trails #27: Segers Hole Overlook

San Rafael Swell, UT



Overview: If you choose to be one of the few who choose to explore the remote southwest quadrant of the San Rafael Swell, the Segers Hole Overlook should be one of your top destinations. This overlook provides one of the best vantage points of the Muddy Creek Drainage that is home to the Hidden Splendor Mine. You will also have spectacular views of the Henry Mountains to the South. Before you head up the road to the overlook, there is a great dispersed campsite at the base of the Cedar Mountain formation. In the day we spent exploring this area, we didn't see any other people. We shared the view with a rattlesnake.

Getting There: Segers Hole Overlook is further down Segers Hole Road from the Slaughter Slopes area. You will exit north from exit 99 off of I-70. You will then travel south-southeast along Willow Springs Road. This is a well maintained road that is passable by most vehicles in good conditions. Once you reach the junction with Segers Hole Road (GPS Coordinates 38.68875, -111.17503), you turn



east to Follow Segers Hole Road. The road to Segers Hole leaves the main road at GPS Coordinates 38.63813, -111.11221. The great dispersed campsite is located at 38.63352, -111.11588.

Trails Conditions and Access: Once you leave the main road, we recommend using a very well equipped, high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle for access to both routes. As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.



Above: wildlife, views, and dispersed camping, and the trail along the Segers Hole Overlook.

Lost Trails #28: Segers Hole Loop

San Rafael Swell, UT
BLM Route SS5129

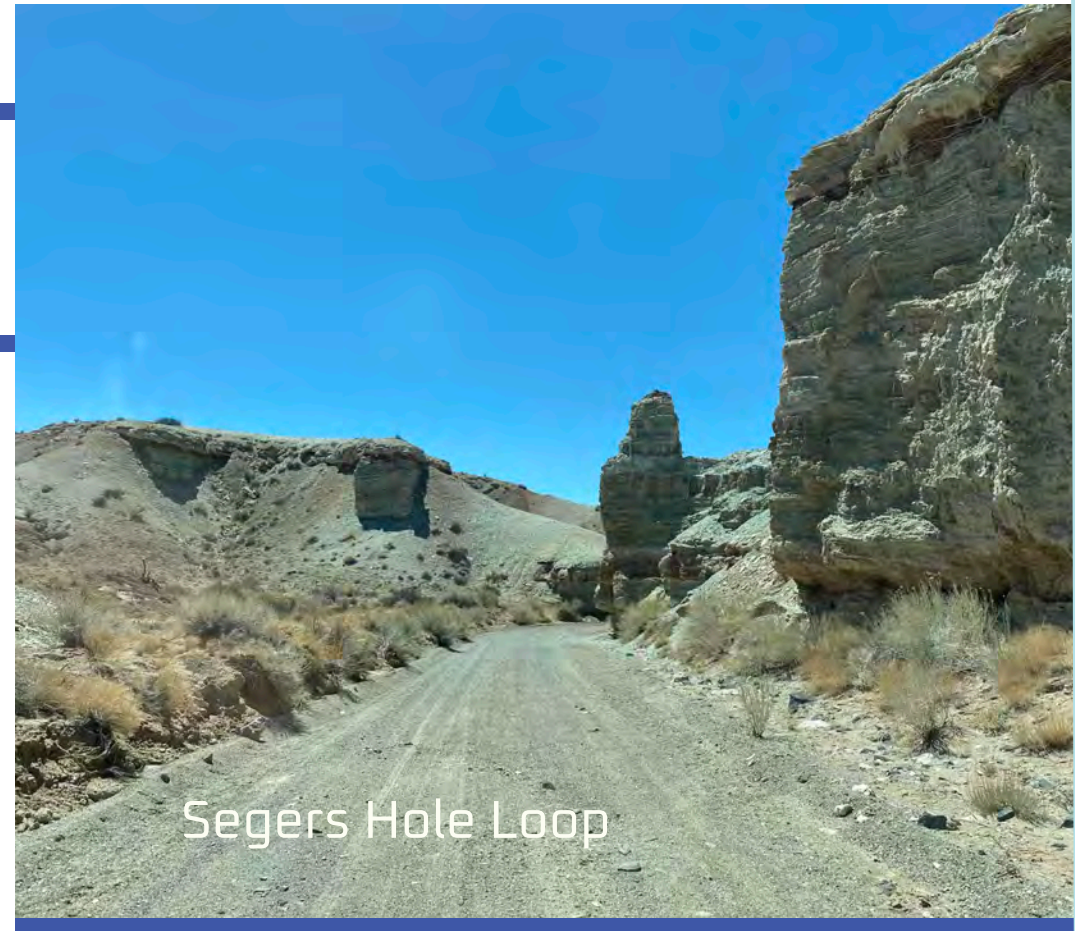


Overview: If you visit Segers Hole, the best way to return back to Exit 99 is to make a loop. You can follow the main graded Segers Hole road, or if you want to get off the beaten path and explore a less-traveled section of this remote backcountry, you can take BLM Route SS5129.

Getting There: This route leaves Segers Hole Road at GPS coordinates 38.61148, -111.10118. Route SS5129 takes you through a box canyon that boasts unique geological features and minerals. The route eventually ends by connecting back to the Segers Hole Road, and you can take Lower Last Chance Loop Road back up the nearly 40 miles back to Exit 99 on I-70. You will connect near one of the main cherry-stems into the Lower Last Chance Wilderness.

Trail Conditions and Access: As is almost always the case in the less-traveled roads of the San Rafael Swell, a high clearance 4WD or AWD vehicle is necessary to navigate this route. As always, follow LEAVE NO TRACE

practices. Irresponsible recreation leads to ecological damage, road closures, and loss of access to important resources. It is important that motorized users stay on the trail and camp within a 30' buffer zone on either side of the road.



Opposite: geological strata on the wall, the road entering Box Canyon, and the access point to Lower Last Chance Wilderness



Lost Trails #29:

Sandstone Amphitheater

Paunsaugunt, Utah
BLM Route 107FNA



Overview: The Paunsaugunt Area is located just north of Kanab, UT, and the route system in this area provide unique access to landscapes that are similar to those found in Trail Canyon and Zion National Park. Trail conditions range from sandy and smooth to rocky routes that will challenge any machine. BLM Route 107 FNA is a side spur that leads you to an amphitheater of sandstone formations that are as scenic as anything you will find in the Greater Zion area. With the BLM gearing up to close side spurs and lesser-traveled routes, this route is a good example of how taking that unexpected detour yields large dividends.

Getting There: This route is easily accessible from the Peekaboo Canyon staging area. You will eventually leave the Peekaboo canyon loop at GPS coordinates 37.17774, -112.54678. You will continue North on this route until you reach GPS coordinates 37.21386, -112.56115. Route 107FNA then leads to the West towards the giant sandstone formations. The route includes a good climb on a narrow,

sandy trail. The juniper and brush around the trail is thick, and if you're in a vehicle larger than a UTV you will leave with Rocky Mountain pinstripes. The route ends at a knoll where you can view the sandstone formations and explore their slot canyons on foot if you have the time.

Trails Conditions and Access: There is an Instagram account of a recovery service that documents photos of tourists who take rental cars and less-than-capable vehicles into areas like this. Don't be that person. A UTV is problem the best type of vehicle for exploring these trails, but a well-equipped Jeep or Toyota will handle the main trails. A full-size truck or SUV will likely have difficulty navigating 107FNA. Be aware that the Peekaboo Canyon Loop receives heavy traffic of all kinds, and will even include those hiking to explore the Peekaboo Slot Canyon. Be respectful of all users of the trail, and be sure to have a tall flag installed on your machine to prevent collisions on blind corners and hills.



Sandstone Amphitheater



Above: approaching the Sandstone Amphitheater.

Lost Trails #30: Box Canyon Spur

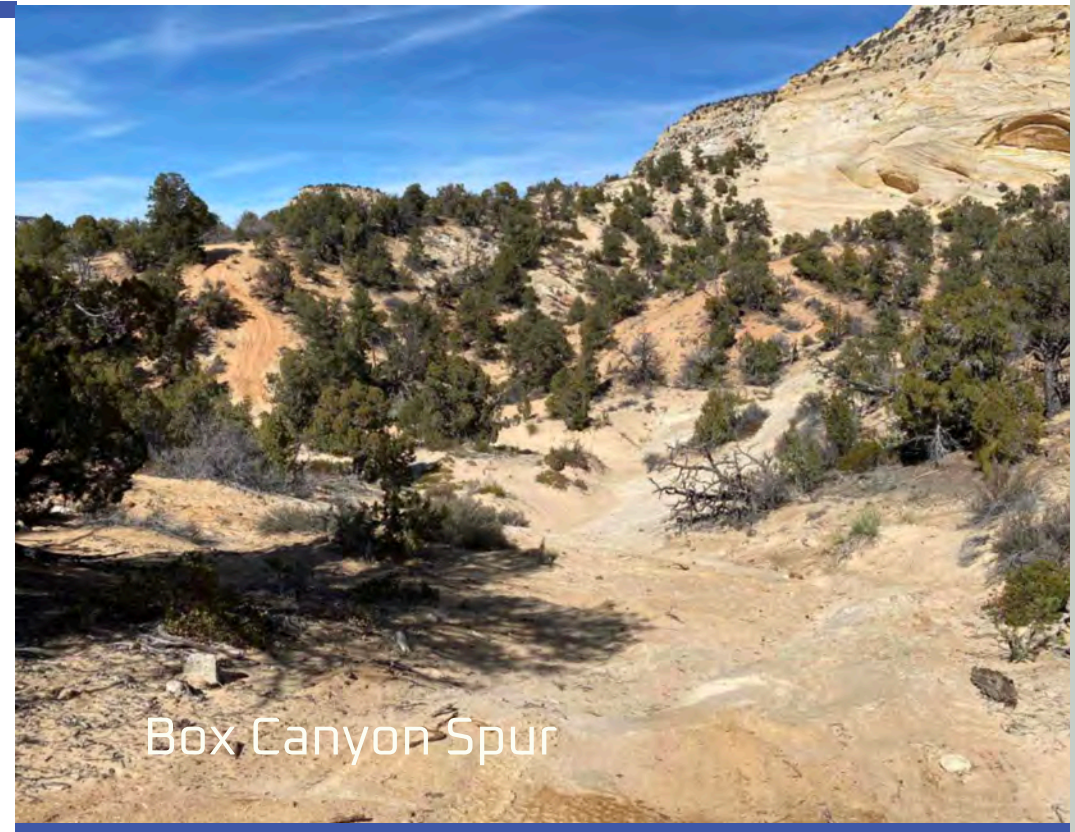
Paunsaugunt Area, Utah
BLM Route 107DNA



Overview: The Paunsaugunt Area is located just north of Kanab, UT, and the route system in this area provide unique access to landscapes that are similar to those found in Trail Canyon and Zion National Park. Trail conditions range from sandy and smooth to rocky routes that will challenge any machine. BLM Route 107 DNA is another side canyon located north of 107FNA. This trail is another side spur that takes you into a box canyon of white sandstone. In the early spring, snowbanks remained in the route corridor that added extra adventure to the exploration. The untouched snowbanks also created a great opportunity to observe the tracks of the wildlife in the area, such as cougars.

Getting There: This route is easily accessible from the Peekaboo Canyon staging area. You will eventually leave the Peekaboo canyon loop at GPS coordinates 37.17774, -112.54678. You will continue North on this route until you reach GPS coordinates 37.21544, -112.56256. Route 107DNA then leads to the North then Northwest into a canyon.

Trail Conditions and Access: There is an Instagram account of a recovery service that documents photos of tourists who take rental cars and less-than-capable vehicles into areas like this. Don't be that person. A UTV is problem the best type of vehicle for exploring these trails, but a well-equipped Jeep or Toyota will handle the main trails. A full-size truck or SUV will likely have difficulty navigating 107DNA. Be aware that the Peekaboo Canyon Loop receives heavy traffic of all kinds, and will even include those hiking to explore the Peekaboo Slot Canyon. Be respectful of all users of the trail, and be sure to have a tall flag installed on your machine to prevent collisions on blind corners and hills. As a route that travels through the bottom of a deep canyon, it is a mix of deep sand, rock gardens and tight turns.





Above: pictures from the Box Canyon Spur trail, including cougar tracks and sandstone formations.



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