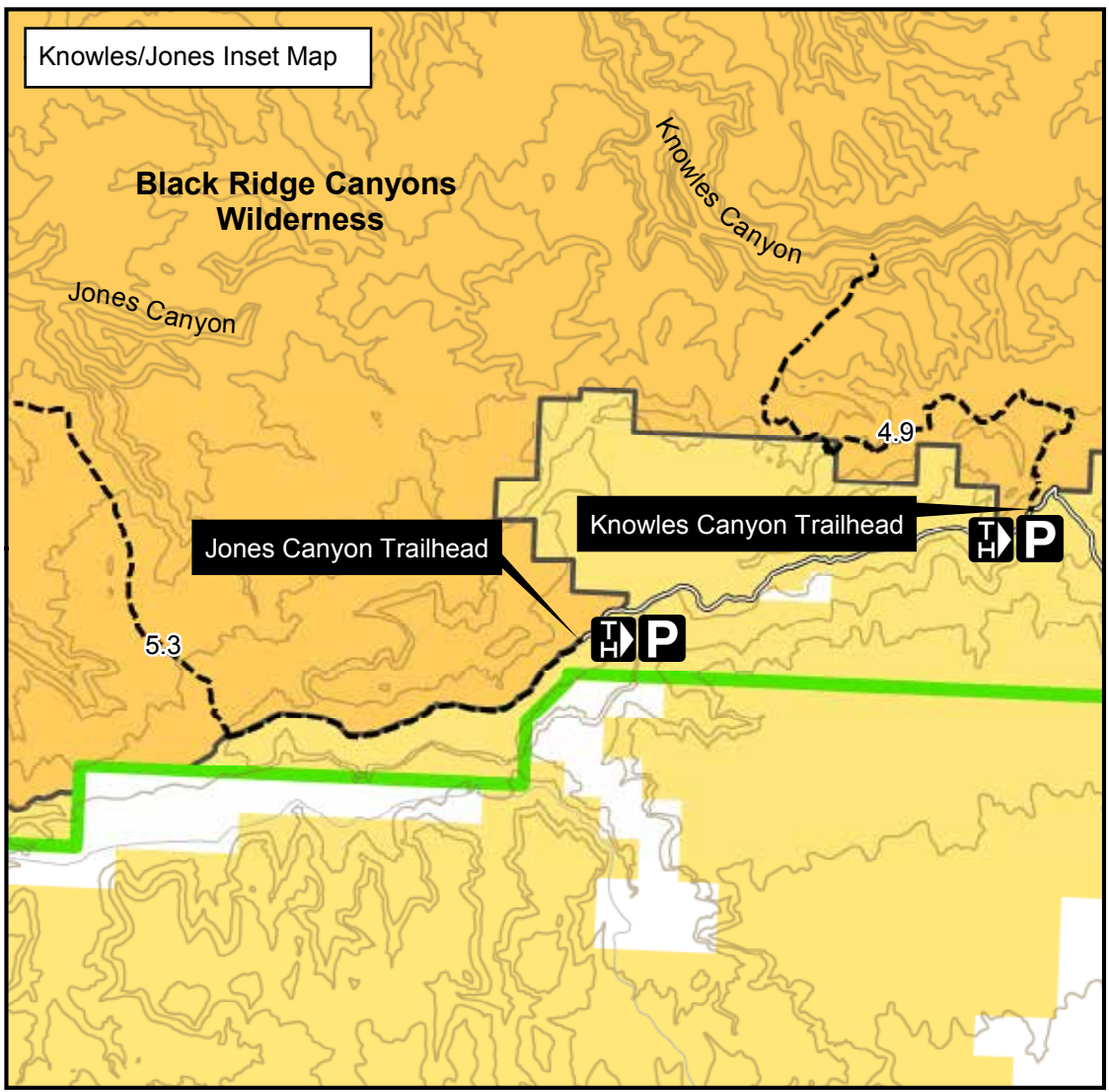
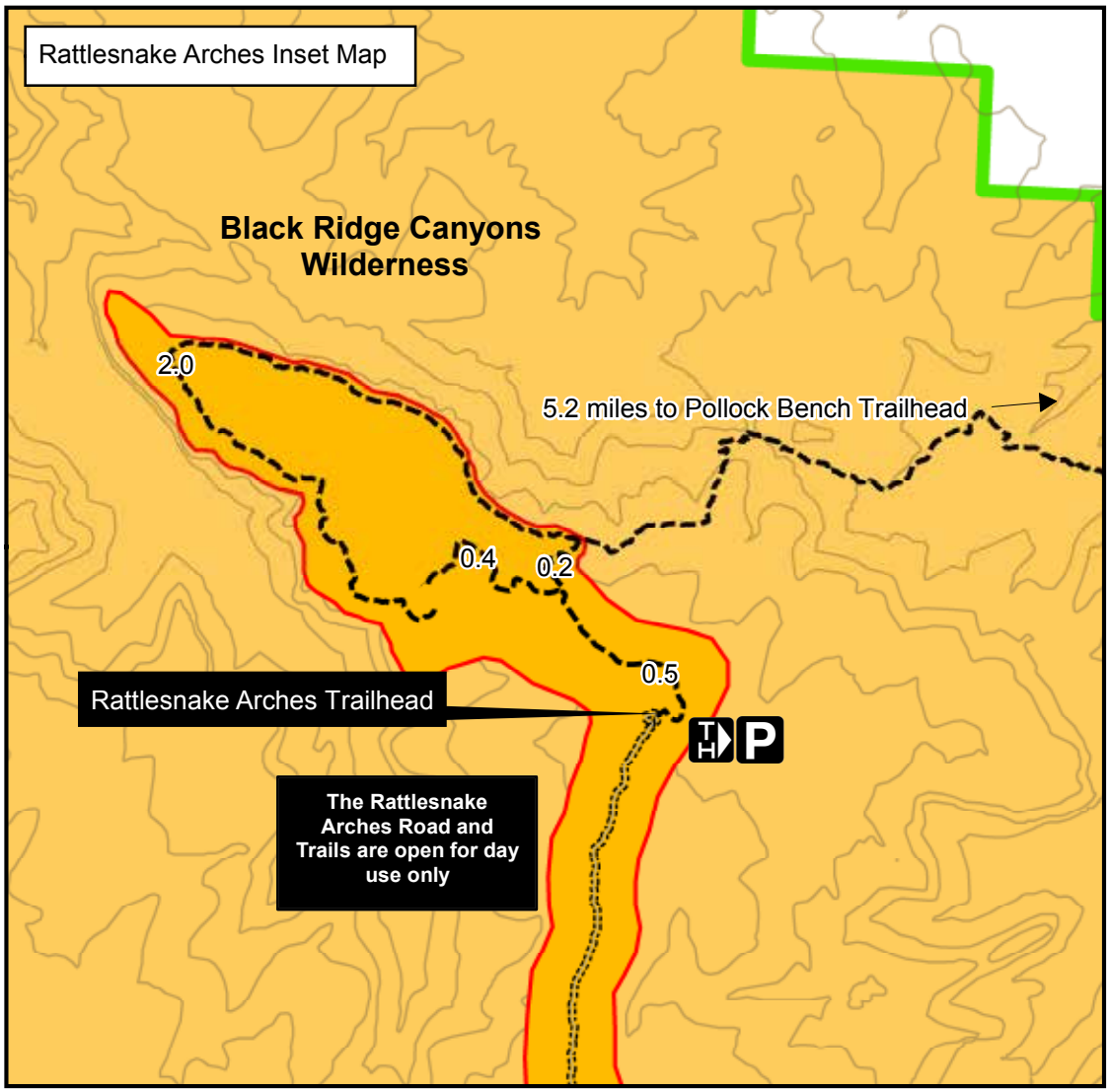
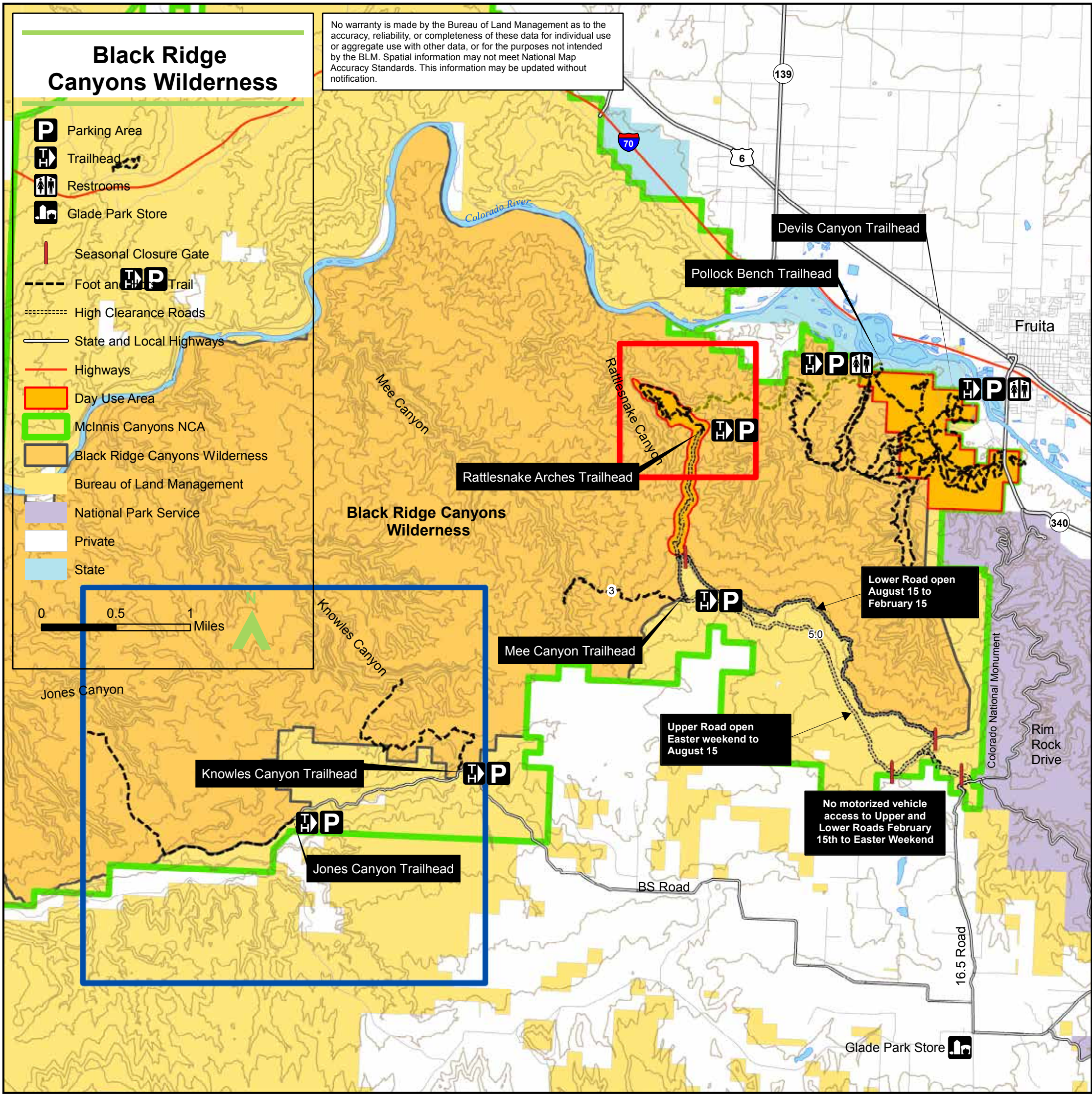
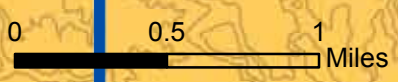


Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for the purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

- Parking Area
- Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Glade Park Store
- Seasonal Closure Gate
- Foot and Horse Trail
- High Clearance Roads
- State and Local Highways
- Highways
- Day Use Area
- McClinnis Canyons NCA
- Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Private
- State



Lower Road open August 15 to February 15

Upper Road open Easter weekend to August 15

No motorized vehicle access to Upper and Lower Roads February 15th to Easter Weekend

Note: A permit is required to camp along the Ruby-Horseshief section of the Colorado River. Permits can be obtained through Recreation.Gov.

- Summer temperatures can exceed 100° F (37° C) with little access to shade.
- Pack in your own water. A minimum of one gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Biting gnats are prevalent May - August.
- Roads to trailheads can be slick and impassable if wet. Do not attempt to drive on roads in wet weather.
- Plan ahead and prepare. This remote and rugged area contains few amenities.
- Hiking with pets in wilderness areas can increase stress on wildlife. Please keep your pet under visual, audible or physical control at all times and leash pets when approaching other users or within close proximity to wildlife. Properly dispose of pet waste.

Visitor Safety



The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

- PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
- TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
- DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY
- LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS
- RESPECT WILDLIFE
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Trail Name	Miles	Elevation (ft.)	Difficulty	Description
Jones Canyon Trail	10.6	5,591 - 6,154	Moderately strenuous	Trail follows an old two-track route. Leads to an overlook of Jones Canyon.
Knowles Canyon Trail	9.8	5,322 - 6,410	Moderately strenuous	Primitive trail marked with rock cairns and limited signage. Recommended for experienced backcountry hikers only.
Mee Canyon Trail	6.0	5,354 - 6,781	Very strenuous	Primitive trail marked with rock cairns and limited signage. This trail has exposed rock shelves, slickrock walls, and steep drop-offs. Recommended for experienced backcountry hikers and not recommended for dogs.
Rattlesnake 1 (R1) Arches Trail via Pollock 1 (P1) Bench Trail	14.4	4,506 - 5,533	Moderately strenuous	This trail is marked with rock cairns and limited signage. This trail follows the P1 Trail from Pollock Bench Trailhead for approximately 3 miles to its intersection with R1. Turn right onto R1 and follow this trail west for 3 miles to its intersection with the Upper Rattlesnake Arches Trail. The left fork leads to a bench above the arches, while the right fork enters Rattlesnake Canyon and leads to the base of the arches. Recommended for experienced hikers and contains exposed sections with some scrambling.
Rattlesnake Arches Trail, to top of Rainbow Arch - trail accessed through 4WD on Upper or Lower Black Ridge Access Roads	1.8	5,581 - 5,920	Easy - moderately strenuous	The Rattlesnake Arches trail is split into two sections and is not a full loop. To hike to the top of Rainbow Arch (about 0.5 miles in) follow directional signs. To see all seven arches, use the Lower Arches portion of the trail by backtracking back to the intersection. See below.
Rattlesnake Arches Trail, Lower Arches portion - trail accessed through 4WD on Upper or Lower Black Ridge Access Roads	5.4	5,533 - 5,920	Moderately strenuous	The Rattlesnake Arches Trail is split into two sections and is not a full loop. To see all seven arches, use the Lower Arches portion of the trail. To hike to the Lower Arches trail, descend down a steep, rocky section of the trail at the intersection, about 0.5 miles in. Follow signs and turn left at the bottom of the steep descent. This section of trail ends at the bottom of Rainbow Arch.

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

- Motorized and mechanized travel are prohibited in wilderness areas.
 - BLM access roads require high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles, and are not suitable for trailers and RVs.
 - Maximum group size is 12 people.
 - Leave No Trace - remove all garbage, including organic waste and human and dog waste.
 - Please stay on trails and camp on durable surfaces. Biological soil crust (cryptobiotic soil) is fragile, easily damaged by foot traffic, and takes decades to grow.
- ## Seasonal Closures
- The Upper Black Ridge Access Road is open from Easter weekend until August 15.
 - The Lower Black Ridge Access Road is open from August 15 to February 15.
 - Both roads are closed from February 15 until Easter weekend. This affects access to the Rattlesnake Arches and Mee Canyon Trailheads.

Regulations and Rules of Conduct

About the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness lies at the northwest edge of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The Wilderness contains seven major canyon systems for you to explore. This area is home to spectacular sandstone cliffs, spires, alcoves, desert patina, and the second largest concentration of natural arches in the world. Black Ridge Canyons offers limitless adventures such as hiking, camping, backpacking, and horseback riding. The Wilderness is part of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, which was designated by Congress on October 24, 2000.

Camping

Black Ridge Canyons provides many opportunities for primitive camping and solitude. Some camping options exist along the Upper and Lower Black Ridge Access Roads and along BS Road to Knowles and Jones Canyons. There are also numerous backpacking options. Camping is not allowed in day-use only areas. See map for more information.

Wilderness Trails

Wilderness trails are accessible via four-wheel drive BLM roads. These roads are closed seasonally. See "Seasonal Closures" section for dates. Trails range from two to 16 miles with exceptional views and wilderness experiences.



Directions to Trailheads

Directions to Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead via Black Ridge Access Road: From Grand Junction, take I-70 west to Fruita, exit 19. Take Rim Rock Drive through the Colorado National Monument. Drive to 16.5 Road and turn right (sign for Glade Park Store turnoff). In 0.2 miles, turn right onto Black Ridge Access Road. Take the Upper or Lower Black Ridge Access Road depending on which is open. Both meet at a "T" intersection with a kiosk.

Directions to Pollock Bench Trailhead: Take I-70 West to Fruita, exit 19. Turn left at the traffic light. Drive 1.5 miles to Kingsview Rd and turn right. Stay on Kingsview Rd for about 3 miles. The trailhead is up the road on your left after the Devil's Canyon Trailhead.

Directions to Mee Canyon Trailhead: Follow directions to Rattlesnake Arches Trailhead. If you take the Upper Black Ridge Access Road, drive about 9 miles. The trailhead will be on your left. If you take the Lower Black Ridge Access Road, park at the "T" intersection and hike to the trailhead (about 0.4 miles one way).


Direction to Knowles and Jones Canyon Trailheads: From Grand Junction, take I-70 west to exit 19. Take Rim Rock Drive through the Colorado National Monument. Turn right at 16.5 Road (Glade Park Store turnoff). Turn right on BS Road and drive for about 14 miles. Knowles Canyon is the first trailhead and Jones Canyon is farther up the road. If continuing to Jones Canyon Trailhead, a high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

Contact Information

BLM Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81506
970-244-3000

BLM/CO/GI-19/005

Cover: BLM Photo by Bob Wick, Left: BLM Photo



NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area



Map & Guide