



Water: Slickhorn Canyon has a few springs in the upper forks of the canyon and a bit more water during spring runoff, but can become extremely dry where incredibly long stretches can be encountered. Top

off water bottles at any water source and turn back if littler water is found.

Routes: All trailheads are accessible to 2-wheel drive vehicles during good weather. High clearance is helpful. After a heavy rainfall or during the winter, the road can become quite slick and 4-wheel drive is recommended. During real wet conditions, even 4-wheel drive vehicles can have some trouble.

Maps Needed: The trails illustrated Grand Gulch Plateau map or the 7.5 series maps: Slickhorn East, Slickhorn West, Polly's Pasture.

Prehistoric and Historic Values: At the mouth of Slickhorn, there is some oil drilling gear: cables, ropes and parts of wagons are scattered around the drill holes above the river from mining activities in the 1950s and 1960s. There are also several Anasazi prehistoric sites: cliff dwellings, pictographs and petroglyph can be found. If you find historic or prehistoric sites, please leave them as you find them. All sites are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Antiquities Act. Report vandalism or disturbances to the Grand Gulch Rangers or Monticello BLM office.



Access Points: For all access points, drive 9.4 miles south of the Kane Gulch Ranger Station on Highway 261, then turn right (west) on the county road directly across from the Cigarette Springs road. In 2.5 miles, you will reach a major junction. Stay left, heading south.

1. Access No. 1 is 1.6 miles south of the major junction. Vehicles can be parked on a faint side road, approximately 0.1 miles further.
2. About 1.4 miles south of access No. 2, the road dips down into the wash where you will see two old cattle watering troughs. This is access No. 4. There is a pullout on both sides of the road for parking.
3. Begin 1.2 miles from access No. 4. You will pass over a cattleguard and enter an area where the trees have been chained. A corral will be visible at the head of a small draw. Park by this corral and follow the draw west into the side canyon.
4. Access is from the San Juan River by raft.

Stipulations: Fires are not allowed in any of Slickhorn canyons. No swimming in the pools. During hot months, these pools may be the only water source for wildlife and other hikers. Group size is limited to 12. Any party of eight or more must acquire an advanced reservation permit. Use of climbing gear to gain access to archaeological sites is prohibited. Be aware of weather conditions. Flash floods can occur at any time, especially during the summer monsoons. Latrines or shallow catholes are to be used for disposal of human waste. Catholes should be dug 4-6" deep and covered with soil. Pack out all toilet paper; do not burn it. Bathe, wash dishes, camp and dispose of body waste at least 200 feet away from water sources or dry creek beds. **No dogs are allowed in Slickhorn Canyon or its tributaries.**

Photos by Jed Carling, Monticello BLM



SLICKHORN CANYON



An advanced permit is required for all overnight use in Slickhorn Canyon (commercial, education and private parties). This permit can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management Monticello Field Office up to six weeks in advance. For information, please call 435-587-1510.

Scenic Values: Slickhorn is a canyon of many shapes and colors—twisted and carved in eroded reds, browns and yellows. It is an impressive canyon of sandstone walls varying in height from 300 feet in the north end to 800 feet as the canyon approaches the San Juan River. The varying hues of the Cedar Mesa sandstone give way to the rugged Halgaito sandstone and shale as the river nears.

Hiking Conditions: Hiking in the canyon is rugged. The creek channel is frequently clogged with boulders and there are many pouroffs and talus slopes to be negotiated challenging even the experienced hiker. All routes are impassable to stock animals. At least four days should be allowed to hike the entire length of the canyon and exploring the upper side canyons. The going is slow. Camping is not allowed within one mile of the San Juan River. This is reserved camping for the river rafters.

