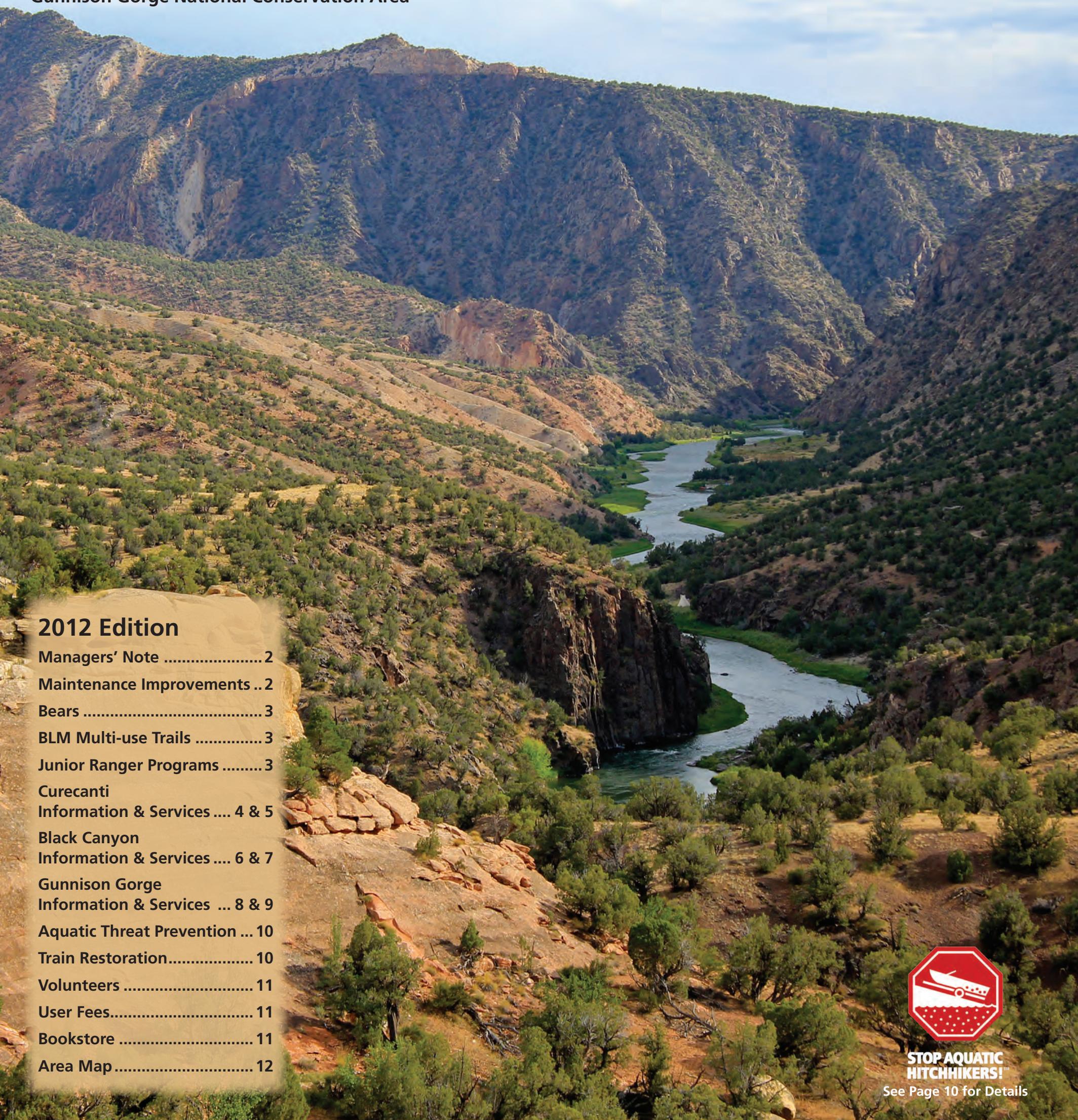


THE PORTAL

National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior



Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area
Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area



2012 Edition

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**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

See Page 10 for Details



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park & Curecanti

National Recreation Area

Together, Black Canyon and Curecanti offer nearly 75,000 acres of canyons, knife-edged cliffs, water sports, and beauty.

Mailing Address

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP
Curecanti NRA
102 Elk Creek
Gunnison CO 81230

Phone and E-mail

(970) 641-2337
cure_info@nps.gov



Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

Gunnison Gorge provides 63,000 acres of beautiful landscapes. There are few services; be self-sufficient.

Mailing Address

Gunnison Gorge NCA
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose CO 81401

Phone and E-mail

(970) 240-5300
co_info@blm.gov

Cover: View from the Ute Trail in Gunnison Gorge NCA looking upstream towards Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP. Notice the "BLM Ranger Station" along the riverbank (detailed photograph on page 9). Cover photograph by Jeremy Matlock and courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.

We're on the Web

Visit your public lands on the Web:

Black Canyon:

www.nps.gov/blca
www.youtube.com/BlackCanyonNPS
Look for us on Facebook!

Curecanti:

www.nps.gov/cure
www.youtube.com/CurecantiNPS
www.twitter.com/CurecantiNPS

Gunnison Gorge:

www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/ggnca.html
See more web resources on page 9.

Three Public Lands, One Black Canyon

The Black Canyon, as a geographic feature, is 48 miles in length. The canyon is managed by both the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. Beginning in Curecanti National Recreation Area at the Blue Mesa Dam, the canyon continues westward through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and ends downstream in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (see map on back page). This newspaper is designed to help you explore the canyon, Gunnison River, reservoirs, and surrounding areas located in these three connected public lands.

The Portal sat down with the managers of these areas – Karen Tucker, Manager for Gunnison Gorge NCA, and Connie Rudd, Superintendent of Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP and Curecanti NRA – to gain their inside view of the land they care for.

What is the national significance of the land you manage?

KAREN – Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area is part of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System which is comprised of some of the West's most spectacular, wild and diverse landscapes. The Gorge was designated by Congress in recognition of its outstanding geologic, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources. The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is famous for its spectacular geology, world class trout fishing, and challenging whitewater boating adventures. The NCA also offers a range of hiking, biking,

equestrian, and motorized riding adventures on primitive roads and trails that wind their way through imposing adobe badland formations, scenic sandstone canyons, and diverse native plant communities.

CONNIE – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is renowned for its steep and deep canyon, carved over millennia by the Gunnison River. Running water has the power to move boulders and move emotions. Stand at the rim of the canyon and speculate about the whispered passage of time chronicled in the gorge below.

Curecanti National Recreation Area cradles the still waters of the Gunnison River in a series of three reservoirs within and upstream of the Black Canyon. The soaring mesas and snow capped peaks of the West Elk Mountains provide a stunning backdrop for recreation. Curecanti is best known for Blue Mesa Reservoir with its infinite recreational opportunities and record lake trout.

Portions of the Gunnison Gorge and Black Canyon have been set aside as Wilderness areas. What value does wilderness add to the visitor experience at the parks?

KAREN – Wilderness areas are rare, wild places where you can escape civilization and reconnect with nature. The wilderness areas of Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge offer visitors and area residents alike spectacular places where they can tune out the noises and distractions of their busy lives and tune in to the sights and sounds of cascading waters,

the screech of a hawk, the splash of a jumping fish, or the laughter of friends and family. While some folks fear being "lost in the wilderness," sometimes it is the perfect place to find something special in ourselves.

What is the National Park Service doing to address climate change?

CONNIE – The NPS is in the process of developing a service-wide climate change response strategy that includes four integrated components: science, adaptation, mitigation, and communication. Locally, in the realm of science, we are working with The Nature Conservancy and other agencies in the Gunnison Basin to better understand the rate and magnitude of regional climate change, as predicted by experts. Based from this understanding, we hope to complete vulnerability assessments and scenario planning that will better inform us about how to proceed with adaptation and mitigation strategies. Some of the long term monitoring of elements such as song birds and plant species may give us added insight about the local effects of climate change.

The parks are taking steps to mitigate climate change by attempting to reduce our carbon footprint. We have increased recycling and converted much of our fleet to hybrid vehicles.

As information becomes available, our neighbors and visitors can look forward to learning more about the effects of climate change on our parks and about the ways we are addressing these effects.

Maintenance Improvements

The gravel roads of Curecanti and Black Canyon are getting a face lift this summer. Road work includes re-graveling nearly all secondary roads. Locations like the roads to, and campgrounds at, Ponderosa, East Elk Creek, Bay of Chickens, and the North Rim are among those to receive improvement. There may be travel delays in the work zones, and we very much appreciate your patience and safe driving in these areas.

There are various other projects to be accomplished by our maintenance crews this summer, in an on-going effort to care for the facilities that help us enjoy these parks. The work at Black Canyon includes oiling log

structures, such as the South Rim Visitor Center, bathrooms, railings, and guideposts. The trail crew will be out in force again this summer, fixing erosion problems and keeping the trail surfaces up to standard at both parks.

The work at Curecanti includes the removal and installation of wave attenuator systems at the Stevens Creek and Iola boat launch areas. Also, the Elk Creek campground restrooms will be brought up to current ADA accessibility standards.

Our hope is that any delay or inconvenience you experience due to the maintenance and protection of Black Canyon and Curecanti is minor.

However, you may experience driving delays and difficulties in locating a campsite, especially in August, when paved campground areas will be affected at various times throughout the month.

Please be sure to stop by any of the visitor centers at Black Canyon or Curecanti and speak with a park ranger about possible delays and/or closures. Park rangers will have the most up to date information related to the location and duration of work within the parks.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to protect and preserve your national park lands.

Life and Times of the Black Bear

Seeing a wild bear in its natural environment can be a cherished memory. Bears are commonly spotted along the South Rim and at East Portal and have occasionally been seen at the North Rim. Bears are also active along all of the inner-canyon routes and on the banks of the Gunnison River each summer.

The only bears who call Black Canyon home are American black bears (*Ursus americanus*). Many of the bears at the park are only “black” in name and are actually cinnamon, or



even light brown, in color.

When raspberries, service-berries, wax currents and acorns ripen in the late summer and fall, bears forage the canyon rim and bottom. Black Bears are omnivores and eat anything from insects to plants and fruits to fungus and may even eat mammal carcasses they happen upon. However, up to 90% of a bear's diet is made-up of plants.

Black bears are very intelligent and curious animals, and there is perhaps no other animal with their sense of smell. They can smell food up to five miles away. Their innate curiosity and extraordinary sense of smell will often lead them towards food sources.

Imagine if someone started cooking an unexpected dinner full of exotic and enticing aromas in your home, would your curiosity lead you towards the kitchen?

Because you are visiting the bears' home when you come to the park, please do your best to be a good guest. This means keeping a clean camp free of any attractive odors (including food, pet food, trash, toiletries, soap, or anything with a scent). Doing so will help keep these curious animals from seeking food in areas set aside for people.

During the fall months, bears are preparing for hibernation. This period is called hyperphagia, which means "excessive-eating", and bears eat up to 20,000 calories a day. That's like eating 40 fast-food hamburgers in a day! Bears are particularly enterprising in their attempts to obtain food during this period, and their good memories guide them to return to places they found food in the past. That's why it is very important that bears aren't successful in gaining food from human sources; they remember such places and tend to return.

On Bears

Black bears are typically shy and avoid interactions with humans. If you see one, please follow these guidelines:

Always:

- Remain calm and keep a safe distance between you and the bear, generally greater than 100 feet.
- Speak calmly to make the bear aware of your presence.
- If a bear approaches, make loud noises (shout, clap your hands, or bang pots together) and slowly back away while facing the bear.
- Report your sighting to a ranger.

Never:

- Chase or follow a bear.
- Leave children unattended or let them run ahead.
- Abandon your food.

Enjoy Multi-use Trails at Gunnison Gorge

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a sister-agency to the National Park Service. Although the National Park and the BLM lands of Gunnison Gorge have much in common, visitors to the Gorge have access to trail opportunities that are not available in the National Park (see page 9).

Hikers, anglers and equestrians enjoy the quiet and solitude of wilderness trails in the Gorge, but outside the wilderness visitors enjoy multi-use trail activities. Trails of various length and difficulty offer outstanding opportunities for mountain bikes, motorcycles, ATVs and some side-by-

side UTVs. Hikers, equestrians, and trail runners enjoy these as well, and since dogs under good control are allowed on the trails of the Gunnison Gorge, many visitors bring their canine companions along with them.

From the horse-friendly Ute Trail in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, to easy ATV trails in the moonscape “adobes” of the Flat Top-Peach Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area, to the challenging and technical Sidewinder single-track trail traversing rocky slopes of the pinyon pine and juniper forests, trail enthusiasts have a variety of opportunities from which to choose. With these opportunities come responsibilities. All motorized

and mechanized vehicles (including bicycles) must stay on signed, roads and trails designated for their use. Wet routes should be avoided to prevent damage from rutting and soil displacement. Trails in the Gorge are maintained largely by groups of volunteers committed to the care and responsible use of the public lands. Please respect their hard work and generous public service.

In addition to the trails there are places for off-route riding for mechanized and motorized vehicles less than 50 inches in width in designated “open play” areas in Peach Valley and Flat Top recreation areas.



Junior Ranger Programs

Help take care of your national treasures! Anyone can become a Junior Ranger at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area. Ask for a free Junior Ranger book at Elk Creek, Cimarron, or South Rim Visitor Centers. Books contain fun and educational activities to complete during your park visit. Families will discover together what makes these places so amazing and unique. Receive your Junior Ranger badge upon completion at any visitor center.

Already done the Junior Ranger book?

Ask about Night Explorer (10 and up), Junior Paleontologist (5-12), and Wilderness Explorer (8 and up) books. Books are available at no cost to participants, and each has its own badge or patch to earn and add to your collection. When finished, bring your completed book to a visitor center.

Special ranger-led programs for children and families are offered throughout the summer.

Teachers! Are you interested in sharing your park experience with your students?

You can schedule a field trip or a classroom visit, at no cost, by calling: (970) 641-2337, ext. 203. Entrance fee waivers are available to most educational groups.

Can't come to the park? You can access curriculum, electronic field trips, data sets, and more at: www.nps.gov/learn



Curecanti National Recreation Area

FEES AND PASSES

Curecanti does not charge an entrance fee except at East Portal (which is included in the Black Canyon entrance fee). However, if you plan to launch a boat into Blue Mesa Reservoir, you must purchase a boat permit. Senior and Access pass discounts apply to all boating and camping fees at Curecanti.

Boat Permits:

\$4 per two days

\$10 per two weeks

\$30 per year

For visitors interested in visiting multiple public lands, the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is available for \$80. For US citizens 62 and older, Senior passes are \$10, and for those with disabilities, Access passes are free.

VISITOR CENTERS

Elk Creek Visitor Center is open year round. From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend it is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Winter hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Cimarron Visitor Center is open mid-May to Labor Day, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed Tuesdays.

CAMPING

There are several campgrounds around Blue Mesa Reservoir. Camping is available first-come, first-served in all campgrounds and reservations are accepted for Elk Creek, Lake Fork, and Stevens Creek through www.recreation.gov or (877) 444-6777. Camping fees are \$12 per night in most sites. Loop D at Elk Creek Campground has electric hookups; fees are \$18 per night. Group camping is available at Red Creek and East Elk by reservation only.

SHOWERS

Showers are available at the Elk Creek and Lake Fork marinas starting Memorial Day Weekend. Change for the showers is available at the marinas.

FOOD SERVICES

Pappy's Restaurant at Elk Creek Marina is open May - September. Call (970) 641-0403. Additional food options are available in Montrose and Gunnison.

BOAT RENTALS

Boat rentals, slip rentals, gas, supplies, and other services are available at Elk Creek Marina and Lake Fork Marina. Visit www.blumesares.com.

PETS

Pets are allowed in all areas at Curecanti, but must be leashed at all times.

ACCESSIBILITY

Visitor centers, some overlooks, and most campgrounds and restrooms are accessible. For visitors with disabilities, Lake Fork is most suitable.

PHONE NUMBERS

Elk Creek Visitor Center (970) 641-2337

Elk Creek Marina (970) 641-0707

Lake Fork Marina (970) 641-3048

GPS COORDINATES

Elk Creek Visitor Center:
N 38.4671 W -107.1659

Boat Tours into Black Canyon of the Gunnison

Join a park ranger for a leisurely boat tour on Morrow Point Reservoir, traveling seven miles into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, where canyon walls will tower above you. Hear the stories of the geologic history, wildlife, rugged early inhabitants, the narrow gauge railroad, and the dams and reservoirs.

LOGISTICS

The National Park Service tour boat is a 40-foot, 42-passenger pontoon boat. Tours are offered twice daily at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., early June through Labor Day, every day of the week except Tuesdays (this is subject to change). Tours begin at the Pine Creek Boat Dock, located 35 miles east of Montrose, 25 miles west of Gunnison, at US Highway 50 mile marker 130. From the Pine Creek parking lot, walk down 232 steps, (remember, you'll have to walk back up too!) then enjoy an easy ¾-mile walk along the old narrow gauge rail bed to the boat dock. We suggest starting down one hour before your scheduled tour, allowing more time if you need a slower pace. Meet the park ranger at the boat dock at least 15 minutes before your scheduled departure.

WHAT TO BRING

Dress for the Colorado mountains, where a sunny day can quickly become stormy. Bring drinking

water, snacks, sun and rain protection, and your camera. For security reasons, carry-on bags and packs are subject to search. Pets, smoking, firearms, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the tour. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are provided and must be worn on the boat tour.

RESERVATIONS

Prepaid reservations are required and are occasionally still available early on the day of the tour. Call (970) 641-2337, ext. 205, or visit the Elk Creek Visitor Center. Persons arriving at the boat dock without a reservation will not be permitted on the tour.

ACCESSIBILITY

Due to the rugged nature of the trail leading to the boat dock, the boat tour is inaccessible to most visitors with mobility impairments. Accommodations can be provided for alternative programs with a two week notice. Accommodations for visitors with hearing impairments can also be made with a two week notice.

COST

\$16 for adults

\$8 for adults who possess a Senior or Access Pass

\$8 for children ages 12 and under

Visitor Center Improvements



The Elk Creek Visitor Center has a new exhibit: a three-dimensional relief map of the recreation area and surrounding lands. The relief model shows lands within the recreation area from Neversink to East Portal and, at scale, measures 8 feet by 4 feet. Perhaps the most interesting characteristic of the map is that pre-dam topography data was used to create a "shaded relief" of the bottom of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Other exhibits at the Elk Creek Visitor Center include rotating panels that highlight recreational activities and current management topics. There are books and other educational items available at the bookstore that will capture the interests of any age. We invite you to come by the visitor center to see the new changes.

Ranger Programs

MORROW POINT BOAT TOUR

Offered daily except Tuesdays. See above for details.

NIGHT HIKES

Saturdays, times and locations vary.

Far from major light pollution sources, Curecanti National Recreation Area is an ideal location for stargazing. Join a ranger for a hike into the night to experience dark skies, night creatures, and the wonders of our universe. Reservations are available at no charge up to eight days prior to the event and space is limited. Reservations can be made in person at the Elk Creek Visitor Center or by calling (970) 641-2337, ext. 205.

GUNNISON VALLEY OBSERVATORY

Curecanti rangers are often guest speakers at the Gunnison Valley Observatory. The observatory offers public telescope viewings through its 30" domed telescope and other smaller scopes guided by knowledgeable volunteers. For more information on the observatory and a schedule of events, please visit www.gunnisonobservatory.org.

OTHER RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES

Please check at the Elk Creek Visitor Center for a full schedule of ranger programs and activities offered throughout the summer season.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS

See page 3 for details.

Boating

Blue Mesa Reservoir is the largest water body in Colorado, and combined with Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs, offers great recreational opportunities for motor and sail boating, windsurfing, and jet skiing in the summer to snowshoeing and ice fishing in the winter.

Marinas and boat ramps are located in designated areas with easy access to the reservoir. Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs are more difficult to access, but many people enjoy kayaking and fishing using small hand-carried crafts.

Check boating and fishing regulations before heading out on the water.



Requirements for Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs:

- All boats launching at Curecanti must be certified as mussel free. See page 10 for details.
- USCG approved personal flotation devices are required for all on board.
- One Type IV throwable flotation device for boats 16 feet and greater.
- Sound-producing device.
- Lights for dusk to dawn operation.
- A NPS boat permit is required for motorized vessels on Blue Mesa.
- Motorized vessels must be registered in their home state.
- Fire extinguisher (unless boat is of open construction and less than 26 feet long).

Curecanti Fishing Limits

All Colorado state limits apply; all marinas and visitor centers have complete rules and regulations.

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION
Trout (In aggregate)	4	8
Brook Trout < 8"	10	10
Lake Trout (Blue Mesa)*	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
Lake Trout (Morrow Point, Crystal)	4	8
Kokanee salmon	10	10
Yellow Perch, White Suckers, Crayfish	Unlimited	Unlimited

* Only one lake trout greater than 38" per day

Hiking

Curecanti offers a variety of hiking opportunities for all skill levels. Vistas vary from serene walks along the Gunnison River, to volcanic pinnacles, to steeper paths into the canyon. Remember that you are hiking at high elevation and be prepared for the

changing summer weather. Wear good hiking boots, carry a hat, sunscreen, rain jacket and extra water. Dogs are allowed on all Curecanti trails but must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not allowed on the boat tour.

TRAIL & TRAILHEAD	ROUNDRIP (mi / km)	DESCRIPTION
Highway 50		
Neversink Trail Neversink	1.5mi / 2.5km	Easy A nice stroll along the Gunnison River, this is a good location for watching wildlife and is in the shade.
Mesa Creek Trail Cimarron Canyon	1.5mi / 2.5km	Easy Follows a foot bridge over the Gunnison River providing access for fishing and views of the sheer canyon walls.
Pine Creek Trail Pine Creek	2mi / 3km	Moderate This hike descends 232 stairs along Pine Creek to the old railroad bed and Morrow Point Reservoir. This is the access trail for the boat tour.
Dillon Pinnacles Trail Dillon Pinnacles	4mi / 6.5km	Moderate Ascending through sagebrush and conifers this trail offers spectacular views of the weather-sculpted Dillon Pinnacles.
Highway 92		
Curecanti Creek Trail Pioneer Point	4mi / 6.5km	Strenuous Descending 900 feet from the rim of Black Canyon to Morrow Point Reservoir, the trail follows the banks of Curecanti Creek.
Crystal Creek Trail Crystal Creek	5mi / 9km	Strenuous Winding through oak brush and aspen with sweeping views of Cimarron Valley and the West Elk and San Juan Mountains. The trail ends at an overlook, 1800 feet above Crystal Reservoir.
Hermit's Rest Trail Hermit's Rest	6mi / 10km	Strenuous Zigzagging through forest and rock, descend 1800 feet to the camp and picnic sites on the shore of Morrow Point Reservoir.



CIMARRON (via US Hwy 50)
Engine #278 and the other rail cars have been moved off the bridge and are currently being restored. However, the historic site of Cimarron is still well worth a visit. More rail cars, exhibits, and a visitor center make for a great stop along US Highway 50. There are also great opportunities for fishing, hiking along the Mesa Creek Trail, and viewing the Morrow Point Dam. Cimarron also offers a campground and picnic area.

Curecanti Getaways

Looking for quiet and solitude? Enjoy the escape into Curecanti's more remote areas. Explore this rugged terrain by car, boat, or foot.

SCENIC DRIVES

- The West Elk Loop Scenic Byway includes portions of Curecanti via US Hwy 50 and CO Hwy 92.
- The north end of the Silver Thread Scenic Byway begins in Curecanti at the intersection of US Hwy 50 and CO Hwy 149.

BOATING

- Slow down and enjoy the quiet solitude of the "no wake" zones along several of the arms of Blue Mesa Reservoir. Keep an eye out for designated boat-in campsites if you

wish to extend your stay.

- Although limited to hand-carried watercraft, Morrow Point Reservoir and Crystal Reservoir offer boaters a getaway into the waters of the Black Canyon. Boat-in campsites are available for those wanting to experience the starry nights.

BACKPACKING

- Curecanti Creek Trail (see description above) provides two backpacking campsites near the reservoir level.
- Located at the bottom of the Hermit's Rest Trail (see description above) is a backcountry campground that accommodates both hikers and boaters.



EAST PORTAL (via Black Canyon NP)
Although part of Curecanti, East Portal is accessed from the South Rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The East Portal Road has a 16% grade and hairpin turns. Vehicles longer than 22 feet are prohibited. Once at the canyon floor, there are picnic tables, a scenic drive, and exhibits that tell of the historic townsites. East Portal is a popular spot for anglers to fish along the Gunnison River.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

FEES AND PASSES

Black Canyon entrance fee is \$15 per vehicle. For pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcycles, the fee is \$7 per person. A Black Canyon Annual Pass is available for \$30 and is valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.

For visitors interested in visiting multiple public lands, the America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is available for \$80. For US citizens 62 and older, Senior passes are \$10, and for those with disabilities, Access passes are free.

VISITOR CENTERS

The South Rim Visitor Center is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Summer hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Winter hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The North Rim Ranger Station will be open intermittently during the summer. A self registration board is also available to pay your entrance fee or obtain a wilderness permit.

Cimarron Visitor Center is open mid-May to Labor Day, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

CAMPING

The South Rim Campground is open all year, only Loop A in winter. There are no water hookups or dump stations, although water spigots are available during the summer season. Loop B has electrical hookups (only available in the summer). Sites can be reserved through www.recreation.gov or (877) 444-6777. Loops A and C are \$12 per night. Loop B is \$18 per night. Interagency Senior and Access Pass discounts apply to all camping areas.

The East Portal Campground has 15 tent sites, first-come, first-served. Sites are \$12 per night. Water is available during the summer season.

The North Rim Campground has 13 sites and fills on a first-come, first-served basis. Sites are \$12 per night. There are no hookups on the North Rim. Water is available during the summer season.

PETS

Pets on a six-foot leash may be walked on roads, in campgrounds, to the overlooks, and are allowed on the Rim Rock and Chasm View trails. Pets are not allowed on any other trails, inner canyon routes, or in the Wilderness. Clean up after your pet. Do not leave your pet unattended; boarding services are available in the local Montrose area.

ACCESSIBILITY

The South Rim Visitor Center is accessible and the South Rim Campground has accessible campsites. All restrooms on the north and south rim, and some restrooms at East Portal are accessible. A number of overlooks on the South Rim and North Rim drive are also accessible.

GPS COORDINATES

South Rim Visitor Center:
N 38.5550 W -107.6866
North Rim Ranger Station:
N 38.5870 W -107.7048

If the Clock is Ticking...

It would be wonderful to have unlimited time to explore a national park. However, circumstances often limit our availability to experience these special places. Below are some suggestions for how you might spend your visit to the South Rim given particular time constraints.

One hour visit

Visit a few impressive overlooks along the South Rim Drive that have short walks from your car. Don't miss Chasm View, Painted Wall, and Sunset View. If there is still time, stop by the South Rim Visitor Center to meet a ranger, enjoy the exhibits, and browse the bookstore.

Half day visit

Same as above plus watch the park movie showing at the visitor center, attend a short ranger talk, and take a hike along either the Warner Point Nature Trail or Oak Flat Trail. If you would rather not hike, consider driving down the East Portal Road to get an up-close view of the Gunnison River.

Full day visit

Same as above plus consider joining a ranger-led hike to learn even more about the natural and cultural history of this incredible canyon.

Multiple day visit

Same as above plus attend an evening ranger program and take a highway drive to visit the North Rim, Curecanti NRA, or Gunnison Gorge NCA (see area map on back page). If you are looking for a physical challenge, find a ranger to discuss the possibility of inner canyon backcountry travel.

North Rim

One hour: Take the short walk around the Chasm View Nature Trail to view two spectacular overlooks. Drive along the Rim Drive, stop at overlooks as time allows.

Full day: Same as above plus hike along the North Vista Trail to Exclamation Point. Continue on the trail to Green Mountain if time and energy allow.

Multiple days: Same as above plus consider hiking the Deadhorse Trail or embarking on an inner canyon adventure down a backcountry route. Locate a ranger or bulletin board for specific information about the wilderness backcountry. Also, consider taking one of the highway drives to visit the South Rim, Curecanti NRA, or Gunnison Gorge NCA (see area map on back page).

Hiking

Trails in Black Canyon offer diverse habitats, sweeping vistas of the sheer canyon walls, and a variety of wildlife and wildflowers. Interpretive signs and nature guides help visitors understand the rich natural and cultural history.

Backcountry hiking and camping are available and require a free permit. For more information pick up a wilderness brochure at the South Rim Visitor Center or North Rim Ranger Station. Remember that routes into the canyon are rugged and unforgiving for the unprepared.

TRAIL & TRAILHEAD	ROUNDTrip (mi / km)	Permitted (Animals)	DESCRIPTION
South Rim			
Uplands Trail South Rim Visitor Center	2mi / 3km		Easy A nice stroll through the oakbrush. Look for mule deer and other wildlife.
Rim Rock Trail South Rim Visitor Center	2mi / 3km		Moderate A self-guiding nature trail that takes you along the rim of the canyon. Guide books are available at trailhead.
Warner Point Trail High Point	1.5mi / 2.5km		Moderate Beautiful mountain vistas and canyon views. Guide books are available.
Oak Flat Loop South Rim Visitor Center	2mi / 3km		Strenuous Short but steep, dropping 400 feet through aspen and Douglas-fir, with great views of the canyon.
North Rim			
Chasm View Nature Trail North Rim Campground	0.3mi / 0.5km		Easy Provides excellent views of the narrowest part of the canyon. Guide books are available at the trailhead.
Deadhorse Trail Kneeling Camel View	5mi / 9km		Moderate Provides excellent views of Deadhorse Gulch and East Portal. It is open to horses, weed-free forage only.
North Vista Trail North Rim Ranger Station	3mi / 4.5km		Moderate The first section ends at Exclamation Point with a breathtaking view.
	7mi / 11km		Strenuous After Exclamation Point, climb 840 feet to the summit of Green Mountain

Adventures in Black Canyon

AUTO TOUR

The South Rim Drive offers beautiful views of Black Canyon. Some of the 12 viewpoints are close to the road and others involve short strolls on well maintained trails.

Traveling east on US Highway 50 from Black Canyon you will find a short detour to Cimarron Canyon and Visitor Center. This will take you to railroad exhibits and to a view of Morrow Point Dam. Continuing on Highway 50 offers views of unique geologic formations and panoramas of surrounding mountains.

The North Rim Drive is a road less traveled. Many prefer the relative solitude that this drive offers. It is a gravel road open generally from late March through mid-November, depending on the weather. The North Rim Drive offers six uniquely stunning overlooks of the canyon.

CLIMBING

There are a number of technical climbing routes in the Black Canyon. Most climbs are long, multi-pitch routes and are not for novice climbers. Access is difficult, but

with the right amount of skill and preparation, climbing in the canyon can be a rewarding adventure. Free wilderness permits are required.

For those interested in something that stays a little closer to the ground, there are a few “bouldering” options in the park. Check with rangers for more information.

KAYAKING

The Gunnison River through the national park is extremely dangerous due to difficult rapids and portages. Even well prepared kayakers will find the canyon challenging. The river is classified as Class V to Unnavigable.

- All boaters must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved whitewater PFD.
- Obtain a wilderness permit at the South Rim Visitor Center or the East Portal bulletin board at the put-in.
- It is wise to go with an experienced kayaker who has been down this stretch of the river before.
- Wood fires are prohibited.
- Pack out everything, including trash, used toilet paper, and cigarette butts.



Ranger Programs

We invite you to learn more about Black Canyon by joining us for a Ranger-led activity. This is a great way to learn about the park, make lasting connections, or just have that nagging question answered. All programs are located at the South Rim and are free. Check with a ranger or at any visitor center for start times and locations.

CHASM VIEW TALKS

For the curious who are wondering how this magnificent canyon was formed. Programs are daily at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the South Rim.

OVERLOOK TALKS

Topics vary widely on these popular afternoon talks from birds of prey, to plant life, to early explorations of the canyon. Join us to learn more about the big and the small within the park.

EAST PORTAL WALKS

Life in the Uncompahgre Valley was changed forever by the construction of the Gunnison Tunnel, a 6-mile irrigation tunnel, in the early 1900s. Follow in the footsteps of the people who lived at the river during this 2-hour program. Friday through Monday at 10:00 a.m. Make free reservations at the South Rim Visitor Center or by calling (970) 249-1914, ext. 423.

NATURE HIKE

Join a park ranger Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for a 2-hour walk along the Warner Trail. Experience the beauty and rugged nature of western

Colorado on this moderate hike.

EVENING PROGRAMS

Black Canyon’s diversity will come to life during evening slide programs at the campground outdoor theater or the South Rim Visitor Center auditorium.

ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS

We encourage you to get out and enjoy the night. Astronomy and Stargazing programs will be held at Black Canyon and Curecanti throughout the summer. We will also be out during the day with our solar scope designed to look at the sun. Look for us at the South Rim Visitor Center for this program. These programs are weather permitting and can be cold. Bring warm clothes.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS

See page 3 for details.



Playing it Safe

Safety may not be on your mind while visiting parks, but it is a very important part of any trip.

Check with rangers for current information on conditions and potential safety hazards.

Check weather conditions before starting any activity and be aware that they can change quickly.

Be informed of hiking and boating regulations and be cautious around all wildlife, water, and steep cliffs.

Keep young ones close.

Be bear aware by properly storing all food and items that have come in contact with food.

Always drink plenty of water.

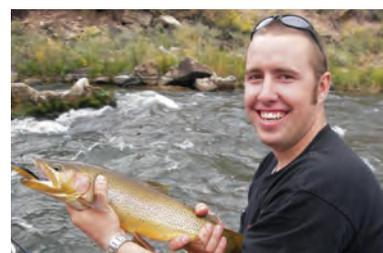
Black Canyon Wilderness Regulations

Backcountry travel is a rewarding and unique experience, but only for the prepared. Remember that the inner canyon within Black Canyon National Park is rugged and remote.

- Permits (at no charge) are required for ALL inner canyon use.
- Reservations are required for Red Rock Canyon. Reservations for 2012 are full. Check the Black Canyon website for information on 2013.
- Pets are prohibited in the wilderness area and on all inner canyon routes.
- Hunting is prohibited.
- A valid Colorado fishing license is required for fishing in the canyon. Gold Medal Fishing regulations apply.
- Collecting anything within the national park is prohibited,

including wood, flowers, plants, animals, antlers, historical artifacts, and rocks.

- Follow “Leave No Trace” ethics. These are listed on the back of the permit.
- Use pit toilets if available. If not, bury human waste six inches deep and 200 feet away from the river.
- Wood fires are prohibited. Use only camp stoves for cooking.
- Carry extra food, clothing, and a water filter.



Gold Medal Fishing Regulations

These special regulations apply from 200 yards downstream of Crystal Dam to the North Fork Confluence.

Fish with artificial lures and flies only.

The daily bag limit for brown trout is four.

The possession limit for brown trout is eight.

All rainbow trout caught must be returned to the water immediately.

A state fishing license is required.

Fishing is prohibited within 200 yards downstream of Crystal Dam.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

WILDERNESS PERMITS AND PASSES

Permits and fees are required for anyone 16 years of age and over entering the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, whether entering briefly or for the maximum 2 night/3 day stay:

\$3 per person for Day Use
\$10 per person for One Night
\$15 per person for Two Nights (maximum stay)
\$15 per person/year for Annual Day Use Pass

Self-register fee stations are located at all wilderness trailheads.

Passes (America the Beautiful, Golden Eagle, State Parks, etc.) are not valid for Gunnison Gorge Wilderness permits. Annual day use passes cannot be applied toward camping permit fees.

If accessing Black Canyon National Park from the Chukar Trail you still must register and purchase a Gunnison Gorge Wilderness permit. Persons traveling upstream of the Margaritaville camping area must also obtain a backcountry permit for the national park.

CAMPING

Camping within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness and Gunnison River corridor is allowed in designated sites or camping areas only. Visitors must obtain camping permits, register, and reserve river campsites at the Wilderness trailheads. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Wilderness camping permit fees are \$10 per person for 1 night, \$15 per person for 2 nights (maximum stay). Interagency passes are not valid for Wilderness permit fees.

Campsites, restrooms, picnic tables and fire grills are available at the Chukar, Duncan, and Ute trailheads, Peach Valley Recreation Area and Cottonwood Grove at no charge. Campsites, showers, and other services are available at the private Gunnison River Pleasure Park located at the Gunnison Forks.

Dispersed vehicle camping in the remainder of the NCA is permitted up to seven consecutive days, unless posted otherwise. Check BLM signs and maps for additional camping regulations and designated campsite locations.

PETS

All animals brought into the NCA must be under your visual, audible, or physical control at all times and are not permitted to run at large or chase, harass or disturb wildlife or other users. Keep pets leashed in developed recreation sites and always carry a leash with you while hiking.

ACCESSIBILITY

Recreation sites have rough dirt and/or gravel surfaces; trails are steep, rocky, and difficult to traverse without assistance. There are accessible toilet facilities at the Chukar, Duncan, and Ute trailheads, and at the Gunnison Forks. The Cottonwood Grove camping area has an accessible campsite, toilet and fishing pier.

Biking and Horseback Information

Saddle up your horse or hop on your mountain bike and head to the Gunnison Gorge NCA for miles of scenic riding through adobe badlands, sandstone canyons, and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Take in views of surrounding mountains, valleys, and the colorful cliffs and canyons of Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Equestrians might want to grab their fishing poles and head 4.5 miles down the Ute Trail to the Gunnison River for some fishing in the Gold Medal Waters. The Bobcat and Duncan trails are not horse-friendly due to very steep drop-offs and rocky sections. Mountain bikes are not permitted within the Wilderness but there are plenty of other great riding areas from which to choose.



Adventures by Car

Looking for an off-road adventure? Driving in the Gunnison Gorge NCA can be a great adventure. Take a drive through scenic adobe badland formations along Peach Valley Road or enjoy beautiful river views while looking for that fishing spot along the South River Road. Check out spectacular views of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness from the Smith Mountain jeep road. All NCA roads are natural surface and most have rocky outcrops. Four wheel drive and/or high clearance vehicles are recommended. Frequent and localized summer rainstorms may render roads and trails impassible even for four-wheel-drive vehicles. Do not attempt to drive on saturated roads. Motorized and non-motorized vehicles must stay on signed, designated roads and trails.

OHV RIDING AREAS

Unload your OHV (off highway vehicle) at the Gunnison Gorge NCA Peach Valley Recreation

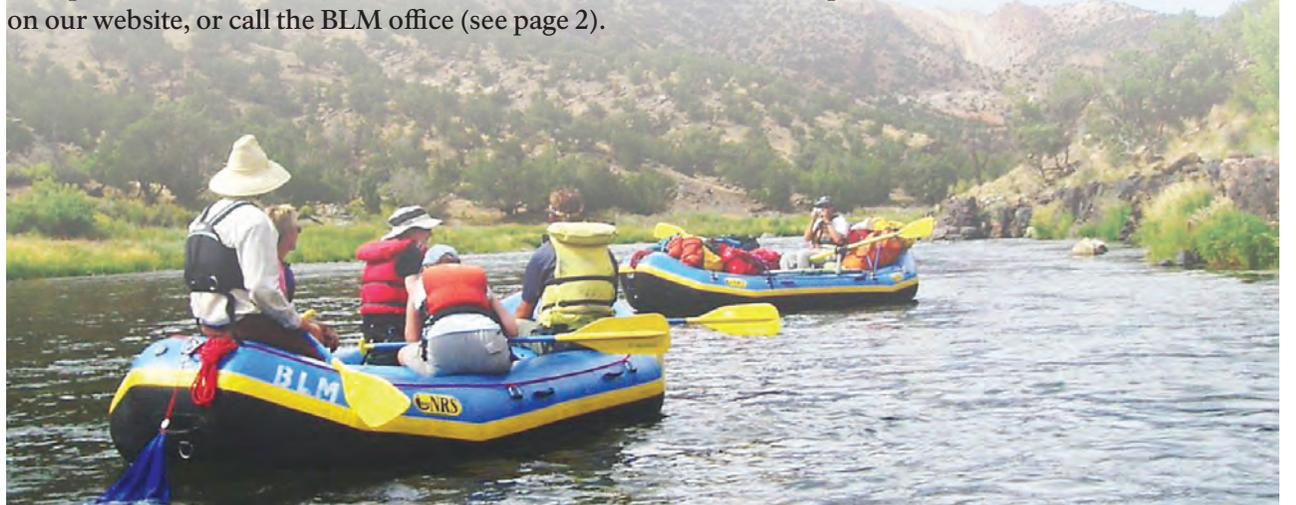
Area. From here you can take off riding on over 75 miles of designated motorcycle single track and all terrain vehicle (ATV) trails within the 9,800 acre Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area. This area also offers two designated OHV play areas, at Peach Valley and Flat Top, where off-trail cross country riding is permitted for motorcycles, ATVs, universal terrain vehicles (UTV) 50 inches in width or less, and mountain bikes. The Peach Valley site also offers a beginner's loop.

All vehicles over 50 inches must stay on designated access roads. Check trailhead kiosks for trail locations and riding regulations. Your OHV must be registered with the Colorado State OHV program and your registration decals must be properly affixed to your vehicle. Wear your safety gear and come prepared for adventure! Want to learn to ride? Contact the BLM about motorcycle and ATV classes.

Boating Information

The Gunnison Gorge NCA provides a number of river access sites for non-motorized boating and fishing. Whitewater enthusiasts will find outstanding scenery and technical (Class II-IV) rapids within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness which is accessed via the 1 mile Chukar Trail. You can pack in your own gear or arrange for a horse pack-in. Commercial shuttle services are available. Find permitted commercial outfitters and services on our website, or call the BLM office (see page 2).

Looking for calmer waters for your canoe or raft? Launch at Cottonwood Grove, Orchard River, or Gunnison Forks river access sites to float the lower Gunnison River downstream of the Gunnison Forks. You can also make arrangements with the Pleasure Park to jet boat you and your gear upstream to the Smith Fork and enjoy a scenic, leisure float back. Don't have a raft? Rent one from one of BLM's permitted outfitters.





GUNNISON GORGE PEACH VALLEY RECREATION AREA

via US Highway 50 west of Montrose to the paved Falcon Road which ends at the Peach Valley dirt road

The Peach Valley area has 75 miles of multi-use trails and is a convenient stop when planning your time at the Gorge. There is a parking area, information boards, restrooms, picnic shelters and easy access to hiking,

horse riding, mountain biking, and OHV trails.

The Peach Valley Recreation Site is the main staging area for off-route riding in the Peach Valley and Flat Top OHV “open play” areas. Near the parking area there is a small beginner loop suitable for children to learn to ride small bumps and berms. Next to that is a training area with structures for practicing riding skills.

Trails

The Gunnison Gorge NCA provides an assortment of easy to technical trails that wind through a variety of scenic backdrops including adobe “moonscapes,” colorful sandstone

canyons, and the towering black walls of the canyon. All trails are suitable for hiking. Dogs are allowed on NCA trails but be sure to bring along extra water for them!

TRAIL & TRAILHEAD	ROUNDTrip (mi / km)	DESCRIPTION
Gunnison Gorge NCA		
Sidewinder Trail Eagle Valley, Smith Mountain Recreation Site, additional access points in between	40mi / 64.4km 	Moderate (hike/horse) to Strenuous (bicycle/motorbike). Scenic multi-use single-track trail runs north/south along the NCA's west side, winding through many small canyons. Numerous access points. Very technical trail for bikes and motorcycles.
Eagle Valley Trail Chukar Road (west end)	2mi / 3km 	Easy Fun family hike through adobe badlands and sandstone canyons.
Chukar Trail Chukar Road	2.2mi / 3.5km	Moderate Very scenic, steep, winding trail descending down to Chukar Wash. Provides access for floating the gorge and hiking upstream into the national park.
Sunset Rocks Trail Chukar Road	6mi / 10km 	Moderate Colorful geologic formations and pinyon-juniper woodlands with great views of the Uncompahgre Valley.
West River Trail South River Road	7mi / 11km 	Moderate Provides three miles of Gold Medal fishing access on the west side of the Gunnison River.
Ute Trail Peach Valley Road	11mi / 17.5km 	Moderate Descends gradually to the river and offers impressive views of the towering cliffs and the Gorge's “double canyon.”
Bobcat Trail Peach Valley Road	3mi / 4.5km	Strenuous Stunning wilderness views. The last 1/2 mile is extremely steep requiring a scramble down a rocky draw. Not recommended for horse use.
Duncan Trail Peach Valley Road	3mi / 4.5km	Strenuous Colorful sandstone formations. The last 1/2 mile is extremely steep on loose rocks. Not recommended for horse use.

Colorado Canyons Association

The Colorado Canyons Association fosters community stewardship of National Conservation System Lands, including Gunnison Gorge NCA.

This non-partisan, non-profit organization encourages cooperation among all NCA users and interests.

Visit the website and follow the link to join the conversation on Facebook.

Website:
coloradocanyonsassociation.org

More Information?

Scan the QR code below to access the Gunnison Gorge NCA website. Maps, directions, trail information, fee descriptions, and more is available for viewing and download.



Gunnison Gorge NCA Regulations

- Motorized and non-motorized vehicles must stay on signed, designated roads and trails.
- Off-trail use by motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs (up to 50 inches in width) and mountain bikes is allowed only in designated open areas within the Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area.
- Motorized river craft are prohibited on rivers and streams in the NCA and Wilderness.
- Pets and pack stock must be under visual, audible, or physical control at all times. Keep pets leashed in developed recreation sites.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Hunting is permitted in accordance with Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations.
- Camping along the river corridor is allowed in designated sites only.
- Cutting of live or dead vegetation is prohibited.
- Fires must be contained either in stoves, grills, or metal fire pans.

Check BLM website, signs and maps for additional regulations regarding camping, group size, length of stay, human waste disposal, and campfire use in your proposed travel area.

Wilderness Regulations

Visitors (16 yrs and older) must register and purchase self-issuing day use or camping permits.

Camping is allowed in designated sites only; reserve campsites when purchasing permits at trailheads.

Maximum length of stay is 2 nights.

Maximum group size is 12.

Wood fires are prohibited. Use camp stoves and/or fire pans with charcoal.

Portable toilet systems required for all overnight users.

Motorized and mechanical vehicles and equipment use is prohibited.



Clean, Drain, and Dry at Curecanti



The National Park Service (NPS) and State of Colorado are determined to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels into Blue Mesa and other reservoirs of the Gunnison River

Clean, Drain, and Dry

Follow these general procedures every time you come in contact with any body of water:

- Remove all visible mud, plants, fish, and animals. Before leaving any body of water, it is important to examine all your equipment (boats, trailers, clothing, boots, buckets, etc).
- Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere. Most water recreational equipment contains areas where water can collect and harbor aquatic hitchhikers.
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water (equipment, clothing, even dogs!).
- Never release or put plants, fish or animals into water unless they came out of that body of water.

basin. There is no way to eliminate these species once they are established. If they get established, they could significantly impact recreational fishing in Blue Mesa. Zebra and quagga mussels entered the United States in the late 1980s by sea-going ships that sailed into the Great Lakes and since then have spread throughout much of the U.S. (including Colorado).

Zebra and Quagga mussels are freshwater mollusks that have a zebra-like pattern on their shells. When unchecked, they explode in population and then die off in mass, resulting in shorelines littered with sharp shells. Once established, invasive mussels can also cripple successful fisheries at Blue Mesa.

The NPS and Colorado began an inspection program in the summer of 2009 to prevent mussels from reaching the waters of Curecanti. All motorized and trailered vessels (including personal watercraft and sailboats) must be inspected by a state-certified inspector prior to launch and after exiting.

The watercraft inspectors are looking for signs that a boat may be carrying mussels. One sign is standing water, where larval mussels can survive for up to a month. Inspectors will also rub their hands along hard surfaces of boats that are exposed to water in search of a gritty sandpaper feeling, a sign that young mussels have attached to the vessel. Finally, a visual inspection ensures that no adult mussels are attached to the boat.

If a vessel is determined to be carrying mussels, then decontamination will be required. Decontamination prevents species spread and entails on-site washing of boats and trailers with very hot water (>140° F) by certified personnel. While decontaminations are rare, boaters should adopt the idea of *Clean, Drain, and Dry* (see inset) to keep their watercraft mussel-free and expedite the inspection process.

Curecanti has five inspection stations: Elk Creek, Lake Fork, Stevens Creek, Iola, and Ponderosa. Detailed information on locations is available: 1) from the park map; 2) from any visitor center; or 3) from the Internet at <http://go.nps.gov/mussel>.

When approved for launch, the boat inspector will issue a launch tag. This tag should be placed on the rearview mirror of the boater's automobile as evidence of inspection. Launch tags are issued only by certified boat inspectors and can only be obtained from Curecanti inspection stations.

The NPS has discovered that many people recreating at Curecanti have been very willing to help with the protection of the resources. Superintendent Connie Rudd stated, "The mussel prevention program has been successful because of concerned boaters, anglers and recreationists supporting the efforts." This partnership will help to keep Blue Mesa the incredible place that it has been for generations, with its gentle beauty and outstanding recreation.

For more information on what you can do to help prevent the spread of invasive mussels or other species, ask a ranger or visitor center staff or visit one of these websites:

www.100thmeridian.org
www.protectyourwaters.net



Train Restoration Continues on Track

Anybody familiar with the Denver & Rio Grande Western train display across the Cimarron River may notice something missing – the train. The four-car display across the Cimarron River has been removed from the bridge for much needed repair. The last major renovation of the cars occurred in the mid-1980's, and time, sun, and weather have taken their toll.

In 2009, the cars were moved to a storage yard near the Cimarron Visitor Center. During much of 2011 and early 2012, the Locomotive and Tender (a.k.a. coal car) were removed for restoration. Future plans for the display includes restoration of the historic train bridge in 2012-2014 and restoration of the boxcar and caboose soon after. The long-term plan is to have all cars and the bridge ready for the reassembly of the display by the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

Train enthusiasts may also be interested in visiting four additional cars on display adjacent to the visitor center. These include two stock cars,

a maintenance crew sleeping car and a small crane for track maintenance (see page 5).

There will be opportunities during the summer for visitors to see the restored cars 'up-close'. Interested visitors should call or visit the Cimarron Visitor Center after Memorial Day at 970-249-4074 to obtain the tour schedule.



Support Your Parks

Volunteer Your Time

If you are looking for a hands-on way to help your parks or public lands, we may have just the job for you! Volunteers for Black Canyon, Curecanti and the Gunnison Gorge tirelessly put in thousands of hours each year helping to keep our public lands afloat.

There are many ways you can share your enthusiasm and expertise with us. Full and part-time positions are available throughout the year.

CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Hosts provide on-site support in the various campgrounds. The park provides a campsite with full hook-ups.

V.I.P.S

Volunteers-in-Parks provide a wide variety of services from operating the

information desk at the visitor center, to resource management projects, astronomy programs, and janitorial services. RV sites with full hook-ups or small shared housing may be available.

VOLUNTEER CLIMBING RANGERS

These volunteers work within a talented team of climbers to provide the park assistance with high angle search and rescue. They are not only skilled climbers but are also paramedics, EMTs and first responders.

STUDENT WORK PROGRAMS

The Student Conservation Association and other youth organizations place volunteers in various resource agencies across the country. They may provide uniforms, a weekly stipend, and transportation

costs. Black Canyon and Curecanti use students for park internships.

VOLUNTEER RIVER RANGERS

These volunteers work with BLM rangers within the Gunnison Gorge assisting with river patrols and resource management projects. Volunteers have assisted with tamarisk removal, building trails, planting trees, cleaning campsites, and monitoring wildlife. Volunteers must be physically fit to participate. The work is strenuous, but rewarding.

Last year more than 250 volunteers donated over 24,500 hours to these parks and public lands. We are grateful to those who generously donated their time and skills in 2011.



Your User Fees at Work



Black Canyon, Curecanti, and Gunnison Gorge are being carefully managed for you, and for future

generations, by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. This vital work comes at a price. Protecting our natural and cultural heritage while ensuring that visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience is an important investment.

As the number of visitors to our public lands continues to climb due to the popularity of these national treasures, government funding available for necessities such as road and building repairs, campground maintenance, visitor protection, resource protection and other services has not kept pace with demand. In 2004, Congress

initiated a program that would direct the entrance fees collected from visitors back to the maintenance of the facilities they use.

Managing public lands requires a major financial investment. While most of that investment comes from general tax revenues, those who directly use public lands for recreation derive a greater benefit from, and place a greater burden on, resources and facilities than the public at large. Applying user fees to projects at the area where they were collected assures that actual users pay an increased share of operational costs. These funds have been, and will continue to be, used for maintenance, repair projects, public service programs, signs, and natural and historical resource preservation.

Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering please give us a call. For Black Canyon or Curecanti, contact Brant Porter at (970) 641-2337, ext. 206.

For Gunnison Gorge, contact Edd Franz at (970) 240-5300.

For student programs visit:
www.nps.gov/aboutus/jobsforstudents.htm

Current Projects

- Trail improvements with Youth Partnership crews
- Gravel road treatments and resurfacing
- Rehabilitate the Lake Fork comfort stations
- Repaint water well pump houses
- Replace wave attenuators at Stevens Creek and Iola
- Rodent proof buildings
- Apply oil for log preservation
- Control invasive plants
- Restore disturbed lands with native plants
- Look for these projects and more during your visit!

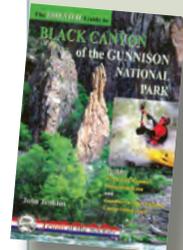
Shop in the Bookstore

WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION (WNPA) sells many items about Black Canyon, Curecanti and the Gunnison Gorge. Visit their stores at the South Rim, Cimarron, and Elk Creek Visitor Centers. Your purchase supports these parks by funding a variety of projects like the publication of *The Portal* newspaper.

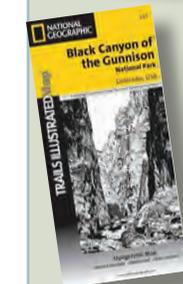
SUGGESTED READING:



Black Canyon and Curecanti: The Story Behind the Scenery: A great introduction to these parks with many beautiful images. \$9.95



The Essential Guide to Black Canyon: A complete guide to the canyon from geology to history. \$19.95



National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map: This topographic map includes Black Canyon, Curecanti and Gunnison Gorge. \$11.95



The Black Canyon DVD (Updated): A chronicle of one of the most stunning gorges in the world. \$21.95



The Geologic Story of the Gunnison Gorge: An overview of the Gunnison Gorge developed by the USGS. \$10.00, accompanying map \$7.00



WNPA
10346 Hwy 347
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-1914, ext. 423
www.wnpa.org
www.nps.gov/blca
www.nps.gov/cure

Area Map

