

DESCRIPTION: Irish Canyon is a relatively remote and highly scenic canyon. It is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) because of its unique geology, scenery, plant species, and cultural resources. Twelve of the twenty-two geologic formations found in the eastern end of the Uinta Mountains occur here. The beginning of the canyon is not more than 50 yards wide with steep walls with layers of red, green, and gray. Elevations range from 6100 to 8636 feet. Such outlaws as Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, Matt Warner, Isom Dart, and others spent much time in the surrounding Browns Park area at the turn of the century.

There is an interpretative exhibit of ancient petroglyphs at the south entrance to Irish Canyon. There are other unmarked cultural sites in and around the area. At the north end of the canyon is a small campground with 3 sites with tables, fire pits and one pit toilet. There are no developed trails, but hiking is available to the west to Limestone Ridge and Cold Spring Mountain and to the east to Vermillion Canyon and the colorful badlands along Vermillion Creek. Primitive roads to the east and west provide excellent mountain biking opportunities to view the region particularly on Cold Spring Mountain. Motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated routes marked with signs.

Wildlife includes mule deer and antelope and occasionally other inhabitants such as coyote, badger, fox, and marmot. Many species of upland birds inhabit the area including golden eagle, turkey vulture, Gray Jay, dove and

chukar. This semi-arid country supports sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodlands with several rare plant communities. Summers are generally warm and dry with cool nights. There is no water available in the area.

ACCESS: From Maybell, Colorado on U. S. Highway 40 turn northwest onto Colorado Highway 318 to Moffat County Road 10N (41 miles) which runs through Irish Canyon (4.5 miles from Colorado 318).

MAPS: BLM Canyon of Lodore Color Quads (scale = 1:100,000) are available from BLM offices. USGS Topographic Maps (Scale) = 1:24,000) - Canyon of Lodore, is available from USGS Branch of Distribution (map sales), P.O. Box 25286, Building 41, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, phone (303) 236-7477.



Irish Canyon








ACEC



For more information contact the
BLM Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson
Street, Craig, Colorado 81625,
phone (970) 826-5000
<http://www.co.blm.gov/lsla/lslaindex.htm>

Irish Canyon ACEC

All vehicles limited to designated routes only

-  Campground
-  Rock Art Site
-  ACEC Boundary
-  Surface Management Status
-  BLM
-  Private
-  State Land Board



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