



Further information on Canyon Rims Recreation Area is available by writing or calling:

Bureau of Land Management
Moab District
P.O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532
801-259-6111

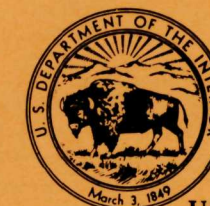
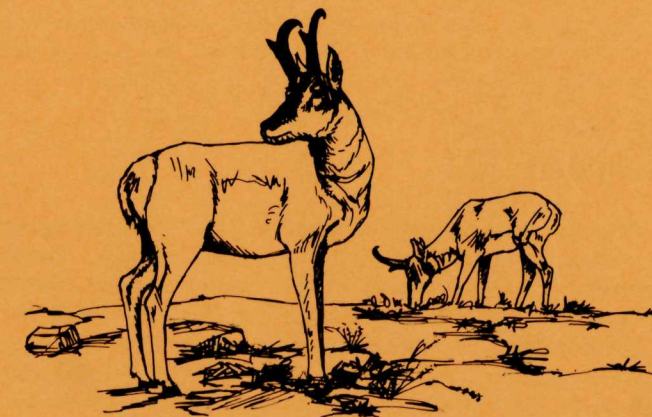
Information and literature regarding Canyonlands and Arches National Parks and surrounding areas can be obtained from:

Canyonlands Natural History Association
446 South Main St.
Moab, Utah 84532
801-259-8163

Canyonlands National Park
446 South Main St.
Moab, Utah 84532
801-259-7164

Arches National Park
446 South Main St.
Moab, Utah 84532
801-259-8161

CANYON RIMS RECREATION AREA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management



Canyonlands
Natural History
Association

Brochure designed and written by Don Coleman,
Participant Student Conservation Program
Illustrations by Don C. Swasey

HISTORY

Canyon Rims Recreation Area, established in the late 1960s to meet the demand for outdoor recreation, is located in an area known as Hatch Point. Consisting of about 85,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management administered land, Canyon Rims contains three overlooks, two campgrounds, several trails and many four-wheel drive roads.

Canyon Rims is administered as a multiple use natural resource area by the Bureau of Land Management. Through this type of management the recreation potential is developed in harmony with wildlife, oil, mineral and grazing potentials.

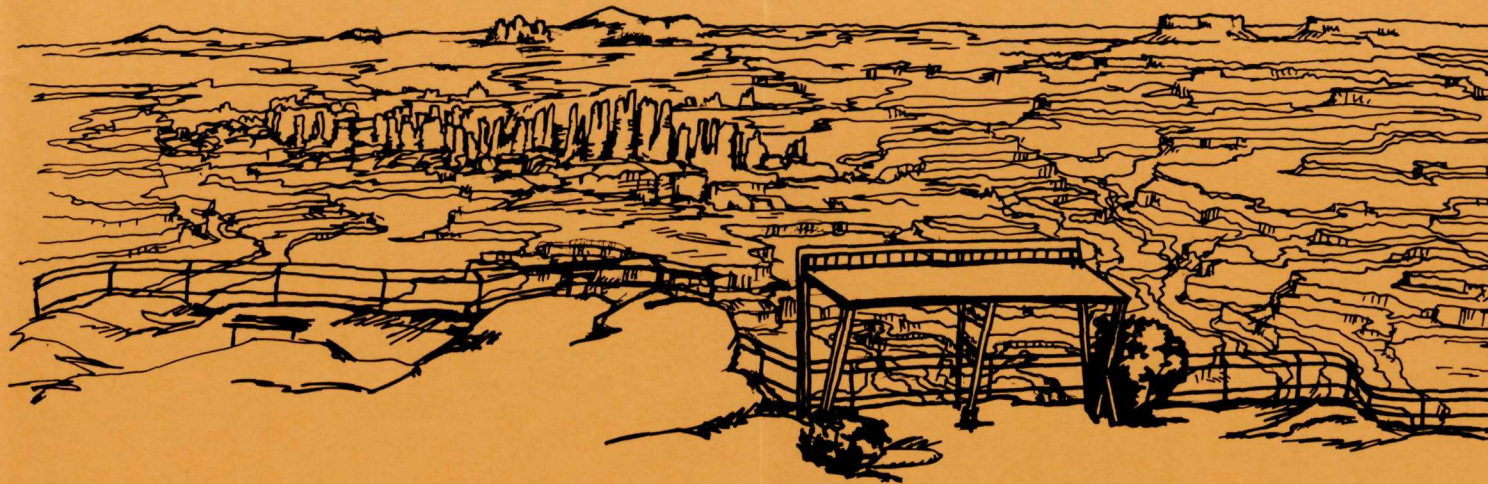
GEOLOGY

Four hundred million years ago a cycle of sedimentation and uplifting formed the ancient Colorado River Basin. Seas, lakes, streams and wind deposited sediment which became thousands of feet thick. Over the eons this became rock and beginning about sixty million years ago was uplifted. Uplift brought about a cycle of alternating erosion, local deposition and continued uplift. For the last twenty million years the erosional forces of wind and water have carved the landscape found in the Canyonlands area.

WILDLIFE

The Canyon Rims Recreation Area is part of the high desert ecosystem which provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. Animals have adapted in various ways to survive the harsh temperature extremes and low annual precipitation which is typical of the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper habitat.

If you look closely you may see an American pronghorn antelope before it sees you. Antelope rely on extreme speed and keen vision to escape predators on the open deserts. The black-tailed jackrabbit, a common sight in the area can radiate heat through the numerous capillaries in its huge ears to help regulate its body temperature. Sage grouse are rare in this area but are sometimes spotted along the roadside in dense stands of sagebrush, their primary food source. Snakes and lizards are common in all deserts. One of the most interesting species is the horned lizard or "horned toad" as it is more commonly known. Among its other adaptations, the horned lizard escapes the chill of the night by burrowing into the sand, sometimes two or three inches below the surface.



The desert is alive with much for the visitor to see. The only requirements are patience and attention.

JAIL ROCK

A large dome shaped rock approximately two miles from the entrance and to the left of the paved road has a large water hole in it. As there is no way out except with the aid of a rope, legend has it that it was used by a sheriff's posse to hold a captured outlaw. It has also been reported that a rancher, whose wife objected when he wanted to go to Moab to visit a local saloon, put her in the hole to keep her from leaving in his absence. It has since been known as Jail Rock.

NEEDLES OVERLOOK

Located twenty-two miles off U.S. Highway 191 at the end of the paved road, Needles Overlook offers a magnificent view of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Looking to the northwest, one can see Junction Butte and Grandview Point. To the southwest the unusual formations known as the Needles, sandstone spires of various colors and shapes, present the most spectacular view from the overlook. An interpretive display under a ramada tells of the geologic processes at work in the canyon and of man's early ventures into the area.

ANTICLINE OVERLOOK

Seven miles northwest of Hatch Point Campground the gravel road ends at Anticline Overlook. From this point

the visitor can see the Cane Creek Anticline, layers of rock that have been arched up. Also, the Texasgulf Potash Mine with its evaporation ponds can be seen. Here a potash ore bed lies several thousand feet beneath the surface. Due to severe irregularities in the ore beds, conventional mining techniques became infeasible. As a result the Texasgulf Co. began solution mining. In this technique water is pumped into the mine where it becomes saturated with potash. It is then pumped into evaporation ponds where solar energy evaporates the water, leaving the potash to be collected, separated and refined.

Against the northeast skyline Arches National Park is visible, and by looking carefully one can see an arch in the Windows Section sixteen miles away.

CANYONLANDS OVERLOOK

Canyonlands Overlook is reached by turning right onto the 4-WD road which is twenty-six miles from the entrance and off the gravel road leading to Anticline Overlook. This road is about five miles long and is suitable only for four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles as the road traverses steep, rocky terrain and sandstone potholes. Upon reaching the overlook, the visitor is 1,400 feet above the canyon floor. Here Island in the Sky and the Colorado River can be viewed from an excellent vantage point. Please use extreme caution around the canyon rims as the overlook does not have fences.

CAMPGROUNDS

Canyon Rims Recreation Area has two developed campgrounds. Both have running water, pit toilets, grills

and picnic tables. Wind Whistle Campground is six miles from the entrance and has seventeen campsites, each with grill, table and firepit. Hatch Point Campground is located twenty-five miles from the entrance on the gravel road leading to Anticline Overlook. Hatch Point has nine campsites with grills, tables and firepits.

For firewood, use only what is lying on the ground; do not cut living or dead standing trees.

TROUGH SPRINGS CANYON TRAIL

The Trough Springs Canyon Trail begins at an abandoned drill pad which can be reached by turning off the gravel road leading to Anticline Overlook onto a dirt road twenty-nine miles from the entrance. The trail winds down Trough Springs Canyon for approximately two and a half miles to Kane Spring Canyon Road. The trail is marked with stone cairns at regular intervals. Where the trail begins to wind down the slope of the canyon wall, extreme caution should be used as footing could be treacherous on the loose rock. The trail is easy to moderately difficult, and the approximate roundtrip hiking time is five hours. It is advised that two to three quarts of water be carried per person.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE ROADS

Many dirt roads crisscross the Canyon Rims area. With the exception of those leading to Jail Rock, Trough Springs Canyon Trail and the campsites, all should be regarded as four-wheel drive roads. It is advised that proper emergency and repair gear be carried, as well as adequate water. For more information regarding the roads in the area, consult maps and guide books available through Bureau of Land Management offices.

SAFETY TIPS

While you visit Canyon Rims we ask that you observe the following safety tips:

1. When traveling off main roads always travel with a companion.
2. Carry plenty of water. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
3. Be sure you have proper clothing and footgear. Sunburn and heat are an ever present danger, as are the spines of prickly pear if stepped on.
4. Leave your travel plans with someone who is expecting you to return.
5. Carry proper repair and emergency gear.