

COLORADO CANYONS ASSOCIATION

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DENCA TRAIL 76B

DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

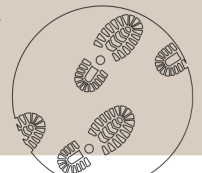
- Check the weather before you leave: always dress and layer appropriately for all conditions.
- Pack plenty of water and snacks
- Do you have sunscreen, a hat, and your sunglasses?
- If using a digital map, is it downloaded and accessible ahead of time, in case you lose signal?
- Do you have a “wag bag” or way to pack out human waste in case an emergency calls?

Want to make a positive impact in your community that helps steward these landscapes?

Please donate or become a CCA member today to support our continued mission of education, stewardship, and awareness of the three National Conservation Areas in Western Colorado--McInnis Canyons, Dominguez-Escalate, and Gunnison Gorge. **THANK YOU!**



TRAIL OVERVIEW



- Manager
BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
- Allows Hiking
Yes
- Allows Dogs
Yes
- Allows Bikes
Yes
- Allows Horses
Yes
- Allows Motorcycles
Yes
- Allows ATVs
Yes
- Allows OHVs >50"
No
- Allows Highway Vehicles
No
- Surface
Two-track Road



ABOUT THIS TRAIL

The trail is a portion of the DENCA trail, which is 24 miles long and divided into various, disconnected segments. Though this is a two-track off-road trail, it sees a minimal amount of traffic, and makes for an easy to follow, moderate hiking trail.

Be mindful once you come to the wash at the beginning of the trail to keep going straight instead of going down the wash itself. It will veer to the left at a split shortly after that. Follow the COTREX map on your phone if possible to stay the trail.

ANIMAL SCAT



Keep a look out for signs of wildlife nearby, such as fresh pronghorn scat (left).

Though nearly identical to deer scat, pronghorn scat tends to be flattened or pinched on one end of the pellets. It does help if you happen to see a herd of them nearby like I did when I stumbled upon these tracks.



NOTABLE PLANTS & SHRUBS



Rubber Rabbitbrush, *Ericameria nauseosa* (left), is a perennial shrub that favors growing along roadsides and trails. It flowers from August to October as other plants begin to fade for the season.

This plant was used by Native Americans to make a yellow dye, as chewing gum, and a medicinal tea.

Saltlover, *Halogeton glomeratus*, is an invasive relative of saltbush with succulent like leaves that creates a natural defence against herbivores such as sheep, as it is toxic when ingested. Its excretion of mineral salts makes it difficult for other plant species to grow where it occurs and compete for resources in soils with high saline content.



These seeds are known to germinate in under an hour after exposure to water, so always be mindful to wash your shoes after hiking on trails with known invasive plants to prevent spreading them next time you hit the trail!



If you happen to hike this trail during peach or cherry season, you will be able to check out Honey Rock Landing after your hike. This orchard can be seen from one of your earliest views down into the canyon on this trail.

This place is also used for some of our river and land education programming that helps get thousands of kids out onto their public lands. Check them out!



Parking



Trail Head

GETTING THERE

From Grand Junction: Take Hwy-50 going South for about 16 miles, then turn right onto Dominguez Canyon Rd, **parking will be on your left in the first 1/4 mile. Look for the 076B Route marker.**

From Delta/Montrose: Take Hwy 50-West, turn left onto Dominguez Canyon Rd.

PACK OUT ALL YOUR TRASH!



Don't be like the person who left this mess behind... "pack it in, pack it out!"