

Dolores River (El Rio de los Dolores de Nuestra Senora)

Location, near: Slickrock, Colorado Approx. 9 hrs from Ft Collins

Length: Three sections: Section A: 20 miles. Class: 2-3minus Section B: 18 miles. Class 3-4/4+ (portage the 4) Section C: 50 (or 35) miles Class 23 minus.

Season: May into June. Flow is dam-controlled. Runnable flows may not occur for multiple years. Gets crowded with flows over 800 cfs.

Gauge for flow: [Dolores River Near Slick Rock, CO - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

Description:

Section A. Beautiful wooded canyon of ponderosa and oak

Section B. Class 3 rapids in oak and pinon. Class 4 Snaggletooth Rapid is daunting but can be portaged (lots of poison ivy though!)

Section C. 35-50 miles through red-walled canyons. Just a couple of Class 3's, which can be lined.

For our newsletter article about all three sections: On Club website/Library/Newsletter Archive, go to September, 2008.

Check McPhee Dam Releases <https://www.doloreswater.com/releases> and Dolores River Boating.com for info

Shuttle: Contact Torie Davis (970)560-1475 Jamie Huskey (970)739-4561
(This is 2018 info)

Section A: Bradfield Bridge to Box Elder Campground. Campground is small, first-come, first-served. Nice, but access road can be impassible, so call the Tres Rios BLM office (970 882 7296) for info. Directions on rec.gov under Box Elder Campground. In high flows, over 1200cfs, this can become more a class 3 run. You set up camp, hopefully at Box Elder, then run the 20 miles to your waiting camp. Lovely in spring, with tall

ponderosas and lettuce-green new oak leaves. There is an Archaic Puebloan site near the campground. Warning: Don't go too far: Rapids enlarge below!

Dolores, Section A: Bradfield to Box Elder



Dave Karan on Dolores, Section A



Dolores River, Section B: Active

White water

Will Golson
in 3-Mile
Rapid



Top part of Snaggletooth (More Snaggle drama below!)

Put-in at Box Elder Campground.
Wilderness Canyon and class 3 adventure
for 17-19 miles to Slickrock Bridge.



Ultralight camp gear: nice camps along the way. I hear take-out at bridge is closed, so check local info sources first: Dolores River Boating.com



Dolores River Part C: The Redrock canyon run, Slickrock to Bedrock.



Beautiful, easier run through the canyon! Ya gotta do this! As of March 24, 2024, the put-in at town of Slickrock is now unsure but Dolores River Boating.com is a good source of info. Take-out is town of

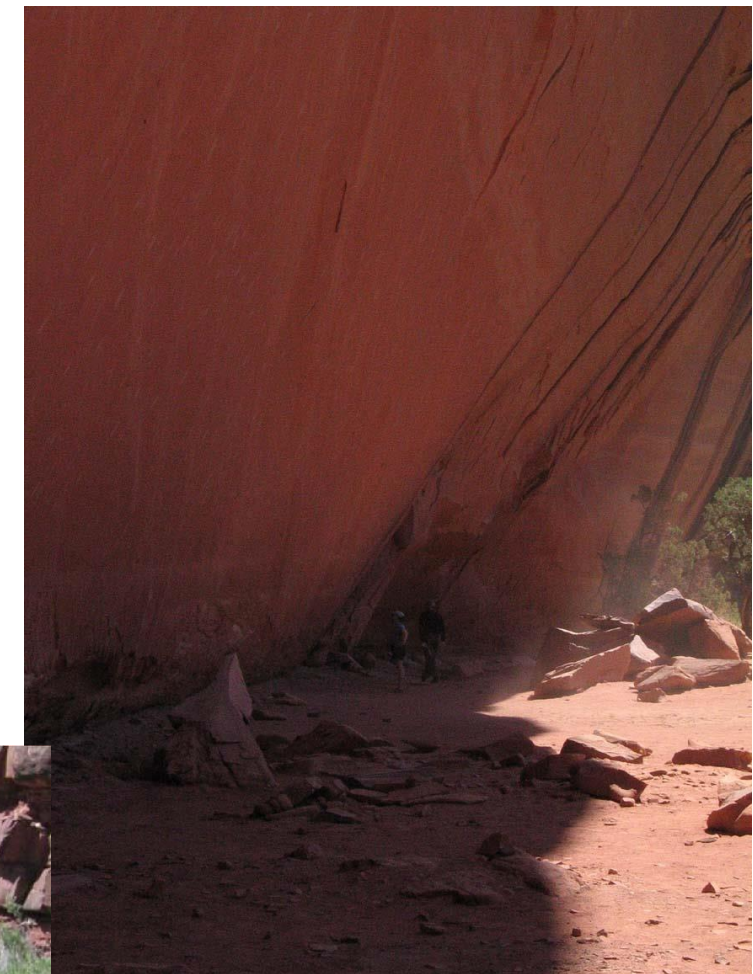
Bedrock, where there is camping. Can also put-in at Gypsum Valley Campground. This gives a 35-mile run instead of 50. The 15 miles between are ranchland, but nice. Rafters will crowd this piece until flows fall below 800.

Dolores, part C. Bull Canyon rapid (class2) and nice camp.

Bottom left: Overhang Camp

Bottom Center: S-turn Rapid, a 3-minus.

Right: Pictograph wall



Gunnison Gorge

Location, near Olathe, CO Approx. drive from Ft Collins: 6 hours Length

14 miles Class 3 Season: Summer into August

Gauge for flow: (I think this is it) [Gunnison River at Delta, CO - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

Map: map [programs national-conservation-lands colorado gunnisongorge map.pdf \(blm.gov\)](#)

Description: Incredible deep canyon with beautiful rapids.

Put-in: The Chukar Trail, about 1.25 mile hike, fairly steep. From Olathe, Colorado take Falcon Road east into Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, where it becomes Peach Valley Road. About 0.25 miles after passing Peach Valley Recreation Site turn right on Chukar Road. Follow Chukar Road for 7 miles to the recreation site. Chukar road begins as a 2WD gravel road, but the last half is high-clearance 4WD. Then hike!



How 'bout a
Packraft?

black gorge are...well, gorgeous! Can be good fishing.

Take-out is easy at Pleasure Valley RV Park near Hotchkiss.

Gunnison Gorge

This is difficult access but remarkable! It's 14 river miles, but camp 1-2 nights and enjoy the lower Black Canyon! Water and steep,



Gunny Gorge gets fun!



San Rafael River, Utah

Location, near: Price, Utah Approx. drive from Ft

Collins: 7 hrs Length 17 miles Class

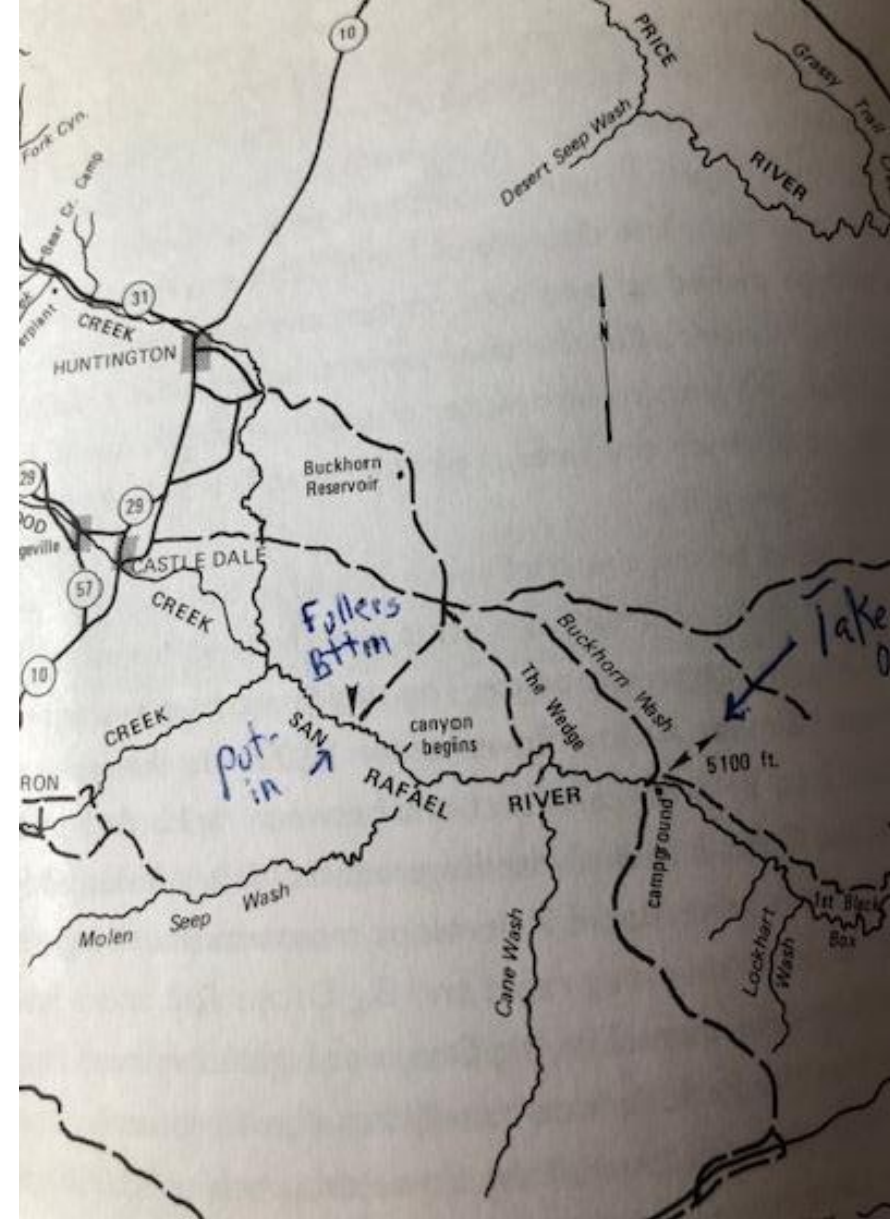
1-2

Season: Early, so May, June

Snowpack Gauge: [Utah SNOTEL Snowpack Update Report \(usda.gov\)](#)

Flow gauge: [San Rafael River Near Green River, UT - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

Description: Also called the Little Grand Canyon of the San Rafael. A red-walled canyon run that can be a 1- or 2-day paddle. Water's easy, if it's flowing! Put-In: Fuller's Bottom



Shuttle Length: 18 miles.

Access: Take Highway 10 south from Price to about a mile north of Castle Dale. Turn off to the left on a dirt road going to Buckhorn Wash and The Wedge. Go about 13 miles and take the Wedge Overlook turnoff to the right and almost immediately take the road to the right going to Fuller Bottom. Go about 5.5 miles to the river. To get to the take-out, go back to the main dirt road, go right, and go down Buckhorn Wash. You will pass an excellent set of petroglyphs. Continue on until you cross the San Rafael River. The take-out is on the right and a BLM campground is on the left. You can also get to this area on a dirt road from I-70 and the Sinbad interchange.



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www.alamy.com

Dirty Devil River, Utah

Location, near: Hanksville, Utah Approx. drive from Ft Collins 7-8 hours Length 70 miles Class 1 Season: April, maybe into May. Best before April 15 because they open the irrigation ditches then, lowering flow. Snowpack Report: [Utah SNOTEL Snowpack Update Report \(usda.gov\)](#)
Flow gauge: [Dirty Devil R AB Poison SP Wsh NR Hanksville UT - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#) Info:
Phone the BLM in Hanksville Description: (435) 542-3461.
Shuttle: Ask the BLM, also at the truck stop. Take out at Poison Spring Road.
Description: This is an amazing, very remote trip. We did it at less than 50cfs and had to drag or walk next to our boats half the time! Still worth it! Beautiful desert canyon scenery—especially hiking the awe-inspiring slot canyon, Happy Canyon.

bottom; water
Levels: >100 cfs.
Elevation: Put-in 4240 ft., take-out at Poison Spring 3920 ft.
Lake Powell 3700 ft.
Topo Maps: The Notch, Point of Rocks West, Hanksville, An
Angel Point, Burr Point, Stair Canyon, Hite North.
Permits: No.
Shuttle Length: 53 miles from Hanksville bridge to Hite, 35
Poison Spring crossing—15 of which are slow dirt road.
Access: Put in at the bridge on U-24 just north of Hanksville
the dirt road just south of town that goes to the dump. A
junction where the dump is left, continue straight and follow
river. This usually has some very sandy spots. This cuts off
miles of river. Take out at the Poison Spring Road (about
south of Hanksville on U.S. 95) if you don't want to paddle
Powell. This may require four-wheel drive, or at least a low
good clearance. Otherwise, continue south on U.S. 95 to L
Powell and Hite Marina or other spots in that area.
Muddy Creek and the Fremont River come together near Han
upstream of the Highway 24 bridge to form the Dirty Devil Riv
rare to find much water. You're lucky to have 100 cfs. It can be
this level. Just think of it as an easier way to
backpacking. Except at very
shallow, making
your b-

Camp there 2 nights. Must carry your own water because, well, it's a dirty devil, arsenic included.

Best craft are those that run very shallow.

Our best was a tandem ducky. River kayak?

NO way! Packraft: yes, with one towed per

group for drinking water. Wear tall boots:

shoes fill with sand if you're wading.

Caution: Before hiking slot canyons, be very

aware of flash-flood danger and how to

minimalize it. Storms in the area or on

upstream horizon? **Keep out!**



Inside Happy Canyon Slot.

