



Great Western Trail (GWT)

McGath Section TR. NO. 001.7

Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District

General Description: The Great Western Trail is a continuous trail system that extends from Canada to Mexico and crosses through Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. The trail is marked by the Great Western Trail symbol and has sections open to hikers, bikers, horseman, and Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Approximately 80 miles of the Great Western Trail traverses the Escalante District, utilizing existing trail systems.

Mileage: 9.5 miles

Difficulty: Foot: moderate/strenuous

Bike: strenuous

Horse: moderate

OHV: not permitted beyond Black Lake

Trailhead access: Graded dirt road

Elevation loss / gain: 700 feet

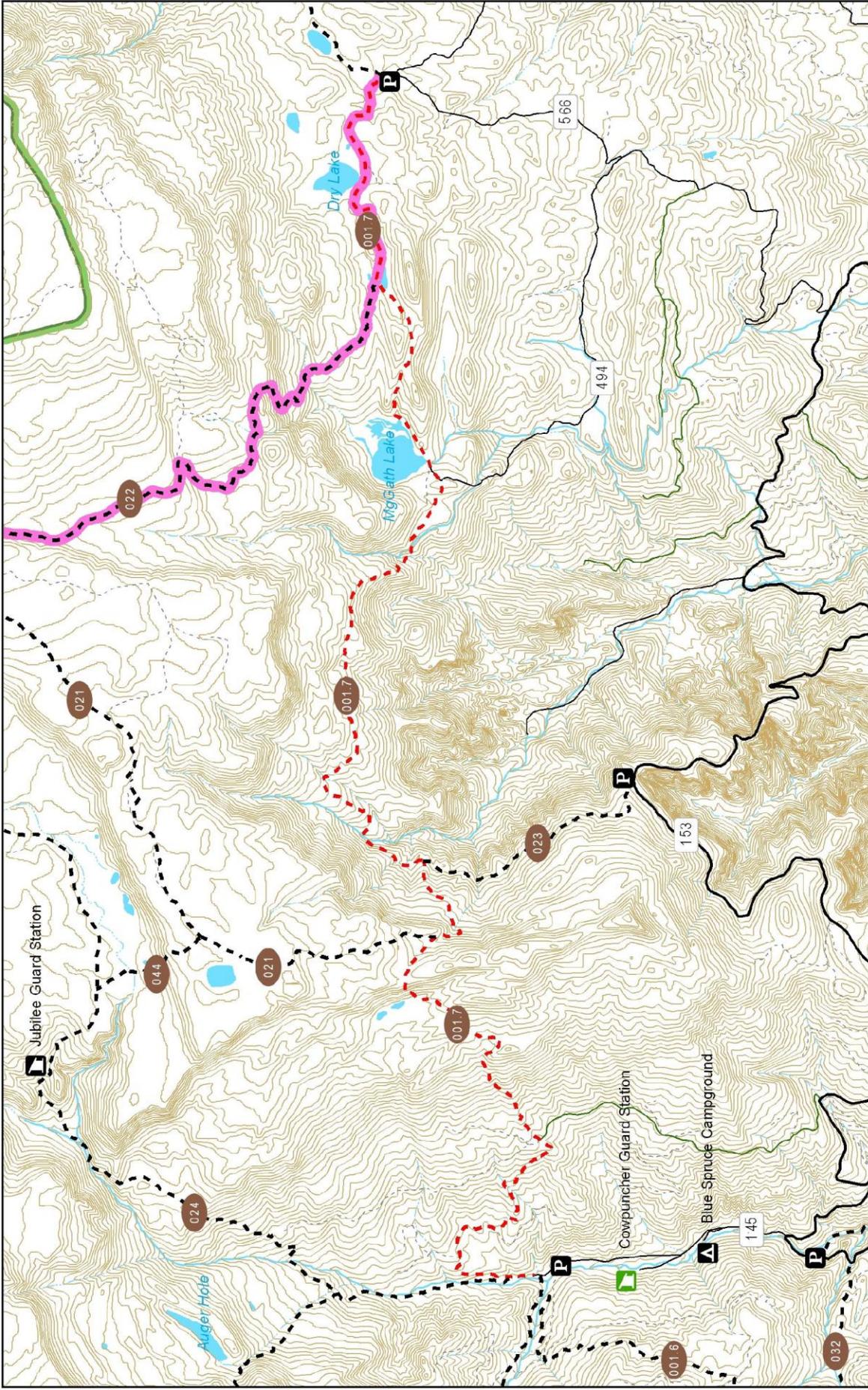
Water availability: Water is available at McGath lake, Sand Creek, and Pine Creek. Bring your own water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated before drinking.

Hazards / obstacles: Mosquitoes can be prevalent in spring and early summer, wear a long sleeve shirt and pants and use insect repellent. Weather can change quickly. Be prepared for cold weather year round. Ridges, saddles, view points and open meadows are dangerous during thunderstorms. Sections of the trail can be difficult to follow. Keep an eye out for cairns and blazes.

Topo maps: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Jacobs Reservoir, Roger Peak, Posy Lake

The Trailhead: From Escalante, turn north on the Hells Backbone Road. At 0.7 miles the road will fork, stay right. After 3.5 miles the road will turn to dirt and is now called Forest Road 153 (FR 153). At 13.6 miles the road will fork, turn right following the sign to "Hells Backbone Bridge" (FR 153). After crossing the bridge, travel eastward for 2.7 miles to Sand Creek. 4.4 miles beyond Sand Creek, turn left (north) on FR 566 and follow signs to the Boulder Swale ATV Trailhead.

The Trail: The Great Western Trail follows the Boulder Swale ATV Trail for about 1.5 miles west to Black Lake where the ATV trail turns to the northwest and the Great Western Trail continues west to McGath Lake. After passing McGath Lake, the trail ascends and descends steeply several times. Shortly after crossing Sand Creek turn right at the Roger Peak Trail junction. The trail climbs up to a saddle to the Burr Top trail junction. The Great Western Trail continues west. It passes over an old logging road, and then follows another old road about a mile before reaching the next trail section on FS road 145 just north of the Cowpuncher Guard Station.



Legend

- 001.6 GWT Pine Creek Section
- 001.7 GWT McGath Section
- 021 Burr Top Trail
- 022 Boulder Swale ATV Trail
- 023 Rogers Peak Trail
- 024 Jubilee Trail
- 044 Jubburr Spur Trail
- Non-Motorized Trail
- Motorized Trail (Vehicles 50" or Less)
- Main Forest Road (All Vehicles)
- Forest Road (All Vehicles)
- Seasonal Road (All Vehicles)
- Closed Road (For Reference Only)
- Road Number
- Trailhead
- Guard Station
- Rental Guard Station
- Campground

