Boulder Swale ATV Trail TR. NO. 022
Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District

General Description: A steep rocky trail once used by pioneers to transport cheese to Richfield.

Mileage: 6.5 miles
Difficulty: Foot: moderate
Bike: moderate
Horse: moderate
OHV: moderate / difficult

Trailhead access: Graded dirt road
Elevation loss / gain: 1100 feet

Water availability: Nearby lakes and streams. 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.

Topo maps: USGS 7.5 minute quads: Jacobs Reservoir

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). At 29.4 miles turn left (north) on FR 566 and follow signs to the Boulder Swale ATV Trailhead. You will pass FR 494 on the way to the trailhead. This road is the only motorized access to McGath Lake.

The Trail: McGath Lake is not accessible by motorized vehicles from this trailhead. To access McGath Lake by motorized vehicle use FR 494. The trail begins to the left of the Kiosk. After 1 mile you will see Dry Lake on your right. At 1.5 miles the trail reaches Black Lake and the junction of the Great Western Tr. No. 001.7 and the Boulder Swale ATV TR. No. 022. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the Great Western Trail from this point on. Turn right to continue on the Boulder Swale ATV trail. At 2.4 miles the trail begins to climb and views of McGath Lake can be seen to the south. At 6 miles the trail comes to a junction with the Burr Top Tr. No. 021. This trail is not open to motorized vehicles. Continue north another .5 miles to the junction of FR 162.