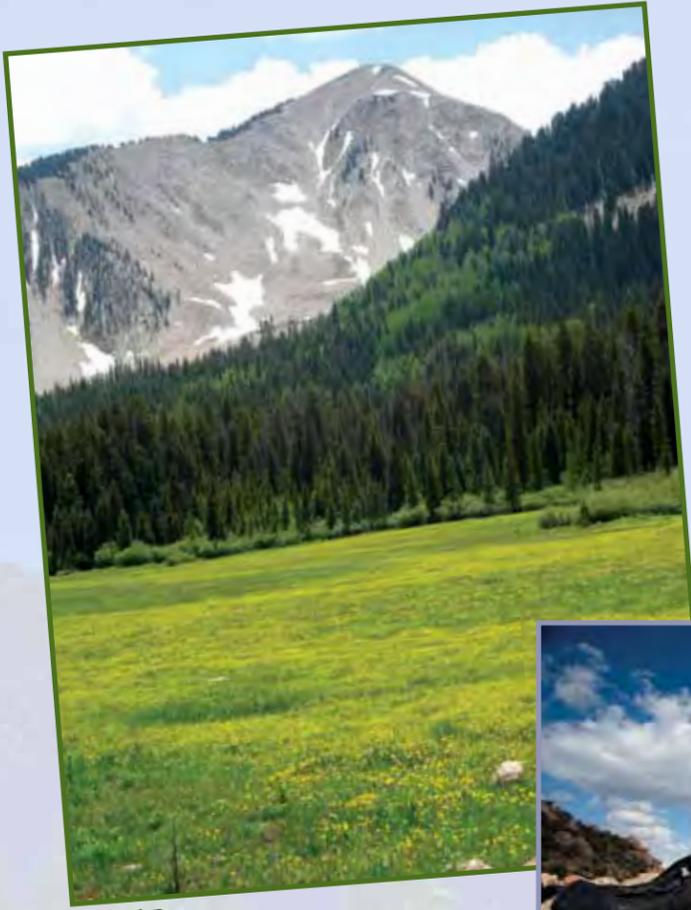




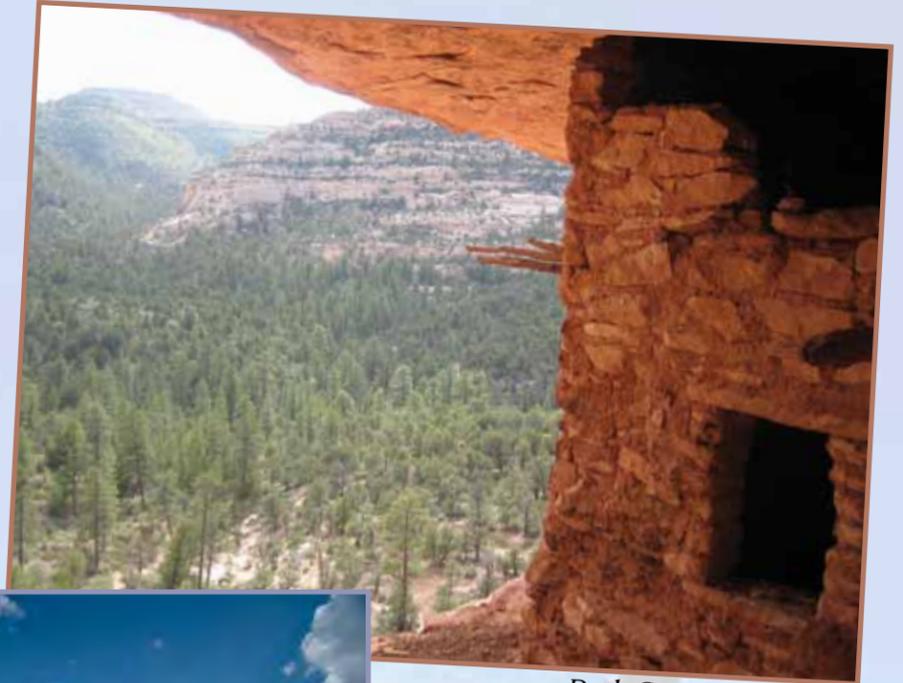
Manti-La Sal National Forest VISITOR GUIDE



Ancient Lands Modern Get-away



La Sal Pass



Dark Canyon Wilderness



Maple Canyon (© Jason Stevens)

The deep sandstone canyons, mountaintops, meadows, lakes and streams of the Manti-La Sal National Forest have beckoned people for ages. Evidence of prehistoric and historic life is found throughout the four islands of the forest. From the Abajos and La Sals in southeastern Utah to the Wasatch Plateau and Sanpitch Mountains hundreds of miles away in central Utah, the diverse and scenic landscapes are rich with fossils, cliff dwellings, historic waterways, and old mines.

Fast Forest Facts

Acres: 1.4 million

Mining: Source of 85% of coal mined in Utah; important source of uranium in the 1940s-1970s

Amazing Feature: Forest habitat provides for the densest black bear and largest elk populations in Utah

Today the forest offers people a retreat from the hurry of modern life. Those who seek solitude and quiet can find it here. Intrepid adventurers will discover mountains to scale, trails to explore, waters to fish, and woods where they can hunt. Scenic byways and backways summon motorists looking for stunning vistas, and abundant camping areas are perfect for creating family traditions.

What's Inside

Get to Know Us	2
Wilderness	3
Scenic Byways	4
Map	6
Campgrounds	10
Cabins	11
Activities	12
Know Before You Go.....	15
Contact Information	16

Come see for yourself!

Aberts squirrel



This Visitor Guide provides the information you need to make the most of your Manti-La Sal National Forest experience.



Get to Know Us

Our Heritage

The mountain and desert landscapes of the Manti-La Sal National Forest hold secrets of the people who came before, containing over 5,000 known archaeological sites that date between 10,000 years ago and the mid-1900s. These places offer windows into the vibrant and complex communities that thrived in the rugged landscapes of the forest. During much of this era, people made their living entirely from the resources of the land. They also had wide social networks and depended on each other for trade goods and information about the world around them.



Ferron Canyon pictograph



Ruins in Dark Canyon

Between about 1,500 and 700 years ago, farming became part of the life-ways

of these ancient people. Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) people established extensive networks of villages on what are now national forest lands southwest of Monticello. This area contains the densest number of archaeological sites on national forests in Utah, and tells a story of ever-changing adaptations to shifting climate and social conditions.

Further north, Fremont farmers used the Wasatch Plateau and Sanpitch Mountains as critical sources of plants and animals. They also took advantage of abundant chert (rock) on the Wasatch Plateau to make spear points, knives, and other stone tools.

But millions of years before these ancient civilizations, these lands were home to such animals as crocodiles and apes. The only evidence of *Tyrannosaurus rex* in Utah came from the Manti-La Sal National Forest. More recently, mastodons, short-faced bear, and camels also lived here.

Construction workers at the Huntington Dam along the Huntington-Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway made an unparalleled discovery in 1988—the nearly complete remains of a mammoth that lived about 9,500 years ago. It may represent one of the last of its species, before climate change caused mammoths to disappear. You can view a cast of its skeleton at the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum in Price, or at the Fairview Museum of History and Art.

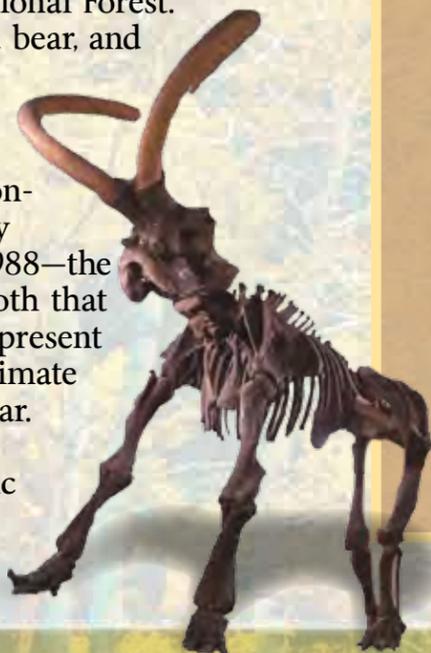


Photo courtesy of the CEU Prehistoric Museum

Both the Manti and La Sal National Forests were created at the request of local communities who depended on the forests for livestock forage, lumber, minerals, and water. At the turn of the century, water sometimes came in the form of catastrophic summer floods that tore through towns below the forests. Communities recognized that overgrazing was causing soil erosion and subsequent flooding, and that thoughtful management was needed to ensure continued resource use.



Hammond Canyon

Sanpete Valley citizens sent a petition to President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 resulting in the creation of the Manti Forest Reserve. Citizens in Grand and San Juan counties made similar requests and the La Sal Forest Reserve was created in 1906-1907.

Protecting Our Past For Our Future

When you visit an archaeological site, remember that you are visiting someone's home. Be careful where you walk and sit, and leave objects where you find them. Prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts are irreplaceable resources that provide clues and understanding into our collective heritage. It is illegal to damage sites or to remove artifacts. When visiting these sites:

Do ~

- * Use designated trails or walk on slickrock
- * Leave all artifacts in place
- * Take photos or sketch rock art
- * View structures from a distance
- * Let others enjoy the thrill of discovery

Don't ~

- * Create new trails or paths
- * Gather artifacts into piles or take them home
- * Touch or leave marks on rock art (the oil in your fingers may damage the fragile art)
- * Sit or walk on walls, or enter structures
- * Reveal site locations on websites or give out GPS coordinates



Photo courtesy of the Cedars State Park Museum

The vast resources of the Manti-La Sal National Forest belong to all Americans. These resources must rely on the stewardship of all of us if they are to be sustained for our future generations.

In the early 1900s, there was no scientific data to help forest managers understand how to best protect soil and plant resources while still providing for livestock grazing. As a result, one of the first and longest-running watershed research areas in the US was created in Ephraim Canyon in 1912. Headquartered at the Great Basin Experimental Station, research was used to guide range science and livestock grazing programs all over the world.



Forester boring a tree, 1922



Great Basin Experimental Station, 1935

Between 1939 and 1941, the forest and nearby communities hosted several Civilian Conservation Corps camps that made significant improvements to the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The men built campgrounds, roads, trails, dam and feeder canals, and guard stations. They fought fires, rescued stranded livestock, planted trees, and made life-long memories. Nearly 5,000 men worked in these camps. They came from local communities, as well as places as far away as New Jersey and Mississippi.



CCC men building terraces

One of the most important uses of the Wasatch Plateau has been coal mining, beginning in the late 1800s. Today, mines on the forest contribute about 85% of the coal produced in the state. In southeastern Utah, uranium mining boomed during the 1940-1970s, and Moab was known as the uranium capitol of the world. Ore was extracted from both the La Sal and Abajo Mountains.

The Manti and La Sal Forests were combined in 1949 for more efficient management. Such change did not come easily for the communities or forest managers. In order to make a stressful situation easier, managers held a mock shotgun wedding in Joes Valley in 1950. The Ranger from Moab was bride; the Ranger from Ephraim was the groom; and a Monticello resident held the shotgun.



Two forests are joined as one

Dark Canyon Wilderness

Wilderness is an area designated by Congress to preserve natural communities from the expanding imprint of human development. In Wilderness, natural forces and conditions dominate the landscape, and the area is managed to retain its primeval character and influence, while providing opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.



Peavine Canyon



Woodenshoe Canyon

Dark Canyon Wilderness is just such a place. Arches, old-growth ponderosa pine, aspen groves, meadows, hanging gardens, and high country deserts are all found here. This remote section of the Colorado Plateau is a place where visitors are dwarfed by the sculpted and terraced sandstone walls. Look closely—you may spot evidence of the Ancestral Puebloan structures and rock art tucked along the cliffs. *(Please leave these treasures undisturbed for others to experience.)* Water is scarce—check with local Forest Service offices for current availability. For more information about the Dark Canyon Wilderness, visit www.wilderness.net

Help protect Wilderness for our future generations by following the "Leave No Trace" principles:

- » Plan ahead and prepare
- » Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- » Dispose of waste properly
- » Leave what you find
- » Minimize campfire impacts
- » Respect wildlife
- » Be considerate of other visitors



Get to Know Us

Scenic Byways & Backways

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has numerous byways and backways threading dramatic landscapes. Byways are major roads suitable for passenger cars. Backways are lower-standard roads often requiring high-clearance vehicles and/or four-wheel drive. Ask locally for road conditions before you begin.

The Energy Loop: Huntington & Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway



Length: 85 mi./136 km.
Time to Allow: 4 hours

Whatever the season, the views are breathtaking on the Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway.

The route is rich with the history of mining in Utah's coal country, with views of a coal-fired power plant and an operating mine along the way. The Scofield Cemetery is witness to a mining disaster that killed hundreds of men and boys in 1900. The recovery site of the 9,500 year-old mammoth skeleton is interpreted just off the road near Huntington Reservoir. Other visitor signs identify the unique geology and ecology of the area.



Outstanding recreation opportunities abound. There are campgrounds, blue ribbon fisheries, and six reservoirs for fishing and

Fairview Canyon

boating. There are hiking, biking and ATV trails along the route and it's a favorite place for an assortment of winter sports.

This paved road traverses state routes (SR) 31, 264, and 96 and can be accessed off SR-10 in Huntington, off SR-6 at Colton, and off SR-89 in Fairview. Check road conditions before traveling in winter.

Stuart Guard Station

The boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the Stuart Guard Station in Huntington Canyon during the 1930s Depression. The station now houses artifacts from that era that tell the story of how these young men built improvements throughout the forest to earn money for their families at home. Restored as an historic interpretive site, the Stuart Guard Station also tells the story of the national forest and its beginnings over 100 years ago. A host can show you through the station on weekends and holidays in the summer.



Abajo Loop State Scenic Backway

Length: 35 mi./56 km.
Time to Allow: 2 hours

The Abajo Loop leads from the desert floor and red rock canyons to steep mountains over 11,000 feet high, with overlooks and panoramic views. The byway travels Forest Road (FR) 105 west from Monticello to the junction of FR-079 where it heads south through North Canyon, northwest of the shadow of Horsehead Peak. When you conclude your tour in Blanding, visit the *Edge of the Cedars Museum* where you'll see numerous artifacts found on the forest.



Horsehead Mountain

Although suitable for passenger vehicles during late spring through fall, this route is not recommended for large RVs or trailers.

Elk Ridge State Scenic Backway

Length: 87 mi./139 km.
Time to Allow: 4-5 hours

Elk Ridge Road seems to be on top of the world. From here, travelers see stunning views of Monument Valley, Canyonlands National Park, and scenery nearly 200 miles in the distance.

Start the Elk Ridge Road at the junctions of State Route (SR) 95 and SR-275, west of Blanding. After 1 mile, turn onto FR-088. The backway follows the Elk Ridge spine at nearly 9,000 feet (often as a single lane) with panoramic views of red rock canyons and Canyonlands National Park. The backway ends at SR-211.

Most of the route requires high-clearance vehicles and is passable only in the summer months.



Head of Dark Canyon



Skyline Drive State Scenic Backway

This drive is two distinct backway experiences; combined they also form a portion of the Great Western Trail.

North Skyline Drive

Length: 27 mi./43.2 km.
Time to Allow: 1-2 hours



Skyline, looking east

North Skyline Drive, a gravel road, climbs to the Wasatch Plateau from US-6 and undulates south for 27 miles to SR-31. This section provides scenic views into Lake Fork and Fish Creek drainages and access to prime fall hunting areas. It is also a groomed snowmobile trail during the winter. *The road is suitable for passenger cars, but is closed in the winter.*

South Skyline Drive

Length: 71 mi./114 km.
Time to Allow: 5-7 hours

Your journey begins on SR-31 and continues 55 miles south to the Fishlake National Forest boundary (I-70 is another 16 miles). Stunning views of Mt.

Nebo and other mountains are on constant display, complimented by vivid wildflower displays in mid to late summer. This route also serves as the backbone of the Arapen OHV trail system with numerous routes dropping off the Skyline to the valleys below. Elevations approach 11,000 feet and the road is difficult to access until late July as large snowdrifts slowly melt—but this trip is worth the wait. *The majority of South Skyline Drive requires high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles.*

Ephraim to Orangeville Road

Length: 47 mi./74.5 km.
Time to Allow: 2-3 hours

The *Ephraim Canyon Heritage Tour* segment is a 15-mile drive from Ephraim to the summit of the Wasatch Plateau, a climb of 5,000 feet. Along the way, travelers can stop at six different interpretive displays that describe the natural and cultural heritage of the area, including the Civilian Conservation Corps work.



Ephraim Canyon display

The *Skyline Drive to Joes Valley and Orangeville* segment accesses the favorite fishing holes and camping areas of Pete's Hole, Grassy Lake, Soup Bowl, and Joes Valley Reservoir. It is not suitable for low-clearance vehicles, and is closed in the winter. Historic Seely Guard Station, built in 1908, is along this road and is available for overnight rental.

Ferron-Mayfield State Scenic Backway

Length: 48 mi./77 km.
Time to Allow: 3-4 hours

Winding up 12-Mile Canyon from Mayfield, this backway begins and ends in pinyon-juniper country, but climbs to well over 10,000 feet while passing through stands of aspen and conifer. Angler destinations such as Town Reservoir, Ferron Reservoir, and Willow Lake are all located along this route. *This gravel route is accessible to passenger cars during the summer and fall, then becomes a snowmobiler's haven during the winter.*



12-Mile Canyon (© www.sanpete.com)

Harts Draw Highway

Length: 18 mi./29 km.
Time to Allow: 1.5 hours

The Harts Draw Highway travels across the northwestern flank of the Abajo Mountains between Monticello and SR-211 near Newspaper Rock. The Harts Draw-Canyonlands Overlook



Harts Draw (© Tom Till)

is about 10 miles from Monticello, with vistas of the La Sal Mountains, Shay Mountain, and the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. In autumn, aspens and maples are blazing flags along the drive. Once you reach SR-211, you can take a short side trip to the Newspaper Rock petroglyph panel.

La Sal Mountain Loop State Scenic Backway

Length: 50 mi./80 km.
Time to Allow: 2-3 hours

From alpine ridges of the La Sal Mountains to the red rock desert and sandstone pinnacles of Castle Rock, this backway is an adventure! You will see mesas and buttes used in movies and drive past steep laccolithic peaks that often serve as the backdrop in photographs of the famed Delicate Arch. The route is mostly paved and starts 6 miles south of Moab from US-191 to SR-128. *Although suitable for passenger vehicles, it is not recommended for large RVs or trailers.*



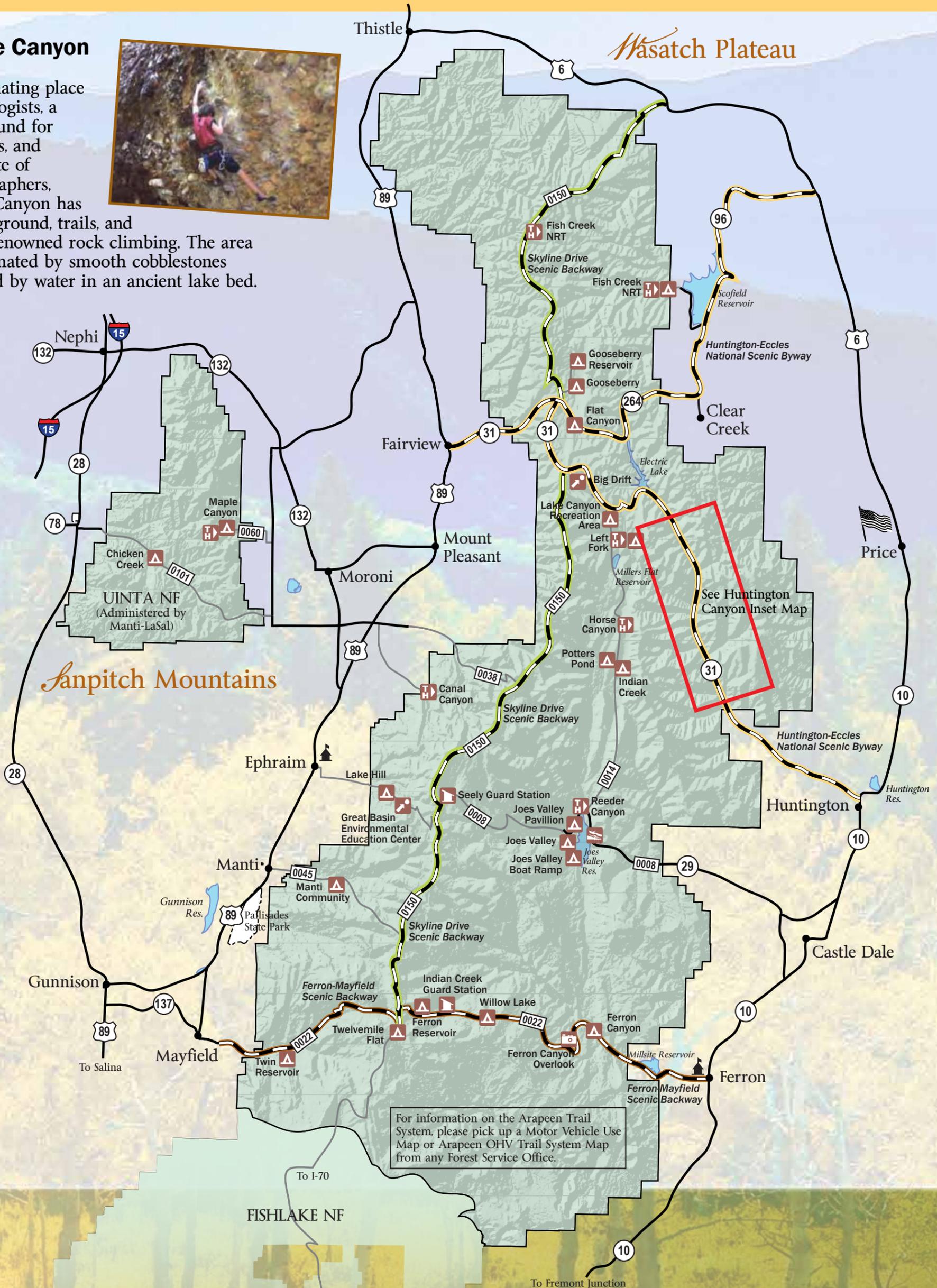
La Sal Mountains

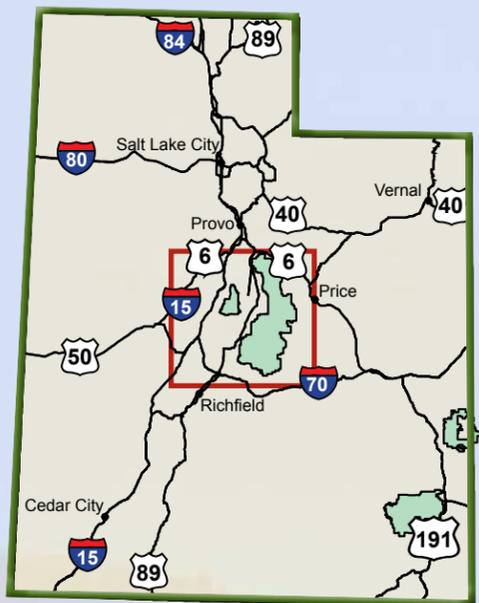
Manti-La Sal National Forest

Sanpete & Ferron-Price Districts

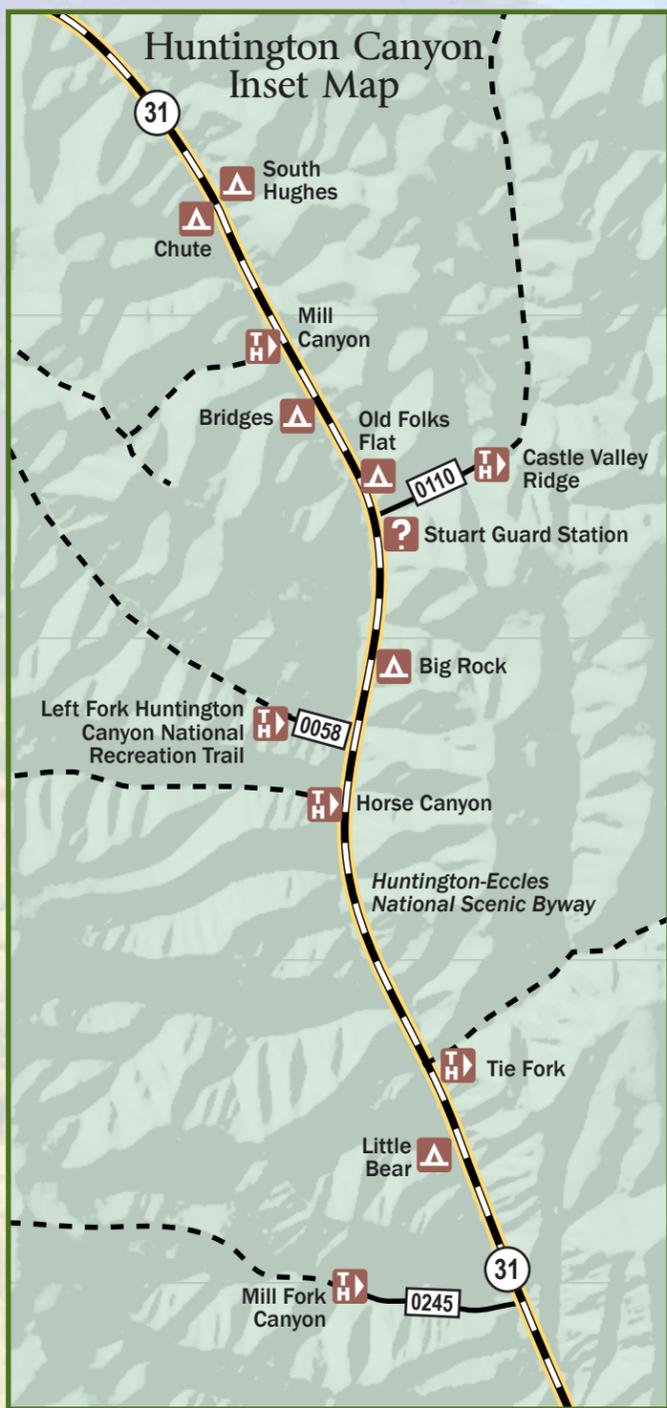
Maple Canyon

A fascinating place for geologists, a playground for climbers, and a favorite of photographers, Maple Canyon has a campground, trails, and world-renowned rock climbing. The area is dominated by smooth cobblestones polished by water in an ancient lake bed.





Vicinity Map



Before venturing on to the Manti-La Sal National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

For motorized travel:

Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available at all Forest Service offices, and are posted at www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal.

For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:

Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: www.usgs.com/

	Manti-La Sal National Forest		Paved Roads
	Wilderness		Unpaved Roads
	Campground		Scenic Byway or Backway
	Trailhead		Interstate Highway
	Scenic Overlook		U.S. Highway
	Forest Service Facility		State Highway
	Point of Interest		Forest Route
	Forest Service Visitor Center		
	District Ranger Office		
	Forest Supervisor's Office		

Great Basin Environmental Education Center

Opened in 1912 as the Utah Experiment Station, researchers were sent to this site in Ephraim Canyon to find the causes of, and remedies for, summer floods that were ravaging the communities in the valley below. They built a beautiful complex where they lived and worked. Some of the world's most important range research occurred here, and continues in the area now known as the Great Basin Experimental Range. However, researchers no longer live at the facility.



Now the station has been given a new life and purpose. In 1992, Snow College and its partners restored the buildings and began to operate the compound as an environmental education center. The center is open weekdays from late June to mid-August, and visitors are welcome to tour the museum and buildings. Summer workshops are also held. For more information, visit www.snow.edu/gbeec/.

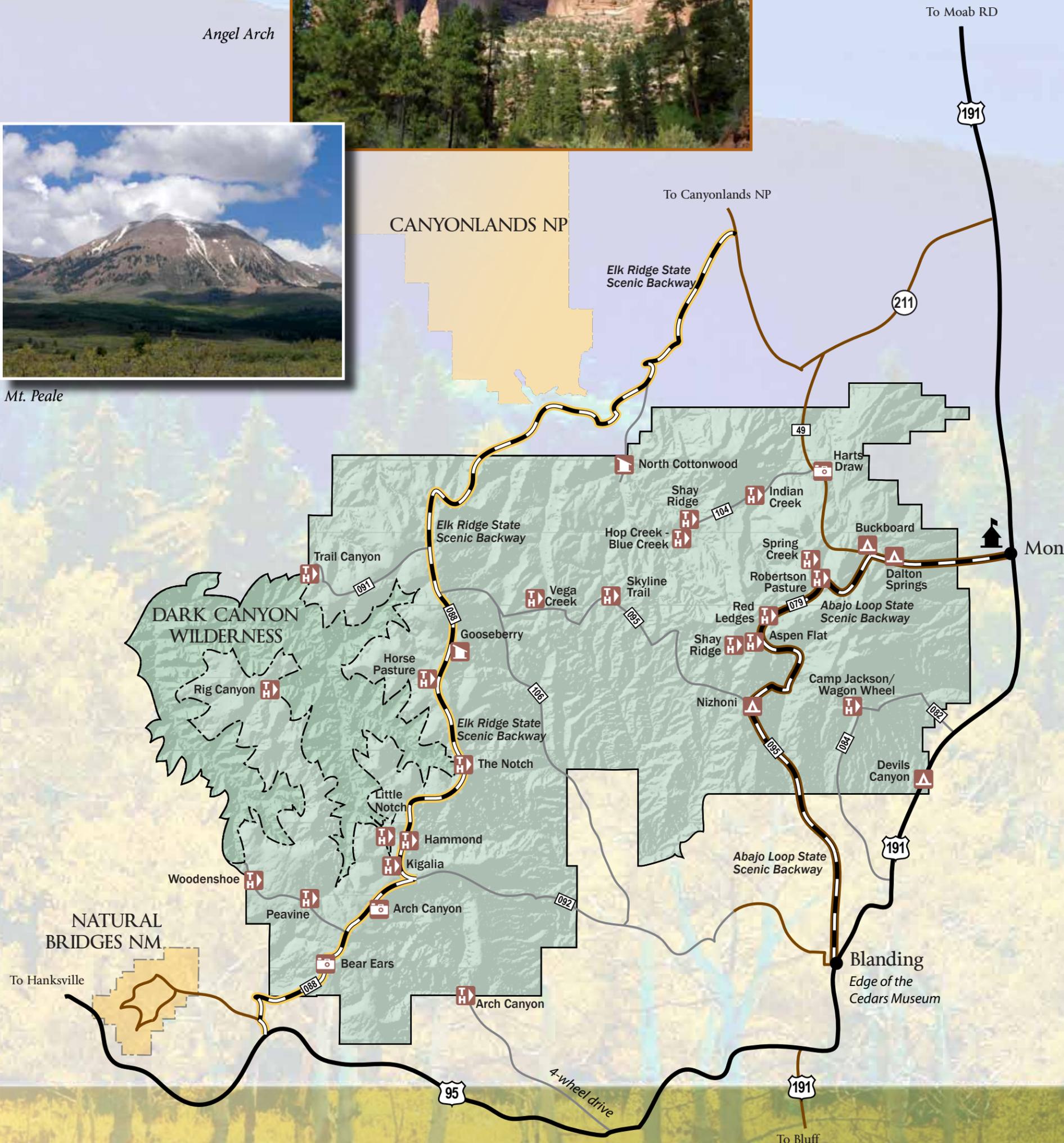
Manti-La Sal National Forest

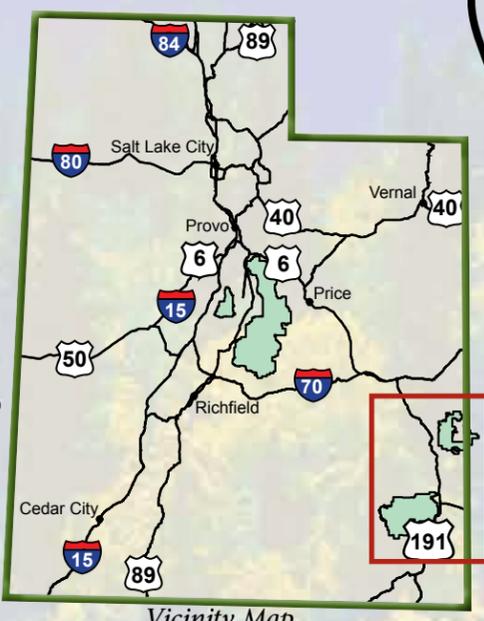
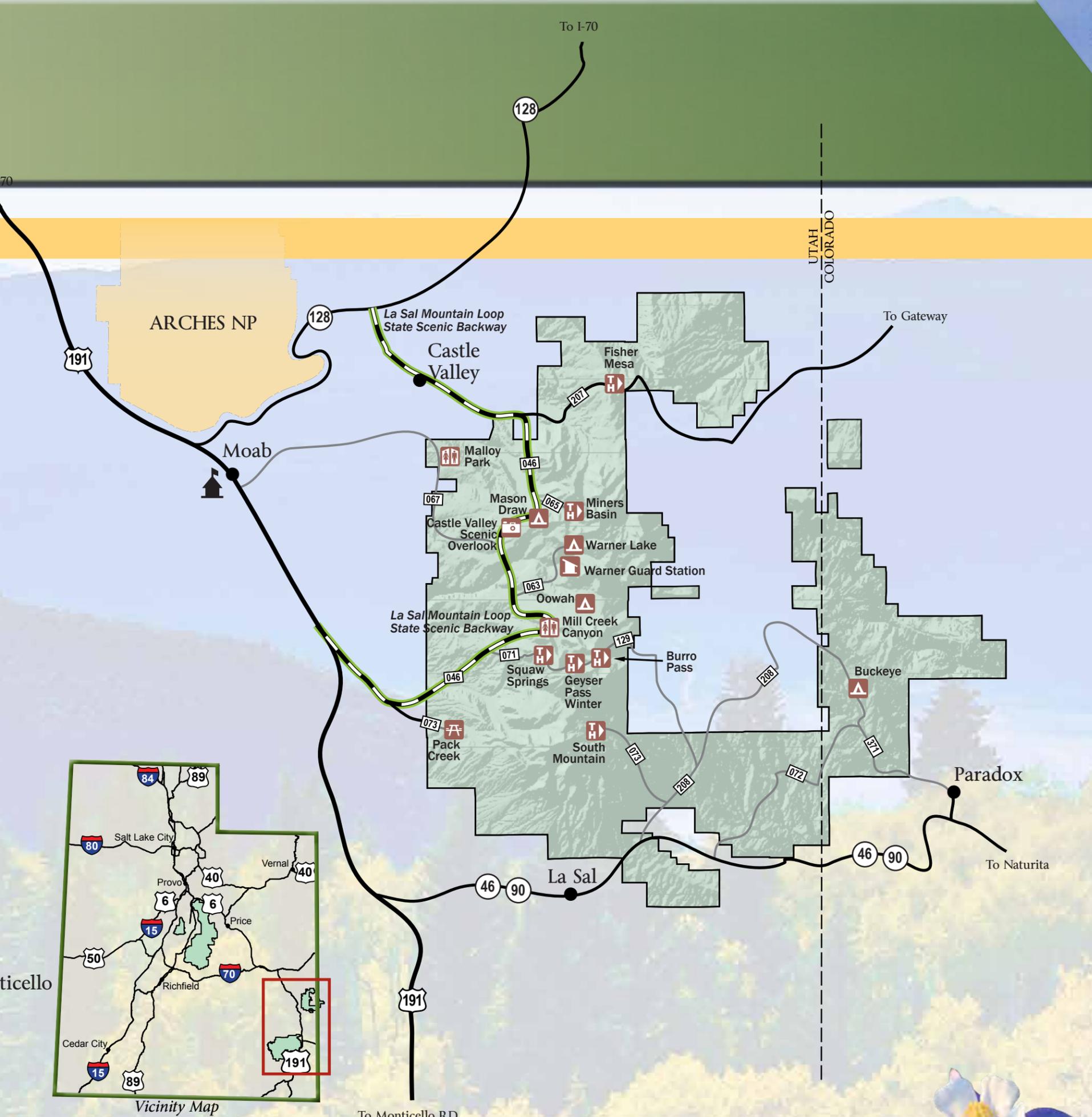
Moab & Monticello Districts

Angel Arch



Mt. Peale





Vicinity Map



Before venturing on to the Manti-La Sal National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

For motorized travel:
Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available at all Forest Service offices, and are posted at www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal.

For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding:
Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: www.usgs.com.

	Manti-La Sal National Forest		Paved Roads
	Wilderness		Unpaved Roads
	Campground		Scenic Byway or Backway
	Trailhead		Interstate Highway
	Scenic Overlook		U.S. Highway
	Forest Service Facility		State Highway
	Point of Interest		Forest Route
	Forest Service Visitor Center		
	District Ranger Office		Miles
	Forest Supervisor's Office	0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10	



Campgrounds & Cabins



NAME	# OF SITES	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVABLE
Sanpete & Ferron-Price Districts				
Bridges Family	4	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing]	No
Chicken Creek	8	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing]	No
Ferron Reservoir	29	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing] [Hiking Trail] [Off Road Vehicle Trail] [Bicycle Trail]	Yes
Fish Creek	7	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing] [Horse Trail] [Marina]	No
Flat Canyon	11	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing]	Yes
Forks of Huntington	5	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Hiking Trail] [Fishing]	No
Gooseberry	9	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water]	No
Gooseberry Reservoir	16	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing]	Yes
Joes Valley	49	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing] [Hiking Trail] [Off Road Vehicle Trail] [Bicycle Trail] [Marina]	Yes
Lake Canyon	46	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Hiking Trail] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Lake Hill	9	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Manti Community	8	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Maple Canyon	12	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Hiking Trail]	Yes
Potters Ponds	17	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Fishing] [Horse Trail] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Twelve Mile Flat	14	July-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Twin Reservoir	22	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	No
Willow Lake Doubles	10	June-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Off Road Vehicle Trail]	Yes
Moab & Monticello Districts				
Buckboard	9	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water]	Yes
Buckeye Reservoir	47	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Hiking Trail]	Yes
Dalton Springs	16	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water]	No
Devils Canyon	42	April-Nov.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Nature Trail]	Yes
Mason Draw	5	May-Oct.	[Restroom]	No
Nizhoni	21	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Hiking Trail] [Fishing]	Yes
Oowah	11	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Fishing] [Hiking Trail]	No
Warner Lake	20	May-Oct.	[Restroom] [Drinking Water] [Hiking Trail] [Fishing]	Yes

- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- Hiking Trail
- Fishing
- Off Road Vehicle Trail
- Bicycle Trail
- Horse Trail
- Boat Ramp
- Nature Trail
- Marina

Dispersed Camping

Many people enjoy the solitude and primitive experience of camping away from developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping means there are no toilets, tables, or treated water. Follow these guidelines to ensure that these areas can be enjoyed by future generations.

- * Choose sites that are already established
- * Camp within 150' of a Forest Service road
- * Don't dig ditches around tents or trailers
- * Dispose of human waste properly (200' from water, in an 8" deep hole)
- * Pack out all garbage
- * Do not carve or chop into tree trunks—this can eventually kill the tree



Campfires

- * Check at the local Ranger Station for current fire restrictions. Remember, they can change on a daily basis. Use existing fire rings and don't burn metal, glass, plastic, or food scraps
- * Keep your fires small and bring your own firewood. If you have to collect firewood at your campsite, collect dead and down wood only.
- * To put out a campfire, slowly pour water onto the fire and stir with a shovel. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool to touch.
- * Do not bury your fire. The coals can smolder and re-ignite.
- * NEVER leave a fire unattended, even if there are no flames. Many wildfires have been caused by abandoned campfires.



www.sanpete.com

Campground fees range from \$5-18 depending on the amenities provided, and are subject to change. To make reservations for campgrounds or cabins, use the **National Reservation Service** at **1-877-444-6777** or www.recreation.gov



Reserve
Your Place
Under the
Stars™
RECREATION.gov



Group Campgrounds

	NAME	FEE	CAPACITY	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESERVABLE
Sanpete & Ferron-Price Districts	Big Rock	\$50	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring]	Yes
	Bridges Group A&B	\$50/\$40	40/30	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring]	Yes
	Indian Creek	\$30/\$50	30/70	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Fire Ring]	Yes
	Ferron Reservoir	\$40	50	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Shower, Picnic Table, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Flat Canyon	\$50	50	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring]	Yes
	Forks of Huntington	\$40	40	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Gooseberry	\$40	40	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Joes Valley Pavilion	\$50	100	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Lake Canyon Rec Area	\$20/\$60	20/150	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Lake Hill	\$40	30/75	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Little Bear A&B	\$50/\$30	50/30	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Fire Ring]	Yes
	Manti Community	\$40	30	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Maple Canyon	\$40	40	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Old Folks Flat	\$30/\$75	20/60	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Potters Ponds	\$40	50	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Chute	\$50	50	June-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Fire Ring]	Yes
Twelve-Mile Flat	\$40	50	July-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Picnic Table]	Yes	
Moab District	Buckeye Reservoir	\$50	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Warner Lake	\$50	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Buckboard	\$30 (\$40 for more than 10 vehicles)	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table]	Yes
Monticello District	Dalton Springs	\$30 (\$40 for more than 10 vehicles)	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table]	Yes
	Nizhoni	\$30 (\$40 for more than 10 vehicles)	50	May-Oct.	[Icons: Restroom, Picnic Table, Fire Ring, Picnic Table]	Yes

Cabins

NAME	LOCATION	CAPACITY/ DAILY FEE	FACILITIES	SEASON/NOTES
Indian Creek Guard Station	Near Ferron Reservoir at approximately 9,500'	sleeps 4 \$50/night	Water (summer only); firewood (winter only); woodstove for heating; gas appliances; flush toilet	July 1-Oct. 15 and Dec. 15-March 31. If not reserved, is open to first-come, first served.
Seely Guard Station	Below Skylive Drive at 10,000'	sleeps 6 \$30/night	Woodstove and fireplace for heating; firewood (winter only); photovoltaic lighting; outhouse.	July 1-Oct. 15 and Dec. 15-March 31. If not reserved, is open to first-come, first served. First constructed in 1908, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Warner Guard Station	At Warner Lake Campground at the end of Warner Lake Road (FR- 063)	sleeps 4 \$50/night	Toilets nearby; water; propane stove and fridge, shower	May 30-September 15.

All opening dates are dependent on snowmelt and are not guaranteed.

For more information, visit: www.fs.fed.us/r4/manitlasal/recreation/rentals/index.shtml

Warner Guard Station



Seely Guard Station



Trails (non-motorized)

From short day hikes to weeklong treks, the Manti-La Sal offers hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, and backpacking opportunities. The following are just a few of our highlights:

Trail Name	Miles (1-way)	Location	Highlights
Moab & Monticello Districts			
The Whole Enchilada (Burro Pass to the Colorado River)	26.2	Take the Geyser Pass Road from the loop road to Geyser Pass. Follow signs to the Burro Pass Trailhead.	This is a premier but difficult single track mountain bike trail. Located in the La Sal mountains, it crosses Burro Pass, follows the Hazard County Trail and merges with the Kokopelli trail, then down the edge of the Procupine Rim, eventually ending at the Colorado River. Shorter portions are suitable for moderate hiking.
South Mountain	8.9	The trail starts on the east side of the La Sal Pass Road (FR-073) and ends on the west side of the La Sal Pass Road, across from the Squaw Springs Trail.	Beautiful but arduous, this horseback and hiking trail circumnavigates South Mountain. The trail is the southern part of the Trans La Sal Trail, which traverses across the entire west face of the La Sal mountain range. Hikers will be rewarded with views of the San Juan, Abajo and Henry ranges while climbing through aspen and spruce/fir forests.
Horse Pasture Wilderness Trail	4.1	The trailhead is located south and west of the Gooseberry Guard Station. Take FR-5178 (located across from Duck Lake) to the trailhead.	This is a beautiful day hike that captures the essence of the Dark Canyon Wilderness; hikers or horseback riders will enjoy spectacular vistas. The trail ends at the Scorup Cabin historic site. Bring plenty of water for this excursion—it is moderately difficult and the climb out is steep.
Peavine/ Woodenshoe Wilderness Loop	36- mile loop	From Blanding, take SR-95 toward Natural Bridges National Monument, then take a right turn through the Bear's Ears. Go left on FR-5108 for both the Peavine and Woodenshoe Trailheads.	This loop is a difficult multi-day hike in the rugged Dark Canyon Wilderness through canyons where route-finding is necessary. Recommended for the spring or fall, this loop encompasses the entire Wilderness. Water is scarce, planning paramount, and the rewards are great! These canyons were inhabited by the Ancestral Puebloans and evidence of their culture can be found in numerous places along the route.
Tuerto Canyon	6.5	The best access to this trail is from Blanding. Follow the road toward Nizhoni Campground, but take a left on FR-5095 just before it.	The Tuerto Canyon Trail is designated for hiking and horseback riding. Starting just east of the Causeway on FR-5095, it terminates along Shay Ridge in the northern part of the Abajo Mountains. There are numerous possibilities to create small, medium, or long loops. The trail winds through a unique landscape and into quiet places seldom visited. Good route finding skills are a must along this arduous route.
Sanpete & Ferron-Price Districts			
Fish Creek National Recreation Trail #130	10	Travel west on FR-0123 to Fish Creek NRT Trailhead and campground. Ends at North Skyline Drive (FR-0150).	Moderately difficult, this trail is open to foot, horse, and bicycle use. Cross-country skiing possible in winter months with adequate snow. The trail parallels Fish Creek through open sagebrush, and provides access to some of the best stream fishing on the plateau.
Castle Valley Ridge Trail System	21	Access from Nuck Woodward Road (FR-0110)	This system consists of five trails of varying difficulty: Second Water Canyon (4 miles), Castle Valley Ridge (9 miles), Short Canyon (2 miles), Sawmill Canyon (4 miles) and Corner Canyon (2 miles). Although best travelled by foot or horse, bicycle use is possible on Castle Valley Ridge where you'll have sweeping views of the valley 3,000 feet below. The trail is not accessible during winter.
Left Fork of Huntington #131	6	Begins 4 miles south of SR-31 on Miller Flat Road (FR-0014). Ends at Forks of Huntington Campground along SR-31.	Only hikers and horses are allowed on this moderately difficult trail. In the winter, cross-country skiing is possible with adequate snow cover. The trail is a very scenic route along Left Fork drainage that provides access to premier fly-fishing opportunities.
Black Canyon #087	4	Begins 5 miles north of Joes Valley Reservoir via FR-0038.	Highlights of this trail include panoramic vistas of Joes Valley Reservoir, and Middle and Trail Mountains. Black Canyon is a hiking and horse trail between the Lowry Water Road (FR-0038) north of Joes Valley and South Skyline Drive (FR-0150). It is moderately difficult.
Canal Canyon Trail System	18	Access Canal Canyon Trail about 4 miles southeast of Spring City. This canyon provides access to trails in the Big and Little Horseshoe area.	This trail system is open to all non-motorized uses, but foot and horse travel is most common due to steep grades. Trails reach into high glacial cirques that form Big and Little Horseshoes. Mid-summer wildflower displays are stunning.
Maple Canyon Trail System	5	All trails begin at Maple Canyon Campground.	Three steep scenic loop trails (3 to 5-mile loops) provide access to many of the rock climbing sites in the canyon. Panoramic views east into Sanpete Valley and beyond to the Wasatch Plateau reveal themselves as you near the top.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a great way to enjoy trails on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Popular trails in the La Sals include: West Fork Mill Creek, Hazard County, and the Upper Porcupine Singletrack Trails (which can be combined with trails on adjacent BLM lands for longer rides beginning in alpine environments and ending up on the banks of the Colorado River). A portion of the Kokopelli Trail—connecting Fruita, Colorado to Moab, Utah—also crosses the forest.

The Abajo Mountains have outstanding single track mountain biking on the Aspen Flat, Red Ledges, and Robertson Pasture Trails.



www.sanpete.com



Climbing & Bouldering

Climbers have a plethora of options on the forest. Joes Valley is a nationally recognized climbing area of sandstone boulders that offers hundreds of routes for the novice to expert climber and boulder athlete. Check out routes such as Left Fork, Riverside, the Angler, Smoking Joe, Sole Food, Fingerhut, Black Lung, or New Joes to find a climb that matches your abilities. Joes Valley is located just west of Orangeville, Utah on SR-29.

The La Sals are the second highest range in Utah and many of its highest peaks make challenging goals for peak baggers. Mount Wass, Mount Peale, Tukinikivatz, Mellenthin, and Manns Peaks all exceed 12,000 feet in elevation. These are challenging climbs with unmaintained routes that involve substantial scrambling over loose talus fields—but will reward you with amazing views.

Low Impact Climbing

- * Use colored chalk that blends with the rocks
- * Use natural toned webbing, bolts, and hangers in case removal is impossible
- * Use existing routes
- * Do not trample native vegetation or disturb nesting birds
- * Use slings—not pulley ropes attached to trees—for rappelling anchor points



Straight Canyon

Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

On the Manti-La Sal National Forest, there are hundreds of miles of roads available to four-wheel enthusiasts, and over 1,000 miles for ATV-ers.

The largest concentration of use on the Wasatch Plateau is the 350-mile *Arapeen OHV Trail System*—a great family trail with plenty of advanced sections for experienced riders.

From the Sanpete Valley, there are several major canyons to explore near the towns of Fairview, Ephraim, and Manti. You can ride up one canyon, travel along the rugged backbone of the “Skyline,” and come down another.

Try the Shay Ridge and Wagon Wheel Trails in the Abajos, or the Two-Mile Trail in the La Sals. On the Monticello District, roads and motorized trails have been signed on the Abajo Mountain OHV trail system, providing numerous long loop rides in varying terrain.

Ride Responsibly

- * Pay attention to the trail and road signs posted along routes that indicate what type of use is allowed
- * Take along a Motor Vehicle Use Map, available at Forest Service Offices. You can also pick up an Arapeen OHV Trail Systems map.
- * Cross-country use of motorized vehicles is prohibited because it damages vegetation, causes erosion, and adds sediment to streams
- * Be familiar with Utah State laws and have the appropriate license and/or OHV education certificate
- * Wear your helmet!

Horseback Riding



Horses have been used to navigate the backcountry of the Manti-La Sal National Forest for hundreds of years; today there are outstanding opportunities for both short trail rides and extended pack trips. Some of the best trails are the South Mountain, Aspen Flat, and Horse Pasture on the Moab/Monticello District. Several routes that provide for week long pack trips can be found in the Dark Canyon Wilderness. Check the non-motorized trails table for the many trails suitable for horses on the Wasatch Plateau. Remember to check local water conditions before heading out into arid canyon country.



www.sanpete.com

Activities

Fishing

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has over 1,600 miles of perennial streams and 8,100 surface acres of lakes and reservoirs.



Willow Lake

Popular spots in the northern sections of the forest include: Duck Fork, Electric Lake, Ferron, Joes Valley, Petes Hole Reservoirs and Potters Pond, Lake Hill, and Willow Lake. These waters host rainbow, brook, cutthroat, and tiger trout, and even splake and tiger muskies.

The Right and Left Forks of Huntington Creek—along with the main Huntington Creek—are Blue Ribbon fisheries. Upper Huntington Creek is a favorite for fly fishing. Straight Canyon provides great brown trout habitat with several deep pools for anglers. Native cutthroat trout are found in Tie Fork, Gentry Hollow, and Scad Valley Creek.



Oowah Lake

The hot spots on the south area of the forest include Warner Lake, Oowah Lake and Buckeye Reservoir. You can fish for rainbow trout in all of these lakes, plus cutthroat at Buckeye.



For more fishing information:
Visit the Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources:
www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/

Hunting

Many game species live on the forest including elk, mule deer, and black bear. A statewide record bull elk was harvested off the forest in 2004, and deer records have been impressive as well. Turkey and grouse are popular sport birds.



Hunters: Please remember that you cannot use motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails, either to travel or to retrieve game.



Winter Recreation

Snowmobiling

Popular snowmobiling areas include:

- * Skyline Drive Trail - 27 groomed miles along the summit of the Wasatch Plateau, from the top of Fairview Canyon to US-6
- * Miller's Flat Trail - 21 groomed miles from Miller's Flat parking lot east of Huntington/Mammoth Reservoir along SR-31 to Joes Valley
- * Ephraim/Manti/Mayfield Trails - 27 groomed miles of uncrowded trails up Ephraim, Manti, and Mayfield Canyons to open summits
- * Geysers Pass and Harts Draw Roads provide excellent opportunities on the southern portion of the forest

Grooming is subject to Utah State Parks and Recreation scheduling and funding.

Backcountry Skiing



Excellent backcountry skiing and snowboarding terrain on the forest include the top of Fairview Canyon on the Wasatch Plateau and the Gold Basin Area in the La Sal Mountains. Terrain varies from mellow meadow and glade skiing to steep alpine descents.

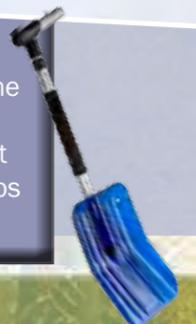
Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Starting at Geysers Pass Winter Trailhead to the end of the Gold Basin Road and up to Geysers Pass you can traverse on approximately 12 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails. These trails are open to both skiers and snowmobiles.

Winter on Skyline Ridge

Just east of the summit on SR-31, winter enthusiasts can find deep snow, open slopes, and steady winds. Parking at the "Big Drift" provides a staging point not only for premier snowkiting, but for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Boulger Canyon east of "Big Drift" is a non-motorized winter use area and can also be reached from SR-264 near Boulger Reservoir. A "Beacon Basin" is provided at Big Drift where backcountry users can practice avalanche rescue skills.

Winter fun on the Manti-La Sal National Forest can be as dangerous as it is exhilarating. Information on current weather and avalanche conditions for the Skyline area, the La Sals, and Abajos can be found at the Utah Avalanche Center website at utahavalanchecenter.org or at 888-999-4019. More information for the La Sals and Abajos is at 435-259-SNOW.



Know Before You Go

Be Bear Aware!

Seeing a black bear is a memorable experience. If you want that experience to be positive rather than negative, follow these tips:

- Keep a clean campsite. Store food and garbage in closed vehicles and out of sight.
- Never put food scraps in the campfire—it attracts bears and skunks.
- Don't keep food, shampoo—or anything that smells—in tents or sleeping areas.
- Store stoves and Dutch ovens in a vehicle or secure place when not using.
- When camping in the backcountry, hang food and garbage from a tree limb at least 10 feet from the ground and 5 feet from the tree trunk. This tree should be at least 100 yards from your sleeping area.
- Some bears also target motor oil, insect repellent, liquor, and other things that look like food. Put these items away.

If bears become accustomed to human food, they may become aggressive towards humans or cause property damage. To protect people, these bears may have to be destroyed.



For more information, visit www.BeBearAware.org

What's that Smoke?

Throughout time, fires have burned in our forests. The elimination of natural fire from the ecosystem has created an imbalance, resulting in forests that are more prone to disease and insect infestation, as well as large wildfires, especially during periods of drought.

Managing fire for resource benefits is a program which provides for naturally ignited wildland fires to burn in a natural state under specific, pre-established guidelines. Fires managed in this way are most often located in remote areas where they can burn naturally without endangering human life and property.



Fish Creek, 2009

You can check on current fire conditions by calling one of our Forest Offices, or by going to www.utahfireinfo.gov.

To report a wildland fire, call the Moab Interagency Fire Center at (435-259-1850).

Wildlife

Help keep wildlife “wild” by following these tips:

- * Do not feed wildlife—give them their space. Use those binoculars!
- * Keep your dog leashed to protect both him and wildlife.
- * Avoid approaching big game during winter—their food supplies are low and exertion takes a toll.
- * If you find an “orphaned” or sick animal, leave it alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- * Leave the area if an animal shows signs of alarm. Watch and listen for raised ears, skittish movements, or alarm calls.



Mule deer in velvet

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds can rapidly displace native plant species that provide habitat for wildlife and food for people and livestock. Here's how you can help reduce their spread:

- * Learn to recognize common weed species.
- * Don't camp or drive in weed infested areas.
- * Don't pick the flowers of noxious weeds and take them home—you'll spread seeds.
- * When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed-free. Within 96 hours before entering backcountry areas, feed them only weed-free food.
- * Wash your vehicle, including the undercarriage, to remove any weed seed before driving to the forest.



Spotted knapweed
(© John Cardina)



Dalmatian toadflax
(© Bob Nowierski)

For more information, visit the Utah Weed Control Association at www.utahweed.org/.

Manti-La Sal National Forest

Your Fees at Work

Recreation fees have made a meaningful difference in our ability to serve our national forest visitors because these dollars can be reinvested into visitor services and facilities. For example, on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, fees have been used for:

- * Operations and maintenance staff at campgrounds
- * Trail construction, maintenance, and backcountry patrols
- * New group picnic tables, fire rings, toilets, and information kiosks
- * Subsistence funding for volunteers at campgrounds and the Stuart Guard Station Visitors' Center
- * Funding for administration of outfitter and guide permits
- * Seely Guard Station renovations, completed through a "Passport in Time" volunteer project
- * This Visitor Guide



America The Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Interagency Pass Program



The America the Beautiful interagency pass program is a suite of annual and lifetime passes that provides U.S. citizens and visitors an affordable and convenient way to recreate on Federal recreation lands. Between 80% and 100% of the program's proceeds are used to improve visitor services.

NOTE: Passes are honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees. In some areas, they are good for discounts on other fees such as camping.

Annual Pass - \$80.00

Not accepted for camping discounts.



Senior Pass - \$10.00

Available to US citizens 62 years and older. Must be purchased in person, with proof of age such as a driver's license.

Access Pass - Free

Available to US citizens that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities. Must be obtained in person with written proof of disability.

For more information, visit www.store.usgs.gov/pass.

Volunteering on the Manti-La Sal National Forest

The Forest Service Volunteer Program on the Manti-La Sal National Forest is very active. The jobs are exciting and diverse, scenery is exceptional and coworkers are friendly. For more information, contact any Forest Service Office, or visit: www.volunteer.gov/gov



Visit us on the web at: www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal

Contact Information

Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office
599 W. Price River Dr.
Price, UT 84501
(435) 637-2817

Sanpete Ranger District
540 N. Main
Ephraim, UT 84627
(435) 283-4151

Ferron-Price Ranger District
115 W. Canyon Road
Ferron, UT 84523
(435) 384-2372

Moab Ranger District
62 East 100 North
P.O. Box 386
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 259-7155

Monticello Ranger District
432 East Center
P.O. Box 820
Monticello, UT 84535
(435) 587-2041

Castle Country Information Center
155 East Main
Price, UT 84501
(435) 613-5754

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, UT 85401
435-636-3600

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 259-2100

Bureau of Land Mgt.
Monticello Field Office
365 North Main St.
Monticello, UT 84535
(435) 587-1500

Arches National Park
PO Box 907
Moab, UT 84532-0907
(435) 719-2299

Canyonlands National Park
2282 SW Resource Blvd.
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 719-2313

Utah State Parks and Recreation
(435) 259-3750
Reservation Call Center
800-322-3770

Moab Information Center
Main and Center Streets
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 259-8825

Printed on recycled paper  23.338.400-10.05/2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.