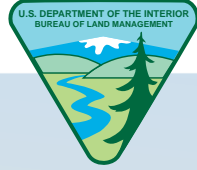


**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Royal Gorge Field Office



# Texas Creek

Travel Management Area



Map and Guide

# Welcome

Enjoy the rugged terrain and spectacular views of the Arkansas River Valley and Sangre de Cristo Mountains from Texas Creek! Grasses, cacti, piñon pine and juniper grow at lower elevations but give way to ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, spruce and aspen at higher elevations. Willows and cottonwoods grow near springs and seasonal streams. Bighorn sheep, mule deer and other wildlife depend on these moist, green areas for water and shelter from the frequently hot and dry conditions.

## Recreation Opportunities

BLM manages the trails and routes in the Texas Creek area primarily for motorized recreation. Motorized recreation groups assist BLM in developing and maintaining motorized trails and routes in this area. Please do your part to foster this spirit of cooperation by respecting all vehicle closures!

**Motorcycles, ATVs, and 4-wheel drive vehicles** are allowed on existing designated routes.

**Mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking** are allowed on all existing roads and trails. Hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers expect to encounter motorized users!

**Camping** is allowed no further than 100 feet from roads. Please use existing campsites.

**A parking area** immediately north of the Arkansas River bridge provides fishing and boating access.

**Hunters**, please observe all vehicle designations, closures, other area regulations and private property boundaries.

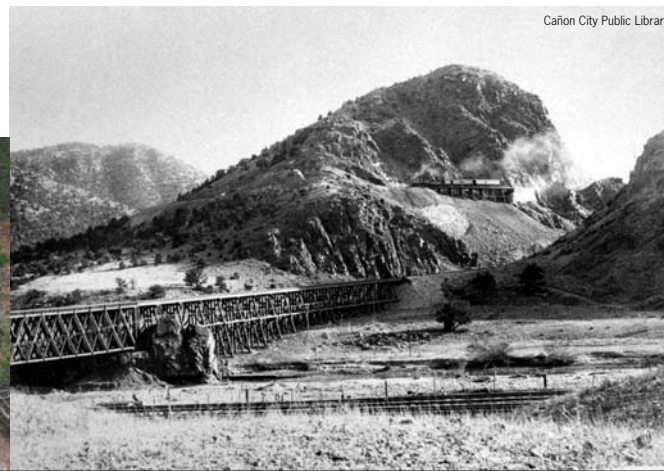


## 'The Loneliest Place on the Arkansas River'

No more than a wide spot among the rugged canyons of the Arkansas River, the Texas Creek area remained a remote and lonely outpost for years. In 1880, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built its line through the Royal Gorge along the Arkansas River and into Leadville. The first Texas Creek settlement, called 'Ford', occupied the gravel bar at the mouth of Texas Creek on the south side of the Arkansas River from 1881 to 1885. Here, passengers and goods were transferred to stagecoaches and wagons bound for the Wet Mountain Valley. A small store, saloon and boarding house were the only businesses. The children of ranchers attended a small schoolhouse. Even today, a few ranchers raise cattle in this rough country.

McCoy Gulch, just west of Texas Creek, was the headquarters for the poker playing McCoy bunch and their outlaw friends. This 'Wild West' gang was accused of cattle rustling, train robbery, murder and assorted other crimes during the 1880s.

In 1900, a 25-mile branch line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad was built from Texas Creek to Westcliffe. It crossed the Arkansas River on a bridge span 648 feet long, 95 feet high. The route then made a huge lariat loop clinging to the massive, rocky thumb along the east wall of Texas Creek Canyon. Abandoned in 1938, the impressive railroad grade at the mouth of Texas Creek Canyon is easily visible to the southwest.



Cañon City Public Library

## Register Your Vehicle

### Colorado resident

- OHVs (including motorcycles, dirt bikes, 3-wheelers, ATVs, and dune buggies) must be registered with Colorado State Parks.
- Licensed, street legal 4-wheel drive vehicles and licensed, street legal motorcycles do not require additional registration.

### Out-of-state resident

- If the OHV is registered where you reside, no additional registration is required in Colorado.
- If the OHV is not registered where you reside, you must purchase a Colorado non-resident OHV permit from Colorado State Parks.
- If the OHV is registered in another state but it will be in Colorado for more than 30 days, a Colorado non-resident permit must be purchased.

For more information on OHV registration in Colorado, call 303 791-1920 or visit [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)



# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## Royal Gorge Field Office



For more information or to report a violation contact:

Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3170 East Main Street  
Cañon City CO 81212  
719 269-8500

Bureau of Land Management  
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area  
307 West Sackett Avenue  
Salida CO 81201  
719 539-7289

In an emergency, dial 911

For information on public land recreation, visit:  
[www.co.blm.gov/recweb](http://www.co.blm.gov/recweb)

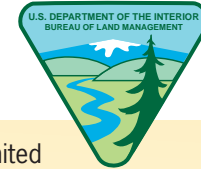


photos courtesy of Alan Robinson and BLM



# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## Royal Gorge Field Office



## The trail system

### Be a Responsible User

When using your ATV, motorcycle or other motorized vehicle:

- . **Limit your use** to existing roads and trails identified for Off-Highway Vehicle travel.
- . **Do not create** new roads or trails by riding off existing routes.
- . **Prevent soil erosion** by protecting vegetation and soils from damage.
- . **Park** at existing parking areas and pull-offs.
- . **Register** your OHV – it's Colorado law.

When camping:

- . **Use existing camp sites**, and camp no further than 100 feet from roads.
- . **Camp at least 300 feet** from streams and other water sources.
- . **Observe all open fire restrictions**, local, state and Federal.
- . **Use fire wisely** – use existing fire rings, never leave fires unattended, and completely extinguish campfires.
- . **Collect wood only** from down and dead trees.
- . **Limit your stay** to no more than 14 days.

All users, please:

- . **Pack out all trash** and dispose of it properly.
- . **Respect** other users.
- . **Respect private property** – ask permission first!
- . **Completely extinguish cigarettes** and properly dispose of them.
- . **Play safely**, be prepared and know your limits.
- . **Report illegal activities** to the BLM, local law enforcement or Fremont County Crime Stoppers 719 275-STOP

Motorized travel in this area is limited to existing roads and trails identified for Off-Highway Vehicle travel. Look for these signs that show the types of use permitted on each route.



# Texas Creek

## Travel Management Area

### TREAD LIGHTLY!

- Travel and recreate with minimum impact.
- Respect the environment and the rights of others.
- Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.
- Avoid streams, meadows, ponds, muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, wildlife and livestock.
- Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

