

VISITING TIPS...

- Enjoy, but do not destroy
- Plan a full day to travel & explore
- Be safe, drive slow, pull off the road when visiting attractions
- No services available between Wellington and Myton
- Take plenty of gas, water & food
- Take a camera & binoculars
- Public lands are closed to camping
- The Nine Mile Ranch provides the only campground (435) 637-2572
- Day use picnic areas: Cottonwood Glen & Daddy Canyon sites provide restrooms, pavillion and tables

Nine Mile Canyon, a 75 mile long red rock canyon has been recognized for well over a century. Much of the canyon was created by American Indian ancestors who lived throughout the Southwest more than 700 years ago.

Recently there have been 63 rock art sites in the canyon that have officially been added to the National Register of Historic Places. There are plans for more sites to be added. The paintings and carvings have brought the canyon walls alive and transforming them into a kind of newstand spanning thousands of years of ancient Utah life.



Cottonwood Glen Site

B Bill Barrett Corporation

"Bill Barrett Corporation... has brought renewed development activity to this area... industry is becoming more important to the local economy as additional wells are drilled, resulting in rising employment and wages." (The University of Utah, December, 2007)

Since arriving in 2004 to develop the 60-year old West Tavaputs gas field atop the plateau above 9 Mile Canyon, Bill Barrett Corporation's (BBC) activity has meant an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars a year into this special area in rural Utah.

As a result, the Company's activity has generated millions of dollars for protecting artifacts, improving the 9 Mile Canyon road, contributions for local non-profits, and enhancements for guests and other multiple uses in the Canyon. Within Price, over half the taxes paid to Carbon County from the development are allocated to the Carbon County School district, meaning today's balanced energy development is also helping with the development of the leaders of tomorrow.

Best of all, when BBC is done producing clean-burning, domestically produced natural gas for homes and businesses throughout Utah and beyond, they leave the fragile high desert plateau in the shape they found it (see below). Regulations, responsibility and technology means more energy security for our country, more economic viability for our community, more resources for community projects, and small temporary disturbances that are reclaimed.



Bill Barrett Corporation, protecting the past, investing in the future

FUNDED IN PART BY:

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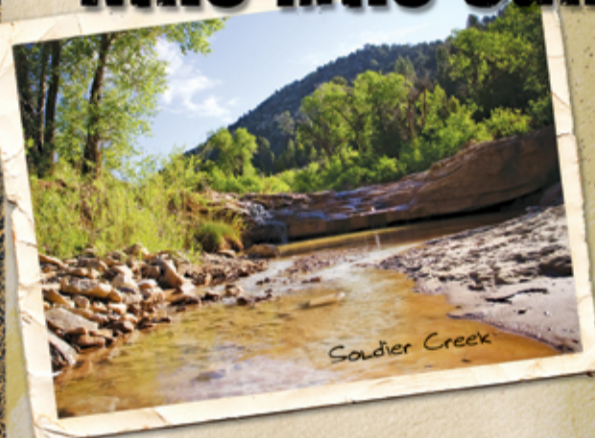
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Castle Country Regional Information Center
(435) 613-5754 • 155 East Main Street • Price, Utah
INSIDE WELCOME CENTER

Exploring Nine Mile Canyon



Nine Mile Canyon



Soldier Creek

Nine Mile Canyon is part of a 70 mile Backcountry Byway. There are several stories about how Nine Mile Canyon received its name. Perhaps the most accurate took place when John Wesley Powell was exploring the Green River in 1869. The expedition's cartographer used a nine mile transect for mapping and the Canyon retained that name.

Nine Mile Canyon is a natural conduit through the Book Cliffs between the Price River drainage and the Uintah Basin. Over time many people have traveled through the canyon from Native Americans, including the Fremont and Ute, to the 9th Cavalry who built the road, to the settlers and freighters hauling goods from Price to the Uintah Basin. Each has left traces in Nine Mile that include rock art, historic inscriptions, telegraph poles and homesteads. Now it is your turn to experience the cultural and natural wonders of Nine Mile Canyon.

A LANDSCAPE OF ROCK

Approximately 55 million years ago, the rock you see in Nine Mile Canyon formed from lake sediments. When the area was uplifted, Nine Mile Creek began cutting the canyon you see today. The sediments of the lake bottom formed massive sandstones and shales. A geologic accident made this sandstone an ideal canvas for the prehistoric rock artist. It formed large, smooth, protected faces, soft enough for the prehistoric artist to peck out a design, yet resilient enough to resist the images eroding away.

PEOPLE OF THE ROCK ART

Successions of people and cultures have lived in Nine Mile Canyon for at least 8,000 years. In Nine Mile Canyon, like no place else, a legacy of rock art from these prehistoric cultures is preserved. You will see examples of the artwork of ancient tribes and most recently, the Utes. By far, the most prolific rock artists were members of what archaeologists call the Fremont Culture. The Fremont lived in the Canyon for nearly a thousand years before they moved away around 1200 A.D.

While the canyon includes all types of archaeological sites, it is the abundance of well-preserved rock art that makes Nine Mile Canyon most famous. This legacy on stone is unique and irreplaceable. Our knowledge of these past groups comes only from the artwork and artifacts they left behind. That is why it is not appropriate to add to the rock art. Our culture is well-documented in other ways. Many modern native people consider these rock art sites sacred. Please show respect to the past and present.



Pregnant Buffalo

WILDLIFE

Nine Mile Canyon is most noted for members of the deer family, such as elk and mule deer. They are most commonly observed at dawn or dusk feeding in the fields.

Bighorn sheep and Bison were once the most common big games species in the canyon, based on how frequently they were depicted in rock art. Bison were present in the canyon during occupation by the Fremont culture.



Predators in the canyon include the cougar, black bear, bobcat, coyote and several fox species. These are present in low numbers and will rarely be seen except for coyotes and foxes.

The most common snakes will be garter, gopher or bull snakes and the rattle snake. The canyon is home to several lizard species including the sagebrush lizard and horned lizard.



Daddy Canyon

PLANT LIFE

Predominant trees along the creek include cottonwood, poplar and native willows. Other exotic species include the Tamarisk and Russian Olive. At higher elevations, pinion-juniper woodland gives way to aspens, mountain brush, along with firs, spruce and pines.

The most common understory vegetation is sagebrush and grass along with rabbit brush, greasewood, salt-bush, cactus, Brigham tea & others.

Journey through Utah's historic Nine Mile Canyon and explore the landscape of rock, discover the rock art of ancient people, and travel the road used by the Utes, the military, the freighters, the ranchers, and all manner of explorers, both ancient and modern.



FIRST SITE - Mile Marker 26.2

The first site is just that - the first major rock art site in the canyon. There are pictographs (paintings) and petroglyphs (carved or pecked figures); Ute era figures, Fremont era figures and unfortunately, vandalism. Most bison (buffalo) figures located in Nine Mile Canyon and its side canyons were created by early Utes who used the canyon as a thoroughfare as they traveled from the Price area to the Uintah Basin. The Utes obtained the horse sometime after 1680, which transformed their lifestyle and culture from one of subsisting on wild grasses and other edible plants they could gather on foot, to one of hunting bison on the Great Plains. They adopted the Plains Indian culture and religion including its reverence for bison, the wearing of brain-tanned hides and the wearing of long flowing eagle-feather war bonnets. The bison images hint there may have been a remnant herd in the canyon and that was confirmed when an archaeological excavation at this panel produced two "Numic" (Ute style) arrowheads, both of which contained blood protein residue. Tests showed the blood on one was either elk or deer and the other bison. Look upwards to view more panels.



GRANARY VIEWING - Mile Marker 38.8

Nine Mile Canyon and other Fremont areas of Utah contain remnants of prehistoric storage granaries. This example is close to the road and not too far above ground level. The front wall has washed away, which offers a chance to look inside at the construction techniques used by the ancients to build the structures. Nearby Range Creek is home to numerous examples ranging from this size to some well over eight feet tall. Granaries in other areas of Utah have been found containing corncobs or wild grass seeds.

DADDY CANYON COMPLEX - Mile Marker 43.8

Daddy Canyon is a great place to spend time.

The site contains a trail that will lead you along the cliff faces that contain both Fremont and Ute era rock art, then will loop back to the road or parking area. A unique Fremont anthropomorph (human figure) pecked into the black desert varnish and a panel containing what may be a story of Ute Indians participating in a traditional Ute elk hunt. Ute warriors can be seen riding horses, each with a riderless horse in tow, which would be used to pack out the elk meat following the hunt. Contained in the original document establishing the Ute Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah, was an agreement giving the Utes the right to leave the confines of the reservation and participate in a traditional elk hunt. This petroglyph could illustrate such a hunt.

The canyon probably received its name from Katherine Nutter when she referred to her husband Preston. She was much younger than him and always referred to him as "Daddy," "Daddy Dearest" and "My Daddy" in her letters to him.



The structures were dug partially underground then covered with a log superstructure, which was covered with mud and dirt. The inside contained a fire pit, a bench circling the outside and sometimes an opening providing fresh outside air could be found. Small storage niches were commonly found around the outside walls of the structures.

BIG BUFFALO SITE - Mile Marker 45.7

The largest buffalo petroglyph that is known in the canyon is located at the end of this trail across Cottonwood Canyon. Also, look for the trail that leads north from there where you can find other rock art panels including a pregnant buffalo, various zoomorphs (animals), anthropomorphs (human figures) and several amazing pictographs.

GREAT HUNT PANEL - Mile Marker 45.9

The Great Hunt panel is one of the most recognizable petroglyph panels. It has appeared in National Geographic magazine and has been used numerous times as an example of Fremont rock art. Scholars believe it might represent an actual bighorn sheep hunt and wildlife biologists believe it depicts a scene in late November or early December when herds meet for the fall mating season. It is the only time of year when the rams, ewes and lambs are all together in the same place. (The Bill Barrett Corporation re-configured the road at the Great Hunt site for safety and also to enhance the visitor's experience)

COTTONWOOD GLEN PICNIC AREA - Mile Marker 27.2

The Cottonwood Glen picnic site began life in the latter 1800s when the south side of the old cabin was built as part of a ranching homestead. The north side of the cabin was added sometime in the early 1900s.

When it came time for the homesteader to "prove up" on his claim, he made a mistake in the process and ownership did not change to private hands. Carbon County eventually obtained a permit to build the toilets and covered picnic area and now owns and manages the property.



BALANCED ROCK - Mile Marker 31.9

This unique balanced rock is home to an interesting petroglyph panel, which has created controversy and conversation for years. The main figure has been referred to variously as "Balloon Man" and "The Juggler." One Pueblo Indian culture expert suggested the figure may represent Spider Woman. Pueblo and Navajo beliefs indicate that Spider Woman taught them how to weave. The idea is Patterson-Rudolph's and it may or may not be true, but it is probably closer to reality than "Balloon Man." (Note: Private property, view from road) (MM 31.9 Nutter Ranch)



GATE CANYON - Mile Marker 43.6 & 46

The US 9th Cavalry, a regiment of African Americans, built the Nine Mile road and telegraph line to service the military post at Fort Duchesne. Reminders of the Army in the canyon today are the distinctive iron telegraph poles. To see what the road was really like and the construction done by the 9th Cavalry, hike this foot trail between Gate Canyon and Wells Draw. This is an original road segment that is undisturbed by subsequent construction and maintenance.

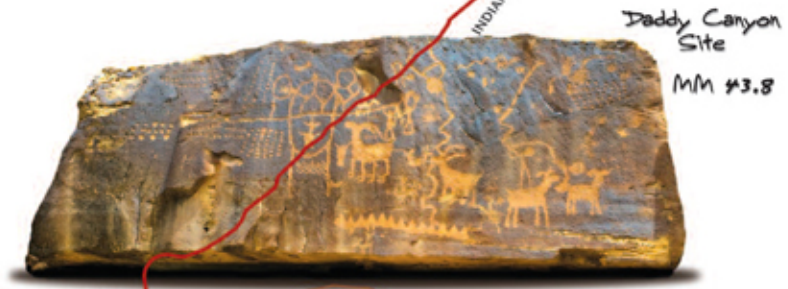
FREMONT VILLAGE - Mile Marker 45.5

A trail leads visitors up the hill to the remains of a Fremont era pit house. A re-creation of an actual pit house documented in Nine Mile Canyon can be seen at the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum in Price.



Nine Mile Canyon

Discover prehistoric artwork, structures and artifacts spanning 8,000 years along the 70 mile backcountry byway.



- Museum
- Roadside Orientation
- Prehistoric Site
- Historic Site
- Vista
- Trailhead
- Campground
- Picnic Site
- Restrooms
- US Highway
- Backcountry Byway
- Other Graded Road
- Hiking Trail
- Mile Markers (Green)

