



Map & Visitor Guide

BLM/CO/GI-17/011

CONTACT INFORMATION
 White River Field Office
 220 East Market Street
 Meeker, Colorado 81641-0000
 970-878-3800
 www.blm.gov/colorado



It is important to recognize that the term "rock art" is misleading. It is likely most of these works of "art" were created without regard for modern aesthetics. Prior to historic times, the focus was often spiritual in nature. We can begin to view the works on their own terms when we recognize their spiritual value.

PICTOGRAPHS: images painted or drawn onto the rock face, often using pigments made from minerals. The Carrot Men site is a great example.

WHAT IS ROCK ART?
 "Rock art" is a term for any human-made markings made on natural stone. There are two types of rock art found in North America:

PETROGLYPHS: (from the Greek words petros and glyphen which translate to "stone" and "to carve") images created by removing part of the rock surface via scratching, pecking, incising or abrasion.

Canyon Pintado & Dragon Trail

Historic District & Rock Art Sites

U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management



CANYON PINTADO AND THE DRAGON TRAIL

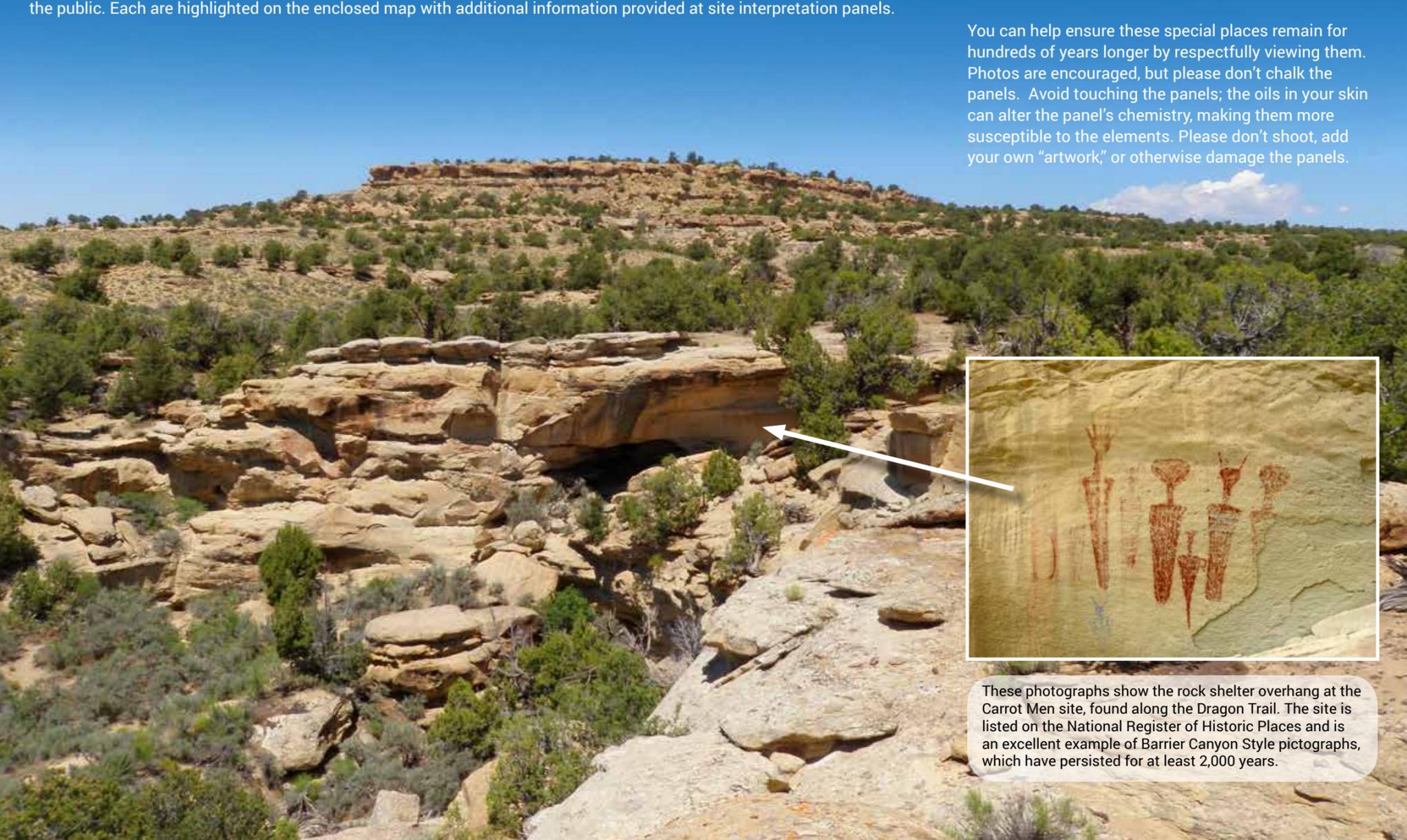
The Canyon Pintado Historic District includes hundreds of archaeological sites, most deriving from the Fremont culture (ca. 100-1300 AD) and Ute occupations (ca. 1300-1881) of Douglas Creek Canyon. The name "Canyon Pintado," meaning painted canyon, comes from the 1776 Dominguez-Escalante expedition, the first EuroAmerican expedition to traverse the canyon.

Seven premier rock art locations and archaeological sites in Canyon Pintado and four on the Dragon Trail are available to the public. Each are highlighted on the enclosed map with additional information provided at site interpretation panels.

HELP PRESERVE YOUR HISTORY

These petroglyphs have endured tens, hundreds, and even thousands of years of scorching sun, freezing snow, and brutal winds; however, their greatest threat to survival is humans.

You can help ensure these special places remain for hundreds of years longer by respectfully viewing them. Photos are encouraged, but please don't chalk the panels. Avoid touching the panels; the oils in your skin can alter the panel's chemistry, making them more susceptible to the elements. Please don't shoot, add your own "artwork," or otherwise damage the panels.



These photographs show the rock shelter overhang at the Carrot Men site, found along the Dragon Trail. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an excellent example of Barrier Canyon Style pictographs, which have persisted for at least 2,000 years.

ROCK ART SITE GUIDE

DRAGON TRAIL

Shield Site (Mile Post 5.6)

Classic Fremont shield anthropomorph petroglyph and pictographs

Fremont Ridge (Mile Post 9.7)

Elaborate panel of Barrier Canyon Style petroglyphs

Crook's Brand (Mile Post 10.1)

Ute horse petroglyphs with the brand of General Crook

Carrot Men (Mile Post 11.6)

National Register of Historic Places - listed site of Barrier Canyon Style pictographs and petroglyphs

CANYON PINTADO

Lookout Point (Mile Post 67.6)

Fremont masonry room accompanied by drilled holes in the bedrock

East Four-Mile Draw (Mile Post 61.3)

A trail loop contains Ute and Fremont rock art, an important excavated site, a historic line shack, and the Sun Dagger panel; visitors should allow at least one hour to walk the loop

State Bridge Draw (Mile Post 59.7)

Classic Fremont culture petroglyphs and a possible historic brand

Cow Canyon (Mile Post 57.8)

Numerous petroglyph panels of Ute and Fremont origin

White Birds (Mile Post 56.6)

Colorful anthropomorph pictographs and other figures, likely of the Barrier Canyon Style origin

Kokopelli (Mile Post 56)

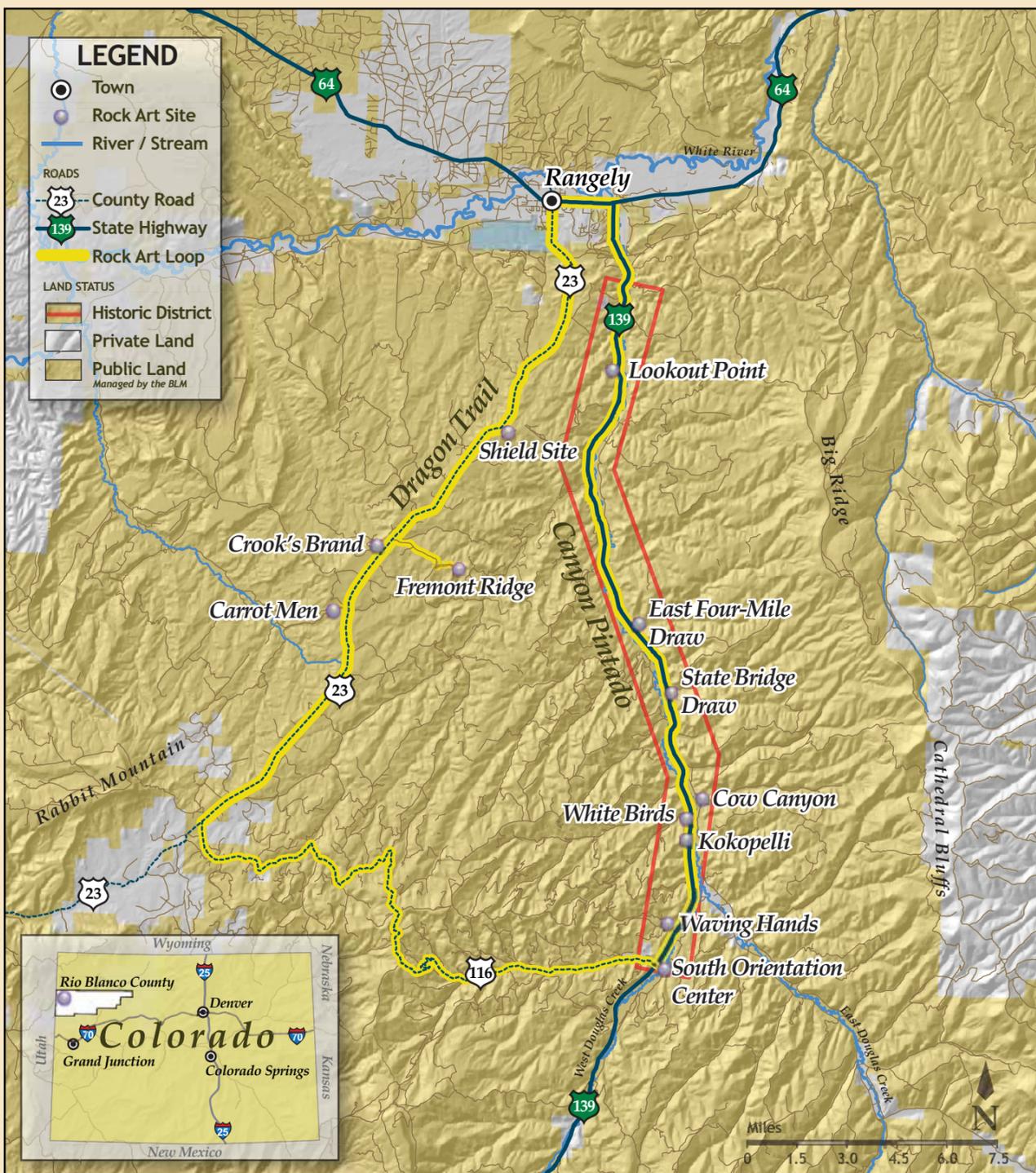
Three panels of rock art, including the most significant portrayal of maize in the area

Waving Hands (Mile Post 53.5)

A rock shelter and many Fremont and Ute figures; notable Ute horse depictions

South Orientation Center (Mile Post 52.8)

Picnic benches and ramadas, restrooms, and interpretive panels mark the southern boundary of the Historic District



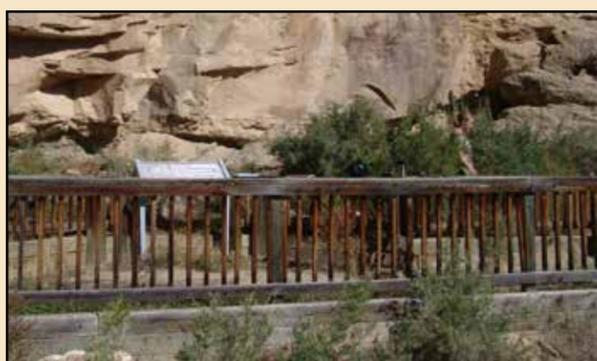
DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Both Canyon Pintado and the Dragon Trail are minutes from Rangely in northwestern Colorado, approximately 80 miles north of Grand Junction on Highway 139 and approximately 60 miles west of Meeker on County Road 64.

Canyon Pintado can be accessed from Rangely by turning south on Hwy 139 at the east edge of town. From Grand Junction, Canyon Pintado can be reached by travelling west on I-70 to Loma, then north on Hwy 139. The South Orientation Center lies approximately one hour from Grand Junction. The mile markers listed here and posted within Canyon Pintado are calculated from Loma.

Access the Dragon Trail from Rangely by heading south on S. White Avenue at the stoplight. Mile markers listed for Dragon Trail are for driving from Rangely.

Please note that while the Canyon Pintado sites feature dedicated parking and maintained roads, those on the Dragon Trail are a bit more rugged and require dirt road access.



SEASONAL VIEWING

For the best viewing experience and accessibility, we recommend viewing both areas between late spring and early fall. During the winter, portions of the Dragon Trail are inaccessible and expect trails in Canyon Pintado to be obscured.

CAUTION

Rattlesnakes, scorpions, and black widow spiders are all found within Canyon Pintado and the Dragon Trail. There are loose rocks, gravel and cliffs in the area. Wear appropriate shoes and stay on designated trails. Respect the canyon and canyon wildlife!



The Kokopelli site's namesake was misidentified when first recorded in the 1970s, and is likely a Fremont Style horned anthropomorph. The above panel is just to the left of him and features a prominent maize stalk superimposed over Barrier Canyon Style figures.

Cow Canyon Recreation Site, visible to the left, is easily accessible on foot, with interpretation panel and multiple petroglyph panels less than 10 yards from your vehicle.



Historic inscriptions and rock art from Native Americans, Euro-Americans, and other peoples provide a different point of view on historic trends and events. Historic rock art is also an important cultural resource and requires our protect. The historic petroglyph panel pictured above at Crook's Brand, now vandalized and riddled with bullet marks, is a Pacomio Chacon original. Chacon was a Hispanic Sheepherder who created a series of pin-up style petroglyphs in the mid 1970s in this area.

GLOSSARY

Anthropomorph: Human-shaped figure.

Barrier Canyon Style: Archaic style of rock art used in the area ca. 3000 BC - 100 AD; its influence on the later Fremont style is obvious.

Fremont: Native group that inhabited the area between ca. 100 - 1300 AD.

Historic District: An area with a high concentration of sites considered to be of great importance to our history.

National Register of Historic Places: The U.S. government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects deemed historically significant.

Site: An area that contains material remains of past use. Occupation/use must have occurred at least 50 years prior for consideration.

Ute: The Native American tribe that used the area between ca. 1300 - 1881 AD; specifically, the Yamparika Utes.