



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Landscape Conservation System

VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Location

Located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument includes the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness. The Monument borders Kaibab National Forest to the west and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to the east.

Brief Description

This remote and unspoiled, 280,000-acre Monument is a geologic treasure, containing a variety of diverse landscapes from the Paria Plateau, Vermilion Cliffs, Coyote Buttes, and Paria Canyon. Elevations range from 3,100 to 7,100 feet.

Access

From Flagstaff, travel north on U.S. Highway 89 to 89A at the Bitter Springs turnoff. From Kanab, Utah, take U.S. Highway 89 to the east or 89A to the south through Fredonia and Jacob Lake. There are no paved roads within the Monument. While the House Rock Valley Road/BLM 1065 is a maintained dirt road it may be impassable when wet. Other roads on the Monument require a four-wheel drive-high clearance vehicle due to deep sand.

Permits Required

A permit is required for hiking in Coyote Buttes North (the Wave), Coyote Buttes South, and for overnight trips within Paria Canyon. Please visit the Monument's website for the latest information on obtaining a permit.

Recreational Opportunities

Visitors will enjoy scenic views of towering cliffs and deep canyons. Paria Canyon offers an outstanding three to five day wilderness backpacking experience. The colorful swirls of cross-bedded sandstone in Coyote Buttes are an international hiking destination. There are also opportunities to view wildlife, including California condors. There are two developed campgrounds just outside the Monument: Stateline and White House. Dispersed camping is allowed outside the wilderness area in previously disturbed areas.

Facilities

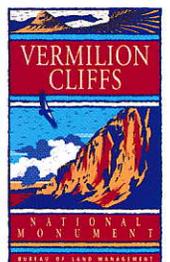
There are no visitor centers on the Monument.

Safety

Visits to the area require special planning and awareness of potential hazards such as rugged and unmarked roads, poisonous reptiles and insects, extreme heat or cold, deep sand, and flash floods. Bring a spare tire and plenty of water, food, and gasoline. Arizona Strip Visitor maps are available at the Paria Contact Station (open seasonally), BLM-Kanab Visitor Center, and the Interagency Information Center in St. George, Utah.

Contact

BLM Arizona Strip Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790-9000
(435) 688-3200
www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html



Arizona

Bureau of Land Management

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

BLM



Background

The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument consists of 294,000 acres within the Arizona Strip District in Coconino County, Arizona. It was established by proclamation from President Clinton on November 9, 2000. The monument consists primarily of the Paria Plateau and the Paria Canyon - Vermilion Cliffs (PC-VC) Wilderness. This area is a geologic treasure of unique formations and diversity in terrain. From the depths of the Paria Canyon to the Paria Plateau 3,000 feet above, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Most of the roads are in deep sand and a high clearance four - wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended. There are no potable water sources on the plateau, so make sure that you bring at least one gallon of water per person for each day that you will be exploring.

Paria Plateau

The Paria Plateau is a diverse landscape consisting of steep cliffs, slickrock formations, and deep sand terrain. This is a place to go if you are looking for solitude. The further east onto the plateau you go, the less likely you are to see anyone else. The plateau is surrounded on three sides by the PC-VC Wilderness and vehicle access is only from the west.



Paria Canyon - Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness

This 112,500 acre wilderness was designated by the U.S. Congress in 1984. Nationally known for its beauty, the Paria Canyon has towering walls streaked with desert varnish, huge red rock amphitheaters, sandstone arches, wooded terraces, and hanging gardens. The 3,000 foot escarpment known as the Vermilion Cliffs dominates the remainder of the wilderness with its thick Navajo sandstone face, steep boulder-strewn slopes, rugged arroyos, and stark overall appearance. Some of the best slot canyon hiking opportunities on the Colorado Plateau are found here. Deer and desert bighorn sheep inhabit the area.



Paria Canyon

The Paria Canyon lies within the PC-VC Wilderness. It is an oasis in this desert landscape that has a variety of geologic features from slot canyons in the north end to a wide canyon in the south. The hike from the White House Trailhead in the north to Lee's Ferry in the south will be 38 miles of scenic beauty that can not be seen anywhere else. As you follow the Paria River down stream, you will see riparian areas and hanging gardens that help the wildlife here survive. Unique features in the canyon that have formed over the years from floods and spring run off abound through out the canyon.

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790 • 435-688-3200 • www.blm.gov/az/



Buckskin Gulch

The Buckskin Gulch in the north western side the PC-VC Wilderness joins the Paria Canyon about 7 miles south of the White House Trailhead. The Buckskin Gulch Trailhead is on House Rock Valley Road and the hike to the Paria River confluence is 16 miles through one of the longest slot canyons in the world. This is a good hike for those wanting to see a slot canyon.



Wire Pass

Wire Pass Starts at the Wire Pass Trailhead on House Rock Valley Road and goes 1.7 miles to the confluence with Buckskin Gulch. It has many of the same features as Buckskin Gulch. However, keep a watch for eight to ten foot drops to climb down.

A start at the Buckskin Gulch Trailhead and exit at the Wire Pass Trailhead makes a good day hike of about 10 miles.

Coyote Buttes

The wilderness also provides opportunities for backpacking, photography, and solitude. In the northwest portion of the wilderness lies Coyote Buttes, an area of spectacular scenery displaying domes, aprons, fins, corridors, and a variety of small fragile rock sculptures carved in colorful swirling cross bedded sandstone. The variety of colors and textures in the rock formations within the wilderness constantly change with variations in light and weather. This colorful sandstone area creates a feeling of wonder and amazement.

Permit Areas

There are three areas in the PC-VC Wilderness that require a permit for access.

Paria Canyon permit area also includes Wire Pass and Buckskin Gulch. Here there are two types of permits. The overnight permit is for multiple day hiking in the canyons and is purchased on line at <https://www.blm.gov/az/paria/obtainpermits.cfm?usearea=PC>. The second permit is a single day permit and can be purchased at the trailhead fee tubes. The maximum group size is 10 persons.

The Coyote Buttes permit area is broken into two parts and both have a group size limit of six people.

<https://www.blm.gov/az/paria/obtainpermits.cfm?usearea=CB>

Coyote Buttes North permit area is the most popular area on the monument. Here is where the Wave is located. Permits for this area are issued through a lottery system.

Coyote Buttes South area permits may be reserved on line up to four months in advance, or purchased in person.

For more information please pick up a copy of the Permit Procedures for Coyote Buttes and Paria Canyon.

For more Information

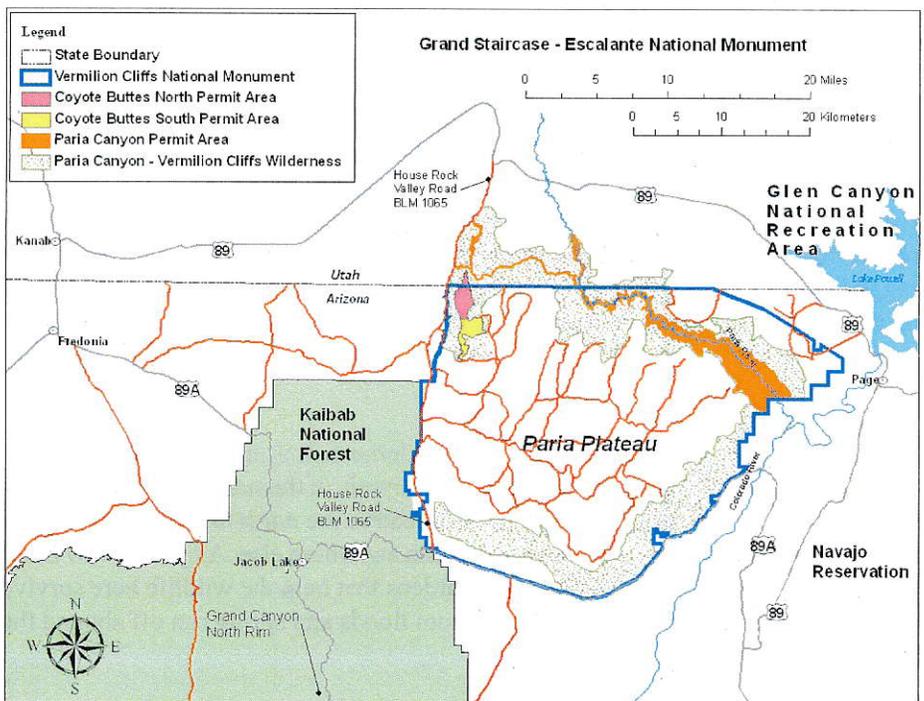
Please visit our web site:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/natmon/vermilion.html

Or call or write to the following:

Arizona Strip Field Office
Vermilion Cliffs National Monument
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790
435-688-3200

For maps and books of the area, visit the Dixie/ Arizona Strip Interpretive Association web site at:
<http://www.d-asia.org/>



Arizona

Bureau of Land Management

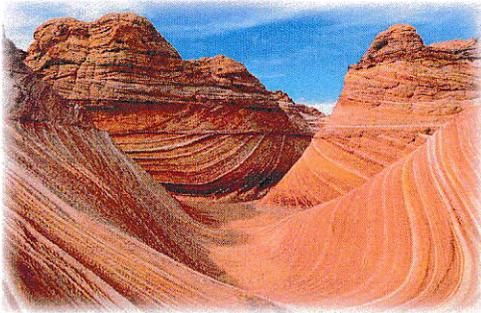
Permit procedures for Coyote Buttes and Paria Canyon

Background

The Paria Canyon - Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness area is becoming more popular with each passing year. In order to keep the area pristine and provide a wilderness experience, certain measures are required to protect this valuable resource for the public to enjoy for years to come. With this in mind, a permit system was started to limit the amount of visitors each day. The following are directions on how to obtain permits for the three permit areas in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

Coyote Buttes North (CBN)

- 20 people per day allowed into the area. There are 10 places available on line and 10 available as a walk in. Due to the high demand for visitation, both are selected by lottery.

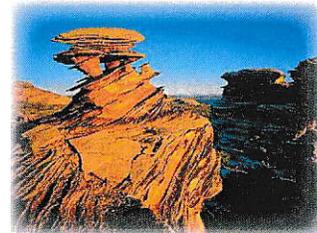


CBN On Line Lottery Schedule		
For a permit during	Apply Between	Lottery is Run
May	January 1-31	February 1
June	February 1-28	March 1
July	March 1-31	April 1
August	April 1-30	May 1
September	May 1-31	June 1
October	June 1-30	July 1
November	July 1-31	August 1
December	August 1-31	September 1
January	September 1-30	October 1
February	October 1-31	November 1
March	November 1-30	December 1
April	December 1-31	January 1

- The group size is limited to 6 people within the permit area.
- Fee is \$7.00 per person and \$7.00 per dog.
- The on line lottery can be accessed at <https://www.blm.gov/az/paria/obtainpermits.cfm?usearea=CB>. The on line lottery is run four months in advance. For example, for a permit in the month of May, you would submit an application in the month of January. And the winners would be selected on February 1st.
- The walk in lottery is held at 9:00am (Utah time) and permits are issued for the next day
The Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument Visitor Center on US Highway 89 in Kanab Utah will be the permanent home of the walk in lottery. The walk in lottery will no longer be held at the Paria Contact Station

Coyote Buttes South (CBS)

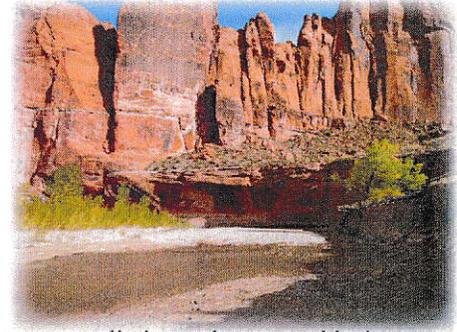
- The group size is limited to 6 people within the permit area.
- Fee is \$5.00 per person and \$5.00 per dog.
- 20 people per day into the area. There are 10 places available on line and 10 available as a walk in. At this time the permits are issued first come first served. When there are days of more than 10 permit requests, then a lottery will be run for that day.



- The on line permits can be accessed at <https://www.blm.gov/az/paria/obtainpermits.cfm?usearea=CB>. The on line calendar is for up to four months in advance.
- During times of high visitation, Coyote Buttes South permits may require the use of the lottery. In this case, refer to the Coyote Buttes North walk in permit instructions.

Paria Canyon Permit Area

- The Paria Canyon Permit Area also includes Wire Pass and Buckskin Gulch and is broken down into two parts, day use and overnight use.
- The group size is limited to ten people per day in the permit area.
- The first option is the day use. For day use, there are envelopes and fee tubes at the trail heads to pay your fee. Other than group size, there are no limits on day use at this time. Fee for *day hikes* is \$6.00 per person and \$6.00 per dog.
- The second option is overnight use. A permit is required for overnight use and only 20 people per day are allowed to enter. Permits can be obtained on line at <https://www.blm.gov/az/paria/obtainpermits.cfm?usearea=PC>. Fee for *overnight trips* is \$5.00 per person and \$5.00 per dog.
- The overnight permits can be obtained up to four months in advance.



CBS & Paria Canyon On Line Permits	
Applications accepted at 12pm on	For a permit during
January 1	April
February 1	May
March 1	June
April 1	July
May 1	August
June 1	September
July 1	October
August 1	November
September 1	December
October 1	January
November 1	February
December 1	March

The rest of the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Except for the above mentioned areas, the rest of the Monument has no fees for visiting and exploring.

For more information

For more information, please visit our web site:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/natmon/vermilion.html.

Or call or write to the following:

Arizona Strip Field Office
 Vermilion Cliffs National Monument
 345 East Riverside Dr.
 St. George, UT 84790
 435-688-3200



For maps and books about the area, visit the Dixie / Arizona Strip Interpretive Association web site at:

<http://www.d-asia.org/>

*****FROM MAY TO OCT. CARRY A GALLON (3.75 L) OF WATER FOR YOUR HIKE---PER PERSON----AND DRINK IT*****

PARIA AREA DAY HIKES

Note: In general there are very few trails in the area. If you see something that is appealing to you, park and start hiking. All distances are approximate, and all driving directions start from the **Paria Contact Station**. Please close any gates you pass through to prevent cows causing accidents on the roads.

1) PARIA TOWNSITE (OLD PAHREAH) 0 – 1 ½ mile one-way, no fee

Take US 89 west 10 miles to the Paria Townsite sign, then take the dirt and gravel road north. The 5 mile descent into the Paria River Valley winds through scenic red Navajo sandstone and colorful Chinle badlands. Slick clay makes the road treacherous when wet, so check the weather before you go. Once you reach the picnic area you may need 4 wheel drive to continue to the river. Alternatively, walk 1 ½ miles through the wash. Cross the river to explore the rock building and low foundation remnants of the Old Pareah town site. The town was abandoned in the 1910s, after 30 years of repeated floods destroyed attempts at agriculture.

2) TOAD STOOLS ½-1 miles one-way, no fee (please sign in at register box)

Turn right on US 89 and go about 1 ½ miles east to a parking lot on the north side of the highway. Hike winds through whimsical hoodoos, sandstone sculptures in the desert.

3) WAHWEAP HOODOOS 4½ - 5 miles one-way, no fee

Hike up Wahweap Wash to discover unique stone pillars with cap rocks that are the natural results of geologic formation and erosion. Ask for a handout that describes (with map) the hike. This area is best photographed in the morning as it faces east.

4) HACKBERRY CANYON 20 miles one-way, but can be done as 1-5 mile round trip, no fee

Take 89 west 3 miles to the Cottonwood road, then drive 14 ½ miles north to the mouth of Hackberry Canyon. Most of the year, expect shallow flowing water to wet the soles of your boots. Use caution on the Cottonwood Road, as rain turns the road into a clay gumbo that even 4 wheel drives struggle to get through. Check the weather before you go!

5) PARIA CANYON Varied length, \$6 per person, children 12 & under free, fee envelopes at register box

Continue south on the White House road 2 miles to the trailhead. There is no formal trail; the hiking route is the river bed. Hike down canyon 4 miles to the beginning of the narrows, or 7 miles to the Buckskin Gulch confluence. If you hike beyond the electric transmission wires (the Wilderness boundary at 2.6 miles) you need to pay the \$6 day use fee at the trailhead. Flash floods are possible anytime, so check the weather.

6) BUCKSKIN GULCH varied length, \$6 adults and dogs, children 12 & under free

Take US 89 east 5 miles to House Rock Road, go south 4 miles to the Buckskin Trailhead. The slot canyon begins 3 ½ miles below the trailhead, and then continues for another 13 miles to the confluence with Paria Canyon. The confluence with Wire Pass is 4 ½ miles from the trailhead. You can combine Buckskin Gulch and Wire Pass into a 10 mile loop by hiking back along the road to where you parked.

7) WIRE PASS 1.7 miles one-way, \$6 adults and dogs, children 12 & under free

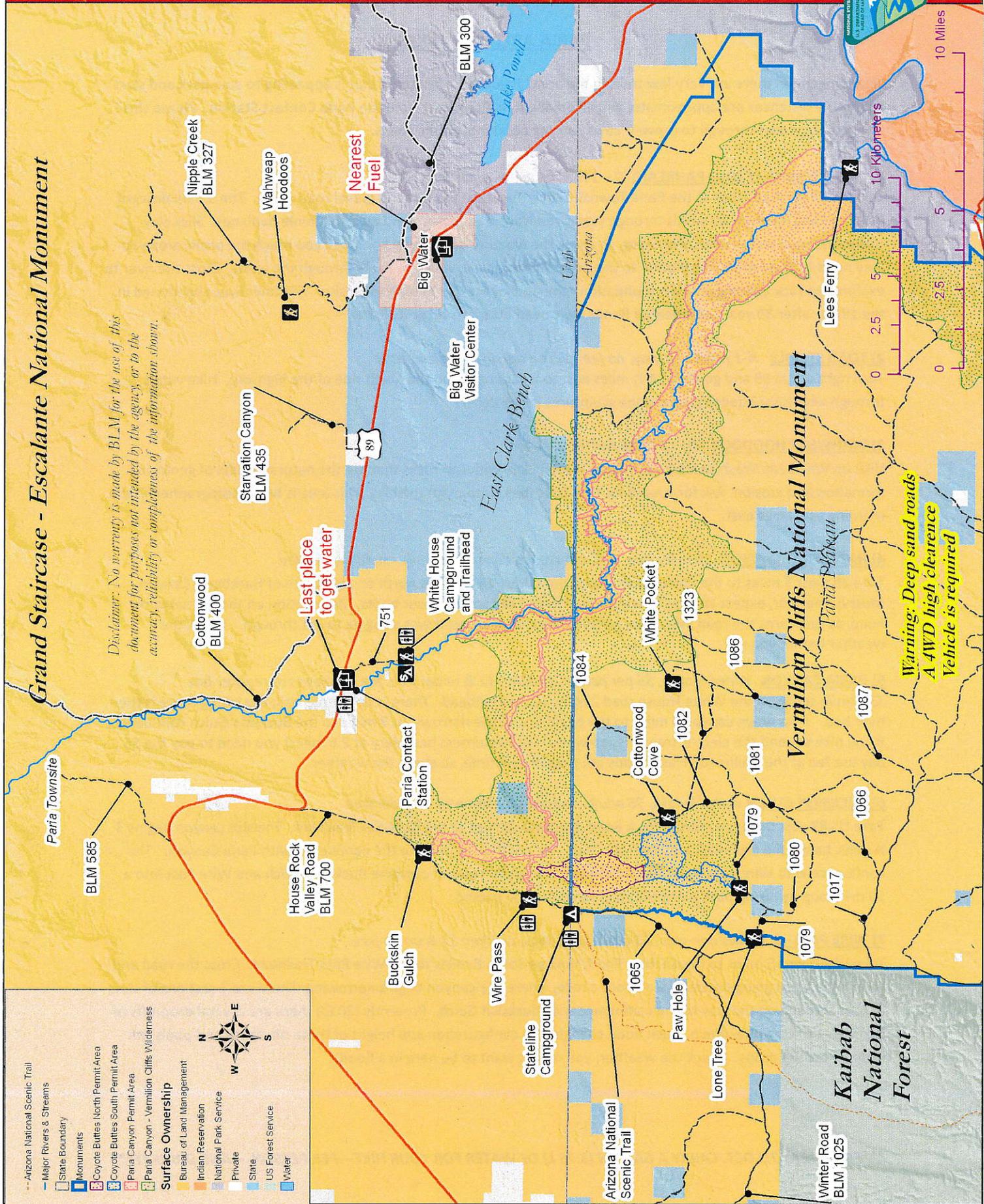
Take US 89 east 5 miles to House Rock Road, then go south 8 miles to the Wire Pass Trailhead. Cross the road and hike in the wash going downstream about a mile, where the canyon begins narrowing. There are 3 sections of slots to pass through on the way to the confluence with Buckskin Gulch. Presently (2013) there are several drop-offs of 5 to 6 feet to scramble down. Each flood changes the configuration and height of these obstacles and pools can form below the drops. Check the weather; you do not want to be here in a flood!

*****FROM MAY TO OCT. CARRY A GALLON (3.75 L) OF WATER FOR YOUR HIKE---PER PERSON----AND DRINK IT*****



Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument

Disclaimer: No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this document for purposes not intended by the agency, or to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information shown.



Last place to get water

Nearest Fuel

**Warning: Deep sand roads
A 4WD high clearance
Vehicle is required**

Surface Ownership

- Arizona National Scenic Trail
- Major Rivers & Streams
- State Boundary
- Monuments
- Coyote Buttes North Permit Area
- Coyote Buttes South Permit Area
- Paria Canyon Permit Area
- Paria Canyon - Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness

Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Indian Reservation
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service
- Water

Winter Road
BLM 1025

Kaibab National Forest

Arizona National Scenic Trail

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

East Clark Bench

Paria Townsite

BLM 585

House Rock Valley Road
BLM 700

Buckskin Gulch

Wire Pass

Stateline Campground

Paw Hole

Lone Tree

Winter Road
BLM 1025

Cottonwood
BLM 400

Starvation Canyon
BLM 435

Last place to get water

751

White House Campground and Trailhead

1084

White Pocket

1323

1086

1082

1081

1079

1080

1017

1066

1087

Nipple Creek
BLM 327

Wahweap Hoodoos

Big Water

Big Water Visitor Center

BLM 300

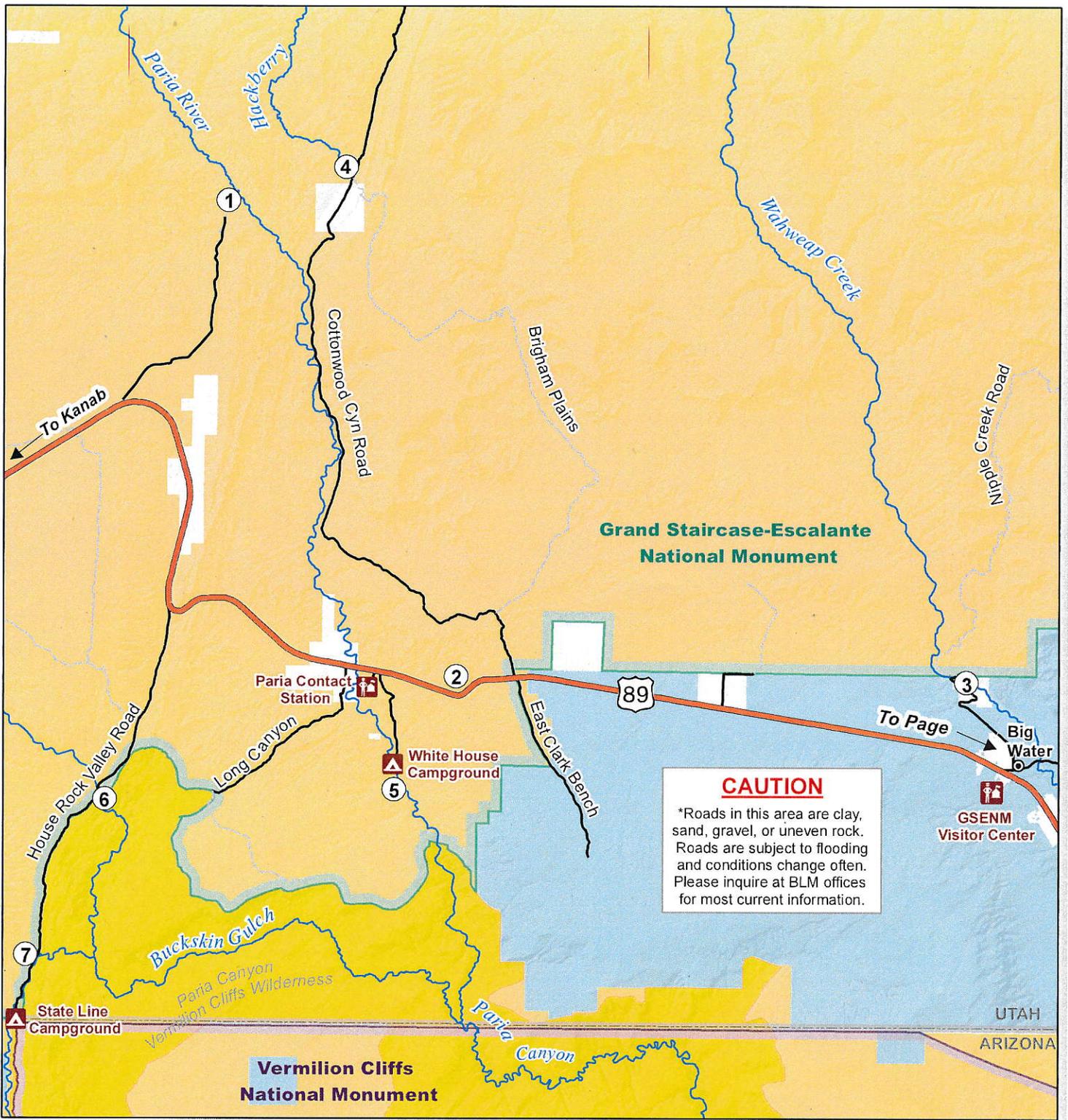
Utah

Arizona

Lees Ferry

10 Kilometers

10 Miles



Paria Area Day Hikes

(detailed descriptions on other side)

Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Coordinate System: UTM
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)
 Map Grid: Latitude/Longitude; Degrees, Minutes

No warranty is made by the BLM for use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

- Trailhead/Staging Area
- US HIGHWAY 89
- Roads*
- 4x4 Roads*
- Drainages

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Wilderness Area
- State
- Private

