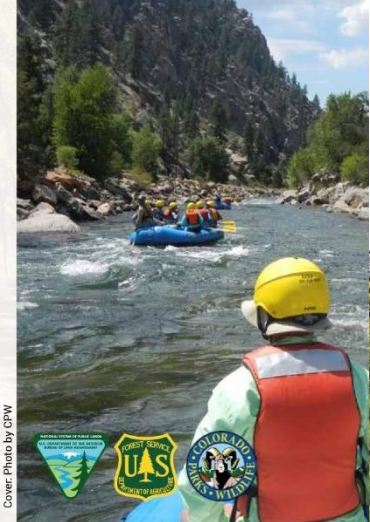


Browns Canyon National Monument



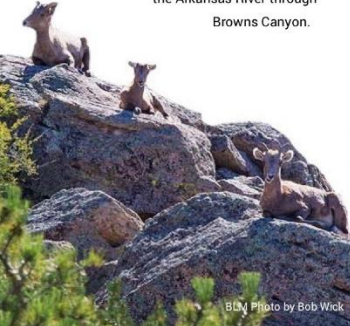
Cover Photo by CPW



Browns Canyon National Monument

For centuries, the rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and stunning mountain vistas of Browns Canyon National Monument have attracted visitors from around the world. The area's unusual geology and roughly 3,000-foot range in elevation support a diversity of life and a wealth of geological, ecological, riparian, cultural and historic resources.

The 21,589-acre Browns Canyon National Monument was designated on February 19, 2015. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service jointly manage the monument. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), manages river-based recreation on the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon.



BLM Photo by Bob Wick

BLM Photo by Bob Wick

Browns Canyon does not have an onsite visitor center. Information and collectable "passport" stamp are available at the above locations.

BLM/CO/GI-20011

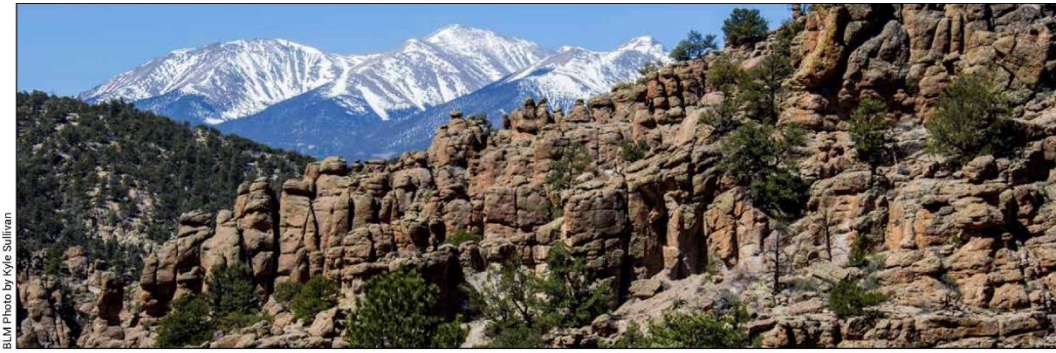
For more Information

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
307 W. Sackett Avenue
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-7289
<https://www.blm.gov/visit/arkansas-headwaters-recreation-area>

BLM Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 East Main Street
Cañon City, CO 81212
719-269-8500

USFS Salida Ranger District
5575 Cleora Road
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-3591
<https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/browns-canyon-national-monument>

BLM Photo by Kyle Sullivan



About National Monuments

National monuments are designated to afford protection, conservation and restoration to landscapes of tremendous beauty, diversity, and historic or scientific interest. The Antiquities Act of 1906 granted the President authority to designate national monuments to protect "objects of historic or scientific interest." While most national monuments are established by the President, Congress has also occasionally established national monuments to protect natural or historic features. Since 1906, the President and Congress have created more than 100 national monuments managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



BLM Photo by Bob Wick

Whitewater Activities

Whitewater boating is the most popular recreational activity that occurs in Browns Canyon. Through the AHRA partnership, CPW manages commercial and private boating through Browns Canyon along with all recreational use on the Arkansas River from the confluence of the Lake Fork and the East Fork of the Arkansas River to Lake Pueblo.

The Arkansas River is the most accessible way to enjoy the national monument. Depending on water levels, it can provide a mild or wild whitewater boating experience in the scenic canyon.

For more information on water flows and float permits, visit <http://cpw.state.co.us/placetogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea/Pages/Waterflow.aspx>

Plants

The plant community in this area has repeatedly evolved since the Eocene Epoch (56-33.9 million years ago). Geologic changes since the Precambrian (4,600-541 million years ago) make the area an important site for research on paleoclimatology and the effects of wildland fire and other disturbances.

Unique plant species within Browns Canyon include the endemic Brandegee's buckwheat as well as imperiled species such as Fendler's Townsend-daisy, Fendler's false cloak-fern, Livermore fiddleleaf and the endemic Front Range alumroot.

Wildlife

Browns Canyon is home to some of Colorado's most emblematic animal species, including mountain lions, bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, bobcat, red and gray fox, black bear and coyote, among others. The area's cliffs provide excellent habitat for peregrine falcons, prairie falcons and golden eagles.

The rugged river corridor of Browns Canyon National Monument represents one of the only riparian ecosystems along the Arkansas River that remains relatively undisturbed. Riparian corridors provide very important migration routes for birds and insects. A number of reptile and amphibian species are found in the area, including Woodhouse's toads, chorus frogs, bullsnakes, plains garter snakes, western rattlesnakes and Short-horned lizards.



BLM Photo by Bob Wick



Following the Leave No Trace principles and combining them with your personal judgment, awareness and experience will help protect natural and cultural resources and preserve the experience for future visitors. Please learn and practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics and pass them on to those you meet. It's easy to enjoy and protect the monument simultaneously.

- 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.



For more information, visit <https://lnt.org/>

Photo by Susan Mayfield



the state's longest—nearly a third of Colorado's 322 Gold Medal river miles in a single segment. The Gold Medal designation itself doesn't carry any special fishing regulations; however, a valid Colorado Fishing License is required and other special fishing regulations apply within certain portions of the Gold Medal stretch of river. For more information, please refer to CPW fishing regulations (<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Brochure/fishing.pdf>).

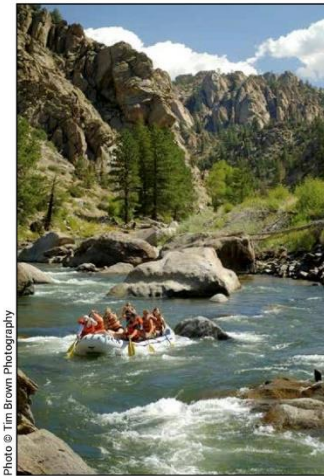


Photo © Tim Brown Photography

Cultural and Historical Resources

The story of people living in the upper Arkansas River valley is told through sites and artifacts dating back 11,000 years. Within the monument, evidence of seasonal camps remains, including open campsites, prehistoric stone structures and rock shelter sites, among other features. These sites range from the Paleoindian (11,000 years before present) to the Late Prehistoric Period (from around 2,000 years ago to the 1700s). The cultural resources within Browns Canyon provide future generations with the opportunity to learn from those who preceded us in exploring this beautiful area.

Discovery of gold near the Arkansas River in 1859 brought an influx of people to the area, along with the need for transportation. While the old Stagecoach Road provided a route to Leadville for many years, it was very rugged and the trip was a long one. The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1880 allowed for much easier access to the booming mining area around Leadville. Many interesting historic prospecting sites can still be found throughout the monument.

Browns Canyon has a rich cultural history that we are still investigating. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 prohibits removing, disturbing or defacing archaeological sites or artifacts on federal public lands.