

Sand Flats Recreation Area

Visitor Guide

Our mission:

“To ensure that the outstanding natural features of the area are protected from the adverse impacts of recreational use; provide sustainable public recreation opportunities consistent with the character and capability of the area; provide for public safety and reduction of visitor conflicts; assure the continuation of positive economic benefits to the County associated with public use of the area; and maintain reasonable public access to the area for recreational and other sustainable uses.”

Photo © Sand Flats

Sand Flats Recreation Area

Welcome!



The Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA) near Moab, Utah is a nationally significant public lands treasure at the heart of the Colorado Plateau. A high plain of slickrock domes, bowls and fins, it rises in the east to meet the colorful mesas and nearly 13,000-foot peaks of the La Sal Mountains. Bordering the area on the north and south are the canyons of the Negro Bill and Mill Creek Wilderness Study Areas. Further north lies the deep gorge of the Colorado River and Arches National Park.

SFRA's famous Slickrock and Porcupine Rim bike trails and almost 30 miles of jeep trails are world-renowned for their combination of challenge and awesome scenery. Over 150,000 visitors enjoy this 8,000-acre recreation area annually.

SFRA is managed through a unique partnership between Grand County and the Bureau of Land Management. In 1995, in response to repeated health and resource violations, this area was developed through the collaborative efforts of the Moab community, Americorps, Grand County and the Bureau of Land Management. Our goal is to protect the natural features of the area from adverse recreational impacts while providing access to sustainable and enjoyable recreational opportunities.

You can help our partnership efforts by taking responsibility for the lands you enjoy. Learn the guidelines of sustainable land use by:

- Understanding how your use affects the land.
- Adopting minimum impact practices.
- Sharing in the costs of services, education and maintenance.

07/16

Your Responsibility



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Your Responsibility

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All visitors are required to follow posted rules and regulations. Please help us keep Sand Flats an enjoyable place to visit and do your part to protect your public lands.

Stay on Designated Routes

Why? Redundant roads and trails destroy fragile soils and vegetation. Biological soil crust forms the foundation of our local ecosystem by keeping the desert floor in place. When disturbed, crushed or smothered by blowing sand, the critical cyanobacteria in the soil stops fixing nitrogen, and therefore no longer provides essential nutrients. Once the crust is gone, plants and animals cannot live here. We can't bring the crust back; we can only protect it so we don't create a wasteland.

Take Out All of Your Trash and Waste

Why? Leaving trash, litter, cigarette butts, toilet paper or human waste is unacceptable. It is so dry here, things won't biodegrade. Anything left behind detracts from the beauty of the area, creates disruptions in the ecosystem and presents health hazards to everyone.

Camp Only in Designated Sites

Why? Unlike the "dispersed camping" ethic appropriate to other environments, we observe a "concentrated use" ethic here in the semi-arid desert. Overflow into surrounding areas results in permanent damage to fragile terrain.

Collect No Firewood – Bring Your Own

Why? Many trees and plants have already been destroyed at Sand Flats, but those that remain play an important part in the health of the ecosystem. Alive or dead, every plant provides food, habitat, shade and windbreaks for desert dwellers and visitors alike. Please leave our plants and trees in place.

No Target Shooting or Fireworks Permitted Within Sand Flats Recreation Area.

CAN I BRING MY DOG?

Yes, but note that Grand County "Animal Care and Control" code does apply:

- All dogs shall be kept under restraint.
- No owner shall fail to exercise proper care and control of his or her animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.

In the campground animals must be on a leash secured to a fixed object or under the control of a person or otherwise physically restricted at all times. In the backcountry dogs need to be under restraint and not chase or harass people or wildlife.

The Slickrock Bike Trail is not recommended for dogs. Most dogs are not used to running on sandstone, which acts like sandpaper on their paws. Owners should carry water for their pet. Never leave your dog in a parked car; temperatures rise to dangerously high levels quickly in the desert. If you are riding the bike trail leave your dog at one of the Moab kennels. Moab Veterinary Clinic: 435.259.8710. Karen's Canine Campground: 435.259.7922. For lost dogs or problem dogs call Animal Control at 435.259.8115.



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WHERE DO MY FEES GO?

All visitors who utilize the area for biking, OHV use, hiking, camping, picnicking, etc. must pay the posted user fee. All user fees remain in this program and go toward services and maintenance. Information services include staffing the Entrance Station, campground and backcountry patrols, educational displays, brochures and maps. General maintenance includes upkeep of campgrounds, toilet facilities, trails, fences and signs.

User fees contribute to the operation of Grand County Search and Rescue and sustain the Apprenticeship Program that provides work-study opportunities for local high-school students.

If the Entrance Station is not open, users must self-pay. Be sure to complete your fee envelope and display the receipt portion in your vehicle.

Day Use Fees:

\$5 a day or \$10 a week per vehicle
\$2 a day or \$5 a week per person by shuttle, bicycle or motorcycle
\$5 a day per vehicle trailer
\$25 annual pass
For Camping Fees see page 5



SAFETY TIPS FOR BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL

Grand County has the highest incidence of search and rescue in Utah. Please help us reduce this by playing it safe and following these guidelines:

- **Let someone know your itinerary.** A friend or relative will get help if something goes wrong and you haven't returned when expected.
- **Travel with another person or another vehicle.** If your equipment breaks down, you can avoid getting stuck in the backcountry.
- **Carry trail maps and know how to use them.** Although we try to mark the trail adequately, directional signs may be missing and illegal roads can spring up. Make a note of trail layout, and track mileage markers and key junctions. If you have lost the trail, do not continue in the hopes of finding your own way. Retrace your route back towards the trailhead until you pick up the trail. If you cannot retrace your route, stay put, conserve energy, make yourself visible and await rescue.
- **Bring at least a gallon (4 liters) of water per person and high energy food.**

- **Start early to avoid the heat of the day.**
- **Inspect your bike or vehicle before hitting the trail.** Check your equipment to make sure it is in top operating condition. Also check equipment frequently while on the trail. Riding on Moab trails puts maximum stress on frames and components. Frequent inspections reduce the possibility of injury.
- **If in doubt, scout.** If you are unsure of the route, stop and scout on foot. Do not travel cross-country or try short-cuts. Go back the way you came.
- **Drive or ride Safe and Sober.** It is illegal in Utah for any occupant of a vehicle to open an alcoholic beverage. Please remember to buckle up.
- **Always wear a helmet** when riding a bike or an ATV.
- **Be prepared in case of emergency.** Carry maps, matches or lighter, pump, patch kit, first-aid kit, a good tool kit and extra food, water and clothing.
- **Develop basic riding and driving skills on easier trails.** Trails like Slickrock, Porcupine Rim, Hell's Revenge and Fins and Things are not suitable places to learn basic skills.

NOTE: Road and trail conditions change rapidly. Signs vanish. Trails deteriorate from weather or use. You are the one responsible for your own safety.

OHV (OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE) RULES

Riding on public lands is a privilege, not a right. Protect this privilege by staying on the trail, following Sand Flats Recreation Area regulations and Utah State laws listed below:

OHV Registration: Utah resident OHV's operated or transported on public lands, roads or trails in the state of Utah must display a current Utah OHV registration sticker. Non-resident OHV owners/operators must display a current Utah Non-Resident User Decal except in cases where the OHV is registered in a state that offers reciprocal operating privileges to Utah residents. To find out the status of your state, go to the Utah State Parks website listed below. Utah non-Resident User Decals are available from vendors located near popular OHV riding destinations. A complete list of vendors is available from Utah State Parks. Dual sport motorcycles and four wheel drive vehicles such as rock crawlers, jeeps, dune buggies, etc. may be registered as street legal vehicles if they possess the proper safety equipment, have passed a state safety inspection and carry the proper insurance. All OHV registrations are handled by the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles.

Designated Roads and Trails: ATV's, motorcycles, 4x4's and bikes must use designated roads and trails. There are no open play areas within Sand Flats. The Slickrock Bike Trail is open to motorcycles and bicycles. It is closed to all four-wheeled vehicles. Under Federal Law, any operation of the aforementioned vehicles off designated roads and trails is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment and/or forfeiture of the vehicle.

Age Restrictions: No one under 8 years of age may operate an OHV on public roads, trails or lands in Utah. Drivers from 8 to 15 years of age must possess an OHV Education Certificate.

Drivers 16 years of age and older must possess a valid driver's license or an OHV Education Certificate. Operators under the age of 18 who do not possess a valid drivers license must also be supervised by a person who is at least 18 years old. Supervision must allow visual contact at a distance not to exceed 300 feet and allow for advice and assistance to be given and received at all times.

Helmets: Properly-fitted, safety-rated (designed and approved for motorized use) helmets must be worn by all OHV drivers and passengers under 18 years of age. Helmets are recommended for all OHV users.

Courtesy: Motorized users always yield to non-motorized users. OHV riders must be courteous when passing hikers, bikes or other vehicles.

Spark Arrestors: OHV riders must minimize noise around others by using a consistent and reduced speed. Mufflers with approved spark arrestors are required on all OHV's.

Headlights and Taillights: Lights must be used between sunset and sunrise.

For more information visit: www.stateparks.utah.gov



Camping

Along with easy access to biking and 4x4 trails, our campgrounds offer spectacular views of sandstone domes and canyons and the ever-changing La Sal Mountains. Visitors are awed by beautiful sunsets, the magic of howling coyotes and a night sky of seemingly unlimited stars.

Camping is in designated sites only, and visitors are required to abide by all posted rules. Over 120 campsites, in 9 campgrounds marked 'A' through 'H' and Juniper, are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please see the map on pages 8-9 for campsite locations. Campsites have picnic tables, metal fire rings and nearby vault toilets. Unless noted, campsites are limited to ten people and two vehicles per site and all vehicles must park in parking areas provided. Campers will need to bring drinking water. Checkout time is 11 a.m. **Camping Fees:** \$15 per vehicle up to 5 people, \$2 each additional person, \$5 per vehicle trailer. Reserved group campsite: \$50/night plus \$10 reservation fee.



GROUP CAMPSITES

SFRA has two group campsites that can be reserved. The maximum number of occupants in a group campsite is 16. To make a reservation, go to www.sandflats.org or call 435.259.2444. Groups of more than 16 people cannot be accommodated in Sand Flats and should contact the BLM to reserve a group campsite along the Colorado River. Call the BLM at 435.259.2100 for reservations or visit www.recreation.gov.

LOW IMPACT CAMPING TECHNIQUES

Camping in the great outdoors at Sand Flats is a memorable experience. Along with the reward of camping here comes the responsibility of camping the low-impact way. By following these guidelines you can help everyone have a positive camping experience.

Tents

Place tents in areas provided. Use tent pads or put tents within rock-lined areas or no more than 30 feet from metal fire ring. Use provided trails and roads to go between campsites rather than walking through fragile soils and vegetation.

Campfires

Bring in your own firewood - no wood pallets. Wood collecting is not permitted. Campfires must be in metal fire rings. Do not put rocks, sand or trash in fire rings. Please use water, not sand, to extinguish fires.

Trash

Pack out all trash. Micro trash (small wrappers and cigarette butts) will leave the campsite visually unappealing for the next group and maybe for you the next time. There is a dumpster located at the Slickrock Bike Trail parking lot. Recyclables can be taken to the Recycling Center located on the Sand Flats Road at the bottom of the hill.

Toilet Use

Use toilets provided. Because of lack of rainfall, urine can cause a very unpleasant and lasting odor in your campsite. Do not put trash in toilets. Removing trash is expensive. Use roads and trails for foot access to toilets.

Medical Emergency 911

Grand County Sheriff 435.259.8115
**After Hours – Noise Disturbances, Towing,
Lock Out, Animal Control, Vandalism, etc.**

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. No generator use is permitted from 8 pm to 8 am. Most campers are seeking a quiet night under the stars and not the noise they left behind in the city. Noise carries in the dry desert air. Keep stereos turned down to a reasonable level. Avoid shouting.

Vehicles

The campground loop roads are not training or testing grounds for ATV's and dirt bikes. Please limit the use of motorized vehicles. Only park vehicles in parking areas.

Washing Dishes

When washing dishes it's a good idea to have a strainer available. Strained dishwater should be dispersed around camp. Please don't dig holes for dishwater. Unwanted critters (scorpions, red ants, ravens and mice) can be minimized if food is completely packed out.

Food

Hanging food and garbage in a tree is not a good idea because although ground-dwelling creatures can't reach it, ravens can! Ravens can and will scatter your garbage, trash your site and eat your food if you're not careful. Leaving food in a tent is a bad idea unless you like holes in your tent. Food and garbage should be left in your vehicle or in a sealed cooler.

Nature at Sand Flats

GEOLOGY

Sand Flats is located on exposures of Jurassic-aged sedimentary rock layers, including the Navajo and Kayenta Formations. During the Jurassic period, about 150 million years ago, the Colorado Plateau was located near the equator, and hot, desert-like conditions prevailed. Huge sand dunes covered the area, eventually being 'petrified' to form the Navajo Sandstone, which is exposed throughout most of the Sand Flats Recreation Area. Sweeping, diagonal lines, called 'cross-bedding', are evident in the cliff walls of the Navajo Sandstone and represent the surfaces of these sand dunes as they migrated downwind. Horizontal bands colored from dark red to gray in the Navajo sandstone, sometimes accompanied by thin lenses of limestone, are the remnants of ancient oases in the desert. Beneath the Navajo Sandstone is the Kayenta Formation, exposed near the Porcupine Rim Trailhead. This layer, which was deposited by a system of rivers, is distinctly more maroon in color. It is composed of alternating layers of sandstone and siltstone, and weathers to form horizontal slabs, giving rise to the steep ledges encountered on this trail.

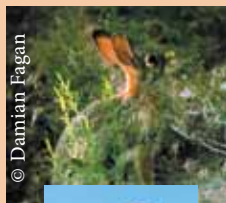


Moab is in the heart of the Colorado Plateau, an area of high desert plateaus and deep canyons carved by the Colorado River and its tributaries through mostly flat-lying, layer-cake rock strata. The Colorado Plateau includes at least 14 National Parks and Monuments including gems such as the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Zion and Arches. It extends east from I-15 to the edge of the Rocky Mountains, and from the Uinta Mountains to the south Mogollon Rim.

WILDLIFE

Desert animals have had to modify lifestyles and body functions to adapt to extreme temperatures and long periods without water. Larger mammals and many bird species migrate north or to higher elevations to escape extreme summer heat. Many smaller mammals escape the heat of the day by coming out during the cool of dusk and dawn to forage for food. At night, one may see a kangaroo rat hopping across the desert. The kangaroo rat does not drink water but is able to take in all the moisture necessary from its food. Burrows of small rodents are commonly seen at the base of shrubs. Numerous animal tracks can be observed crossing the sand, evidence of abundant animal activity.

Most commonly seen animals include desert cottontail rabbits, chipmunks and antelope ground squirrels. At night one may hear the high pitched chirping of one of eighteen bat species that live here. Larger mammals include the coyote or barking dog whose howls, whines, yips and barks can permeate the night. Mule deer are seen at Sand Flats during months of heavy winter snows in the nearby La Sal Mountains. A bobcat is occasionally observed. During the warmer months, lizards abound at Sand Flats. The largest, most colorful is the Sand Flats mascot – the collared lizard. Although rare, a rattlesnake is sometimes encountered. Do not harm it, but inform Sand Flats staff.



Birds are seen all times of year at Sand Flats. Common ravens are frequently drawn to areas of human activity. Raptors that may be spotted include the northern harrier, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, golden eagle and prairie falcon. Look in campground trees for scratchy callers

like the plain titmouse, blue gray gnatcatcher, spotted towhee, western jays and magpies. Songsters include the melodious meadowlark, song sparrows, black-throated sparrows, canyon wrens and rock wrens.





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PLANTS

The high deserts of the Colorado Plateau host a wide variety of plants that show special adaptations to the harsh climate. Sand Flats is in the Pinyon-Juniper Belt with pinyon pine and Utah juniper being the most abundant trees. These slow-growing evergreens often reach several hundred years in age. Lush deciduous trees like the Fremont cottonwood, which are common along the river corridor, are present at Sand Flats only in areas where more water occurs, such as the catch-basin across from 'A' campground and near the spring at Porcupine Rim Trailhead. Otherwise, vegetation is generally stunted, with small leaves to reduce water loss by evaporation and transpiration. Pale-colored leaves of sage, saltbush and rabbit brush are designed to absorb less heat, and thick cuticles found on yucca leaves and prickly pear cactus pads minimize evaporation of precious water. Other common shrubs in the Sand Flats Recreation Area include Mormon tea, a leaf-less shrub with medicinal properties, the small broom snakeweed whose brilliant yellow flowers appear in the fall, and blackbrush, a dark-colored brittle shrub that is abundant on the flats. Larger shrubs include Gambel's and scrub oaks, cliff rose (commonly

colored flowers in the spring) and an occasional Utah serviceberry.

BIOLOGICAL SOIL CRUST

Biological soil crust is a living crust of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), bacteria, algae, lichen, mosses and fungi that covers much of the soil surface in this area.

Biological soil crust is almost invisible in its early stages. As it matures, it develops a bumpy, blackish surface. The crust is essential to desert life. The irregular surface slows water runoff reducing erosion, absorbs and retains water and produces essential nutrients needed for larger plants to grow. Tiny, long strands, produced by cyanobacteria, adhere to the sand grains and bind the soil, preventing the sand from blowing away. An electron microscope photograph (right) shows this texture magnified 100 times. When the crust is buried by sand blowing in from adjacent disturbed areas, it dies and can no longer fix nitrogen for other plants.

It takes over 100 years for the crust to reach full development, yet tire tracks and footsteps can crush it instantaneously. Bike and vehicle tire tracks are especially damaging because they form ruts. When it rains, water flows in these ruts causing severe erosion. Drive or bike only on open roads or trails. When hiking cross-country, walk on slickrock or in dry washes to avoid trampling biological soil crust.



SERA Files



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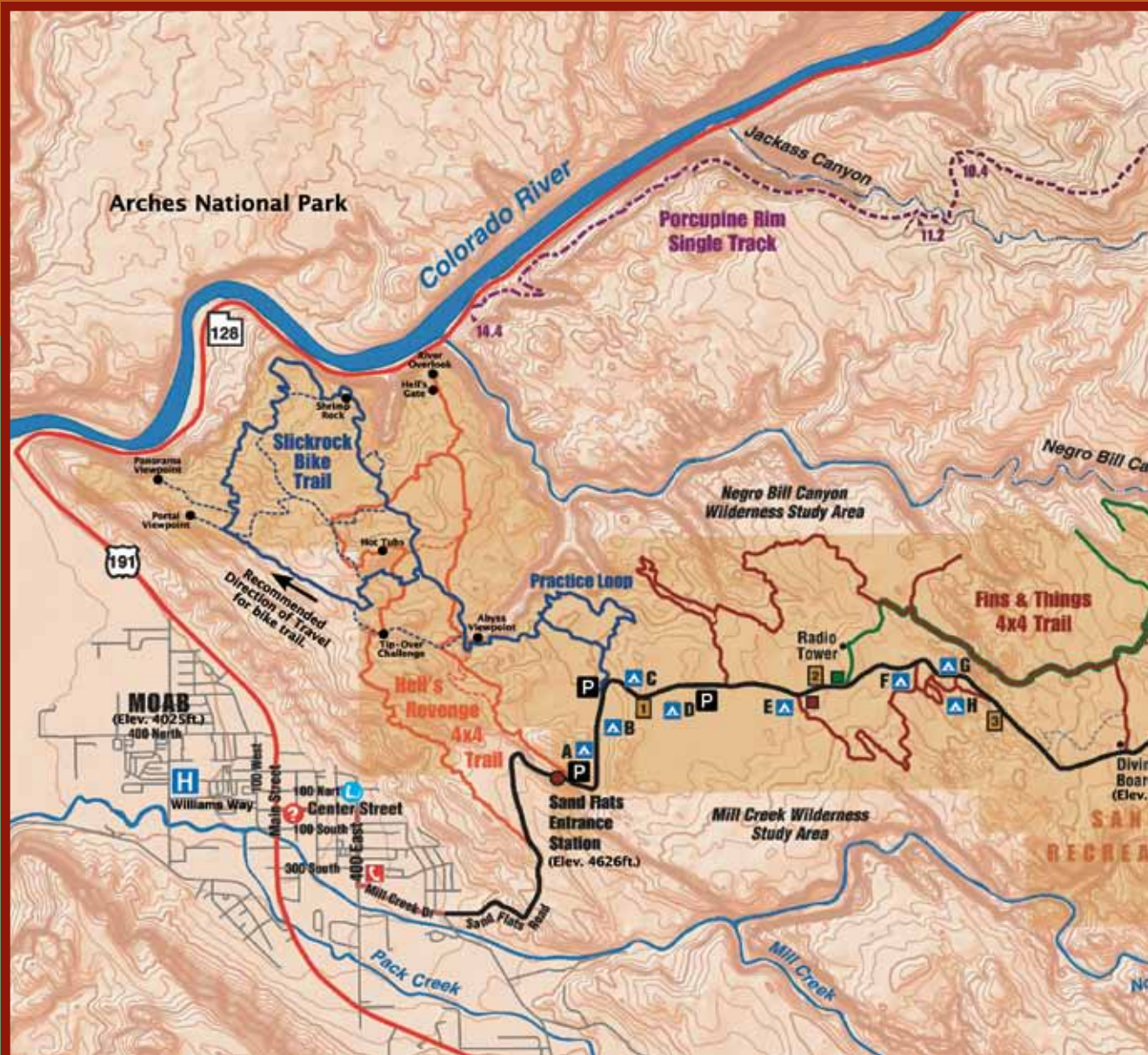


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POTHOLES

The Slickrock Bike Trail and Hell's Revenge Trail are on the surface of the Navajo sandstone – a bed of ancient sand dunes. The hummocky surface is dotted with shallow basins and deep circular depressions or "potholes" that fill with water during spring rains. In these potholes is a unique ecosystem. Pothole creatures swim and reproduce in the water during the brief wet periods. During the long, hot dry spells, pothole life lies dormant, waiting for the next rains to continue the life cycle. The inhabitants of these potholes include crustaceans, tadpoles, worms and insects. Avoid driving or riding through these depressions and please do not contaminate the water by wading in the pools.

Over time, these depressions trap sand and are able to support plants, forming "pothole gardens." These usually start with the formation of cryptobiotic crust, which stabilizes the soil and provides essential nutrients for plant life.



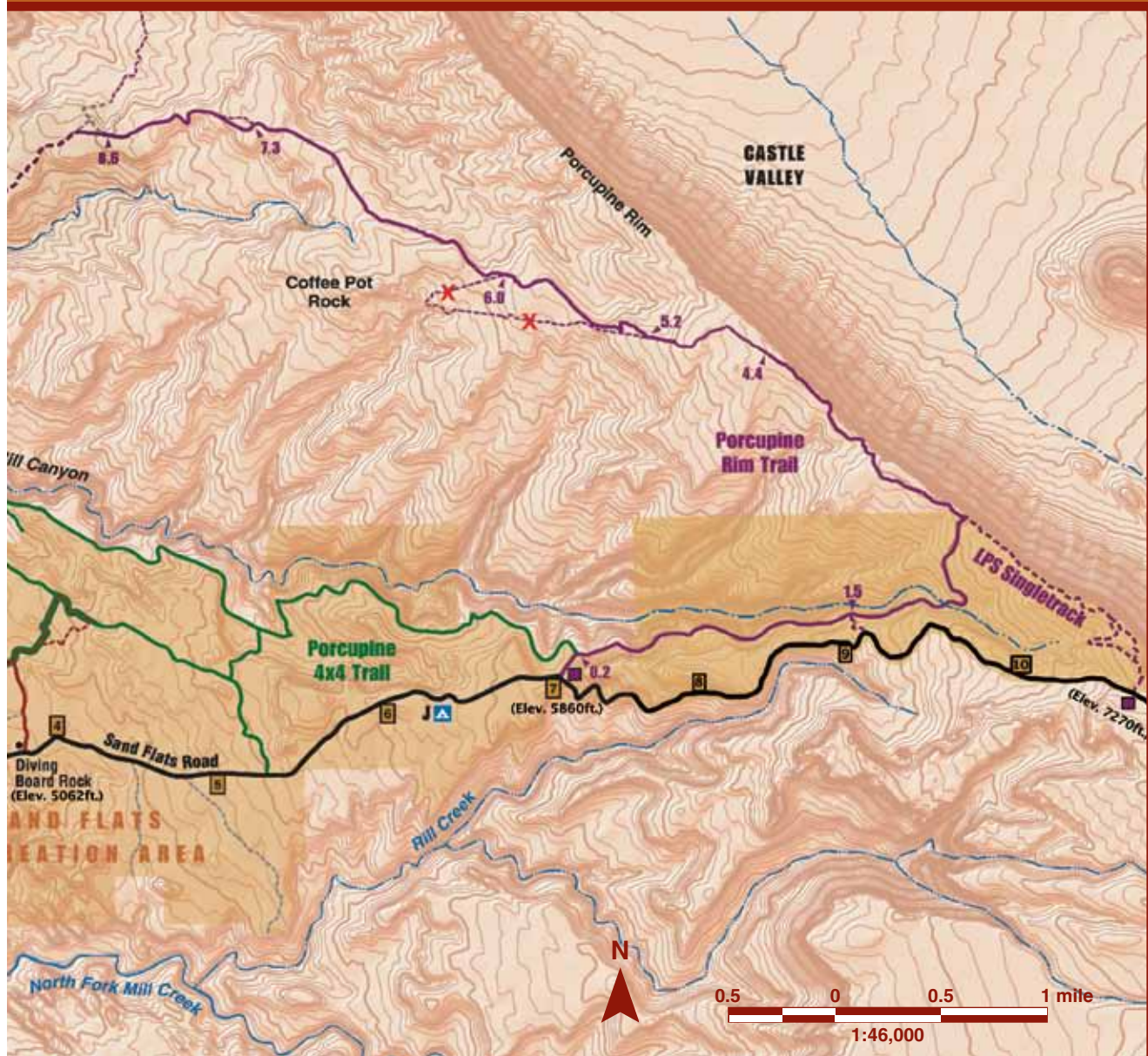
Trails

Mileage guides on maps and trail descriptions are approximate.

Sand Flats Recreation Area is home to the trail that put Moab on the mountain biking map, the famous Slickrock Bike Trail. Another popular bike trail, the Porcupine Rim Trail also leaves from SFRA. Both trails feature steep inclines and descents, which offer technical challenges to the most experienced bikers.

Detailed maps of the Slickrock Bike Trail and the most popular jeep trails – Hell's Revenge 4x4 Trail and Fins & Things 4x4 Trail, are included in this brochure. For the Porcupine Rim Trail, Porcupine 4x4 Trail and other trails, please refer to the above map. Most of the trails are rated 'difficult.' All mechanized vehicles (motorized and non-motorized) must travel marked routes.

There are NO open play areas in Sand Flats. "Play areas" are considered places where users congregate, using the same section of trail or obstacle



over and over, creating loops to return. Consistent repeated use of obstacles on the trails causes high impact in these sections, degrading the trails to a point that they become impassable. It also creates unsightly denuded areas or rubber marks on slickrock that can be seen for miles.

Spring, fall and winter seasons are also perfect for exploration of the remarkable fins, domes and watercourses in Sand Flats by foot. Hike on slickrock and in dry washes, avoid vegetation and cryptobiotic soils and enjoy the solitude that Sand Flats offers.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | SAND FLATS RECREATION AREA |  | Mileage on Sand Flats Road (From Entrance Station) |
|  | Sand Flats Road |  | Trailer Parking for Fins & Things |
|  | Slickrock Bike Trail |  | Trailhead |
|  | Hell's Revenge 4x4 Trail |  | Campground |
|  | Fins & Things 4x4 Trail |  | Hospital |
|  | Porcupine 4x4 Trail |  | Telephone |
|  | Porcupine Rim Trail |  | Moab Information Center |
|  | Porcupine Rim/LPS Single Track Non-motorized | | |
|  | Other Designated Roads | | |

BEAT THE HEAT

The smart and safe way to ride the Slickrock Bike Trail in the desert heat of late spring and summer is to start at daybreak and be done by 10 a.m. The trail is only 10.5 miles long, but surprisingly it takes most people 3 to 4 hours to complete. Even locals that ride the trail regularly take 2 to 2½ hours to complete the trail. This is one of the most difficult trails in the world; add the heat factor and you are playing with fire.

OK, so it is mid-morning or later and you want to ride. Best advice: unless you are acclimated to riding in 95-105°F (35-40° C) heat, on rock with no shade, we suggest you just ride the Practice Loop today. Then, come back early tomorrow morning and ride the Main Trail.

It's no joke, heat stroke has claimed several lives on this trail. The spectrum of heat illness ranges from heat cramps, a minor condition characterized by inadequate hydration and salt loss thru sweating, to heat exhaustion which includes headache, dizziness, elevated heart and respiratory rates, fatigue and pale, cool skin. Heat stroke, a life threatening emergency, includes an elevated core temperature, altered levels of consciousness, coordination and seizures.

The good news is that heat illness can be avoided. Pick a trail that matches your skill level. Start at daybreak. Hydrate before leaving the trailhead and drink regularly. Bring a minimum of 1 gallon of water (4 liters) and 1 or more quarts of electrolyte drink (such as Gatorade). You need the salts. If you have a hundred-ounce camel back you only have 3 quarts and need more.

Visitors also need to be aware that the Slickrock Bike Trail is lightly used in the summer and is patrolled infrequently. In other words you are on your own. At all times be prepared with a helmet, map, pump, patch kit, first-aid kit and extra food, water and clothing. Ride with someone else and stay together in case of problems. Remember, ride the "smart way" and live to ride tomorrow.



© Action Shots

Slickrock Bike Trail

This 10.5-mile loop crosses a scenic and rugged expanse of rolling Navajo Sandstone, the remnant of an ancient desert environment of wind blown sand dunes. Originally established in 1969 for motorcycles, the trail has become a popular destination for mountain bikes. The Slickrock Bike Trail is open to both motorcycles and mountain bikes. It is closed to all 4-wheeled vehicles. The Main Trail rates 4 on a scale of 1-4 with 4 being the most difficult. Trailhead facilities include a parking area, shade structures, trail register, vault toilets, picnic tables, trash dumpster and information kiosk. No drinking water is available.

The normal riding season is from mid-February through

November, with spring and fall months being the most popular. Ice, which can make the trail very hazardous, may be found on parts of the trail from late December through February. Early morning and evening rides are best during the summer when mid-day temperatures can exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit.



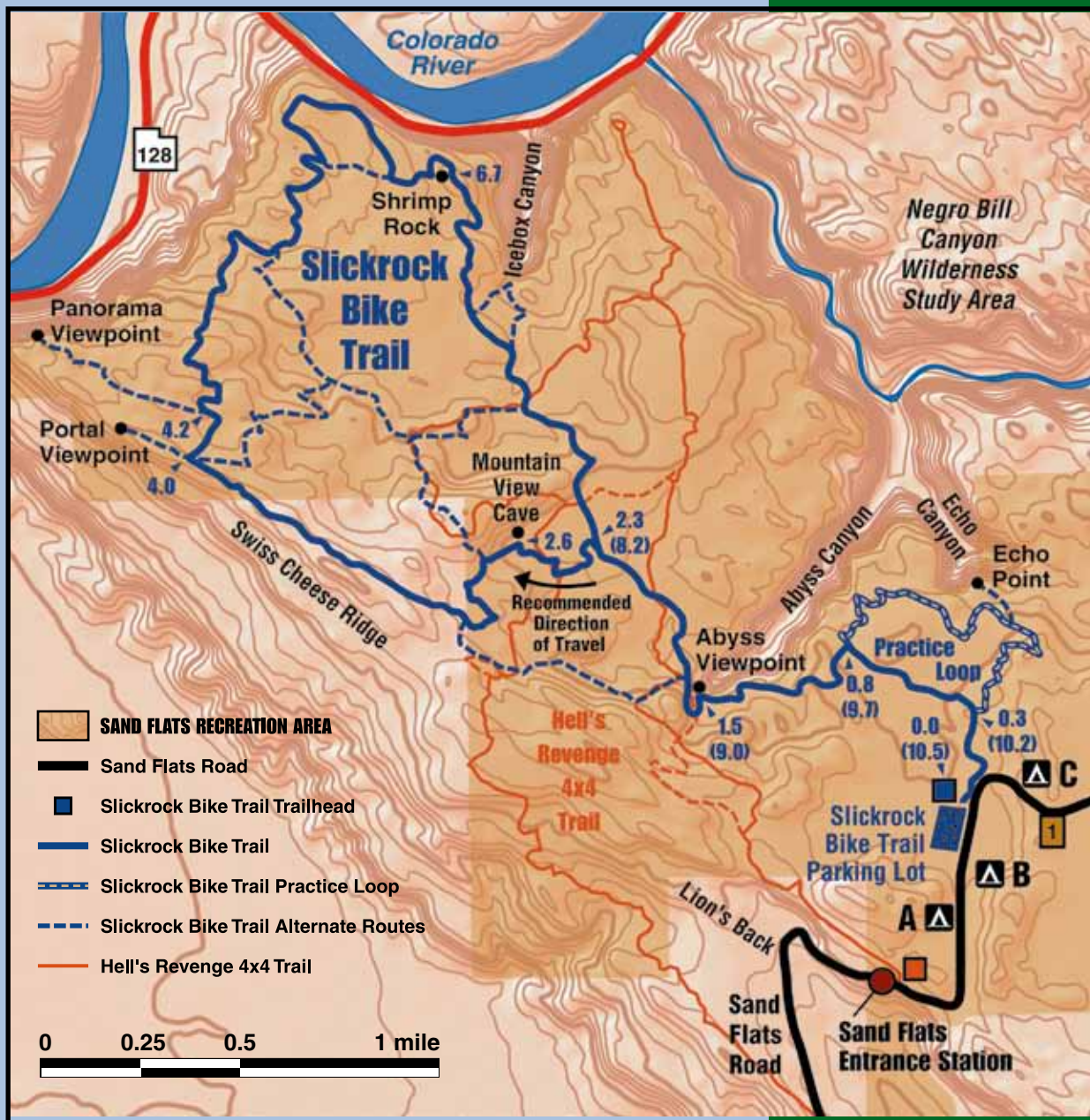
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Practice Loop: For riders with less time and/or experience, there is a 1.7-mile Practice Loop. The Practice Loop begins by turning right at the top of the first ridge about 0.3

mile north of the trailhead, and returns to that point via a segment of the main trail. The Practice Loop is not necessarily easier than the Main Trail, but it offers riders an opportunity to test equipment and skills without venturing too far from the trailhead. It is still a difficult trail and should be approached with respect. It is not for novice riders or young children.

The routes of both the Main Trail and the Practice Loop are indicated by painted white "dashes." Trail intersections with alternate routes are also painted on the rock. Several portions of the main trail are marked with yellow dashes where the trail follows narrow ledges or abrupt drop-offs. Riders are cautioned to be especially careful at these locations and anywhere else the trail approaches a cliff, changes grade or crosses rutted rock. There are tough spots that may require walking bikes. Because of numerous steep ascents, many riders need 3-4 hours to complete the trail.

Be aware of alternate bike routes and search and rescue routes marked with white dots. These are not necessarily maintained and it is recommended that you stay on the well-marked main route. The Hell's Revenge 4x4 Trail, marked with yellow flame symbols, also crosses the Slickrock Bike Trail six times.



SLICKROCK MILEAGE LOG

Mile 0.0	Trailhead parking area.
Mile 0.3	First Practice Loop junction; main trail goes left.
Mile 0.8	Second Practice Loop junction; main trail goes left.
Mile 1.5	Abyss Viewpoint.
Mile 2.3	Three-way junction. Start of main loop; go left.
Mile 2.6	Mountain View Cave (above trail).
Mile 4.0	Portal Viewpoint junction, main trail goes right.
Mile 4.2	Panorama Viewpoint junction, main trail goes right.
Mile 6.7	Shrimp Rock.
Mile 8.2	Three-way junction, loop end; go left to return to trailhead.
Mile 9.0	Abyss Viewpoint.
Mile 9.7	Practice Loop junction; go right to return to trailhead.
Mile 10.2	Practice Loop junction; go right to reach to trailhead.
Mile 10.5	Trailhead parking area.

Porcupine Rim Trail

(Refer to SFRA Map on page 8)

The Porcupine Rim Trail starts 7 miles from the Entrance Station at the east end of the recreation area. The first 8.6 miles of the trail are open to bikes and motorized vehicles. After this point the trail departs from the dirt road and becomes a single track suitable only for mountain biking and hiking. The difficulty rating for the trail for 4x4 use is 5 on the Moab 1 to 10 scale. For bikes, the trail is rated a 4 (difficult), on a scale of 1 to 4. It includes a 3-mile, 900-foot ascent from the trailhead to Porcupine Rim and then an 11-mile, 2,800-foot descent to the Colorado River. One of the great attractions of the trail is the stunning view it offers of Castle Valley from the top of the Rim.

By mountain bike, ridden from the trailhead, Porcupine Rim Trail is 14.4 miles to Highway 128 or 20.4 miles to Moab. If ridden as a loop, the entire ride is 30.8 miles with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. Shuttle services in Moab can provide transportation to the trailhead.

The trail is marked with brown flexible posts, cairns and occasional symbols painted on rock. Normal riding season for the trail is from late March through late October. Due to the high elevation of the rim, snow, rain or cold temperatures may occur during early spring and late fall. The singletrack section is extremely technical and exposed in many places. This section may require dismounting and walking.

Trailhead facilities include an information board, vault toilet, trail register and limited parking (if the parking area is full, park along the north side of the main road, facing Moab). The water in the stock tanks at the trailhead is not potable.

There are numerous spur routes off the main trail, most of which are indicated on the main map. Many of these are dead-ends. Follow the main trail on the map to avoid getting lost.

PORCUPINE RIM MILEAGE LOG

Mile 0.0	Trailhead. Please sign the trail register.
Mile 0.2	Porcupine Jeep Trail to left; Porcupine Rim Trail goes right.
Mile 1.5	Stay straight on trail. Right fork (Lazy Man) ascends to the Sand Flats Road.
Mile 4.4	Trail goes right.
Mile 5.2	Trail goes right. The left spur is a long descent ending at Coffee Pot Rock.
Mile 6.0	Trail goes right. Spur accesses Coffee Pot Rock.
Mile 7.3	Trail goes left.
Mile 8.6	Trail goes left. Turn around point for all motorized vehicles. Dead-end on right.
Mile 10.4	Trail goes left and enters the Wilderness Study Area. Stay on the trail!
Mile 11.2	Trail goes right. The prominent doubletrack on the left leads to a dead end.
Mile 14.4	Trail ends. Six miles to Moab on bike path and Highway 128. Use caution on highway and please ride single file.

Hell's Revenge 4x4 Trail

Rated a 6 by the Red Rock Four-Wheelers, the trail is approximately 6.5 miles in length. Due to hazardous terrain, it is recommended only for experienced drivers. The only legal entrance to Hell's Revenge is at the trailhead adjacent to the Entrance Station. The trail crosses private property in two areas. Respect private property and stay on the trail. The trail is marked with signs and symbols painted on the rock surface. Search and rescue routes are marked with white dots and are not intended for recreational use. Hell's Revenge Trail also crosses the Slickrock Bike Trail (marked with painted white "dashes"). The Slickrock Bike Trail is open to motorcycles and mountain bikes only. There are no open play areas on this trail. Trailer parking is available at the trailhead.

HELL'S REVENGE MILEAGE LOG

Mile 0.0	Trailhead, on left/north, just past Entrance Station. Follow painted yellow flames up steep fin overlooking the Entrance Station. Bottom of fin enters private property. Stay on the trail.
Mile 0.4	Pass through fence, re- entering SFRA. Turn sharp left here. Overlook at top of the hill.
Mile 0.6	Search and rescue route goes straight. Turn right.
Mile 0.7	Search and rescue route enters from right. Turn left up onto a slickrock dome, following yellow flame symbols.
Mile 0.7-1.0	Series of large slickrock fins and domes descending to Abyss Overlook. Ascend steep dome ahead.
Mile 1.2	Take hard right turn on back side of dome, using markers as a guide. Bear left at the bottom onto sand and then across slickrock.
Mile 1.4	Turn right off slickrock onto sandy road.
Mile 1.5	Road takes a sharp right staying in sand. Straight ahead are knolls possibly with black tire marks. Stay off these illegal routes.
Mile 1.6	Intersection with Slickrock Bike Trail. Use caution, bikes on either side of the trail. Go straight.

- Mile 1.9 Alternate route enters from left. Stay straight on main trail.
- Mile 2.5 Main trail left. Overlook straight ahead (0.6 mile dead-end).
- Mile 2.7 Bear right, follow flames.
- Mile 3.1 Intersection with bike trail. Use caution. Continue towards "Black Hole," a large semi-circular cliff wall. Trail goes to the right and around top of this feature.
- Mile 4.0 Marked pothole, "Mickey's Hot Tub", is open. All other potholes on Hell's Revenge are not. Stay out of these large depressions as they are on private property.
- Mile 4.1 Extremely steep descent on a narrow ledge. Use caution and a spotter. Turn right on sandy track at bottom. Search and rescue route enters from left.
- Mile 4.5 Route crosses Slickrock Bike Trail; bear right.
- Mile 4.8 Bear right at fork to continue on main trail. Tip-Over Challenge is straight ahead just past fork. An easier bypass route is marked just before Tip-Over. This route goes right, up a fin and turns sharply left at the top of the fin. Rejoin the main route just above Tip-Over Challenge and follow signs up the slickrock slope that heads west. Turn left at the top of this hill.
- Mile 5.0 From the top of the ridge, marked trail follows along bench, descends a series of rock ledges, a sand hill and then follows along fence line to exit on Sand Flats Road (approximately 1.5 miles).



Fins & Things 4x4 Trail

Fins and Things is a ONE-WAY TRAIL that travels counterclockwise. The trail section south of the Sand Flats road is open to DAY USE ONLY and restricted one half hour before sunset until one half hour after sunrise. The terrain is a mix of slickrock fins and sandy soil. The trail is marked with metal signs and white symbols painted on the rock surface. The first section of the trail between 'E' and 'F' campgrounds is not recommended for ATVs. ATV users should pick up the trail 3.7 miles from the entrance station on the left. Trailer parking and toilets are available at the Fins and Things parking area 1.4 miles from the entrance station on the right. The Porcupine 4x4 Trail connects Fins and Things with the Porcupine Rim trail. See map for details.

FINS & THINGS MILEAGE LOG

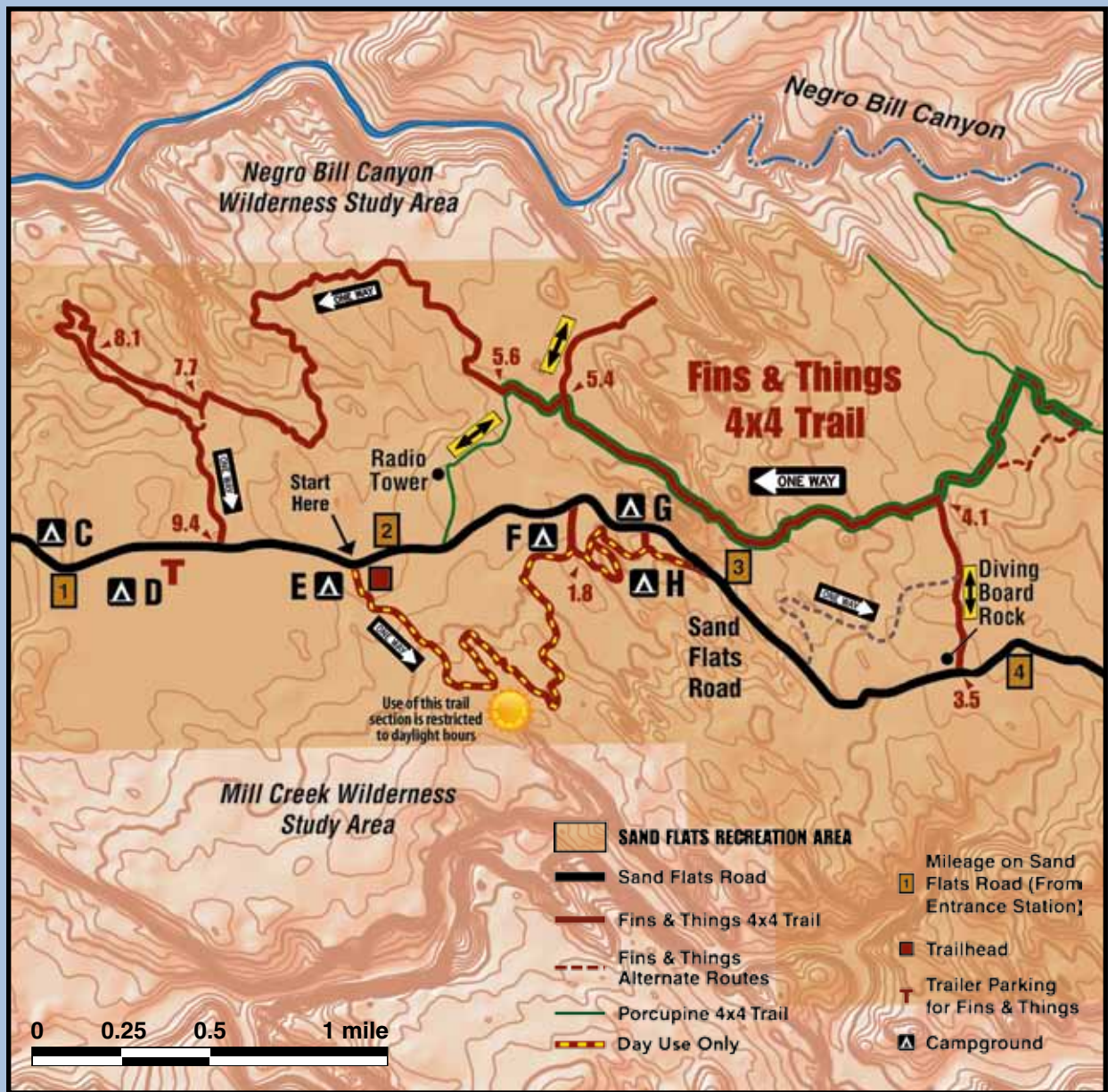
Mile 0.0	Trail begins 2 miles from Entrance Station at campground 'E' on right; start next to campsite 'E-6'.	Mile 4.1	Intersection with Porcupine Jeep Trail; go left. One-way travel.
Mile 0.0-0.3	Follow white painted markers, trail signs and rock lining, behind 'E-6' up slickrock dome to base of a steep, deep sand hill. Go straight here or follow the easier alternate route to your left, marked with white dots. Stay on marked trail.	Mile 5.4	Stay straight; spur to overlook on right.
Mile 0.8	Trail drops off fin to right, climbs up again, then drops to the right. Go left here.	Mile 5.6	Bear right; left goes to Radio Tower and Sand Flats Road.
Mile 1.4	Series of steep drops through a slickrock ravine. No alternate routes here. Stay on the trail.	Mile 6.1	Stay left at Wilderness Study Area boundary which is closed to all motorized travel.
Mile 1.8	Intersection at campground 'F'. Go right to base of steep rocky hill, or take easier alternate route to your left. Please be considerate when driving through campgrounds. Follow signs to 'H' campground.	Mile 6.7	Large canyon to right. Nice lunch stop with views of Arches National Park.
Mile 2.4	Campground 'H'. Toilet on your left, trail goes right.	Mile 7.0	Cross ravine, climb slickrock to your right. Watch for symbols.
Mile 2.5	Sand Flats Road. Turn right.	Mile 7.3-7.4	Climb fin, then hard right at Mile 7.4. Stay on marked route which is almost all slickrock.
Mile 3.5	North entrance on left immediately after Diving Board Rock. 2-way travel for .6 miles.	Mile 7.7	Left is exit to Main Road (0.5 miles); right continues out on a fin.
		Mile 8.1	Intersection; stay right. In 0.5 miles, you will cross here again.
		Mile 8.6	Hard right, then left. Follow symbols on an up and down ride to mile 9.0.
		Mile 9.0	Continue on trail 0.4 miles to Main Road.
		Mile 9.4	Sand Flats Road. Right will take you to the Entrance Station and back to Moab.



Hiking at Sand Flats

Upon entering Sand Flats you can soon be overwhelmed by the variety of wheeled transportation used here. Sand Flats has become synonymous with mountain bike, dirt bike and 4x4 recreation. However, there is another, often overlooked activity – hiking! The spring, fall and winter seasons (summers are too hot!) at Sand Flats offer many on foot exploration opportunities that rival our nearby national parks. Highlights include breathtaking panoramas from atop towering sandstone fins, discovering

the diverse plant life native to the high desert and observing the fascinating reptiles, insects and mammals unique to the desert. Hikers may also be fortunate enough to see soaring golden eagles and other varieties of raptors. A multitude of secluded small canyons and "narrows" between the fins await your exploration.

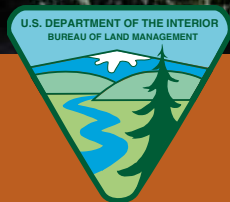


You will find, however the greatest reward to be had in this outback is the quiet and solitude. To enjoy all this to the full extent, it is necessary to be prepared. The desert swiftly disposes of the unwary. Wear good sturdy shoes and carry adequate water (1 gallon per person, per day) and high energy snacks. Pack a topographic map and the knowledge to use it. Familiarize yourself with the local flora and fauna. Some plants, insects and reptiles may be harmful to you, as you may be to them. Walk softly, respect the land and all that lives on it. Walk on sand or rock whenever possible, avoid stepping directly on plants or trampling the cryptobiotic crusts. Take the time to stop and observe the magnificent scenery and true quiet the area has to offer. Enjoy your hike!


SUGGESTED READING:

Hiking the Sand Flats, Fran Barnes, with companion Moab map
Moab Classic Hikes, 40 Hikes In Moab Area, Damian Fagan
Canyon Country Wildflowers, Damian Fagan
Plants Of The High Desert, Sonja Nicolaisen
A Naturalist's Guide to Canyon Country, David Williams

Photo © Sand Flats



A partnership of Grand County and the Bureau of Land Management, where the BLM, the community and recreationists together share in the responsibility of caring for the land.

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