

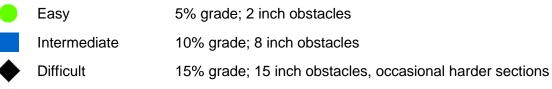
## f 🖸 @CityofAztec

## **Canyons of the Ancients Mountain Bike Trail System**

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating -	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	Colorado	National
East Rock Creek Trail	5.1	8.2	Intermediate / Difficult	3.7	1	977	10,510
Sand Canyon Trail	3.6	5.8	Intermediate / Difficult	3.5	2	1,012	10,727
North Connector	0.7	1.1	Easy / Intermediate	-	-	-	-
South Connector	1.1	1.8	Intermediate	-	-	-	-
Canyons of the Ancients Loop	7.1	11.4	Intermediate / Difficult	3.2	1	289	2,539

Trail Difficulty, Rating, and Ranking based on the MTB Project (www.mtbproject.com)

### **Trail Difficulty Key**



Extreme Difficulty 20% grade, 15+ inch obstacles, many harder sections

#### Land Manager

BLM Colorado – Tres Rios Field Office 29211 Highway 184 Dolores, CO 81323 (970) 882-7296 www.blm.gov/colorado Trails Maintenance & Building Southwest Colorado Cycling Association (SWCCA) PO Box 1302 Cortez, CO 81321 (970) 560-5659 www.swcocycling.com

# **MTB Project Trail Comments**

A Bikes must stay on the main trail. Please walk the short spur trails to the archeological sites.

To reach the McElmo Canyon trailhead, head south of Cortez on Highway 491. Turn right (west) on County Road G at the signs for the airport and/or Hovenweep National Monument. Go 12 miles on this paved road. Trailhead parking is an unimproved slickrock surface on the north (right) side of the road. No water or other services are available.						
The trail is well marked with maps at every major intersection. Start up the Sand Canyon Trail and in about 1/4- mile watch for the Blue Bike Trail - No equestrian use allowed - that branches to the left. This connector is clearly marked. Follow it to the junction with East Rock Creek then take a right. From there simply follow the loop counterclockwise back to this point and then retrace your steps on the first two trails to get back to the parking lot.						
If you want a longer ride add the Sand Canyon Trail to the east and/or the Rock Creek Trail that loops west. The Rock Creek Trail (not East Rock Creek) is more technical. Sand Canyon is easier. These trails are rideable almost year round, but get hot in the summer.						
Sand Canyon contains many Puebloan archaeological sites.						
The trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking, but the upper section is steep and rugged. Part of the singletrack dirt trail crosses slick rock marked with rock cairns. The trail could be shuttled by leaving one vehicle at Sand Canyon Pueblo, and leave a second vehicle at the bottom (south) end of the trail in McElmo						
Canyon. There is a very steep section with 30 switchbacks about 4.5 miles into the ride. It's only about 1/2 mile and will be a hike-a-bike for most people. Because it's uphill from the McElmo parking lot, you can turn around anytime and enjoy the downhill back to your vehicle.						
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