

WELCOME TO INDIAN CREEK

the crack climbing capital of the world.

Beloved by many, this amazing area is straining under record visitation. A new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Plan addresses recreation, camping and resource protection needs in the corridor from Newspaper Rock to the boundary with Canyonlands National Park and authorizes changes to camping locations, vehicular access, and human waste management.



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE ACCESS FUND



THE FRIENDS OF INDIAN CREEK are working closely with the climbing community, Access Fund, Bureau of Land Management, and The Nature Conservancy to raise climber awareness regarding impacts to the fragile desert environment. These efforts include grants for community outreach, human waste disposal, and trail building to help promote responsible climbing and camping practices at Indian Creek. Find out more at www.friendsofindiancreek.org

The Friends of Indian Creek
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FRIENDS OF INDIAN CREEK
PRESERVING ITS FUTURE



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WHERE TO CAMP |

Camping remains permitted on existing sites on BLM land. There is no camping on the roadside pullouts of Highway 211, on the private property of the Dugout Ranch (across the road from Supercrack and Battle of the Bulge Buttresses), and in restored side canyons (such as Donnelly and Fringe of Death Canyons). Please observe boundaries and posted signs and never camp on areas with undisturbed vegetation or desert soils.

Currently, the most popular areas to camp include the following (see map on the other side)

BRIDGER JACK AREA»

Turn west off Hwy 211 onto the dirt Beef Basin Road just north of the reservoir; cross the stream, proceed approximately 1/4 mile and turn right after the first cattle-guard. After approximately one mile of private Dugout property (no camping), find several designated campsites. *Camp only in designated sites.

THE SUPERBOWL SITE»

Turn west off Hwy 211 a few hundred yards before the highway crosses Indian Creek and just south of the Davis Canyon turn-off; proceed through a gate and follow the road down to the campsites; please do not camp in the riparian area.

CREEK PASTURE AREA»

Drive past the Superbowl Site on HWY 211 and continue north past the Davis Canyon turn-off on the left. Proceed past a pullout on the right and turn right at the next gated road. Proceed down the dirt road to the Creek and camp at several designated sites. The BLM has designated this area for groups. *Camp only in designated sites.

HAMBURGER ROCK»

Fee Camping
Drive past the Creek Pasture Site towards Canyonlands NP, and turn northeast off Hwy 211; follow signs towards Lockhart Basin. *Camp only in designated sites.

Please camp and park only on previously used and disturbed areas!



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RULES AND CONSIDERATIONS AT INDIAN CREEK |

The BLM's final 2005 Indian Creek Recreation Plan outlines management policy for camping and climbing at Indian Creek and provides an unprecedented opportunity for climber self-management with a no-fee trial period. This Plan seeks to protect the area's fragile resources and prevent unnecessary developments that would forever change Indian Creek's unique primitive character.

CAMPING» Some areas are now closed to camping (notably, the Newspaper Rock Campground and about 10 campsites at the beginning of the Bridger Jack Road), although more than 96% of Indian Creek's 100,000 acres remain open to camping. Campers can continue to use nearly all of their favorite dispersed campsites so long as no new sites are established. The "Bridger Jack" and "Creek Pasture" camping areas (the latter informally designated for group camping) will be open to designated sites only. If you must have a fire only use pre-existing sites, bring in all your own wood and keep the fire small. Although downed trees and shrubs may seem good firewood, the resource is limited and of high nutrient value for future plant and soil development. Never break off limbs from live trees for firewood.

CLIMBING» Actual climbing restrictions in the plan are few. As always, don't climb where it conflicts with rock art or other historic writings and structures. Federal law requires the BLM to protect these cultural sites by managing them so that they are not impaired. Contact the BLM for current information. (435-587-1500) Although there are no seasonally posted restrictions on climbs in Indian Creek, some climbs may also be closed that adversely impact nesting raptors/owls. The establishment of new routes and the placing of anchor bolts remains permitted, but must be camouflaged.

DUGOUT RANCH |

Indian Creek's 5,207-acre Dugout Ranch, with its adjacent 300,000 acres of public grazing lands, encompasses 42 miles of delicate desert streams, several rare wildflower species, and a number of undisturbed natural "relict" areas. The Dugout Ranch has a long ranching tradition dating to at least 1918. For nearly forty years, Heidi Redd has run the Indian Creek Cattle Company and held the Bureau of Land Management grazing leases adjacent to the Ranch. These grazing "allotments" cover significant Indian Creek locations including the popular campsites along the Bridger Jack Road and Superbowl Site, and the fields below Cat Wall. On most days you can see Heidi's cows or horses grazing on these public land allotments.

In 1997, with significant support from the outdoor industry, the Redd Family sold the ranch to The Nature Conservancy with the twin goals of preserving the family's tradition of responsible stewardship while retaining the undeveloped character of the area. Under the agreement, Heidi Redd will reside on a portion of the ranch for the rest of her life, and lease the ranch to manage her cattle operation. The Conservancy and the Redd family request that visitors respect their private property and privacy. For more information, please contact the Moab Project Office of The Nature Conservancy at 435-259-4629.

ACCESS, CLIMBERS, AND COWS AT INDIAN CREEK» Many climbers are drawn to Indian Creek not only for its unique hard-core crack climbing, but also its primitive, wide-open feeling. If the "Creek" doesn't exemplify the Wild West then no place does. Still, what climbers may perceive as public land might actually be private Dugout Ranch property; what now seems like unmanaged use could in the future be closed or restricted.

PRIVATE LAND» Climbers cross private property every time they approach Supercrack Buttress and Scarface Walls, among others, and every time we camp or climb at Bridger Jack. For many years, crossing Dugout land was tolerated because of the positive relationship forged between a few climbers and longtime owner of the Ranch, Heidi Redd. A recent informal compromise restricts camping on the initial portion of the Bridge Jack Road in return for continued climbing access across Dugout property. *This agreement may be reviewed in the future.

PUBLIC LAND» There are real impacts associated with grazing on public lands, and some would rather not see cows grazing at all along the Bridger Jack Road and other public land allotments.

Do not climb when the rock is wet, such as immediately after a rainstorm. Small features or footholds on sandstone will break more easily when the rock is wet. Unload gear and take breaks on large rocks or other durable ground to avoid damaging vegetation. If you are in a group and using top ropes be considerate of other people wanting to access these climbs.

TRAILS, VEHICLES AND PARKING» Use existing access trails whenever possible and never "create" new roads or campsites. A few footsteps off the trail may damage fragile desert plants and soils, accelerate erosion, and spread noxious weeds. If you are hiking in areas without trails follow existing drainages and stable ground. Avoid parking along HWY 211 where posted. Keep vehicles on existing dirt roads and park only in designated sites. Check out the map on the reverse side of this brochure for more information.

DOGS» Pets cause impacts. Particularly around the base of climbs, prevent your dog from digging and chewing vegetation, and chasing wildlife or running off trail. Bring a plastic bag for dog waste and pack it out. Be considerate of other users and control barking.

TOILETS» Currently the only toilet facilities in Indian Creek are those located at Newspaper Rock, Hamburger Rock off the Lockhart Basin Road, and at the Beef Basin turn-off from HWY 211. Where no toilet is available the Indian Creek management plan requires that people use a wag bag or other personal portable sanitation system and pack it out. Don't throw these bags in the toilets, pack them out.

HUMAN WASTE» A trial pack-in/pack-out policy will be enforced for all human waste and garbage at Indian Creek. With financial help from the American Alpine Club, Access Fund and Friends of Indian Creek, new kiosks have been installed at a few key locations that have information on management changes, in particular the new human waste policy. "Wag Bag" dispensers on the kiosks provide campers with free human waste disposal bags (donations are encouraged).

However, Heidi's Indian Creek Cattle Company pays for that right, and has for several decades now. Since she began ranching the land in the mid-1960s, Heidi has been conservation minded. Indian Creek Cattle Company has always run fewer cattle than its predecessors and often fewer than current permits allow.

CLIMBERS AND COWBOYS» In a number of areas at Indian Creek, conflicts have sprouted between climbers and Heidi's cattle operation. Even if you feel you have an absolute right to camp and climb at the Creek, following these few basic guidelines may help keeping you climbing on some of Indian Creek's best crags:

CONTROL YOUR PETS» If you see cattle or horses approaching your camp, or as you drive to your parking area, TIE UP YOUR DOG! Don't assume that your mellow beast won't cause any problems, because even distant barking can aggravate cows and horses. Whether or not your dog has tried to round up some cattle, someone else's dog has—probably recently. Heidi and her cowboys are at the end of their rope, so be proactive and keep the hounds under control.

COURTESY» Be respectful of Heidi and her cowboys if you see them. Remember, The Nature Conservancy owns, and Heidi leases, the private property of Dugout Ranch and they control your access privileges to some of the best crack climbing in the world. More importantly, being friendly is the right thing to do. Consider not climbing at a few key locations that require walking across Dugout property, especially Paragon Prow, New Wall and New Wave Wall, as these areas in particular infringe on the privacy of the Ranch. Don't park anywhere that will get in the way of moving cows.

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