

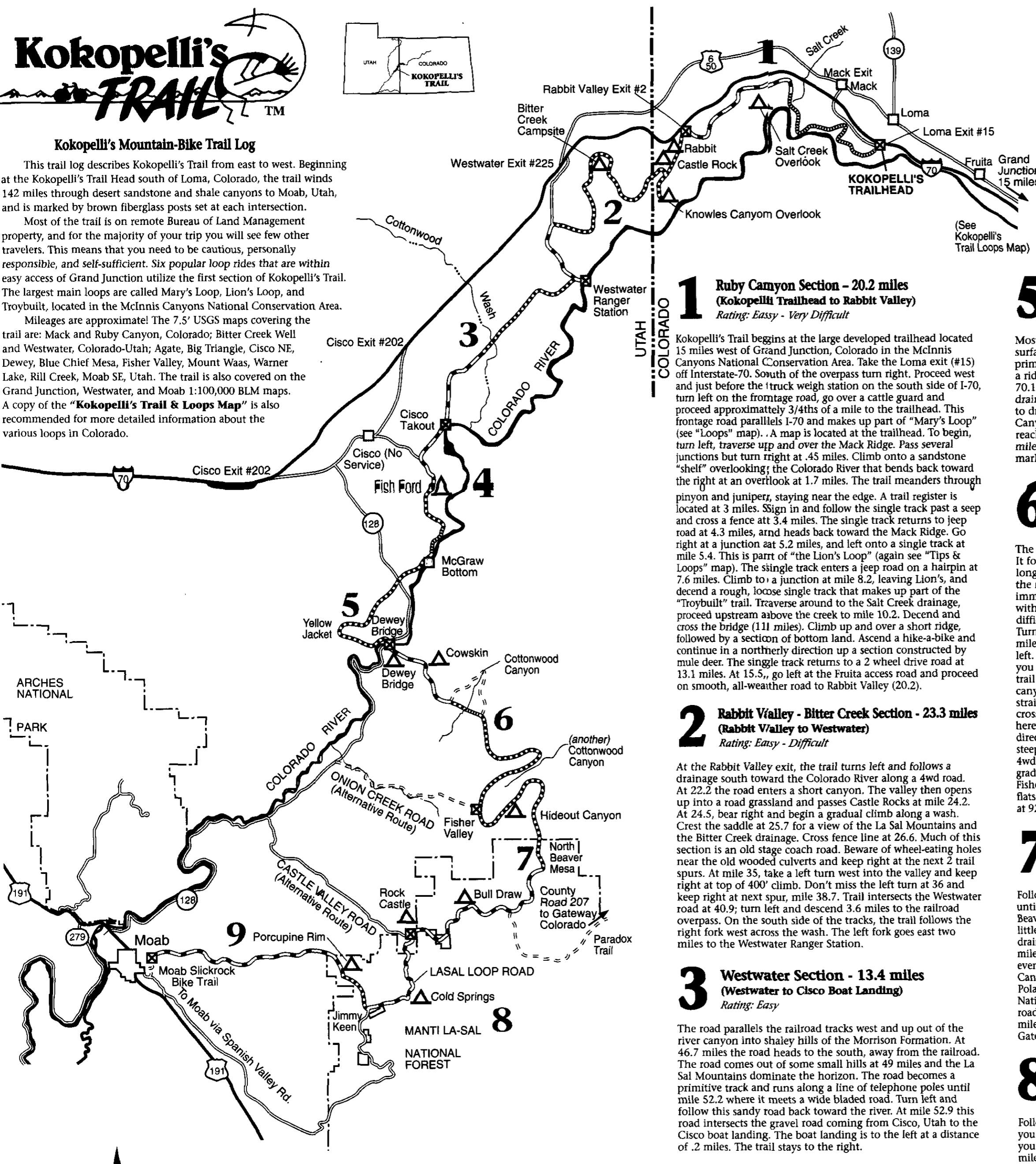
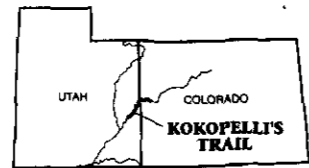
# Kokopelli's TRAIL

## Kokopelli's Mountain-Bike Trail Log

This trail log describes Kokopelli's Trail from east to west. Beginning at the Kokopelli's Trail Head south of Loma, Colorado, the trail winds 142 miles through desert sandstone and shale canyons to Moab, Utah, and is marked by brown fiberglass posts set at each intersection.

Most of the trail is on remote Bureau of Land Management property, and for the majority of your trip you will see few other travelers. This means that you need to be cautious, personally responsible, and self-sufficient. Six popular loop rides that are within easy access of Grand Junction utilize the first section of Kokopelli's Trail. The largest main loops are called Mary's Loop, Lion's Loop, and Troybuilt, located in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area.

Mileages are approximate! The 7.5' USGS maps covering the trail are: Mack and Ruby Canyon, Colorado; Bitter Creek Well and Westwater, Colorado-Utah; Agate, Big Triangle, Cisco NE, Dewey, Blue Chief Mesa, Fisher Valley, Mount Waas, Warner Lake, Rill Creek, Moab SE, Utah. The trail is also covered on the Grand Junction, Westwater, and Moab 1:100,000 BLM maps. A copy of the "Kokopelli's Trail & Loops Map" is also recommended for more detailed information about the various loops in Colorado.



**Kokopelli's Trail in the MCNCA**

Kokopelli's Trail winds along Mack Ridge above the Colorado River and crosses the colorful landscape of Rabbit Valley. The Colorado portion of this trail is within the 122,300 acre McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area which was set aside by Congress to preserve and enhance the area's outstanding geologic, scenic, recreational and scientific values.



### 1 Ruby Canyon Section - 20.2 miles (Kokopelli Trailhead to Rabbit Valley)

Rating: Easy - Very Difficult

Kokopelli's Trail begins at the large developed trailhead located 15 miles west of Grand Junction, Colorado in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. Take the Loma exit (#15) off Interstate-70. South of the overpass turn right. Proceed west and just before the truck weigh station on the south side of I-70, turn left on the frontage road, go over a cattle guard and proceed approximately 3/4ths of a mile to the trailhead. This frontage road parallels I-70 and makes up part of "Mary's Loop" (see "Loops" map). A map is located at the trailhead. To begin, turn left, traverse up and over the Mack Ridge. Pass several junctions but turn right at .45 miles. Climb onto a sandstone "shelf" overlooking the Colorado River that bends back toward the right at an overlook at 1.7 miles. The trail meanders through pinyon and juniper, staying near the edge. A trail register is located at 3 miles. Sign in and follow the single track past a seep and cross a fence at 3.4 miles. The single track returns to jeep road at 4.3 miles, and heads back toward the Mack Ridge. Go right at a junction at 5.2 miles, and left onto a single track at mile 5.4. This is part of "the Lion's Loop" (again see "Tips & Loops" map). The single track enters a jeep road on a hairpin at 7.6 miles. Climb to a junction at mile 8.2, leaving Lion's, and descend a rough, loose single track that makes up part of the "Troybuilt" trail. Traverse around to the Salt Creek drainage, proceed upstream above the creek to mile 10.2. Descend and cross the bridge (111 miles). Climb up and over a short ridge, followed by a section of bottom land. Ascend a hike-a-bike and continue in a northerly direction up a section constructed by mule deer. The single track returns to a 2 wheel drive road at 13.1 miles. At 15.5, go left at the Fruita access road and proceed on smooth, all-weather road to Rabbit Valley (20.2).

### 5 Yellow Jacket Canyon - 8.7 miles (McGraw Bottom to Dewey Bridge)

Rating: Difficult - Very Difficult

Most of this trail section is very difficult due to sandy trail surface. The trail leaves the highway to the right on a primitive road just past the corral and begins a long climb up a ridge. Keep left on the road which reaches its first crest at 70.1 miles and drops down through a fence into another drainage. Stay left as the road makes a long turn and begins to drop down to the river parallel to Yellow Jacket and Bull Canyons. The trail begins to pass through sandstone and reaches private land at Dewey Bridge over the Colorado at mile 76.8. Do not camp on the private land or stray off the marked trail between the gates at mile 75.7 and 76.7.

### 6 Cottonwood Canyons Section - 18.1 miles (Dewey Bridge to Fisher Valley)

Rating: Difficult - Very Difficult

The trail crosses the river at Dewey Bridge and then turns left. It follows a gravel road leaving the river bottom and begins a long SE climb up through red sandstone. At 82.2 miles take the right fork on to a 4wd road. This road forks almost immediately and the trail stays left and is cut by a fence within 0.1 miles. The trail winds down and becomes a very difficult single track with a steep climb out to the other rim. Turn right at the intersection with the main road at 84.1 miles. At mile 87.8 the road passes an old drilling pad on the left. From here on, the 4wd road becomes rougher the farther you go. Riding conditions are difficult to very difficult. The trail begins to descend east towards the Dolores River, whose canyon becomes visible below. At 88 miles the trail goes straight through a road intersection. Another 4wd road crosses at 88.7 miles. The trail begins to descend more steeply here and cuts several hard sandstone layers until it changes direction to run SW along another Cottonwood Canyon. A steep, very difficult descent begins at 91.7 miles where the 4wd road is very eroded and rough. The trail then rises gradually until it meets a divide and begins to drop into Fisher Valley. By 92 miles, the trail is entering sage covered flats, and turns left when it intersects the Onion Creek Road at 92.9 miles.

### 2 Rabbit Valley - Bitter Creek Section - 23.3 miles (Rabbit Valley to Westwater)

Rating: Easy - Difficult

At the Rabbit Valley exit, the trail turns left and follows a drainage south toward the Colorado River along a 4wd road. At 22.2 the road enters a short canyon. The valley then opens up into a road grassland and passes Castle Rocks at mile 24.2. At 24.5, bear right and begin a gradual climb along a wash. Crest the saddle at 25.7 for a view of the La Sal Mountains and the Bitter Creek drainage. Cross fence line at 26.6. Much of this section is an old stage coach road. Beware of wheel-eating holes near the old wooded culverts and keep right at the next 2 trail spurs. At mile 35, take a left turn west into the valley and keep right at top of 400' climb. Don't miss the left turn at 36 and keep right at next spur, mile 38.7. Trail intersects the Westwater road at 40.9; turn left and descend 3.6 miles to the railroad overpass. On the south side of the tracks, the trail follows the right fork west across the wash. The left fork goes east two miles to the Westwater Ranger Station.

### 7 Beaver Mesa Section - 16.6 miles (Fisher Valley to North Beaver Mesa)

Rating: Easy - Difficult

Follow the Onion Creek Road south towards the mountains until 93.9 miles where you turn left at the sign to North Beaver Mesa. The trail climbs out of the valley and reaches a little crest with a fence at 94.6 miles. Descend into the drainage traveling northeast, taking the left fork at 96.9 miles. The road begins to climb out of the drainage and eventually winds around to head south paralleling Thompson Canyon on the left. Across the canyon is the sandstone of Polar Mesa. You leave BLM and enter the Manti La Sal National Forest at 103.4 miles. Go right at 105.2 miles. The road crosses Fisher Creek at the head of Fisher Valley at 109.2 miles, and eventually intersects the county road (#207) from Gateway, Colorado at 109.5 miles, where you turn right.

### 3 Westwater Section - 13.4 miles (Westwater to Cisco Boat Landing)

Rating: Easy

The road parallels the railroad tracks west and up out of the river canyon into shaley hills of the Morrison Formation. At 46.7 miles the road heads to the south, away from the railroad. The road comes out of some small hills at 49 miles and the La Sal Mountains dominate the horizon. The road becomes a primitive track and runs along a line of telephone poles until mile 52.2 where it meets a wide bladed road. Turn left and follow this sandy road back toward the river. At mile 52.9 this road intersects the gravel road coming from Cisco, Utah to the Cisco boat landing. The boat landing is to the left at a distance of .2 miles. The trail stays to the right.

### 8 La Sal Loop Section - 16.6 miles (North Beaver Mesa to Porcupine Rim)

Rating: Easy - Difficult

Follow the county road west towards Moab. At 111.5 miles you have the first of many incredible desert panoramas as you look down into Fisher Valley. Pavement begins at 113.8 miles and you intersect the Castle Valley/La Sal Loop road at 117.4 miles. Turn left onto the loop road and follow it to a very rough road at 123.5 miles. Turn right onto this difficult, brush-crowded 4wd road. Stay left at 124.5 miles, straight through fence at 125.2, reaching the Sand Flats Road at 126.7 miles.

### 4 Fish Ford Section - 10.2 miles (Cisco Boat Landing to McGraw Bottom, Hwy. 128)

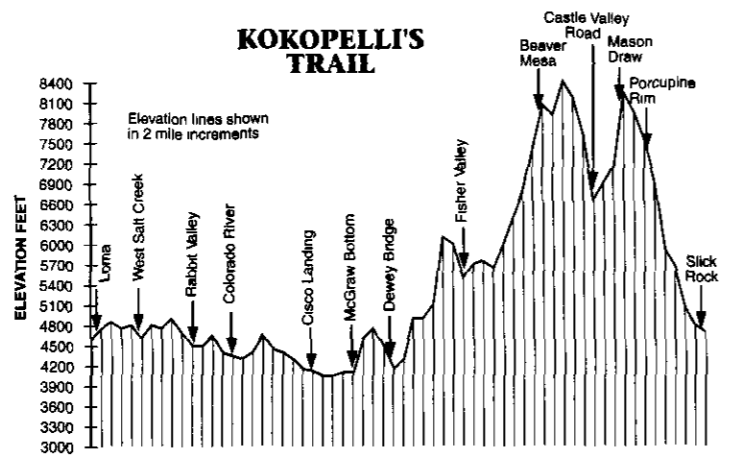
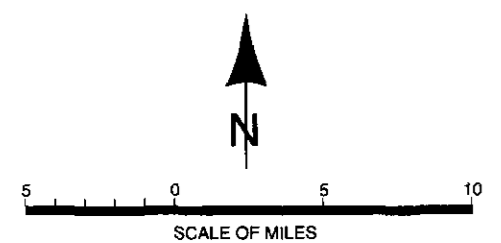
Rating: Easy - Very Difficult

The trail follows the road back towards Cisco to a junction at 60.3 miles, where it turns left towards Fish ford. At mile 61.8 turn right onto a 4wd road heading SW. The trail follows the left fork at 62.3 miles where the road turns south and climbs gradually up a canyon and over into a drainage leading towards the river. Follow the main track and take the right fork at mile 64.6. The road comes down next to the river and the trail becomes a very difficult single track at mile 64.1. This track follows the river, then rises up on a gravel hill to a gate at mile 65.4. It then becomes a 4wd road and drops down to a fence at 65.8 miles. From here it is easy riding through McGraw Bottom to Highway 128 at mile 66.8. Turn left onto the highway and ride until the corral on the right at 68.1 miles.

### 9 Sand Flats Section - 17.2 miles (Porcupine Rim to Slick Rock)

Rating: Easy

Turn right and follow the Sand Flats Road down to the Slick Rock Bike trail at 138.4 miles. Moab, Utah is 2 miles further down the Sand Flats Road. (Note: Grand County has begun to charge to use the area around the Slick Rock Trail.)



- KOKOPELLI'S TRAIL**
- COUNTY ROAD
  - 4 X 4 ROAD
  - SINGLE TRACK
  - SUPPORT VEHICLE ACCESS POINT (2 W/D) AND WATER STASH POINT

Sections of trail can be technically challenging. Use caution! Be smart and wear proper safety gear!