

GMUG - Grand Mesa Fruita Division – Trip Report 07/04/2017

Who: Janice Shepherd and members of Tuesday Hike Group “A”

Where: Turkey Flats (661) → Haypress (662) – Ridge (west to view point and then east) (646) → Fruita Res 1 Trail (663) → FR 400.2C → Turkey Flats (661)

Trip Stats: 10 miles, 5:20

Observations:

We encountered several groups of hikers some with children and some with dogs, several groups of mountain bikers, one group of horseback riders and one motorized vehicle (along 400.2C). Two ATVs were parked at the Fruita Res 1 parking lot and the riders were walking the trail to the reservoir.

The butterflies and wildflowers were superb. Weidemeyer's Admiral, Tiger yellowtail and Hesperis Fritillary. Bear prints were observed along the trail as were claw marks on aspen; a very large number of raven were circling and cavorting above Fruita Reservoir 1 around lunch time (fun to watch).

At: 12 S 692478 4300736 (NAD83) we encountered a log across the trail where a ramp has been built on the uphill side. We weren't sure if this was a temporary structure until the downed tree can be cut away but as constructed, hikers cannot climb over the downed tree, so are instead creating a by-pass trail around the east end of the downed tree. See photo below.

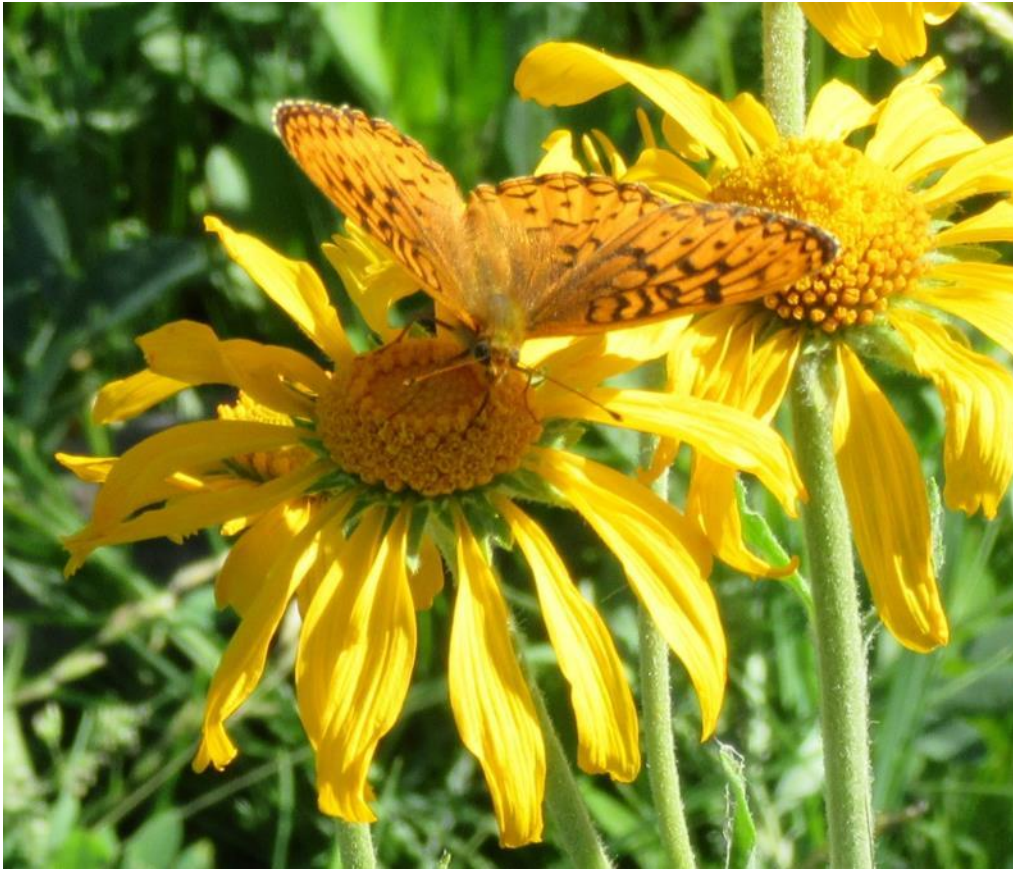
At: 12 S 692154 4300444 there is a great view point here that would be worthwhile noting on Forest Recreation maps. Our group always walks over to this view point when doing this nice loop. See photos below.

At: 12 S 692895 4300279 we noted that sheep fencing is in use and wondered if sheep are actually grazed in the area. If the allotments are used by cattle, then it would be nice to get the sheep fencing switched out for 4-strand wire (middle 2 barbed) fencing as big game young have been known to get terribly tangled by sheep fencing. Worth considering is the document from CPW: “Fencing with Wildlife In Mind”

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/LandWater/PrivateLandPrograms/FencingWithWildlifeInMind.pdf>

At: 12 S 693789 4301257 we noted that the trail sign for Ridge Trail 646 has been broken and the part showing that motorcycles and ATVs are allowed is on the ground. See photo below.

This was a very appealing lollipop-loop except for the stretch of 400.2C road that we had to walk. Fast moving vehicles along the road kick up a lot of dust and come around corners very quickly. On most Tuesdays this would be a quiet stretch of road but it was busier as this Tuesday was also Independence Day. Creating a single-track trail that by-passed this road segment and connected #663 with #661 would be safer and much appreciated by hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. At 10 miles, the loop made a fine outing for our group of senior hikers.





Great viewpoints like this one are worth marking on recreation maps as they have broad appeal. 12 S
692154 4300444



This is likely a temporary fix, but it makes it hard for hikers, as stepping over the log is no longer an option. So a by-pass trail is developing. 12 S 692478 4300736



Fun to see evidence of bears in the area.



Sign has broken label and may be confusing for

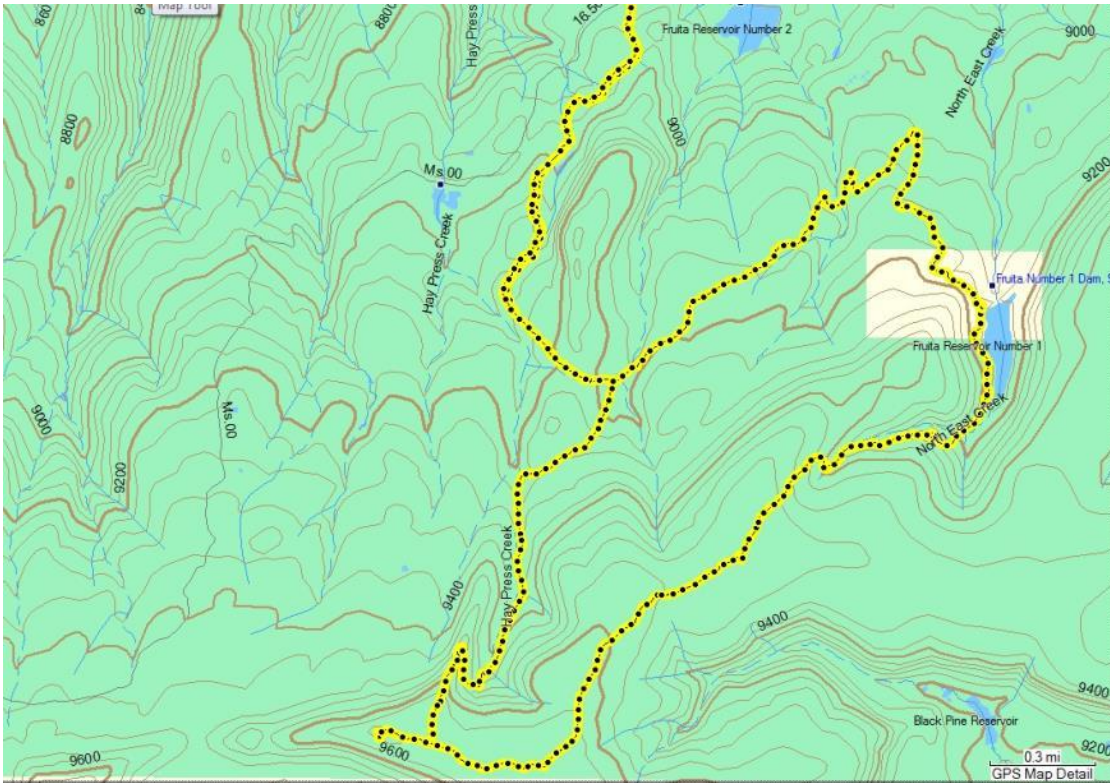
motorized visitors. 12 S 693789 4301257



This stretch of Turkey Flats trail is particularly appealing and got lots of positive comments from our group. We applaud a well-designed recreation trail that includes such interesting natural resources.



Enjoying a perfect July 4th! Got to love America and our public lands!



Our track above and the official map for the area below.

