

GMUG – Little Dolores Trail (648) and Loop Trip Report – 7/17/2017

Who: Janice Shepherd (and one other hiker)

Where: Starting from Little Dolores Trail (648) trailhead heading off-trail into the canyons and rims to the west and then back on Little Dolores Trail.

Trip stats: 5 1/4 miles 4 hours

Observations:

Lots of lush green canyons and rims great to come across running water in Little Dolores River. We mostly followed cattle and game trails then hiked back on Little Dolores trail. Least favorite part was the hike back up Little Dolores Trail, best avoided. GJHikes.com comments "There isn't a lot to the Little Dolores trail but it is an easy hike and the drive is very nice" and mentioned that he was frustrated with the lack of views into the side canyons.

Wildflowers: lots of corn lilies in bloom (false hellebore) at the start, large stands of wild iris (gone to seed), white monkshood near the 2nd pond, chokecherry trees, baneberry, white checker mallow. On several chokecherry trees we noted black knot attached to the branches.

Wildlife: Four bucks with varying sized antlers (two individually and one pair), a red tail hawk that was calling and calling, two grouse, salamanders (both young and an adult or near adult), western terrestrial garter snake (dark colored), fritillary, wood nymphs, black and white tiger moth (or Police Car moth? See photo below), American kestrel.

We noted a hunting stand in a tree that has partly collapsed. It was built from logs and lashed with wire. (see photos) At: 690772.05 mE 4302336.96 mN

Water was running in a side stream at: 690765 mE 4302360 mN

Water was present at the pond at: 690566 mE 4303021 mN. Lots of young salamanders in water. Pond (1) photos below.

Water was present at the pond at: 690304 mE 4303520 mN. Large salamander present in water. Water actively running into this pond. Lots of vegetation around and in water. Pond (2) photos below.

Water was present at the pond at: 690447 mE 4303995 mN. Water was quite low. Pond (3) photos below.

Quite nice view down canyon from: 690759.76 mE 4304580.55 mN. See photo.

Water running in canyon at: 690827.05 mE 4304629.32 mN as well as higher up where we crossed. Little Dolores River.

Hiking along cattle and game trails worked out very well. Great solitude. We didn't see anyone until we got back on the road to drive home.



False Hellebore



False Hellebore



Black and White Tiger Moth (Police Car moth?)



Hunting stand left in tree is falling down. 690772.05 mE 4302336.96 mN



690772.05 mE 4302336.96 mN



Hunting stand left attached to trees. 690772.05 mE 4302336.96 mN



Pond 1. At: 690566 mE 4303021 mN Lots of young salamanders present.



Pond 2. NW end. Water continuing to fill pond. Large adult or near adult salamander. 690304 mE 4303520 mN



Pond 2. South east end of pond.



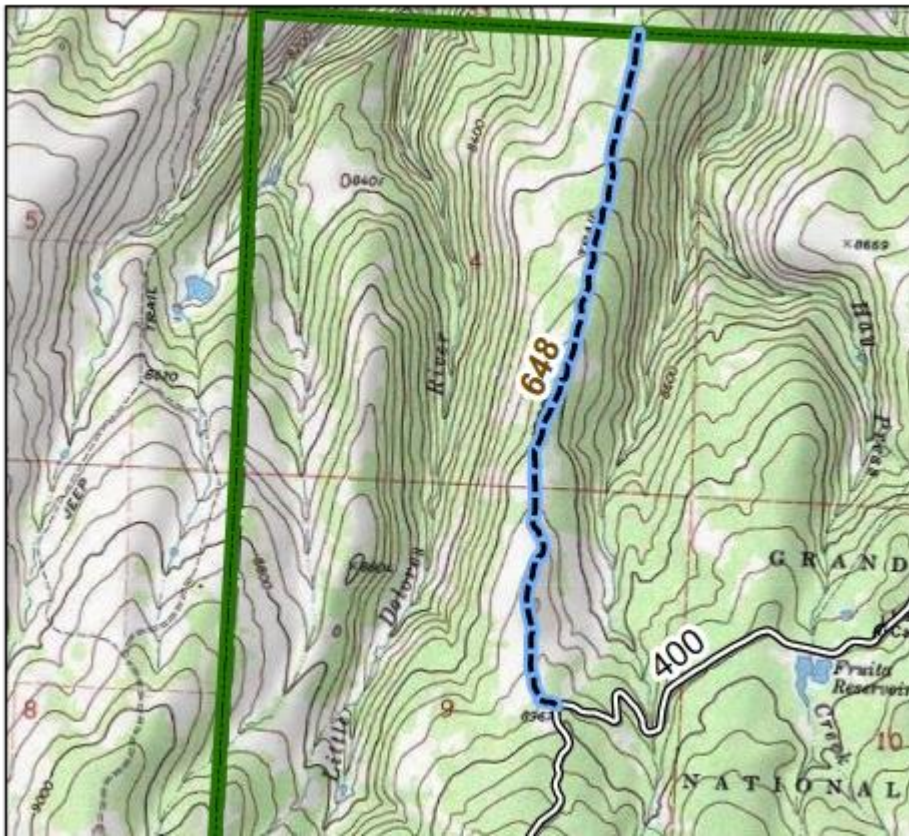
Pond 3. Very little water present. 690447 mE 4303995 mN



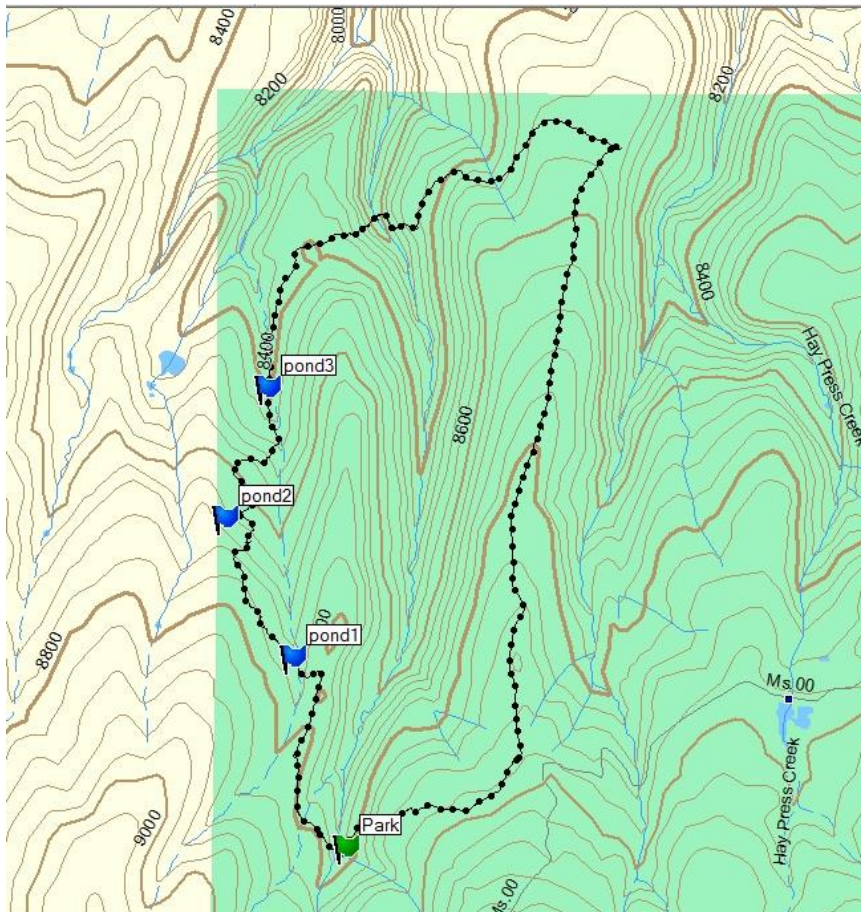
Pond 3 dam.



Nice view at: 690759.76 mE 4304580.55 mN



Forest Map Little Dolores trail #648



Our clockwise track with return on

#648.