

GMUG – Short Point Trail in North Fork Escalante Canyon Trip Report 08/04/2017

Who: Janice Shepherd (and two other hikers)

Where: Short Point Cutoff Trail (651.1A) to Short Point Trail (615) along North Fork of Escalante Creek.

Trip Stats: 6.8 miles 5:15

Observations:

Three sightings of bears: **total 5 bears** – first a female and two cubs (710455 4275247), then a large adult (710213 4274744), then a small adult (710287 4274980). All within a 1/3 of a mile but first sighting was on the hike down and 2nd two on the hike out.

Spectacular views up and down North Fork of Escalante Creek and up Points Creek. See photos.

Observed stand of dead aspen (from a fire perhaps?) but lots of young aspen growing at: 710233 4274605 See photo. **Water flowing** in small creek at: 710256 4274946. Gate was closed.

The Short Cutoff Trail (#651.1A) is **hard to find** immediately after a marked west turn at: 710927 4275364. The intersection of Short Bench Trail (#651) and Short Cutoff Trail is **not marked**. We left behind a cairn at the intersection and an arrow made from wood logs for the turn to the south west at: 710156 4274037. Once below the rock ledge there is a **maze of trails** between human use and game use. It is hard to know **which is the “right” trail**. The intersection between Short Bench Trail and Short Point Trail (#615) is **not marked** and less experienced hikers might miss this turn on their way back.

Lots of butterflies (whites, wood nymphs, skippers) along the creek. Very quiet, with lots of solitude. Lovely sound of water in the creek. Huge big trees (ponderosa, douglas). Great cliff views above us. Observed **Brown Creeper**. We saw no one else during our hike.

Golf ball found imbedded in trail – clearly shot from one of the rims – thank goodness they missed us hikers!

Creek bank has collapsed and almost removed trail at: 710803 4273729 see photo. West from here to: 710706 4273653 **trail disappears**.

Beaver dam appears to have been removed (by nature or human?) at: 711300 4273961 see photo.

Observed family of **cutthroat trout** in creek –minnow, fingerlings and at least two adults at approximately: 711509 4273969 see photos.

Cattle: Numerous cattle along Brushy Ridge road (#409); some cattle along trail near the intersection of Short Cutoff Trail and Short Bench Trail; evidence of previous cattle visits along Short Point Trail down by North Fork Escalante Creek (they must have an easier way down than the trail we used).



Stand of dead aspen but with lots of younger healthy aspen. 710233 4274605



Looking up North Fork Escalante Creek canyon towards Uncompahgre Butte.



Looking down North Fork Escalante Creek canyon. Part of Escalante Breaks in view.



The “end of the world” but the trail goes right on over the end of the rocks.



Red cliffs, green grass & trees, blue sky – the best parts of living in Western Colorado – makes the spirit soar.



Creek bank collapse almost removed trail. 710803 4273729 dir: east.



Beaver dam removed at: 711300 4273961



Minnow – located with red arrow.



Adult cutthroat trout. Lots of fingerlings also observed.



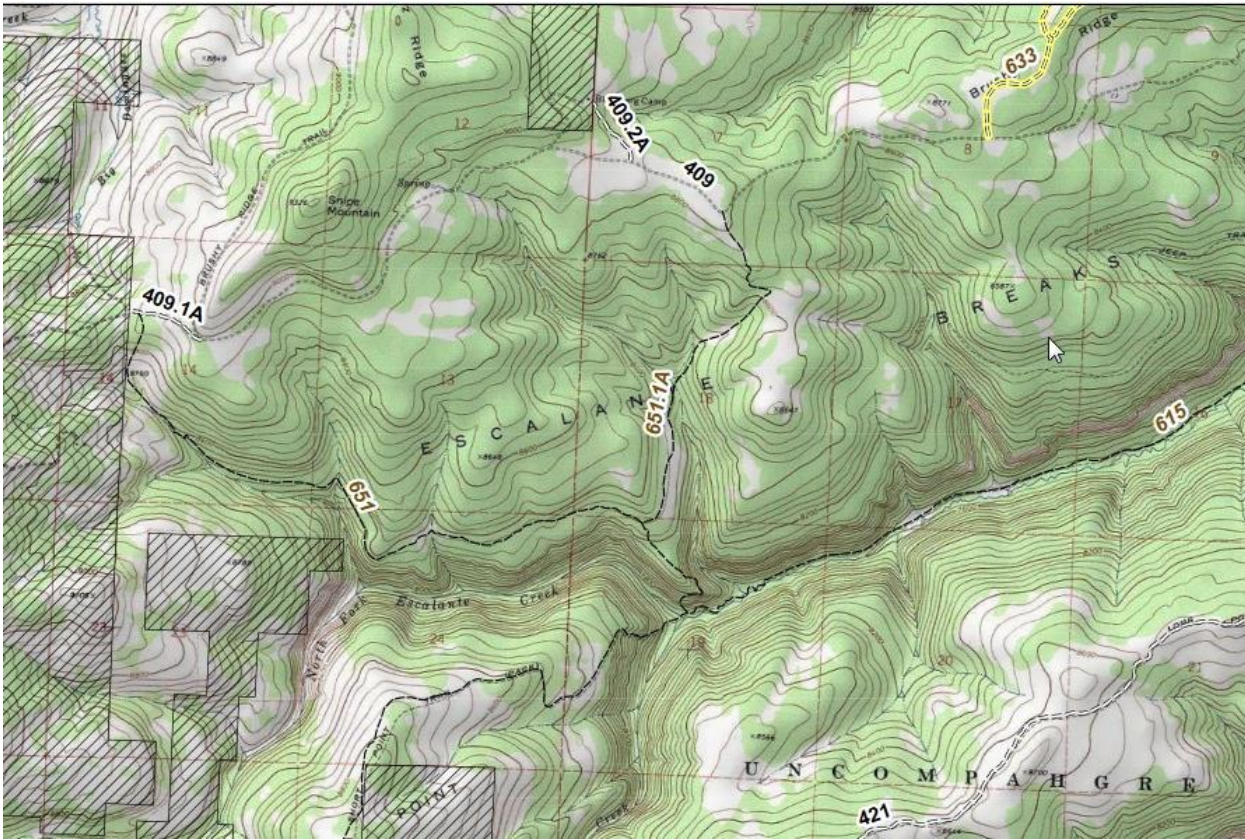
Heathy looking cattle along Short Cutoff Trail.



Old Giant puffball. Interesting patterns.



Digestion problems for bear?



Forest Map.



Our track. Note where we missed the unmarked turn to get into the canyon.