

## Scenic Drives



### Harts Draw Highway

This road travels across the northwestern slope of the Abajo Mountains between Monticello and SR-211 above Newspaper Rock. It provides great vistas of Shay Mountain, the La Sal Mountains to the northeast, and the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park. Campgrounds are located along the route including Buckboard campground which has 10 sites and Dalton Springs campground which has 16 sites. Monticello Lake and Foy Lake provide scenic fishing and picnicking spots.

### Abajo Loop Scenic Backway (North Creek)

The Abajo Loop leads from the desert floor and red rock canyons to steep mountains over 11,000 feet high, with overlooks and panoramic views.

The byway travels Forest Road 105 west from Monticello to the junction of Forest Road-079 where it heads south through North Canyon,



northwest of the shadow of Horsehead Peak. The tour concludes when you reach the town of Blanding. Although suitable for passenger vehicles during late spring through fall, this route is not recommended for large RVs or trailers.

## OHV TRAILS



### Shay Ridge

Shay Ridge # 162 is a 50" or less trail that is 5.0 miles long. It begins at Forest Road #104 (Shay Ridge) and ends at Forest Road #354 (Jackson Ridge). The trail travels through pine, fir and aspen forests and provides outstanding views of the surrounding canyon country. Several sections of the trail are exposed.

**Wagon Wheel** - The Wagon Wheel Trail #168 is 3.1 miles long. The southern end of this trail is located off of Forest Road #084 (Recapture) and the northern end is at Forest Road #087 (South Creek). This relatively flat trail crosses Verdure Creek and travels through Ponderosa pine forest for a pleasant trip. This trail is also the access trail for Forest Trail #462 (West Wagon Loop Trail) and which connects to Forest Trail #016 ([Camp Jackson](#)) to create a loop.

**Camp Jackson** - The Camp Jackson Trail #016 is 3.9 miles long. The southern end of this trail is at Forest Road #084 (Recapture) and travels northwest to Forest Road #386 which is a spur off of Forest Road #079 (North Creek). While relatively flat, this trail does include some steep sections that may be difficult to negotiate. The trail travels northward through pleasant ponderosa pine forest towards Camp Jackson Reservoir which is located on private land. This trail can also be accessed via Forest Trail #168 (Wagonwheel) and Forest Trail #462 (West Wagon Loop Trail). Use of these trails can create a loop.



### RIDE RESPONSIBLY

- Pay attention to trail & road signs posted along the routes that signify what type of use is allowed.
- Cross-country use of motorized vehicles is prohibited. Stay on roads and trails to protect the soils and vegetation.
- Educate yourself on Utah State Laws and have the appropriate license and gear. Know Before You Go!
- Many of the trails are multi-use. Be aware of other hikers, bikers, equestrian users, & other riders. Motorized vehicles yield to mountain bikes, runners, hikers and horses.
- Pack it in, Pack it out.

# Abajo Mountains Guide



The Abajo Mountains (also called the Blue Mountains) are located near the towns of Monticello and Blanding in SE Utah. They offer many recreational activities such as fishing, mountain bike riding, hiking, climbing, horseback riding, hunting, motorized trail rides, and scenic drives. The Abajo mountain range is located below the forks for the Colorado and Green Rivers so the Spanish who explored this area named them the Abajos, for "below." This guide offers a few of the popular trails and drives on the forest.

### Manti- La Sal National Forest Monticello Ranger District

P.O. Box 820  
432 East Center St.  
Monticello, UT 84535  
Phone: 435-587-2041



# Abajo Mountains Trails- All Distances are one way unless marked otherwise. Please be courteous to other trail users.

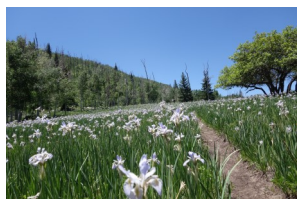


## Robertson Pasture-

The Robertson Pasture Trail #020 is 6 miles long. The south end of this trail is located at Forest Road #079 (North Creek) and the northern end is just beyond the east end of Foy Lake (Spring Lake) off of Forest Road #100 (Indian Creek). The southern portion of this trail covers very steep terrain going both up and down. The northernmost end also covers rough, steep terrain. The trail passes through the pine, fir and aspen forests of the Abajo Mountains. This trail travels steeply into and out of multiple streambeds (typically dry) which may be problematic for novice riders.

Many trail loops can be made using this trail and other area trails. Those trails include:

[Red Ledges #019](#), [Red Ledges Access #160](#), [Aspen Flat #018](#) and [Shay Ridge #162](#).



To complete these loops, Forest Road #079 (North Creek) is used. No Bike or Motorcycle use Oct 1st-May 1st.

## Spring Creek-

The Spring Creek Trail - Abajos #159 is 2.7 miles long. It begins at Forest Trail #020, off of Forest Road #079, and ends at Forest Road #113. This trail goes in and out of aspen stands and open meadows with views into Spring Creek and towards North Peak. In fall, the golden yellow leaves of the aspens make this an especially beautiful hike. No Bike or Motorcycle use Oct 1st-May 1st.

## Skyline Trail-

The Skyline Trail #015 is 5.3 miles long. It begins at Forest Road #095 (The Causeway) and ends at Forest Road #354 (Jackson Ridge). This trail climbs steadily from the west to the east, gaining about 2,460ft to provide impressive views of the surrounding canyons and peaks. The last mile of the trail (when traveling from west to east), descends steeply about 500 feet.

## Aspen Flat-

The Aspen Flat Trail #018 is 5.3 miles long. The south end of this trail is located at Forest Road #381, a small spur off of Forest Road #079 (North Creek). The north end of this trail is located at Forest Road #104 (Shay Ridge). From this trail's north end the trail gently ascends to Aspen Flat, a large, relatively flat open meadow area. From this point to the southern end of the trail, it becomes significantly steeper as it ascends further before descending sharply towards Indian Creek. The trail continues to ascend and descend steeply before leveling off just before reaching Forest Road #381. Many trail loops can be made using this trail and other area trails including: [Red Ledges #019](#), [Red Ledges Access Trail #160](#), [Robertson Pasture #020](#) and [Shay Ridge #162](#). To complete these loops, Forest Roads #079 (North Creek) and #354 (Jackson Ridge) are also used. No Bike or Motorcycle use Oct 1st-May 1st.

## Red Ledges-

The Red Ledges Trail #019 is 5.0 miles long. It travels between Forest Trail #018 (Aspen Flat) and Forest Trail #020 (Robertson Pasture). Access to this trail is from one of the aforementioned trails or off of Forest Trail #160 (Red Ledges Access Trail) off of Forest Road #079 (North Creek).

Red Ledges Access Trail #160 intersects Red Ledges Trail #019 at its midpoint, where users can travel either west to intersect Aspen Flat Trail #018 or east to intersect Robertson Pasture Trail #020.



From the east end of the trail the trail descends slightly for the first two miles before descending steeply into the Indian Creek basin. After crossing Indian Creek the trail ascends steeply towards the junction with Forest Trail #018 (Aspen Flat). Trail loops can be made using this trail and other area trails including: [Red Ledges Access Trail #160](#), [Aspen Flat Trail #018](#), [Robertson Pasture #020](#) and [Shay Ridge #162](#). To complete these loops, Forest Road #079 (North Creek) is used. No Bike or Motorcycle use Oct 1st-May 1st.

## Hiking the Peaks:

There are no constructed trails to the peaks in the Abajo mountains but Abajo Peak does have a road going to the top that is open seasonally to high clearance vehicles.

The other peaks are accessible by hiking cross country and finding your own route.

Be prepared for all weather conditions and have the necessary gear.



## MOTORCYCLE / BICYCLE USE

Motorcycles and bikes are allowed to ride Robertson Pasture, Spring Creek, Aspen Flat, and the Red Ledges trails each year from May 15th until October 1st. They are not allowed on these trails at other times of the year.

