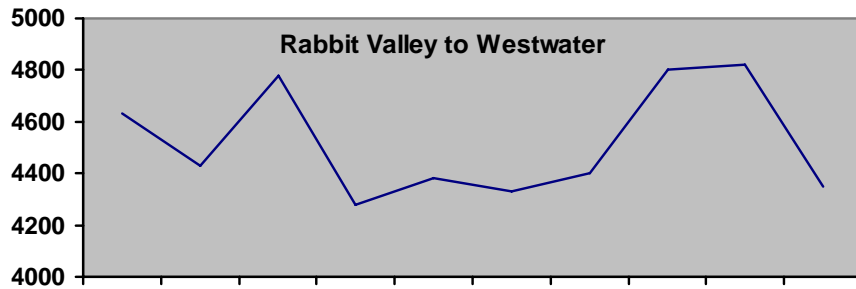


**Section 2 - Rabbit Valley to Westwater**

- 16.6 miles
- Tech - 5/10
- Strength & endurance - 5/10
- Map - Fruita



By comparison to Fruita, this is a much easier piece. Starting from Rabbit Valley, you'll drop into McDonald Creek following enormous contoured Entrada



Castle Rock past Rabbit Valley

formations. As you climb out thru smooth sandy doubletrack and enter Utah you'll cross thru the Bitter Creek Wash, fairly easy & less scenic miles taking you to a 400' mesa with a steep ascent. From the summit here, camp at the Bitter Creek Campground or continue down thru fun roller coaster jeep roads to

Westwater. This entire section can be driven -

Jeep only - , but is extremely difficult & rough. It will take longer to drive than bike. Don't attempt unless an emergency.

The end of this piece is Westwater, exit 227 from I-70, not exit 225 as indicated on some maps. It's approx 5 miles west of Rabbit Valley, and the trail intersection with this road is roughly 4 miles south from the interstate (not well marked for drivers traveling south). Camping is found at the Westwater Ranger Station & river put-in, approx 2 miles past the Trestle Intersect, or along this road in primitive sites. Do not count on water availability at the Ranger Station. They have a well, but reserve it for emergency use only. Also expect river-rafting crowds in season.

Even better camping happens at the Bitter Creek Overlook, a few miles before the end of this section. Subaru-accessible, from exit 227 head south 1/3 mile & go left up the hill on a gravel road just before a pipeline station. Right at 1<sup>st</sup> fork, left at next. Follow signs south. On the map it's the red line, not the black.

Start at Rabbit Valley (exit 2 on I-70), turn south and enter McInnis national conservation area parking with message & info boards. Just south of here at the first intersection is another parking area & a pit toilet. Zero your bike odometers here.

- 0.0 Intersection w/trail from east, head south, there's a parallel ATV trail on right, only 200m or so
- .2 Bear right at fork, there's a sign saying "high clearance vehicles only" (Currently no sign for Kokopelli trail here)
- .5 Camp/sag spot on right
- .6 Designated camp on right, trail gets rougher
- 1.0 Singletrack offshoot on right
  - This is an interesting & a bit more challenging parallel route, it is untitled on the Latitude 40 maps but can be seen as the northernmost of the two parallel tracks. A moderate route, mostly wide singletrack - tech 6, strength 7. Follow signs indicating "Trail 2." They will not be marked as Kokopelli Trail but will reconnect several times. Your mileage will be roughly the same on either route.
- 1.1 In riverbed, bear right, typically dry & sandy. Potentially muddy if it's been raining. Almost always rideable.
- 2.0 MacDonald creek conservation area, trail intersection on right, go straight
- 2.5 Coke Oven-looking rock formation, pit toilet, McDonald Creek TH, Nature Trail, campsite. The access for vehicles here is the trail you've just ridden - it's rough.
- 2.6 Trailhead for alternate hiking, no bikes, interesting rock art panels 2 miles in.

- 2.7 Cattle guard, trail 2 intersects on right
- 2.8 Climb out of creek on smooth sandy road towards Castle Rock, deep at times
- 3.2 Camping on left at fork, trail goes right, Knowles Canyon overlook turnoff is here.
- 3.5 Three-way intersection, trail veers left, right goes to parallel trail (more Trail 2)
- From here parallel trail 2 becomes noticeably more strenuous and less enjoyable for most. Stick to the Kokopelli proper, there will be better challenges soon.
- 4.8 Top out to smooth doubletrack. You're now in Utah...
- 5.0 Key intersection - you'll come into this piece fairly quickly & it will look like the trail just disappears into a round dirt lot. Kokopelli goes west from here; Trail 2 intersects again from right. Continue straight for Kokopelli off rock shelves, or turn left off one of several drops south that converge into a single road heading south to The Western Rim Trail (alternate route)
- The Western Rim Trail is a great singletrack deviation from the trail proper if you're looking for something more challenging than the last five miles. Expect several miles of rim-running with technical problems leading into a long section of singletrack across the Bitter Creek Wash and onto the mesa to the west to reconnect with the Kokopelli around mile 16.
    - DO NOT attempt this without a map & compass and SOLID navigation skills - you will be traveling well away from the trail on tougher terrain and must navigate by the surrounding geography.
    - To access the Western Rim Trail from this intersection, head left (south) at this intersection, bear left at 1<sup>st</sup> fork, then right @ 2<sup>nd</sup> fork (narrow & sandy), begin dropping towards your right to the rim. Follow the rim for several miles until climbing up & out into some taller grass. From here navigate your way thru fast singletrack across the wash towards the westernmost mesa. Once at the mesa, follow the steep motocross track up to the summit (altitude mark 4802 on map). Continue west to intersect with Kokopelli or bear north along the rim (The Overlook Trail) to Bitter Creek Campsite.
- 6.2 Dry wash, views of rim trail below
- 6.7 Side trail on left, may access Rim Trail?
- 7.1 Fork, go right
- 10.1 Seasonal water flow, very muddy when wet
- 10.8 ATV trail on right, 4wd straight, Kokopelli goes left towards mesa. Yes, you're climbing up that.