



Carrot Man Site - #17

ROCK ART

Located just east of Rangely is Canyon Pintado – “the painted canyon” – which represents a tie to Rangely’s historic past. Some of the rock art in the area dates back to the Barrier Canyon style, the Carrot Man site for example, and maybe 4,000 years old.

The Fremont Culture is dated from about 650 CE to about 1150 CE and was followed by the Shoshone and Ute Indians, all of whom left their marks on the canyon walls.

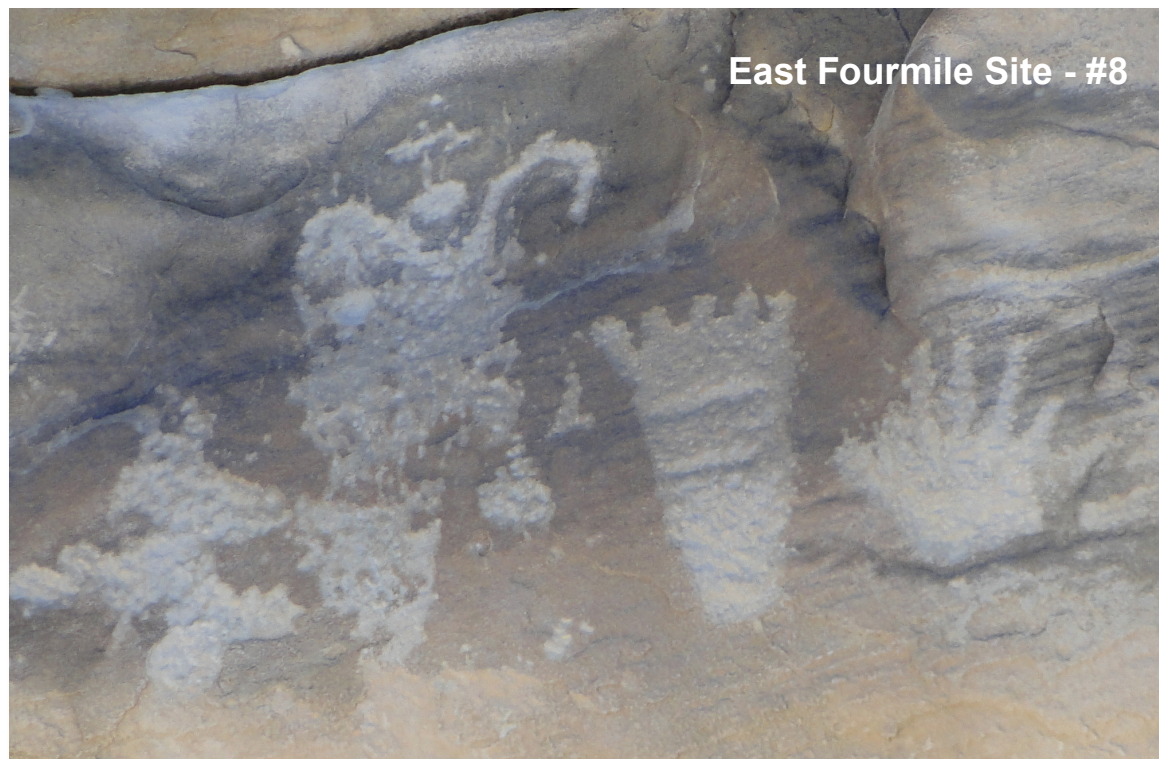
Interested in preserving the art, the Town of Rangely and the Bureau of Land Management jointly sponsored Canyon Pintado, now designated as Canyon Pintado National Historic District. It was designed to protect the fragile rock art as well as educate visitors to the history and culture of Native Americans.

In total there are 16 designated rock art sites that are mapped and marked with signs at each trailhead and several of the sites have graveled trails. The sites are along Canyon Pintado on Colorado Highway 139, Rio Blanco County Road 23. Rock art sites in the area consist of either Fremont or Ute works, and many sites have both. The art in the Rangely area dates from approximately 1200 to 1881 A.D.

Rock art is a fragile and unique vestige of our Native American heritage and local ranching history.

Please treat the area with respect and do not walk on boulders with rock art or dislodge any rocks from canyon walls. Only take pictures or sketch on a pad. Do not use chalk for photos or make rubbings of the designs. These techniques are harmful to rock art and it is vital they are preserved for generations to appreciate. Even touching rock art can permanently and chemically alter the rock surface, just from the oils in a fingerprint.

Please contact the BLM White River Field Office (970-878-3800) to report signs of vandalism.



NOTABLE ROCK SITES

1. Mellen Hill Site

milepost 7.5 (SH64)

(40o 7.46'N , 108o 55.8'W)

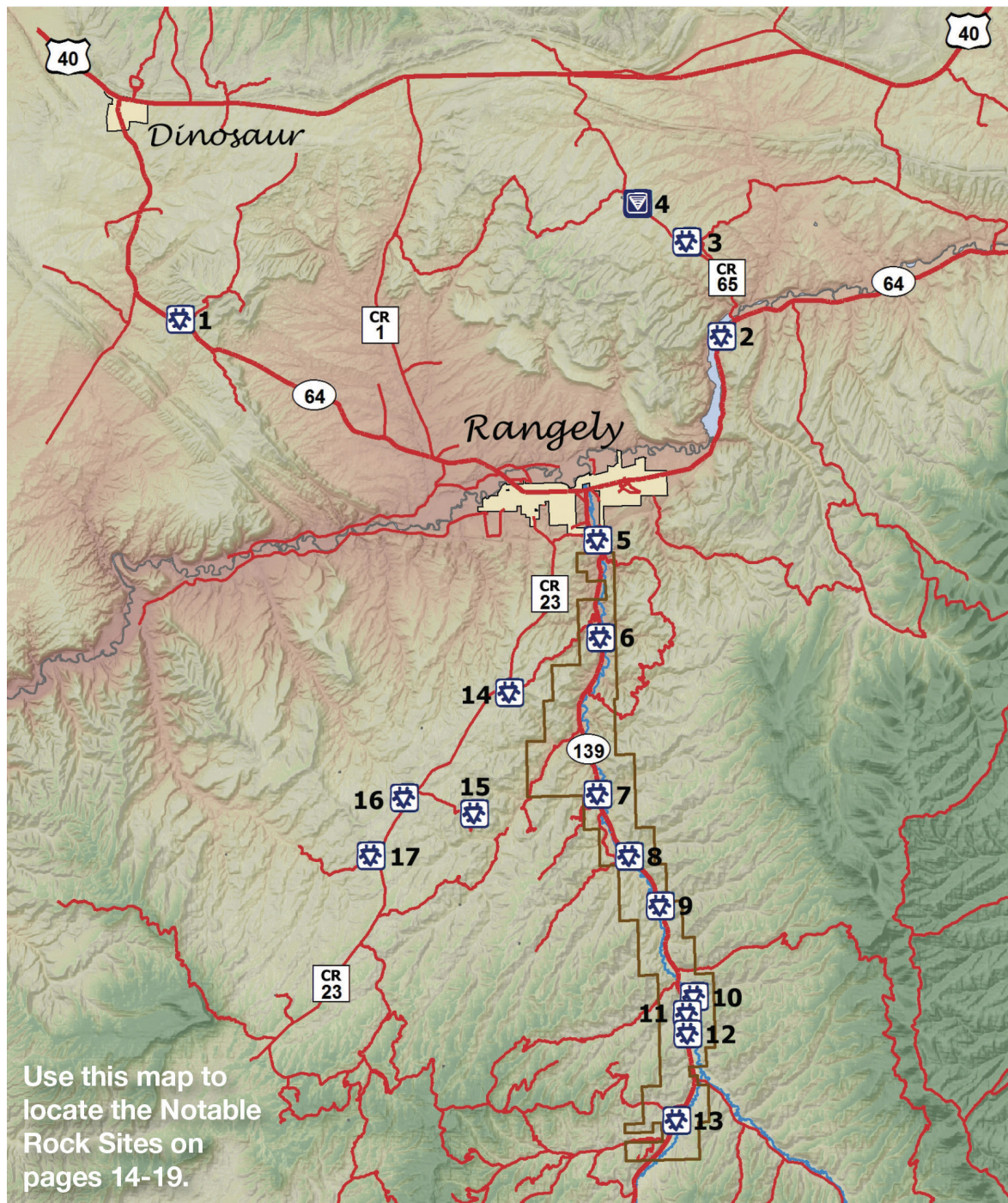
Park in the turnout on the north side of the highway. The caves and petroglyphs are on the north side of the small canyon. You will need to walk to the northwest, parallel to the highway and the canyon a short distance until you find the path down and across the canyon. Some agility is required to make it to the 3 caves. Rock art panels are generally found on cliff walls at each side of a cave entrance. The small overhang at the very top of the canyon and the large cave beside it have the most art. The triangular-bodied figures with the fancy headgear are Fremont work, but Ute is also present here.

2. Reservoir Site

milepost 26.9 (SH64)

(40o 8.8086'N , 108o 42.3534'W)

Turn north on the dirt road adjacent to milepost 27 and proceed through the opening in the fence. Take the first left fork in the two-track and travel



Use this map to
locate the Notable
Rock Sites on
pages 14-19.

back west parallel to the highway until the road curves back to the left and is ready to take you back the way you came. You are now above the draw that has the rock art panels. You will walk down into the draw, working to the right towards the reservoir for about 200 yd.s.

3. Ute Horse Site

milepost 2.9 (CR65)

(40o 11.0418'N , 108o 43.3242'W)

Travel north on CR65 towards the Deserado Coal Mine. You will need to pull off on the right shoulder before you reach milepost 3 (there is no pull out). The rock art is 250 yd.s up the shallow draw to the cliff face. Back south along the cliff face a short way you can find grooves in the rock face left by the sharpening of bone awls and needles.

4. Keely's Homestead

milepost 4.8 (CR65)

(40o 11.9652'N, 108o 44.8242'W)

This is NOT a rock art site, but the remains of an early homestead. The roadway cuts through the site with a few timbers and part of the foundation remaining on the uphill side and evidence of Walter Keely's life

scattered around the area. His hand-dug cistern is located on top of the low ridge about 100 yd.s north of the homestead. Walter's fenced gravesite is across the road in the junipers.

5. Camel Ridge Site

milepost 70.5 (SH139)

(40o 4.0908'N, 108o 46.2978'W)

Pull off the highway into the turnout on the right. The art panels are about 250 yd.s away on the north-facing cliffs just above the road and depict a camel-like figure, anthropomorphic shapes, and abstracts. Carved tracks are located at waist level on the east-facing cliff.

6. Lookout Point Site

milepost 67.6 (SH139)

(40o 1.7958'N, 108o 46.2792'W)

This may have been a watchtower and is located on the ridge-line north of the pullout. A sharp eye will see the wall on the cliff-top. There are many of these along the valley within viewing distance of each other. They may have served as part of an early warning system. The walk to the site is not difficult and provides an excellent vantage point to survey the valley. You will also see drilled holes in the cap-

rock and BLM interpretive panels.

7. Hoodoo Site

milepost 63.2 (SH139)

(39o 58.1292'N, 108o 46.4958'W)

Pull off in the wide turnout to the right below the two hoodoos on the hilltop on the west side of the highway. The rock art panel is through the fence and along a path to the south where a rough fenced enclosure protects the panel from livestock. Tapering "Carrot Man" figures are depicted.

8. East Fourmile Site

milepost 61.3 (SH139)

(39o 56.6532'N, 108o 45.5724'W)

The large draw opens to the east. It has a great number of panels and a pioneer line shack. Cross the draw to reach the panels along the northern cliffs. Panels scattered along this ledge are principally Fremont. Petrified logs are embedded in the overhang and the presence of corn stalks indicate farming occurred. Pioneer cabin ruins are about 300 yd.s further east along the main draw, and another 400 yd.s along the path is a stunning Fremont panel that faces in the direction you are traveling.



9. State Bridge Site

milepost 59.7 (SH139)

(39o 55.4640'N, 108o 44.6640'W)

Within sight of the highway, a small ridge south of the dirt road is capped by cliffs where you will find rock art on the west and south faces. Probably Fremont in origin, they include deer trails and anthropomorphic figures.

10. Cow Canyon Site

milepost 57.8 (SH139)

(39o 53.3124'N, 108o 43.7094'W)

Turn off to the east at Philadelphia Draw. Go east for 0.2 miles then turn right (south) for another 0.8 miles and cross two cattle guards. Immediately after the second cattle guard turn up a small draw to the east. Drive 0.1 miles past this turn and park. The panels are about 90 yd.s to your left, facing the road. Look closely to find the art.

11. White Birds Site

milepost 56.5 (SH139)

(39o 52.9038'N, 108o 43.9320'W)

There is a pull off on the right. The panel is on the west side about 100 yd.s above the highway. The white bird figures will probably catch your eye, but there is much more to the panel.

It is a steep climb but is well worth the effort as it is much more impressive up close.

12. Kokopelli Site

milepost 56.0 (SH139)

(39o 52.4412'N, 108o 43.9368'W)

This is a principal Canyon Pintado site. The rock art adorns the cliff face just across the road. This site is described in the journals of the Escalante Expedition of 1776. Of particular interest is the figure of Kokopelli, the hump-back figure player of Anasazi mythology. His presence indicates a tie with the cultures of the four corners area whose relics can be seen near Mesa Verde.

13. Waving Hands Site

milepost 53.5 (SH139)

(39o 50.4150'N, 108o 44.3382'W)

Look to the right of the road at the dark red figure that waves to you from the cliff face. He has some company so pull over and join the crowd. There are several small painted Fremont characters on the rock and just around the corner to the south is an overhang that has Ute figures, horses, arrows, and outlined hands.





Sun Dagger at East Fourmile - #8

14. Shield Site

milepost 5.6 (CR23)

(40o 0.5616'N, 108o 49.1016'W)

While traveling south on CR23, turn left on CR100 at milepost 5.6. Go 0.3 miles and turn right where CR100 makes a sharp left turn. Continue 0.2 miles to a parking area where you will take a trail a short distance to the rock art panel. The panel is on the cliff face to the northwest and contains a decorated shield figure about 3 ft. tall.

15. Fremont Ridge Site

milepost 9.7 (CR23)

(39o 57.7386'N, 108o 50.2746'W)

This site presents the greatest driving challenge of the tour. The two-track trail is long and winding and may be impassable when wet. Turn east off of CR23 onto BLM 1045B for 1.3 miles. At this point the road has turned south and you will take the left fork (east). Continue 0.6 miles where the road ends. Warning: there isn't much room to turn around here! Look for a large balanced rock to north of the parking area then follow the ridge along its south side for about 250 yd.s to the eye-level panel. It is a Fremont petroglyph panel marked by soaring carrot-shaped figures.

16. Crook's Brand Site milepost 10.1 (CR23)

(39o 58.1478'N, 108o 52.3968'W)

The turn-off to this site is on the west side of CR23 where a BLM sign noting Crook's Brand is located. Go 0.15 miles and turn right just before a gas well location. Proceed uphill toward the low cliff face another 0.15 miles. Here you will find incised figures of horses, General Crook's brand and a Ute depiction of a white man with a top hat and great coat. There are various historic era cowboy inscriptions and the remnant of pinup art produced by a Basque sheepherder who worked in this area in the past.



17. Carrot Man Site milepost 11.6 (CR23)

(39o 56.8068'N, 108o 53.4474'W)

This site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Turn to the right (west) off CR23 at the BLM sign and cross the cattle guard. Continue 0.3 miles to where there is a parking/turn around area on the left. Walk south into the gully which parallels the road on its south side. Walk down following the gully a short distance until you see the painted figures on the roof of the overhang on the right



hand side of the gully. The BLM has provided a descriptive sign. There are both pecked (petroglyph) and painted (pictograph) art at this locale with soaring carrot men being the most impressive features.

