

# RIVER NOTES

ψ Headwaters: Colorado's San Juan Mountains. Confluence: with the Colorado River on Lake Powell.

ψ Many human activities, but mostly Navajo Dam upstream and Glen Canyon Dam downstream, built in the early 1960s, have altered the river's natural regime and ecology. The River Trails cross the ghost of the old floodplain.

ψ The river flows "flood and trickle" – high in spring runoff and late-summer monsoons, low in midsummer and winter.

ψ The cottonwood tree's seed dispersal is timed perfectly with spring runoff. The seeds germinate in the moist substrate left on the banks of a receding river.

ψ From river to town, life zones go from aquatic habitat, riparian vegetation (willow, tamarisk, Russian olive), cottonwood bosque, and remnant wetlands, to the high, dry river terraces. Each zone has a distinct community of flora and fauna.

ψ Navajo names for the San Juan River: *Bits'lisnineezi* and *Tooh Bika'i*.

ψ Why isn't the San Juan clear? As the surrounding land erodes, its particles end up in the river. Side drainages like Cottonwood Wash are usually dry, but in seasonal rains they deliver the silt and sand that color the river. At peak stage, as much as 75 percent of the river's volume can be sediment.

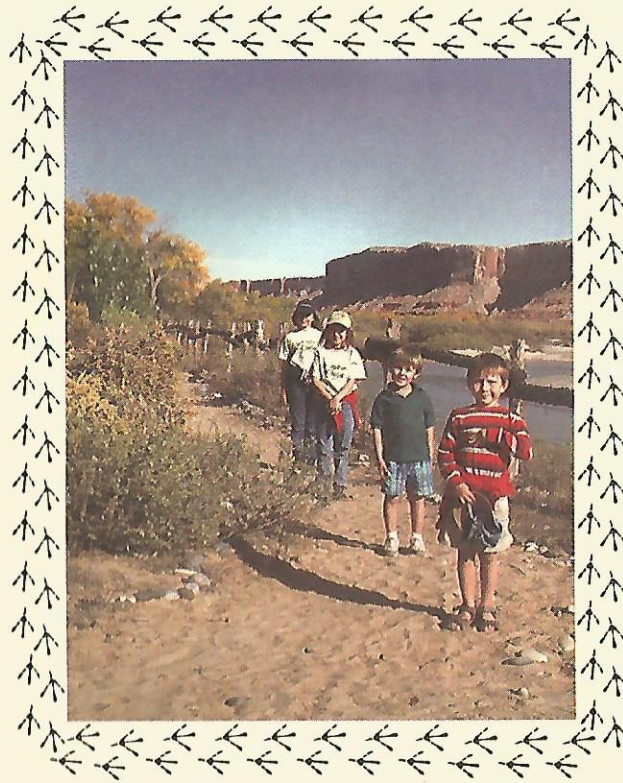
ψ The San Juan is home to two endangered native fish, the Colorado pikeminnow and the razorback sucker. Most common fish: catfish (introduced).

ψ Thank you Recapture Lodge, Cadillac Ranch RV Park, Guymon Ranches, U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Generous support for the Bluff River Trail and this publication came from a Rural Community Assistance grant, U.S. Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest. Early planning was made possible by grants from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the Sonoran Institute's Community Stewardship Fund. Much work was completed in 1984 by Utah State University Dept. of Landscape & Environmental Planning with funding from the Utah Arts Council.



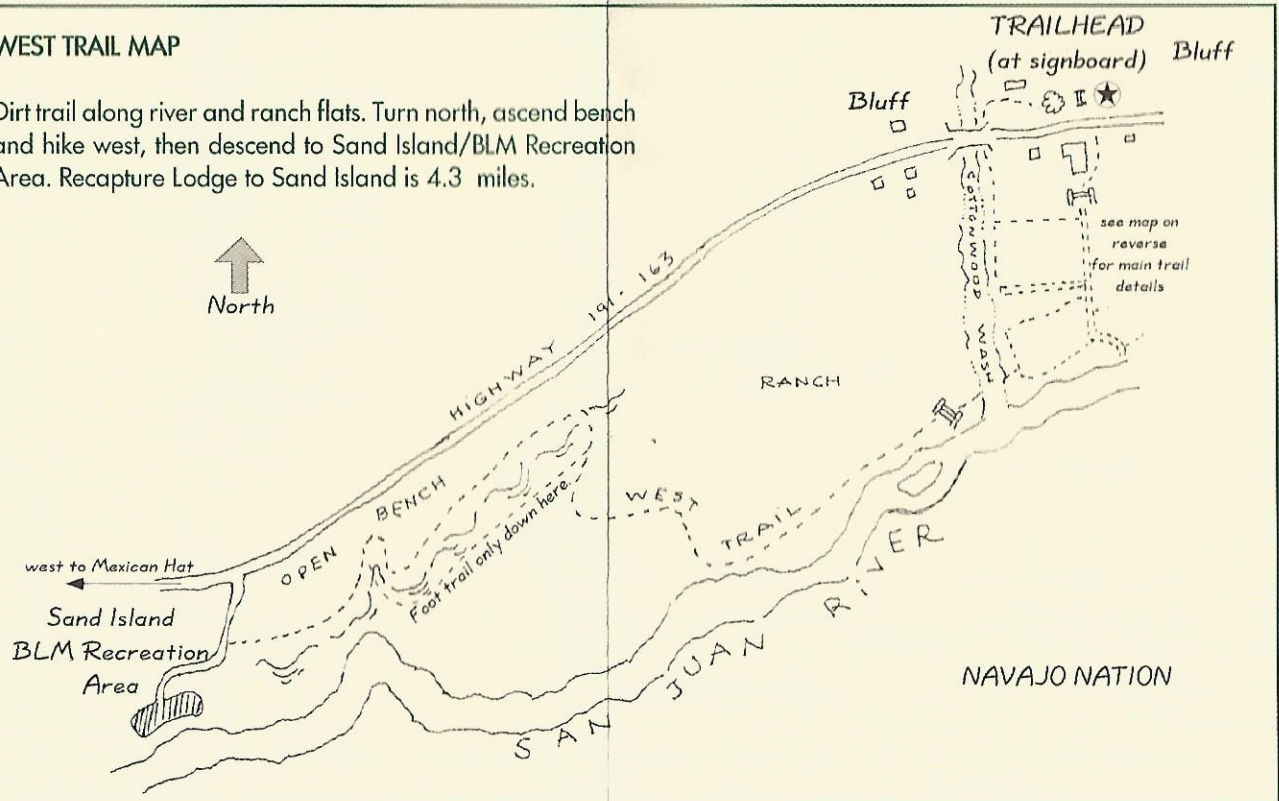
# BLUFF RIVER TRAIL

A GIFT TO US ALL



## WEST TRAIL MAP

Dirt trail along river and ranch flats. Turn north, ascend bench and hike west, then descend to Sand Island/BLM Recreation Area. Recapture Lodge to Sand Island is 4.3 miles.



## A Guide to Walks along the San Juan River

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