



South Beaver Creek

Colorado State Natural Area

What to Expect

South Beaver Creek sits within Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in the heart of the Gunnison River basin. Gunnison sage grouse call the land home, which provides important habitat for the federally threatened bird. The rolling sagebrush shrublands contain a significant portion of the known populations of the critically imperiled skiff milkvetch. Visitors may also catch glimpses of a ring dike geologic formation, an ancient geologic relict left over from magma forced up through a collapsed volcanic crater.



Gunnison milkvetch, a rare plant endemic to the Gunnison Basin.

Know Before You Go

Access the State Natural Area via dirt roads on the west side of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. The recreation area is a popular destination for camping, biking, hiking, climbing and cross-country skiing. Accessible restrooms are available at the recreation area's northeast parking lot. The State Natural Area overlaps with a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and care should be taken to not disturb sensitive habitat. Please stay on trail and practice Leave No Trace. For up more information, visit the [BLM's website](#).



The view across sagebrush hills at South Beaver Creek.

About the State Natural Area

Location: Gunnison and Saguache counties, 3 miles south of Gunnison

Landowner: Bureau of Land Management

Size: 4,793 acres

Address: Gunnison, CO, 81230. [Google Maps link to east entrance to Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.](#)



An Indian paintbrush blazes bright at South Beaver Creek.

For more information about the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) [visit CNAP's website.](#)