

**National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Glen Canyon National Recreation
Area

Grand Staircase-Escalante
National Monument

**U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

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New Exhibit Helps Visitors Explore Escalante

ESCALANTE, UT – A new exhibit was unveiled yesterday in Escalante, UT to help the more than one million people who visit the area enjoy their public lands safely and responsibly.

The new exhibit was installed outside of the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center to provide visitors with trip planning information whether the visitor center is open or closed, and focuses on safety and preparedness, and Leave No Trace principles.

A new mobile app was also released with trip planning information like maps, current road conditions, and weather and flash flood alerts. The app has been touted by the National Weather Service as a trendsetting approach for providing visitors with real-time weather data and works even when users are out of cellular range, which is frequently the case in the Escalante backcountry.

Associate Monument Manager for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Matthew Betenson, said this sort of information empowers visitors from around the country, and the world, to create safe, yet fun adventures on their public lands.

“Danger and risk, and the freedom to experience wildness, are part of why visitors come here every year, and their numbers are increasing,” Betenson said. “It is imperative that travelers to the region come prepared to protect themselves and develop an ethical appreciation for the lands they are enjoying.”

The Escalante area includes lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, and the National Park Service, and visitors can easily become confused about which services are offered and what activities are available in different parts of the region. The exhibit and app were designed to help visitors navigate these lands safely and forge deeper connections in the places they explore.

“The new outdoor exhibits provide visitors to the Escalante area with much needed 24/7 trip planning support,” said Allysia Angus, Landscape Architect for Grand Staircase-

Escalante National Monument. “Trip planning is the number one service people request at our visitor center before journeying into the ruggedly beautiful public lands surrounding Escalante.”

Each year the Escalante Interagency Visitor Center serves over 70,000 visitors to the Escalante region of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Dixie National Forest and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The most commonly requested information at the visitor center includes trip planning support for day trips, as well as overnight adventures into the backcountry.

Excellent opportunities for backcountry hiking and camping abound in the Escalante portion of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The desire to feel a sense of exploration, discovery, and seclusion attracts people from around the world, said Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent, William Shott.

“As an avid public lands user and adventurer, one of my favorite things about this part of the Colorado plateau is the sense of discovery. The landscape, the human stories, and the beauty drive a person to want to go one canyon further, one horizon further, one vista beyond,” Shott said. “This desire for discovery is also what makes these displays so relevant. I can’t think of a better time, a better place, or a better reason to make this investment now, at Escalante, for the public and their land.”

Dixie National Forest Supervisor, Angelita Bulletts, said collaboration with the community was fundamental to developing the exhibit and app. A member of the Kaibab Paiute tribe, local sheriffs, area guides, a National Weather Service representative, the Scenic Byway 12 coordinator, agency rangers and other local residents were featured in the exhibit and app.

“The Forest Service has a national priority of providing excellent customer service to the public and our stakeholders and partners,” Bulletts said. “The Escalante Interagency Office and the local community are a great example of many stakeholders working together to fill a public need for safety when visiting this rugged country.”

“An array of folks with deep connections to the Escalante region contributed their wisdom and experience to the design of the exhibits and app.” Angus said. “They are the faces and voices of these products and we are grateful for their help informing visitors from around the world how to explore and experience this special place in a safe, respectful and enjoyable way.”

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