

## Two Buttes Library and Museum

Theresa Hendricks has been the librarian and curator of the Two Buttes Library and Museum for only a few years, but she has transformed it into a cheery community center where residents come to check out books and can enjoy nicely organized memorabilia from Two Buttes early history. The museum is open Fridays 10:00 to 2:00 pm or by special appointment by calling Two Buttes Heritage Development at 719.326.0104.

Patients of the local doctor who moved to Two Buttes from Chicago in the 1910s to cure a lung ailment would bring him all sorts of interesting items, including a human skull. His records and equipment are on display, along with items from settlement days. His original office is across the street awaiting renovation.

Two Buttes community has recently rediscovered the complete records of the development and operation of the Two Buttes Reservoir, a picturesque recreation area now operated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. These records are undergoing archival filing. The museum is in the 1912 bank building across from the new post office.

Camping: Prohibited.  
Access: Prohibited from November 1 to close of Waterfowl Season.

Species: Black Crappie, Saugeye, Largemouth Bass, Wipers, Channel Catfish, Trout, Bullhead.

Most Abundant Species: Channel Catfish, Saugeye, Bullhead.

### Two Buttes

Location: From Lamar - Go south on US Highway 287 for 29 miles to Baca County Road B.5, then 3 miles east to reservoir.

Property: 6,793 acres public access.

Motor Boats: Permitted. Free boat ramp.

Facilities: Boat ramps, restrooms, rifle range.

safe. Bring your own toilet paper and pack out your own trash.

Access: Open all year.

Species: Black Bullheads, Saugeye, Wipers, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Bluegill, Channel Catfish.

Most Abundant Species: Gamefish populations approximately equally distributed.

Notes: The Black Hole, just below the dam, is a nice camping spot and, although small, is also stocked with fish. Excellent place to fish if conditions are windy over the dam. Two Buttes is also probably the most geologically interesting and picturesque of all Southeast Colorado Lakes. Wildlife is abundant, so the trip is enjoyable, even if the fishing doesn't go well.

### Turks Pond

Location: From Lamar - Go south on US Highway 287 approximately 36 miles to Colorado Highway 116, then east 14 miles to Baca County Road 39, then south approximately 5 miles to property.

Property: 200 acres of land, 55 acres surface area.

Covered picnic tables and restrooms are available and it is a good choice for travelers who have only a few hours to enjoy the richness of the wild-life and Indian culture along Carrizo Creek.

Birds are easily spotted and observed. The allusive Lark Bunting, Colorado's state bird is known to be in the region during summer months. Known for its wonderful song and distinctive solid blue black color with a single white patch along each wing it is wonderful to watch in flight. The attractive yellow-breasted western kingbird, a flycatcher, also frequents the area.

Carrizo Canyon is accessible from Highway 287/385, by turning west just north of Cam-po onto County Road M, and traveling 22 miles on this well

maintained gravel road. However, in wet conditions any of the unpaved roads can become slippery and difficult to navigate, making 4-wheel drive preferred if wet weather is possible. County Road 10 goes north to paved Highway 160 near Pritchett.

### Picture Canyon

This well known canyon is accessible along the same County Road M, but turn south at 8 miles. A sign will indicate proceeding on County Road 18 for another 8 miles to the Picture Canyon sign, again turning south onto Forest Service Road 533.

On the right just after turning, watch the top of the second "hill" for signs of intentionally placed larger rocks. This is the location where train robber

Black Jack Ketchum's gang ambushed the posse from Folsom, New Mexico chasing them. Although Black Jack got away on this occasion, he was caught later and hung. This gang also robbed wagon trains and local ranchers, so many people were unhappy with Black Jack!

Please sign the registry in the parking area. In less than a mile, a trail leads to the rock art area on the east wall. Two iconic figures on the Dakota Sandstone "picture" rock wall, the warrior and the horse, are good examples of where pictographs and petroglyphs are found together. These depictions were highlighted with black pigment. On close inspection, faint lines above the horse may indicate teepees. An

### Carrizo Canyon

The east fork of the Carrizo Creek flows through this small canyon graced by juniper and cottonwood. Images of mountain sheep, elk and a deer with fantastically-branched antlers, have been pecked into the canyon walls where trees and vegetation provide cover. Carrizo Canyon contains a wonder array of grasses fed by springs and seeps, making the short loop trail very picturesque.

antelope and a pig were created in red pigment farther down on the same wall.

The figure of a woman, with many circles across the chest and belly, is one of the most fascinating of all images depicted among this extensive collection. It is assumed that most of the rock art here was created during the 17th or early 18th century by Plains Indians.

The U. S. Forest Service provides occasional tours to this wall of pictures. Check with the Springfield office about tour availability by calling 719.523.6591. Their bus tours to Crack Cave, 3/4 mile from the Picture Canyon parking area on the days of the spring and the fall equinoxes, arrive directly at the site before sunrise.

The cave contains hatch marks that some researchers find strongly resemble Ogam, of European origin. Anthropologists have not found collaborating evidence that Europeans actually visited this region. The marks are clearly delineated with light as the sun rises on these two days each year.

Lush riparian habitat and the area's perennial springs allowed for a semi-permanent living environment for indigenous peoples. Teepee rings, rocks of certain size found in deliberately placed circular formations, have been located on the mesa above the canyon by scientists, but none have been designated for public viewing.

Many undocumented dinosaur tracks are reported to

Two Buttes (old bank building across from post office) both display dinosaur objects, from eggs to bones to teeth. Both also display petrified wood that came from the petrified remnants of an ancient forest exposed through erosion north of Two Buttes. Ancient sea oysters and imprints of shells are commonly found in stone all around southeast Colorado. Both museums display examples.

A large quantity of petrified wood that was taken from Two Buttes Creek can be viewed at the Stagner auto dealership on North Main Street in Lamar. A gasoline service station was built in the 1930s whose floors and outer walls were constructed of petrified wood claimed from this spot, which now is absent of any traces. Fortunately, Mr. Brown, who built the station, cemented these many pieces in place so they are available for all to see!

### Picture Canyon Dinosaurs

Dinosaur tracks also have been located in the Carrizo Unit, in Picture Canyon and elsewhere. However, they are extremely difficult to locate unless you are a professional or have a professional guide. The new kiosk at the picnic area discusses their presence. Evidence of *Magnovipes* (big bird foot) and *Iguanodontids* (large three-toed) dinosaurs have been discovered along the Oklahoma border in Colorado. Tracks of the *Ornithomimosaur*, a small ostrich-like dinosaur, also have been found in Picture Canyon along with plant fossils.

The state's only complete plesiosaur, a long-necked sea rep-