

Desert Winds
Canyonlands Field Institute e-news, summer 2006

Our season is in full swing here in Moab, and while the spring winds and wildflowers are starting to fade, the fun and enthusiasm of participants and staff is going strong. These days seem designed for being on the river and with the high temperatures and high water there is no better place to be. Below is trip information and news from CFI.



Photo courtesy of actionshots.com, Moab, UT

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Member Westwater Trip (July1-2):

Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to see Westwater Canyon with CFI. Special guest John Keys, former Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, will be along to share his perspectives on western water issues. Along with highlighting canyon geology, history and ecology, CFI Naturalist Guides will provide a sampling of activities taught on our school outdoor ed programs (they're not just for kids). Space is limited, and time is running out, so act now. **Special member price \$100/person.**

Non-members: If you are not a member you can join now. For more information go to www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/support/contribute.html .

Whitewater Academy for Teens:

Had I only known about the Whitewater Academy for Teens when I was in high school.....

From August 6-10, 2006 teens can spend their days learning skills from righting flipped boats to cooking for hungry river rats. Participants will also learn river safety, how to read rapids, and get to try their hand at the oars. This four night trip will cover 41 river miles starting in Loma, Co, and culminating with a day in Westwater Canyon's class III rapids. \$550/person age 13-18, deposit \$250. Partial scholarships available. www.canyonlandfieldinst.org/summer_youth/4sum_wwacademy.html

Upcoming Trips:

River Running

Wild by Nature: A Women's Rafting Trip (August 3 (eve)-8, 2006): Meet other women while exploring and learning about the natural world around you. CFI women's trips combine fun and excitement with the soothing capabilities of the river, and participants come away feeling relaxed and rejuvenated and looking forward to their next trip. \$680/adult; \$580 youth 16-17. Deposit: \$250/person

www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv_womenraft.html

San Juan River Upper Canyon: Rafting for Adults (Sept. 12(eve)-16, 2006): Spend four days exploring the San Juan River and discovering traces of those who have come before. See and learn about Native American rock art and traces of early explorers, as well as geologic wonders, native plants, and wildlife. Experience river dynamics first hand in a one- or two-person inflatable kayak. \$680/adult. Deposit: \$250.

www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv_sanjanrup_adult.html

San Juan River Lower Canyon: Rafting for Adults (Sept. 15(eve)-21, 2006): Get away from it all for six days on the lower San Juan River. Spend your days hiking, viewing wildlife, and floating downriver in either a raft or an inflatable kayak. \$950/person. Deposit: \$250 www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv_sanjuanrlow.html

*Special option: Combine upper and lower San Juan Canyons for a 9-night trip. Adjusted fee: \$1400/person. Deposit \$500.

Yoga workshop and Rafting for Adults (Oct.5 (eve)-9, 2006): Join other adults for a 3 day/3night trip down the San Juan River from Bluff to Mexican Hat. In addition to adventure on the river and naturalist instruction, relax your mind and body with a professionally led yoga workshop in the beautiful outdoors. \$595/person. Deposit: \$250.

www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv_sanjuanyoga.html

Green River Labyrinth Canyon: Canoeing for Adults (Oct.9(eve)-15, 2006): Beginner and experienced canoers welcome. Paddle the calm water of Labyrinth Canyon beneath

red rock walls contrasting against blue skies. Enjoy hikes, campfires, and a canyon full of early river-runner history. \$900/person. Deposit: \$250
www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure4edv_greenrcanoe.html

Hiking

Lizard Head Wilderness (August 27(eve)-Sept. 1, 2006): Explore the San Juan Mountains near Dolores and Telluride, Colorado on foot with llama pack-stock support. Escape to a higher elevation and take in the clean air, clear lakes, and cooler temperatures of the mountains. \$1125/person. Deposit: \$250
www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv?lizheadllama.html

Dark Canyon Wilderness Area (Sept. 24(eve)-29, 2006): Spend 5 days in the forest and desert of Utah's Abajo mountains. Explore Native American sites and old cowboy cabins with llama pack support. \$1125/person. Deposit: \$250
www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure4edv_darkcanyon.html

Rainbow Bridge/Navajo Mountain (Oct.3(eve)-8, 2006): Hike into the backcountry without the burden of a heavy pack with our 5 day pack stock supported trip. CFI teams up with the Navajo Family owned Rainbow Bridge Outfitters to offer a culturally and ecologically rich trip from Navajo Mountain to Lake Powell. \$1125/person. Deposit: \$250. www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org/edventure/4edv/rainbow.html

In addition to the above trips, CFI also offers trips for school groups and custom family and adult trips. Raft or canoe through one of the area's many beautiful canyons, or hike into the desert backcountry. CFI's knowledgeable naturalist guides can inform you about the area geology, ecology, wildlife, and natural and cultural history, as well as regale you with stories beginning with, "there I was....."

Meet Our New PR Intern:

Welcome to Windy, our new PR Intern. Most recently a resident of Fort Collins, Co., Windy moved to Moab in May to begin work for CFI. While in Fort Collins she received her Bachelors degree in Natural Resources, Recreation and Tourism with a concentration in Parks and Protected Area Management. Windy's previous work experience includes time spent in the field doing wilderness therapy work. With this position with CFI she hopes to gain insight into the behind the scenes and logistical workings of a non-profit organization with an outdoor focus.

Day Tours and Hikes:

If you only have one day to explore the wild Canyonlands area, don't despair, CFI offers one day and half day land tours April-October, excluding July. On a half day tour join your naturalist guide at the trail head for a hike up the creek in Negro Bill Canyon or watch the rocks change shades with the changing light during a morning or sunset tour of Arches National Park. For a full day, meet your guide at the Moab Information Center at

9 a.m. and depart for Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, or the La Sal Mountains. Explore the hidden wonders of the Fiery Furnace, marvel at the stark beauty of the Needles District or Island in the Sky, or beat the heat at a cool mountain lake. The day is yours, and your guide can take you for a long hike or do a van tour, stopping at all the sights along the way. Reservations are required 8 hours or more in advance. For more information go to www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org./day/3day.html

CFI Awarded Range Creek Permit:

The Range Creek Valley, located in the Book Cliffs west of the Green River and Tavaputs Plateau, is the site of a high concentration of Fremont Indian artifacts. In December, 2001, the Range Creek Valley was transferred from private ownership to the BLM, and is now managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Because of the previous status as private land, the Range Creek Valley has been left largely untouched and undisturbed by visitors, and the historic artifacts are in excellent condition.

In an effort to open the area to visitors while maintaining the pristine condition of the valley, the DWR has instigated a strict permitting system which allows 28 visitors per day with a 5 day maximum stay. The DWR has also granted commercial permits to only five companies, one of which is CFI. No mechanized travel is allowed in the WMA, there is not a wide-ranging and well traveled trail system, and many of the sites are subtle and easy to miss. To provide the most educational and enjoyable tours of this unique and isolated area, CFI is in the midst of conducting exploratory research in the valley. We hope to have a pilot tour for September 2006, and will be able to offer school and special interest adult tours for 2007. For additional information and to be added to our "Range Creek interest list" please email us at info@canyonlandsfieldinst.org. For more information on the Range Creek Valley go to www.wildlife.utah.gov/range_creek.

Naturalist Note:

There they were, right on cue. Nicky had jokingly said that we would see Big Horn Sheep at 2:00, and sure enough, as we came up on mile 16 of the Upper San Juan River, there they were. Silence filled the raft as we stopped rowing to observe these rare animals. Much can be learned about a specific Bighorn from, what else, its horns. In males, or rams, the horns are a sign of rank and can curl all the way back on themselves, reaching up to 30 pounds. Female, or ewe, horns are smaller than those of the rams and never exceed a half curl. Aside from the horns Bighorns are also known for their agility on rocky slopes, and can reach a speed of 15mph up a slope, covering 20 feet in a single bound. The Bighorn's sharp eyesight is essential to this agility, and also allows it to see another animal a mile away.

Desert Bighorns were once prolific throughout the Colorado Plateau, and their image is one of the most common found in ancient rock art sites. Due to habitat loss, introduced disease, competition from livestock, and hunting, the Big Horn Sheep numbers today are only one-tenth of their pre-European numbers. Because of their sensitivity to environmental change, Bighorn serve as a good indicator species, and I am happy to see them out along the river today.

Wish List:

1. Three drawer upright file cabinet
 2. Chainsaw for field camp maintenance
 3. Generator for power tool use at Field Camp for improvement projects
 4. Digital Camera for use in marketing and PR department
 5. LCD projector
- Services: marketing coaching and/or consultation

Readers:

We welcome your suggestions and submissions for future e-news: stories and photos from your CFI trips, recipes, helpful resources & links, news about former staffers, interns and graduate students etc.

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