



A collared lizard basks in the sun.



Checking out petroglyphs in one of Desolation's various side canyons.

Desolate

by Steve Eginore

Perhaps Major J.W. Powell was in a foul mood when he christened a beautiful length of Utah's Green River with the name Desolation Canyon. Abundant in wildlife, watery side canyons, and much younger strata relative to most deep desert canyons, this 86-mile stretch of river passes through some of Utah's wildest country. With enough whitewater to challenge the novice and keep the seasoned boatman entertained, a trip down Desolation is sure to leave a lasting impression on those who are lucky enough to visit – even crusty old men like Powell.



The Green River cuts straight through the Tavaputs Plateau creating large vertical relief from river to rim.



A thirsty black bear makes his way down to the river for a drink.



Bizarre geology can be found throughout much of Desolation Canyon.



A perennial stream makes its way to the Green River.