



The 93-year old Ismay Trading Post: last stop on the road before entering the Navajo reservation.



A verdant alfalfa field in McElmo Canyon.

Way out West

by Steve Egiroire

Past and present merge alongside the lush alfalfa fields and cottonwood groves of McElmo Canyon just outside Cortez. A straight shot west into Utah and the Navajo Nation, sites along this curvy, two-lane road back in time offer up much for the eyes and imagination. Vineyards, ancient ruins, farmers, inn-keepers, Native Americans and about as much Wild West history as one can handle ... all but a short drive from the Durango tide pool. Here's a look:



A not-quite full moon rises above the slopes of the Sleeping Ute.



A water wheel in retrograde.



Battle Rock at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.



Roadside petroglyphs.