



Dinosaur Significance

- The geologic record at Dinosaur National Monument is significant for the 23 rock layers exposed in a relatively small area. These formations provide a unique window for understanding the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau.
- The historic Douglass Quarry contains the most concentrated, diverse, and abundant collection of well preserved Jurassic Period dinosaur bones in the world. Fossils from the Morrison Formation enable scientists to reconstruct the 150 million-year-old ecosystem in which the dinosaurs and their contemporaries lived.
- Dinosaur National Monument is the only National Park Service site established to preserve an in-situ (fossil bones left in place) historic dinosaur quarry and is known internationally for the continued discovery and scientific study of new fossil specimens.
- Quarries in Early Cretaceous rocks have produced abundant dinosaur remains, including multiple skulls, belonging to a species new to science and these fossils are among the most significant Early Cretaceous dinosaur fossils in the world.
- Dinosaur National Monument preserves the impressive biological diversity of the Uintah Basin. This diversity results from the interplay between geologic deposition, uplift, erosion, time, and biological communities.
- Dinosaur National Monument offers outstanding opportunities to experience solitude, natural quiet, dark night skies, and wild environments.
- Dinosaur National Monument reveals an 11,000-year record of continuous human occupation, cultural development, and exploration from Paleo-Indian culture to the present. These pristine and intact resources provide excellent opportunities for research and education.
- Fur trappers, explorers, and early boaters set the stage for white water boating on Dinosaur National Monument's wild rivers – a unique, high-quality non-motorized boating experience.
- The proposal to dam the Green River below Echo Park in the 1950s galvanized the nation's fledgling conservation organizations into a potent political power that defended the National Park idea.
- The Yampa River is the last natural-flowing river in the Colorado River System. As such, it provides necessary habitat for all native aquatic and riparian species remaining in the Upper Green River System and has forestalled the extinction of four endangered fish species. Outstanding research opportunities exist within the Monument to compare the river and riparian systems of the Yampa to the regulated flow regime of the Green.