

## Hiking & Biking Trails

**Some of the best hiking and hiking trails in the Rangely area are relatively close to town in the sandstone rims and mesas located north of town.**

- These sandstone rims are labeled the Coal-Oil Rims on USGS topographical maps.
- But locals prefer to call them the Rangely Rims, since you can see the town from almost anywhere along them.
- Locals also refer to them as the Raven Rims, in honor of the abundant population of large, black, noisy, birds which live in the area.

**The geological basin in which Rangely and the oil field lie, was originally called Raven Park.**

If you enjoy backcountry hiking, or Backroad Mountain biking, the **Raven Rims have much to offer.**

**A favorite local starting point is at the corrals in Chase Draw.**

- Chase Draw is the major drainage farthest to the right when viewing the rims from town.
- The Rims is a rough and rugged place, and you really should use a high-clearance vehicle, such as a large pickup truck or four-wheel drive utility vehicle.
- The Rims is no place for the family sedan.
- If it's been raining, it would be wise to delay the trip until the muddy back roads have had a chance to dry.

To get to Chase Draw,

- turn north at the stoplight from Main Street onto White Avenue.
- Continue 0.7 mile and cross the green bridge.
- The road tees into county road 4fi after the bridge.
- Turn right so that you are heading east on the county road.
- Travel 0.5 miles and then turn left (north) on the road indicated by the BLM bike route symbol.

Note ... Respect the private property and stay on the public road.

- At 0.5 mile from the county road, take the right branch, following the BLM signs.
- Continue past a stock pond on the left.
- At 2.5 miles from the county road, you will find yourself at the base of the steep slopes leading up to the rims.
- A left turn at this point will take you to Dead Dog Draw.

This draw is the first major drainage to the west of Chase Draw.

**Dead Dog Draw is a good access point to the Raven Rims for adventurous hikers who wish to scramble up onto the rims east or west of the draw and explore the slickrock and the small side canyons.**

- Look for 'hidden aspen quakies' and evidence of Indian camps.

**For those who are exploring the area for the first time, or those on mountain bikes, it is best to leave Dead Dog Draw for later,**

- Instead turn right and continue eastward for 0.8 miles to the Chase Draw corrals.
- The little side track to the left of the corrals is an excellent place to park.
- Sheep herders use these corrals, especially in spring.
- If sheep are present, don't disturb them or the privacy of the sheep herder camp.
- From the corrals, bikers and hikers have a huge parcel of scenic, publicly owned territory to explore.
- **Bike trails follow the two rutty roads leading into Chase Draw and then branch to the east and west.**

**A local favorite route** (marked by the BLM signs) **is to climb east out of the draw and follow the route approximately five miles to the picnic tables at Kenney Reservoir.**

- This site is popular with boaters in the summer.
- This ten-mile round trip ride can be made longer by starting in town.
- Someday, we would like to have a footbridge across the White River below the dam. When that happens, this route could be a very nice loop trip.

**Biking west from Chase draw will take one across scenic benchlands between the Raven Rims and the sandstone hills to the north.**

**After approximately nine miles, this route will drop you into Nate Spring Draw and will connect to a series of other backcountry routes.**

A mountain biker in this area is limited only by time and personal endurance.

**Hiking from the Chase draw corrals can also take an easterly or a westerly direction.**

It's recommended that you stay off the rutted roads and scramble up the rocky slope on foot to the south and west of the corrals.

- This slope is on the south side of a small westerly trending canyon.
- Head due south and you will soon come upon the rim.
- Hike westward with the rim to your left enjoying the views of Raven Park,
- Watch out for the large fissures frequently encountered in the rimrock.
- Walking through the juniper woodland is easy once you reach the rim.
- Try to stay on the white and red sandstone as much as possible.

Avoid trampling the soil organism known as cryptogamic soil, or crypto-biotic crust.

It's that funny looking soil that looks very pointy, bulbous, and popcorn like. It takes nearly forever to grow, and protects the soil from erosion.

Note ... Please let it live by not walking on it.

**If you follow the Raven Rims for approximately three miles, you will encounter Dead Dog Draw.**

It is possible to scramble into the draw from the rim. In so doing, choose your route carefully as you are almost certain to encounter loose rock and soil.

**One of the nice things about this hike is that you can cut it short at any point and make a loop back to your vehicle by heading "inland" for a few hundred yards and then walking east : through the junipers, along narrow fissure gullies, and across wide expanses of gently sloping sandstone.**

Another good jumping off point for exploring the Raven Rims is from a paved road located approximately seven miles up the Blue Mountain Highway from its intersection with Colo. 64 in the heart of the Rangely oil field.

Ample parking exists on the east side of the road at the mouth of a small canyon penetrating into the rims.

**In exploring the Raven Rims, or any of the other public lands areas near Rangely, it is important to remember that these areas are wild and remote. The only nearby commercial services are in Rangely and Dinosaur.**

Carry in everything you will need especially, food, water, and protective clothing. ; Leave nothing behind and carry out whatever you bring in.

**The rewards of exploring these areas are something you never tire of: beautiful vistas, abundant wildlife, evidence of those who have been there before, and solitude. If you are lucky, you can find Indian dwellings and astronomical sites, secret rock art panels, arrowheads and maybe even a wickiup.**

Note ... Such artifacts are federally protected and should not be disturbed in any way.

- Eagle and other raptor nests are common in the rimrock.
- Please respect these big birds if you find yourself in their territory.
- Mule deer, pronghorn, and elk are abundant, as are predators such as coyotes, red foxes, and badgers.
- Mountain lions are present but elusive. It is rare to see anything more than their tracks.

If you enjoy these rims, then don't limit yourself

**There are almost endless opportunities for adventure if you are willing to hike or bike the ubiquitous public lands surrounding Rangely.**

Please remember to respect private property and wildlife as you enjoy this vast, beautiful, wild area called the "Raven Rims."