The Fremont Culture was responsible for much of the area from 500 AD. Fremont farmers entered west-central Colorado. Farmers continued to sculpt this spectacular landscape today. Fremont farmers planted beans, corn, squash, and gathered foods in local canyons and on nearby mesas.

During the Upper-Jurassic Period between 146 and 156 million years ago, McInnis Canyons NCA was part of a basin of shallow lakes, meandering streams, and subtropical vegetation. Some dinosaurs got stuck in the soft mud near ponds, where they became easy prey for meat eating dinosaurs. If an animal or plant is quickly buried, it may be preserved as a fossil, which happened a lot in this area. As a result, McInnis Canyons offers an amazing diversity of fossilized plants and animals.

The history of McInnis Canyons goes back to the late Cenozoic Era, movements within the earth began to uplift an area. Canyons eroded into the northwest flank of this uplifted area. The forces of water, wind, and gravity have shaped this region. Uplifted area. The forces of water, wind, and gravity have shaped this region. These forces continue to sculpt this spectacular landscape today. The geologic story of McInnis Canyons NCA is found embedded in the rocks in and around McInnis Canyons. In locations such as the Trail Through Time, visitors can view dinosaur bones or watch a paleontological excavation. Canyons. In locations such as the Trail Through Time, visitors can view dinosaur bones or watch a paleontological excavation. Canyons. In locations such as the Trail Through Time, visitors can view dinosaur bones or watch a paleontological excavation.

The NCA benefits from the stewardship of a local Friends group. The Friends are committed to community stewardship of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. It is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), volunteer organization fostering cooperation among all NCA user groups including bikers, mountain bikers, boaters, equestrians, OHV enthusiasts, hunters & anglers, dinosaur lovers, ranchers, scientists, and more. The Friends’ priorities include educational programs like guided tours, guest speakers, local school programs, and an oral history documentary video. They also host volunteer projects such as trail work, tree planting, and Adopt-A-Highway as well as winter rivers and National Public Lands Day celebrations. Visit http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca for more information about the Friends group.

For more information:

The BLM manages and protects more than 200 million acres of public lands such as forested mountains, grassy plains, and deserts. The Bureau of Land Management is part of the United States Department of the Interior. For more information, visit http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca.html

To report violations, please call the Mesa County Sheriff at 970-244-3500

For more information, please contact McInnis Canyons NCA at 970-244-3000