**Directions**

From U.S. 285, turn west onto Saguache County Road G. After six miles, you will pass the La Garita Trading Post. Go another 0.5 miles to a Y intersection; take the left fork (County Road 38A). Travel 0.5 miles to the entrance to the recreation area on your right.

For more information, please contact:

**BLM San Luis Valley Field Office**

46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO  81149
719-655-2547

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm
Closed weekends and holidays

There is no fee for climbing in the area. Please consider leaving a donation in the tube located at the Penitente Canyon trailhead kiosk. All donations are used to maintain and enhance recreation within Penitente Canyon.

**When You Climb, Please Remember**

- No new bolting is permitted anywhere in the recreation area.
- Know your limits and skill level. All climbing is at your own risk.
- Do not chip, chisel, glue, tag (graffiti) or in any way deface rock surfaces.
- Minimize chalk use and brush off heavily chalked holds. If you must use chalk, use pigmented chalks that blend in with the natural colors of the rock.
- Climb in small numbers. Dispense your activities.
- Use established trails to reach climbing areas.
- Don’t monopolize routes.
- Follow the Leave No Trace principles for rock climbing.

Phonograph Trail System

**Plan Ahead**

Use appropriate equipment.

Check route and equipment before climbing.

Find out about permits and practices. If you use a guide, make sure they are permitted for the area you plan to climb.

Carpool to popular locations to minimize overcrowding at the trailhead.

Since being discovered by sport climbers in the 1980s, the Penitente canyonlands have emerged as one of Colorado’s premier climbing areas. In Penitente Canyon alone, you will find more than 300 bolted routes, and many more in neighboring areas like Witches Canyon and the Rock Garden.

The routes, which tend to be short but challenging, range from 5.2 to 5.13c on the Yosemite Decimal System rating scale. Among the more famous are: Los Hermanos de la Weenie Way (5.11c) and Bullet the Blue Sky (5.12c) in inner Penitente Canyon; and Forbidden Fruit (5.12a) on the “Whipping Wall” in Penitente Canyon; and Copacetic (5.11b) in the Rock Garden.

The BLM manages the 4,552-acre Penitente Canyon Special Recreation Management Area primarily for rock climbers. Other users include heritage tourists, mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians and people looking to experience the special spirit of the canyons.