

Green River Mineral Bottom to Confluence

Trip report by Gay Lynn Olsen

Sept 9-14, 2022

Paddlers: Lindsay and Brookie, Carol and Werner, Camilla, Elaine, Gay Lynn, Janet and Doug, Sharon, Kathryn, Susan (Kathryn's sister)

Highlights/tips from our trip

- Lindsay did a wonderful job organizing this trip! So well done (no, he isn't the one who wrote up the trip report). We had 12 boaters paddling 6 tandem canoes.
- This is a stunning Class I trip of approximately 52 river miles—we highly recommend it! It could even be done over more days with additional time for hiking side canyons and seeing fossils and ruins.



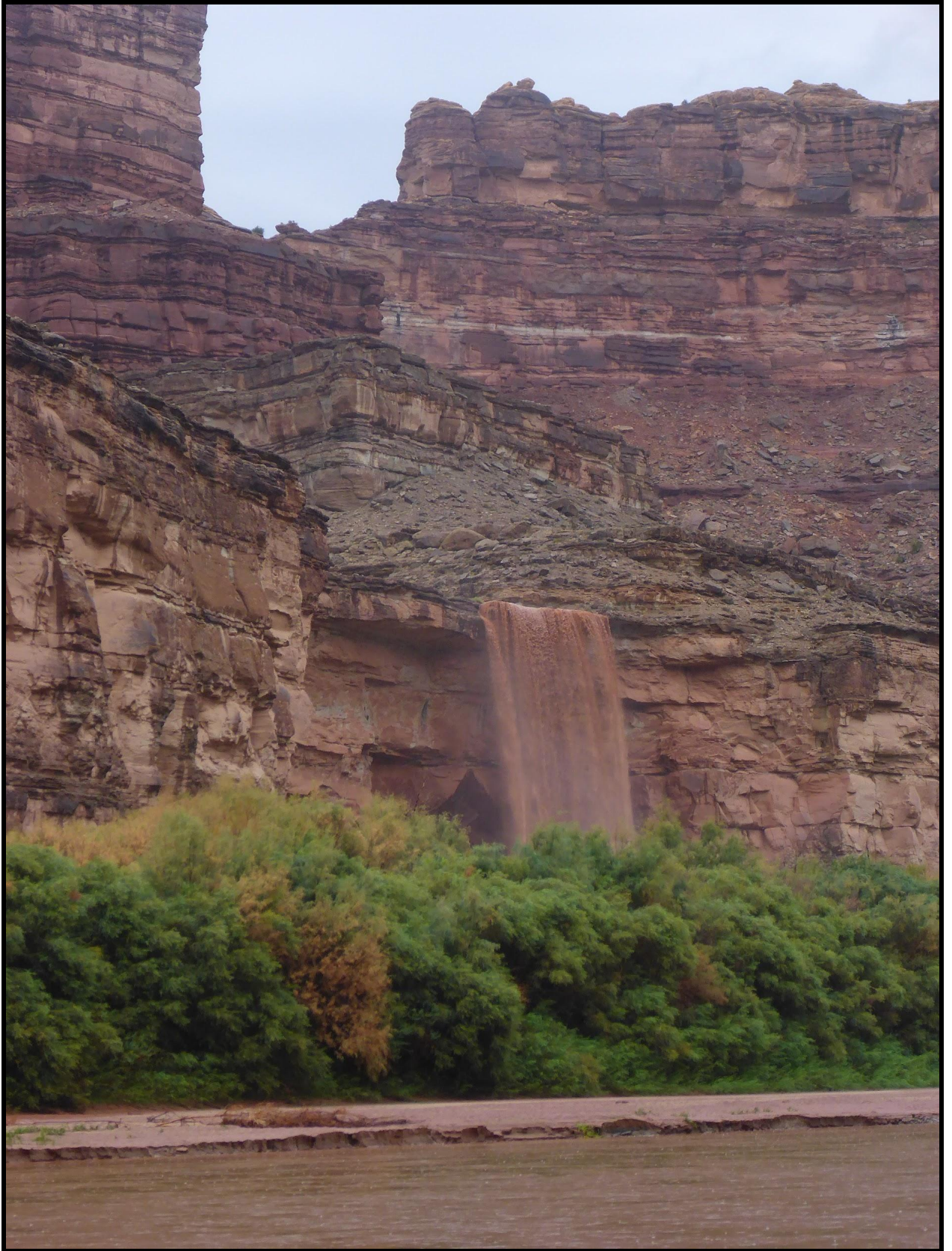
- This trip can only be done by reserving a jet boat return from the confluence. Tex's Riverways was the company who shuttled us back. In terms of planning ahead, the limitation is being able to get a reservation for the jet boat return; reservations were made in March for our September trip. A Park Service permit is required for Stillwater canyon and is available for the asking. Just go to recreation.gov a month before the launch date. Total cost of the trip including permits and the shuttling was about \$250 per person.

- For those interested in a river map, Belknap's Canyonlands River Guide (available at Tex's Waterways and other places) includes mile markers, names of canyons, geological points of interest, etc. There is also the Guide to the Colorado & Green Rivers in the Canyonlands by Tom Martin. Durable and waterproof, with USGS maps and descriptions of river features.
- We did it at a low water level, which meant:
 - Many of the campsites listed were not accessible (ie no good landing places and if we could have landed, would be walking through deep mud to the shore line and then would have to climb up steep banks with our stuff to a camp site). So when in doubt, we would stop and camp on a sand bar as we didn't know how long it would be until the next suitable spot. Even then, we did do some mucking through the mud to get there.
 - Some of the hikes were not accessible for the same reason, Turk's Head in particular.
- The river was running about 2000 cfs for most of the trip. There was a bump on the last day when it rained.
- The shuttle to the put in is not for the faint of heart. The road down to Mineral Bottom is switch back after switch back on the side of a very steep slope. Many of us would not have wanted to be in the drivers' seat on that ride.



- Recommended stops along the way. Miles listed below are per the Belknap guide. I believe mile zero is the confluence of the Colorado and Green.

- Approx. Mile 31 Anderson Bottom. One group enjoyed a 15 minute walk to some petroglyphs on the closest cliff. Another group followed the dry streambed about 40 minutes to a delightful swimming hole at the end of a small slot canyon. Even though the streambed was dry, the swimming hole was full (albeit a muddy entrance).
- Mile 9.5 at Jasper Canyon. Walked 5 minutes from takeout to see (up close!) an intact grain storage ruin built by ancestral people.
- Approx. Mile 4.5, Water Canyon. Enjoyed a beautiful walk on a trail adjacent to the dry streambed—enjoyed some fossils along the way.
- Camping spots
 - Because of the relatively low water the named camp sites were mostly inaccessible or challenging. We mostly stayed at sand bars which were available but not quite as plentiful as we were told?
- We were lucky to have wonderful music every night: 1 dobro, 2 mandolins, 1 banjo, 1 guitar and 1 recorder! Amazing!
- Given that sometimes it was a bit of a walk from our campsite to the water's edge, we were remarkably enthusiastic about Brookie's idea of having a pee bucket (a 5 gallon bucket with a rock in the bottom) nearby our tents to ease our nighttime needs.
- We were gifted with an amazing show of nature on our last day of paddling. When thunder and lightning came in around noon one day, we pulled off the river, huddled under some bushes. While there, we watched waterfalls emerge on the bluffs across the river: with a small white waterfall first at the top level, followed by another white waterfall at the next level, which then culminated in a large red waterfall (from the red sand it had gathered) which fell several stories down into the river. This pattern was repeated at multiple sites within our viewing area. Something we won't forget.



- The jet boat return was back up the Colorado (rather than the Green). When the boat driver tells you that it may be cold on the ride upstream with rain in the forecast, believe him/her and dress accordingly. It rained for an hour on our way back and we were all cold and drenched (but not unhappy!)
- All in all, a wonderful trip in spectacular scenery with a terrific group of people.