

Update (08.20.2025)

**2025 WILLIAM L. CHENOWETH
MEMORIAL FIELD TRIP (# 7)**

**GEOLOGY OF UNAWEEP CANYON
AND GATEWAY AREA**



Date -	Saturday, Sept. 13 th , 2025.
Duration -	8:00 a.m. to late afternoon or early evening.
Departure Location -	Orchard Mesa City Market (see map on last page)
Leaders -	Andres Aslan, Bill Hood, Ned Sterne, Rex Cole (?), and others.
Transportation -	Car pool in private vehicles (partial mileage reimbursement for drivers transporting multiple people).
Roads -	Pavement and gravel (very minor).
Stops -	6 to 7 main stops; see attached map.
Exertion Level -	All stops involve gentle topography. No strenuous climbs or long walks.
Handout -	Available for download from GJGS website prior to trip.
Roundtrip Distance -	Approximately 115 miles from Grand Junction.
Cost -	None (donations to the Chenoweth Fund are encouraged).
Food -	None provided; bring your own lunch, snacks, water, etc.
Liability -	Participants will need to sign a liability waiver before participating.

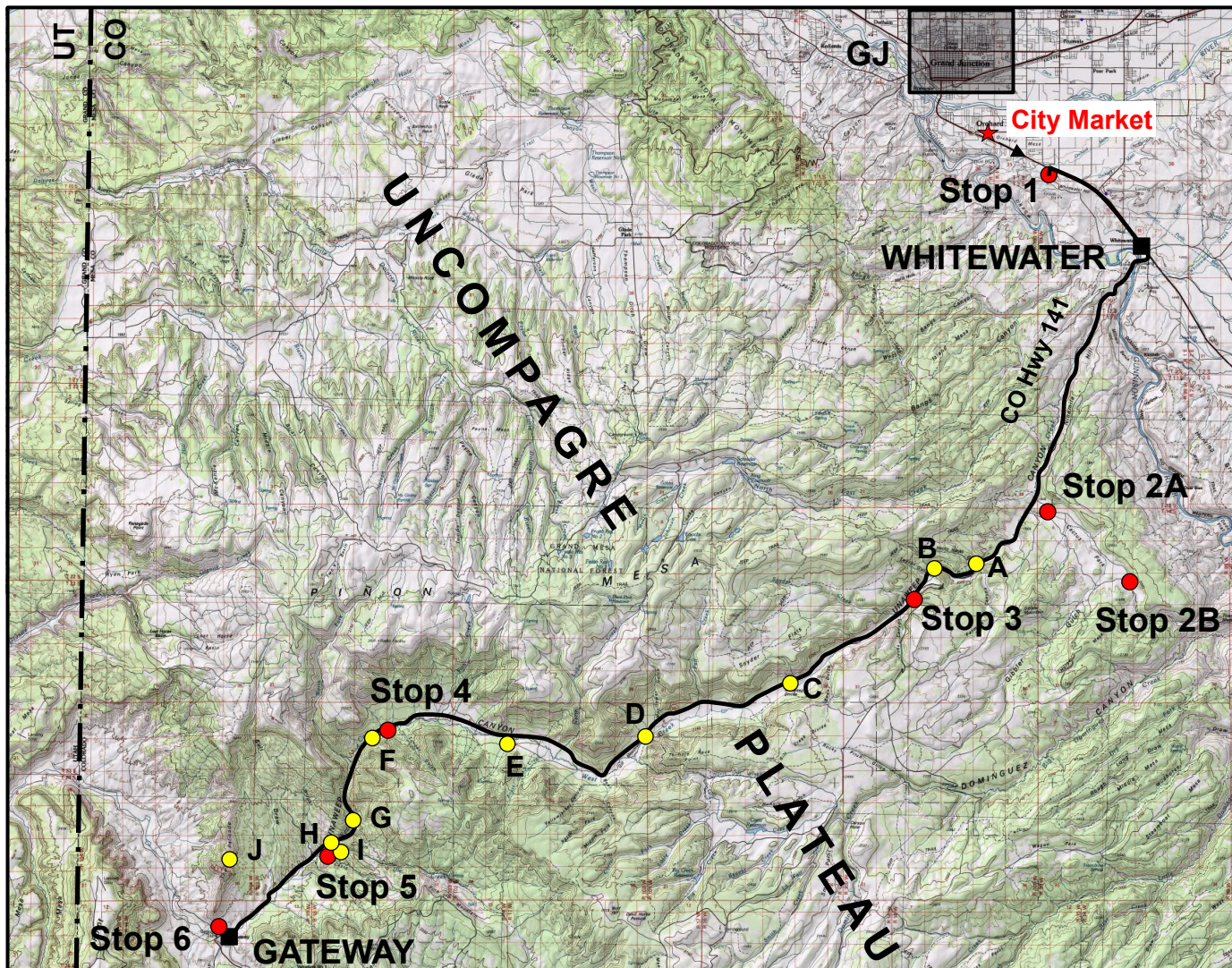
Discussion Topics:

- Geologic framework and history of the Uncompahgre Plateau
- Previous geological research on Unaweep Canyon (UC)
- The topographic dimensions of UC and comparison to other canyons
- Which ancient river or rivers eroded UC?
- Cactus Park gravels and lake beds
- When was UC carved: Paleozoic? Laramide? Neogene? Multi-Stage?
- Subsurface data in UC (drilling and geophysical)
- Hypotheses for abandonment of UC
- Post abandonment sedimentary fill
- Economic geology (mineral deposits) of northeastern UC
- Ute Creek Graben
- Gateway gravels
- Cutler Formation
- Uravan Mineral Belt
- Human history of UC



**PLEASE CAR POOL
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE !**

Map



Primary Stops

- Stop 1 -- Composting Site at Mesa Co. Landfill (31 Rd)
- Stop 2A -- Cactus Park Gravel
- Stop 2B -- Cactus Park Lake Beds (time permitting)
- Stop 3 -- Divide Road Overlook
- Stop 4 -- Lower West Creek (Death Cliff)
- Stop 5 -- Casto Draw
- Stop 6 -- Gateway

Other Locations Discussed

- A -- Nancy Hanks Gulch Mineralization
- B -- Parkinson Quarry
- C -- Unaweep Divide
- D -- Thimble Rock (Driggs Mansion)
- E -- University of Oklahoma drill site (Massey 1 & 2)
- F -- The Seeps
- G -- West Creek Canyon rest stop
- H -- Mouth of West Creek
- I -- Gateway gravels
- J -- The Palisade

You need to sign up for this trip! Please contact Rex Cole (rcole@coloradomesa.edu) by September 1st and provide the following input:

- **How many GJGS and non-GJGS guests will ride in your vehicle?**
- **Will you have room for other passengers?**
- **Do you need a ride?**

Staging Area

