

Entrada Field Station (EFS)

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Site type: gradient
Sensor type: Basic
Latitude: 38.80
Longitude: -109.27
Elevation (m) 1269-2000
Year of record establishment: 1951
(USGS)
Vegetation type:
desert shrub through pinyon-juniper
woodland
Land-use class: w
Aquatic info: ri
Precipitation (cm): 20-40
Ann. temperature (C): 12
RFI themes: drought, warming,
climate,
infectious disease (hanta virus)
URL: entrada.utah.edu
Access: 8 mile well graded dirt road,
off paved highway; year-round 2-WD access
Control: locked gate; no access other than through gate
Power: 220 VAC on site
Water: 10,000 gallon culinary water; river water is additional (400 acre-ft/yr)
Aerial extent: 400-3000
Contact: Jim Ehleringer, University of Utah, Ehleringer@biology.utah.edu
Lab facilities: yes, basic
Lodging facilities: yes



The Entrada Field Station of the University of Utah is located along the Dolores River, 12 km East of its confluence with the Colorado River. The river flows perennially, experiencing large seasonal fluctuations as there are no dams or diversions other than the McPhee Reservoir in southwestern Colorado, 200 km upstream. There is an online, 55-year USGS gauging record that includes records of stream discharge, stream temperature, and specific conductivity. Two online weather stations are currently operating at the site. The field station is characterized by a classic Colorado Plateau gradient from riparian to red-rock pinyon juniper

woodlands. There are three box canyons that have been free of grazing and disturbance for several decades. The canyons vary in area by about two orders of magnitude and streamflow occurs only after high intensity, episodic precipitation pulses. The unique geology and biodiversity of the property offers unique opportunities for long-term studies in hydrology and ecology. Ecohydrological studies conducted by Dr. Ehleringer are currently ongoing. The land adjacent to the property is owned by the BLM and is set aside for “primitive camping” and recreation. The BLM is very receptive to research in the area.

The Entrada Field Station is located 65 km southeast of Moab, UT. Vehicle access to the ranch is from a well-maintained 12 km dirt road off of state highway 128. Currently, the field station has facilities to comfortably house 12 people.

