



*Did you know Battlement Mesa is the only planned community on the Western Slope?*

Battlement Mesa, originally created by Exxon during the late 1970s as a 25,000 person residential community for Exxon's oil shale employees, has been transformed into a planned community with friendly easy-to-know residents.

This 3,200 acre, covenant protected community features an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, miles of paved walking and biking trails, 767 acres of dedicated open space and great Colorado River fishing and rafting.

*Did you know Parachute promotes alternative energy?*

Parachute has acknowledged the importance of alternative energy by recently installing solar flowers which provide energy at the Visitors Cabin and information center just off of I-70 at Exit 75.

*Join us for our signature events:*

- 4th Saturday in July: **Grand Valley Days**
- 1st Tuesday in August: **National Night Out**
- September: **Quilt Show**
- 1st Saturday in October: **Oktoberfest**
- November: **Annual Craft Fair**

*Trip Planning:*

- [www.BattlementMesaColorado.com](http://www.BattlementMesaColorado.com)
- [www.ParachuteColorado.com](http://www.ParachuteColorado.com)
- [www.BattlementMesaGolf.com](http://www.BattlementMesaGolf.com)
- [www.Powderhorn.com](http://www.Powderhorn.com)
- [www.BMAC.org](http://www.BMAC.org)
- Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism – [www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org](http://www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org)

*Directions:*

From I-70, take exit 75, (Parachute/Battlement Mesa). For Battlement Mesa, turn south, cross the Colorado River to the Battlement Mesa entrance and waterfall.

Funded in part through a grant from

**Colorado**  
Tourism Office  
[www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com) 1-800-Colorado

[www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org](http://www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org)

BOUNDLESS LANDSCAPES & SPIRITED PEOPLE

## PARACHUTE BATTLEMENT MESA

Photo courtesy Elk Peaks Photography



*Did you know the town of Parachute is the home of “The Rock that Burns”?*

In 1882 pioneer Mike Callahan built a cabin with an oil shale rock fireplace despite stern warnings from the Ute Indians who told him that the rock would burn. At the cabin's housewarming, attended by both white settlers and Utes, the shale rock of the fireplace ignited and set fire to the cabin—which burned to the ground. Forever afterward, Mike Callahan was an oil shale advocate. Mt. Callahan, the spectacular peak west of Parachute, was named in his honor.

In addition to oil shale, the area is rich in soda ash deposits as well as abundant amounts of natural gas, including propane and butane. Locally produced natural gas and soda ash are now sold throughout the U.S. and the world.

NORTHWEST COLORADO CULTURAL HERITAGE





Top photo and bottom photo: courtesy Elk Peaks Photography

Top photo: courtesy Dr. Tom Roess; bottom photo: courtesy Grand Valley Historical Society

*Did you know Battlement Mesa was named for its surrounding geographic formations?*

*Did you know Parachute is the only town in the world with this name?*

The two majestic, flat topped mesas overlooking Battlement Mesa provide year-round vistas resembling escarpments; the fortresses of old, with sloping, protective battlements.

The layered formations beckon active visitors to enjoy an all day hike to the top of the Battlements—part of the largest contiguous mesa in the U.S. running from Grand Junction to Rifle. Hikers can enjoy native cutthroat trout fishing ponds, lush meadows, wildlife and spectacular 360 degree views.

Pioneer ranchers found the Colorado River valley beneath these mesas to be ideally suited for raising cattle. In 1897, the ranching community built a quarried rock school on the mesa. Today, Battlement School—the *Queen of the Mesa*—has been renovated and the site enhanced by the addition of The Glover Cabin. Moved from Parachute Creek, the cabin is an example of an early 1900s pioneer ranch home.

According to legend, a member of the Hayden Survey in 1879 noted that the watershed patterns of the Roan Plateau, north of present day Parachute, resembled parachute lines and chose the name “Parachute” for the area. According to a June 30, 1910 edition of the local newspaper, however, the town’s name came from the Ute word, “Pahchouc.”

In 1904, local residents changed the town’s name to Grand Valley to take advantage of a real estate promotion in nearby Grand Junction which is situated in the Grand River Valley. When the railroad conductor announced, “Next stop, Grand Valley” settlers disembarked thinking it was Grand Junction. Local sales agents at the train depot were on hand to tell settlers about Grand Valley’s (Parachute) property. Grand Junction hated having one “put over them” by such a small town. In 1980, the town was renamed Parachute.