Chute and Crack Canyons Loop
San Rafael Swell, Eastern Reef

Rating: III Class 2
Best Season: Winter, spring or fall.
Time: 4 to 8 hours.
Access: Starts and ends at the head of either Crack or Chute Canyon as it enters the Reef; great loop hike or run. Spotting a car saves about 2 miles.
Permit: Not required.
Equipment: No technical equipment required.
Map: USGS 7.5' Temple Mountain, Horse Valley, Little Wild Horse Mesa and Goblin Valley. Carry a map to find the correct entrance to Chute Canyon.
Cold Protection: None required; after recent rain expecting wading and muddy conditions.
Drinking Water: Bring plenty.
Flash Flood Risk: High—do not descend with thunderstorms in the area, this canyon has extensive headwaters area that is not visible from the trailhead.
Skills Required: Off trail hiking, and a few boulder problems in Crack Canyon.

Crack and Chute Canyons make a decent loop hike and a fine winter run. The canyons are spectacular, and the 2-3 miles of stinking desert to connect each end can be tolerated if it's not real hot out. Spotting a car or bike at Chute and starting at the top of Crack is probably the best attack. Heading down Crack and up Chute is recommended. Total mileage about 13 miles.