



United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401

In Reply Refer to: 2930, LLCOS0500

February 16, 2011

SCOPING NOTICE

RIDGWAY TRAIL PROJECT

The Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), is seeking public comment regarding a proposal by Ridgway Trails Group and COPMOBA to complete a single track trail system approximately 3 miles northeast of the Town of Ridgway and directly adjacent to Ridgway State Parks. The area currently has an undeveloped multiple-use trail system with connectivity to trails along the Uncompahgre River from the Town of Ridgway. Direct connectivity also exists with routes within the adjoining Ridgway State Park land parcel.

The project area is located on BLM lands in Ouray County within the following approximate legal locations:

T45N, R8W, Portion of sections 3, 4, and 9
T46N, R8W, Portion of sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35

The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment to analyze the construction, reroute and/or maintenance of approximately 20 miles of sustainable multiple-use single-track trail on BLM public lands, construction of one trailhead on the north side of Ouray County Road 10, and the construction and maintenance of 1-2 miles of single-track trail on the BLM Uncompahgre Riverway Site on the west side of the Uncompahgre River.

The Ridgway area is currently seeing increased use by mountain biking, trail running, hiking, and horseback riding due to the increasing population of Ouray County and the increasing popularity of these recreational activities for the local communities and tourism industry. Currently, the existing trails are not designed sustainably and unplanned trail development has occurred in the past. A planned multiple-use trail system will fill the need for sustainable, connecting trails near the Town of Ridgway. Construction of the new trailhead would solve numerous safety and resource issues. Currently users cross U.S. Highway 550 in order to link trails from Ridgway State Park and the Uncompahgre Riverway Trail to BLM public land. This poses numerous safety hazards on a busy State highway. Users are currently parking on the side of OCR 10, which is causing traffic congestion and is a safety concern. The roadside parking is causing vegetation loss, erosion, and unplanned site expansion. The trailhead would provide a planned parking area to provide safe access to trails and reduce vegetation damage. Restroom

facility would be considered to alleviate the unsanitary conditions from the increasing amounts of human waste at the trailhead.

The BLM has determined that this proposed action must be evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the potential impacts to human health and the environment. The BLM is soliciting your comments on this proposal to help identify issues, concerns or alternatives that should be addressed as part of the environmental analysis and decision making process.

Written comments may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax. Please be specific in describing your concerns, recommendations, or how the proposal may affect you. It would be especially helpful if you would make note of any areas of concern on the attached map and mail or fax it with your comments. This letter, including the maps, is also available online at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/ufo.html.

Please send comments concerning this proposal no later than March 28, 2011, so we can incorporate them into our planning process as early as possible. Send written comments to:

Julie Jackson, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Email: Julie_Jackson@blm.gov
Fax: (970) 240-5368

Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager

Map Attachments (1)

Ridgway Trails Project

