

**Southwest Resource Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 4, 2010
Anasazi Heritage Center
Dolores, Colorado 81323**

ATTENDEES

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Members

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jevin Croteau, Category 1 | Andrew Gulliford, Category 2 | Jim Cochran, Category 3 |
| Ken Emory, Category 1 | Peter Mueller, Category 2 | William Ela, Category 3 |
| Al Heaton, Category 1 | Andrea Robinsong, Category 2 | Alan Staehle, Category 3 |
| Kathy Welt, Category 1 | Dan Morse, Category 2 | Tony Gurzick, Category 3 |
| | | Gerald Koppenhafer, Category 3 |

Not present: Jim Young, Category 1; Wally White, Category 2

BLM/FS Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Heather Musclow, BLM, Anasazi Heritage Center | Mark Stiles, USFS, Center Mgr/Forest Supervisor, San Juan Public Lands Center |
| Erin Curtis, BLM, Public Affairs Officer | Barb Sharrow, BLM, Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office |
| Jamie Sellar-Baker, BLM Dolores Field Office | Brian St. George, BLM, Gunnison Field Office |
| Allison Sandoval, BLM Washington Office | Helen Hankins, BLM CO State Director |
| Lori Armstrong, BLM, Southwest District | Jana Moe, BLM, Administrative Assistant |

Chair Kathy Welt called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Round-table introductions were made. No members of the public were present at this time.

Agenda change – the DFO report and UFO Field Manager report were switched to accommodate another meeting for Barb Sharrow. Agenda approved as amended – Motion to approve by A. Gulliford, second by D. Morse.

Minutes from last meeting

Change to last meeting notes – page 4 should be “several but not all WSA’s suitable” (Red Cloud and Handies Peak are suitable). Minutes approved as amended, J. Cochran moved to approve, A. Staehle seconded the motion.

Uncompahgre Field Office report – Barb Sharrow

See attached UFO Report

Questions/Discussion from Barb’s report:

- HR 5059 is the proposed legislative bill regarding the Bear Ranch land exchange near Paonia Reservoir.
- Is there a long-term curatorial plan for the Lawhead Gulch excavation? Is Western Wyoming College keeping the artifacts?

- Will the UFO RMP RAC Sub-group report back to the SW RAC? Yes, through the RAC Sub-group liaisons – Bill Ela, Peter Mueller and Kathy Welt.

National RAC Coordinator - Allison Sandoval

- As National RAC Coordinator she is a liaison between the Colorado congressional office and BLM. This is the first RAC meeting she's attended.
- She will try to coordinate better with the FS Recreation RAC
- Many states did not get a significant response to the call for RAC nominations. Some states (not CO) will have to re-announce the call.
- She is hopeful that the SW RAC nominations will get done sooner this year than in past years.
- The RAC nomination process is from CO State BLM office to the Governor's office to the Secretary of the Interior's office.
- RAC by-laws can be revised to reflect that charters or appointments will continue until replacements are available.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Update -Mark Stiles

- The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) was designated in June 2000 by proclamation of President Clinton.
- The Final EIS was completed in July 2009. Fourteen protests were received in Washington. All protested issues have been resolved and a Record of Decision was prepared. It is ready to go to print, and will hopefully be out on June 25, 2010.
- What were the bases for the protests? The protests were generally in regard to availability of minerals, access to private in-holdings, and the definition of a road and a trail.
- The CANM plan is receiving accolades for the way it ties together the proclamation and the plan.

San Juan Plan Supplement – Mark Stiles

- It is a joint plan with Forest Service. The draft plan was released in 2007 and 18,000 comments were received.
- There were two major issues from comments:
 1. The EPA was concerned about the air quality analysis, as the Weminuche Wilderness is a class I air quality/view shed/visibility area.
 2. The geologic potential to develop 8000 new wells – shale wells. (BLM agreed that it has a 1700 new wells potential.)
- The supplement will need to go back out for public comment. They hope to limit comments to changes addressed in the supplement and not the entire plan.
- It is expected that the supplement will be released this fall, with the Final EIS completed the fall of 2011 and the Record of Decision in 2012.

Wild Horse and Burro Update, presentation by Lori Armstrong, Jamie Sellar-Baker, and Helen Hankins – PowerPoint presentation, changes as of June 3, 2010

BLM Colorado State Director Helen Hankins provided this further information about the Wild Horse and Burro program:

- Bureau-wide, BLM will spend more than \$50 million this year and as much as \$75 million next year on the wild horse and burro program, a significant chunk of BLM's national budget.
- The budget is a big factor of why we need to do something different. However, we manage public lands for public use and clearly there's a place for wild horses on public lands.
- Given the public sentiment that these animals are "living legends", we are not going to see a change in that any time soon.
- We will need to address the number of animals on the range, as too many horses means issues with native plants, wildlife, livestock, range and public land health issues, as well as budget issues.
- The Secretary has challenged BLM to do more with the program - preserves, better approach to balanced growth, etc. Draft goals in the PowerPoint presentation are the first rollout of ideas of what we can do differently.
- Helen will be sending a letter out Monday asking RAC's officially for their input on how we can better manage this program. Please comment on draft goals, but also offer any other ideas you have. Your broad perspective is needed.
- There will be 60 days to comment. A public workshop will be held June 14 at Magnolia Hotel Denver. Kathy suggested we look at previously approved resolutions on this issue over lunch, and then discuss after lunch how we would like to proceed.

Comments:

Kathy Welt– since this has come up rather suddenly, is it possible that a group from the RAC could go (and get per diem, etc.)? Lori suggested that we could probably send a subset of individuals from the RAC and BLM could cover the cost.

Jim Cochran - the SW RAC has made a clear position statement in previous resolutions. **We will make sure previous resolutions are resubmitted in the process.**

Two things that are not on the table – euthanasia of healthy horses and sale of horses without limitation.

Helen encouraged the RAC and individuals to provide specific comments.

UFO RMP Subgroup Update - Barb Sharrow

The RAC wanted a liaison from each category. Jim Young from Category 1 is not able to participate, so Kathy Welt volunteered to take on that role.

Lots of public comments were received during scoping, with a total of about 2,500 unique, substantive comments. There is a lot of interest and a lot of people involved. Scoping report is being put together now. It will be put on the website when available.

Gunnison Basin Travel Management Plan - Brian St. George

See Information Handout.

- The final EIS has been out for public review for 30 days, and comment reviews are underway.

- Two decisions will result – one from the USFS and one from the BLM GFO.
- Designation of routes and trails will include open, closed, and limited to designated trails. The decision has already been made and the GFO is now looking at specific routes and determining appropriate uses (and when, in some cases).
- The preferred alternative that is provided in the final EIS balances three key criteria – access and public safety; resources protection; and recreation opportunities.
- There are about 3,000 miles of existing routes. Approximately 1,300 miles of secondary existing routes are proposed to be closed. Most of these either parallel existing routes, dead end, or don't provide legal access.
- Resource concerns include sage grouse habitat.

The Gunnison Field Office continues to rely on partnerships and volunteers for enforcement. In the Gunnison Basin, there is not a defined leadership among motorized users that we can develop a sustainable partnership with at this time. This is a real deficiency right now.

Alan would like to see more flexible ways of managing travel, including different ways of sharing trails that alleviate conflicts between users. For BLM, the most limiting factors pertain to wildlife and wildlife habitat in regard to route density. BLM needs to look at where we can reduce the density. Hunting travel in the fall is the principle use that leads to potential resource damage or conflicts between users (hunters on private land, for example). The USFS issues differ, but these are BLM's travel management issues in the basin.

There are different sets of rules regarding dispersed camping between USFS and BLM. The rule for BLM says you must remain on a designated route for travel. If you find an area to camp, you can travel 300 feet up an existing two-track that's not designated, stop your vehicle, and camp. For USFS routes designated as "open", a person can travel 300 feet in any direction and camp.

Break for lunch at noon.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Remarks from Colorado State Director Helen Hankins:

- Helen thanked members of RAC for serving and appreciates their volunteerism. She stressed the importance of their work to the BLM.
- Helen shared information about her career and experience, including a stint as staff geologist for the BLM in Durango.
- At the state level, the BLM has emphasis areas – energy and treasured landscapes are a couple of them, which match the Secretary's priorities. Conventional energy development is important. With oil and gas leasing reform, the way that BLM leases is going to be different. BLM's work with tribes and with youth are also emphasis areas.
- Challenges:
 - With budget constraints, BLM doesn't expect to see a lot more money in the long run, so we need to learn to work with what we have.
 - New rules for oil and gas will likely cause delays in leasing, but early public involvement may result in less protest later.

- Sage grouse, water rights, wild horses, recreation (volume and variety in CO), and land use planning are significant challenges
- There is no strategic view on handling invasive species on CO public lands. Each field office has been dealing with their own local weed issues.

District Manager Update – Lori Armstrong

- The new Colorado Associate State Director is John Mehloff.
- Erin Curtis will be leaving CO and moving to the BLM CA State Office, so today is her last official day of work with the RAC. Members of the RAC wished her well.
- BLM Director Bob Abbey is on a detail to Minerals Management Service for the Deepwater Horizon spill.
- New onshore oil and gas leasing reforms have been finalized.

San Juan Public Lands - Mark Stiles

See attached Managers report for San Juan Public Lands

Gunnison Field Office – Brian St. George

See attached Gunnison Field Manager Update

- A special show on the Hartman Rocks area will be televised on Denver Channel 4.
- The Alpine Loop Recreation Area Management Plan
 - Allows for stabilization/preservation of historic sites and campgrounds. Plan to continue the bear box effort. No new campgrounds will be built on the Gunnison side, but may be one added on the Columbine side.
 - BLM law enforcement (LE) presence will be maximized. There are generally positive contacts being made by LE and registration compliance is improving. The Alpine Loop can now be used for BLM LE field training.
 - The Trout Unlimited (TU) Alpine Triangle campaign is not a BLM campaign. The BLM follows what they are doing, but don't have a position.
 - Ken Emory pointed out that the TU campaign is not a unified campaign of various users. It's a single entity's plan.
 - Questions? – How do NCA's get proposed? There are no set rules. Lobbyists can propose them, but it is usually most successful if a grassroots proposal comes from the local communities.
 - Should BLM have guidelines/guidance for proposals? No, because designation is by Congress and if counties commissioners don't support it, usually our Congressmen (e.g. Rep. Salazar's office) won't support it.
- The Nature Conservancy and other federal agencies will participate in a climate change workshop.
- The GFO has submitted a proposal for another office building, and are hoping to soon vacate the Forest Service-owned building they are presently in.

Public comment – none

Wild Horse & Burro Discussion continued

Alan Staehle – moved that the RAC reiterate its support for the previously adopted resolution on the wild horse and burro program and recommend that no option be eliminated from consideration. The motion was seconded by Tony Gurzick.

A lengthy discussion then followed, with Alan agreeing to a friendly amendment (final language to be worked out by Alan, Kathy, Gerald and Tony). Tony agreed as the second.

Andrea Robinsong commented that she still supports rescinding the prior resolution and is strongly in favor of coming to resolutions that we feel will have a chance to move forward. As long as we have euthanasia as a tool in our resolution, maybe it won't get as far.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Perception Discussion – Lori Armstrong

No time for the discussion, so we will revisit at the next meeting. In the mean time, go back and talk to your constituencies about three questions: 1) Is BLM getting its message out to the public? 2) What is the public's perception of the BLM? 3) How could we communicate more effectively?

Future Agenda Items

Next meeting August 13 in Gunnison.

GG NCA-NLCS science presentations
Alpine Loop RAMP Update

Possible tour schedule:
Sage grouse field trip tour - AM
Waunita Hot Springs Geothermal tour - PM



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, June 4, 2010
Cortez/Dolores, Colorado

Gunnison Field Manager Update

American Recovery and Revitalization Act Projects

- 7 projects in the Gunnison Basin (one completed, another to be completed end of July)
- All funds are obligated to the project or contractor
- 5 other projects begin this summer, all but one completed by end of 2010.

Alpine Loop Recreation Management Plan

- BLM Columbine and Gunnison Field Offices have released the draft plan for public comment (until June 21)
- Public meetings in Silverton and Lake City (Lake City on or about June 15).
- Primary purpose of the RAMP is to enhance the recreation and heritage tourism opportunities on the Loop.
- Actions include improved interpretive and travel signage; expanded vehicle staging areas; expanded foot and horse trail network; improved resource monitoring and restoration.
- No proposed designations such as NCA, no changes to management of wilderness characteristics within the Wilderness Study Areas, no existing routes will be closed.

Candidate Conservation Agreement

- BLM has committed to developing a pilot CCA for Gunnison sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin
- Primary purpose of the CCA is to further the conservation and management of GSG while providing some regulatory certainty about how the species will be

warranted for the Alpine Triangle. TU's goal is to "protect the unique resources of the Alpine Triangle while maintaining the region's economic and recreational assets that make it so popular with hunters and anglers, skiers, climbers, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and hikers."

- See <http://www.alpinetriangle.com/>
- TU is clear in their desire to see a 186,000 acre National Conservation Area designation, but is working with stakeholders to determine if that is the best solution to accomplish its goal of protection in perpetuity.

Staffing and Building Update

San Juan Public Lands Offices Update

Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Resource Management Plan almost complete! Final EIS last year, protests resolved by the Director, all Washington Office briefings complete, awaiting final go ahead to print Record of Decision

ARRA- Photo voltaic system and roof replacement, access ramps and new furnace on intern house, habitat improvement work (SWCC), tamarisk and other invasive plant control (SWCC).

Columbine Field Office

Alpine Loop Recreation Area Management Plan out for comment. The Plan/EA is available for review and download at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo/loop_plan.html. Public comments will be accepted until Monday, June 21, 2010.

U.S. Senior District Judge Richard Matsch ruled on May 3rd against the San Juan Citizens Alliance and other environmental groups in a lawsuit to block drilling for federal natural gas in the northern San Juan Basin. The groups had sued to throw out a 2007 BLM/USFS decision that allowed expanded drilling in La Plata and Archuleta counties, including the HD Mountains Roadless Area southeast of Bayfield.

The San Juan PLC and Columbine Field Office held an *Adapting to Climate Workshop* for employees on May 12th. Topics included predicted changes in temperatures, precipitation, snowpack, vegetation, disturbance events, wildlife and fish habitat, and resulting planning regulations. Presenters include representatives from NOAA, Colorado University, and the Mountain Studies Institute.

Whitehead Gulch trespass road going to litigation.

Sunnyside Gold Exchange on track for completion this fiscal year (BLM gives up 120 ac m/l in the Sunnyside Tailings dumps vicinity and gets 200 ac m/l in the Animas Forks vicinity
We're preparing to pay back taxes on SMC claims and will then obtain 238 acres in the Engineer Pass/Mineral Point area.

ARRA—Eveline Mine remediation through Colorado DMRS

Dolores Field Office

The Dolores Field Office recently permitted two requests for filming permits on BLM lands. One from Tungsten Productions of Fort Collins and involved a crew of 10 producing both video and still footage of models hiking with their client's gear, Barretta scopes on rifles, northwest of Dove Creek. The other is for Bonterra Productions of Toronto, Canada, which filmed an episode of the Canadian-based TV show "Man Tracker," which involves two individuals on foot "tracked" across country by two individuals on horseback. A crew of 15 individuals conducted all filming on foot northwest of Dove Creek.

Dolores River Working Group proceeding with legislative effort

ARRA- Tamarisk and other invasive plant control and restoration, landscape level habitat restoration for conservation species (sage grouse, bighorn), native seed acquisition

Pagosa Field Office

ARRA- Abeyta Mesa Reforestation (tree planting)

San Juan Public Lands Offices Update

Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Resource Management Plan almost complete! Final EIS last year, protests resolved by the Director, all Washington Office briefings complete, awaiting final go ahead to print Record of Decision

ARRA- Photo voltaic system and roof replacement, access ramps and new furnace on intern house, habitat improvement work (SWCC), tamarisk and other invasive plant control (SWCC).

Columbine Field Office

Alpine Loop Recreation Area Management Plan out for comment. The Plan/EA is available for review and download at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo/loop_plan.html. Public comments will be accepted until Monday, June 21, 2010.

U.S. Senior District Judge Richard Matsch ruled on May 3rd against the San Juan Citizens Alliance and other environmental groups in a lawsuit to block drilling for federal natural gas in the northern San Juan Basin. The groups had sued to throw out a 2007 BLM/USFS decision that allowed expanded drilling in La Plata and Archuleta counties, including the HD Mountains Roadless Area southeast of Bayfield.

The San Juan PLC and Columbine Field Office held an *Adapting to Climate Workshop* for employees on May 12th. Topics included predicted changes in temperatures, precipitation, snowpack, vegetation, disturbance events, wildlife and fish habitat, and resulting planning regulations. Presenters include representatives from NOAA, Colorado University, and the Mountain Studies Institute.

Whitehead Gulch trespass road going to litigation.

Sunnyside Gold Exchange on track for completion this fiscal year (BLM gives up 120 ac m/l in the Sunnyside Tailings dumps vicinity and gets 200 ac m/l in the Animas Forks vicinity
We're preparing to pay back taxes on SMC claims and will then obtain 238 acres in the Engineer Pass/Mineral Point area.

ARRA—Eveline Mine remediation through Colorado DMRS

Dolores Field Office

The Dolores Field Office recently permitted two requests for filming permits on BLM lands. One from Tungsten Productions of Fort Collins and involved a crew of 10 producing both video and still footage of models hiking with their client's gear, Barretta scopes on rifles, northwest of Dove Creek. The other is for Bonterra Productions of Toronto, Canada, which filmed an episode of the Canadian-based TV show "Man Tracker," which involves two individuals on foot "tracked" across country by two individuals on horseback. A crew of 15 individuals conducted all filming on foot northwest of Dove Creek.

Dolores River Working Group proceeding with legislative effort

ARRA- Tamarisk and other invasive plant control and restoration, landscape level habitat restoration for conservation species (sage grouse, bighorn), native seed acquisition

Pagosa Field Office

ARRA- Abeyta Mesa Reforestation (tree planting)

Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Uncompahgre Field Office Report
6/4/10

New Items:

Item I: Beaver Fire

UFO had first big fire of the season on Saturday, May 22 with initial start in San Miguel Canyon. It was contained on May 29. The cause is under investigation but is believed to be human-caused (power line failure due to high winds). A Type II Team was called in to help manage the fire. Total area involved was 2,641 acres. Total cost of the fire was estimated at about 1.5 million.

Item II: National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Science Symposium

Staff from Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) presented 3 topics and 2 posters at national science symposium in May. 1) In partnership with **USGS - Mancos Shale Landscapes: Science and Management of Black Shale Terrains** presentation highlighted 5 years of USGS/BLM Mancos Shale Landscapes Project research that involved studies in regional geochemistry; geologic and soil mapping, digital elevation and GIS modeling; soil and rock mineralogy; remote sensing; landscape classification; erosion processes; and inventories of Mancos vegetation communities, including endangered clay loving buckwheat habitat areas. The research is used to: develop best-management practices for Mancos shale soils, make resource management decisions related to recreation, grazing, and other uses; and restoration plans.

2) **USGS - Off Highway Vehicle Use and its Impact on Wildlife** - Study uses elk GPS transmitters and traffic monitors to determine traffic effects on elk migration routes and Gunnison sage grouse habitats. Data from last 3 years shows use by hunters, antler shed hunters, mountain bikers, illegal rock and firewood collectors, and other users is increasing in the Gunnison sage grouse Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Data is used to determine effectiveness of ACEC seasonal closures and monitoring efforts to protect grouse and big game. Cameras were installed at closure points this year to collect more information on illegal uses in the area. USGS is currently working to place transmitters on Gunnison sage grouse to track their movements through various habitat areas in and outside of the NCA. 3) **Lawhead Gulch Rock Shelter Site** - Presentation on work with Western Wyoming College on rock art and shelter site in GGNCA. Prehistoric deposits and archaeological remains dating back 7,000+ years were found and are being analyzed and curated at the College. This year, in addition to excavation, specialists from New Zealand completed a 3-D Laser based scan of the shelter, creating an accurately scaled three dimensioned model of the site and its environs. The age of this site makes it a highly significant project.

Item III: Nicholas Acquisition

552 acres in the GGNCA were acquired for approximately 1.2 million. Lands are key inholdings which will provide key access from one unit to another in the NCA as well as access to a backcountry trail in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Item IV: Transmission Projects

2 Tri-State transmission line projects are under way for construction this summer - the Nucla-Sunshine project working between Nucla and Norwood this summer and the North Delta project between approximately Highway 50 north of Delta to Highway 65 near Eckert.

Item V: Land Exchanges

Working on 2 land exchanges - McGee 160 acres are located southeast of Montrose and Selig less than 5 acres is adjacent to the GGNCA. Both exchanges will resolve trespass issues. The Notices of Exchange Proposal were recently published in the Montrose Daily Press, and will run for the next few weeks for public comment.

Draft legislation for a land exchange with the Bear Ranch has been introduced by Congressman Salazar. It is facilitated by the Western Land Group. The lands are located north of Paonia Reservoir.

Update Previous Items:

Item 1: Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision

The BLM received 214 unique written submissions and 13 different form letters including a total of 2,496 separate comments during the public scoping period. The first cooperating agency and Sub-RAC meeting was held Thursday, May 27. All the sub-RAC members were present. About half of the 19 cooperating agencies attended the first meeting. We will hold our first alternative development meeting the week of June 21. The sub-RAC will meet Friday am, June 25. The official website can be googled by typing UFORMP.

Item 2: Dry Creek Travel Plan

One party appealed the decision to the Interior Board Land of Appeals (IBLA). BLM has submitted a legal brief in response to their statement of reasons and is awaiting a decision from IBLA. The party requested a stay which was denied so BLM is free to begin implementation of the Travel Plan.

Item 3: Uncompahgre Field Office Travel Plan Amendment

An environmental assessment was written to amend the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan. OHV designations on BLM-managed lands within the planning area would be changed from "Open" to "Limited to Existing Routes". This will cover approximately 410,351 acres. There are about 2, 520 miles of routes or trails. We had some areas in our 1989 plan that limited certain areas to designated routes to protect wildlife or plants. In the proposed new plan those same areas would be limited to existing routes most of the time and closed during critical wildlife periods.

A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by Barb Sharrow on 2/25/10. The plan was protested by one individual. The protest was dismissed by the Washington Office. We are hopeful the plan will be signed shortly by the State Director.

Item 4: Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation and Wilderness Area

A nomination period for RAC members is currently open until June 20. The original nomination period ended on Jan. 4, 2010. All those who submitted nominations during the original nomination period will be considered and do not need to submit another nomination package.

Staffing: Ben Blom, a planner will report August 1. Bryce Steward, law enforcement officer is assigned to Dominguez-Escalante fulltime. We are in the process of hiring a Term Outdoor Recreation Planner and will be advertising soon for a Term GIS specialist, a Term Writer Editor, and a Term Biologist.

For on the ground presence this summer, we have hired 2 seasonal River Rangers, a seasonal park ranger from McInnis; and returning seasonal Peter Benduha who is doing specific wilderness monitoring.

Dominguez-Escalante NCA legislation mandated BLM to write and plan in 3 years. Therefore, this plan will take precedence over the Uncompahgre and Grand Junction Plan Revisions.

While we will earnestly try to keep all the plans on schedule, this one will be top priority. We anticipate scoping will begin next September.

Item 5: Energy Update

Patara acquired Encana assets in the west end of Montrose County and plan to drill a well on Wray Mesa this summer.

2 coal actions pending from Bowie - a coal exploration license application for a few drill holes in the Terror Creek area this summer and a coal lease modification proposal

Oxbow - the EA for their coal lease application is being revised to consider flaring and capture alternatives.

Gunnison Energy will be drilling a fee/fee well in the Oak Mesa area this summer.

5 Oil and Gas unit agreements have recently been issued in the North Fork area.

Nuvmco - EA recently signed for their uranium mine plan to do exploration drilling in the west end of Montrose County - likely do some drilling this summer.

Item 6: Stimulus Projects - All projects have begun. Highlighted yellow projects are completed.

Capital Improvement

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Safety & Critical Resource Protection

Montrose FO PV System

Deferred Maintenance

Gunnison Gorge NCA Chukar Road improvements of primary access to NCA and WSA

Gunnison Recreation Site Improvements at seven sites

Montrose Building Energy Conservation. Stabilize cracking masonry buildings and insulate/sheath

Montrose Complex Exterior Maintenance. Add security fencing/gates, repair parking and sidewalks.

Dominguez Escalante Visitor and Management Improvements

Gunnison Gorge NCA River Restoration, treat noxious weeds and plant cottonwood trees

Habitat Restoration

HR Escalante Watershed Restoration

HR Gunnison Gorge Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration

HR Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement

HR Peach Valley Tamarisk Removal & Riparian Restoration

HR Uncompahgre Partnership Habitat Restoration Project

HRB Uncompahgre Ponderosa

Remediation of Abandoned Mines

Club Mesa mine closure project

Long Park mine closure project

Montrose County Uranium mine closure project

Trails maintenance and construction

GGNCA Travel Implementation sign, map, rehab of linear disturbances, obliterate illegal routes – includes new 20 mile single track trail called “Sidewinder”.