



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

2019 Briefing Book

Bureau of Land Management • Colorado

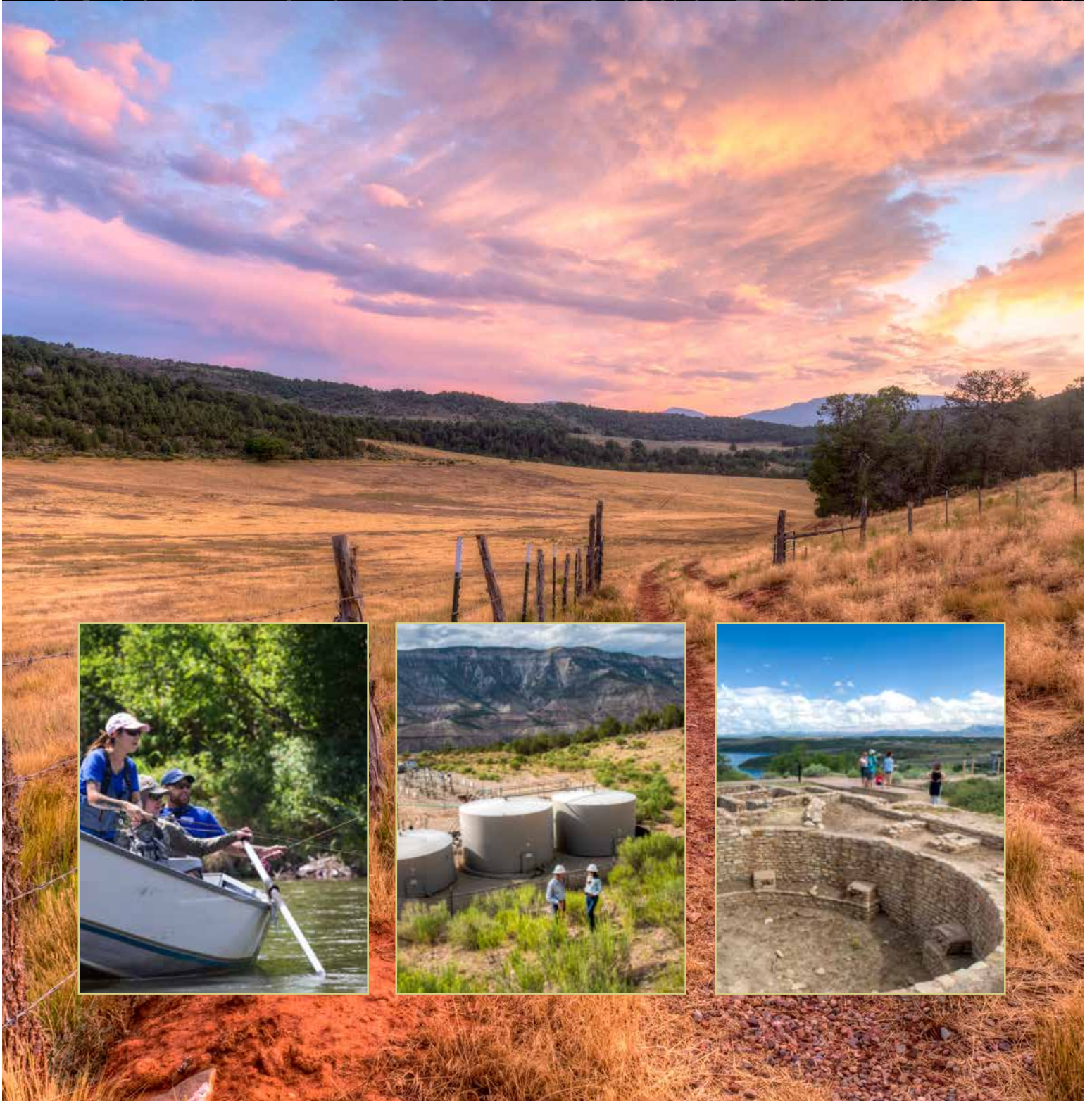


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BLM Colorado Facts

8.3 million BLM surface acres in Colorado • 27.1 million BLM subsurface mineral acres in Colorado



Energy

- 6,757 Producing Federal Oil & Gas Wells
- 2,239 Producing Federal Oil & Gas Leases
- 1.5M Producing Oil & Gas Acres
- 6 Producing Coal Mines



Recreation

- 354 Developed Recreational Sites
- 7 Colorado Scenic & Historical Byways
- 29 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 3 Blue Ribbon Fisheries
- 3 Fourteen-thousand foot peaks



National Conservation Lands: 1.2M acres

- 2 National Monuments
- 3 National Conservation Areas
- 5 Wilderness Areas
- 53 Wilderness Study Areas
- 1 National Historic Trail
- 1 National Scenic Trail
- 2 Congressionally-designated Management Areas



Heritage & Special Places

- 5 National Historic Landmarks
- 1 National Historic District
- 41 National Register of Historic Places Listings
- 56,333 Cultural Resource Sites
- 87 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 2 National Natural Landmarks



Resources

- 5 million acres of Forest and Woodlands
- 671 Wildlife Species
- 31 Endangered, Threatened, & Candidate Species
- 108 BLM Sensitive Species
- 7.9 million acres of Small Game Habitat
- 7 million acres of Big Game Habitat
- 3 Wild Horse Herd Management Areas
- 1 Wild Horse Range
- 7.8 million acres Grazed by Livestock

BLM HISTORY

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) roots go back to the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. These laws allowed for the survey, sale, orderly settlement, and governance of the original 13 colonies ceded to the federal government after the War of Independence. The geographer of the United States surveyed and numbered public lands into six-mile square townships.

As the United States acquired additional lands from Spain, France, and other countries, Congress directed the lands be explored, surveyed, and made available for settlement. In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office in the Department of the Treasury to oversee these federal lands. As the 19th century progressed and the nation's land base expanded further west, Congress encouraged settlement by enacting a wide variety of laws, including the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Mining Law of 1872. With the exception of the Mining Law of 1872 and the Desert Land Act of 1877 (which was amended), all have since been repealed or superseded by other statutes.

The late 19th century marked a shift in federal land management priorities with the creation of the first national parks, forests, and national wildlife refuges. By withdrawing these lands from settlement, Congress amended the policy goals served by public lands and recognized the lands should be held in public ownership for other resource values.

In the early 20th century, Congress directed the Executive Branch to manage activities on the remaining public lands. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 allowed leasing, exploration, and production of selected commodities such as coal, oil, gas, and sodium on public lands. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established the U.S. Grazing Service to manage the public rangelands, while the Oregon and California Act of 1937 required sustained yield management of the timberlands in western Oregon.

In 1946, the U.S. Grazing Service merged with the General Land Office to form the BLM within the Department of the Interior. When the BLM was created, there were more than 2,000 unrelated and often conflicting laws for managing the public lands. The BLM had no unified legislative mandate until Congress enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. In FLPMA, Congress declared BLM lands would remain in public ownership. Congress gave the BLM the term "multiple use management," defined as "management of the public lands and their various

resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people."

PUBLIC LAND STEWARDSHIP

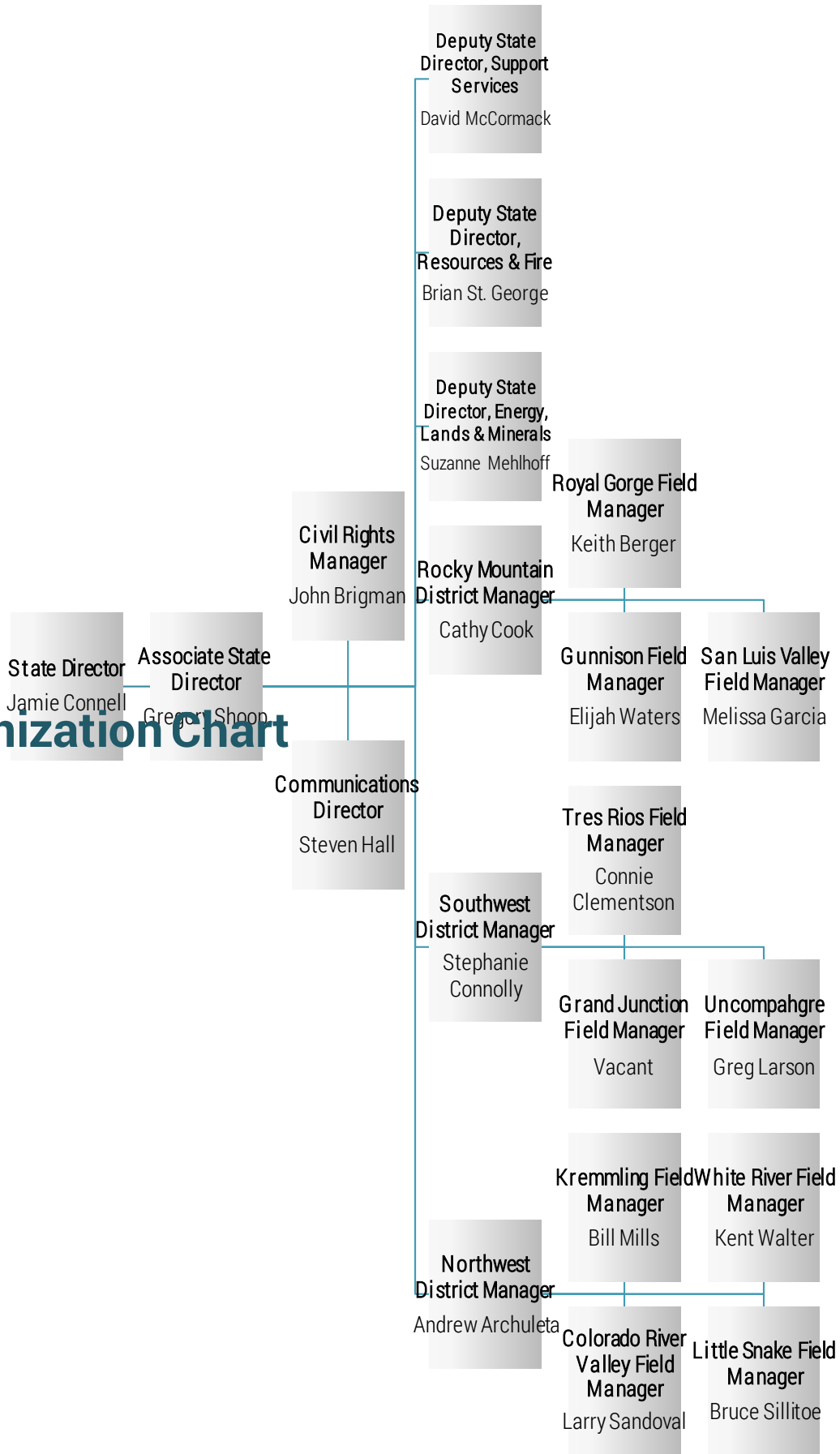
The BLM manages more than 8.3 million acres of public lands and more than 27 million acres of mineral estate in Colorado - mostly concentrated in the western part of the state. BLM lands in Colorado range from alpine tundra, colorful canyons and mesas in the southwest, to rolling sage covered hills in the northwest.

The public owns more than one-third of Colorado. BLM Colorado adheres to multiple-use management, managing public lands for both commercial and public uses based on sound science. The economic health of many Colorado communities is supported by ranching, energy development and tourism associated with public lands. Public lands offer recreational opportunities, cultural resources, resource and energy potential, and vast open spaces. Colorado's lands produce vast amounts of coal, oil, natural gas and geothermal power to help meet the nation's energy needs.

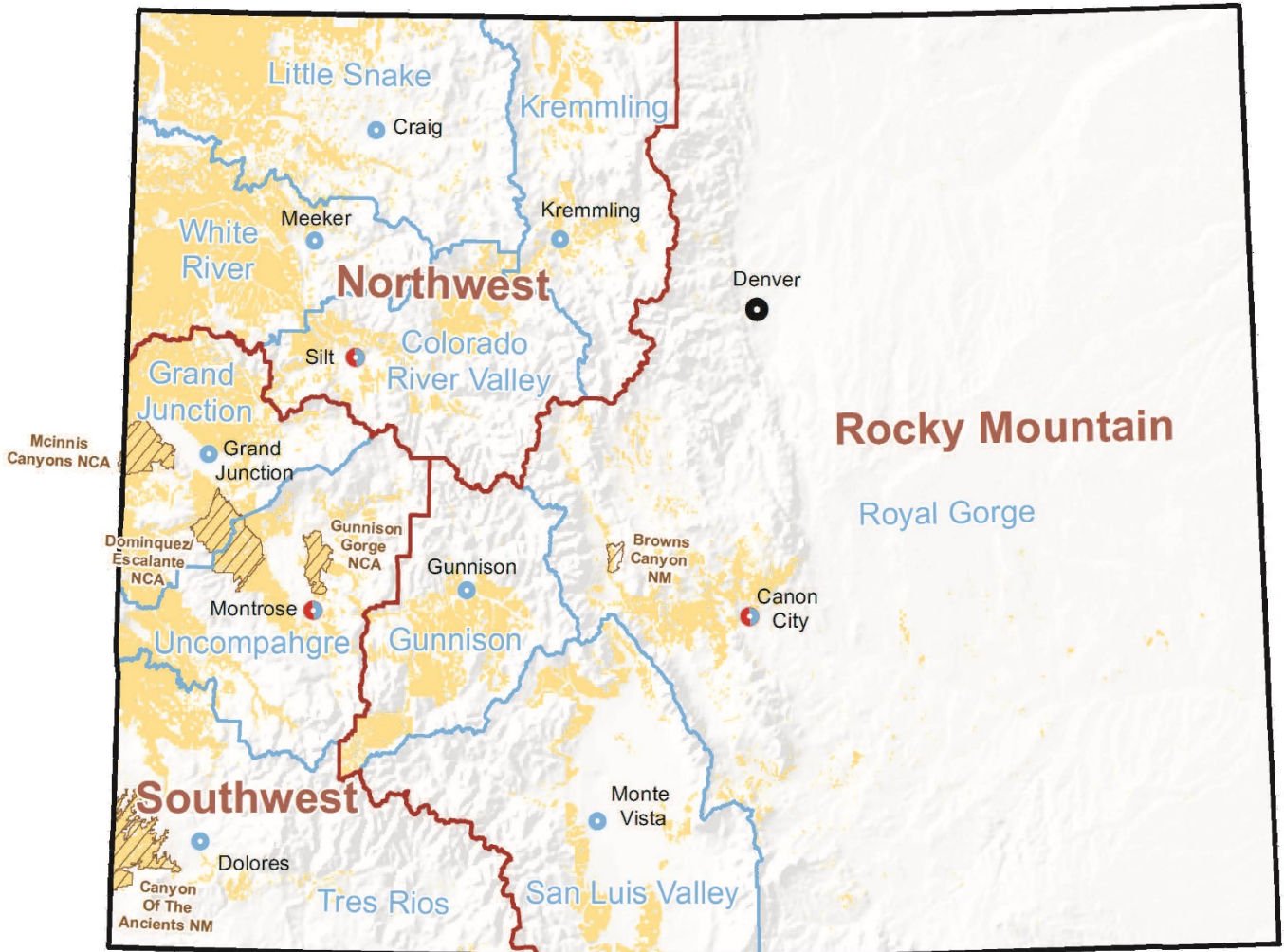
FEDERAL LANDS AND MINERALS WITHIN BLM FIELD OFFICES

Minerals on public lands include surface and associated federal mineral estate acreages, (the major portion of the BLM acreage), and surface-only (minerals owned by third parties). The federal split estate mineral acreages underlying non-federal surfaces are collected separately and include minerals transferred to the Department of the Interior jurisdiction from the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. ("All Minerals" reserved in patents issued under the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 comprise the major portion of this "split estate" acreage). Both compilations derive from lot-by-lot, 40-by-40, sections, townships, and county compilations of BLM-administered lands maintained for annual statistical report purposes and for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) annual reports (not all BLM lands are eligible for PILT payments). These acreages are updated when public lands/minerals are sold, exchanged, or acquired by purchase, donation, etc. Forest Service ownership acreages derives from their Forest-by-Forest, county-by-county annual statistical report. Some of these acreages are BLM estimates as some BLM-administrative boundaries within the forests do not have common boundaries with Ranger District or other Forest Service Management Units. Forest Service sales, exchanges, and acquisitions acreages are updated as information becomes available.








Colorado Organization Chart







BLM Colorado Offices



BLM Offices

-  State
-  State/District
-  State/Field
-  State/District/Field
-  District
-  District/Field
-  Field

BLM Administrative Unit Boundaries

-  BLM State
-  BLM District Office
-  BLM Field Office
-  BLM-Managed Land

Colorado State Office

2850 Youngfield Street • Lakewood, CO 80215 • 303-239-3700 • 303-239-3934 fax • www.blm.gov/colorado

RECREATION

BLM Colorado manages about 20 percent of public lands in Colorado to focus on recreation and tourism. Recreation areas include National Conservation Lands, Special Recreation Management Areas, rivers, cultural heritage and natural resource attractions, off-highway vehicle areas, scenic byways, watchable wildlife areas, and places to hunt and fish. Recreation opportunities include heritage touring, sightseeing, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, climbing, mountain biking, hiking, OHV driving, fishing, camping, hunting, and skiing. Annually, BLM Colorado issues about 42,000 recreation use permits, and administers about 751 special recreation permits, including more than 40 for competitive events.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The BLM's National Conservation Lands highlight some of the West's most spectacular public lands. These areas conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological and scientific values. National Conservation Lands include national monuments, national conservation areas, national historic and scenic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas and wilderness study areas. Colorado is home to 65 National Conservation Land areas encompassing more than one million acres – about one eighth of all BLM-managed land in the state.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Public lands in Colorado include historical, archaeological, and Native American traditional sites. Colorado's first inhabitants roamed the plains and mountains around 13,000 B.C. Hunter-gatherers were prominent across the landscape, and after A.D. 150 farming and populations increased. The people of the Colorado Plateau in southwestern Colorado followed the Ancestral Puebloan way of life, with intensive farming practices and multistory masonry pueblos. This region was depopulated and abandoned in the late A.D. 1200s. By A.D. 1400, sparse bands of hunters and gatherers traveled through central-western and northwestern Colorado including the Numic-speaking Ute, Paiute, and Shoshone Tribes. Athapascan speakers, modern-day descendants of the Navajos and Apaches, lived in the Plains, followed by the Comanche, Arapahoe, and Cheyenne Tribes.

The Spanish first entered Colorado between 1664 - 1689. In the early 1800s, fur trappers and traders worked along the Arkansas and Platte Rivers. Following the Mexican War in 1848, the area became American territory. The discovery of gold in the Pikes Peak area spawned a gold rush in 1859, which brought the first large Euro-American population to settle in Colorado. Gold and silver mining expanded significantly. After the Homestead Act of 1862, agricultural settlement expanded, creating a demand for water. Cattle ranching became a significant industry in the late 19th century. Mining continued to be a prominent industry into the 20th century. Tourism and natural resource development activities became increasingly important and remain so today.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

BLM Colorado public lands have several internationally known paleontological sites. Garden Park Fossil Area is one of the most significant localities for dinosaurs in the world. The Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite locality is one of the largest concentrations of marine fossils in North America.

WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

BLM Colorado's public lands provide habitat for about 700 species of fish and wildlife and 145 special status plants and animals, including 18 threatened and 15 endangered species. Approximately 3,322 species of plants are found in Colorado. Colorado is home to a number of invertebrates, including mollusks and crustaceans. BLM Colorado's goal is to maintain, enhance, and restore habitat productivity and quality to ensure the diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife species on public land. BLM Colorado's public lands are home to some of the nation's best fishing, with four gold medal trout waters and three blue ribbon waters. Public lands are also home to North America's largest elk herd and other big game species.

WILD HORSES & BURROS

In 1971, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act to protect and manage wild horses and burros on public lands. BLM Colorado manages three wild horse herd management areas: Piceance/East Douglas, Sand Wash Basin, and Spring Creek Basin; and

one wild horse range: Little Book Cliffs. About 200 wild horses and burros are adopted each year. Wild horses and burros are available through Mustang Heritage's Trainer Incentive Program (TIP), offered for adoption at the Cañon City Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) and occasionally in other areas of the state.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The BLM authorizes livestock grazing on approximately 7.8 million acres within Colorado. These lands support livestock management by more than 1,500 ranching operations on about 2,000 separate grazing allotments.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildland fire threats grow each year. From 2009 - 2018, BLM Colorado averaged 349 fires per year with 18,343 average acres burned. In 2018, BLM Colorado completed 43,748 acres of mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire treatments along with 12 Community Assistance actions. The BLM integrates fuels management efforts with wildlife, forestry and range to help complete 29,695 acres of treatments. BLM Colorado helps counties complete wildfire protection plans by offering technical expertise and assistance agreements. There are four Fire and Aviation Management Units (FAMU) in BLM Colorado: Northwest Colorado FAMU in Craig, Upper Colorado River FAMU in Grand Junction, Southwest Colorado FAMU in Montrose, and Front Range FAMU in Cañon City.

BLM Colorado hosts several fire suppression resources in the state during the fire season (May - September):

- 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew (20 people)
- 1 Wildland Fire Module (7-10 people)
- 8 Type-6 wildland fire engines
- 9 Type-4 wildland fire engines
- 1 Initial Attack Squad (5 people)
- 1 helicopter and staff for a 90-day contract
- 1 Large Air Tanker Base in Grand Junction
- 4 Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) reload bases
- A contingent of Great Basin Smokejumpers

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION & BURNED AREA REHABILITATION

The Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&R) program focuses on mitigating wildland fires' impact on ecosystems and communities. ES&R includes rehabilitating burned landscapes, reseeding vegetation, protecting watershed quality, and preventing the spread of noxious weeds. On average, the BLM initiates ES&R treatments on six to ten fires annually. Colorado's extensive Wildland Urban Interface

issues include invasive species, such as cheatgrass, and rugged terrain. ES&R actions involve aerial seeding, construction of temporary fences to prevent further damage, and soil stabilization.

FORESTRY

BLM Colorado manages five million acres of forested land. More than 2.5 million acres are woodlands, dominated by pinyon pine, juniper and oak. The remaining forested acres consist of commercial tree species like ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. Wood products harvested include sawtimber, firewood, Christmas trees, post and poles, and biomass. Forested lands in Colorado tend to have low productivity rates, so management focus is to restore forest health conditions. BLM Colorado works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service and other partners to mitigate bark beetle-associated impacts and improve forest health.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

The Cadastral Survey program is responsible for land surveys throughout Colorado, including a fiduciary trust responsibility on Indian lands, specifically the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes. Cadastral surveying services support trespass identification, land exchanges and disposals, range allotment boundary identification, fuel hazard reduction, surveying of wilderness and congressionally designated area boundaries, and data collection. Cadastral Survey is responsible for the Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) data collection, maintenance, and updates for Colorado. The GCDB is the standard for the depiction of the Public Land Survey System and includes digital updates of Master Title Plats, oil and gas lease tracking, visual displays, graphic data, updates for the 100K mapping, and the basis for land management decisions.

LANDS & REALTY

The BLM provides for land use, purchase, exchange, donation and sale; determines the boundaries of federal land; and maintains historic records for ownership transactions. Land ownership transfer through purchase, exchange, donation and sale is an important component of the BLM's strategy. Disposing of (by sale or exchange) small, isolated parcels improves the BLM's overall ownership pattern and reduces costs associated with managing those parcels. BLM completes ownership transactions involving land and when they are in the public interest and consistent with publicly approved land use plans.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

BLM Colorado established a Renewable Energy Team to expedite processing renewable energy applications.

Geothermal: The BLM began issuing leases for geothermal development in 1974. In 2011, BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office offered the first geothermal lease in decades, leasing 800 acres in Chaffee County. In 2012, BLM Gunnison Field Office leased two parcels for geothermal production totaling 8,353 acres. These three parcels are the only authorized geothermal leases on public lands in Colorado. In 2012, BLM released a final environmental assessment and proposed amendment to the 1991 BLM San Luis Resource Management Plan (RMP) for geothermal energy leasing on BLM-managed lands.

Solar: In October 2012, BLM completed its Western Solar Plan, which created the BLM Solar Energy Program and established policies, practices and mitigation strategies for solar development. In January 2017, BLM Colorado released its Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) for the San Luis Valley and Taos Plateau. This landscape-level strategy recommends mitigation and conservation measures to offset future solar development. The SRMS expands on the Western Solar Plan and takes steps toward utility-scale solar development on public lands in Colorado.

Transmission: In December 2016, the Secretary of the Interior approved two new transmission lines through Colorado to accommodate additional electricity generation capacity for the next several decades. The power lines are expected to generate more than 2,300 jobs in Western communities. The projects are TransWest Express, a 728-mile, 600kV DC transmission project from Wyoming to Las Vegas, and Energy Gateway South and PacifiCorp (dba Rocky Mountain Power) project, a 416-mile, 500 kV AC transmission project originating in Wyoming, traveling through northwest Colorado and terminating in central Utah.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

BLM Colorado protects, maintains, and improves the quality of soil, water, and air resources on public lands. The BLM integrates soil, water, aquatic and air information to support the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission. Healthy soils sustain grasslands, woodlands and forests; safeguard water, aquatic systems and air quality; and support numerous public land uses.

The BLM assesses and restores water quality conditions and manages water resources on public lands. Clean and adequate supplies of water promote healthy watersheds, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, maintain drinking water sources, sustain recreational use of surface water, and maintain healthy plant communities. BLM Colorado secures instream flow protection and water rights through the Colorado Water Conservation Board. BLM Colorado maintains water rights, water acquisitions, water right-of-ways, and water facilities. Three thousand miles of streams flow perennially on BLM-managed lands. BLM manages about 41,000 acres of lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

BLM ensures all activities it conducts or authorizes comply with the Clean Air Act and other pollution control laws and regulations. BLM Colorado tracks regional emissions inventories, oil and gas development rates and production information, and air pollutant monitoring data. BLM Colorado is implementing the Comprehensive Air Resources Protection Protocol (CARPP), a document that identifies an adaptive strategy for proactively analyzing and protecting air resources. BLM Colorado funds the Colorado Air Resources Management Modeling Study (CARMMS) to predict air quality impacts and changing conditions from future energy development in the state. The CARMMS studies the impacts of oil, gas and mineral development by modeling air pollution, regional ozone formation, and air quality impacts from emissions.

FLUID MINERALS

In Fiscal Year 2018, Colorado received about \$202 million from royalties, rentals, and bonus bid payments for all federal oil and gas minerals. Oil and natural gas development from federal minerals on public lands is an important economic driver for Colorado's economy and tied to more than 25,000 jobs. BLM Colorado hosts up to four lease sales per year. The State of Colorado receives 48 percent of the proceeds of each lease sale. The BLM has a regulatory framework to guide leasing and development mandated by laws like the FLPMA, Mineral Leasing Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Endangered Species Act. In 2018, the BLM implemented oil and gas leasing reform to simplify and streamline the leasing process, expedite the offering of lands for lease, and to ensure quarterly oil and gas lease sales are consistently held in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act, Executive Order 13783, and Secretary Order 3354.

SOLID MINERALS

Colorado is one of the major solid mineral producing states in the country. Solid mineral production on BLM land in Colorado involves three distinct mineral categories: locatable, leasable, and saleable. Locatable minerals include gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, and uranium. Leasable minerals include coal, potash, and sodium. There are six producing coal mines in the state. Mineral materials include limestone, rip-rap; flagstone, cut stone, moss rock, boulders, granite; non-decorative large rock; sand and gravel; burnt shale, river cobbles, cinders and scoria; fill material and non-decorative cinders; bentonite, clay; decomposed granite; masonry sand and aggregate; and concrete sand and road base. Common sand, gravel and other construction and landscaping materials are available through sales at fair market value, or through free-use permits to local, county, and state agencies and nonprofit organizations.

ABANDONED MINE LANDS/ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and Hazardous Materials Management (Hazmat) program closes or secures hazardous mine openings and cleans up contaminated sites on BLM-managed lands. Most work is done near the mining districts of the Upper Animas River, the Upper Arkansas River, Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, and the Colorado Plateau. The program maintains an inventory of known sites on BLM-managed land. Most of the sites are landfills and abandoned hardrock mines, but abandoned uranium mines have grown by more than 200 per year since 2011. The program closes approximately 100 unsafe features annually and has completed 25 cleanup actions per the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As of 2018, the BLM's AML inventory in Colorado contains more than 14,000 features. About 2,500 features have been secured for public safety, remediated, or no action is required.

OIL SHALE

Oil shale lands managed by BLM Colorado are part of the largest known concentration in the world - the Green River Formation. More than 70 percent of the formation is on public lands in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the formation holds the equivalent of 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

VETERANS GREEN CORPS

Veterans Green Corps empowers veterans to transition to civilian life by leveraging their leadership experience to meet conservation needs on public lands. BLM Colorado employs crews of trained veterans to work on outdoor-conservation projects on public lands. In 2018, the program supported eight weeks of crew work on a variety of Veterans Green Corps conservation projects.

DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Colorado Youth Corps Association administers the Diversity Internship Partnership Program with accredited Colorado youth corps using BLM funding. In 2018, BLM Colorado provided job opportunities for more than 237 individual young adults, through 39 crew weeks and 45 internships statewide. In 2018, youth provided 46,419 hours of labor.

VOLUNTEERS

The thousands of hours volunteers donate each year make it possible for the BLM Colorado to accomplish unfunded conservation work while developing a local conservation ethic. In 2018, 3,529 volunteers statewide donated 192,858 hours at an estimated value of \$4,735,930.

Colorado State Office Leadership



Jamie Connell, State Director, jconnell@blm.gov

Jamie, a 33-year veteran of the BLM, has been Colorado's State Director since November 2018. Jamie was previously the State Director of the BLM Oregon/Washington State Office and served as the State Director in Montana and the Dakotas from 2010 to 2016. Jamie started her career with the BLM in 1985 as a petroleum engineer in Montana. Jamie has a bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Tech.



Gregory Shoop, Associate State Director, 303-239-3700, gshoop@blm.gov

Greg has worked for the BLM on and off since 1977. He has been Associate State Director since 2014. From 2012 to 2014, Greg worked as the Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning in Washington, D.C. He was previously the Front Range District Manager in Colorado and worked for 15 years in the private sector.



Steven Hall, Communications Director, 303-239-3672, sbhall@blm.gov

Steven has served as Communications Director since 2007. He started working for BLM in 2003 as the Western Colorado Public Affairs Officer, and later as the BLM Wyoming Communications Director. Prior to joining the BLM, Steven worked as the Public Affairs and Marketing Director for Colorado State Parks. Steven has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado Boulder.



Brian St. George, Deputy State Director Resources & Fire Management, 303-239-3801, bstgeorg@blm.gov

Brian has been the Deputy State Director for Resources and Fire since December 2015. Previous positions include the Branch Chief for Planning and the Gunnison Field Manager. Brian has a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, a master's degree in public administration, and a master's degree in conservation biology.



Sue Mehlhoff, Deputy State Director Energy, Lands & Minerals, 303-239-3923, smehlhoff@blm.gov
Sue has 18 years of public service with BLM and the Department of Energy, and nine years of industry experience. Sue was previously in a dual-role position as Fluid Minerals Section Chief for the National Operations Center and Engineering Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Energy Service Center. Sue has a petroleum engineering degree from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in business administration from Penn State University.



David McCormack, Deputy State Director Support Services, 303-239-3957, dmccormack@blm.gov
David has been the Deputy State Director for Support Services since September 2013. David joined BLM from the U.S. Geological Survey where he was the Regional Chief Technology Officer. David's previous experience includes IT Project Manager and Planner for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and IT Program Manager with the Department of Transportation. David has an associate degree in business from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia Southern University.

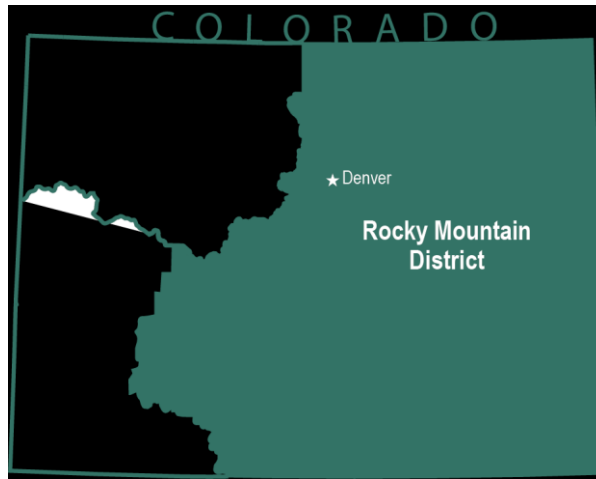


Gary Mannino, Special Agent-in-Charge, 303-239-3803, gmannino@blm.gov

Gary transferred to the BLM Colorado State Office from the Pacific Northwest where he was the Special Agent-in-Charge for the BLM's Office of Law Enforcement over Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. Prior to joining the BLM in 2010, Gary worked as an Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge and Special Agent for the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Pacific Northwest. Gary began his federal career as a Secret Service Agent in Atlanta, Georgia in 2001.

Rocky Mountain District

3028 East Main Street • Cañon City, CO 81212 • 719-269-8500 • 719-269-8599 fax



The Rocky Mountain District manages about 1.8 million surface acres and 12 million acres of subsurface minerals. The district is comprised of the Gunnison Field Office, Royal Gorge Field Office and the San Luis Valley Field Office. The Royal Gorge Field Office is a Service First Center between the BLM and U.S. Forest Service.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), part of the Royal Gorge Field Office, is co-managed with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and is one of the nation's most popular areas for commercial and private whitewater rafting, and premier guided and private fishing opportunities. Fishing and boating on the Arkansas River within the AHRA supports 675 jobs and \$57.6 million in local economic activity.

The Rocky Mountain District is home to the Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) located in Cañon City and the Browns Canyon National Monument.

The Front Range Fire & Aviation Management Unit covers 1,289,083 acres of BLM-administered lands within the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley Field Office boundaries. The unit covers all BLM lands east of the Continental Divide to the Colorado-Kansas state line and from the Wyoming state line to the New Mexico state line. The unit works closely with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control, counties and numerous Fire Protection Districts. Eighty percent of all fires within the planning area are caused by lightning during the annual southwest monsoon. Fuels management includes mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire treatments, with approximately 2,500 acres treated annually.

Rocky Mountain District Leadership



Cathy Cook, Rocky Mountain District Manager, 719-269-8500, ccook@blm.gov
Cathy joined BLM's Rocky Mountain District as District Manager in 2018. Previously, Cathy worked as the Deputy Division Chief for Fluid Minerals. Cathy started her federal career as a geology student intern with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana. Her work as a geologist led to a GIS position with the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center. She spent a number of years in university administration and consulting positions before returning to federal service as a Physical Scientist in Wyoming and a Branch Chief in Arizona. Cathy has a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's degree in geophysics, both from University of Montana.



Elijah Waters, Gunnison Field Manager, 970-642-4941, ewaters@blm.gov
Elijah has been the Gunnison Field Manager since 2015. Before coming to Colorado, he worked in Oregon as a fisheries biologist and in Alaska as a wildlife biologist and Associate Field Manager. Elijah has a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences and a master's degree in wildlife biology, both from North Carolina State University.



Keith Berger, Royal Gorge Field Manager, 719-269-8522, kberger@blm.gov
Keith has been the Royal Gorge Field Office Manager since March 2010. Previously, Keith was a supervisor for non-renewable resources for two years. Keith began his career with the BLM in 1989 as a Rangeland Management Specialist. He then worked as a Resource Advisor from 2004 to 2009. Keith has a bachelor's degree in rangeland ecology from Colorado State University.



Melissa Garcia, San Luis Valley Field Manager, 719-239-0494, mgarcia@blm.gov
Melissa has been the San Luis Valley Field Manager since 2017. She began her career in the San Luis Valley as a BLM and U.S. Forest Service wildlife and fisheries technician as part of the Student Career Experience Program. In 2003, Melissa landed a permanent position in the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center as a terrestrial and aquatic wildlife biologist. In 2012, Melissa moved to the Royal Gorge Field Office as an Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources. She was previously the Associate District Manager for the Rocky Mountain District.

Gunnison Field Office

210 W. Spencer Ave., Suite A • Gunnison, CO 81230 • 970-642-4940 • 970-642-4990 fax



Counties: Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, San Juan, Saguache and Ouray

FACTS

- 658,084 surface acres
- 2,215,336 subsurface acres
- 28 recreation sites (6 camping areas)
- 3 Recreation Management Areas: Alpine Triangle, Hartman Rocks, and Cochetopa
- 3 mountain peaks above 14,000 feet in elevation, the only 14,000-foot peaks managed by BLM in the lower 48 states
- 2 Wilderness Areas (51,651 acres)
- 8 Wilderness Study Areas (66,878 acres)
- 3 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: The Alpine Loop, The Silver Thread and The West Elk Loop
- 180,000 acres of forest land
- 3 endangered, threatened, and candidate animal species
- 500,000 acres of small game habitat
- 585,000 acres of big game habitat
- 2,690 miles of streams and rivers
- 582,718 acres grazed by livestock on BLM lands

Ecosystems managed by the Gunnison Field Office (GFO) range from dry sagebrush steppes at 7,000 feet to forests to 14,000-foot alpine tundra meadows.

RECREATION

About 1.2 million visitors annually come to the Gunnison Basin to enjoy the beauty and recreation experiences on public lands. The GFO maintains more than 50 partnerships to provide outstanding recreation experiences. Public lands managed by the GFO provide hunting opportunities for elk, mule deer, pronghorn, coyote, dusky grouse and several other species.

Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway: The byway covers 96 miles of roads between the towns of Lake City, Ouray and Silverton. Depending on snow, the Loop opens late May/early June and closes in late October. About two thirds of the route is a dirt road suitable for two-wheel-drive cars. A four-wheel-drive, high clearance vehicle or off-highway vehicle is required to traverse the entire route. The GFO manages four fee campgrounds, about 300 dispersed campsites, and 30 trailheads and points of interest along the Alpine Loop.

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail: During the winter, this trail offers 80 miles of groomed routes. A yurt system for skiers is also available south of Lake City.

Hartman Rocks Special Recreation Management Area: This 14,000-acre popular urban interface recreation area is a destination for mountain biking, rock climbing and single-track motorized enthusiasts. About 50,000 visitors come to Hartman Rocks each year. The area offers 45 miles of single-track multiple-use trails, 45 miles of roads, about 100 campsites, and hundreds of rock climbing and bouldering routes. Trails are groomed in winter for cross-country skiing and fat tire cycling. Other recreation activities include horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, target shooting, snow biking, and hunting.

Oh Be Joyful Recreation Area: This area includes a campground set along the Slate River and Oh Be Joyful Creek. Recreation uses include world-class kayaking, mountain biking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, waterfall viewing, fishing, day hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Cochetopa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area: This area includes 2,500 acres in a narrow canyon along Cochetopa Creek and is accessed from State Highway 114 southeast of Gunnison in Saguache County. The main types of recreation in the canyon are camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Powderhorn Wilderness: The GFO manages 47,865 acres of the total 62,759 acres of wilderness jointly managed with the U.S. Forest Service. Two high-elevation plateaus above 12,000 feet make up the largest relatively flat expanse of alpine tundra in the lower 48 states. Volcanic deposits believed to be 5,000 feet thick in some areas created the plateaus.

Uncompahgre Wilderness: The GFO manages 3,786 acres of the Uncompahgre Wilderness, known as American Flats. Several forks of the Cimarron River rush out of the center of this wilderness. Numerous streams and small lakes teeming with trout characterize the area.

Handies Peak WSA: Located 10 miles southwest of Lake City in Hinsdale County, this 16,341-acre WSA is steep and mountainous with elevations ranging from 9,500 feet to more than 14,000 feet. Twelve peaks above 13,000 feet, Handies Peak (14,048 feet) and several alpine lakes are found in this area.

Red Cloud Peak WSA: This 38,073-acre WSA is located in Hinsdale County west of Lake City. Elevations in this WSA range from 8,800 feet to more than 14,000 feet. Redcloud Peak (14,043 feet) and Sunshine Peak (14,001 feet) are found in this WSA.

American Flats WSA: The 3,101-acre American Flats WSA is located on the south side of the larger Uncompahgre Wilderness. This WSA is characterized by its alpine tundra ranging from 11,000 to 13,000 feet.

Bill Hare Gulch WSA: This 66-acre WSA is located four miles north of Lake City in Hinsdale County. The topography is steep with narrow, rugged drainages.

Powderhorn WSA: This 6,037-acre WSA includes wild canyons along with mixed spruce-fir forest ecosystem in a remote area on the north side of the Powderhorn Wilderness.

Whitehead Gulch (1,856 acres) & Weminuche (1,403 acres) WSAs: These WSA are remnants of study areas that were partially exchanged with the U.S. Forest Service in a boundary adjustment completed in 1983. They adjoin the 245,000-acre U.S. Forest Service-managed Weminuche Wilderness and offer hikers and horseback riders an opportunity to explore scenic landscapes in relative solitude.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway: This area provides a view into the history of the Lake City and Silverton mining era through a series of stabilized and interpreted significant sites relating to the mining and life of the early settlers and miners of the San Juan Mountains.

Sound Democrat Stamp Mill: Located in Placer Gulch, the mill was built in 1905 to crush and process gold and silver/lead ore from the Sound Democrat Mine and the Silver Queen Mine.

Animas Forks: Established in 1873, Animas Forks was originally named Three Forks. Visitors can see the remnants of the once thriving town of 30 cabins, a hotel, general store, saloon, post office and ore mill.

Tobasco Miners Cabin: This cabin located near the summit of Cinnamon Pass housed the supervisor of the Tobasco Mining Milling Company and his family. The cabin was fully stabilized in 2012.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail: This trail was pioneered in 1829 by Mexican traders as a horse and burro pack route that connected Santa Fe to Los Angeles. Approximately 42 miles of trail crosses through the field area.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Paleontological resources in the GFO include vertebrate and invertebrate fossils of plants and animals that once flourished millions of years ago.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The region's varied ecosystems provide habitat for elk, deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, beavers, prairie dogs, hawks, eagles, grouse, songbirds, and trout. Threatened, endangered, and candidate species include Canada lynx, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Gunnison Sage-Grouse

The largest population of Gunnison Sage-Grouse, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, is found within the Gunnison Basin. Based on 2016 population estimates, there are only 4,553 Gunnison Sage-Grouse remaining within the Gunnison Basin.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing is broken into 104 active allotments serving 86 permittees and providing 35,661 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage for domestic cattle, sheep and horses. Through a variety of vegetation studies and management practices, the GFO works to balance grazing use with wildlife needs, the protection of riparian areas, and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. The range program, in cooperation with Gunnison, Saguache and Hinsdale counties, takes the lead on controlling invasive weeds in the area.

MINERALS

Solid Minerals: Solid minerals management for the Gunnison Field Office includes hard rock mining, placer activities, and gravel pit management. The San Juan Mountains located along the Alpine Loop had hard rock mines in the past. Today there are many placer claims along the waterways near Silverton and Gunnison where exploration for gold by panning and dredging occur seasonally. An active gold mine and an active silver mine are located near Lake City. There is one active notice for exploration of semi-precious minerals near Silverton and four expired notices awaiting the completion of their final reclamation by the operators.

Mineral materials (sand, gravel, fill, decorative stone, etc.) are also available to the public and government agencies. There are five common use areas, two community pits, and one county borrow pit in the field area to help meet the needs of community growth, construction of infrastructure, and for landscaping.

LANDS & REALTY

This program focuses primarily on issuing and administering rights-of-way for uses such as phone lines, access roads and electric transmission lines across public lands. The program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisitions and disposals. Additionally, the Lands and Realty program work includes identifying and resolving trespasses on public lands.

FORESTRY

Commercial forests and woodlands make up approximately 30 percent of BLM-administered land in the GFO. Timber types include Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, aspen, Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, blue spruce, juniper, and bristlecone pine. On average, approximately 410 forested acres per year were managed to reduce the effects of insect and disease outbreaks, reduce the effects of historic fire suppression, wildlife habitat improvement, and meeting the local demand for forest products. An Environmental Assessment was completed for timber sales in areas heavily impacted by the spruce bark beetle.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Six Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) exist within the field area, three of which are located within Gunnison, Hinsdale and Saguache counties. The BLM is also working with the community to complete county-wide CWPPs for Gunnison and Hinsdale counties. During the last decade, approximately 1,000 acres of prescribed fire have been implemented and 300 acres treated with a forestry mulcher annually. These projects have varied from treatments immediately adjacent to the wildland-urban interface to large landscape-scale fuel breaks, including treating approximately 500 acres of sagebrush and timber in the area.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The GFO includes one of only nine areas in Colorado identified with potential for commercially viable geothermal development. Nearly 9,000 acres on BLM, Gunnison National Forest, and private lands in the Tomichi Dome area were leased for geothermal activities.

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 East Main Street • Cañon City, CO 81212 • 719-269-8500 • 719-269-8599 fax



FACTS

- 666,127 surface acres
- 6,474,368 subsurface acres
- 86 recreation sites (23 developed, 18 picnic areas, 32 camping areas, 20 boat ramps)
- 2 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas and 1 Instant Study Area (68,158 acres)
- 4 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways
- 1 National Scenic Byway
- 151,700 acres of woodlands (97,062 acres of forest land)
- 18 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (12 listed, 6 candidates)
- 487 miles of streams and rivers
- 570,000 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Custer, Crowley, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, Teller, Adams, Arapaho, Boulder, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, Kit Carson, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma

RECREATION

Located on Colorado's Front Range, the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) works with partners and local communities to develop recreation opportunities. The RGFO, Salida Mountain Trails, the City of Salida and several other local groups and businesses, are developing an extensive mountain bike trail system. Due to these efforts, Salida is one of Colorado's top mountain bike destinations and one of the BLM's Top 20 Mountain Bike Destinations.

Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway: The byway retraces historic railroad and stagecoach routes from the Arkansas Valley to the Cripple Creek Gold Mining District. The Gold Belt Byway is managed through a partnership of 10 local, state, and federal agencies, and a private nonprofit association. Three internationally significant fossil sites lie along the Byway, including: Garden Park Fossil Area, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and Indian Springs Trace Fossil Site. The Byway includes Shelf Road Recreation Area, Phantom Canyon and the Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Shelf Road Recreation Area: Huge limestone cliffs attract thousands of rock climbers annually. The scenic beauty, undeveloped character and designated trails attract mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers. Two developed campgrounds, Sand Gulch and The Bank, are

open year-round. The BLM manages the area in partnership with the nonprofit organization Rocky Mountain Field Institute. The Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance continues stewardship efforts at Shelf Road.

Texas Creek OHV Area: This area's rugged terrain, spectacular views of the Arkansas River Valley and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, as well as its proximity to U.S. Highway 50, attracts thousands of motorized users each year. The BLM manages the routes in the Texas Creek area and works with motorized recreation groups to assist in developing and maintaining motorized routes. Routes are available for four-wheel drive vehicles, side-by-sides, ATVs and motorcycles.

Fourmile Recreation Area: Located east of the Arkansas River near Buena Vista, this area encompasses BLM and National Forest Service Lands with a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Highlights include the Midland Bicycle Trail, Barbara Whipple Trail System and Carnegie Canyon Extreme 4WD Trail. BLM lands are connected to the town of Buena Vista via a bridge over the river. Multiple volunteer projects have been completed to improve current routes located within the Fourmile Travel Management Plan area.

Oil Well Flats: Just uphill from the first oil well drilled west of the Mississippi River, the trail system at Oil Well Flats provides hiking and mountain biking opportunities

close to Cañon City. Volunteers assisted the BLM in developing the trail system.

South Cañon Trail System: This trail system connects Cañon City with public lands. Partnerships between RGFO and Fremont Adventure Recreation, Fremont County, the City of Cañon City, and the local recreation district constructed the trail system.

Guffey Gorge and Cache Creek: These two areas have special management needs due to the high volume of visitors. Guffey Gorge is popular for its swimming hole surrounded by rock cliffs. Cache Creek is known for its recreational mining activities. The RGFO also manages Cucharas Canyon and Stanley Creek in Huerfano County, and Deer Haven and Four Mile/High Creek in Fremont and Teller Counties, each valued for their undeveloped character and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The RGFO has five wilderness study areas (WSA) and one instant study area (ISA).

Beaver Creek WSA: This 27,320-acre WSA has steep, remote granite canyons and is valued for its wildlife and fish habitat. The primary trailhead is located within the Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area at the end of Fremont County Road 132. 13,734 acres of this WSA is within the Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Lower and Upper Grape Creek WSAs: These two WSAs span a large portion of the Grape Creek WSA watershed: Lower Grape Creek WSA consists of 14,003 acres and Upper Grape Creek consists of 9,418 acres. Rugged peaks and inviting pools provide a diversity of terrain and offer a relatively long recreation season for hikers, anglers, hunters and equestrians. Primary access is at the Bear Gulch trailhead. There are no developed trails within these WSAs. Grape Creek's riparian corridor is also an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

McIntyre Hills WSA: This 16,734-acre WSA is rugged country on the south side of the Arkansas River canyon. There are no developed trailheads or trails. A small portion of the WSA near the Arkansas River is within the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC.

High Mesa Grassland ISA: This area covers 683 acres of public land and spans the rolling mesa and steep slopes of Table Mountain, locally known as Sommerville Table. Elevation varies from 8,500 to 9,100 feet. The

unit includes 17 species of native grass, and the ISA is within a research natural area and an ACEC.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Sites and artifacts in the area range from more than 12,000 years old to 50 years old. Several historic mining districts are near Cripple Creek, Leadville, Querida (Westcliffe/Silvercliff), Central City/Black Hawk, and areas west of Boulder. Many of the historic reservoirs on the eastern plains still have BLM land underneath.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Garden Park Fossil Area: This area is important for its wealth of Jurassic fossil data and is a designated ACEC and National Natural Landmark with international significance and a Colorado Research Natural Area.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The RGFO manages wildlife habitats ranging from the Great Plains to the Continental Divide. The program uses monitoring and inventory data with landscape-scale datasets to assess impacts and prioritize enhancement projects. The program targets vegetation treatments to enhance big game habitat to offset increasing multiple use demands on public lands. The program monitors several federally listed and sensitive species including Mexican spotted owl, peregrine falcon, bald and golden eagles, Gunnison's prairie dog, boreal toad, Townsend's big-eared bat, alpine fen mustard, and Brandegee's buckwheat.

FORESTRY

Thirty-eight percent of the land managed by the RGFO is classified as commercial forestland or woodlands. Primary commercial species are ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, and Engelmann spruce. Woodland species include pinyon pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, and one-seed juniper.

The RGFO forestry program issues approximately 600 special forest product permits annually, including personal-use permits and commercial permits. There are about 10 small sawmills and several logging companies within the RGFO. Timber sales in 2018 offered up to two million board feet of timber. These sales allow the RGFO forestry program to accomplish much needed forest management projects, such as thinning and patch cuts, while also supporting local industry. In addition to timber sales, the RGFO uses stewardship contracts for forest restoration projects.

The RGFO has an ongoing outbreak of spruce beetle in much of the high elevation spruce/fir forests. This recent epidemic is managed with salvage harvesting, which removes dead and dying timber. Other ongoing forestry activities include intensive forest inventory, seedling planting, regeneration surveys, timberstand improvement, and public education and outreach.

LANDS & REALTY

The RGFO is seeing increasing use of public lands in the area due to its close proximity to metropolitan areas such as Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. The Lands and Realty program is complicated by fragmented and split-estate ownership of surface and subsurface lands within the field office's boundaries.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The RGFO administers 333 grazing permits/leases on 400 allotments for 35,144 Animal Unit Months. The rangeland program is responsible for ensuring that grazing allotments meet standards related to Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado.

Noxious Weeds: This year, the weed management program expects to inventory 10,000 acres for new weed infestation areas and treat more than 900 acres. Evaluations are conducted to determine the effectiveness of the previous year's treatments.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: The RGFO manages approximately 2,500 oil and gas wells across eastern Colorado. The RGFO ensures wells comply with federal regulatory requirements on drilling and production operations. This includes final abandonment of a well. The RGFO routinely monitors and verifies production records to ensure accurate royalty payments to the federal government.

Solid Minerals: Solid minerals management for the RGFO extends east from the Continental Divide to the Colorado-Kansas border and includes hard rock mining, placer activities, gravel pit management, uranium exploration, and a pending coal lease. Minerals management is complex because of the scattered land status that is often un-surveyed in mountainous areas, as well as the split-estate minerals that are prevalent in eastern Colorado.

The RGFO manages more than 21 notices and 11 Plans of Operations under the Locatable Minerals Program. This includes gold mines in Lake and Boulder counties, a number of small placer mining operations along the Arkansas River from Cañon City to Leadville, and new exploration operations for gold and uranium in Fremont County. The RGFO manages five common use areas and more than 20 commercial and noncommercial gravel pits used for road maintenance and construction, building construction, and landscaping.

Abandoned Mine Lands: The RGFO AML program involves both safety closure efforts and Superfund cleanup efforts that focus on historic mining districts, particularly west of Leadville. Safety closure efforts focus on closing hazardous abandoned mine openings in collaboration with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety near Boulder, Westcliffe, and Buena Vista. The BLM collaborates with the Headwaters of the Arkansas Working Group (formerly the Lake Fork Watershed Working Group) to improve water quality for the Upper Arkansas River Watershed.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

307 West Sackett • Salida, CO 81201 • 719-539-7289 • 719-539-3771 fax •
<https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>

FACTS

- 9,890 acres comprise the Cooperative Management Area
- 45 recreation sites (19 developed, 6 camping areas, 19 boat ramps)
- 2 Wilderness Study Areas (Browns Canyon 7449 acres - McIntyre Hills 16,734 acres)
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Top of the Rockies (also a National Scenic Byway), Collegiate Peaks
- A portion lies within Browns Canyon National Monument

Counties: Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Pueblo



RECREATION

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) manages recreation along a 152-mile extent of the Arkansas River from the confluence of the Lake Fork and the East Fork of the Arkansas River near Leadville to Lake Pueblo State Park. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages the recreation under a Cooperative Management Agreement with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. Formed in 1989, this partnership allows agencies to provide visitors with recreation opportunities and care for significant natural resources of the Upper Arkansas River Valley.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area manages river-based recreation on the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon. In 2015, Browns Canyon National Monument was designated to protect cultural and natural resources. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service jointly manage the 21,589-acre monument.

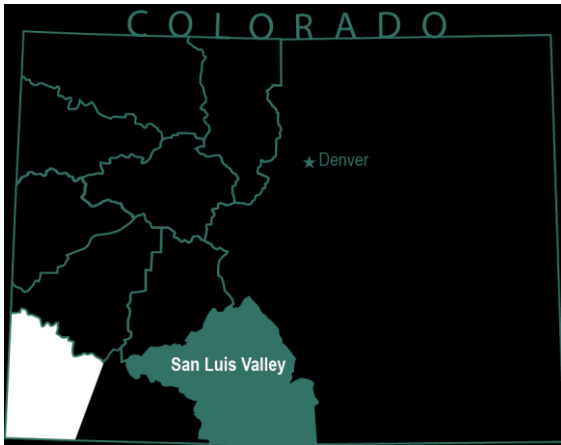
Fees are collected at a number of self-service stations at recreation sites and campgrounds throughout the area. The AHRA visitor center includes the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association bookstore containing maps and books on the area and activities.

The AHRA issues commercial agreements to 47 boating outfitters, 15 walk and wade fishing companies, 28 photography companies and three shuttle companies.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for fishing, rafting, kayaking, picnicking, hiking, camping, mountain biking and sightseeing.

San Luis Valley Field Office

1313 East Highway 160 • Monte Vista, CO 81144 • 719-852-7074 • 719-852-0165 fax



FACTS

- 499,976 surface acres
- 2,594,033 subsurface acres
- 4 recreation areas
- 3 Wilderness Study Areas
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway
- 26,127 acres of woodlands
- 11 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (3 listed, 2 candidates)
- 102 miles of streams and rivers
- 474,000 acres grazed by livestock
- 251,194 acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Counties: Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos and Costilla

RECREATION

The SLVFO has many recreation opportunities including camping, mountain biking, hiking, bird watching, and rock climbing. In 2010, the SLVFO completed a travel management plan, which restricts motorized and mechanized travel to designated roads, trails, and areas. The SLVFO is working to expand winter recreation opportunities with partners such as San Juan Nordic Club, Eastern SLV Trails, and SLV GO!

Blanca Wetlands: Blanca Wetlands is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, specifically for its recreation and wetland values, including playa and marsh habitats.

Penitente Canyon Special Recreation Management Area: This area is an internationally recognized climbing area, offering 300 sport-climbing routes. The area has a developed campground, and an extensive trail system provides hiking and mountain biking opportunities.

Zapata Falls Campground: This campground sits among pinyon and juniper trees on the lower flanks of the Blanca Peak massif.

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway: The SLVFO is working with the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and other partners to promote the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway through interpretive outreach.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

National Scenic and Historic Trails: The Old Spanish National Historic Trail crosses BLM lands throughout the Valley.

Wilderness Study Areas: The SLVFO manages three WSAs: Black Canyon (1,194 acres), Papa Keal (383 acres) and San Luis Hills (10,871 acres).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The San Luis Valley has a rich cultural landscape that includes traces of mammoth hunters of the Late Pleistocene (ca. 12,000 BC), Hispanic settlements, and the gold mining camps of Bonanza and Duncan. Stone structures throughout the Valley suggest a Puebloan influence, and culturally peeled trees reflect the migrations of the Utes and Jicarilla Apaches. The Valley boasts segments of the Old Spanish Trail (1829-1848) and the newly established Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area.

The Valley is famous for its Paleoindian sites, attracting researchers from universities around the country and the Smithsonian Institution. The SLVFO area is home to renowned rock art sites that are important to tribal partners. By 1600, the Spanish Empire had established itself in nearby northern New Mexico. Permanent settlement came in 1852 with the establishment of the community of San Luis, Colorado's oldest community, which brought with it Colorado's first water right.

Mount Blanca: The Sangre de Cristo mountain range, including Mount Blanca and surrounding wetlands and playas on the valley floor, has prominent significance to Native Americans and other cultures. The area is an important traditional resource collection area, the focus of traditional cultural importance for multiple tribes, and is a critical viewshed.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The BLM's Elephant Rocks Area was habitat for Colombian mammoths that lived in the San Luis Valley during the Pleistocene Epoch. In 2011, the vertebra of a young mammoth was found near the town of Villa Grove in Saguache County. The last mammoths in the San Luis Valley died about 13,000 years ago.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The SLVFO manages a diversity of wildlife habitat ranging from low-elevation wetlands, grasslands and shrublands to mid-elevation ponderosa pine forests and mixed conifer forests. Waterfowl, shorebirds, amphibians and other wildlife inhabit the wetlands, while species such as the Gunnison prairie dog live in the dry low elevation grasslands. Black bear, mountain lion, pronghorn antelope, elk and mule deer are prevalent in the low and mid-elevation forests and bighorn sheep inhabit the steep rocky terrain. The SLVFO lands provide crucial winter range habitat for elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep, as well as important birthing areas.

Federally threatened and endangered species in the area include Mexican spotted owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Canada lynx, New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, and the black-footed ferret.

The San Luis Valley's wetlands provide an important migratory stopover and breeding site for millions of birds in the Central flyway. The nearly 3,500 acres of wetlands at BLM's Blanca Wetlands and McIntire-Simpson properties are a critical component of this important habitat. The McIntire-Simpson property is designated as critical habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and is proposed as critical habitat for the threatened yellow-billed cuckoo.

Blanca Wetlands has been designated an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society and a wetlands Key Site by the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Blanca Wetlands playa and marsh habitats support more than

170 species of birds and the state's largest population of breeding snowy plovers.

LANDS & REALTY

The Lands and Realty program manages a wide range of authorizations (right-of-way grants) issued for roads, pipelines, communication sites, power lines, fiber optics lines and irrigation structures. The authorized uses are issued to entities such as private parties, companies, and county, state and federal agencies. The SLVFO pursues land and water acquisitions with willing sellers, funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The SLVFO collaborates with Conejos County Commissioners, Conejos County Clean Water, and numerous volunteers and local students to clean up dumpsites on public lands. The SLVFO also continues to collaborate with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and The Conservation Fund for land acquisition to benefit sportsmen's access and wildlife habitat.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: The SLVFO manages 82 livestock grazing permits on 115 active grazing allotments for 28,487 Animal Unit Months, covering 474,000 acres. Classes of livestock grazing in the SLVFO are cattle and domestic sheep. Grazing allotments are monitored to ensure range conditions are meeting public health standards. The field office continues to manage for drought conditions on an allotment-by-allotment basis in coordination with affected permittees and other interested publics.

Noxious Weeds: The SLVFO uses an integrated approach to noxious weed control. Herbicides are the main mechanism for controlling weeds, but bugs and mechanical treatments are also used. The SLVFO partners with Saguache, Rio Grande, and Conejos counties and the Rio Grande National Forest to identify, map and control noxious weed infestations on BLM-administered lands, National Forest Service System lands, and county road rights-of-way.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

The Rio Grande is an important river riparian system within the Lower Rio Grande study area. The BLM and partners have collaborated on restoration planning that supports the ongoing effort of Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project.

Since the early 1990s, the SLVFO has been working with partners to restore the Kerber Creek Watershed. After large-scale silver ore mining ended in the Bonanza

Mining District in the 1930s, significant amounts of mine wastes were deposited along the stream. By the 1990s, this waste had been transported throughout the watershed by floods. After voluntary cleanup efforts by the American Smelting and Refining Company in the 1990s, the BLM analyzed 19 miles of the creek, from the town of Bonanza to Villa Grove, to determine further clean-up options. The Bonanza Stakeholders Group, a coalition of local landowners, was established in 2007 to further cooperation on restoration efforts.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: Ninety-nine percent of the SLVFO managed lands are open to leasing if interest arises. Currently, there are no producing oil and gas wells on federal mineral estate in the San Luis Valley.

Solid Minerals: BLM lands within the San Luis Valley host a historic operating turquoise mine. The “King Manassa” mine in Conejos County has been operating since the early 20th century, but turquoise from the site was a part of the ancestral Puebloan turquoise trade. The SLVFO manages commercial and noncommercial gravel pits for road and building construction and maintenance as well as three Common Use Areas: Limekiln, Ojito, and Poison Gulch.

Abandoned Mine Lands: The SLVFO maintains an inventory of known hard rock abandoned mine lands on BLM administered public lands. These closures include installing bat gates to allow bat movement, roosting, and use of features when present and plugging and back-filling mines for public safety.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The BLM has identified three Solar Energy Zones (SEZ) in the San Luis Valley as areas that are well suited for utility scale solar energy production. The Colorado renewable energy team has developed a Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) for Colorado SEZs, which identifies and mitigates impacts from potential future solar energy production to foster future solar development in the area. The team also completed a landscape assessment and an ethnography study with the SRMS to provide a broad-scale synthesis of the natural resources and trends in the ecoregion. The renewable energy program funded several research projects, such as golden eagle movement in wind, solar,

and transmission areas of Colorado, the Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s model on transmission and solar development, cultural surveys, wildlife planning, and avian inventories.

RESEARCH & COLLABORATION

The SLVFO is active in research and collaboration as part of the National Wind Erosion Research Network (NWERN). The network consists of 13 intensively instrumented research sites across the western U.S. and aims to develop standardized approaches to understanding wind erosion processes and facilitate collaborative efforts in aeolian research and land management. The SLVFO manages one of two network sites in Colorado, which is one of four operated by the BLM nationally. The site requires the collection and processing of sediment and dust samples on a monthly basis and the measurement of vegetation and soil surface characteristics four times per year. Vegetation sampling follows intensified methods in line with the BLM’s Assessment, Inventory, & Monitoring Strategy to make research and management more cohesive across the greater landscape.

Northwest District

2300 River Frontage Road • Silt, CO 81652 • 970-876-9000 • 970-876-9090



The Northwest District manages approximately 3.7 million surface acres and 10.1 million acres of subsurface minerals. The district is comprised of the Colorado River Valley Field Office, Kremmling Field Office, Little Snake Field Office, and White River Field Office.

The Northwest District includes the Colorado River corridor along with the White and Yampa rivers. It is home to some of the largest deer and elk herds in the county, along with pronghorn, bighorn sheep and a wide variety of other wildlife. The Northwest District contains the majority of the Colorado range of the Greater Sage-Grouse.

The Northwest District includes some of the most productive oil and natural gas fields in the state, four coal mines, and vast deposits of oil shale.

Urban interface issues and increasing pressure on BLM lands from recreation and other uses is an ongoing management challenge.

Northwest District Leadership



Andrew Archuleta, Northwest District Manager, 970-876-9095, aarchule@blm.gov
Andrew was the San Luis Valley Field Manager for eight years before joining the Northwest District as District Manager in 2016. Before joining the BLM, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a district ranger, program manager, and on-scene coordinator. Andrew also worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an environmental contaminants specialist. Andrew has a master's degree in wildlife biology.



Bill Mills, Kremmling Field Manager, 970-724-3000, wmills@blm.gov
Bill has been the Kremmling Field Manager since September 2018. Bill served in the U.S. Air Force from 1989-2009. He retired from the Air Force in 2009 at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. He began his BLM career in 2010 as a Freedom of Information Act Officer with the National Operations Center in Denver. In 2014, Bill moved to the BLM Colorado State Office, where he was a section chief until his transition to Cañon City as the District Administrative Officer in May 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Phoenix.



Bruce Sillitoe, Little Snake Field Manager, 970-826-5089, bsillitoe@blm.gov
Bruce has been the manager of the LSFO since July 2016. Previously Bruce served as the assistant manager for renewable resources in the BLM Salt Lake Field Office, a rangeland management specialist for BLM Nevada, and a rangeland management specialist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Bruce also worked for 15 years in various planning roles for Clark County, Nevada. Bruce has a B.S. in range science from Utah State University and a master of business administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Kent Walter, White River Field Manager, 719-239-0494, k1walter@blm.gov
Kent Walter has been the White River Field Manager since October 2001. Previously, Kent was the Field Manager in Utah from 1996 to 2001. Kent has more than 30 years working for the BLM. In 1982, Kent started his career with the BLM as a land surveyor at the Colorado State Office. In 1990, he became a project manager at the Utah State Office. Kent has a bachelor's degree in land surveying.



Larry Sandoval, Colorado River Valley Field Manager, (970) 876-9004, lsandoval@blm.gov
Larry has been the Colorado River Valley Field Manager since February 2019. He came to the BLM from the U.S. Forest Service, most recently as the natural resources staff officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon. Larry worked as a soil scientist for the White River National Forest from 2001 to 2006, and as the Assistant District Ranger for the Rifle Ranger District. Larry has served as the public affairs specialist and district ranger for the Medicine Bow Routt National Forest in Wyoming, and district ranger for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. Larry has a bachelor's degree in natural resources management from Colorado State University.

Kremmling Field Office

2103 E. Park Avenue • P.O. Box 68 • Kremmling, CO 80459 • 970-724-3000 • 970-724-9590 fax



Counties: Jackson, Grand, Larimer, Eagle, Summit

FACTS

- 377,351 surface acres
- 2,232,460 subsurface acres
- 30 producing oil wells, all in Jackson County
- 198,900 acres priority habitat and 18,900 acres general habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse
- 4 Special Recreation Management Areas: North Sand Hills (1,450 acres), Upper Colorado River (15,000 acres), Strawberry (7,900 acres), Wolford (25,700 acres)
- 1 Extensive Recreation Management Area: Headwaters (13,800 acres)
- 8 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 3 Wilderness Study Areas (8,658 acres): Troublesome (7,946), North Sand Hills ISA (681), Platte River contiguous (31)
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Cache la Poudre-North Park Byway, Colorado River Headwaters Byway

The Kremmling Field Office (KFO) is comprised of three regions: North Park, Middle Park, and the Laramie River Valley. North Park and the Laramie River Valley are situated on the east side of the Continental Divide.

RECREATION

The KFO manages 30 miles of the Colorado River from Byers Canyon to State Bridge. The majority of the river corridor consists of Class I and II white water, with Gore Canyon offering a five-mile section of expert-only Class IV and V white water. The KFO manages three primary public recreation areas along the Upper Colorado River: Pumphouse, Radium, and State Bridge. Most of the fall recreation use occurs in the forested areas. Several major roads provide access to large forested blocks of public land. There are more than 20,000 visitors in the summer every year. KFO recreation activities include rafting, trout fishing, kayaking, camping, hunting, mountain biking, hiking, OHV use, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.

Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): The area is popular for its recreation opportunities and proximity to Grand, Summit, Routt, and Eagle counties, and the Front Range metropolitan area. The stretch of the Colorado River from Pumphouse to State Bridge is among the top three commercially used rivers in the state. Annual visitation exceeds 90,000 people.

North Sand Hills SRMA: This intensive OHV-use area has the only sand dune area in Colorado open to public OHV use. Motorized travel is limited to the open sand dune complex and existing open roads and trails.

Strawberry SRMA: Public lands in the Strawberry SRMA are valued for their easy access and proximity to the communities of Tabernash, Fraser, and Granby. The SRMA designation from the recent Approved Resource Management Plan will allow KFO to focus management in this area on creating sustainable recreation opportunities.

Wolford SRMA: This area is adjacent to Kremmling and sees heavy OHV use. The SRMA designation from the recent Approved Resource Management Plan will allow KFO to focus management in this area on creating sustainable recreation opportunities.

Colorado River Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway: The partnership for this Byway includes Grand County, communities along the Byway, and federal and state agencies. The Byway starts at the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center and ends at State Bridge on Colorado Highway 131. The Byway is about 80 miles long and winds through or by a variety of public lands. The Byway provides an educational message about the national significance of the headwaters of the Colorado River and historic and present-day water use.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Troublesome Wilderness Study Area (WSA): Consists of 7,946 acres of lodgepole pine forest. It has been recommended as not suitable for wilderness designation.

Platte River Contiguous WSA: This 31-acre WSA is steep ground along the North Platte River in North Park. The WSA is contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service's Platte River Wilderness, which has resulted in it being recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

North Sand Hills Instant Study Area: Consists of 681 acres within a sand dune complex that includes open sand, aspen and sagebrush habitats located 15 miles northeast of Walden. It was recommended as not suitable for wilderness designation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resource program emphasizes consultation and coordination with the Tribal Councils of the three Ute Tribes, Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes. The University of Northern Colorado began an in-depth ethnographic study of North Park involving on-site visits. The Yarmony Pit House site is the oldest documented habitation structure in Colorado, dated to 6,200 years ago.

Barger Gulch: The University of Wyoming conducted a ten-year research project at this Folsom Paleolithic site dating around 10,200 years ago.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Hayden Expedition of 1869 recorded the first dinosaur bone scientifically collected in Colorado, a tail vertebrae from an Allosaurus. Extinct species from the Miocene Era related to the modern horse, camel, deer, beaver and antelope have been discovered and excavated here.

Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite site: This site is managed as a Research Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern. It contains about 125 fossil invertebrate species and dates to 72.5 million years ago. The Giant Ammonite fossil is found at this site, with some female specimens measuring up to a meter across. Ten new species of bivalves, gastropods and mollusks were discovered at the site.

WILDLIFE & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The KFO administers public lands that support more than 300 species of fish and wildlife. These species

inhabit 13 distinct habitat types ranging from wetland bottoms and riparian areas to subalpine forest. Wetland habitat is important in North Park at the Hebron Waterfowl Area, managed with an emphasis on waterfowl habitat since the mid-1970s. The KFO, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and several partners developed a Watchable Wildlife Education Area at the Windy Gap Reservoir near Granby. In a 1999 land exchange, the BLM acquired 125 acres of land with adjudicated water rights, adjacent to the Colorado River, near Kremmling - known now as the Junction Butte Wetland Area.

LANDS & REALTY

The configuration of public lands in the KFO lends itself to an active land tenure program. The priorities are to (1) acquire public access for recreational opportunities; (2) retain public access, critical wildlife habitat, T&E species habitat, and riparian areas; and (3) improve the management of existing public lands by blocking up certain areas. The rights-of-way program has an average of 15-20 proposals per year. The KFO is active in the compliance, monitoring and reclamation aspects of the right-of-way program, including weed and erosion control. Resolving trespass issues is growing due to the land configuration and high use of public lands in the KFO.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: The KFO administers 142 livestock grazing permits on 256 allotments for 34,683 AUMs covering 338,054 acres of BLM-administered public lands in Middle Park, North Park, and the Laramie River area. The KFO improves the condition of rangelands through partnerships with permittees, local organizations, and other government agencies. Compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health by implementing rotation-grazing systems is an integral part of maintaining or improving range condition on KFO-administered public lands. In North Park, the Owl Mountain Partnership and the North Park Habitat Partnership Program have become strong partners with the BLM in efforts to improve the condition of rangelands.

Noxious Weeds: The KFO uses an integrated approach to noxious weed control. Use of herbicides is the main mechanism for controlling weeds; biological and mechanical treatments are also used. The KFO partners with Grand, Jackson and Larimer counties to identify, map, and control noxious weed infestations. New weed infestations are being found, which could pose a risk of invading native habitat.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Approximately 100,000 acres (about 30 percent) of the area administered by the KFO is in forest or woodlands. The lodgepole pine forest has experienced a major mountain pine beetle epidemic over the last 10 to 15 years, resulting in the loss of lodgepole pine stands over a large acreage. The forest has been through an extended drought and most stands are mature or overmature. Dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant, is also common in most of the lodgepole pine stands.

A forest health issue exists in more than 3,000 acres of young lodgepole pine stands that were regenerated during the 1980s and 1990s, which need to be pre-commercially thinned. These stands have between 2,000 and 5,000 trees per acre, while a desirable level is 200 to 450 trees per acre. Between 150 and 300 acres are treated annually.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

The KFO manages lands in the headwaters of three major drainages: the Colorado, the North Platte and the Laramie rivers, and about 187 miles of perennial streams and 4,740 acres of wetlands. Perennial streams are primarily in the Middle Park and Laramie River BLM lands, while North Park has the larger wetland acreages, including 15 high elevation fens.

Water temperatures and macro-invertebrate populations are monitored to support the Wild & Scenic Stakeholders Group, the Learning by Doing Group, and Grand County Water Information Network.

The KFO is pursuing Colorado River improvements near Kremmling to restore the fisheries, protect irrigation practices, and enhance wetland habitat. The work is part of a larger effort supported by local ranchers, TU, American Rivers, Grand County, and the NRCS.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: The primary fluid mineral resources being developed are oil, carbon dioxide gas and some methane gas. The KFO has a long history of oil and gas drilling and production activity, with nearly 675 wells having been drilled since the early 1920s. Most of these wells are located in the central portion of Jackson County in the McCallum and surrounding fields. New wells drilled within the KFO over the next 20 years will be targeted at the Coalmont Niobrara Formation. The high potential area for oil and gas falls entirely within Jackson County. Interest in oil and gas leasing is mainly in Jackson County. Recent horizontal extraction techniques and economic discoveries of Niobrara oil

production may promote leasing interest in unleased areas of the KFO.

Coal: Commercial or industrial coal mining in North Park ceased and no mining activity is likely in the KFO in the future. Although a considerable volume of mineable and marketable coal remains on federal lands in the McCallum area of North Park, the lack of reasonable-cost transportation in the area hinders use of this resource. There is some potential for methane gas in the near surface and deeper areas of the McCallum coal area.

Locatable Minerals: No significant future activity is anticipated on BLM-managed lands in the KFO. There may be interest in future drilling and exploration of gold placer claims on Independence Mountain in northwest Jackson County.

Saleable Minerals: Continuing trends of urbanization in eastern and southern Grand County and concentration of ownership in agricultural lands into single large ranches in Grand and Jackson counties yield long-term concerns about the availability of sand and gravel in the future. Existing free-use pits are in their last years of material supply; closures and reclamation of the old pits are anticipated. Demands from Jackson and Grand county governments are expected to increase for free-use sand and gravel resources on BLM-managed lands. Continuing demand for decorative stone will likely drive additional sales and the permitting of the new areas.

Little Snake Field Office

455 Emerson Street • Craig, CO 81625 • 970-826-5000 • 970-826-5002 fax



Counties: Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco

FACTS

- 1,303,540 surface acres and 2,679,492 subsurface acres
- 12 recreation sites (6 developed, 4 picnic areas, 4 camping areas)
- 7 Recreation Management Areas and 7 Wilderness Study Areas (79,738 acres)
- Potential habitat for 9 endangered, threatened, and candidate species
- 570,400 acres priority habitat and 479,700 acres general habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse
- 303 miles of streams and rivers
- 1 wild horse herd management area (157,730 acres)
- 1.2 million acres grazed by livestock on 327 grazing allotments

RECREATION

Cedar Mountain: The 880-acre area rises 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley providing panoramic views at elevations of 7,500 feet. Cedar Mountain offers a variety of recreational opportunities year round including scenic and wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding on 5 miles of trails.

Diamond Peak: Located in the northwest corner of Colorado, this area has the Rocky Reservoir campground situated among a grove of aspen trees at more than 8,600 feet. The area provides a remote and scenic experience with trophy big game and the opportunity to view moose.

Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): The 4,139-acre parcel southwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado was acquired in 2007 through a land exchange with the Colorado State Land Board. The SRMA is managed as two separate management zones. Zone 1 provides opportunities for mountain biking, Nordic skiing, and hunting. Zone 2 provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and similar non-mechanized activities. Relationships with partners, the community, and organizations resulted in the completion of Ridge Trail and plans for future trails and facilities. The area is day-use only and closed to all motorized travel.

Little Yampa Canyon SRMA: The 19,840-acre SRMA includes Duffy Mountain, Iles Mountain, Juniper

Mountain and portions of the Yampa River and Yampa Valley Trail. The Yampa River portion is a popular flatwater boating area and eligible for Wild and Scenic River status. The Yampa Valley Trail, which starts in the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, extends westward to Dinosaur National Monument and connects with other regional trails. The area is popular for hunting, fishing, and OHV activities. Motorized and mechanized vehicles are allowed on designated routes only. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the primary manager of Yampa River public land access sites. CPW and BLM cooperatively enforce all laws and regulations on public lands within the Yampa River corridor.

Sand Wash Basin: Home to the largest wild horse herd in Colorado, the approximately 160,000-acre basin is a large, scenic expanse of high desert country. Recreation opportunities including horseback riding, rock hounding, hunting and OHV use.

Sarvis Creek: In 2014, this 35-acre property on the Upper Yampa River was purchased through a partnership among Western Rivers Conservancy, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Yampa River Legacy Partnership. Sarvis Creek provides access to world-class fishing and wildlife habitat as well as the Hubbard Summer Place, a historic cabin.

Irish Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): The 11,680-acre relatively remote and scenic canyon is designated as an ACEC because of its unique geology, scenery, plant species, and cultural resources.

There is an interpretive exhibit and trail of ancient petroglyphs at the south entrance to Irish Canyon with other unmarked cultural sites in and around the area. Primitive roads to the east and west provide excellent mountain biking opportunities. Motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated routes.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Cross Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA): This 14289-acre WSA offers spectacular views into Cross Mountain Canyon. The Yampa River in the canyon provides expert kayakers with white water found nowhere else in the region.

Diamond Breaks WSA: This 33,192-acre WSA is located southwest of Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. Activities include photography, wildlife viewing, hiking, backpacking, hunting, and enjoying the cultural heritage.

Douglas Mountain Area WSAs: Douglas Mountain lies north of the Yampa River and east of the Green River. There are four BLM wilderness study areas directly adjacent to the northern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument on Douglas Mountain: Ant Hills (4237 acres), Chew Winter Camp (1238 acres), Peterson Draw (4,998 acres), and Vale of Tears (7,039 acres). These remote WSAs consist of rugged hills and valleys on the flank of Douglas Mountain and are extensions of the landforms of Dinosaur National Monument to the south. There are no developed recreation sites in the Douglas Mountain area, but the area offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy deer and elk hunting, camping, sightseeing, hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. Motorized and mechanized vehicle travel is limited to existing roads and trails.

West Cold Spring WSA: This 14,744-acre site extends 20 miles west to east with rough and steep south-facing slopes. Draws and canyons cut the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau, forming a series of plateaus and ridges, which characterize much of the area. Beaver Creek Canyon along the Utah border provides an excellent area for hiking or backpacking. A cattle trail extends the length of the canyon, and Beaver Creek supports a trout fishery. The rugged Matt Trail provides a challenging hiking route up or down the south face of the mountain.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological work in northwestern Colorado provides evidence of a strong Paleo-Indian presence and extensive archaic habitation of the area. We have defined the presence of northern Fremont peoples

through open sites, rock shelters, and rock art. Proto-Ute, Numic (Ute and Shoshone), and historic Ute peoples are evident in the archaeological record. Euro American historic archaeology is present from about 1820 A.D. to the early 21st Century and revolves around homesteading, ranching and mineral exploration.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Fossils encompass the geologic time scale from the Cambrian Period to the most recent. Fossils include Paleozoic invertebrates and a variety of ichnofossils. Fossils representing the Mesozoic and Cenozoic include vertebrate fossils representing dinosaurs, marine reptiles, land mammals, and invertebrates.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The LSFO provides habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species in salt desert shrub, sagebrush steppe, pinyon and juniper woodlands, mountain shrub, aspen woodlands, and lodgepole pine forests. LSFO provides crucial winter range for elk, mule deer and pronghorn. Common species include white-tailed prairie dogs, Wyoming ground squirrels, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, red foxes, badgers, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and wild turkeys.

LSFO manages habitat for many special status species including Greater Sage-Grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, Great Basin spade-foot toad, midget faded rattlesnake, northern leopard frog, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker.

Public lands in the LSFO support about 50 known Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Another 60 leks occupy lands where LSFO manages the federal mineral estate. The LSFO is actively managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat to prevent fragmentation and restore degraded habitat.

WILD HORSES

Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area: Sand Wash Basin covers about 160,000 acres of public lands between Vermillion Bluffs and Seven Mile Ridge and is home to a wild horse herd. Wild horses can be seen from County Road 75 North and from County Road 67 and 126 from Shepherder Springs north to the junction of County Road 75 North. The current population is estimated at more than 500 horses.

LANDS & REALTY

The lands and realty program manages rights-of-way (ROW) for transportation, communication, energy transmission, and for commodities such as oil and gas, which are in the public interest and require the use of public lands. The BLM grants ROW for pipelines, roads, electric power lines, communication facilities, and telephone and fiber optic lines among other things. Nearly half of the ROWs are for oil and gas. The BLM also manages land tenure actions that include Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases, easements, acquisitions, disposals, and exchanges when they are consistent with the Resource Management Plan. The majority of new projects are energy-related.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The LSFO oversees the largest BLM grazing program in Colorado with 23 percent (146,609 AUMs) of BLM Colorado's total AUMs, which includes 341 permits and leases on 327 allotments. Vegetation monitoring programs include the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) program - initiated to improve the effectiveness of monitoring activities on BLM-managed lands. The AIM program provides a standardized process to collect quantitative information on the status, condition, trend, amount, location, and spatial pattern of vegetation resources.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The LSFO averages 71 fires per year with an average of 6,500 acres burned. Some natural fires caused by lightning are managed to benefit resources including wildlife, range ecology, vegetative diversity, and hazardous fuels. The fire management program handles prescribed burns and mechanical fuels treatment

projects, which focus on eliminating hazardous fuel conditions that benefit wildlife, range, ecosystem health, and oil and gas operations.

MINERALS

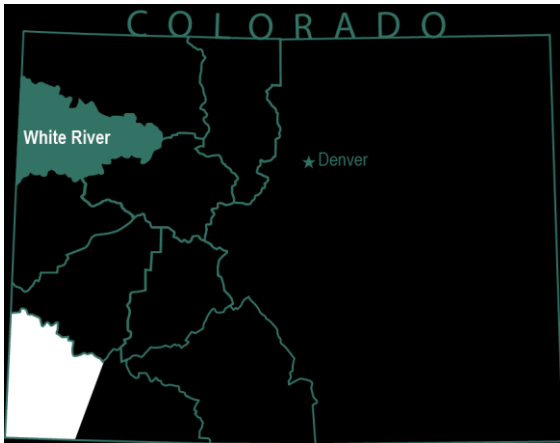
Fluid Minerals: The Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario forecasts more than 3,000 new wells could be drilled in LSFO jurisdiction over the next 20 years. The majority of the wells will be targeted at tight sand and shale formations containing natural gas. The main development areas for these new wells will be in the Hiawatha, Powderwash, and Great Divide areas.

Solid Minerals: LSFO contains known economic deposits of coal, uranium, high purity limestone, and sand and gravel. Based on known occurrences and known favorable geologic settings, the area has the potential for other significant deposits of these commodities, and other mineral resources, including oil shale precious and base metals, zeolites, construction stone, and clays.

The LSFO has the largest BLM coal program in the state of Colorado with more than 6.7 million tons of coal produced in FY 2018. The Colowyo Coal Company L.P., Trapper Mining Inc., and Peabody Twenty Mile Coal Company provide royalty revenues in excess of \$14 million annually, half of which are returned to the State of Colorado. The recoverable Federal coal reserves for these mines are estimated at 203 million tons in addition to State, County, and private reserves. In 2018, these mines employed 670 residents of Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties.

White River Field Office

220 E. Market Street • Meeker, CO 81641 • 970-878-3800 • 970-878-3805 fax



Counties: Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Garfield

FACTS

- 1,456,507 surface acres
- 2,102,087 subsurface acres
- 14 recreation sites (2 developed, 2 picnic areas)
- 6 Wilderness Study Areas (80,190 acres)
- 8 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (7 listed, 1 candidate)
- 122,000 acres priority habitat and 180,200 acres general habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse
- 36 BLM Sensitive Species
- 17 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 1 wild horse herd management area
- 1,435,513 acres grazed by livestock
- 1 National Scenic Byway
- 1 National Historic District

RECREATION

The White River Field Office (WRFO) is known for its big game hunting opportunities. Arguably, the nation's largest elk herd and impressive numbers of mule deer make their home in the WRFO. The area boasts more than 50 miles of the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway, which passes the western side of the field office and bisects the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. The WRFO provides a variety of dispersed recreational activities such as OHV riding and 4x4 routes. The WRFO is undertaking an extensive travel management process that will make route-by-route decisions over the next several years. Other recreational activities include camping, horseback riding, and hiking.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The WRFO has six Wilderness Study Areas (WSA): Bull Canyon (12,982 acres), Willow Creek (13,315 acres), Skull Creek (13,039 acres), Oil Spring Mountain (18,245 acres), Black Mountain (10,188 acres) and the Windy Gulch (12,421 acres) All WSAs are open to foot and horse travel and allow for primitive types of recreational experiences.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Canyon Pintado National Historic District: Features interpretive trails to seven rock art sites and one lookout site, largely created by the Fremont-era and Ute people.

Dragon Trail: Features four interpretive areas with rock art created by people who lived and moved through the area, spanning from 100 to 4,000 years ago.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Douglas Pass fossil area has a plethora of non-vertebrate fossils, such as leaves and small insects. The Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway crosses through the area and provides various heritage tourism destinations emphasizing the protection of dinosaur fossil resources.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The WRFO is home to an abundance of small game, small mammals, waterfowl amphibians, reptiles, fish and predators. Threatened and endangered species include the bald eagle, Colorado pikeminnow, Canada lynx, and black-footed ferret. BLM sensitive species in the area include park rockcress, debris milkvetch, ephedra buckwheat, Utah genetian, narrow-stem gilia, Piceance bladderpod, narrow-leaf evening primrose, Rollins cryptanth, Graham's beardtongue, and White River penstemon.

WILD HORSES

Piceance – East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area:

This 195,000-acre HMA of rolling piñon and juniper woodlands is home to more than 200 wild horses. The best place to view the horses is from the rim of Cathedral Bluffs facing east and looking along the slopes to the east.

LANDS & REALTY

The WRFO manages 1,600 rights-of-way (ROW) for pipelines, roads and power lines. Nearly half of those ROWs are for oil and gas. The WRFO has communication facilities, telephone and fiber optic lines, power systems, water projects, R&PP leases, material sites, and easements. At this time, the majority of projects are energy-related.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The field office manages 118 grazing authorizations to graze livestock on 156 allotments for 117,694 AUMs. Allotments vary in size from four to 142,825 acres of BLM land with grazing capacities ranging from three to 11,550 AUMs. Total federal acres grazed is 1,435,513 acres.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: The WRFO manages a large portion of the Piceance Basin. The Energy Conservation and Policy Act (EPCA) identified the Piceance Basin of Colorado as one of five sub-basins in the continental United States with large reserves of hydrocarbon potential. The Piceance Basin contains considerable natural gas resources, the majority attributed to the highly productive Mesaverde Gas Play. The Rangely field is the largest oil field in Colorado. The ultimate recovery of oil from this area is expected to be close to one billion barrels.

In 2015, the WRFO completed an Oil and Gas Resource Management Plan Amendment to guide oil and gas development for the 1.7 million acres of leasable federal minerals it manages for the next 20 years. The Amendment includes proactive measures to allow responsible energy development in balance with other resources and uses, including the 357,800-acre Dinosaur Trail Master Leasing Plan. In October 2014, a dedicated energy team in the WRFO began managing the District's oil and gas programs.

Oil Shale: The Piceance Basin contains one of the richest oil shale resources in the world, with 1.5 trillion barrels of oil in place. The bulk of this resource lies within the WRFO boundaries. The three active oil shale research design and demonstration leases in Colorado are within WRFO boundaries. Companies holding leases continue to research whether this resource can be unlocked in an economic and environmentally sound manner.

Sodium: More than 100,000 acres are available for sodium leasing. Currently, there are eight federal sodium leases containing 16,620 acres in the WRFO. Natural Soda Inc., (NSI) holds five of the leases (9,542 acres). NSI is the only company commercially mining Nahcolite for sodium bicarbonate in the Piceance Basin. NSI's sodium solution mine is located in the Piceance Basin, southwest of Meeker.

Original consumption of the sodium bicarbonate was for flue gas de-sulfurization (FGD) in power plants, however, the majority of the product is being sold as cattle feed additive. Other uses for sodium bicarbonate include waste treatment, pulp and papermaking, and refineries.

Coal: About 172,700 acres are suitable for coal mining. Blue Mountain Energy Inc. (BME) operates Deserado Mine on eight federal coal leases in Rio Blanco County. The mine portals and coal cleaning facilities are located seven miles east of Rangely, Colorado. About 9,266 acres in the eight federal leases and 11,029 surface acres are permitted. Currently, 145 people are employed at the mine. Modern mining equipment and longwall mining techniques are used in the production of the coal. A coal wash plant maximizes the recovery of the coal resources. Recoverable reserves within the leases are in two mineable coal seams and are estimated to be 52 million tons. Annual production is approximately two million tons of clean coal. The mine's output is committed to the 400 mega-watt Bonanza Power Plant owned and operated by Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative of Sandy, Utah. Construction of the Deserado Mine began in 1981 and coal production began in late 1982. Life expectancy of the Bonanza Power Plant is 40 to 50 years.

Colorado River Valley Field Office

2300 River Frontage Rd. • Silt, CO 81652 • 970-876-9000 • 970-876-9090 fax



Counties: Garfield, Mesa, Eagle, Pitkin, Routt and Rio Blanco

FACTS

- 567,086 surface acres
- 2,188,028 subsurface acres
- 5 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 6 extensive Recreation Management Areas
- 14 developed recreation sites, which include six river access sites to the Colorado and Eagle rivers
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (27,368 acres)
- 15 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Hubbard Mesa Off-Highway Vehicle Riding Area
- 188 grazing allotments with 138 grazing permits
- More than 800 rights-of-way and 37 communication sites
- Administers nearly 3,100 producing federal natural gas wells

RECREATION

The Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) provides numerous opportunities for recreation activities on public lands adjacent to two resorts (Vail and Aspen); 11 communities; the Colorado, Eagle, and Roaring Fork rivers; I-70; and the White River National Forest. Recreation activities in this area include jeeping, fishing, wildlife watching, ballooning, white water rafting, hiking, kayaking, hunting, camping, biking, horseback riding, OHV riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Castle Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA): The 12,097-acre WSA is located eight miles north of the Town of Eagle. Castle Peak has steep rugged slopes and rolling hills, basins, and meadows. Many springs, small lakes and perennial streams are found in the area, providing aquatic habitat and supporting trout. Expanses of Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, aspen, sagebrush, and mixed mountain brush are found in the WSA.

Bull Gulch WSA: The 15,219-acre area is rugged with steep-sided canyons and gulches draining into the Colorado River. The WSA includes colorful sandstone cliff formations, landslide deposits, and volcanic instructions.

Hack Lake WSA: The five-acre area is located in Garfield County northeast of Glenwood Springs. The WSA consists of two small parcels adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. It sits on the points of two ridges flanked by

steep, rugged cliffs with rocky outcrops and rock slides. Deer and elk hunting, horseback riding, and camping are available in the area.

Eagle Mountain WSA: The 318-acre area is located in Pitkin County eight miles west of Aspen. The WSA is on rugged, steep mountain slopes and includes Eagle Mountain, a 9,937-foot peak. It is recommended for wilderness designation because of its proximity to the existing Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness on national forest lands.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Lookout Mountain Civilian Conservation Corps Campground: Picnic and campground at the top of Lookout Mountain near Glenwood Springs built by the Civilian Conservation Corps around 1934-1936.

Sutey Ranch: A ranching homestead established in 1909 and acquired by the BLM through exchange in 2017. Many of the original cabins and outbuildings remain and provide a unique opportunity to view ranching life in the Roaring Fork valley.

Anvil Points: The location of an experimental oil shale extraction facility beginning in 1944 and lasting through the 1960s. The site was the location of an N-T-U retort facility which included four adits, a compressor station, workshops and offices, and a town site.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

McCoy Fan Delta Area of Critical Environmental

Concern (ACEC): The 1,500-acre ACEC protects the geologic and paleontological values associated with fluvial and marine depositional events that occurred along the western margin of the Ancestral Front Range.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The CRVFO contains a wide array of diverse vegetation and ecosystems that provide habitat for fish and wildlife species including mule deer, elk, black bears, coyotes, mountain lions, red fox, rainbow trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout, songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.

Threatened, endangered or special status species include Canada lynx, razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, Mexican spotted owl, black-footed ferret, yellow-billed cuckoo, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Greater Sage-Grouse, northern leopard frog, Great Basin spade-foot toad, midget faded rattlesnake, Utah milk snake, roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, Parachute penstemon, DeBeque phacelia and Ute lady's-tresses, DeBeque milkvetch, Roan Cliffs blazing star, Adobe thistle, and Harrington's penstemon.

LANDS & REALTY

The recent surge in natural gas drilling and production has resulted in the need for many new large and small energy related pipelines and access roads. These off-lease facilities are authorized as rights-of-way. Rights-of-way related to the substantial CRVFO rural-urban interface are a major part of the CRVFO lands program. Municipal water tanks, utilities installations, and driveways and access roads to subdivisions are commonly requested. The CRVFO receives multiple proposals for land exchanges every year.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The CRVFO administers 192 grazing allotments with 145 grazing permits for 43,231 AUMs. Cattle and sheep graze on allotments from salt bush to aspen/fir-dominated rangeland. Each year, 20 to 30 grazing permits are renewed or transferred, and about 200 grazing licenses are issued to grazing permittees.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

The CRVFO manages lands within the watersheds of three major riverine systems: the Colorado, Roaring

Fork, and Eagle rivers. These rivers provide an important local and state resource downstream. The program works with water right holders and permittees to obtain state and federal permits and review restoration plans. The program helped develop watershed plans within the CRVFO. The Rifle Creek Watershed Assessment helped assess water quality impairments since the creek was listed on the 303(d) list for impaired waters. Work with permittees on the Roan Plateau has been ongoing to improve riparian habitat and grazing management.

The BLM and partners have also carried out annual river clean-up efforts on Cattle Creek, Rifle Creek, and the Colorado River. Planning has begun on Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMP) for the Colorado and Eagle Rivers. The program has begun work on diversion structures within the CRVFO to help improve fish passage and entrainment, water right delivery, and improve overall stream health.

MINERALS

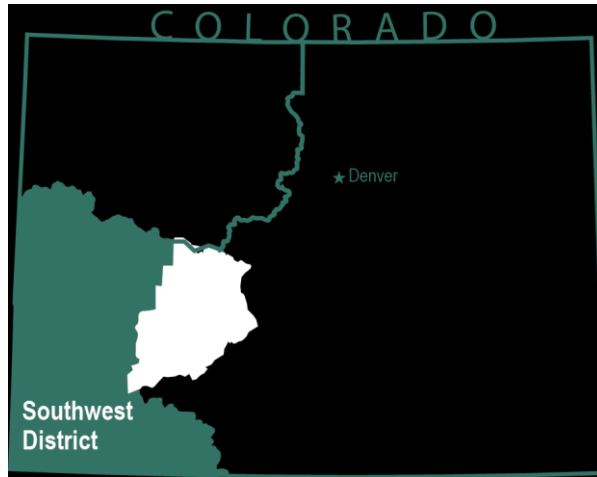
Fluid Minerals: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 identified this field office to be one of seven interagency "pilot offices" for oil and gas permitting in the Rocky Mountain States. This led to more than 20 new BLM positions in the field office, along with co-locating five U.S. Forest Service positions and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife position. The CRVFO energy team now manages the oil and gas programs in the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices.

Since 1999, oil and gas development has increased due to better technology and a higher demand for natural gas. CRVFO contains approximately 2,300 producing federal oil and gas wells. The CRVFO processes the most applications for permit to drill in Colorado. The vast majority of oil and gas development within the CRVFO boundaries (about 80 percent) is on private land and minerals, where BLM has no jurisdiction. About 200,000 acres of the 773,000 acres of federal minerals within CRVFO is leased for oil and gas. CRVFO does not expect much new land to be leased over the next 20 years, but expects continued development in the areas that are already leased.

Solid Minerals: The CRVFO manages solid mineral operations including gypsum, cinders, limestone, decorative stone, sand and gravel.

Southwest District

2505 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, CO 81401 • 970-240-5300 • 970-240-5367 fax



The Southwest District manages 2.7 million surface acres and 7.3 million acres of subsurface minerals including the natural gas wells of the Northern San Juan and Paradox basins and coal leases in the valley of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The district is comprised of the Grand Junction Field Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, and Tres Rios Field Office.

The district includes some of the most spectacular scenery in Colorado, from the adobe badlands and Gold Medal trout fisheries in the Gunnison Gorge to the canyons of the Colorado Plateau. The Southwest District is rich in cultural resources and recreational opportunities.

The Southwest District includes several specially designated areas, including the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (along with its associated Visitor Center and Museum), and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

Southwest District Leadership



Stephanie Connolly, Southwest District Manager, 970-240-5300, sconnolly@blm.gov
Stephanie has been the Southwest District Manager since May 2018. Previously, she was the BLM Wyoming High Plains District Manager since 2009. She performed a number of temporary assignments since 2012 including acting Wyoming associate state director, acting deputy assistant director for resources and planning, and senior advisor to the BLM director. Stephanie discovered her passion for public lands with the U.S. Forest Service as a wilderness ranger in Colorado in 1988. In 1991, she became a permanent employee and served as a forester, planner, and recreation specialist in Kentucky, Utah and Nevada. She joined the BLM in 2003 as an associate district manager. In 2007, she served as the Cottonwood Field Manager in Idaho.



Greg Larson, Uncompahgre Field Manager, 970-240-5338, glarson@blm.gov
Greg's background includes management and supervision experience as a Field Office Planning and Environmental Coordinator as well as acting Branch Chief for Planning and Assessment for BLM Colorado. Prior to joining the BLM, Greg served as a senior project manager and operations lead for Great Basin Natural Resources at a private consulting firm and as the Education and Land Manager for Swaner Nature Preserve in Utah. Greg has a master's degree in Watershed Science from Utah State University.

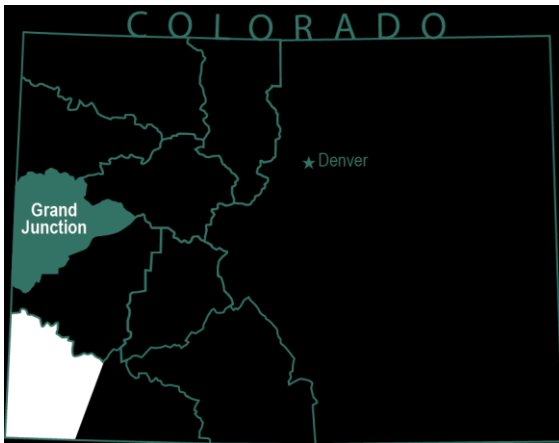


Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Manager, 970-882-1150, cclementson@blm.gov
Connie has been the Tres Rios Field Manager since 2012. Previously, Connie served as the U.S. Forest Service district ranger for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in Grand Junction. Connie started her career 25 years ago as a range technician at the Routt National Forest in Craig. Her previous experience includes Lands Minerals, Range, Wildlife and Special Use staff for the Routt National Forests in Yampa, Colorado. Connie has a Bachelor's of Science in Range Science from Utah State University.

Vacant, Grand Junction Field Manager, 970-244-3070

Grand Junction Field Office

2815 H Road • Grand Junction, CO 81506 • 970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax



Counties: Mesa, Rio Blanco, Garfield and Montrose

FACTS

- 1,278,010 surface acres
- 1,818,177 subsurface acres
- 31 recreation sites
- 5 Special Recreation Management Areas: Bangs Canyon, Dolores River Canyon, Grand Valley OHV, North Fruita Desert, Palisade Rim
- 6 Extensive Recreation Management Areas: Barrel Springs, Gateway, Grand Valley Shooting Range, Gunnison River Bluffs, Horse Mountain, North Desert
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (96,651 acres)
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Unaweep/Tabeguache and Grand Mesa, and 1 National Scenic Byway: Dinosaur Diamond
- 575,000 acres of woodlands
- 10 endangered, threatened, and candidate species
- 5,600 acres priority habitat and 8,900 acres general habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse
- 290 miles of perennial streams and rivers
- 935,594 acres open to fluid mineral leasing,
- 513,913 acres currently leased
- 1,184,781 million acres grazed by livestock

RECREATION

The North Fruita Desert Special Recreation

Management Area (SRMA): The SRMA includes an extensive multiple-use designated trail system with specific emphasis trails for mountain biking, motorcycle, and foot and horse travel. Target shooting is restricted in some of the emphasis areas. Hunting is allowed on all lands managed by the field office. A 58-unit fee area campground is located at the base of the Book Cliffs at the end of 18 Road.

The Grand Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area: The 17-square mile area of barren hills of Mancos shale offers challenging rides for all types of vehicles and skill levels. Cross-country travel is permitted.

Bangs Canyon SRMA: The 57,000-acre SRMA has opportunities for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, hunting, motorcycling, rock crawling, and jeeping. The combination of slickrock surfaces, sand, and bentonite clay soils provide a diversity of travel surfaces and trail riding challenges.

Gateway Area: Located along the Dolores River, this area is accessible via the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic Byway. Recreation interest is growing due to the new Gateway Canyons Resort. Dispersed recreation use, including jeeping, motorized activities, big-game hunting, backpacking, rafting, climbing, mountain biking, hiking and camping occurs throughout the area.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Demaree Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA): Four large, north-south canyons dissecting the high-desert terrain between East and West Salt Creeks characterize the 22,713-acre WSA. Visitors can enjoy the solitude and scenic vistas of the La Sal Mountains in Utah, and Grand Mesa to the southeast.

Palisade WSA: The 26,743-acre WSA is located just north of Gateway. Vertical cliffs, deep rugged canyons, and rolling-to-flat desert valley bottoms dissected by gulches characterize the WSA.

Sewemup Mesa WSA: The 17,896-acre WSA is located south of Gateway along the Dolores River. Access to the top of the mesa is difficult, leaving it virtually untouched by humans. Recreation opportunities include hiking and horseback riding.

Little Book Cliffs WSA: Portions of the 29,299-acre area lie in the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range. This area contains opportunities for primitive recreation and wild horse viewing. Steep cliff walls on both sides characterize canyons in the Book Cliffs.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Calamity Camp: A nationally significant uranium mining camp dating from 1913-1963 with log and stone residences and other camp structures.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Nine-Mile Hill Boulders Area of Critical Environmental Concern was partly designated to protect paleontological values.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Red rock canyons, piñon-juniper woodlands, sagebrush parks, desert and mountain shrub lands, small stands of ponderosa pines, subalpine fir, aspen and Douglas fir pockets typify the public lands managed by the GJFO. These habitats are home to a multitude of species including mule deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, black bears, mountain lions, peregrine falcons, wild turkeys, chukar partridges, sandhill cranes, sagebrush voles, Greater Sage-Grouse, and more.

Threatened and endangered species include Colorado hookless cactus, parachute beardtongue, Debeque phacelia, greenback cutthroat trout, yellow-billed cuckoo, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, bonytail, humpback chub, and Gunnison Sage-Grouse.

WILD HORSES

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range: This area encompasses more than 36,000 acres of rugged canyons and plateaus with hiking, horseback, and 4x4 trails. The best places for viewing horses are near the Coal Canyon Trailhead entrance, in the North Soda Area and around Indian Park.

LANDS & REALTY

Currently, there are about 1,000 rights-of-way in the Grand Junction Planning Area. The office processes about 35 new applications a year and several dozen assignments (transfers to new holders) and renewals. The program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisitions and disposals.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: The area is divided into 212 allotments used by 123 livestock operators. There are 66,135 active Animal Unit Months (AUM) associated with these allotments.

Noxious Weeds: The weed program utilizes mechanical, biological and chemical control of weeds. The Dolores River Riparian Restoration Partnership remains the GJFO's primary weed control focus. The GJFO targets tamarisk, Siberian elm, Russian knapweed, Russian thistle, and kochia along the riparian areas of the Dolores River.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

Many types of soils exist in the GJFO because of the varying climatic, vegetative, topographic, and geologic conditions. Impacts on soil resources have resulted from energy development, grazing, recreation, natural processes, and other activities. Salinity is the greatest water quality concern in the valley and the GJFO area contains a large area with saline soils. The dry and steep nature of the area make it susceptible to erosion, while historic uses such as mining, grazing, oil and gas, and agriculture accelerated erosion in the area.

Major rivers include the Colorado, Gunnison, and Dolores rivers. Intermittent and ephemeral streams comprise the majority of the drainage system. Water quality concerns include salinity, selenium, and sediment, and are addressed by applying stipulations, mitigation, and BMPs when projects are proposed and implemented.

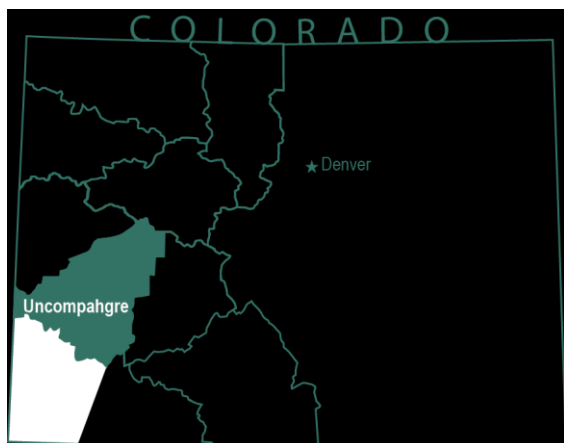
Area streams provide domestic and irrigation water. There are seven municipal watersheds and most large rivers deliver high priority water rights. The GJFO and state water rights staff have worked with Colorado Department of Natural Resources to obtain instream flows on most of the perennial streams in the area. The GJFO also is responsible for more than 250 diversion structures and associated water rights.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: Approximately 513,913 acres are leased for oil and gas within the GJFO. The majority of acres open to oil and gas leasing are already leased, with the highest production areas north and east of Grand Junction. The office conducts about 400 inspections each year to assure compliance with federal regulations and conditions of approval.

Uncompahgre Field Office

2465 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, CO 81401 • 970-240-5300 • 970-240-5367 fax



Counties: Montrose, Ouray, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Mesa

FACTS

- 881,441 surface acres
- 2,362,650 subsurface acres
- 35 recreation sites (7 developed camping areas, 9 staging/trailheads, 5 developed day-use areas, 1 developed living classroom site and 1 historical site)
- 2 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 6 areas managed for wilderness values (4 Wilderness Study Areas, 1 Instant Study Area, Tabeguache Area)
- 3 Colorado Scenic Byways: West Elk Loop, Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, Unaweeep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway
- 2 All American Roads: San Juan Skyway and the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway
- 465,151 acres of woodlands
- 11 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (9 listed, 2 candidates)
- 3,120 miles of perennial streams and rivers
- 658,540 acres grazed by livestock

The Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) manages public lands within two ecologic provinces, the Southern Rocky Mountain province and the Colorado Plateau province. BLM lands in the planning area range from salt-desert shrub (4,701 ft.) to alpine forest (11,449 ft.). The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park all exist within the UFO boundary in addition to four Colorado State Parks.

RECREATION

The UFO manages premier recreation attractions including white water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, motorcycle riding, ATV trail riding, four-wheel driving, rock crawling, rock climbing, wildlife viewing, and wildlife photography.

San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): This area encompasses public lands adjacent to the San Miguel River—a spectacular free-flowing and highly scenic river system. Flowing out of the resort town of Telluride, commercial and private whitewater boating, fishing, and scenic driving are the main recreational activities associated with this river.

Hanging Flume: Located in the remote stretch of western Colorado above the San Miguel and Dolores rivers, the Hanging Flume begins at the former town site of Uravan and ends about 10 miles downstream. The most spectacular elements of the flume structure are the “hanging” portions attached to the sandstone cliffs high above the river.

Ridgway Area: The 1,066 acres of public lands contains more than 25 miles of multi-use single-track non-motorized trails right outside the town of Ridgway.

Dry Creek: This 115,000 acres of public lands is a destination site for many recreational users who use motorized and mechanized vehicles.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The Tabeguache Area: The 17,240-acre area is located on BLM (8,079 acres) and U.S. Forest Service land on the south slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The area was designated by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, which directs BLM to protect its wilderness character. Elevations range from 5,600 to 8,800 feet, and the central feature is the 400-800 foot deep canyon of Tabeguache Creek. Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

Camel Back Wilderness Study Area (WSA): The 10,736-acre area is located on the north slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau and is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service's Roubideau Area. Elevations range from 5,400 feet to 7,000 feet, and steep canyons and extensive mesas characterize the WSA. Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

Adobe Badlands WSA: The 10,338-acre area is located three miles northwest of the city of Delta at elevations ranging from 5,200 to 8,000 feet. The WSA is characterized by abrupt sloping hills of Mancos shale dissected by rugged serpentine canyons. It overlaps with the Adobe Badlands ACEC.

Dolores River Canyon WSA: This WSA is shared between the UFO and the Tres Rios Field Office. The UFO manages 13,398 acres of the 30,119-acre WSA. Deep serpentine sandstone canyons carved by the Dolores River and its tributaries characterize the WSA. Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Multi-day whitewater float trips were one of the major recreational uses of this area in the past. However, with the construction of McPhee Dam upriver and associated irrigation use of the water, this opportunity is only available in rare high spring run-off years.

Sewemup Mesa WSA: This WSA is shared between the GJFO and the UFO. The UFO manages 1,787 acres of the WSA. Broken, rocky slopes above Roc Creek characterize the UFO portion of the WSA.

Needle Rock Instant Study Area (ISA): Originally designated "Outstanding Natural Area," this 83-acre area was carried forward for wilderness study when FLPMA was passed in 1976. It is under interim protection, the same as a WSA. The Needle Rock geologic feature--a dramatic, vertical, igneous rock core--dominates the area and is likely remnants of an ancient now-extinct volcano. Recreational opportunities include hiking, climbing, picnicking and photography.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Hanging Flume: The Hanging Flume has been the subject of three recognition programs. It was listed as a historic site on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980; in 1999, Colorado Preservation Inc. placed the structure on its annual list of the most endangered historic places in Colorado; and it was nominated and placed on the World Monuments Fund 2005 Watch List of most endangered sites.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The UFO supports a wide range of wildlife, plants and habitats. Common species include, mule deer, elk, mountain lions, desert bighorn sheep, ringtail cats, jackrabbits, neo-tropical birds, raptors, chukars, river otters, waterfowl, foxes, bobcats, mourning doves, lizards and snakes.

The UFO provides habitat for several threatened, endangered or candidate plant and animal species, including the Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Colorado hookless cactus, bonytail chub, humpback chub, razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, greenback cutthroat trout, black-footed ferret, Canada lynx, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, and clay-loving wild buckwheat.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing: Currently 619,500 acres (97 percent) of BLM-administered land within the UFO are allocated for livestock grazing. The remaining three percent are not managed under an active grazing permit because it may be unsuitable for grazing with no permittee in place.

The UFO has 203 allotments and 135 permittees. The allotments vary in size from 40 to 92,198 acres, with grazing allocations ranging from one to 4,800 AUMs in each allotment. The public range is permitted at a level of 35,822 AUMs of forage. Grazing occurs throughout the year, with much of the use concentrated during spring and fall months. Spring and fall allotments are typically located adjacent to National Forest System lands and are used for short periods prior to "on" dates and after "off" dates for higher elevation summer allotments on National Forest System lands. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM coordinate grazing management when a permittee uses lands managed by both agencies.

The UFO contains grazing allotments on elevation levels from 4000 to 9000 feet. All grazing permits include terms and conditions regarding management of the allotment. In some cases, allotment management plans have been developed, which provide details about the location, amount, and timing of permitted grazing use, and incorporate allotment-specific planned grazing systems. Rangeland improvement projects have been implemented to aid in livestock grazing systems.

Noxious Weeds: The UFO is continually working on noxious weed and non-native plants. The grazing

program includes a BLM seasonal weed crew and continues to work with the surrounding counties and other partners in the fight against noxious weeds. The UFO continues to remove tamarisk and Russian olive along the banks of the Gunnison and Dolores rivers with the help of partners.

SOIL, WATER & AIR RESOURCES

The UFO manages lands in five major drainages: the Gunnison, the North Fork of the Gunnison, San Miguel, Uncompahgre and Dolores. More than 2,700 total stream miles (perennial, intermittent and ephemeral stream channels) are managed in the planning area. Perennial streams make up approximately 350 stream miles and drain from 30 major watersheds across the UFO. There are 74 public water sources with zones of influence on BLM land within the UFO.

The UFO manages 107,000 acres of saline and selenium enriched soils primarily of the Mancos Shale and Paradox formations. The Mancos Shale formation is a marine-deposited formation that is highly erodible and drought affected. The remaining soils are comprised of soils derived from sandstone and mixed alluvium.

Air quality in the field office is classified as in attainment with the exception of the Telluride PM₁₀ Attainment/Maintenance Area. There are three Class I airsheds located within the field office.

LANDS & REALTY

The UFO focuses on issuing and administering rights-of-way for land uses such as roads, power lines, natural gas pipelines, water lines, telephone lines, communication sites, and ditches and canals on public land. Utility corridors cross the UFO along major transmission lines including the TransColorado natural gas pipeline and Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Western Area Power Administration power lines. They provide a grid that follows but is not necessarily adjacent to transportation routes. The lands and realty program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisitions and disposals.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: Within the UFO, mineral development typically occurs in sedimentary strata associated with the Mancos shale and within coal seams in rock formations of the Mesa Verde Group. These fluid

mineral resources (primarily natural gas) are found in the same general locations as coal resources in the North Fork of the Gunnison River in Delta and Gunnison counties. Development of fluid mineral resources is also present in the west end of Montrose County. Overall, a low level of fluid mineral development has occurred in the UFO in the past five years with an average of one to two Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) per year. This number rose to six in 2018, and is expected to grow.

Solid Minerals: Coal mining has been an important industry in the North Fork Valley for more than 100 years. Currently, one coal mine remains in production in the UFO. The royalty revenue paid to the federal treasury varies from \$8-12 million each year depending on production levels and sales price. Half the revenue is returned to the State of Colorado.

The UFO manages the surface use of uranium/vanadium minerals' exploration and mining activities on its public lands as a mining notice or a mining plan of operation. There are four mining notices and five mining plans of operation in Montrose County. None of these projects have ongoing underground exploratory and development mining at this time. The Department of Energy manages nine uranium lease tracts on lands withdrawn to them for this activity in the same area. The BLM coordinates closely with them.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The UFO is part of the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit that also includes the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests; Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; and Curecanti National Recreation Area. The UFO averages about 85 fires a year with 95 percent caused by lightning. There are eight fire engines and one five-person hand crew in the fire unit that are available to respond to fires in the UFO. On average, three prescribed fires totaling 600 acres are implemented within the UFO annually.

Tres Rios Field Office

29211 Hwy. 184 • Dolores, CO 81323 • 970-882-7296 • 970-882-6841 fax



Counties: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose and San Miguel

FACTS

- 634,654 surface acres
- 2,686,994 subsurface mineral acres
- 13 Recreation Management Areas: 3 within the field office (Cortez, Durango, and Dolores River); 10 within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum, Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand Pueblo, Sand Canyon Pueblo, Squaw/Cross Canyons, Mockingbird Mesa, Rincon, Sand Canyon, Rock Creek, and Goodman Point)
- 5 Wilderness Study Areas: 50,334 acres
- 1 National Historic Trail: Old Spanish Trail
- 1 Wild horse Herd Management Area: Spring Creek
- 10 endangered, threatened or candidate species
- 628 miles of streams and rivers
- 500,000 acres grazed by livestock

RECREATION

The Dolores River: The River flows for more than 200 miles through southwestern Colorado, starting high in the San Juan Mountains and descending to the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah border. Private permits are not required for boating. Bradfield Campground, Big Gypsum Valley and Dove Creek Pump Station are popular launch sites for rafting trips on the lower Dolores River. There are 16 barrier-free campsites, toilets, and five picnic sites.

Cortez Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): The Cortez SRMA is comprised of two Recreation Management Zones (RMZ): the Montezuma Triangle and Mudsprings. The Montezuma Triangle RMZ is managed for hikers, runners, and mountain bikers. The cornerstone of this RMZ is Phil's World, a nationally recognized mountain biking trail system. The remaining three parcels of public land in this RMZ are Aqueduct, Chutes and Ladders, and Summit, with no developed trails or trailhead facilities to date. The Mudsprings RMZ emphasizes motorized trails and rock crawling opportunities, including "open" motorized recreation areas.

Durango Urban Interface: This area encompasses Animas City Mountain, East Animas Climbing Area,

Grandview, Horse Gulch, Skyline, and Perins Peak. Recreation opportunities include biking, hiking, climbing, skiing and snowshoeing.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA): This 15,870-acre WSA's dominant topographic feature is the 30-mile long canyon of the Dolores River. Recreation opportunities include backpacking, hiking, photography, rock climbing and whitewater rafting.

McKenna Peak WSA: This 20,713-acre WSA includes Mancos shale badlands, Mesa Verde sandstone cliffs, canyons, mesas and rolling hills, with elevations from 6,300 to 8,600 feet. McKenna Peak rises 1,000 feet from Disappointment Valley. Recreation opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature and scenic photography, and rock climbing. The western third of the WSA is located within the Spring Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Menefee Mountain WSA: This 7,340-acre WSA provides outstanding recreation opportunities for hikers, backpackers and rock climbers. Elevations range from 6,500 to 8,600 feet on Menefee Peak with steep canyons radiating from the ridge of Menefee Mountain.

Weber Mountain WSA: The 6,275-acre WSA provides recreation opportunities for hikers, backpackers and rock climbers. Elevations range from 6,600 to 8,200 feet with short steep canyons.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The prehistoric and historic periods span about 11,500 years. The archaeological record within the area contains some of the earliest agricultural societies in the region. The historic period brought Spanish and Euro-American explorers, trappers, miners, and settlers into the area.

Gypsum Gap Rock Art Site: This rock shelter contains 11 rock art panels featuring deer, elk, mountain sheep, corn stalks, deer hooves, and possibly bear paws.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The TRFO provides habitat for species including black bears, elk, mule deer, turkey, desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, mountain goats, blue grouse, and several bat species. Threatened, endangered, sensitive and candidate species include Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, bonytail chub, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and Gunnison Sage-Grouse. There are 70,414 acres of Critical Habitat for Gunnison Sage-Grouse with 40,308 acres occupied by the species. Gunnison Sage-Grouse in the TRFO are part of two distinct satellite populations --Monticello-Dove Creek and San Miguel Basin.

WILD HORSES

Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA): This remote 22,000-acre HMA maintains a minimum of 35 adult horses and is an example of a successful fertility control program made possible by partnerships with local organizations.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

County Operations Plans are in place to work with local and state governments, fire prevention districts and other federal agencies. The interagency fire management organization is responsible for 1.3 million acres of BLM and USFS lands and averages 106 wildland fires per year. They also conduct prescribed fire activities on 3,000-4,000 acres per year. Suppression activity averages 49 fires per year.

MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: The TRFO manages about 2.1 million acres of federal mineral estate and has tribal trust responsibilities for the mineral resources of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Indian Reservations.

The existing oil and gas operations include about 2,500 coal-bed methane wells, 2,000 conventional oil and gas wells, and 100 carbon dioxide wells located in the Northern San Juan and Paradox geologic basins of southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico.

Solid Minerals: The TRFO includes a portion of the Uravan Belt, a major district for uranium and vanadium resources in the United States. Coal deposits in the TRFO field area are relatively small, but considered economically valuable due to the high heating value and low sulfur and ash content of the bituminous coal. The existing operations include three notice level operations and three plans of operation, two of which could come into active production with the present vanadium prices. There are three sales contracts and four free use permits (issued to three different counties) for the extraction of common variety mineral materials (includes sand, gravel, and ornamental and building stone). Five prospecting permits (for potash) within the non-energy solid leasable minerals program have recently expired. There is one actively mined lease and an exploration license within the coal program, with an environmental assessment for a 2,262-acre coal lease-by-application and mine plan being prepared.

Abandoned Mine Lands: The TRFO's highest priority is to secure and complete physical safety closures for open mine shafts and other abandoned mine features that present immediate and potentially fatal safety hazards. In FY 2018, the program oversaw the completion of physical safety closures for 61 abandoned mine features.

LANDS & REALTY

The TRFO's Lands and Realty Program is responsible for authorizing and administering rights-of-way for roads, power lines, telephone lines, gas and water pipelines, communication sites, commercial film permits, Recreation and Public Purposes Act leases, and other land use authorizations involving public lands. The program is responsible for land tenure actions, such as land exchanges, acquisition and disposals, and the resolution of trespass cases involving public lands.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Rangelands comprise about 85 percent of the public land in the field office. Currently, the Tres Rios Field Office manages 85 active allotments providing 25,142 Animal Unit Months of forage for domestic cattle and sheep.

National Conservation Lands

The BLM's National Conservation Lands, also known as the National Landscape Conservation System, contain some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. BLM Colorado is home to 65 areas encompassing more than one million acres.

BLM Colorado manages two national monuments: Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Browns Canyon National Monument. National Conservation Areas (NCA) are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance and manage public lands for the enjoyment of present and future generations. NCAs offer landscapes with exceptional natural, recreational, cultural, wildlife, aquatic, archaeological, paleontological, historical, educational or scientific resources. Colorado is home to three NCAs: Gunnison Gorge, McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante.

BLM Colorado manages portions of two National Scenic and Historic Trails, both established through acts of Congress. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail runs through New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and California. In Colorado, various branches of the Trail pass through the San Luis, Gunnison, Grand Junction and Tres Rios field offices. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail recognizes the land route traveled by traders between 19th-century Mexico and California. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail provides spectacular backcountry travel for the length of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada.

In 1964, Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System. BLM Colorado manages five wilderness: Black Ridge Canyons, Dominguez Canyon, Gunnison Gorge, Powderhorn and Uncompahgre.

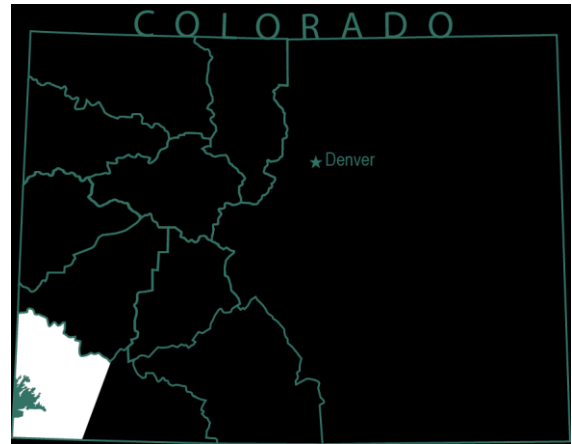
As was required by the passage of FLPMA in 1976, local BLM field offices identified relatively undeveloped areas with special ecological, geological, educational, historical, scientific, or scenic values that may be suitable for wilderness designation. These areas are known as Wilderness Study Areas. Until Congress makes a determination on an area's suitability, the BLM manages each area to a standard that will not impair its eligibility for future wilderness designation. BLM Colorado currently manages 53 Wilderness Study Areas.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

FACTS

- 176,000 surface acres
- 3 developed recreation sites and 3 picnic areas
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (37,410 acres): Cross Canyon (11,674 acres), Cahone Canyon (9,189 acres), Squaw-Papoose (4,763 acres), and Rare Lizard & Snake Natural Area (11,784 acres)
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway: Trail of the Ancients
- 127,895 acres leased for fluid minerals
- 23 grazing allotments

Counties: Montezuma and Dolores



Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) was designated on June 9, 2000, by Presidential Proclamation to protect cultural and natural resources.

RECREATION

Lowry Pueblo: The most accessible archaeological site, with a parking area, accessible trail, interpretive signs, picnic tables and restrooms. The site has about 40 rooms, eight kivas, and a great kiva.

Painted Hand Pueblo: The site consists of a standing tower, room blocks, and kivas.

Sand Canyon Trail: Includes elevation gains and drops along its six and a half mile path. Several small cliff dwellings are visible from the trail. The Sand Canyon/East Rock Special Management Area also includes the adjacent Rock Creek and East Rock Trails.

Sand Canyon Pueblo: Crow Canyon Archaeological Center excavated the Pueblo from 1984 to 1989 and 1991 to 1993, but the majority was left untouched to preserve the fragile structure.

Wilderness Study Areas: The four Wilderness Study Areas provide recreational uses including hiking, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, visiting archaeological sites, and dispersed camping.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

CANM contains the highest density of cultural resources in the United States. CANM is home to ten sites and one Archaeological District (Sand Canyon)

listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with one National Historic Landmark (Lowry Pueblo). There are 3.8 million artifacts curated at the Visitor Center and Museum. Twenty-six Native American tribes have strong cultural ties with CANM. More than 11,000-recorded sites reflect all components of past human life: villages, field houses, check dams, reservoirs, great kivas, cliff dwellings, shrines, sacred springs, sweat lodges, petroglyphs, and agricultural fields. Some areas have more than 100 sites per square mile.

The Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum opened to the public in 1988 and features permanent and changing exhibits on ancestral Puebloan archaeology, regional history, Native American cultures, and natural resources. Originally the Anasazi Heritage Center, it was renamed in 2018. The museum hosts public activities with resources for teachers, special exhibits, and a research library.

LANDS & REALTY

Since 2000, more than 9,000 acres have been acquired including a National Register-listed site and about 100 archaeological sites from the Archaic (3000 B.C.) to Pueblo III (A.D. 1300) periods.

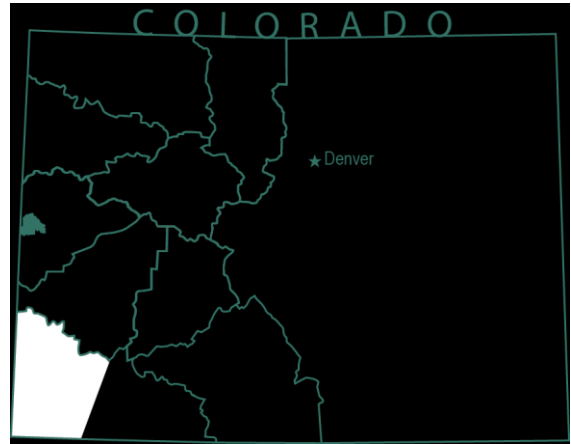
MINERALS

Fluid Minerals: About 77 percent of CANM, which is part of the Paradox Basin, is leased for oil and gas. Production comes primarily from the McElmo Dome field (containing carbon dioxide reserves) and the overlying Island Butte II, Cutthroat, and Canyon units (producing natural gas, condensate, and oil).

McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

FACTS

- 123,430 acres
- 19 recreation sites (14 trailheads, 3 primitive campgrounds, 3 picnic areas, 3 interpretive trails)
- 6 Recreation Management Zones
- 1 Wilderness Area (70,377 acres, 5,107 acres in Utah)
- 4 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (4 listed)
- 114,000 acres grazed by livestock
- 14 grazing allotments
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway
- 1 National Historic Trail



County: Mesa County

The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act created the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) in 2000. In 2005, the name was changed through congressional legislation to McInnis Canyons in honor of Congressman Scott McInnis. The 2004 Colorado Canyons NCA Resource Management Plan guides management in the area.

RECREATION

Front Country/Urban Interface: This area provides more than 25 miles of trails managed for foot travel and horse use. Motorized and mechanized use, camping, and recreational shooting are not allowed.

Rabbit Valley: This 24 square miles of high desert terrain provides recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, biking, motorized recreation, and hunting. More than 25 miles of trails provide access to additional trails in the Moab Rims area in Utah.

Mack Ridge: Mack Ridge offers opportunities for mountain bikers of all skill levels. The Kokopelli Loops are 35 miles of technical trails and include the origin of the Kokopelli Trail. The Kokopelli Trail is a system of single tracks, two tracks, and county roads that winds through 142 miles of remote desert sandstone and shale canyons before ending in Moab, Utah.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Management Area: This area lies within Rabbit Valley and was designated to protect its fragile, prehistoric archaeological sites.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail: Remnants of the trail are in the Rabbit Valley and McDonald Creek areas.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Rabbit Valley includes the Mygatt-Moore paleontological quarry and the Trail Through Time paleontological interpretive trail. The quarry is believed to have been an ancient watering hole for dinosaurs. The Fruita Paleontological Area and the Dinosaur Hill historic quarry offer paleontological interpretation.

WILDERNESS

Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness: This area is dissected by seven major red rock canyon systems that reach depths of almost 1,000 feet. Geological features include side canyons, spires, windows, giant alcoves, desert patina, and natural arches. Mechanized and motorized travel is not allowed within the wilderness boundary except where authorized.

WILDLIFE

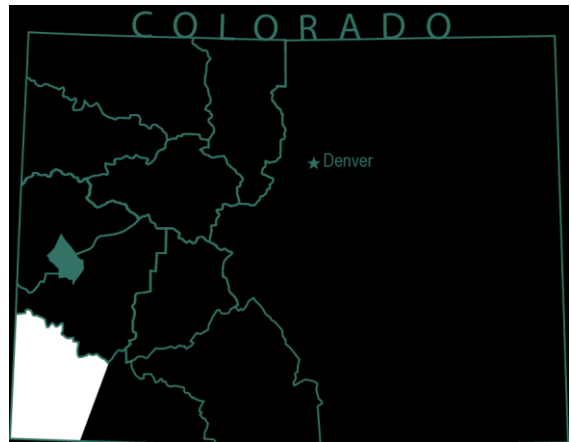
The NCA provides habitat for deer, elk, black bears, mountain lions, antelope, desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and Gunnison Sage-Grouse. Rabbit Valley was identified as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

FACTS

- 210,172 surface acres
- 1 wilderness (66,216 acres make up the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area)
- 3 Special Recreation Management Areas (34,032 acres): Cactus Park, Gunnison River, Escalante Canyon
- 4 Extensive Recreation Management Areas (94,072 acres): Sawmill Mesa, Hunting Grounds, Ninemile Hill, East Creek
- 9 recreation sites (1 primitive campground, 1 day-use/picnic area, 5 trail heads, and 3 primitive boat launches)
- 17 grazing allotments

Counties: Mesa, Delta and Montrose



The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 designated Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA). Local, regional and national interests supported its designation. In January 2017, the BLM Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices completed a new resource management plan (RMP) for the NCA and wilderness. The RMP provides long-term protection for and management of the values and resources identified in the legislation.

RECREATION

Recreational opportunities in the NCA include hiking, boating, horseback riding, OHV riding, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, wildlife photography, backpacking, mountain biking, and exploring archaeological sites. The canyons of the Gunnison River and Dominguez and Escalante Creeks provide opportunities for visitors to explore and learn about geologic, archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources. The Bridgeport Bridge provides non-motorized access to the cascading waterfalls, historic areas, and Native American rock art sites in the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

Cactus Park: Miles of trails wind within the NCA and provide access to the Uncompahgre National Forest, which manages a multi-recreational trail system. The 142-mile Tabeguache Trail, which connects Grand Junction to Montrose, takes motorized and non-motorized users from Cactus Park on its ascent from Grand Junction to the top of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Visitors interested in geology can stop at the Gunnison Gravels Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which

contains geologic evidence of the ancestral route of the Gunnison River through Unawep Canyon.

Gunnison River: The relatively flat stretch of river between Escalante Canyon and the mouth of Dominguez Canyon attracts commercial and private boaters. Nearly 30 miles of the river flows through the NCA with lots of camping opportunities along the river.

Escalante Canyon: Escalante Canyon includes the Potholes Recreation Area, popular with kayakers and picnickers. The Escalante Canyon ACEC contains sensitive plant species, natural seeps, and several globally unique plant associations including beautiful hanging gardens of small-flowered columbine and Eastwood's monkeyflower. A 15-mile county road offers visitors a trip back to pioneer days through Escalante Canyon's "Red Hole in Time". The road provides easy vehicle and viewing access to historic cabins and trails, rock walls with early settlers and Native American inscriptions, and spectacular geologic formations.

Sawmill Mesa: Immediately adjacent to the town of Delta, this area provides critical motorized links to the Uncompahgre National Forest. The Delta-Nucla/25-Mesa Road borders the NCA on the southeast and connects Delta to Nucla and the Divide Road, which follows the spine of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Sawmill Mesa Road and Dry Mesa Road provide Forest Service access to hunting in the fall and 4-wheel-drive, ATV, and mountain bike access in the spring, summer and fall. This area is rich in history, providing the only access route for settlers in Escalante Creek to Delta in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Hunting Grounds: West of Hwy 50 and east of the Gunnison River, this area is rich in cultural heritage resources and a popular location for dispersed recreation. This was a traditional hunting area for Ute and Fremont Indians. The area provides recreation opportunities, particularly OHV and horseback riding.

Ninemile Hill: This is a popular area for exploration via hiking and horseback riding. The Tabeguache Trail, a long-distance, mixed-use trail popular with mountain bikers, motorcycle riders and jeep enthusiasts, also runs through the Ninemile Hill area.

East Creek: Unaweep Canyon is on the northern boundary of the NCA. The canyon is unique because it has drainages running east and west out of the canyon. East Creek is the eastern drainage that runs along Hwy 141, which is designated by the state of Colorado as the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway. Scenic auto touring, bouldering, and multi-pitch climbing occur along East Creek.

Hunting: Dominguez-Escalante NCA provides outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities. Sportsmen and women pursue numerous fish and game species including desert bighorn sheep, rainbow trout, greenback cutthroat trout, elk, mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, turkey, waterfowl, chukar and quail.

WILDERNESS

The sandstone canyons and pinyon-juniper covered mesas of the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness offer excellent hiking opportunities. The Little Dominguez Creek creates habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles. Desert bighorn sheep have been reintroduced to the area and often graze at the base of the cliffs in the wilderness. Hikers along the Big Dominguez Creek pass historic structures, traces of the early miners and settlers who lived and worked throughout the area. Rock art on the canyon walls and wickiups on the mesas are evidence of the thousands of years that Native Americans used the area for hunting, shelter and as a travel corridor from the Gunnison River Valley to the Uncompahgre Plateau.

CULTURAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The red rock canyons and sandstone bluffs in the NCA contain geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years. Cultural and historic sites showcase the homesteading and agricultural history of the area. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, a 19th Century land trade route, passes through the NCA.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

FACTS

- 63,294 surface acres
- 1 Wilderness Area: 17,781 acre Gunnison Gorge Wilderness
- 10,000 acres of woodlands (pinyon-juniper), 20,000 acres saltbush, 16,000 acres sagebrush community, 18,000 acres grass/forb rangeland
- 21 recreation sites (6 developed, 3 picnic areas, 3 campgrounds, 5 primitive boat ramps, 3 river overlook sites)
- 3 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 14 miles of Gold Medal waters of the Gunnison River
- 3 listed endangered and threatened species
- 22,000 acres of big game habitat
- 46,000 acres grazed by livestock
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway: West Elk Byway



Counties: Montrose and Delta

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA) was designated in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999.

RECREATION

Recreation opportunities include, whitewater boating, trout fishing, hunting, motorized and non-motorized use, sightseeing, hiking, and backpacking.

Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Special Recreation

Management Area (SRMA): This 7,000-acre area contains more than 75 miles of designated trails, picnic areas, three OHV staging areas, a motorcycle/ATV training site, an award-winning OHV skills course, 2,700 acres of “open” riding areas and the southern terminus of the 20-mile multi-use, single-track Sidewinder Trail.

Gunnison River SRMA: This area contains a campground, fishing pier, day use area, trailhead, four boat ramp sites, designated river campsites, an interpretive trail with rock art, dinosaur track site, jeep trails and the Eagle Rock Shelter archaeological site.

Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Special Recreation

Management Area: This area has five Wilderness trailheads and 20 designated river campsites.

WILDERNESS

The 17,781-acre Gunnison Gorge Wilderness includes 12 miles of the Gunnison River with Gold Medal trout fishing in a technical (Class III-IV) whitewater setting.

CULTURAL & PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Findings from the Eagle Rock Shelter site shows continuous human occupation dating back nearly 13,000 years making this a nationally significant site. Dinosaur trackways have been found in the area dating to the Cretaceous age.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Colorado Parks and Wildlife designated the Gunnison River as a Gold Medal trout fishery because of its robust rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout populations. The east side of the GGNCA is home to 100-300 threatened Gunnison Sage-Grouse. The 2004 GGNCA Resource Management Plan designated three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): the Native Plant Community ACEC, Fairview ACEC, and the Gunnison Sage Grouse ACEC/Important Bird Area.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing permits in the GGNCA contain special stipulations requiring a visual setback for livestock grazing activities of 500 feet from established recreational sites such as roads, trailheads, user areas, and fee collection sites.

LANDS & REALTY

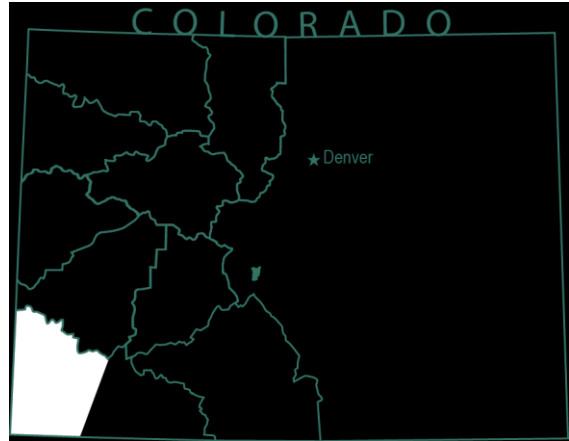
All forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal are prohibited. Rights-of-way applications and acquisitions are decided on a case-by-case basis.

Browns Canyon National Monument

FACTS

- 21,589 acres (9,783 acres managed by BLM, 11,805 acres managed by USFS)
- 2 developed campgrounds, boat ramps (managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a part of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area)
- 1 Wilderness Study Area (7,449 acres)

County: Chaffee County



The BLM and U.S. Forest Service jointly manage the 21,589-acre Browns Canyon National Monument (BCNM), located in south-central Colorado in the upper Arkansas River Valley. In 2015, BCNM was designated by Presidential Proclamation to protect cultural and natural resources. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), manages river-based recreation on the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon.

RECREATION

For centuries, the rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and mountain vistas attracted visitors from around the world. The monument provides excellent opportunities for hiking, boating, motorized use, camping, wildlife observation, hunting, fishing and horseback riding.

Ruby Mountain Recreation Site: Managed by the AHRA, this site features a campground with restrooms, changing facilities, a boat ramp, and picnic sites.

Hecla Junction Recreation Site: This site is the primary location for taking boats out after floating through Browns Canyon. The area features a newly renovated campground with restrooms, changing facilities, a boat ramp, and picnic sites.

Motorized: The Turret Road (FS Rd. #184) off Aspen Ridge Road (FS Rd. #185) provides a rugged 4x4 experience. FSR 1434A is an ATV route that traverses BCNM's northern boundary.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Browns Canyon WSA: This 7,449-acre WSA is located between the towns of Salida and Buena Vista. The rugged topography includes canyons and gulches that open to ridge tops with views of the Arkansas River Valley and Sawatch Mountain Range. The primary trailhead is located near the Ruby Mountain Recreation Site along Chaffee County Road 300. The entire WSA is within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

PLANTS & WILDLIFE

The BCNM is home to a wide variety of plant and wildlife species including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, black bears, mountain lions, elk, mule deer, peregrine falcons, golden eagles, Northern goshawks, boreal owls, boreal toads, northern leopard frogs, Ute Lady tresses, Fendler's Townsend-daisy, Fendler's false cloak-fern, Bill's Neparyya, and pale blue-eyed grass.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The story of the people living in the upper Arkansas River valley is told through sites and artifacts dating back 11,000 years. In 1858, the discovery of gold in Colorado brought an influx of people to the area, along with the need for transportation. While the Old Stage Road provided a route to Leadville for many years; it was very rugged and the trip was long. The arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in 1880 allowed for easier access to the booming mining area around Leadville. Many interesting historic mining sites are still found throughout the BCNM.