



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

# Field Manager Report

Southwest Resource Advisory Council - Colorado

## Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO)

**Palisade Plunge** - In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Grand Valley Ranger District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office issued a decision to construct the Palisade Plunge, a 30-mile mountain biking and hiking trail. The Palisade Plunge is a collaborative effort between the agencies, Mesa County, the Town of Palisade, and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA), and was one of 16 high priority trails identified by the State of Colorado for promoting outdoor recreation in Colorado.

Project supporters estimate that, if approved, the trail could infuse \$1.9 million annually into Palisade's economy, and \$5 million annually into the broader Grand Valley economy. The trail would begin at the USFS Mesa Top trailhead, cross Lands End Road and Whitewater Creek drainage, descend across BLM-managed public lands to the Colorado River through the Palisade Rim Special Recreation Management Area, and end along the North River Road in the Town of Palisade. Construction is expected to begin this year.

**CAM / McClane Coal Mine upgrades** - Central Appalachia Mining notified the GJFO that the company intends to submit an updated application and proposal for upgrades and rights-of-way to the McClane Mine. Preliminary information indicates plans for a rail spur, conveyor system, and various load-outs and other mining infrastructure. Formal proposals are anticipated this spring.

**Drought Update** - In February, the GJFO sent out a letter to update grazing permittees on drought conditions and request thoughtful planning of grazing activities for Winter through Spring 2019. The GJFO will continue to monitor range conditions to determine if some allotments need rest to recover from drought stress. Such a determination would be made in close coordination, consultation, and cooperation with permittees.

**West Salt Allotment issues** - West Salt is one of the larger allotments within the GJFO, with close to 100,000 acres running some 30 miles south to north along the Utah State Line from the Colorado River to Baxter Pass. The GJFO is working with the permittee to develop a new Term Permit Renewal to authorize grazing for the next ten years. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment is expected to be released for comment this spring.

**Wild Horses, Fruita Adoption** - As part of a gather completed in 2018, the GJFO agreed to put all horses removed from the Little Book Cliffs HMA up for adoption locally. All of the horses removed were sent to Cañon City for processing, which included banding, vaccinations, gelding, and hoof trimming. About half of the horses were brought back to Grand Junction and offered for adoption last November. All horses offered were successfully adopted. The remaining 26 horses will be offered for adoption in Fruita on March 30. (See the attached flyer.)

**McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area plan evaluation** - Since finalization of the MCNCA Resource Management Plan in 2004, BLM staff have identified several areas in which plan updates

could benefit NCA management. The GJFO requested that the BLM Colorado State Office conduct a plan evaluation to identify all such areas so that BLM staff can strategically address needed updates through activity level planning, maintenance actions, or plan amendments. The evaluation was conducted in Spring 2018 and a final report is expected in March 2019.

**Dominguez-Escalante NCA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - 2019 marks the tenth anniversary since Congress designated the Dominguez-Escalante NCA and the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. The BLM and Colorado Canyons Association are planning a small event to celebrate the occasion.

**Recreation Demand** - The GJFO continues to experience high demand for recreational amenities from local communities and user groups. In support of that demand, the GJFO has a number of projects and actions in various stages of planning and development:

- Rabbit Valley Campground Development - Preliminary EA scheduled for release in early March 2019
- 27 ¼ Road Staging Area (with funding provided by Grand Junction Regional Airport) - Conducting site planning
- Bangs Canyon Motorcycle Trail - Construct new motorcycle trails in Bangs Canyon SRMA; planned for fall 2019
- Book Cliffs Moto Trail (Sarledge) - Extend the Sarlacc Trail north of Fruita to allow for more of the singletrack loop to be ridden while avoiding Coal Gulch Road
- Currently evaluating 15 Special Recreation Proposals for 2019 commercial activities.

**North Fruita Desert SRMA** - The GJFO is working with local communities and the public on potential expansion of camping and event opportunities associated with the North Fruita Desert mountain biking area. A Preliminary EA is expected to be released for public comment this spring.

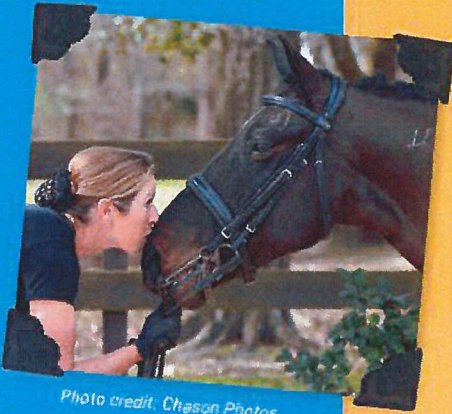


Photo credit: Cheson Photos

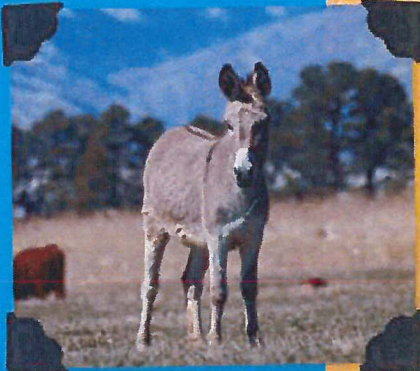


Photo credit: Sarah Woody



# BRING HOME YOUR OWN WILD HORSE <sup>OR</sup> BURRO

## Wild Horse & Burro Event

Fruita, Colorado

March 29-30, 2019

Rimrock Adventures

927 Highway 340 • Fruita, CO 81521



### FEATURED ANIMALS



26 Little Book Cliffs Wild Horses  
Approximately 2 Halter-gentled Horses  
2 Burros

*Untrained horses starting at \$25!*

*Halter Trained horses starting at \$125!*

#### March 29

*Viewing and Applications: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

*Training demonstrations: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

#### March 30

*Viewing and Applications: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.*

*Silent Bid Adoption: 10 – 11 a.m.*

*TIP Selections: 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

Visit the Wild Horse & Burro Program on Facebook to view available animals.  
There is a wild horse or burro waiting for you!



For more information on other events or adoption and direct purchase options, visit [BLM.gov/whb](http://BLM.gov/whb) or call (866) 468-7826.

