

Proposed Resource Management Plan

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

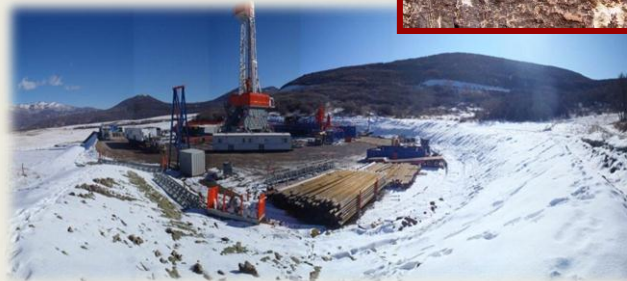


Briefing Objectives

1. Process
 - a. Where we've been
 - b. Where we are now
 - c. Next Steps
2. Proposed RMP Decisions
 - a. Resources
 - b. Resource Uses
3. Implementation Decisions
 - a. Travel Management Routes



BLM's Mission



Plan Overview

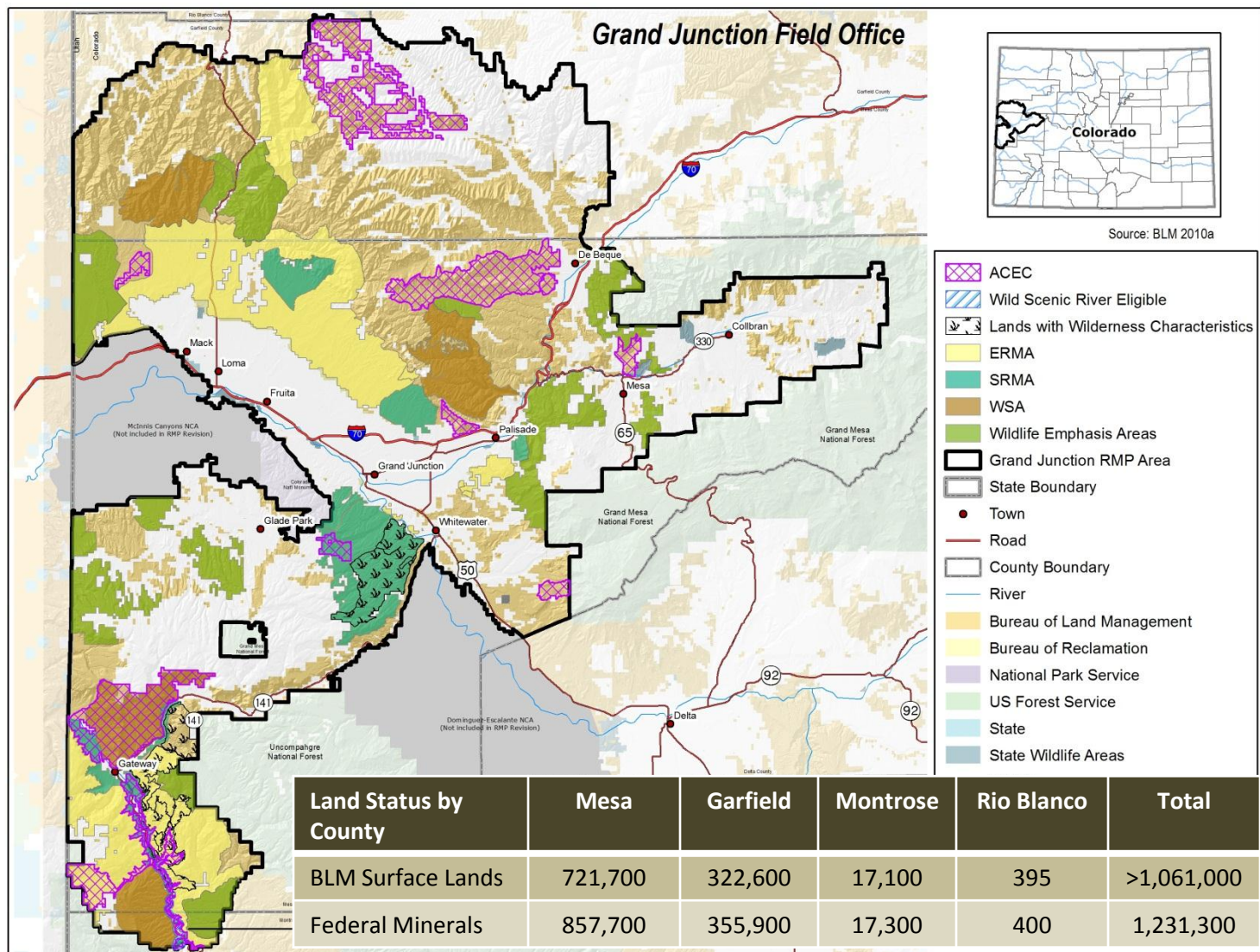
Long-range master plan, vision for the future

- Initiated in 2008, with significant public and cooperator involvement
- Determines appropriate multiple uses for over one million acres of public lands in Mesa County for the next 20 years
- Creates a balanced plan that provides for resource use and resource conservation
- Includes travel plan decisions

Planning Timeline

- 2008 planning process began
- Scoping – issue identification – internal and external – public process
- Travel management open houses and workshops
- Developed draft – multiple alternatives providing a range of possible management
- Comment period – public review of the draft plan
- Revised preferred alternative to address public comments and develop the proposed alternative

GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE



Cooperators Participating in the RMP Planning Process since 2009

Cooperating Agencies
Mesa County
Garfield County
City of Fruita
City of Grand Junction
Town of Collbran
Town of De Beque
Town of Palisade
Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Water Conservation District
DOI Bureau of Reclamation
DOI Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA Forest Service

BLM NW RAC Subgroup
NW RAC Representatives
Recreation-Mountain Biking
Recreation-Hiking
Recreation-Motorized
Oil and Gas Interests
Special Areas (ACECs, WSR, WSA)
Tourism
Socio-Economic
Cultural/Historical/Paleontological
Livestock Grazing
Vegetation (SSS, fire wood, etc.)
Solid Minerals
Hunting and Fishing

Native American Tribes
Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray)
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe



Public Comments

The public comment period was initiated on January 15, 2013 and ended on June 24, 2013. The public comment period was extended from 90 days to 150 days day in response to requests for an extension.

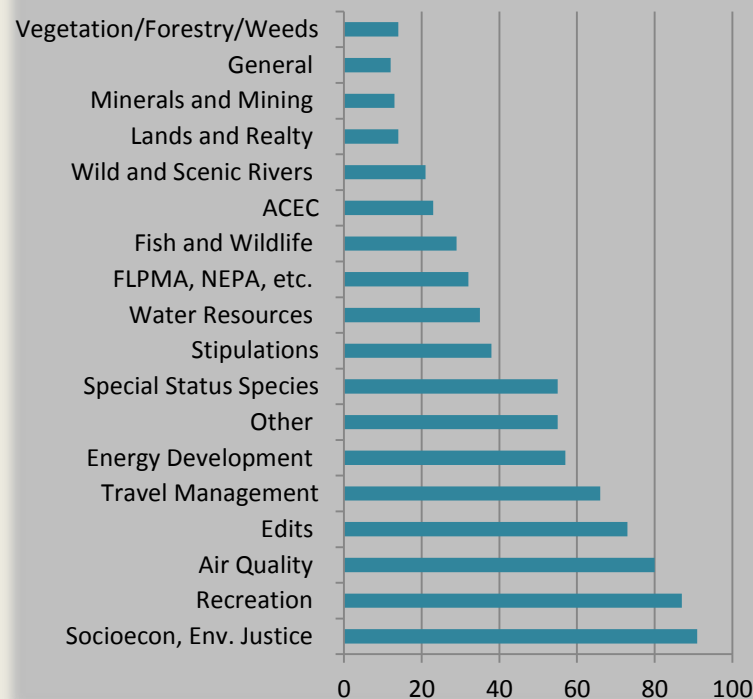
Comment Submission Type		
Submissions as Form letters	1,803	55%
Submissions with Substantive Comments	983	30%
Submissions with No Substantive Comments	521	15%
Total Submissions	3,307	100%

Note: Submissions types include letters, emails, and fax. Submissions are complete comment letters.

Individual Substantive Comments		
Implementation (Travel) Comments	1,645	64.8%
Planning (RMP) Comments	893	35.2%
Total Substantive Comments	2,538	100.0%

Note: Individual substantive comments are specific comments pulled from each submission. A submission can have more than one comment.

Number of Planning Comments



Status

- April 10 - Plan released for a 30-day protest period and Governor's Consistency Review
- Protest period ended May 11
 - Received 19 Protests
- Governor's Consistency Review ends June 8

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Resource Protection

- Plants
- Wildlife
- Cultural

Resource Use

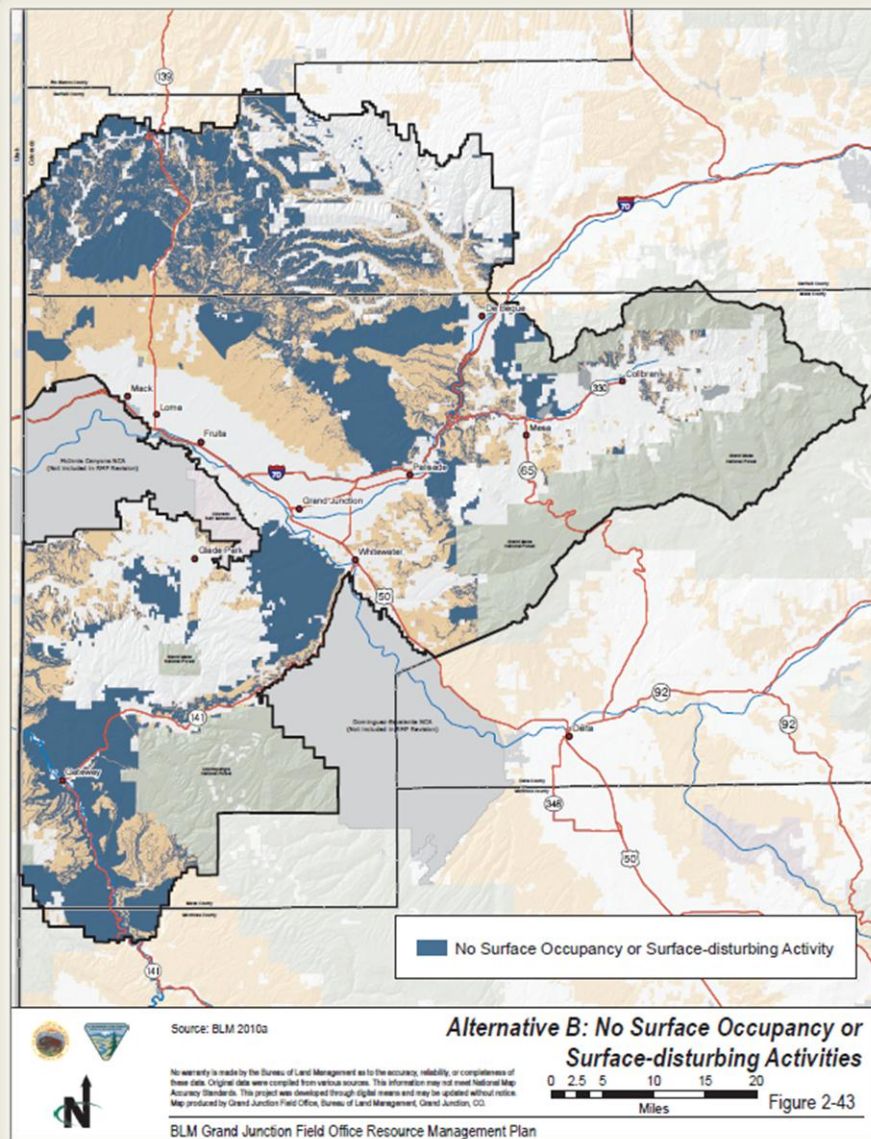
- Recreation
- Range
- Oil and Gas

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Resource Protection





SURFACE USE RESTRICTIONS

Surface use restrictions apply to all programs in the GJFO RMP.

No Surface Occupancy

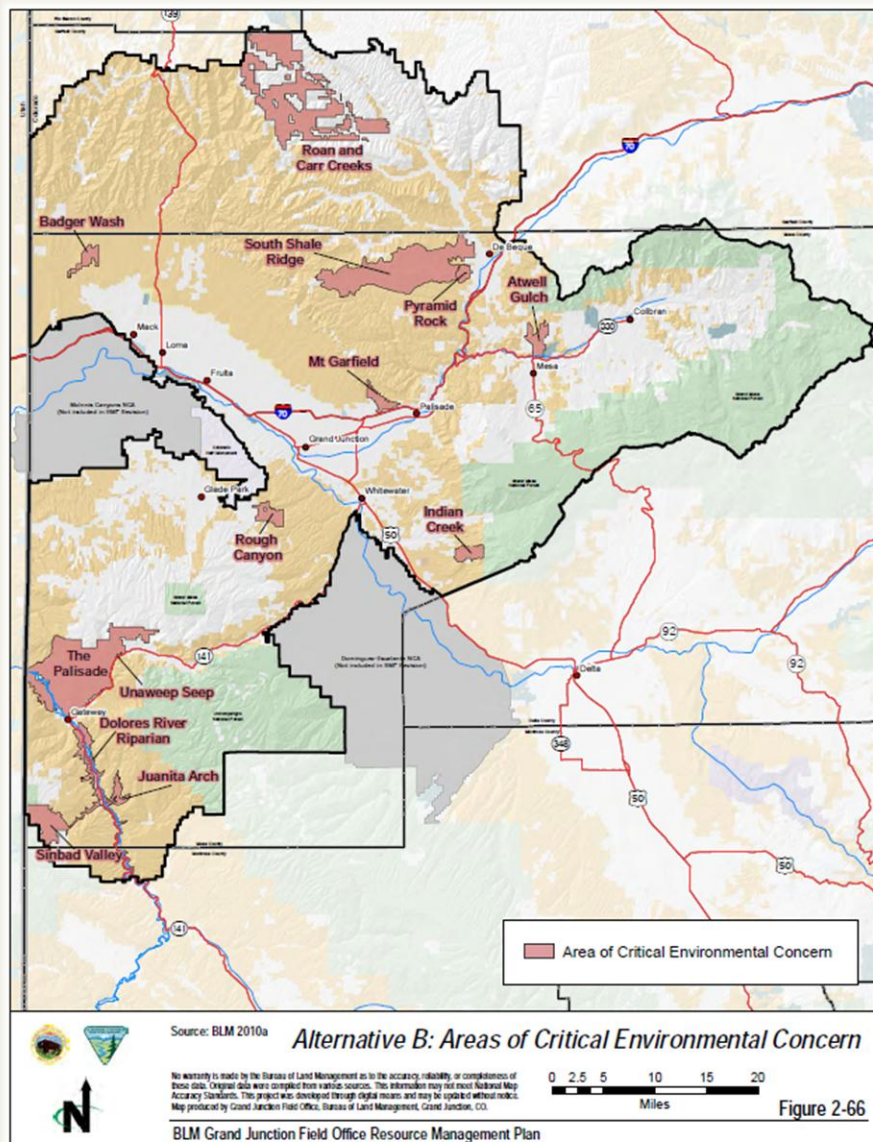
- 597,900 acres (+168,800)

Controlled Surface Use

- 493,900 acres (-69,600)

Timing Limitation

- 382,900 acres (-18,700)



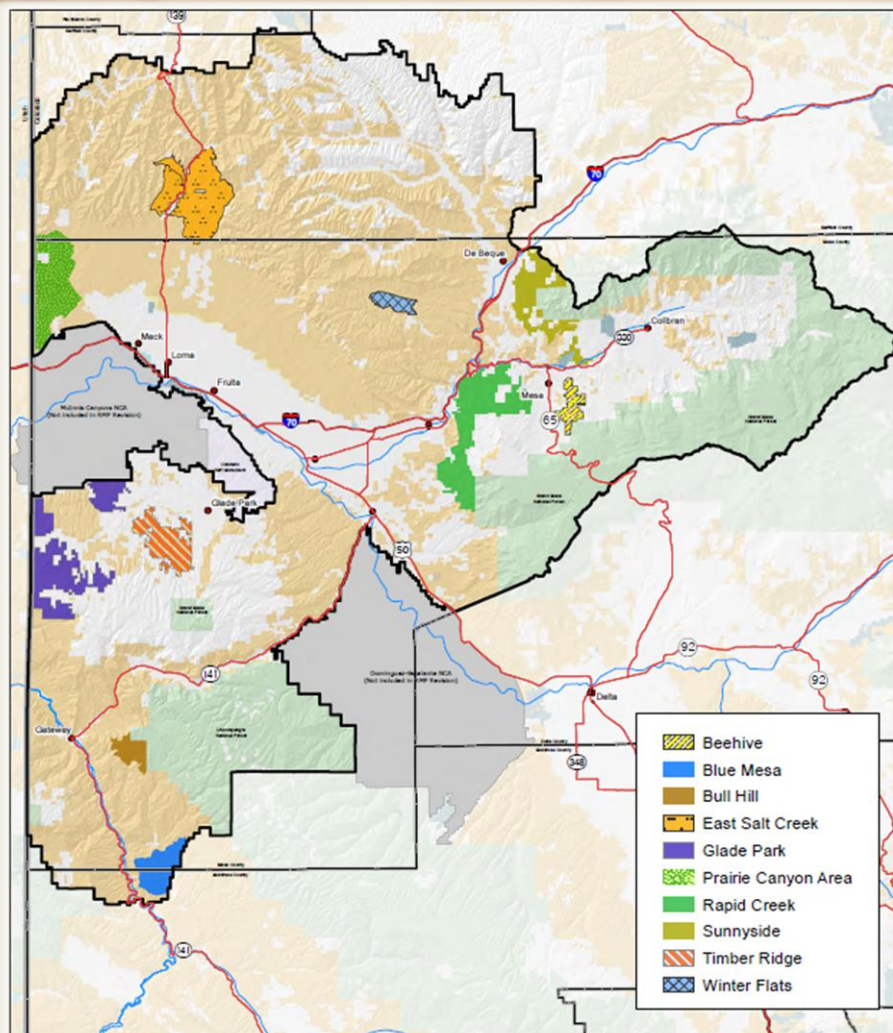
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

ACECs are special management areas designated by BLM to protect significant

- historic, cultural, or scenic values;
- fish and wildlife resources;
- natural process or systems; and/or
- natural hazards

123,400 acres (+17,400)

Total of 13



Source: BLM 2010a

Alternative B: Wildlife Emphasis Areas

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice. Map produced by Grand Junction Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction, CO.

0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles

Figure 2-1

BLM Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan

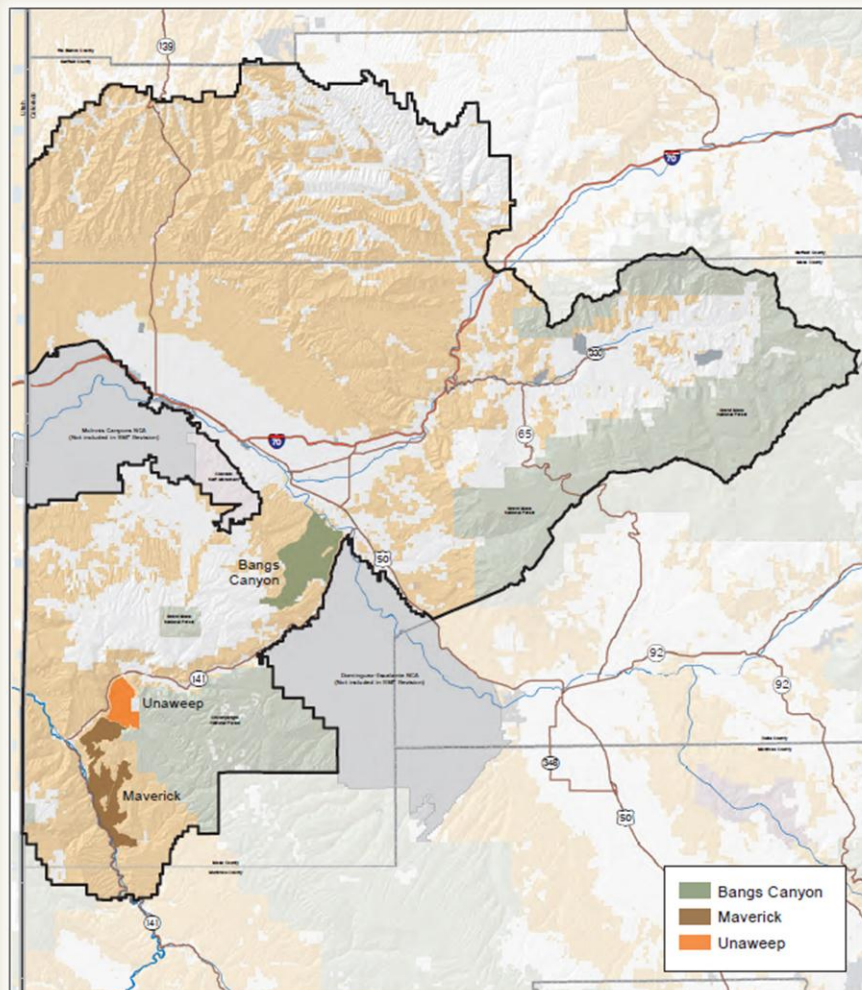
WILDLIFE EMPHASIS AREAS

- 10 Total WEAs with 150,000 acres (-20,500)
- Most important habitat for sage grouse, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, kit fox, burrowing owl, and wintering deer/elk



LANDS MANAGED for WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

- 3 areas for a total of 44,100 acres (+19,700)
- West Creek LWC area was removed, overlaps with Palisade ACEC.
- Bangs Canyon LWC area from Alternative C was carried forward.



Source: BLM 2010a

*Alternative B: Lands Managed for Wilderness
Characteristics Outside Existing WSAs*

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0 2.5 5 10 15 20
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Figure 2-9

BLM Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan

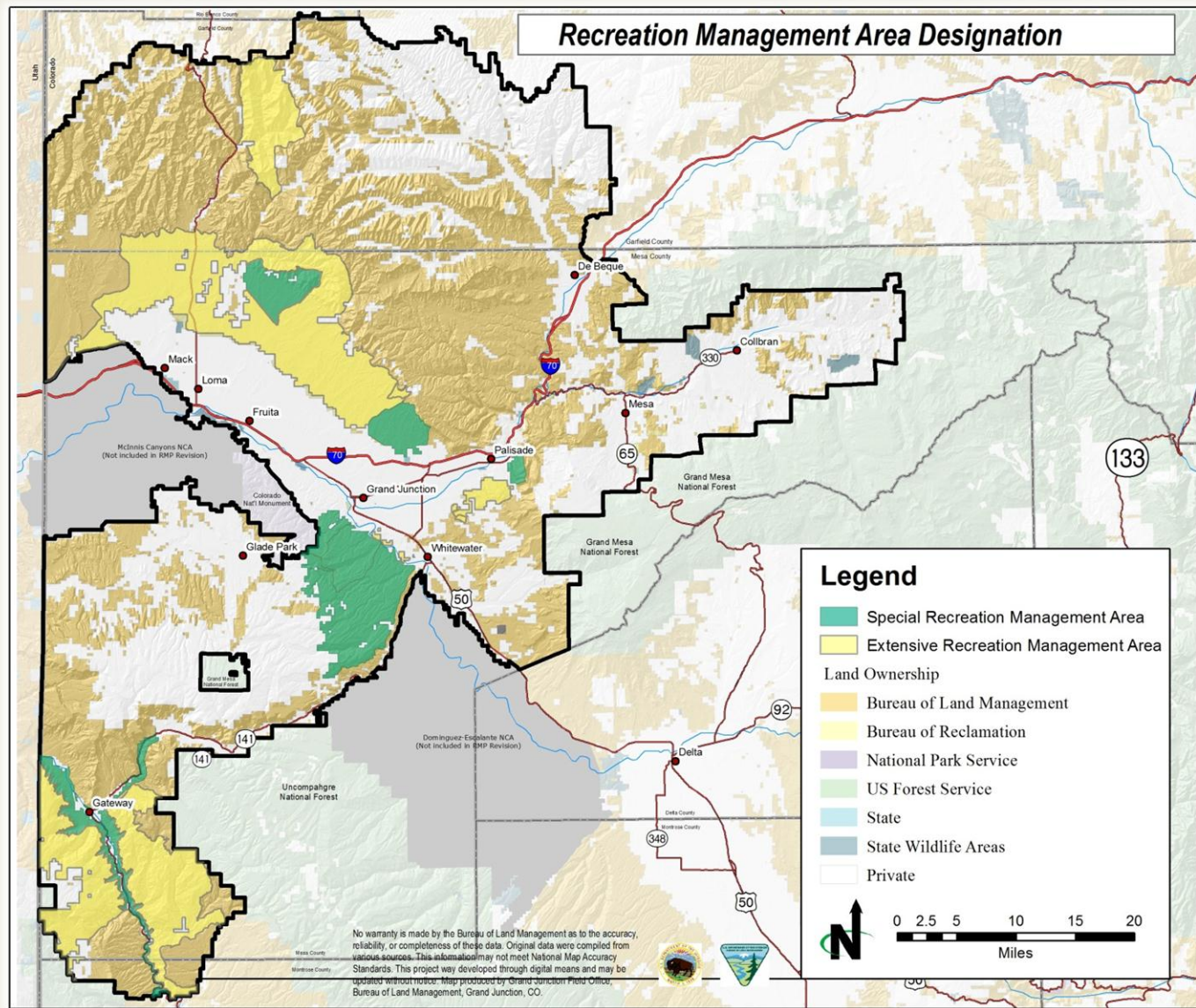
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Resource Uses



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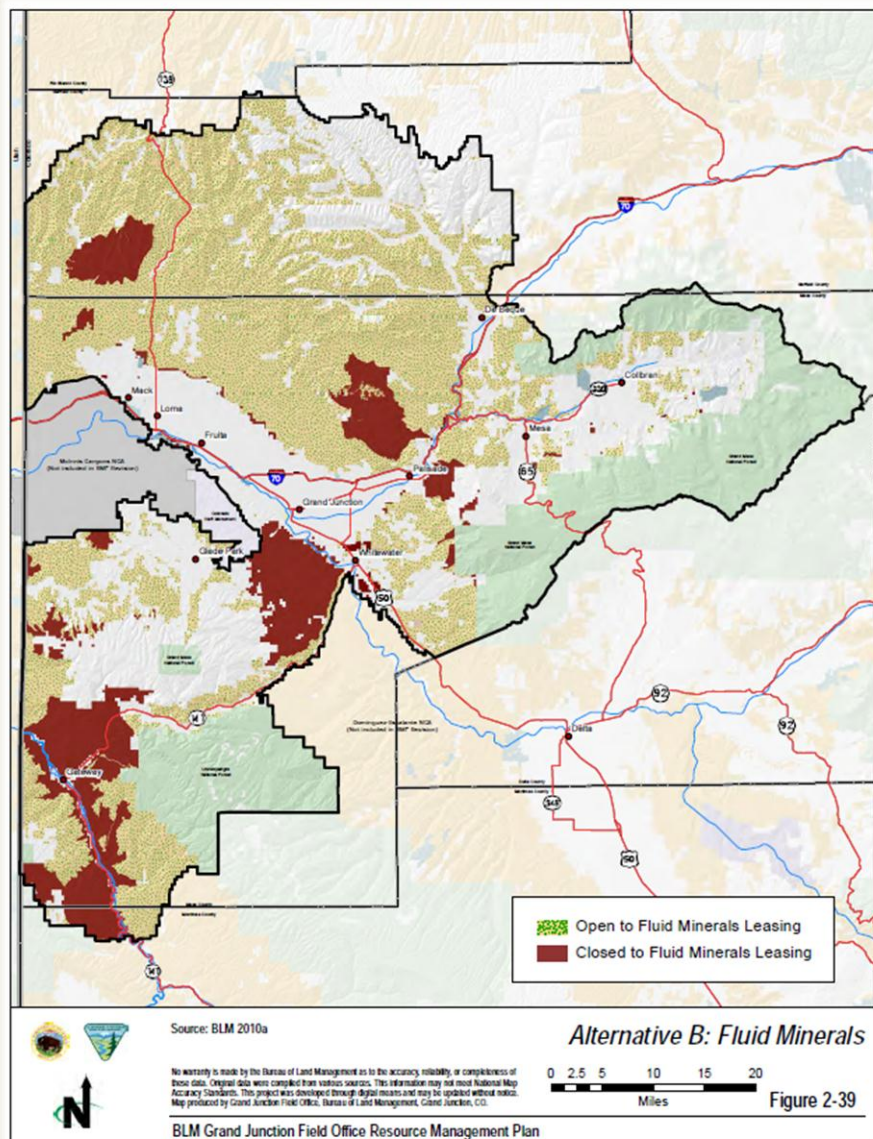


Special Recreation Management Areas

1. Bangs -
2. Grand Valley OHV –
3. North Fruita Desert –
4. Palisade Rims –
5. Dolores River Canyons –

Extensive Recreation Management Areas

1. Gateway
2. Horse Mountain
3. Barrel Springs
4. North Desert
5. Grand Valley Shooting Ranges
6. Gunnison River Bluffs



OIL AND GAS LEASING

Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing

- **992,600 acres** (-36,200)

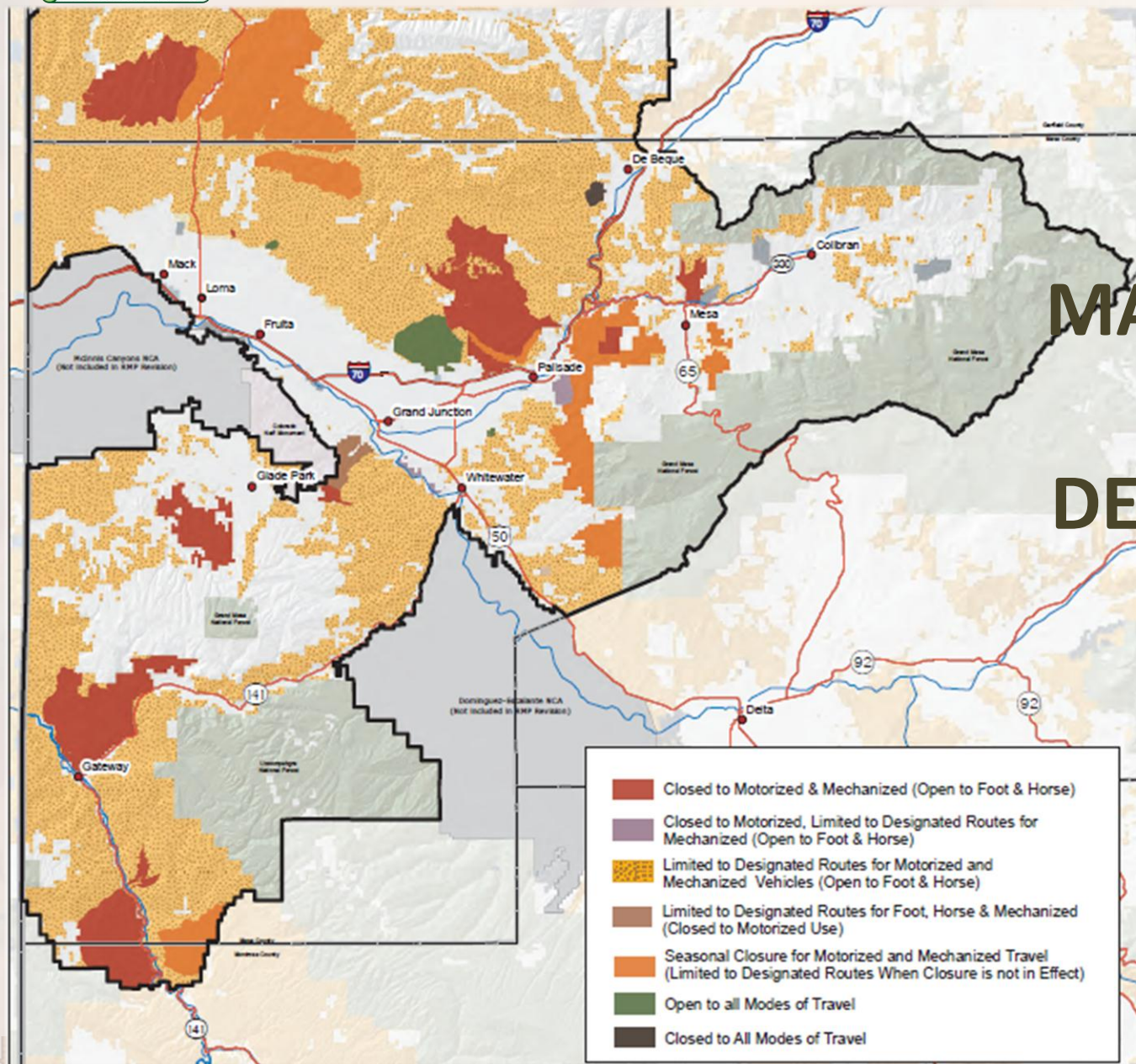
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing

- **243,500 acres** (+41,100)

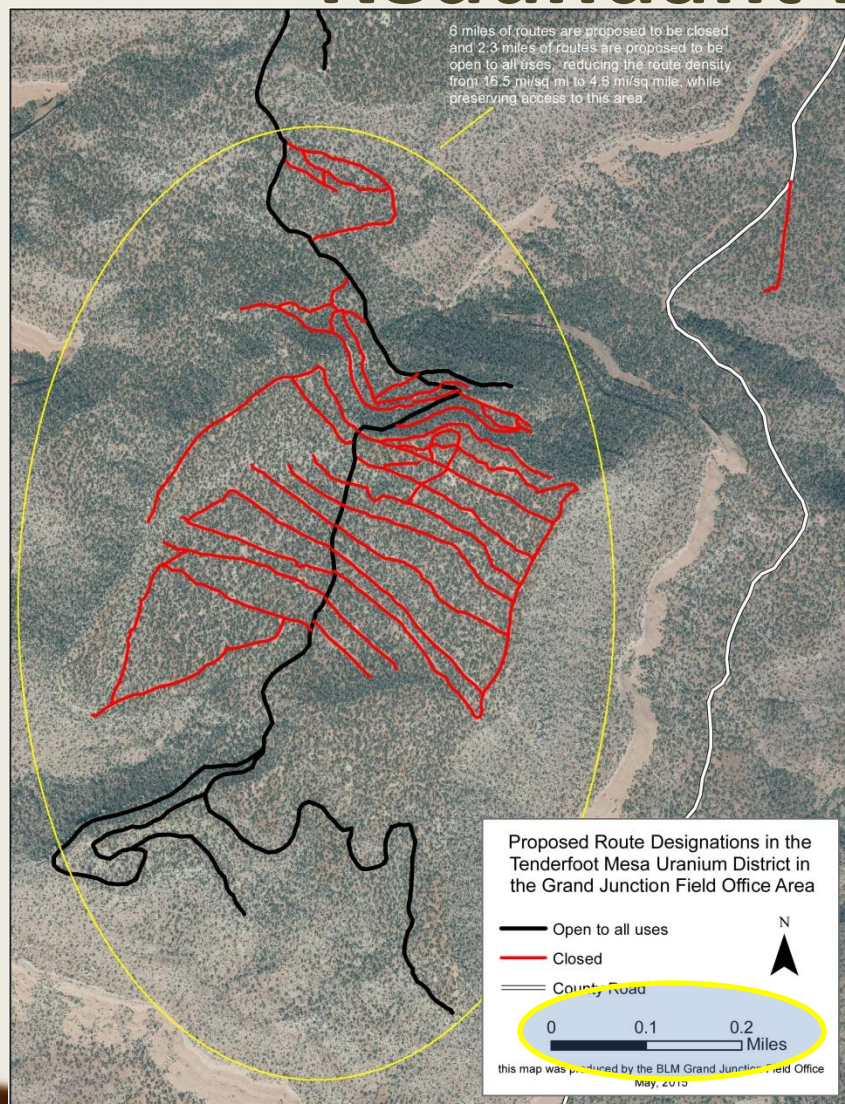
Reasons for Closure:

- 4 WSAs,
- 6 ACECs,
- Occupied Gunnison sage-grouse habitat,
- 3 LWCs,
- 3 SRMAs,
- 2 municipal watersheds, and
- some BOR withdrawals.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS



Redundant Route example

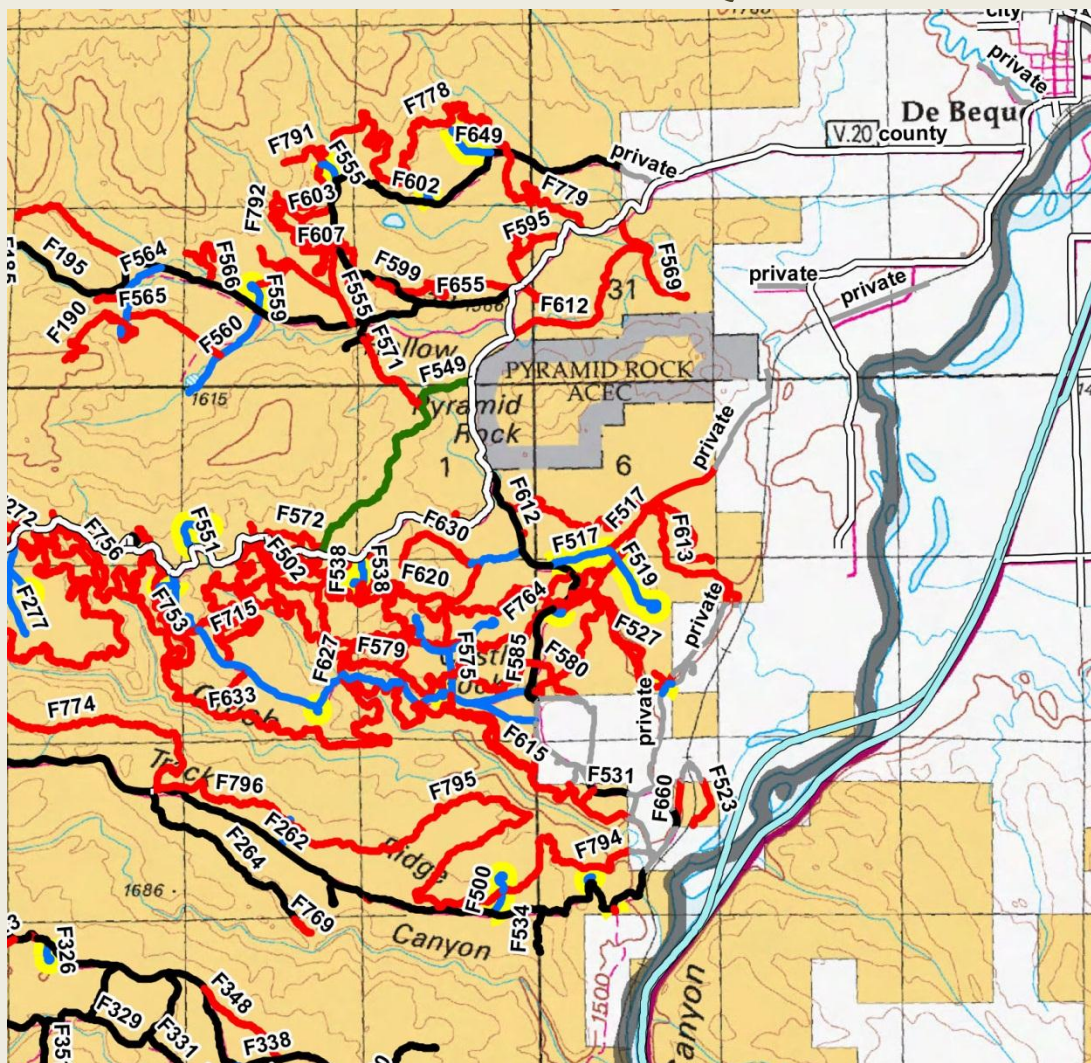


Uranium Exploration
South and West of
Gateway – GMU 61

6 miles of closed routes

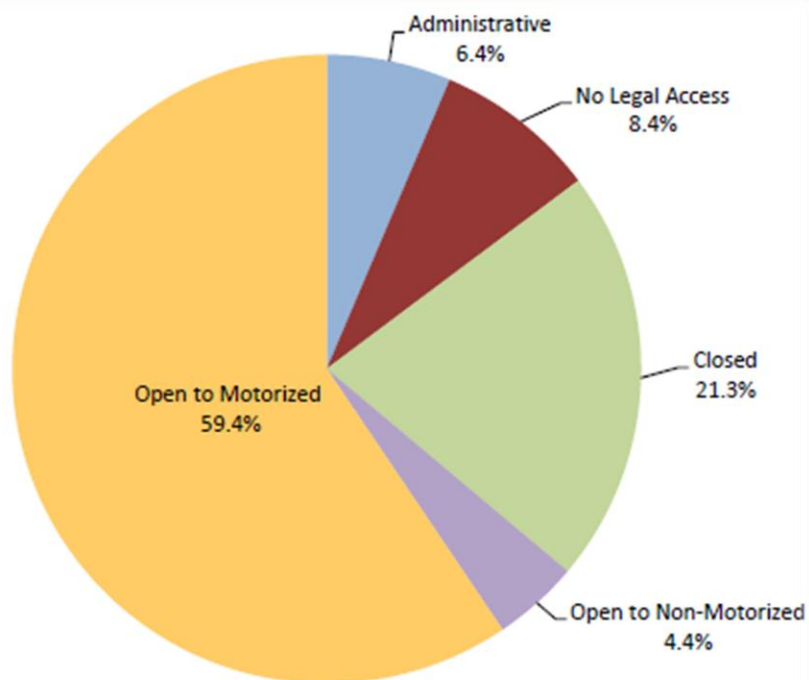
2.3 remaining open

ZONE F – DE BEQUE AREA

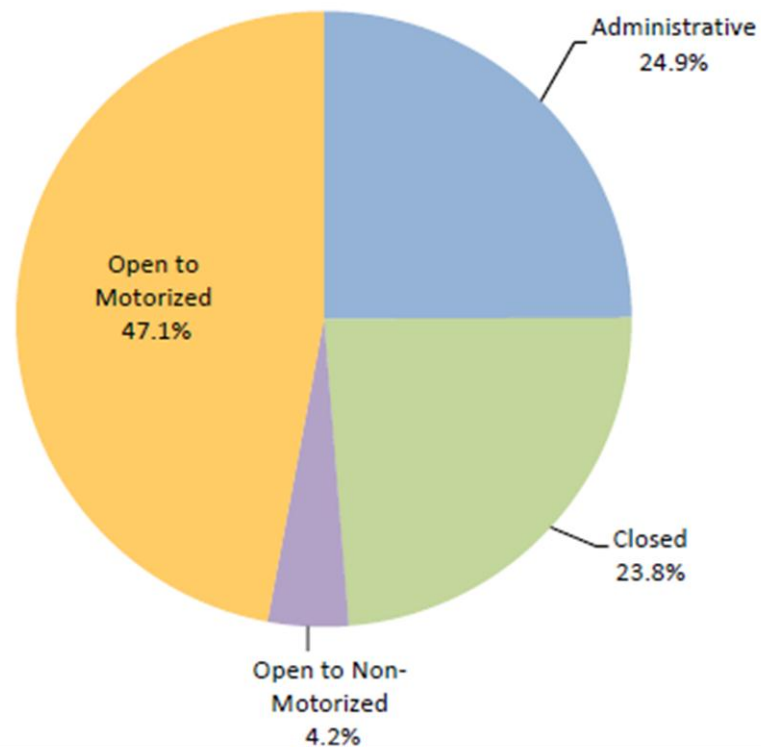


Route Designation

Proposed TMP



Draft TMP



next steps

Resource Management Plan (RMP) Publicly Available	04/10/2015
30-day Protest Period Ended	05/11/2015
Protest Resolution – up to 120 days	7/2015
RMP is signed by Colorado State Director	07/2015
Travel Management Plan is signed – Appeal Period Starts	07/2015
Appeal Period Ends	08/2015

Appeal Period

What is an appeal?

- Any party adversely affected by an implementation decision may appeal such a decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals after the BLM resolves the protests to land use planning decisions and issues an Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD).
- The decisions in the Travel Management Plan are implementation decisions associated with specific locations that allow on-the-ground actions to proceed. For example, the designation of a specific travel route is an implementation level decision, rather than a land use plan decision. These implementation decisions made as part of the RMP process are still subject to the appeals process. Other implementation level decisions include installation of facilities such as a gate at a specific location, or authorization of permits such as rights-of-way grants.
- Most Appeals need to be filed within 30 days of signing the Record of Decision that approves the disputed decision. Appeal periods can vary program, specific guidance for each program can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 43 CFR Part 4 Subpart E).