

Minutes of the D-E NCA Advisory Council
July 23, 2014, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Mesa County Central Services Building
Grand Junction, Colorado

Council members attending: Katie Steele, Oscar Massey, Bill Harris, Tamera Minnick, Steven Boyle, Doug Atchley, Kate Graham, Ralph Files, Kaye Simonson, and Bob Janowski.

Council members absent: None

BLM staff attending: Collin Ewing, Angie Losasso, Heidi Plank, and Marie Lawrence.

Members of the public attending: Bryanna Kuhlman, Terry Meyers, Jan Potterveld, Scherry Schenk, Emily Hornback, Brad Petersen, Wade Garrett, Brad Banulis, Travis Khachatoorian, Tom Derryberry, and others.

Call to order and introductory remarks

3:00 p.m.: Chair Katie Steele called the meeting to order and made introductions.

Steele: Utah is considering a new national conservation area (NCA), so Brad Petersen and Wade Garrett are here from San Juan County in Utah to observe. [Reviewed agenda]. The Council made two recommendations with close votes—target shooting and big game seasonal limitations in Cactus Park—so I will reopen those for discussion.

Collin Ewing: I will give an overview of the planning process to date that is more in depth than usual for the benefit of new council members, new employees, and because of public interest. [He began PowerPoint presentation: “Preview of Where We have been,” which is attached at the end of these minutes]. Gunnison Gorge and McInnis are successful examples of community-led efforts to establish NCAs. [Showed time line from 2006 to present]. The Council met 34 times to date. [Went over formation and role of Council]. The NCA is about 220,000 acres of public and private lands.

Kate Graham: When does the Governor’s review occur?

Ewing: Governor’s review is during protest period.

Bill Harris: How long is the plan in effect, once finalized?

Ewing: Twenty years, but [for example] the last plan for the Grand Junction Field Office [whose resource management plan (RMP) is being revised] was in 1987, so it's actually close to 30 years now [for the Field Office RMP].

Council discussion: big game seasonal limitations in Cactus Park

Steele: [Asked Steve Boyle to talk about big game].

Steven Boyle: The issue is the Draft RMP called for seasonal closure to benefit mule deer winter range. The issue is in Cactus Park. [He specified the geographical area and dates of closure]. Members of the Council met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding the timing of closure and the routes to be left open. I don't advocate meddling with dates in Draft RMP. I agree with CPW that those dates should be fixed to protect animals during crucial times. At the last [Council] meeting, a route was proposed to stay open, Farmers Canyon Road, because it would be a loop connecting to the County road, providing an additional recreation opportunity. My question to CPW was what would this do. The model used proximity to roads, so closer to road will have more effects. We used a CPW model to estimate impacts to wintering big game, and the model predicts that there would be minor impacts from leaving road open. I don't have a major issue with leaving the road open; I have a minor issue. An even better option is moving the road away from seasonal closure area.

Steele: Is there any further discussion on this topic?

Doug Atchley: What is the elevation at the top?

Massey: About 7,000 feet.

Steele: What about Forest [U.S. Forest Service] land?

Massey: That's 8,000 feet.

Graham: Coming off Farmer's Canyon Road, there are spur roads; is there an opportunity to prioritize cleaning up spur roads to set recreational users up for success, to follow the loop road and not go off it?

[Kaye Simonson left meeting to get CD of Draft RMP].

Bob Janowski: In that whole stretch, there are only about 10 spurs.

[Ewing put map on screen, and Janowski pointed out closures on map---see attachments].

Massey: With all due respect, if we consider dates that would be open, or average snowfall elevation of 6,600 feet, we will have a lot of snow. Game will be going more to the north than

to the south. The favorite place for bighorn is there. There are mule deer all over the NCA. Dry Mesa, Escalante, and other areas are all critical for mule deer north of Cactus Park desert, because that's where the water is. It's all critical habitat for mule deer. A lot of people see deer crossing 141 to get to water out of Gunnison or out of East Creek. Anytime you're in area, you will affect habitat. You can't keep them in small area.

Ralph Files: One of the discussions on those spurs is that winter predator hunters use those spurs.

Massey: There are lots of mountain lions up there.

Harris: Because there are lots of mule deer.

Tamera Minnick: What's the season for coyote?

Brad Banulis from CPW: Year-round.

Boyle: How do you see closing those spurs proceeding?

Ewing: Right now, we're setting the vision; later, we'll figure out how to implement it. What I have seen is folks in other offices going out and figuring out how to make it work. I'm hoping that Bob can talk to constituents so that they know what the seasonal closures are and will go along [with them].

Janowski: It is hard to convince some people, because they don't think the basis is scientific and don't trust you guys. That section is beautiful, so I can see why they are excited about leaving it open.

Files: What is the BLM's stance on snow machines?

Ewing: Is there enough snow up there for snow machines, Oscar?

Massey: On Divide Road, there's enough snow for machines. It comes and goes. BLM could monitor road conditions to determine closures.

Ewing: According to the legislation, motorized travel has to stay on main designated routes.

Minnick: Can we hear from CPW?

Banulis: We do have a lot of data. There is a long-term monitoring site from 1997. Even this last winter, we put more GPS collars on deer. Deer stay in there through the end of April. In other places, they move around according to availability of food and water. March and April may have highest mortality. That's why those later months are so critical. Their bodies are in poor shape and they're prone to disease, etc. Bighorn sheep are lambing around then. From 1980s to now,

the herd has been reduced from 55,000 to 18,000 deer, so we are really concerned about the herd.

Minnick: I understand road density, but what about distance out?

Banulis: For elk habitat, road density should be less than one square mile. Deer are not as flighty as elk, but even though they not moving, they're stressed according to recordings of their physiology.

Boyle: I deal with this [issue of] impact assessment for a living. Topographic factors can affect how much impact a road can have. A heavy vegetation community can provide enough cover for animals.

Ewing: When we're hiking with our dog and the deer don't move, we think they're not stressed, but what Brad is saying is they are according to the literature.

Massey: [Discussed the historical decline of deer and how it related to his personal experience]. We used to see maybe 500 deer, now we're lucky to see one. If [the NCA is] going to be a conservation area, we need to preserve them.

Boyle: We have three options: 1) no change from what's in the draft; i.e., seasonal closure from December 1 to April 30, including Farmers Canyon Road; 2) seasonal closure with Farmers Canyon Road open and spur roads closed; and 3) explore moving Farmers Canyon Road further to NW so it's out of or at the very edge of the seasonal closure. Brad told me this morning CPW would prefer to see option 1, but could live with option 3.

Minnick: As I see it, there are two sub-options: if you leave it open, it [rerouting Farmers Canyon Road] might never happen. If you close it now, people might be motivated to pressure the BLM and fundraise to facilitate moving Farmers Canyon Road.

Boyle: I think you should only leave road open if BLM has reasonable deadline for when the new road will be built; i.e., in two or three years.

Janowski: Without the [stipulation that the road will be open if not rerouted], there would be no pressure on the BLM. That should be written into the RMP. Can this be done?

Ewing: Yes.

Graham: Rerouting is a goal and a great way to get ATV clubs involved.

Steele: Steve, do you want to make a motion?

Massey: Where is the road to be constructed?

[Ewing brought up map again to show where road might go—see attachments].

Ewing: It would have to cross canyon. Andy [Windsor] is the [BLM] recreation planner. He seems to think we can do this.

Graham: From what I've seen of ATV clubs, if there's a problem [with routing], they can solve it.

Ewing: They have the equipment.

Atchley: My question is how much would it cost and how do you pay for it.

Graham: I have some ideas about that.

Ewing: We would partner with clubs who can use volunteers and get grant funding through the State. When we want to build a motorized trail, we can get it done.

Massey: Are we authorized to build new roads?

Ewing: Yes

Boyle: I recommend that Farmers Canyon Road remain open for up to three years. After three years of signing [putting up signs], it should close, whether or not there's a new road.

Janowski: Then there's no pressure. None at all.

Boyle: What Bob is saying is this doesn't incentivize the BLM.

Minnick: We recommended leaving it open. The Draft has it closed.

Ewing: You stole my thunder for later presentation. The Proposed RMP states that Farmers Canyon Road should remain open until we can find a reroute to the north. I'm hearing that we should leave it open for only three years.

Files: It will take longer than three years to write the NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] document.

Ewing: That's already in this EIS [environmental impact statement].

Steele: I hate to see us get into the minutiae. I want us to preserve the broader view.

Minnick: I suggest a time line of three years.

Ewing: That would give it a higher priority.

Steele: Let's wrap up this discussion.

Massey: I would recommend visiting area in January. [He explained why he doesn't think topography conducive to this new route]. Seems like this will create more problems; maybe a study is needed.

Ewing: I asked Heidi Plank, wildlife biologist for the Grand Junction Field Office, to come to this meeting.

Heidi Plank: [Explained difference between distance requirements in literature and what was being discussed].

Steele: I'd like to open this for public comment early.

Public Comment

Tom Derryberry: I ride those areas in winter all the time. If you make the trail sustainable, then make it year round. Use existing trails. I don't think a new trail will happen, because the BLM doesn't have the money.

Steele: Any other comments?

4:10 p.m.: [Steele called for a break].

4:20 p.m.: [Meeting resumed].

Council discussion: changes between Draft RMP Preferred Alternative and Proposed Plan Alternative

Steele: For the second half of our meeting, Collin will give us a preview of the Proposed Plan Alternative.

Ewing: Gave PowerPoint presentation: "Dominguez Escalante Advisory Council: Review of Where We Have Been" [included at the end of these minutes].

Graham: Which changes are these?

Ewing: These are the changes to the RMP that resulted from the Council's recommendations and from a few substantive comments. I think I caught all of the big ones. This is a work in progress. Marie, Angie, and Andy are all still working on it.

Steele: Can we comment on this?

Ewing: It would be hard to go back and make big changes now, but we are certainly interested in your feedback. [He continued presentation]. Horse travel in the Wilderness would be limited to existing routes, but we would not put signs on every route in Wilderness Zone 1. We would

inventory routes and produce map. Horses tend to make more social trails, so we would make map for horses.

Graham: How about trails to watering locations?

Ewing: We have to make sure those stay open. [He continued the presentation]. Based on public comment, we changed the group size limits in the Wilderness. I heard from the public that if we have a big group, we should break into two groups, so in Wilderness Zone 1, groups are limited to 25 people. In Zones 2 and 3, groups are limited to 12 people.

Steele: People or heartbeats?

Ewing: I will check on that. [NOTE: Asked that a note regarding this be put in the minutes, then continued presentation. *Follow up: the document just says "people," not heartbeats, so dogs and horses are not included as part of the size limit*]. We heard lots of public comments that we shouldn't be managing in the Wilderness; we should just let natural processes proceed, even if we have noxious weeds.

Minnick: Would this be your focus, so you could do restoration of threatened and endangered plants in Zones 1, 2, or 3?

Ewing: The RMP doesn't preclude restoration protections. One of the supplemental values is threatened and endangered species. Cactus is an indicator for naturalness. We could have made it an indicator for outstanding opportunities, naturalness, or supplemental values, but *Sclerocactus* fell out as an indicator for naturalness. Regarding ACECs [areas of critical environmental concern], we're going to have a lot of recreation and people in SRMAs [special recreation management areas], so we need ACECs to protect resources, for now and the future. [He continued presentation].

Steele: Ninemile Hill was a 9-1 vote. [Asked that this be noted in the minutes].

Ewing: Regarding Sawmill Mesa, what we're saying is the big ERMA [extensive recreation management area] still exists, but within it, we would develop a non-motorized loop trail using existing trails where it makes sense.

Janowski: Alternative E closes every road in the north area.

Ewing: I think I can bring up a map. [He pointed out the area on the map---see attachments].

Janowski: Are you closing some roads, but leaving Escalante Rim Road open?

Ewing: When we went through the route designations, I don't think we closed more routes.

Harris: When we had our early discussions, and Mike [Wilson] was on Council, [he made certain recommendations]. It looks like that you're heading in that direction, [in the direction of] the recommendations we agreed on with Mike.

Ewing: I didn't think we were quite ready for an SRMA with a dedicated bicycle route system after hearing the discussion in Delta the last time, but it was clear that people were interested in some kind of non-motorized trail system. [He continued presentation, noting the dates when campsites and boat ramps would be closed to motorboats].

Boyle: Is that because you don't have that authority?

Ewing: I was concerned about that, yes. I don't want to say that Oscar can't launch a jet boat on private land and go through public land on the river or fishermen can't use a jet boat if they launch on private land. [He continued presentation, noting that an NCA-wide enforcement on glass containers would be difficult to enforce].

Graham: Is broken glass a problem for your operation, Oscar?

Massey: Well sure, and anything like wire or plastic, etc., can be a problem.

Ewing: Breaking glass is littering, so it's already illegal.

Massey: Can you prohibit drinking [laughter]?

Ewing: [Continued presentation]. For geocaching, we went with Council recommendations. For target shooting, we kept it as in Alternative E. We're still consulting with Robbie. We're trying to be responsive to all the comments we got about our economic analysis. We looked at dead-end, redundant and "no-known-use-value" routes anew. We threw these criteria out the window and only closed routes if there was a resource issue. [Asked that a note be put in minutes to emphasize that in most cases, routes remain open until mitigated, not closed until mitigated].

[Massey and Ewing discussed the route-designation process].

Ewing: We want to make it easy for people to follow the rules, because if they think the rules are unreasonable, they will break them. [Continued presentation, noting the BLM's proposals regarding closing or opening the Bean Ranch and Rose Creek allotments].

Harris: Was that about trailing?

Ewing: Yes. [Continued presentation]. Regarding the Old Spanish Trail, we foresee interpretation along the Delta to Whitewater trail. [Asked that this be noted in the minutes].

[The Council discussed how to tell where the trail is and whether it would cross private property].

Simonson: The Coffman Road to Orchard Mesa route is a retracement route and uses rights-of-way and easements on private property. It's one of the few segments of the entire trail that people can hike. I'd encourage keeping options for interpretation along the trail open, in addition to auto-touring.

Steele: I have to say that we started out with a plan that was baseline, and we made recommendations over the the last three and a half years, and I would like to complement the BLM for listening to the Council and the public [applause]. Are there any questions?

Graham: Will there still be an opportunity for quiet use operations in the Cactus Park SRMA?

Ewing: That's not a priority but the RMP wouldn't preclude it.

Minnick: At least one member of the audience is interested in bighorn sheep, and I don't think the Council's given any specific direction.

Ewing: I've talked with the folks in the audience who are interested in bighorn sheep. We're not making any major changes from Alternative E. Some folks had issues with the modeling. We're working with CPW on the probability-of-interaction model. We know there's a major possibility of interaction between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep. Whatever model we use, there's that potential.

Minnick: Can Brad comment?

Banulis: We talked about developing desert bighorn sheep model based on Rocky Mountain [bighorn sheep] data. This is still in process. We would still prefer to see the national model, because it is the most scientifically rigorous model. The value of the risk in the risk assessment plays into what the BLM is going to manage. [He discussed details of national model].

Boyle: How long before we have location data to use in the model?

Banulis: We've gotten one winter season out of this, but we're not seeing any surprises, so we're comfortable with it. [He further explained how CPW is using the model]. Rocky Mountain bighorn habitat is more rugged.

Janowski: I would like to commend Collin and the BLM for listening to the public. Will the BLM put a map out on where you are now, as a supplemental?

Ewing: We will put that out with the Final EIS [with the Proposed RMP].

Public comment

Jan Potterveld: Will we see the travel management plan with the Proposed RMP?

Ewing: Yes.

Potterveld: Did the additional trails put back into the RMP include administrative trails?

Ewing: Over 605 miles of routes are open to motorized travel, and it's a lot higher for non-motorized travel.

Potterveld: I'm anxious to take a look at horse use in [Wilderness] Zones 1, 2, and 3. [Regarding group size], I don't know very many horse groups that go out with 25 horses. Out on the Big Dominguez Trail, if we brought 12 horses out, we'd have to split into two groups.

Ewing: I will double check.

Potterveld: Thank you, and good work!

Terry Meyer: I'm concerned with motorized use and building new routes. The BLM should consult with CPW. [Also], as Brad mentioned, there is suitable data to run in model. Regardless of model design, our lowest expectation is that CPW approves of the risk assessment for bighorn sheep.

Final remarks and meeting adjournment

Steele: The next meeting is in November. We would like to have the Resource Management Plan and public comments to review at that time.

Ewing: It makes sense to have the next meeting late in the public protest period. This is not a comment period. We don't expect the Council to protest, but the Council will hear from the protesting public.

[There was further discussion of meeting schedule, and the meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, November 18, in Delta].

6:40 p.m.: [Meeting was adjourned].

Attachments

1. *Dominguez Escalante Advisory Council: Review of Where We Have Been*
2. *DENCA RMP CTMP Proposed Alt E and Route Density with Seasonal Closure*

3. *Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, Route Density – Alternative E:
Farmers Canyon Road Not Seasonally Closed*
4. *Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Proposed RMP – Sawmill Mesa*

Dominguez Escalante Advisory Council



Review of Where We Have Been



Collin Ewing

July 23, 2014

Grand Junction, Colorado

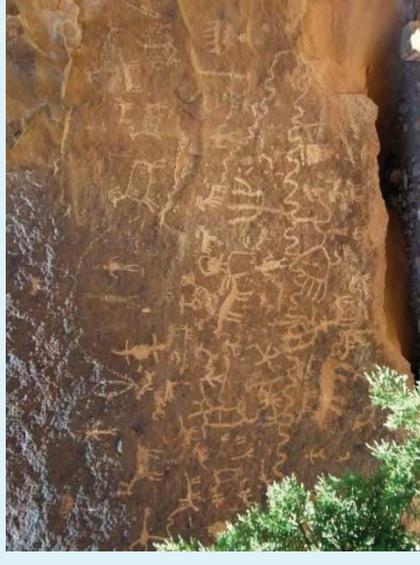


Purpose of this Presentation



We have come a long way.....

- New council members
- New BLM employees
- Public interest in NCAs



Timeline



Looking Back....

- 1999 Congress designates Gunnison Gorge NCA & Wilderness
- 2000 Congress designates Colorado (McInnis) Canyons NCA and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness



McInnis Canyons
National Conservation Area
Bureau of Land Management

Timeline



Looking Back....

- Summer 2006 - wilderness advocates and the Delta, Montrose and Mesa County Commissioners initiated discussions on legislative options for the 73,888-acre Dominguez Canyon WSA
- August 2006 - Senator Salazar expressed interest in assisting the County Commissioners to develop a community consensus on the area's designation
- November 2006 - The Public Lands Partnership (PLP), a Delta County non-profit, hosted a public forum on the Dominguez-Escalante Area in Delta
- June 2007 - Mesa State College Natural Resources and Land Use Policy Institute, in Grand Junction, hosted a public meeting to discuss community opinion
- Summer 2007 Five working groups were formed based on geographical zones of the area and, during the summer, the working groups held public meetings
- All counties reached consensus on recommending NCA status and Wilderness designation for the existing WSA provided that historic ranching use would not be restricted, no new federal reserved water rights would be created, and the Wilderness designation would not expand beyond BLM's recommendation.

Timeline

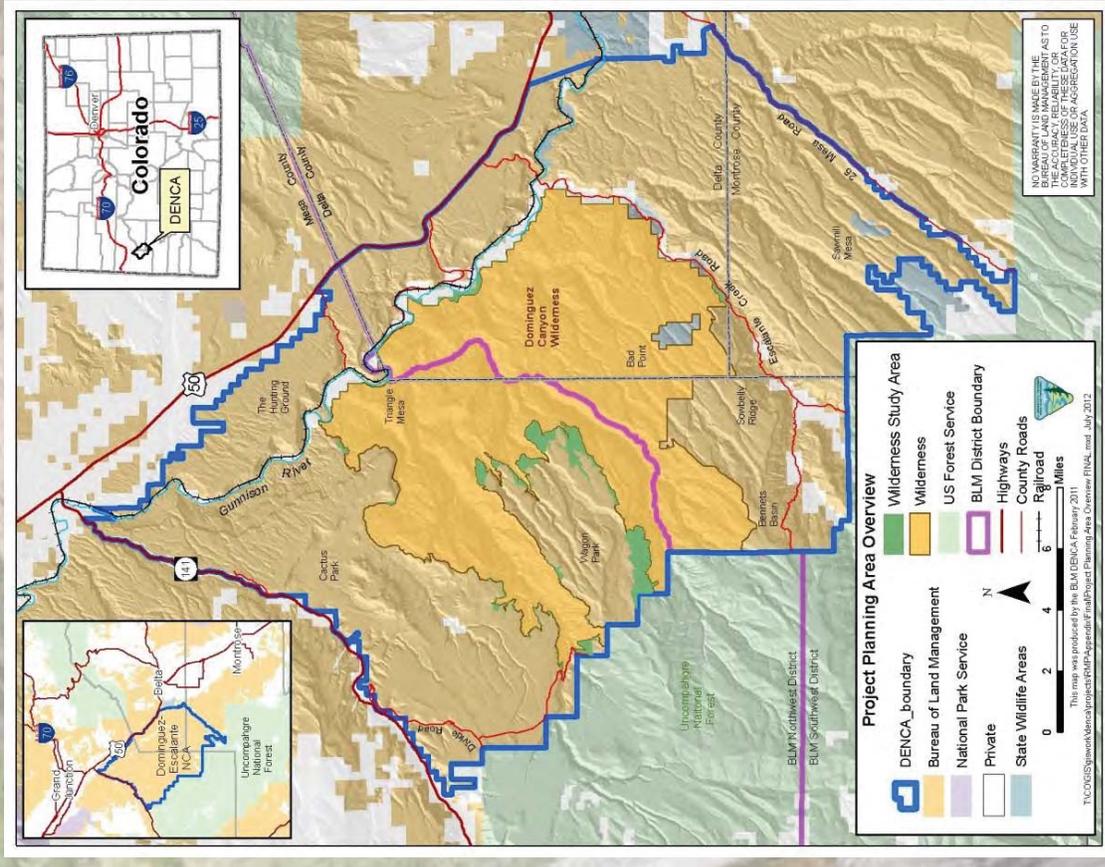


Looking Back....

- **March 2009, Congress Designates D-E NCA in Omnibus Public Lands Act**
 - Established purposes (wildlife, recreation, ecology, archaeology, etc.)
 - Withdrew area from mineral laws
 - Grazing will continue
 - Designated Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area
 - Directed to develop a management plan for the long-term protection and management
 - With extensive public input
 - Including a travel management plan
 - No Off route motorized travel
 - Directed BLM to establish an advisory council (has met 34 times to date)
 - advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan
 - 3 members representing the counties, 1 member representing grazing permittees, 5 members representing the purposes, or interests of stakeholders

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) Planning Area

- **Planning Area: 218,393 acres**
 - Mesa County (57%)
 - Delta County (28%)
 - Montrose County (14%)
 - 2 BLM Districts, 2 BLM Field Offices
- **Decision Area: 210,012 acres**
 - Dominguez Canyon Wilderness (66,280 acres)
 - Remaining Wilderness Study Area (3,032 acres)
 - Portions of Old Spanish National Historic Trail





Timeline



Looking Back....

- *August 2010 BLM issued Notice of Intent to prepare DRMP/DEIS*
- *November 2010, D-E Advisory Council (AC) Formed*
- *January 2011-April 2013 AC met 25 times to share information and make recommendations to BLM*
- *May-Sept 2013 Public comment on Draft RMP (6 AC meetings)*
- *October 2013 to July 2014 – BLM is analyzing public comments and preparing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (4 AC meetings)*

Timeline



Looking Back....



- All Advisory council meetings were announced in Federal Register, News Release, on webpage.
- Each Advisory council meeting included opportunities for public comment
- Up to 50 members of the public attended





RMP Timeline



Looking Forward...

- October 2013-August 2014 Preparing Proposed RMP /Final EIS
- Oct-Nov. 2014 Protest Period (30 days) / Governor's consistency review (60 days)
- *June 2015, Record of Decision and Approved RMP*

Dominguez Escalante Advisory Council



BLM's Proposed Changes to the Proposed RMP



Intent of this Presentation



- Focus on BLM's response to Advisory Council recommendations
- Discuss substantive changes made to address public comment





Recommendations: Priority Species and Vegetation



AC recommendation: Support alternative D for the management of mountain shrub land communities.

PRMP language: *Same as Alternative D*



AC recommendation: Allow no new routes in sagebrush patches 60 acres or larger; it is acceptable to reroute interior routes to the edges of a patch

PRMP language: Prohibit the construction of new routes in existing, unfragmented sagebrush shrublands 60 acres or larger. Reroutes would be placed to avoid encompassing more than half of the perimeter of the patch.

Recommendations: WILDERNESS



AC recommendation: Limit travel to designated routes in Zone 1, with considerations for need to water horses, cultural and heritage resources, hunting. (9-0)

PRMP language: Designate as limited to existing routes for horse travel to enhance supplemental values. Allow off-route foot travel. Close trails or areas to foot and horse travel where necessary to protect resources (e.g., trails that lead to cultural sites not allocated to public use). Inventory routes in Zone 1 to update existing BLM inventory and produce associated map for public.



Recommendations: WILDERNESS



AC recommendation: Support alternative E for group size limitations (*Zone 1: 12, Zone 2: 8, Zone 3: 12*), so long as BLM retains the flexibility to meet NCA goals regarding education and other values. (7-2)

PRMP language: **Wilderness Zone 1:** Limit group size to 25 people or fewer. **Wilderness Zones 2 and 3:** Limit group size to 12 people or fewer.

AC recommendation: **Protect and restore** supplemental values (T&E species, cultural and paleo resources) in all zones. (9-0)

PRMP language: **Wilderness Zone 1:**Protect and restore supplemental values, **Wilderness Zones 2 and 3:** Protect supplemental values



Recommendations: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

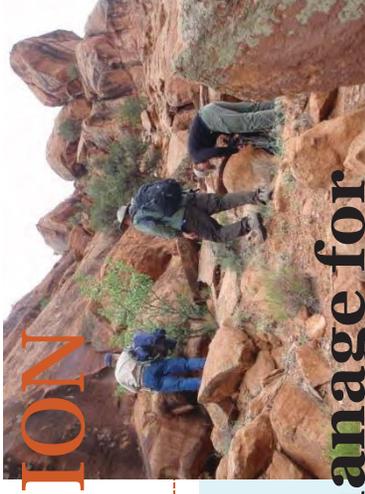


AC recommendation: Support alternative D for **Gibbler Mountain [ACEC]** within the Cactus Park SRMA; support a horse route or quiet trail as opportunities arise. (9-0)

PRMP language: Designate 1,265 acres within the Gibbler Mountain area as an ACEC (slightly smaller and less restrictive protections for plants than in Alt D).

Also designating Gunnison Gravels ACEC.

Recommendations: RECREATION



AC recommendation: In Ninemile Hill, manage for quiet use with exceptions for County roads and pullouts, emphasize creating a long-distance corridor with associated facilities; *(passed)*

PRMP language: Develop a quality foot and horse trail system that incorporates existing routes, while ensuring connectivity of the Tabeguache trail through the Ninemile Hill RMA to Cactus Park for all motorized and non-motorized uses.

Also modified boundary to give Cactus Park (motorized) users more access to views above the Gunnison Slopes.

Recommendations: RECREATION



AC recommendation: Sawmill Mesa should remain an ERMA, with the area north of the Escalante Rim Road set aside as a non-motorized SRMA for mountain biking. The BLM should emphasize the use of existing routes, combining them to develop a new mountain bike trail system, as resource conservation needs allow.

PRMP language: When feasible with support of local community and partners (e.g., user groups, retail shops, service providers), complete and implement an activity level plan to develop a non-motorized “Loop” trail system north of the Escalante Rim Road and outside the River Rims ACEC. During implementation, as new routes are constructed, existing routes would be closed and rehabbed or rehabbed to a single track trail.

Recommendations: RECREATION



AC recommendation: Close the mouth of Big Dominguez to camping. (passed 5-3; 1 unsure).

Also: discussed ensuring river is open to motor boats starting in September waterfowl season, instead of starting in October

PRMP language: Close the mouth of Dominguez Canyon to non-boating overnight camping from May 1 through Labor Day weekend.

Also: Close BLM boat ramps and campsites to motorized boat use from May 1 through Labor Day weekend.

Recommendations: RECREATION (continued)



AC recommendation: **Ban glass containers** in the NCA. (6-2)

PRMP language: Prohibit glass containers at: Potholes, Gunnison River RMA. Consider prohibiting glass containers in other areas if monitoring indicates an increase in broken glass that negatively impacts scenic resources.

AC recommendation: **Allow physical geocaches** in the NCA; only allow virtual geocaches in the Wilderness. Present geocaches should be grandfathered; future sites would require BLM's approval. (9-0)

PRMP language: Navigational recreational activity (i.e., geocaching) requires BLM authorization prior to placement. Allow physical caches outside the Wilderness. Only allow earth (not physical) caches inside the Wilderness. Evaluate existing sites for resource concerns.



Recommendations: RECREATION (continued)



AC recommendation: Support alternative E for management of target shooting (*passed*)



PRMP language:

Same as Draft Preferred (Alternative E)

Also: additional socioeconomic analysis including analysis of socioeconomic non-market values, other changes to socio



Recommendations: TRAVEL MANAGEMENT



AC recommendation: **Seek additional access points** into the Wilderness, the NCA in general, and especially along Bean Ranch Road in the Hunting Grounds.

PRMP language: *Can be found in the objectives for the RMAs. Example:* With partners (e.g., local governments, trail organizations, user groups, service providers, and tourism councils), design and construct a mixed-use connective trail between Whitewater and Delta.



Recommendations: TRAVEL MANAGEMENT



AC recommendation: The BLM should retain seasonal closures as in Alternative E of the draft RMP and leave Farmer's Canyon Road open year round.

PRMP language: Implement seasonal closures from December 1 to April 30 in Gibbler Gulch, Wagon Park, Sowbelly, Upper Sawmill Mesa and Dry Mesa.

Exception: The Farmers Canyon route, within the seasonal closure, would remain open year-round to provide a motorized "loop" opportunity until a new route can be connected north of Farmers Canyon to divert use away from the seasonal closure area as much as practicable.



Recommendations: TRAVEL MANAGEMENT



Other Travel Management Changes in response to public and cooperating agency comment:

Revisited all routes that were closed for:

- *redundancy (routes that run parallel to a preferable route)*
- *dead end (routes less than 0.5 miles long that do not lead to campsites, overlooks, facilities or developments)*
- *or no known use value*

Designated 44 additional miles of routes open to motorized use
Designated 31 additional miles of routes open to non-motorized use



Recommendations: LIVESTOCK GRAZING



AC recommendation: Keep Rose Creek open but close the Bean Ranch allotment. (*passed*)

PRMP language: Close Bean allotment (due to conflicts with adjoining private lands). Limit Rose Creek to active movement between grazing areas to protect riparian values.

Also: Added language to purpose and need about grazing as a important use to continue, as well as additional socioeconomic analysis.

Note: 205,000 acres of the NCA is open to grazing including 12,000 open to active movement only



Recommendations: National Trails



AC recommendation: Protect the Old Spanish Trail and use **off-site interpretation** versus on- the- ground. (9-0)

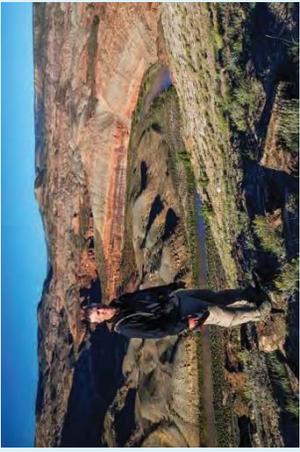
PRMP language: Manage the Old Spanish NHT Management Corridor for auto-tour (along Highway 50 and county roads) interpretive opportunities.



Dominguez Escalante Advisory Council



Thank You!



Collin Ewing
July 23, 2014
Grand Junction, Colorado



DENCA RMP CTMP Proposed Alt E and Route Density with Seasonal Closure

Density Classes

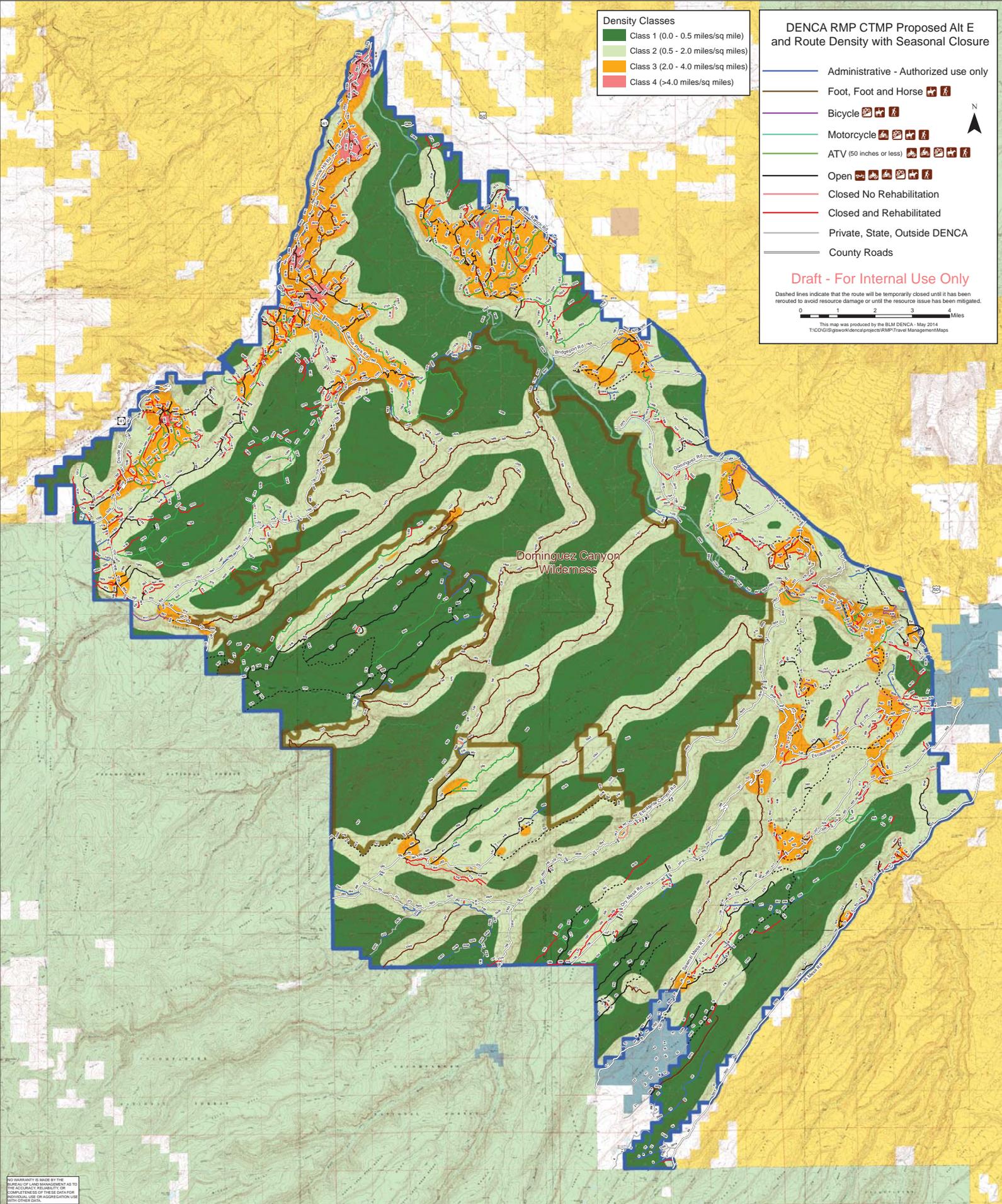
- Class 1 (0.0 - 0.5 miles/sq mile)
- Class 2 (0.5 - 2.0 miles/sq miles)
- Class 3 (2.0 - 4.0 miles/sq miles)
- Class 4 (>4.0 miles/sq miles)

- Administrative - Authorized use only
- Foot, Foot and Horse
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle
- ATV (50 inches or less)
- Open
- Closed No Rehabilitation
- Closed and Rehabilitated
- Private, State, Outside DENCA
- County Roads

Draft - For Internal Use Only

Dashed lines indicate that the route will be temporarily closed until it has been rerouted to avoid resource damage or until the resource issue has been mitigated.

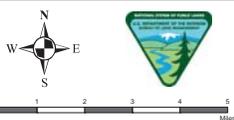
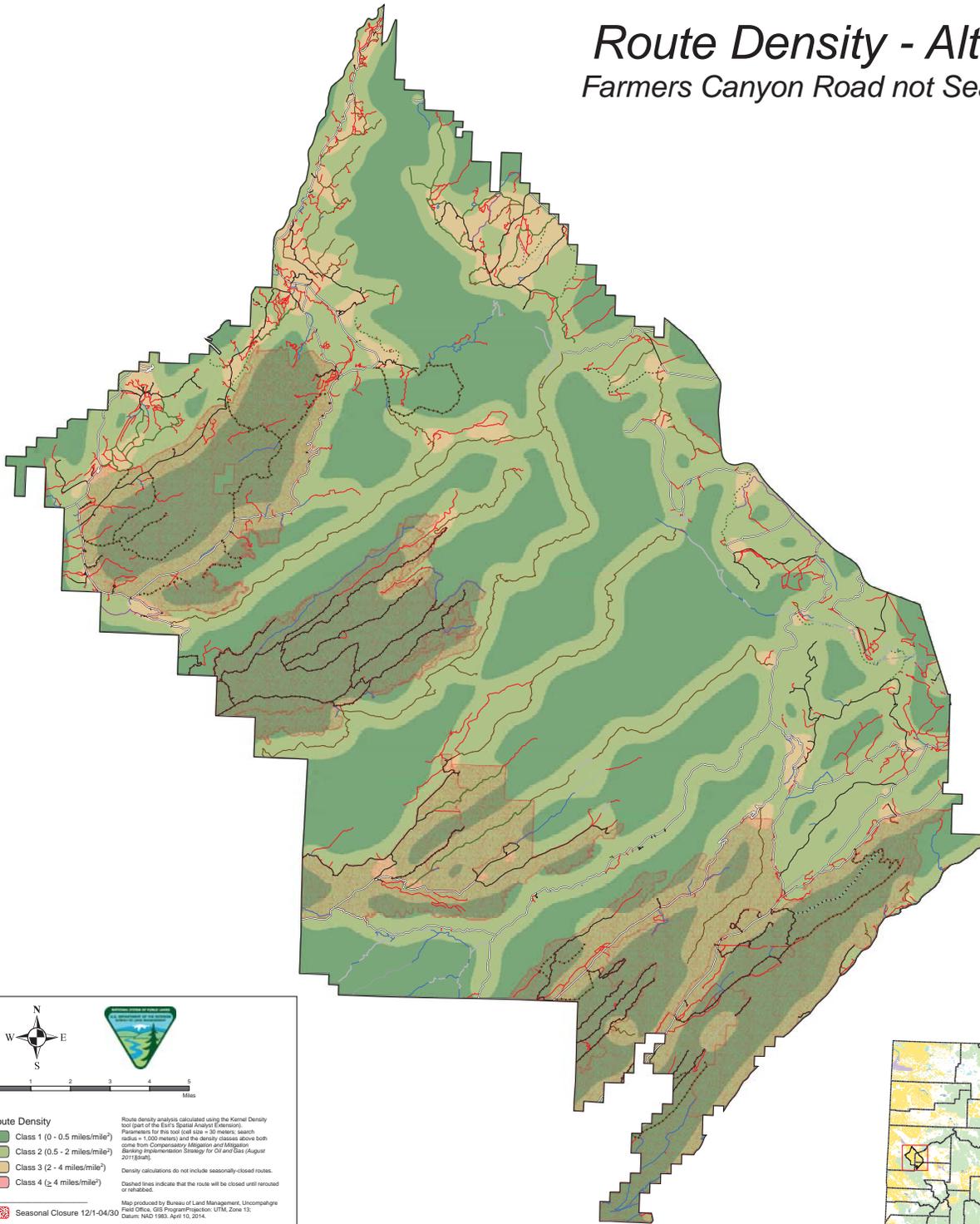
0 1 2 3 4 Miles
 This map was produced by the BLM DENCA - May 2014
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Dominguez - Escalante National Conservation Area

Route Density - Alternative E
Farmers Canyon Road not Seasonally Closed



- Route Designations**
- ATV
 - Administrative
 - Horse and Foot
 - Motorcycle
 - Open
 - Seasonally Closed
 - Closed
 - County
 - Private, Other

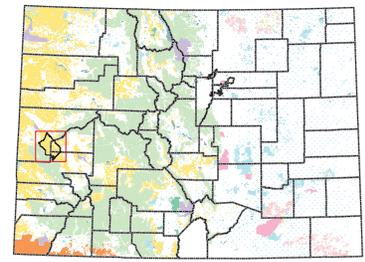
- Route Density**
- Class 1 (0 - 0.5 miles/mile²)
 - Class 2 (0.5 - 2 miles/mile²)
 - Class 3 (2 - 4 miles/mile²)
 - Class 4 (> 4 miles/mile²)

Route density analysis calculated using the Kernel Density tool (part of the Est's Spatial Analyst Extension). Parameters for this tool (cell size = 30 meters; search radius = 1,000 meters) and the density classes above both come from Compensatory Mitigation and Mitigation Banking Implementation Strategy for Oil and Gas (August 2013)Bafy.

Density calculations do not include seasonally-closed routes. Dashed lines indicate that the route will be closed until rerouted or rehabilitated.

Map produced by Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office, GIS Program/Projection: UTM, Zone 13, Datum: NAD 1983, April 10, 2014.

No warranty is made on the accuracy, reliability and completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Spatial data may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.



SRMA

Legend

- ACEC_PRMP
- Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

Note: The Wilderness Act includes specific guidance regarding the management of recreation in the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Proposed EMP - Sawmill Mesa

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service
- Wilderness Boundary
- NCA Boundary



0 0.8 1.6 2.4 Miles

This map was produced by the BLM Grand Junction Field Office - March 2013

Document Path: T:\CD\GIS\gwm\dena\projects\RMP\Proposed\AC map\Sawmill Mesa RMA map 072014.mxd

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