

Minutes of the D-E NCA Advisory Council
July 27, 2016, 3:00–6:00 p.m.
Bill Heddles Recreation Center
Delta, Colorado

Council members attending: Katie Steele, Oscar Massey, Tamera Minnick, Craig Grother, Doug Atchley, Kate Graham, Ralph Files, Kaye Simonson, and Bob Janowski.

Council members absent: Bill Harris

BLM staff attending: Collin Ewing, Anjelica Quintana, Dan Ben-Horin, Dana Wilson, Barb Sharrow, Rebecca Dykes, and Marie Lawrence (note-taker).

Members of the public attending: Janice Shepherd, Robbie LeValley, Deb Littlefield, Marlin Littlefield, Becca Dykes, David Torgler, Walt Blackburn, Mike LeMaster, Cal Nobles, Benjamin Crain, Dan Duteil, Christopher Ryan, Ilene Lewis, Randy Mingus, and others.

3:00 p.m.: [Chair Katie Steele called the meeting to order, and Council members introduced themselves. Steele asked members of the public to introduce themselves].

Steele: This meeting's agenda is to compare the Draft RMP to the Proposed RMP.

Collin Ewing: [He began the PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 1)]. I'm going to talk a little bit about travel management and a little bit about the appeals and protest process, longer than last time. [He went over the discussion overview and the timeline, looking back; then he showed a map of the D-E NCA, an illustrated list of the NCA's purposes, and reviewed the history of the RMP to date, including public involvement, cooperators, and public comments]. The number of times the Advisory Council has met [written on the slide] is out of date. We have met 37 times as of today. [He continued the timeline, looking forward]. What's in the Proposed RMP Alternative? Land use planning decisions. These require an amendment to RMP to change them. [He went over the intent of the presentation (to explain BLM's response to AC recommendation and to talk about changes from Draft RMP to Proposed RMP) then covered special designations: ACECs]. Colorado hookless cactus is only in these areas (Gibbler Mountain and River Rims ACECs). We are trying to protect it so it can be delisted.

Steele: "9-0" means how the Council voted.

Ewing: We heard from the Council and cooperators that the BLM should find other ways to protect [wild and scenic rivers] besides recommending to Congress for wild and scenic river designation. We want to protect the water flow and protect vegetation, so we will seek an in-stream flow. We are trying to protect [the Old Spanish National Historic Trail] so it looks like what it was in the 1800s. The Wilderness was designated by Congress. It has pretty standard management as [mandated by] the Wilderness Act. Group size limits are to ensure opportunities

for solitude. There's a whole section in the document on planning for priority species and vegetation (PPSV). In wilderness, we are supposed to take a hands-off approach and let nature take its course. We don't actively manage unless our priority species or vegetation are in poor or fair condition. We got comments from rafters that breaking groups up didn't make a whole lot of sense, and we also heard from three different groups that changing size limits between zones would be difficult to comply with, so we went with [protect supplemental values in] Zone 2. Not that we couldn't restore in Zones 2 and 3, but that is not emphasized.

Oscar Massey. Would that limit horse routes?

Ewing: If, for example, a cultural site is being vandalized, we may close the route to protect the site. We may [choose to restore and] go in and protect cactus habitat if it is being damaged. [Regarding] lands with wilderness characteristics, we heard that overlapping designations are confusing.

Tamera Minnick. Will you authorize a foot trail?

Ewing: We're open to that, but we want to keep it wild.

Kate Graham: According to the Proposed RMP, there is a recreational component to that experience.

Ewing: That wouldn't be my top priority. [He showed the PPSV Gunnison Sage Grouse slide]. This plan will be amended by the Gunnison Sage Grouse Plan Amendment that the BLM is working on. I don't foresee a whole lot of changes from that plan amendment. We don't want to surround the sage grouse with roads or trails.

Ralph Files: How many birds are in that area?

Ewing: It's designated as critical habitat. Birds go in and out.

Massey: There is wildlife habitat in that area. Everything we do we have to [follow] the NEPA process. I don't think that the NEPA process was followed to [designate] this habitat.

Ewing: We didn't decide that this was critical habitat. CPW [Colorado Parks and Wildlife] declared this critical habitat based on their models. We take that information and use it.

Ewing: [He showed Farmers Canyon Road on a map (see Attachment 2)]. CPW is very concerned about their mule deer herd. The ATV folks love that loop. I sat down with Bob [Janowski] and Steve Boyle and CPW. We came up with what's in the Proposed Plan Alternative: leave [Farmers Canyon Road] open until we re-route. [He explained the difference between extensive recreation management areas (ERMAs) and special recreation management areas (SRMAs)]. ERMAs protect opportunities for the public. SRMAs protect opportunities and also experience. They provide a really high-quality recreational opportunity. While we are not making [the Sawmill Mesa/Wagon Park area explicitly] an SRMA for mountain bike use, we

would work with the community to put in some mountain biking trails there. [He went over other RMAs]. We had a closure [at the mouth of Big Dominguez Canyon] from May to the end of September to protect the flat-water experience. Hikers that want to camp can go into the wilderness through Zone 1. [He reviewed decisions regarding glass containers, geocaching, and recreational target shooting]. Recreational target shooting [decisions] don't apply to hunting lawfully under state regulations; the entire NCA is open to hunting. [He showed the slide on livestock grazing]. 3,850 acres are proposed as closed to grazing, but none of these are previously allotted. We're not closing any acres that anyone is grazing now. We are proposing seasonal restriction in low elevation areas where land health is poor, to avoid grazing while cool season grasses are growing.

Massey: Is the cactus or sage grouse area closed? Does that involve permittees?

Ewing: These are just the broad level allocations. There are still going to be site-specific grazing permits with different restrictions or stipulations. Like Oscar said, we can make a pasture that needs to rest. To close an area to grazing would require a resource management plan amendment.

Massey: Like for sheep grazing, would you close to protect bighorn sheep?

Ewing: The plan gives guidelines to protect bighorn sheep. [The specifics will be at the] permit renewal phase. This doesn't set all the terms and conditions of everybody's grazing permit. That will be determined between the permittees and the range cons [rangeland conservationists].

Craig Grother: There is the possibility of shifting boundaries. Are we losing the ability to use the Bean allotment?

Ewing: It's surrounded by subdivisions.

Massey: It's an isolated piece of land that doesn't have water. It's a wasted piece of country for any practical use. I can't complain of it being shut off.

Grother: It may have been suitable but not practical.

Ewing: What Oscar said: It wasn't practical to graze there when the subdivisions went in. When cows get into Rose Creek, we have to get them out, but that's not closed. The allowable utilization will be determined at the permitting phase. [An audience member asked for the location of Rose Creek, and Ewing pointed it out on a map]. I hear it's a pretty cool place to be but hard to get to.

Steele: I'm going to open this up for public comment. This is not a question and answer.

Janice Shepherd: The Advisory Council position for the SRMA on mountain biking involved Bill [Harris]. Mountain bikers in Grand Junction were sorely disappointed to see the SRMA was dropped. I'm disappointed that hiking was dropped from East Creek ERMA, but lots of stuff I loved.

Member of the public: As an ATV organization interested in trails 50 inches or less, we have commented on and will continue to comment. We would like to see in the final product any OHV trails be 50 feet or less. [If you expand to more than 50 inches], that will create a nightmare, and you will have enforcement problems.

Steele: We have your letter also.

Member of the public: Routes 408 and 409 on the Uncompahgre, over half are designated non-motorized.

Benjamin Crain: People with disabilities or handicapped like me are being blocked from using land. Rattlesnake Arch, I can't get up there or see it. I can't hike in; a lot of these lands are being shut down. It will go to the Supreme Court. There should be a provision put in there for people with disabilities.

Steele: It's 4:20. Let's take a ten minute break.

4:30 pm: [Steele called the meeting to order]. There will be another public comment at 5:30.

Ewing: [He resumed the presentation with the slide on land use authorizations. Massey asked a question about existing ROWs]. This only applies to new ROWs. A lot of ROWs out there are old, and this does not apply.

Massey: There is a new line, a three-phase line. That's something to look at to see if it makes a difference or not.

Ewing: The ROW avoidance [language] allows the BLM to provide for Gateway's or others' needs. [He showed the slide on recreational prospecting]. Recreational prospecting is banned because of Colorado hookless cactus that grows on river banks, but gold panning would be allowed. [He showed the slide on social and economic conditions slide]. The socioeconomic analysis is in an appendix. [He continued the presentation, covering implementation-level decisions, including route designations]. Congress directed us to do route designations, to do travel management planning with the RMP. It's important to recognize that these decisions aren't governed by land use planning regulations. We do expect that route designations will change over the life of the plan to meet our [recreational or resource] objectives. Because they are not governed by planning regulations, they are not [protestable] but can be appealed. We scheduled another AC meeting for August 31, when we are past the protest period.

Grother: Earlier, you talked about Cactus Park, which included an exception for a route. Why isn't that postponed until the implementation phase?

Ewing: We're making an exception for a land use allocation, so we have to include it. The area allocation was limited, to designated routes with a seasonal limitation. In order to make an

exception to that seasonal restriction allocation later on during implementation, we would have to amend the RMP.

Minnick: If you had a seasonal closure allocation, it would require a plan amendment to add route.

Grother: Why not do an implementation-level decision to open the route?

Steele: The present route will be changed. The fact is that one route will remain. We could shift the route, because that would be in implementation-level decision (and only require an environmental assessment).

[There was further discussion about the Farmers Canyon route].

Steele: When we want to make a change, how long will it take?

Ewing: For an EA? It depends. It depends on the level of resource issues; it also depends on the community—who is coming to the table to get things done. For example, in McInnis Canyons, NCA, COPMOBA and the City of Fruita came to the BLM and asked how to get this done (add some new trails). Those partners paid for the archaeology and rare plant monitoring (the BLM couldn't get to this). [The EA for the route] will soon be signed. [Regarding other travel management changes], we went back and looked at those again because we heard from the public that those weren't valid [reasons for closing].

Steele: I appreciate your showing us the difference between the protest and appeal periods. Does the Council have further comments or questions for Collin?

Massey: [Regarding livestock grazing labor income and jobs], we buy hay from the rest of the community in the County. [If that is counted], I'm sure that figure will change drastically, or other items, we buy something used for vaccinations. Everything we do there is eventually going to end up in the pockets of the County. How do you really figure out the value, how important it is? With five or more cattle operations, it's a little bit hard to say how much this is worth.

Doug Atchley: I would concur with you that that number looks light. In Montana, when they change land use, towns are withering away because no one buys [supplies].

Ewing: That was just one number.

Atchley: It's not reflective of the whole picture.

Massey: It's just one of those figures that jump up and down. I pay grazing fees every year that go to the BLM. I don't know how much recreation [income] goes to the BLM.

Ewing: Those numbers aren't concrete. They were used to compare alternatives. The recreation people say the numbers look small.

Files: As the NCA draws more and more people in, in some cases there will be [user conflict]; like Silverton, there was lots of propaganda against the dogs. It was because domestic dogs were taken close to sheep. There has to be advertising [so that people keep their dogs away from sheep].

Graham: That's a great point. The CCA (Colorado Canyons Association) is really seeing that as an [educational opportunity].

Files: I have no real problems with guard dogs.

Grother: During the draft EIS, we and the CPW questioned the model used for risk assessment. Between the draft and the final, it's good to see that the BLM used the national model; however, the analysis and content, and recommendations, are based on BLM's local model, not on the national model. For the Uncompahgre Field Office RMP, the same exact thing is happening. [Because you used] the same questionable assumptions, and not the best scientific model, I can see protests coming in. On page 1201, it shows a map on the PIO model. Results are shown but not utilized in the analysis or management actions.

Atchley: I totally disagree with that. There are plenty of people on the other side who would argue with that.

[There was further discussion regarding bighorn sheep science and conditions on the ground].

Atchley: To arbitrarily say that the national model is *the* model...

Grother: That is currently the accepted model for State agencies. My point is the BLM has gone off and done its own thing.

[There was more discussion of bighorn/domestic sheep interaction and the science behind it].

Grother: I'm not arguing science, but [my reading of this is] it could be protested.

Ewing: We used the local model [and determined] that all the sheep allotments are at high risk, but not the cattle allotments; I think same thing came from the ROC model.

Grother: The RMP-level assessment can be challenged depending on how they assess the ROC model. Washington State has quite a bit of research that doesn't support the national model.

Ewing: We're required to follow BLM policy. I'll have to look more closely at that.

Atchley: CPW will not discuss predators.

Grother: In the BLM document, it says they will continue to manage predators.

Atchley: There are people in this county who want to see all species of wildlife.

Steele: Collin, could you look at this and see if there is merit to this or not and get back to us?

Ewing: If we get a protest between now and the next meeting, I'm not going to be able to talk about it much.

Massey: What is the effect of recreation on wildlife? I see much less sheep. Evidently recreation is having an effect on Dominguez; I don't know about Escalante.

Steele: Any more Council comments? It's 5:30, so let's turn it over to public comments.

Robbie LeValley: Can you send this out so we can see the difference between protest and appeal? [She asked Grother to clarify his statements about BLM not following the national model].

Grother: There's a comparison, but the analysis was done using the local model, and the BMPs are based on the local model. According to the BLM's policy, they should be using the national model.

Steele: Any more questions? The next meeting is in Grand Junction at the Mesa County Courthouse on August 31.

Ewing: We won't have a decision yet, but we will have gotten through the protest period. I'm encouraging people interested in routes to talk to Council members. There's still time to make changes [before the ROD]. We can't make sweeping changes, but if there's anything we need to talk about, we should do it while there's still time to fix it. If we need to have a follow-up meeting to [August 31], we need to [plan it] now. I suggest two meetings if you want to discuss travel management.

Steele: At what point do we talk about [travel management]?

Ewing: There is time to make a handful of changes.

Steele: Do you [the Advisory Council] want another meeting in September?

Graham: I'm interested in [discussing] implementation-phase priorities.

Minnick: I agree with Kate.

Bob Janowski: If I bring [Collin] a list of all the things to be fixed, I don't think that needs to be brought to the meeting.

Steele: Is it the general feeling of the Council that we stay away from the route-by-route, and if there are any errors or omissions, we bring them to [Collin]? Is that a consensus?

[The Council assented, and Graham re-emphasized the idea of helping the BLM with implementation-level priorities].

Janowski: September is the best time to not be [in a meeting]. I suggest October.

Kaye Simonson: We need to shift gears from planning to implementation.

Files: [He spoke about the timing of the Uncompahgre National Forest travel management implementation as an example not to follow].

Ewing: We still need to make sure there is time on the agenda to discuss errors and omissions, things that need to be changed. I can come up with a briefing, an introduction to the prioritization plan.

Shepherd: What is small to some people is large to others [and may need to be brought before the Council].

Ewing: I sent the Council's email addresses to people and told them to contact the Council.

5:50 p.m. [The meeting was adjourned].

Attachments:

1. D-E NCA Proposed RMP and Final EIS presentation for AC, July 27, 2016
2. Map: *Route Designations and Recreation Management Areas Proposed Plan Alternative*

ATTACHMENT 1



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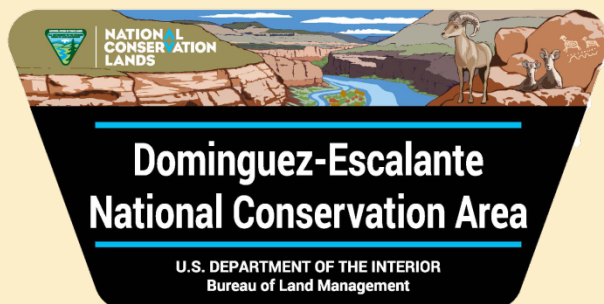
**Bureau of Land
Management**

**Advisory Council
Meeting**

July 27, 2016

**Proposed Resource Management Plan
and
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

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





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DISCUSSION TOPICS



1. Timeline Overview
2. Designation Legislation
3. Public Involvement
4. What is in the plan?
 - Including Changes from the Draft RMP



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TIMELINE

- Summer 2006—Mesa State College, Mesa, Delta, Montrose county commissioners, and Public Land Partnership initiated public community discussions on legislative options for managing the Dominguez-Escalante Special Management Area
- Summer 2007—All counties reached a consensus on recommending NCA and wilderness providing that historic ranching be preserved, no federal reserved water right, Wilderness would not be larger than WSA
- Spring 2009—Omnibus Public Lands Act designated D-E NCA and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness



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D-E NCA DESIGNATION

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



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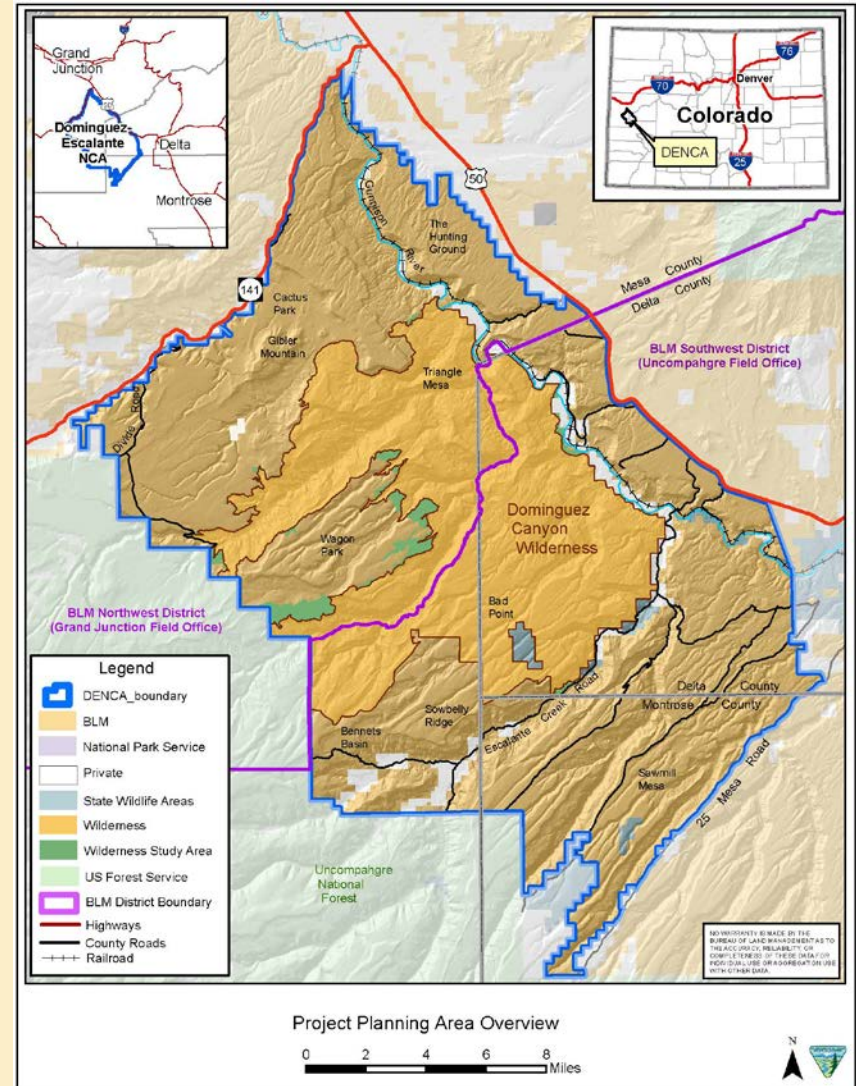
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D-E NCA DESIGNATION

Land Status	Total Acres
BLM	210,172
State of CO	1,965
Private	6,256
Total	218,393

- Dominguez Canyon Wilderness: 66,280 acres
- 2 Field Offices: Uncompahgre, Grand Junction
- 3 counties: Mesa, Delta, and Montrose





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PURPOSES



Archaeological



Natural



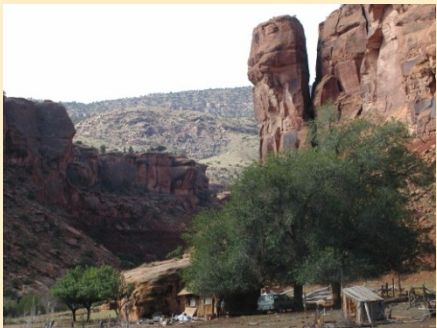
Geological, Scenic



Wildlife



Paleontological,
Scientific,
Educational



Historic



Wilderness



Cultural



Recreational
Riparian,
Water

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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 May 2016– BLM analyzed public comments and prepared the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (4 AC meetings)

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & CONSULTATION

Open Houses

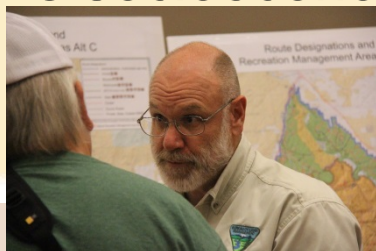
- 2 Scoping in 2010
- 2 Travel management in 2010/2011
- 2 Draft RMP in 2013

Stakeholder Meetings

- 5 Wild and Scenic River
- Colorado Mesa University focus group
 - ✓ 6 recreation/wilderness forums
 - ✓ Visitor surveys and report
- 3 socioeconomic workshops

To Date

- 10 CA meetings
- 35 AC meetings; 3 field trips
- Consultation with 3 Ute tribal governments
- *15 Canyon Clarion* newsletters





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COOPERATORS

D-E NCA Advisory Council

Representatives:

- 1 member representing each county government
- 1 member representing grazing permittees
- 6 residents representing purposes or interests of stakeholders



Cooperating Agencies

Delta County

Mesa County

Montrose County

City of Delta

City of Grand Junction

City of Montrose

Colorado Dept. of Natural
Resources:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Water Conservation Board

U. S. Forest Service

Native American Tribes

Ute Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray
Reservations

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe



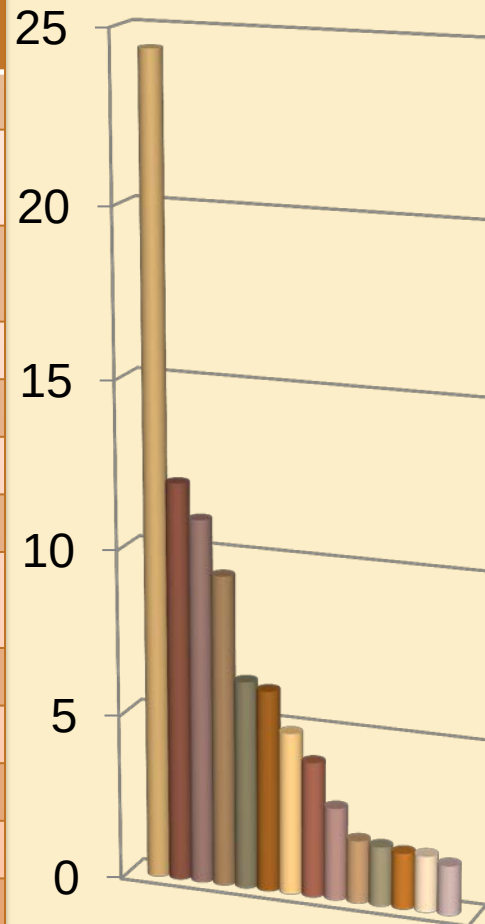


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PUBLIC COMMENTS to Draft RMP

Comment Category	Number of Comments	Percentage of Total
Recreation	429	24.4%
Travel Management: Route Designation	212	12.0%
Travel Management: Allocations and Process	193	11.0%
Wildlife	166	9.4%
Livestock Grazing	110	6.3%
Vegetation/Special Status Plants	108	6.1%
Recreational Target Shooting	86	4.9%
Wilderness and lands with wilderness characteristics	73	4.1%
ACEC	54	3.1%
Socioeconomics	50	2.8%
Soils and Water	34	1.9%
Implementation-Level Comments	31	1.8%
Wild and Scenic Rivers	30	1.7%
General Planning	30	1.7%
Cultural and Heritage Resources	27	1.5%





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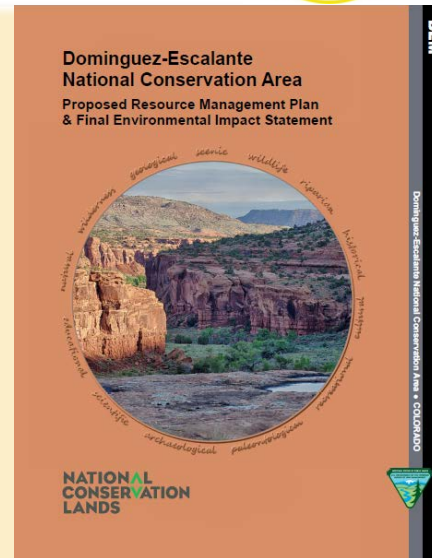
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TIMELINE

Looking Forward...

- July 1-31 Protest Period (30 days)
- July 1-August 30 Governor's consistency review (60 days)
- *Fall/Winter 2016 (hopefully), Record of Decision and Approved RMP*
 - 30 day appeal period on route designations





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WHAT'S IN THE PROPOSED PLAN ALTERNATIVE?





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LAND USE PLANNING LEVEL DECISIONS (PROPOSED)

Require an RMP amendment to change

Land Use Allocations

Examples:

Special Designations

- o Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Resource Protections

- o Wildlife objectives
- o Prohibit Surface disturbance in riparian areas

Resource Uses

- o Recreation Management Areas
- o Limited to Designated Routes
- o Recreation Objectives
- o Open/Closed to grazing

Can be protested (43 CFR 1610.5-2)

- Within 30 days of PRMP/FEIS
- Must have participated in process
- BLM Director (Washington) decides





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WHAT'S IN THE PROPOSED PLAN ALTERNATIVE?

Intent of this Presentation:

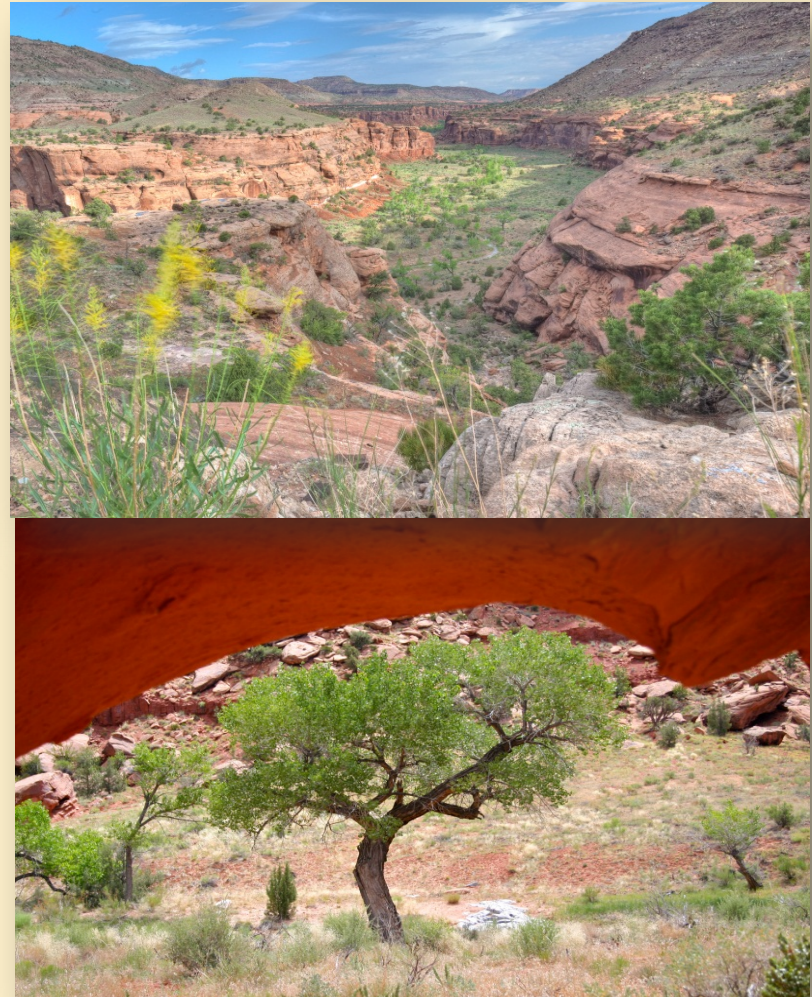
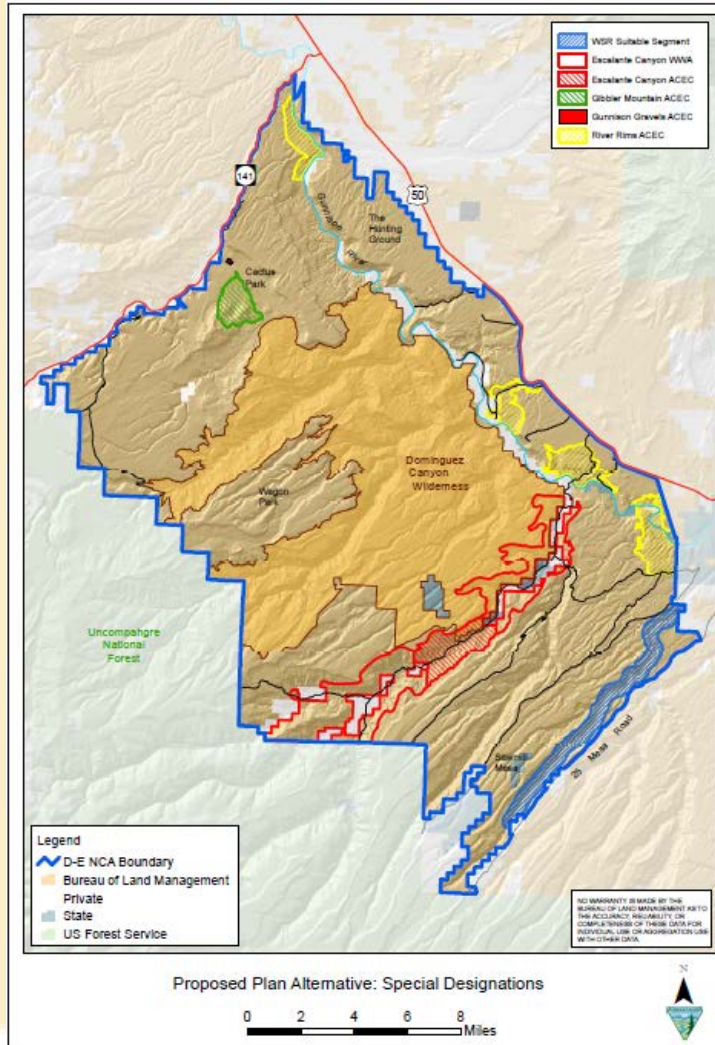
- Focus on BLM's response to Advisory Council recommendations on RMP allocation decisions
- Discuss substantive changes made from Draft Preferred Alt. to Proposed Plan Alt.



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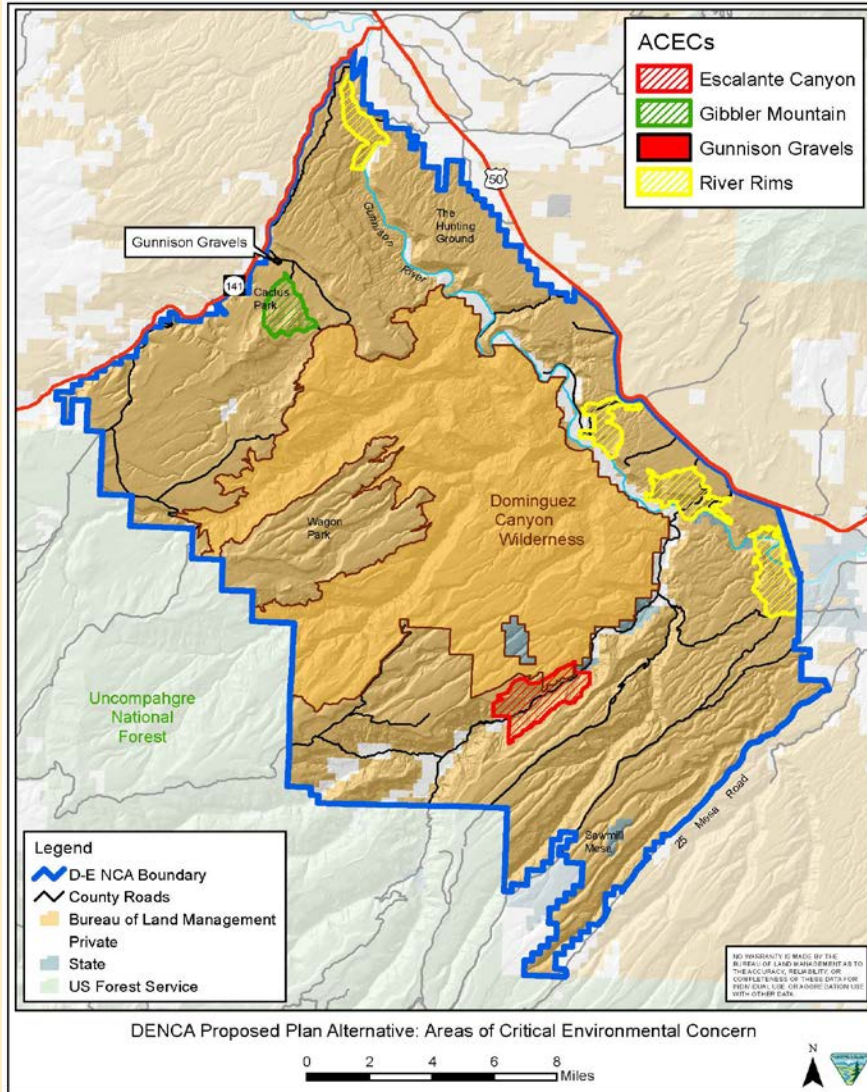
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS





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ACECs

- Carry forward current Gunnison Gravels and Escalante Canyon ACECs
- Add new Gibbler Mountain and River Rims ACECs – managed for protection of sensitive paleontological resources and rare plant species



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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.



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WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

- 1 segment found
Suitable in Draft RMP
- In Proposed - BLM
would not forward
Suitable
recommendation
 - ✓ seek in-stream flow
thru Colorado Water
Conservation Board





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OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

- Auto-tour interpretive opportunities along designated routes, Highway 50, and on county roads



Dominguez-Escalante NCA Proposed Resource Management Plan

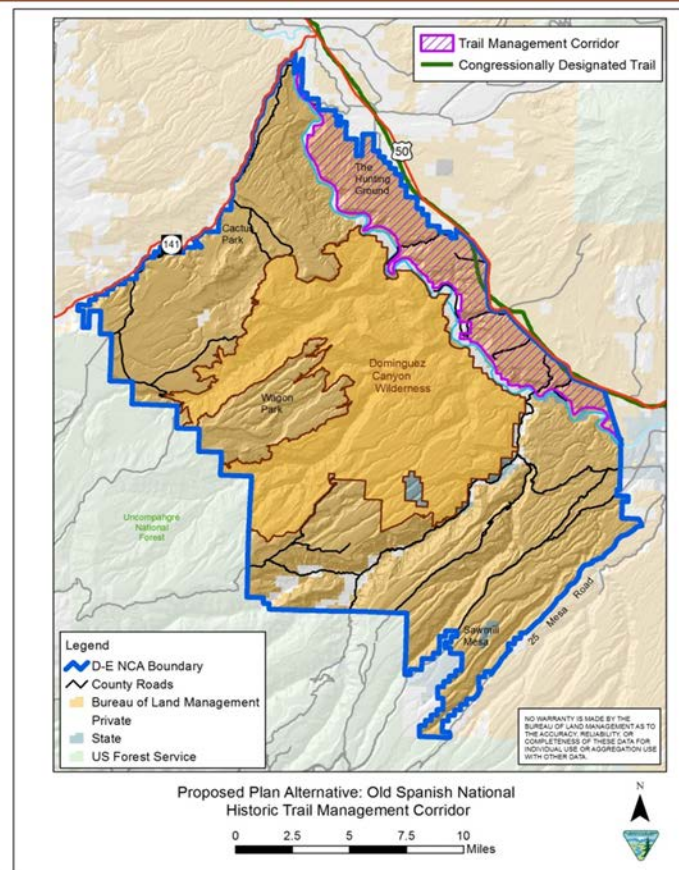


Figure 2-17p



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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.





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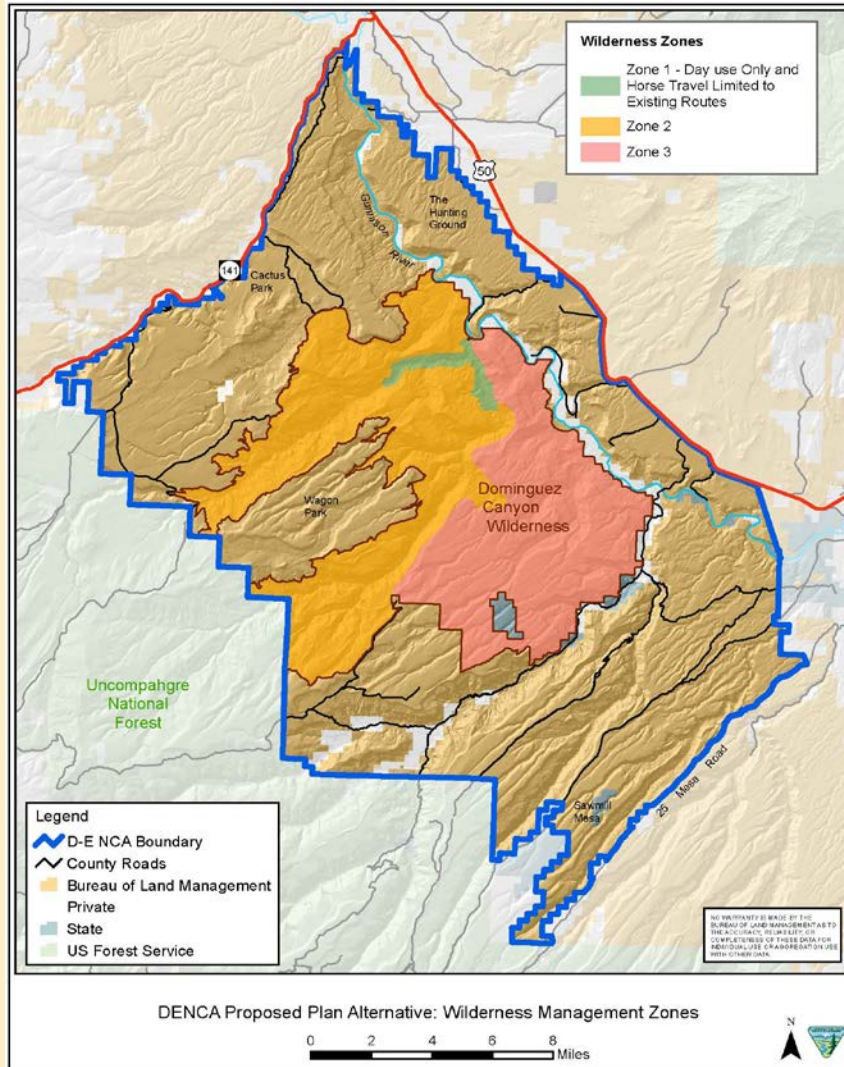
RESOURCES





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DOMINGUEZ CANYON WILDERNESS

Proposed Plan Alternative

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Emphasis on protecting and restoring naturalness	Zone 1 management, plus protecting supplemental values and opportunities for solitude	Zone 1 and Zone 2 management, plus opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

- Group size limit 25 in Zone 1 and 12 in Zone 2 & 3
- Active vegetation management in the wilderness limited to “fair” or “poor” conditions



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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.



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Recommendations: Wilderness

AC recommendation: Support alternative E for **group size** limitations (*Zone 1: 12, Zone 2: 8, Zone 3: 12 including pets and stock*), 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



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LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

- Cottonwood Canyon/Dry Fork managed for wilderness characteristics

Change: Overlapping SRMA designation and recreation objectives removed





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PRIORITY SPECIES AND VEGETATION GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE

Will be amended by GuSG Plan Amendment EIS



Manage sagebrush habitat to:

- Prohibit Surface Disturbance in winter habitat
- Use vegetation treatments to meet structural habitat guidelines for GuSG
- No new routes in unfragmented sagebrush shrublands
- Close routes to reduce fragmentation
- Prevent Pinyon-juniper expansion into sagebrush shrublands





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Recommendations: Priority Species and Vegetation

GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE

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.



MOUNTAIN SHRUB

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

PRMP language: *Same as Alternative D*





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Recommendations: Wildlife

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.





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RESOURCE USES





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RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

Name	Type	Targeted Use	Acres
Gunnison River	SRMA	Non-motorized float boating, camping	3,746
Cactus Park	SRMA	Motorized trail use, camping	27,406
Escalante Canyon	SRMA	Heritage and Wildlife Tourism, Education, ecological resources, picnicking	2,880
Ninemile Hill	ERMA	Equestrian and Hiking trails and dispersed camping	10,440
Sawmill Mesa/Wagon Park	ERMA	Motorized, non-motorized, dispersed camping, big-game hunting, backcountry auto touring	58,718
East Creek	ERMA	Auto touring and climbing	1,783
Hunting Ground	ERMA	Motorized, non-motorized, dispersed camping. Old Spanish NHT setting protection and interpretation.	23,131
- Alternative A (existing RMPs) have no RMA designations - Proposed Plan 39% of planning area has no RMA designation (mostly Wilderness)			Total 128,104 (61% of total planning area)



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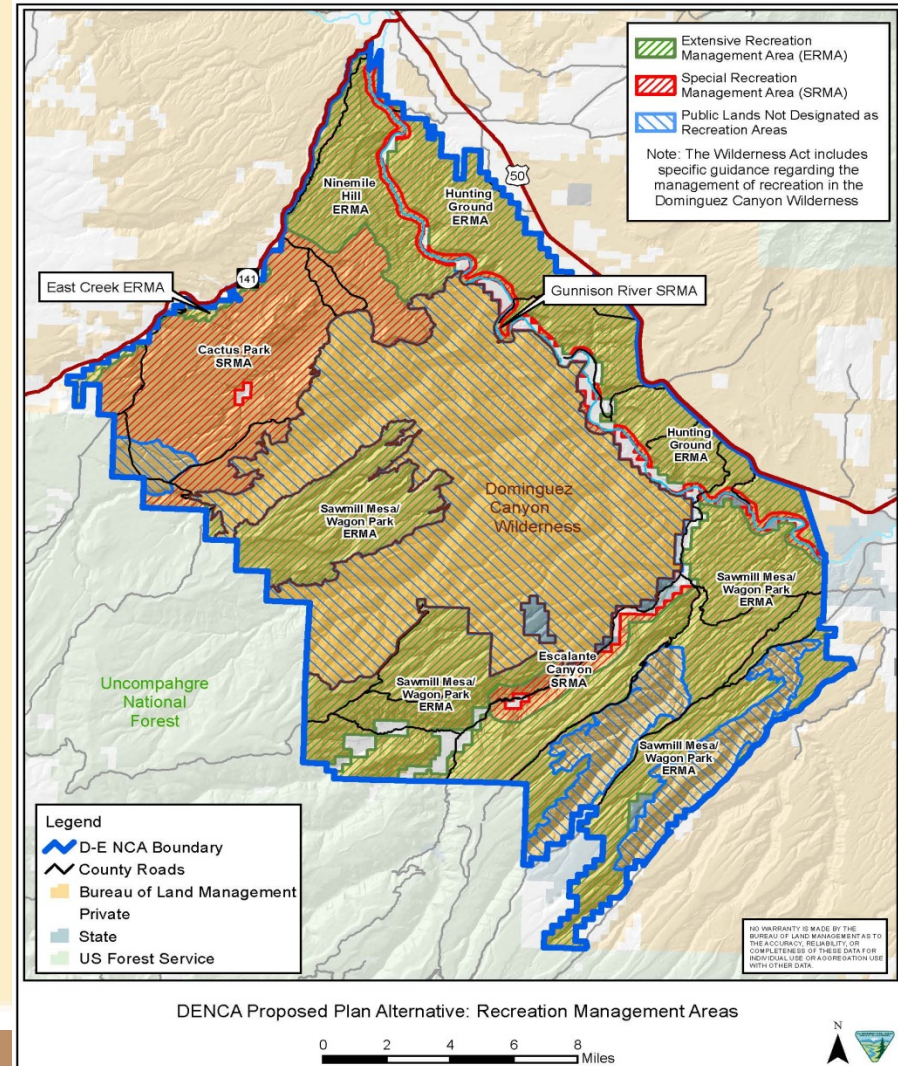


Changes from Draft to Proposed:

Sawmill Mesa/Wagon Park Seek opportunity to work with community partners to complete and implement a plan to develop non-motorized loop trail system

Ninemile Hill ERMA/Cactus Park SRMA boundary changed to provide more motorized access and connection to Tabeguache Trail

Additional socioeconomic analysis including analysis of socioeconomic non-market values, other changes to socio





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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.



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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.





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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.





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Recommendations: RECREATION

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.



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RECREATIONAL TARGET SHOOTING

Alternative	Acres Closed
Proposed Plan Alt	9,995
Draft Preferred	9,995

- Hunting specifically allowed in the NCA, following state regulations
- 95% of the NCA open to target shooting
- About 10,000 acres closed for public safety and Scenic geologic and cultural resources (campgrounds, trailheads, narrow scenic red rock canyons with rock art)





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Recommendations: RECREATION

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

PRMP language:

Same as Draft Preferred (Alternative E)





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AC recommendation: **Seek additional access** points into the Wilderness, the NCA in general...

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.





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LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Available to Grazing (ac)	Closed to Grazing (ac)	Active Movement Only (ac)	AUMs
206,127	3,850	11,938	14,349



- Closing the Bean allotment (currently unallotted)
- Major canyons (riparian) would be limited to trailing only
- Seasonal restrictions on low elevation areas not meeting land health



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Recommendations: 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 an important use to continue, as well as additional socioeconomic analysis.

Other Changes from Draft to Proposed:

- Defined livestock trailing – “active movement”
- Utilization determined on a site-specific basis





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Recommendations: GRAZING/BIGHORN SHEEP

- Advisory Council did not make formal recommendations to change the Draft Preferred
- At Nov. 2014 Council Meeting BLM committed to:
 - Revisit the dog numbers to see if wording can be made to get the objective across without the numbers of dogs.
 - Redefine the yearling/bred ewe language
 - Double check the gregarious breeds
 - Add results of Risk of Contact Model





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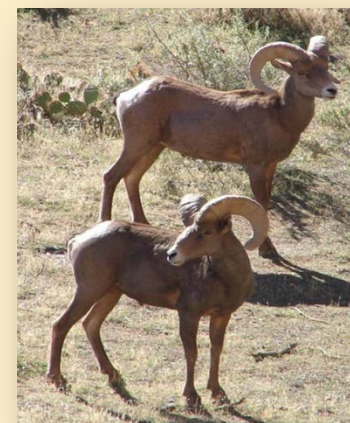
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GRAZING/BIGHORN SHEEP

Changes:

- Included National Risk of Contact Model results
- Updated protective measures for each risk category
 - ✓ Herd size increased to 2,000
 - ✓ Consider converting from sheep to cattle when opportunities arise
 - ✓ All domestic ewes must be bred prior to turnout
 - ✓ Reduced Required minimum to 2 Guard dogs
- Restrict motorized and non-motorized route construction in bighorn sheep lambing areas
- No pack goats





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LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS

For new ROWs:

**Draft RMP – ROW exclusion for entire NCA except
Highway 50 buffer (ROW avoidance) and
Unaweep Canyon(Utility Corridor)**

Allow for reasonable access to non-Federal property

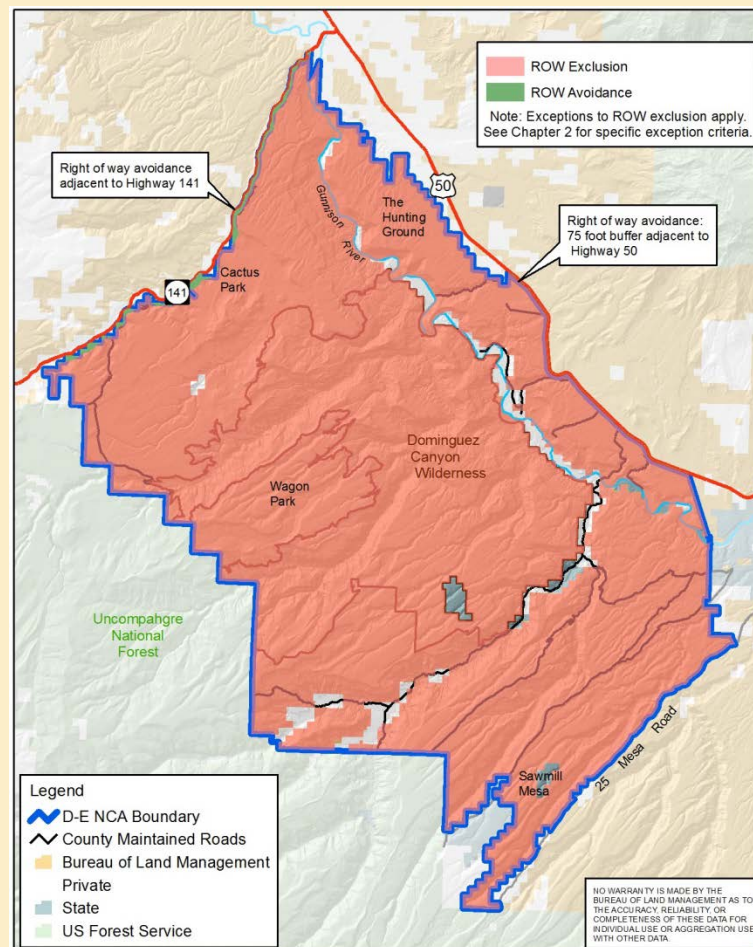
**Proposed – ROW exclusion for entire NCA except
Highway 50 buffer (ROW avoidance) and
Unaweep Canyon (ROW Avoidance)**

Allow for reasonable access to non-Federal property

ROW avoidance definition:

**“....may be available for ROW location with
special stipulations”**

Council recommended a “High bar” approach for ROWs



Proposed Plan Alternative: Right-of-Way Exclusion and Avoidance Areas
(only applies to new rights-of-way)



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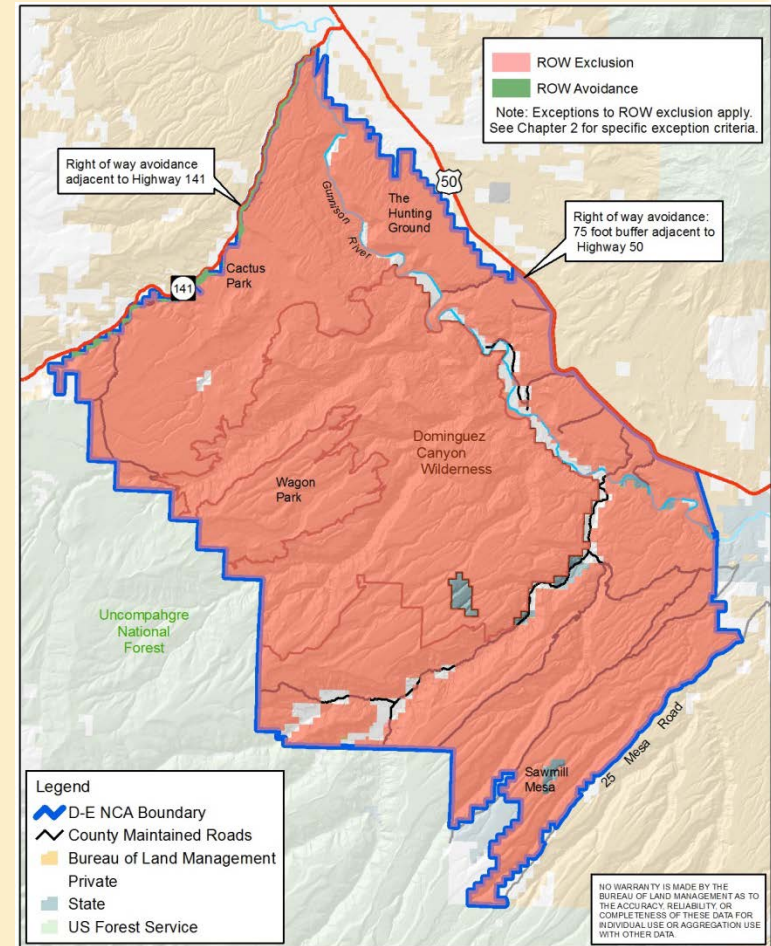


Recreational Prospecting

Draft RMP – "Close the D-E NCA to all recreational prospecting."

Proposed – "Allow recreational gold panning in the NCA. Panning will be restricted to collection of material with non-motorized and non-mechanized equipment below the surface of the water. It will also be restricted to processing of material with non-motorized and non-mechanized equipment. Re-evaluate if resource conditions warrant restrictions or closures. Close the D-E NCA to all other forms of recreational prospecting."

Council recommended restrictions
on prospecting, panning in the river only
(9/2011 & 5/2012)



Proposed Plan Alternative: Right-of-Way Exclusion and Avoidance Areas
(only applies to new rights-of-way)





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Social and Economic Conditions

- Additional information on agricultural income included
- Analysis expanded to include non-market value of agriculture and recreation
- Appendix describing analysis method added
- Highlighted importance of agriculture and recreation to local economy



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IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL DECISIONS (PROPOSED)

Used to Implement Land Use Planning
Level Decisions

Route Designations

- Not governed by Planning Regulations
- Adaptable/Do not require a RMP amendment to change (usually an EA)
- Based on monitoring results the designated route system can be changed to meet RMP objectives
- Can be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals **After the Decision is Made** 43 CFR Part 4 Subpart E





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TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ROUTE DESIGNATION PROCESS

- 2010/2011 – BLM asked the community to submit knowledge of and opinions about routes
- 2012 – BLM compiled internal and external knowledge and field verified a comprehensive route system; routes were given preliminary designations





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TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ROUTE DESIGNATION PROCESS

- 2013 – After Draft RMP public comment period, BLM revisited designation criteria and process
 - ✓ “no recreation value” and “redundant” criteria removed
- May/June 2014 - Interdisciplinary team meetings with CA to make final route designations
 - o Reviewed each route comment prior to making final designation
- 2015 – Additional route designation changes made based on CA, AC, and public comments





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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 51 additional miles of routes open to motorized use

Designated 43 additional miles of routes open to non-motorized use





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TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ROUTE DESIGNATIONS

Designation	Alt A mi	Alt B mi	Alt C mi	Alt D mi	Alt E mi	Prop osed Plan mi
Open to Some form of public use	744	413	243	463	45 7	551
Motorized	628	329	186	329	35 6	407
Mechanized	0	10	22	68	7	12
Foot/ Equestrian	90	46	35	66	94	132



- Approximately 51 miles more routes open to motorized, 94 more miles open to some form of public use in Proposed Plan Alt than Draft Preferred
- Farmers Canyon Road remains open until BLM constructs a new route outside big game winter concentration areas



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Other Fun Facts

- Approximately 137,000 recreational visits in the NCA contribute \$2.1 Million in labor income and 69 jobs to the surrounding communities annually
- 206,000 acres (98%) - acres open to livestock grazing contributes \$580,000 in labor income and 32 jobs to the surrounding communities annually.
- Net benefit to recreation users in NCA PRMP=\$5.85M (non-market value)
- 81% of the public land in the NCA is within 1 mile of a motorized route
- 551 – miles of travel routes open to public use (enough to get from Escalante Canyon to Mile High Stadium and back)
- 407 – Miles of motorized routes (enough to drive from the Mesa County line to the Denver Metro Area and back)



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TIME FOR QUESTIONS



ATTACHMENT 2

Route Designations and Recreation Management Areas Proposed Plan Alternative

