

# Uncompahgre Field Office

Draft RMP/Draft EIS

**BLM Director Briefing**

April 27, 2016



RMP Revision  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
SW District  
Colorado

RMP Web Site -- [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html)

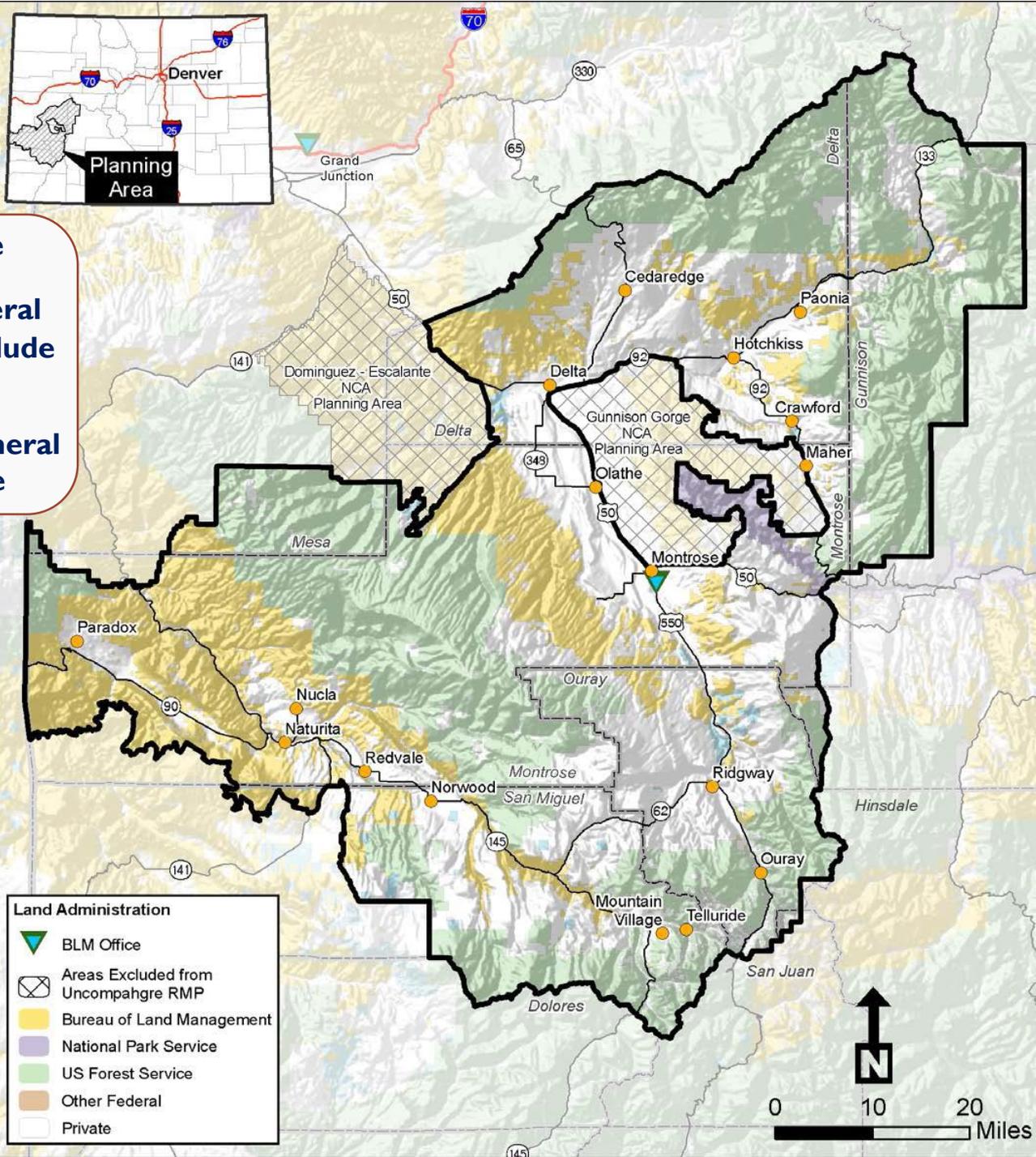


**675,800 acres – BLM Surface**

**971,220 acres - Federal mineral estate (does not include USFS)**

**295,420 acres of Federal mineral estate is Split Estate**

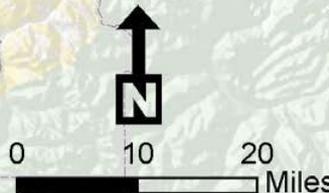
# Uncompahgre Planning Area



**Land Administration**

- BLM Office
- Areas Excluded from Uncompahgre RMP
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Other Federal
- Private

**Map I**  
has additional detail





# Public Involvement

- Public Scoping – January 2010
- Ten Cooperating Agency Meetings
  - 18 Cooperators including
    - 3 Federal (USFWS, BOR, USFS),
    - 2 State agencies (DNR, Delta Conservation District),
    - 5 Counties, and
    - 8 Communities
- Ten SW RAC Sub-Group Meetings
- Presented draft Alternatives to the RAC Sub-group and Cooperating Agencies for review and comment
- Met with the North Fork group in April 2013 and in December 2013 to discuss and clarify the North Fork Alternative Plan (more discussion later in the presentation).





# Alternatives

Four complete alternatives and one sub-alternative

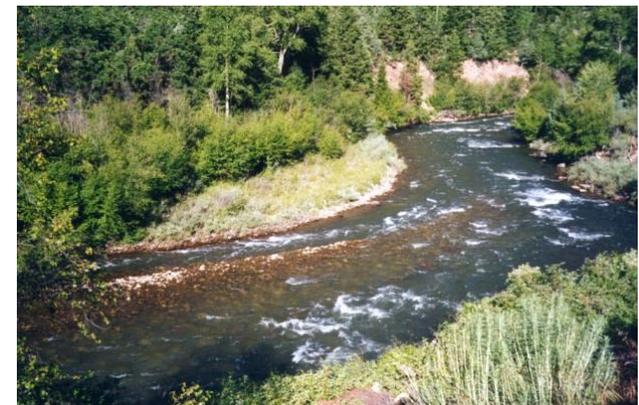
- A – No Action. Continues current management direction and prevailing conditions.
- B – Emphasizes restoring resources and sustaining ecological integrity of habitats
- B.1 – North Fork Alternative (a partial alternative specific to oil and gas). A community alternative that applies only to the North Fork Alternative Plan area.
- C – Makes the most of resources that target social and economic outcomes.
- D – Agency preferred. Emphasizes balancing resources and resource uses.

# Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)



<b>Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Preferred (D)</b>
<b># of Existing</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b># of New</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Number of ACECs</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>30,000</b> (4.4%)	<b>215,840</b> (31.9%)	<b>29,440</b> (4.4%)	<b>51,320</b> (7.6%)

The Tabeguache Creek ACEC was dropped from B, C, D. The Tabeguache Area is Congressionally-designated, and has protections for the ACEC values.



**See Maps 2 and 3**



# Wild and Scenic Rivers

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>29 Eligible Segments (154.1 miles)</b>				
<b>Suitable Segments</b>	-	29	0	16
<b>Total Miles of Suitable</b>	-	154.1	0	104.6





# Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>Number of areas managed for wilderness characteristics</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,320</b>
<b>Percent of BLM Surface</b>		<b>6.2</b>		<b>2.7</b>

A	B	C	D
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camel Back WSA Adjacent (6,950 acres)</li> <li>• Dry Creek Basin (7,030 acres)</li> <li>• Roc Creek (5,480 acres)</li> <li>• Adobe Badlands WSA Adjacent (6,180 acres)</li> <li>• Dolores River Canyon WSA Adjacent (550 acres)</li> <li>• Lower Tabeguache/Campbell Creek (11,060 acres)</li> <li>• Shavano Creek (4,900 acres)</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camel Back WSA Adjacent (6,950 acres)</li> <li>• Dry Creek Basin (7,030 acres)</li> <li>• Roc Creek (4,340 acres).</li> </ul>

Inventoried in 2010, and updated the inventory in 2015

**See Map 5**

# Special Recreation Management Area Extensive Recreation Management Area

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>SRMA: Number Acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>2</b> <b>49,320</b> (7.3%)	<b>11</b> <b>244,050</b> (36.1%)	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b> <b>124,400</b> (18.4%)
<b>ERMA: Number Acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b> <b>215,880</b> (32%)	<b>4</b> <b>73,310</b> (10.9%)





# Target Shooting

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Preferred (D)</b>
<b>Open to Target Shooting Acres</b>	<b>675,780</b> (100%, almost)	<b>437,810</b> (64.8%)	<b>675,780</b> (100%, almost)	<b>626,430</b> (92.7%)
<b>Closed to Target Shooting (Acres)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>237,990</b> (35.2%)	<b>10</b>	<b>49,370</b> (7.3%)

All alternatives specifically allow hunting in accordance with Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations.



# Trails and Travel Management

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>Open (to Cross-Country Motorized, Mechanized), Acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>8,560</b> (1.3%)	<b>0</b>	<b>16,070</b> (2.4%)	<b>0</b>
<b>Limited to Designated Routes, Acres</b>	<b>611,090</b>	<b>560,830</b>	<b>614,560</b>	<b>617,240</b>
<b>Closed to Motorized Travel, Acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>56,150</b> (8.3%)	<b>114,970</b> (17%)	<b>45,170</b> (6.7%)	<b>58,560</b> (8.7%)

Uncompahgre will initiate comprehensive travel management planning in each of the five TMP areas within five years after the ROD is approved.

Route designations have been completed on 111,586 acres, and these designations are carried forward.





# Livestock Grazing

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Preferred (D)</b>
<b>Acres Open to Livestock Grazing</b>	<b>658,540</b>	<b>510,070</b>	<b>647,900</b>	<b>611,560</b>
<b>Acres Closed to Livestock Grazing (all classes)</b>	<b>17,260</b> (2.6%)	<b>165,730</b> (24.5%)	<b>27,900</b> (4.1%)	<b>64,240</b> (9.5%)
<b>Animal Unit Months Available</b>	<b>38,364</b>	<b>29,862</b>	<b>37,926</b>	<b>36,424</b>

Why there is not a “No Grazing” Alternative:

- No issues or conflicts that can only be resolved through the elimination of all livestock grazing
- Exclusion or adjustment of livestock use within an allotment was incorporated into the alternatives to address issues
- Able to adjust livestock grazing permits (e.g., AUMs, acres, and period of use) based on monitoring, land health assessments, and the BLM Colorado Public Land Health Standards.





# Coal Leasing

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>Coal Potential, acres</b> Acres are within the coal resource development potential area	<b>145,860</b>	<b>421,500</b>		
<b>Unsuitable for Coal Leasing</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Unacceptable for Coal Leasing</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>96,650</b>	<b>11,860</b>	<b>45,690</b>
<b>Closed to Coal Leasing</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,910</b>
<b>Acceptable for Coal Leasing</b>	<b>144,790</b>	<b>320,440</b>	<b>405,230</b>	<b>371,400</b>

## Coal Potential

Coal potential is expanded in this RMP because:

Expanded Dakota coal fields, which were not recognized in the old RMPs, and newer technology that allows mining deeper coal.

2 active underground coal mines

No surface mines



Longwall mining operation in Elk Creek Mine.

**See Map 7**



# ROW Exclusion, ROW Avoidance

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>ROW Exclusion, acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>85,080</b> (12.6%)	<b>431,040</b> (63.8%)	<b>44,550</b> (6.6%)	<b>53,700</b> (8%)
<b>ROW Avoidance, acres</b> % of BLM Surface	<b>0</b>	<b>195,460</b> (28.9%)	<b>210,390</b> (31.1%)	<b>276,500</b> (40.9%)

## Land Disposal

Alternative	A	B	C	Preferred (D)
<b>Lands Identified for Disposal</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>1,930</b>

# Gunnison Sage Grouse Critical Habitat

<b>BLM Surface</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>% of BLM Surface</b>
<b>Occupied Habitat</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Potential habitat</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,330</b>	<b>1.8</b>



Management in the Preferred Alternative includes:

- Timing Limitation for winter habitat
- Timing Limitation for nesting habitat within 4.0 miles of a lek
- NSO for breeding (lek) habitat (0.6 mile radius from a lek)
- CSU, 4.0 miles from a lek, to protect late brood-rearing and winter habitat
- ROW Avoidance for breeding (lek) habitat (0.6 mile radius from a lek)

**See Map 8**



# Oil and Gas

	<b>BLM Surface</b>	<b>Split- Estate</b>	<b>Total (Decision Area)</b>
<b>Total Federal Fluid Mineral Estate, acres</b>	675,800	240,230	916,030
<b>Total leased area, acres</b> Percent	76,920 11.4%	37,470 12.7%	114,390 11.8%

35 federal wells drilled over past 20 years,  
31 of which were drilled over past 10 years

RFD projects 418 BLM-managed wells over the next 20 years,  
and 1,271 wells in planning area.

38% conventional/directional wells,  
62% coalbed wells.



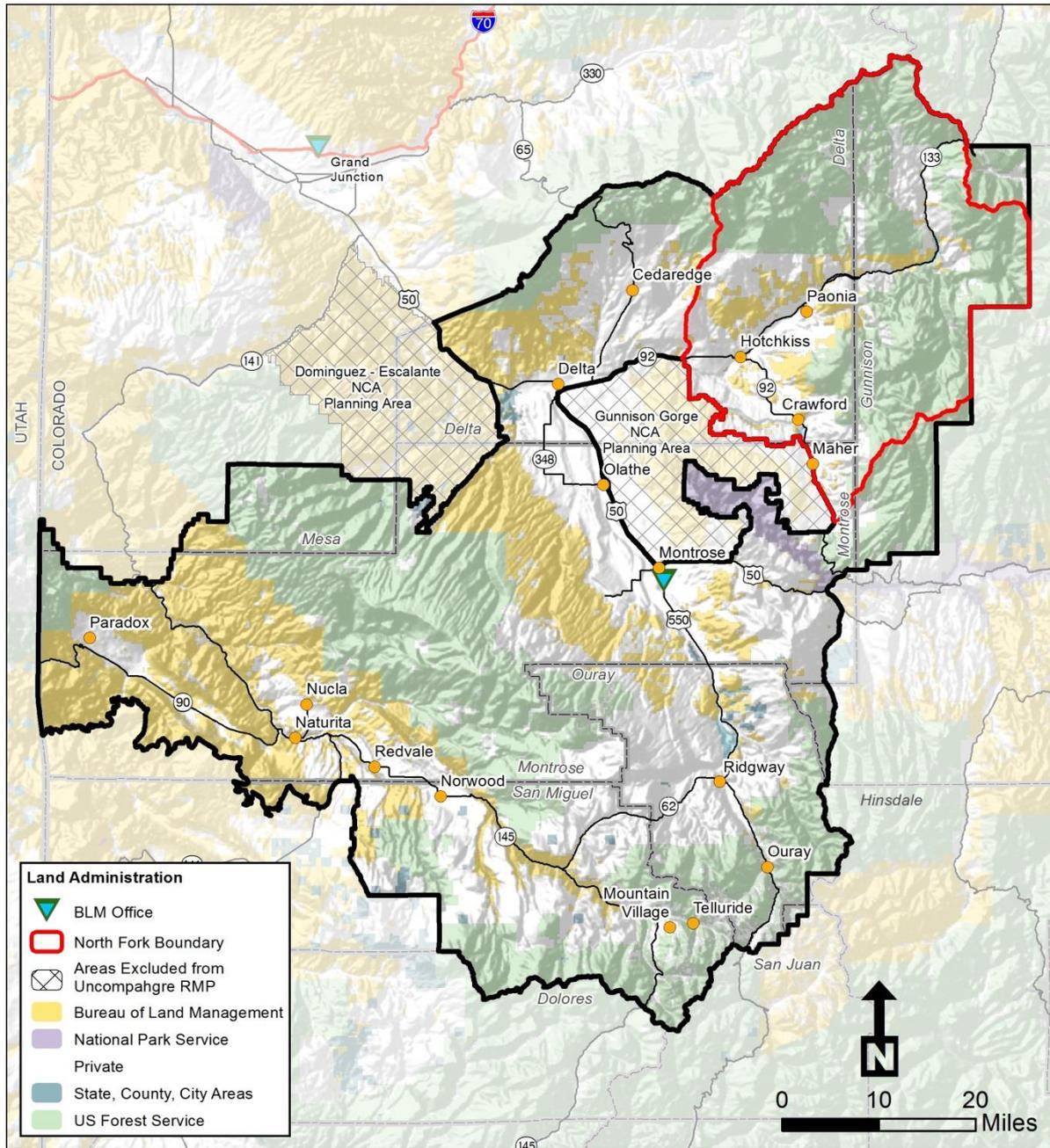


# Fluid Mineral Leasing

## Decision Area

Alternative	A	B	B.I	C	Preferred (D)
<b>Open to Leasing</b>	<b>871,810</b> 95.2%	<b>696,450</b> 76.0%	<b>609,360</b> 66.5%	<b>871,810</b> 95.2%	<b>865,970</b> 94.5%
<b>No Leasing</b>	<b>44,220</b> 4.8%	<b>219,580</b> 24.0%	<b>306,670</b> 33.5%	<b>44,220</b> 4.8%	<b>50,060</b> 5.5%
Open, with NSO (% of Open)	25,610 2.9%	452,930 65.0%	404,690 66.4%	22,300 2.6%	238,140 27.5%
Open, with CSU (% of Open)	119,860 13.7%	238,010 34.2%	199,170 32.7%	457,120 52.4%	333,330 38.5%
Open, with Timing Limitations (outside of NSO areas)	484,930	243,520	204,670	566,280	626,380

See Map 9





Fluid Mineral Leasing in  
**North Fork Alternative Plan Area**  
 (139,540 acres Federal Fluid Minerals)

	<b>Alternative B.1</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative D (Preferred)</b>
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Federal Fluid Minerals (BLM surface and split estate)	139,540	139,540	139,540
Closed to Leasing	104,750 (75%)	16,500 (11.8%)	3,160 (2.2%)
Open to Leasing	34,790 (25%)	123,040 (88.2%)	136,380 (97.7%)
Of Open, acres with NSO	27,280 (78.4% of open)	76,270 (62% of open)	33,270 (24.4% of open)
Of Open, acres with CSU	1,380 (4% of open)	46,640 (37.9% of open)	56,970 (41.8% of open)

**See Map 10**



**This slide will not be in the version sent to WO.**

List of maps to share with WO and COSO

Wall map -- Large wall map of Planning Area. Have boundary of North Fork shown, special designations, (WSA, ACEC), lwc.

11X17 (number the maps) of:

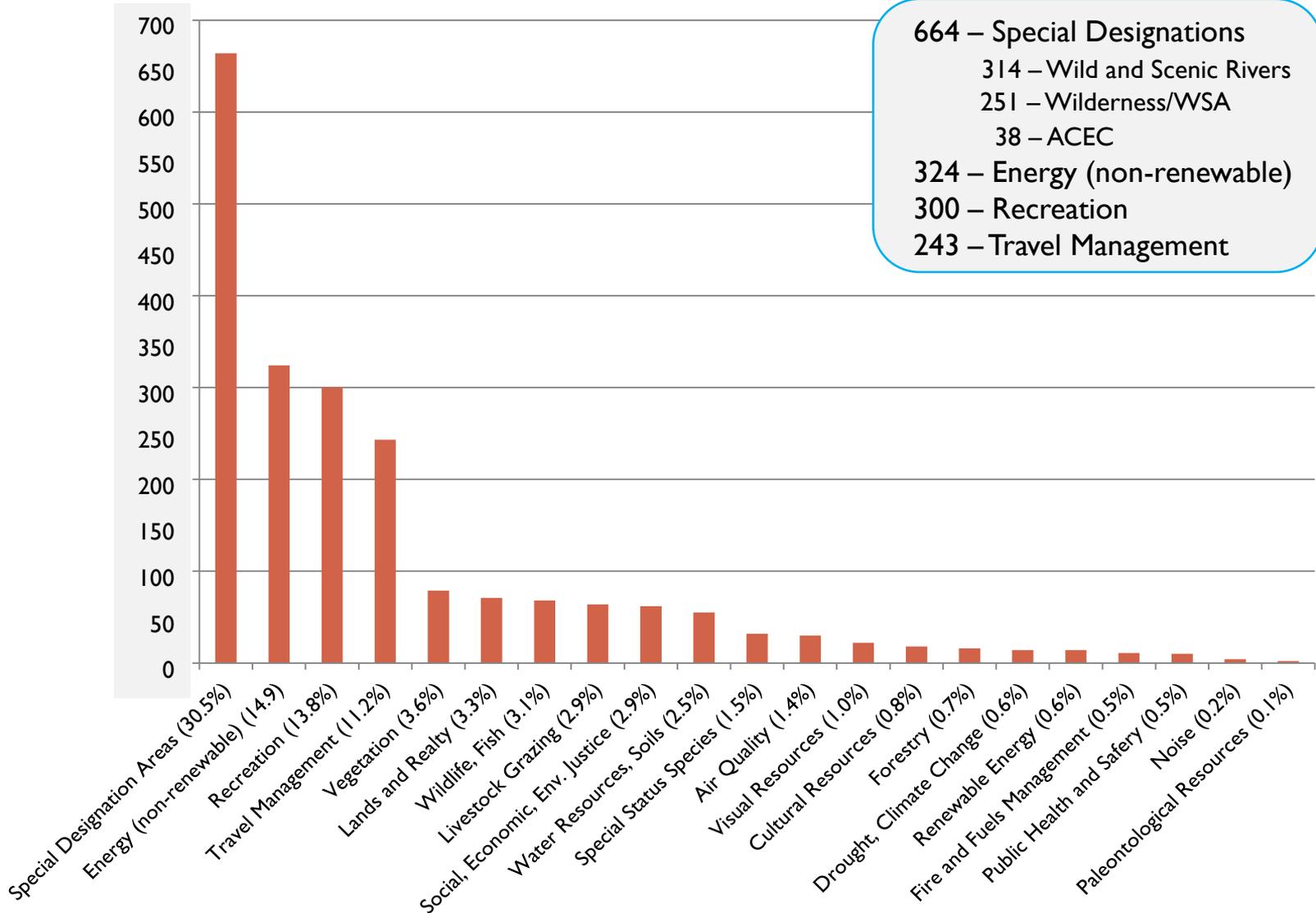
1. same as wall map;
2. LWC, WSA, WSR, ACEC for Alternative D;
3. SRMA, ERMA for Alternative D;
4. NL, NSO, CSU, TL for Alternative D;
5. Sage Grouse Habitat;



# Public Scoping Comments

**2,496 Unique Comments**

664 – Special Designations  
314 – Wild and Scenic Rivers  
251 – Wilderness/WSA  
38 – ACEC  
324 – Energy (non-renewable)  
300 – Recreation  
243 – Travel Management



**Have this slide on hand, for reference, in case we are asked about this information. This slide will not be in the version sent to WO.**

## **Visual Resource Management**

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Preferred (D)</b>
<b>VRM Class I</b>	<b>44,220</b> (6.5%)	<b>53,870</b> (8%)	<b>44,220</b> (6.6%)	<b>46,440</b> (6.8%)
<b>VRM Class II</b>	<b>21,930</b> (3.3%)	<b>176,010</b> (26%)	<b>31,260</b> (4.6%)	<b>112,540</b> (16.7%)
<b>VRM Class III</b>	<b>280,520</b> (41.5%)	<b>427,580</b> (63.3%)	<b>431,330</b> (63.8%)	<b>398,410</b> (59%)
<b>VRM Class IV</b>	<b>9,260</b> (1.4%)	<b>18,340</b> (2.7%)	<b>168,990</b> (25%)	<b>118,410</b> (17.5%)
<b>Undesignated</b>	<b>319,870</b> (47.3%)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

WSA and Tabeguache Area are 44,220 acres

**Have this slide on hand, for reference, in case we are asked about this information. This slide will not be in the version sent to WO.**

## **Locatable, Salable, Non-Energy Leasable**

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Preferred (D)</b>
<b>Open to locatable mineral entry</b>	<b>620,050</b> (91.8%)	<b>264,840</b> (39.2%)	<b>638,190</b> (94.4%)	<b>593,650</b> (87.8%)
<b>Withdrawn from locatable mineral entry (existing)</b>	<b>28,060</b>	<b>28,060</b>	<b>28,060</b>	<b>28,060</b>
<b>Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry</b>	<b>27,690</b> (4.1%)	<b>382,900</b> (56.7%)	<b>9,550</b> (1.4%)	<b>54,090</b> (8%)
<b>Closed to mineral material disposal</b>	<b>102,190</b> (15.1%)	<b>499,340</b> (73.9%)	<b>56,350</b> (8.3%)	<b>132,520</b> (19.6%)
<b>Closed to non-energy solid leasable development</b>	<b>44,220</b> (6.5%)	<b>386,400</b> (57.2%)	<b>55,570</b> (8.2%)	<b>168,130</b> (24.9%)

# Gunnison Sage Grouse

A	B	B.I (North Fork Only)	C	D (Preferred)
TL: Dec 16 – March 15	TL in Gunnison Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat: October 1 – March 15		None	TL in Gunnison Sage-Grouse Winter Habitat: Dec 1 – March 15
None	TL in Gunnison Sage-Grouse Breeding (Non-lek) Habitat within 6.0 miles of Gunnison sage grouse leks from March 1 to June 30.		None	TL in Gunnison Sage-Grouse Breeding (Non-lek) Habitat within mapped nesting habitat or within 4.0 miles of active Gunnison sage grouse leks (if nesting habitat is not mapped) from March 1 to June 30.
NSO: within 0.25-mile radius of a sage grouse lek site.	NL: No Leasing in all Gunnison sage-grouse critical habitat and breeding (Lek) habitat (lek area plus a 0.6-mile radius).	NSO: Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy within 4.0 miles of any known lek and within mapped Gunnison	NSO: Gunnison Sage-grouse Breeding (lek) Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy and use in Gunnison sage-grouse lek habitat (lek area plus a 0.6-mile radius).	
None	NSO: Gunnison Sage grouse Breeding (Non-Lek) Habitat. Prohibit surface occupancy within 4.0 miles of an active lek or within mapped Gunnison sage grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat.	Sage grouse breeding, summer, and winter habitat outside of the 4.0-mile buffer.	CSU (Gunnison Sage-Grouse Breeding (Non-Lek) Habitat)-- in suitable habitat that is within 4.0 miles of an active lek or within mapped Gunnison sage-grouse nesting and early broodrearing habitat.	CSU (Gunnison Sage-Grouse Breeding (Non-Lek) Habitat)-- in suitable habitat that is within 4.0 miles of a lek to protect Gunnison sage-grouse mapped seasonal habitats (non-lek breeding, late brood-rearing, and winter habitat) or suitable sagebrush habitat.
None	Manage Gunnison sage-grouse lek habitat (lek area plus 0.6-mile radius) as		None	Manage Gunnison sage-grouse lek habitat (lek area plus 0.6-mile

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Re slide 6: Rationale for not recommending the ACEC in Alternative D (preferred alternative), or for a smaller size in D

Potential ACEC	Acres	Reason (brief) for the ACEC Proposal and Justification for Not Including in Preferred Alternative
Fairview South (CNHP Expansion) ACEC	4,250	<p>This is an expansion of the existing Fairview ACEC (210 acres), and contains a large portion of one of the largest populations of federally endangered clay-loving buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>).</p> <p>Other areas of the proposed ACEC support occurrences of the BLM Sensitive Colorado desert parsley, as well as adobe beardtongue and good-neighbor bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella vicina</i>), both of which are ranked as globally vulnerable (G3/S3). The area also provides habitat for the BLM Sensitive white-tailed prairie dog (<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>).</p> <p>A larger (610 acre) version of the existing ACEC is proposed in Alternative D. While not as large as the CNHP expansion, it captures much of the clay-loving buckwheat. The CNHP expansion has much private land interface and travel management issues which would make it difficult to manage as an ACEC.</p>
Lower Uncompahgre Plateau ACEC	31,810	<p>This potential ACEC has numerous scattered significant archaeological sites that include Archaic to historic Ute occupation dating to the 1880s; contains important rock art and archaeological sites from three different transitional time periods of occupation not represented elsewhere.</p> <p>The potential ACEC has numerous scattered sites over a 31,810 acre area. The sites are protected by federal law. An ACEC would draw unwanted attention to the sites; because the sites are not concentrated, it would be difficult to monitor activities and the sites over this large area.</p>

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Roubideau-Potter-Monitor ACEC	20,430	<p>This potential ACEC has canyons and streams with very high biodiversity significance. The three canyons (Roubideau, Potter, and Monitor) offer valuable biological resources and wildness, and together form a single canyon system of three branches.</p> <p>Most of the values of the proposed ACEC are in the canyon corridors. The three canyons within this proposed ACEC are within the potential Roubideau Corridors ACEC (8,720 acres) that is proposed in Alternative D.</p>
Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC	34,540	<p>The proposed ACEC contains a core population of threatened Colorado <u>hookless cactus</u>, locally imperiled cold desert <u>shrubland communities</u>, and the BLM Sensitive white-tailed prairie dog and burrowing owl. This ecosystem is easily disturbed and difficult to restore.</p> <p>The existing Adobe Badlands ACEC (6,380 acres) is in Alternative D, and also is within the proposed Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC. The Adobe Badlands ACEC was established for the Colorado <u>hookless cactus</u>. Management feels the proposed Salt Desert Shrub Ecosystem ACEC is too large to manage effectively as an ACEC. Resources would be managed with the ESA and actions resulting from LHAs.</p>
San Miguel River Expansion ACEC	35,480	<p>This potential ACEC is an expansion of the existing San Miguel River ACEC (carried forward to alternatives C and D). The ACEC has quality riparian vegetation resources, habitat for many bird species, and scenic value.</p> <p>The riparian values in the expansion area are not as high quality as the values with the existing ACEC. Also, there are several private land parcels within the expansion areas. Management felt the existing ACEC adequately protects the highest quality riparian areas.</p>
Coyote Wash ACEC	2,100	<p>Coyote Wash is a spectacular deep canyon with steep cliffs that supports hanging gardens and BLM Sensitive plant species. Coyote Wash contains the best known occurrence of the globally imperiled <u>Kachina daisy</u>.</p> <p>Coyote Wash is entirely within the Dolores River Slick Rock Canyon ACEC that is proposed in Alternative D.</p>

This slide will not be in the version sent to WO.

La Sal Creek ACEC	10,490	<p>La Sal Creek is a spectacular deep canyon that supports high quality riparian vegetation and relic riparian communities, BLM Sensitive plants, desert bighorn sheep, and peregrine falcon. Eroding shale slopes on the uplands support populations of rare plants. La Sal Creek harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: <u>flannelmouth suckers</u> (<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>), <u>bluehead suckers</u> (<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>), and <u>roundtail chubs</u> (<i>Gila robusta</i>). This is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores River Basin. The area also has high scenic quality.</p> <p>About a third of the proposed ACEC is within the Dolores River Slick Rock Canyon ACEC that is proposed in Alternative D. Most of the values associated with La Sal Creek itself are within the proposed Dolores River Slick Rock Canyon ACEC, which best represents the values we are trying to protect. Much of the remaining proposed ACEC is on <u>Nyswonger Mesa</u>, which has roads, past uranium mining activity and the potential for future uranium mining.</p>
San Miguel Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC	470	<p>The proposed ACEC is located on several small scattered parcels of BLM land containing potential, historic, and occupied GUSG habitat, as defined by Colorado Division of Wildlife. This area also contains proposed critical habitat (460 acres) for Gunnison sage-grouse, as designated by USFWS.</p> <p>The San Miguel Basin population exhibits a patchy distribution of GUSG. As a result, there are six separate “subpopulations” identified within San Miguel Basin; this proposed ACEC area incorporates the northern end of what is considered part of the San Miguel (<u>Miramonte Reservoir</u>) population of GUSG. The core of this population is found on the <u>Tres Rios Field Office</u> to the south, but small portions of occupied habitat exist in this proposed ACEC.</p> <p>Considering the widely-scattered nature of the parcels, all of which are adjacent to private lands, management feels it would be difficult to manage the areas as an ACEC. The RMP has stipulations specifically for GUSG, which would provide protection. Also, the ESA would provide protections.</p>

This slide will not be in the version sent to WO.

Sims-Cerro Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC	25,620	<p>The proposed ACEC contains potential, occupied, and historic Gunnison Sage grouse (GUSG) habitat, as defined by Colorado Division of Wildlife, in Montrose County. This area also contains proposed critical habitat (6,970 acres) for Gunnison sage-grouse, as designated by USFWS. The proposed ACEC is located on a large parcel of BLM land southeast of Montrose, and on smaller pieces of BLM lands about 10 miles east of Montrose near Cerro Summit.</p> <p>The last sign of a sage grouse in the Sims Mesa area was 2002. The Cerro Summit-Cimarron population exhibits a patchy distribution of GUSG, and a very small portion of the Cerro Summit-Cimarron subpopulation is within the planning area. Management prefers (and staff has begun) working with CPAW on management of the Sims area. Also, in addition to protections provided by the ESA, the RMP has stipulations specifically for GUSG protection.</p>
<u>Tabeguache Pueblo and Tabeguache Caves ACEC</u>	26,300	<p>The proposed ACEC contains important archaeological sites that show a relationship between the Fremont and Anasazi cultures. The <u>Tabeguache Pueblo</u> and <u>Tabeguache Caves</u> are important both to the prehistory of the region and to the history of archaeology in Colorado, being some of the earliest explored and described archaeological sites in the state</p> <p>The proposed ACEC includes part of the <u>Tabeguache Special Management Area</u>. The scattered sites and the large area make it difficult to manage effectively as an ACEC. The resources are protected by federal law without drawing attention to it.</p>
East Paradox ACEC	7,360	<p>The proposed ACEC would preserve the best known occurrence of the BLM Sensitive Paradox Valley lupine (<u>Lupinus crassus</u>), a higher than normal density and diversity of biological soil crusts (BSC), and two species of BSC that are rare and typically found only on <u>gypsiferous</u> soils.</p> <p>A smaller portion of the East Paradox ACEC (1,900 acres, known as the Biological Soil Crust ACEC) is proposed in <u>Alternative D</u>. The 1,900 acre portion contains most of the rare BSC. The sensitive plants are found in other areas and are not unique to the proposed ACEC.</p>

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West Paradox ACEC	5,190	<p>The proposed ACEC would preserve habitat for the Paradox Valley lupine (<i>Lupinus crassus</i>). In addition, the area supports peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) eyries.</p> <p>The lengthy south boundary of this linear-shaped area is adjacent to private lands, which would make management as an ACEC difficult. The peregrine falcon could be managed with sensitive species decisions. The plant is in many areas in the “west-end”, and could be managed with sensitive species decisions.</p>
<u>Tabeguache</u> Creek ACEC	560	<p>The existing <u>Tabeguache</u> Creek ACEC is managed to protect cultural resources. The ACEC/ONA contains important archaeological sites that show a relationship between the Fremont and Anasazi cultures.</p> <p>The ACEC is a relatively small area completely within the <u>Tabeguache Area</u>. As such, the values of the ACEC will continue to be protected from management of the <u>Tabeguache</u> area.</p>

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