



# GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE



## Proposed Resource Management Plan

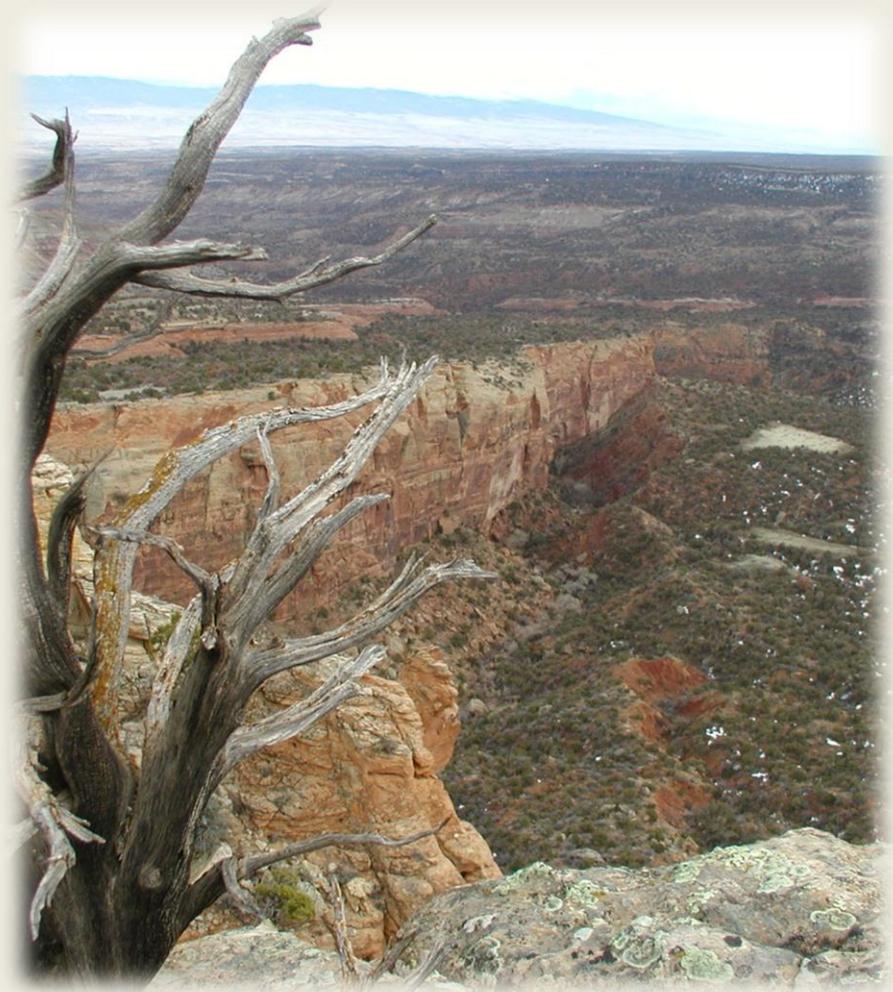
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management





## Briefing Objectives

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





## BLM's Mission





## Plan Overview

Long-range master plan, vision for the future

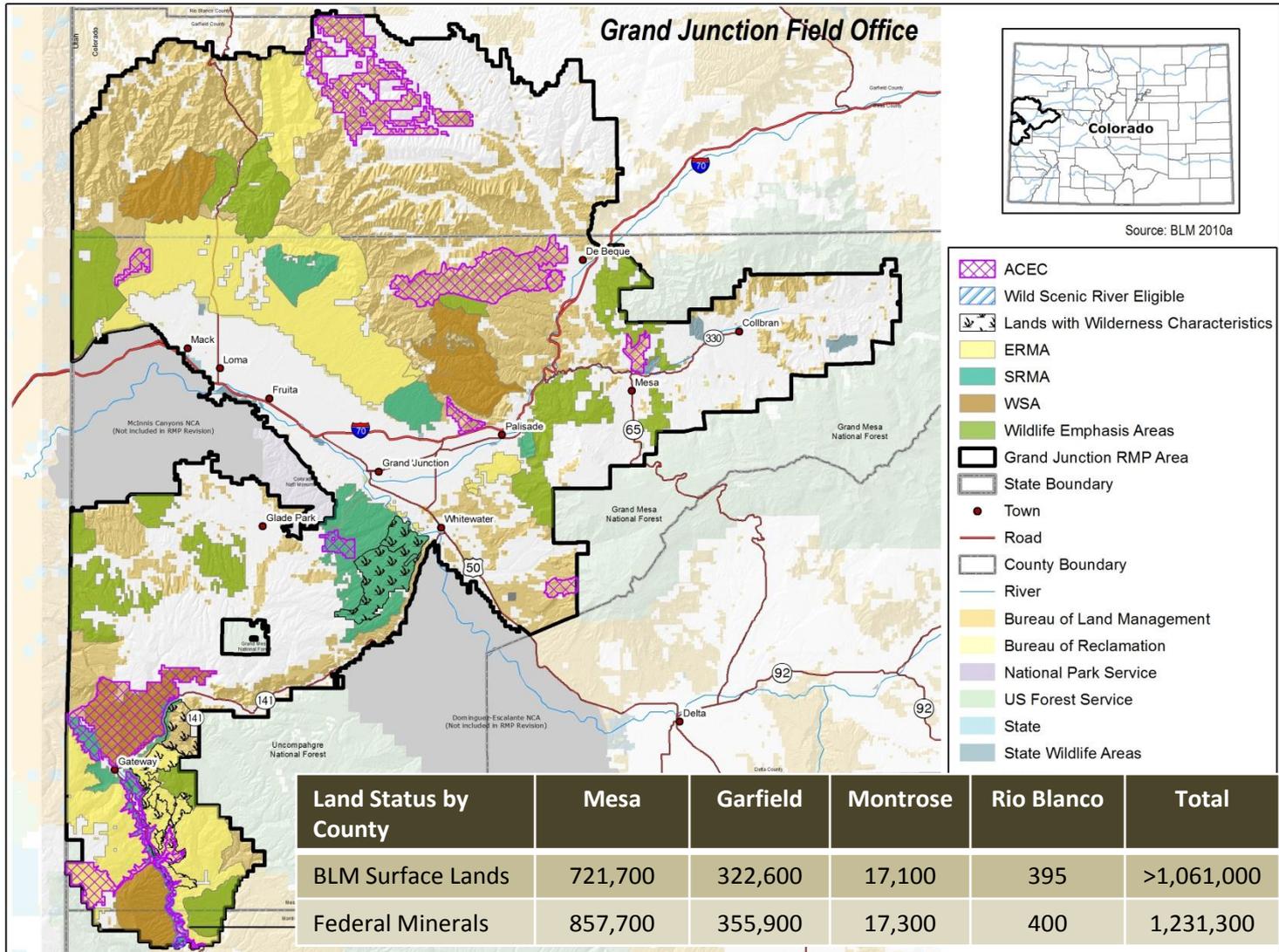
- Initiated in 2008, with significant public and cooperator involvement
- Determines appropriate multiple uses for over one million acres of public lands in Mesa County for the next 20 years
- Creates a balanced plan that provides for resource use and resource conservation
- Includes travel plan decisions



## Planning Timeline

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

# GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE



## Cooperators Participating in the RMP Planning Process since 2009

Cooperating Agencies	BLM NW RAC Subgroup	Native American Tribes
Mesa County	NW RAC Representatives	Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah & Ouray)
Garfield County	Recreation-Mountain Biking	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
City of Fruita	Recreation-Hiking	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
City of Grand Junction	Recreation-Motorized	
Town of Collbran	Oil and Gas Interests	
Town of De Beque	Special Areas (ACECs, WSR, WSA)	
Town of Palisade	Tourism	
Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources	Socio-Economic	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Cultural/Historical/Paleontological	
Colorado Water Conservation District	Livestock Grazing	
DOI Bureau of Reclamation	Vegetation (SSS, fire wood, etc.)	
DOI Fish and Wildlife Service	Solid Minerals	
USDA Forest Service	Hunting and Fishing	





## Public Comments

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

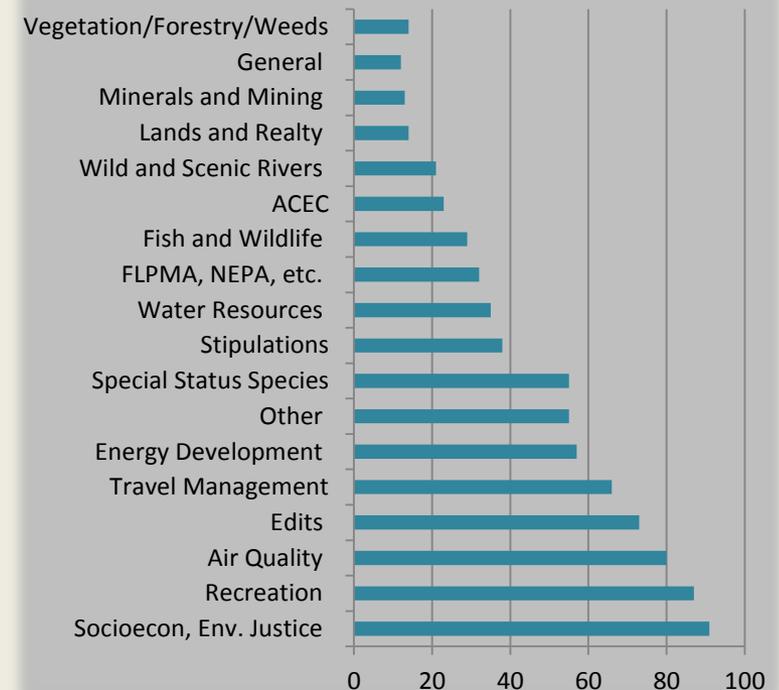
Comment Submission Type		
Submissions as Form letters	1,803	55%
Submissions with Substantive Comments	983	30%
Submissions with No Substantive Comments	521	15%
<b>Total Submissions</b>	<b>3,307</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

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

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

### Number of Planning Comments





## Status

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



## Resource Protection

- Plants
- Wildlife
- Cultural

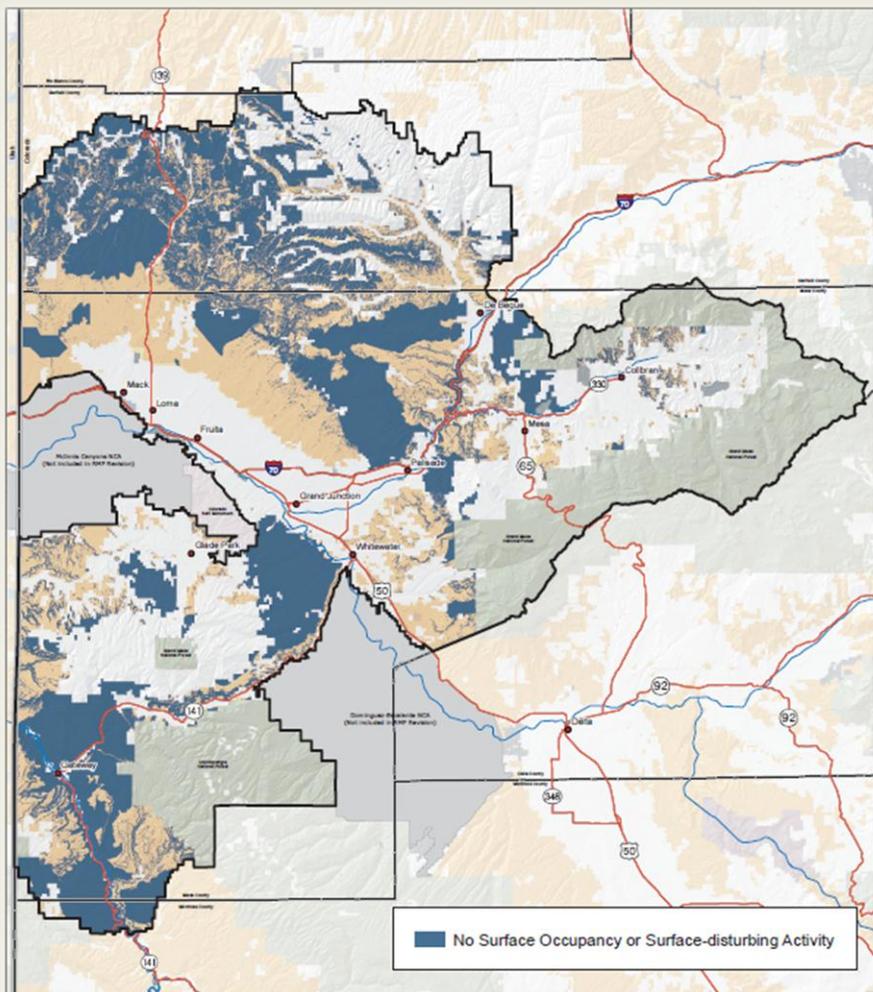
## Resource Use

- Recreation
- Range
- Oil and Gas



## Resource Protection





## SURFACE USE RESTRICTIONS

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

### No Surface Occupancy

- 597,900 acres (+168,800)

### Controlled Surface Use

- 493,900 acres (-69,600)

### Timing Limitation

- 382,900 acres (-18,700)



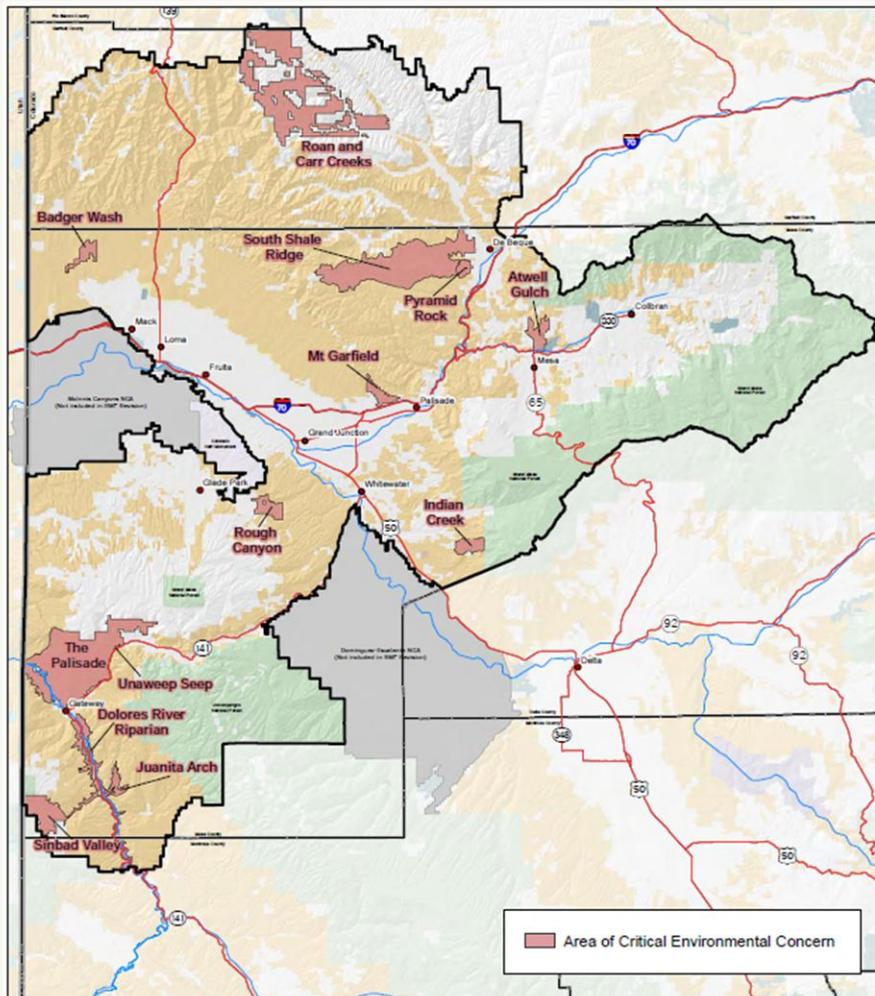
Source: BLM 2010a

### Alternative B: No Surface Occupancy or Surface-disturbing Activities

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



Figure 2-43



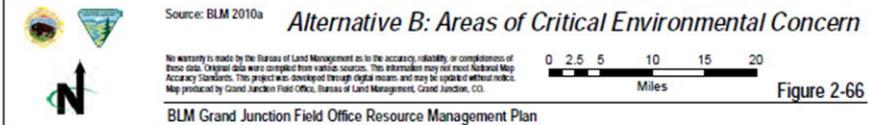
## Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

ACECs are special management areas designated by BLM to protect significant

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

**123,400 acres (+17,400)**

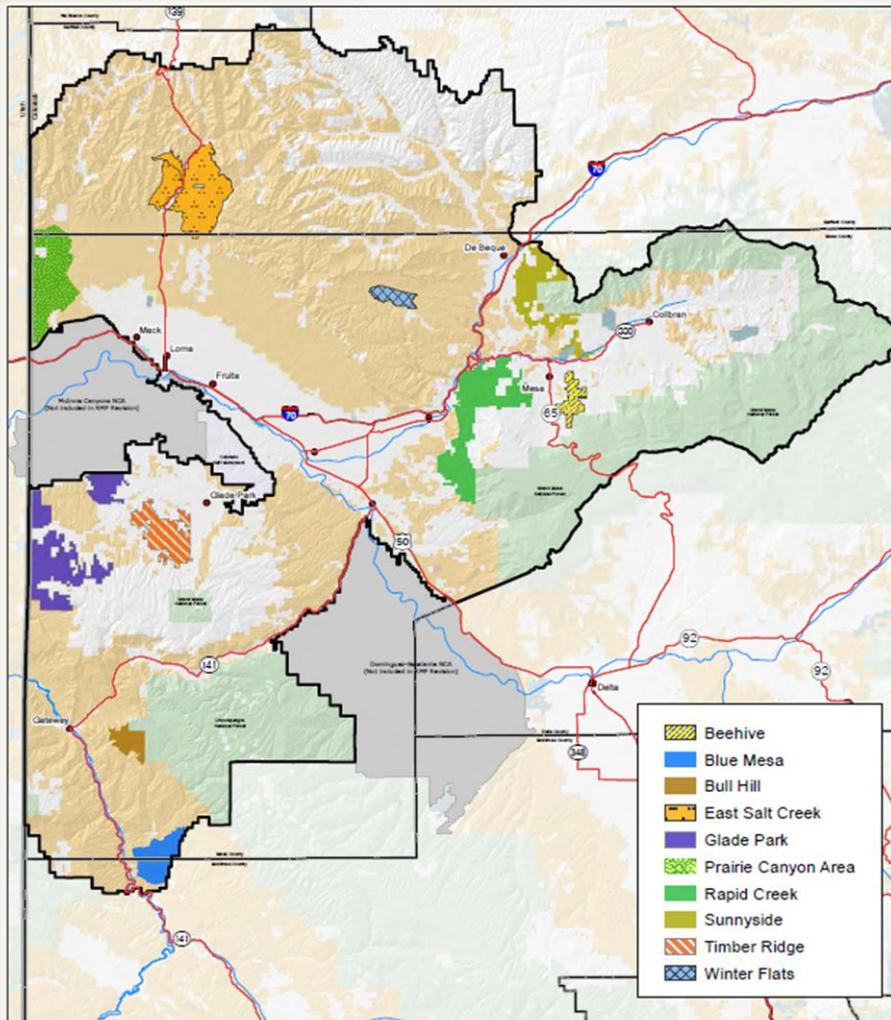
Total of 13





## WILDLIFE EMPHASIS AREAS

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



Source: BLM 2010a

*Alternative B: Wildlife Emphasis Areas*

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

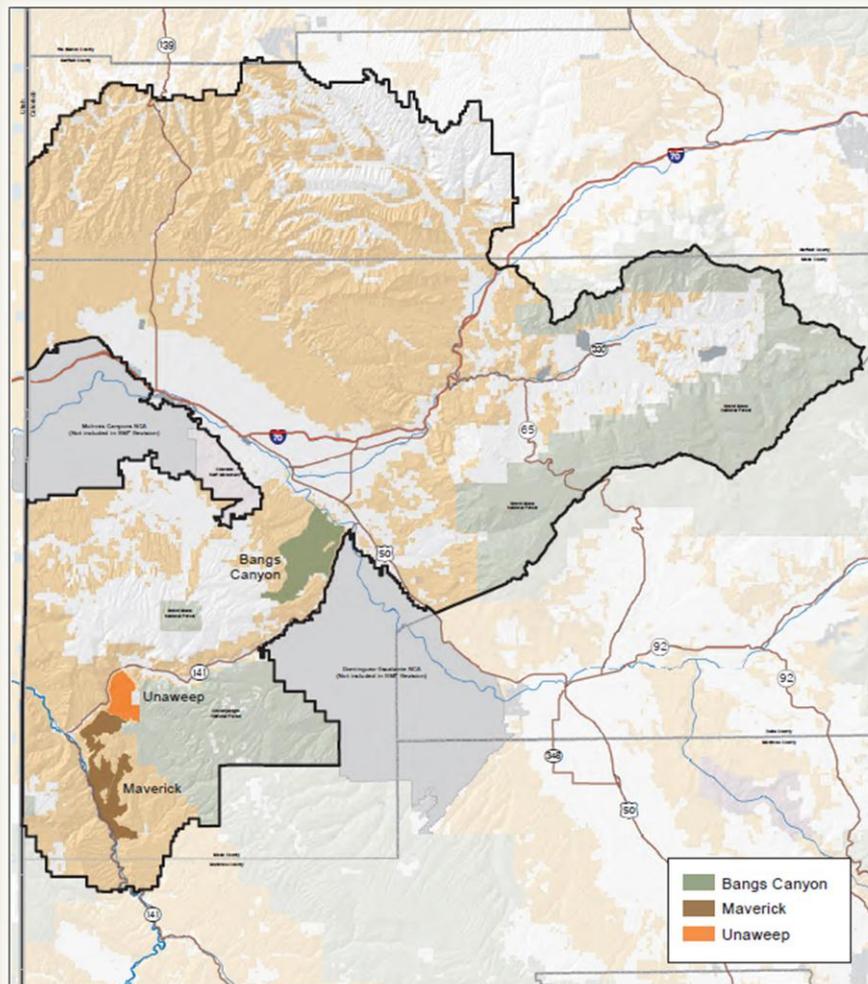


Figure 2-1

BLM Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan



## LANDS MANAGED for WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS



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



Source: BLM 2010a

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

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



Figure 2-9

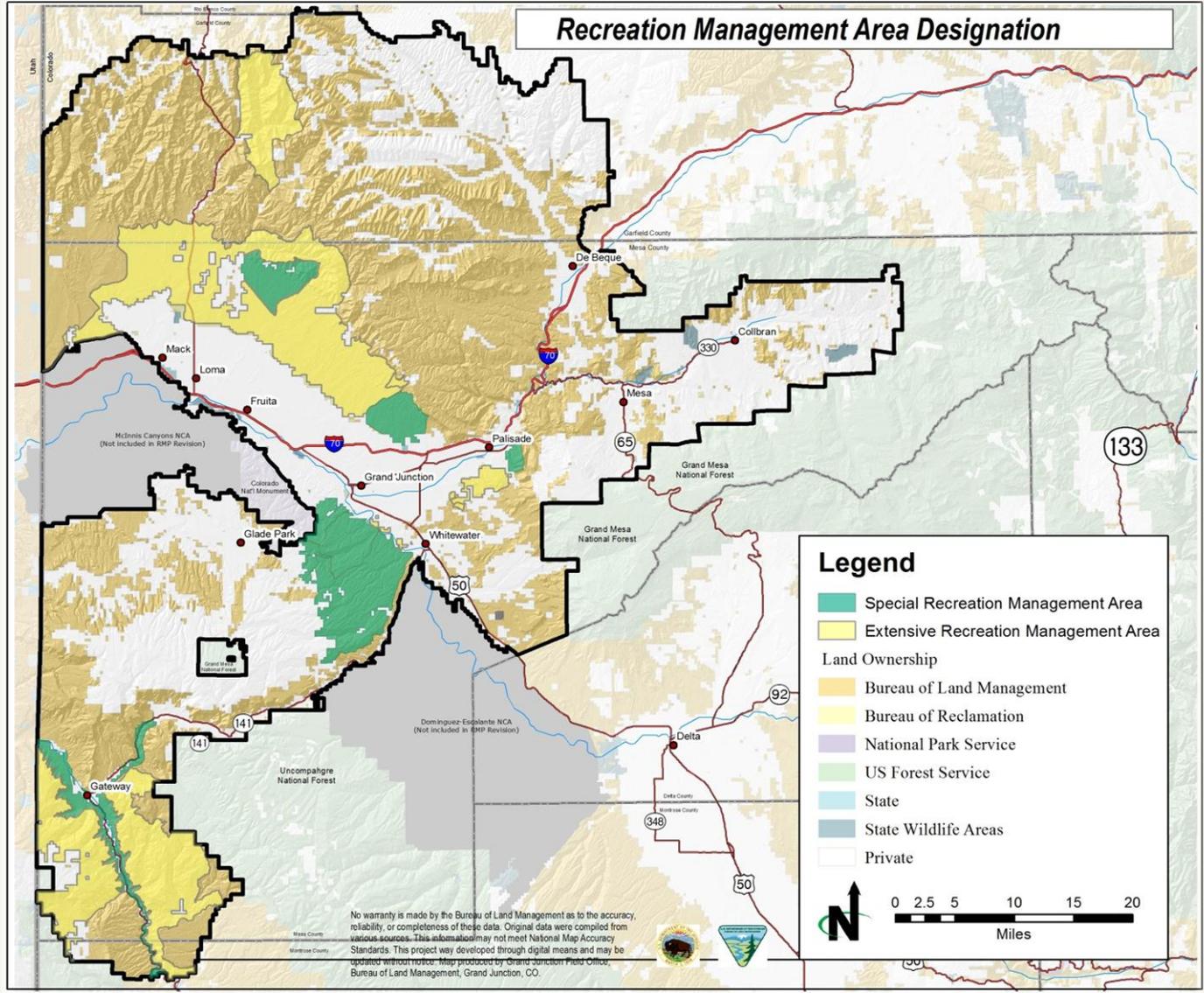
BLM Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan



## Resource Uses



# GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE





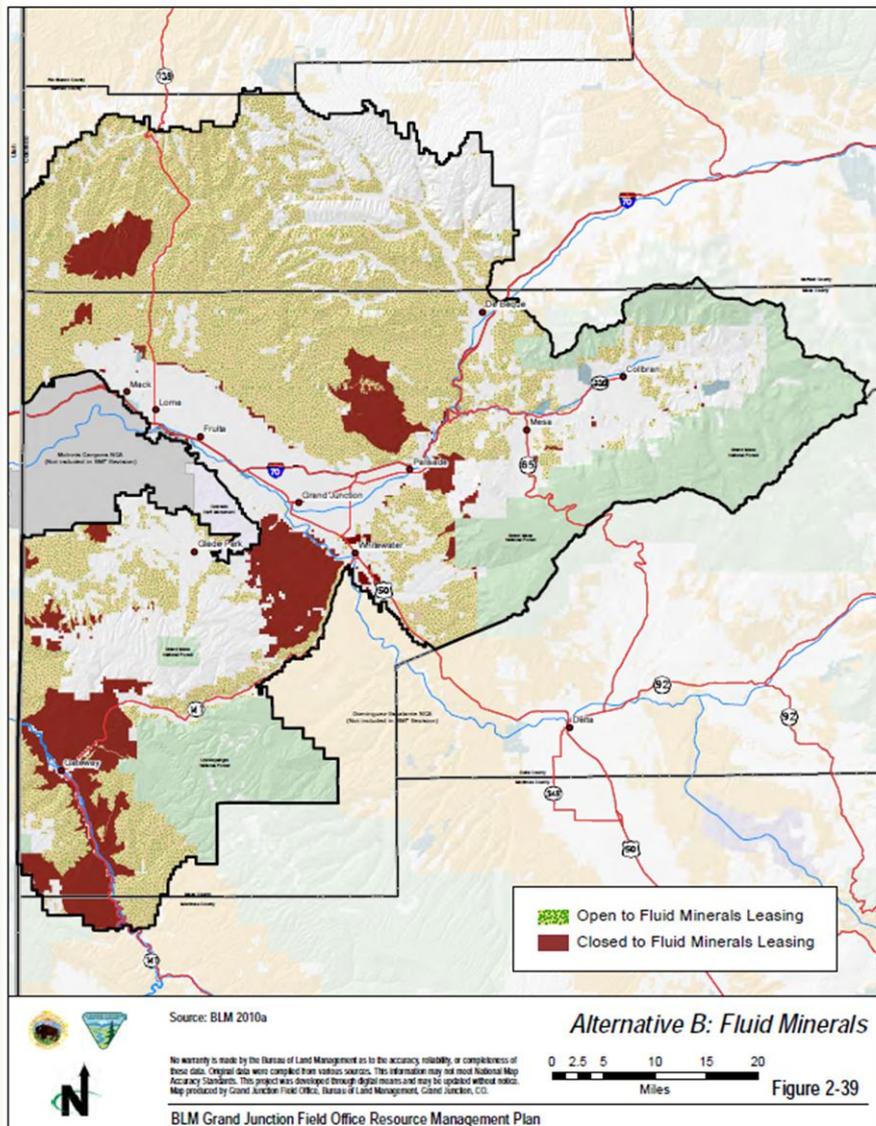
## Special Recreation Management Areas

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



## Extensive Recreation Management Areas

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



## OIL AND GAS LEASING

Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing

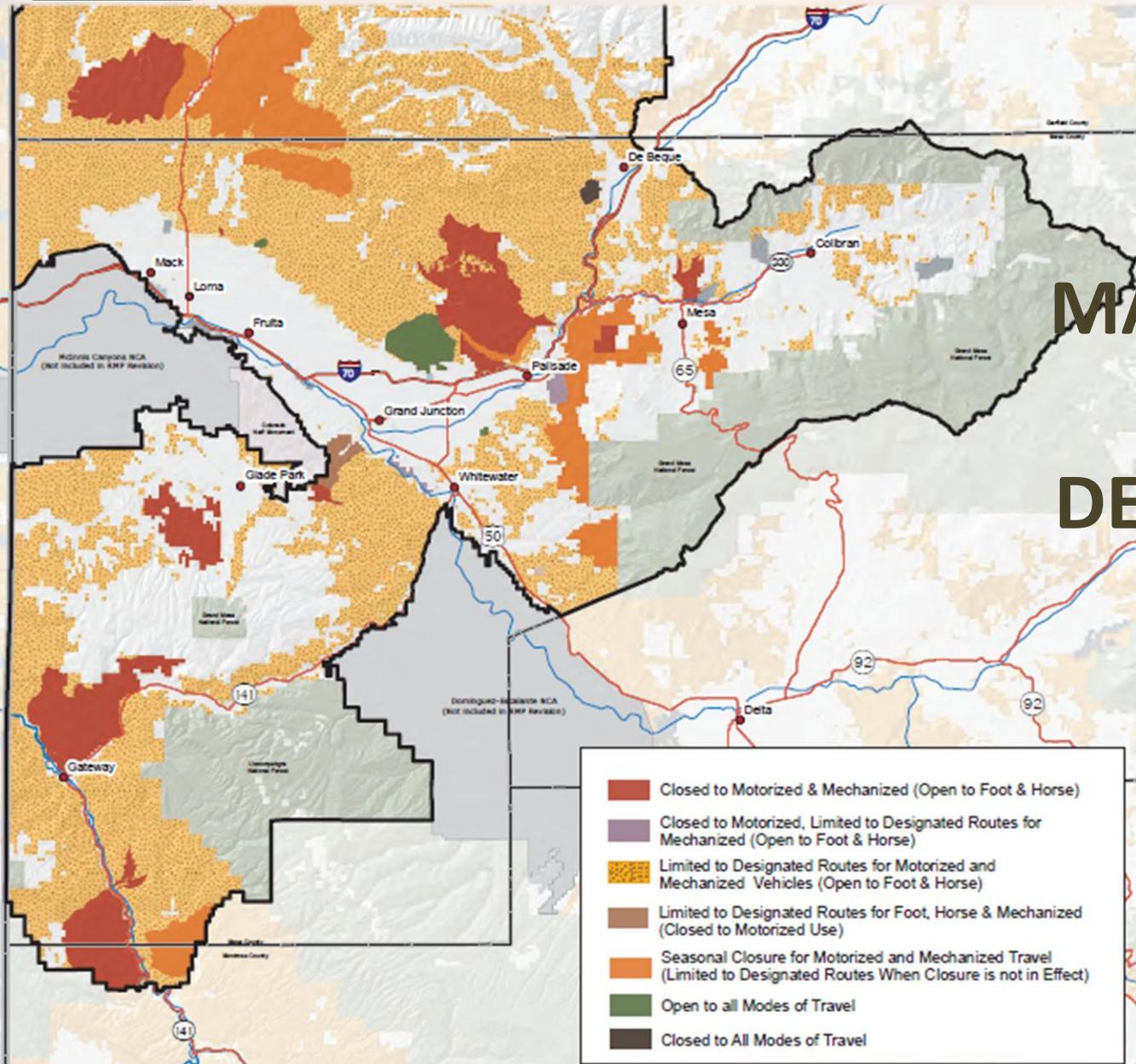
- **992,600 acres** (-36,200)

Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing

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

Reasons for Closure:

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

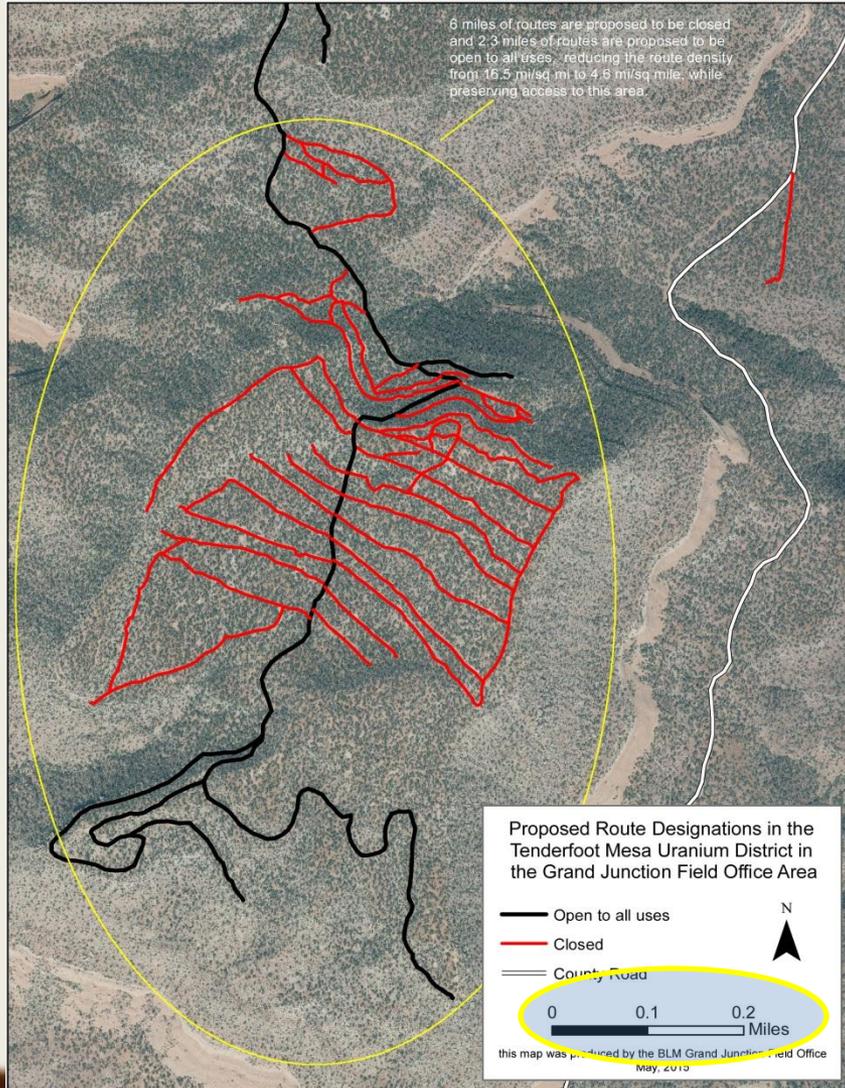


## TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS

- Closed to Motorized & Mechanized (Open to Foot & Horse)
- Closed to Motorized, Limited to Designated Routes for Mechanized (Open to Foot & Horse)
- Limited to Designated Routes for Motorized and Mechanized Vehicles (Open to Foot & Horse)
- Limited to Designated Routes for Foot, Horse & Mechanized (Closed to Motorized Use)
- Seasonal Closure for Motorized and Mechanized Travel (Limited to Designated Routes When Closure is not in Effect)
- Open to all Modes of Travel
- Closed to All Modes of Travel



## Redundant Route example



Uranium Exploration  
South and West of  
Gateway – GMU 61

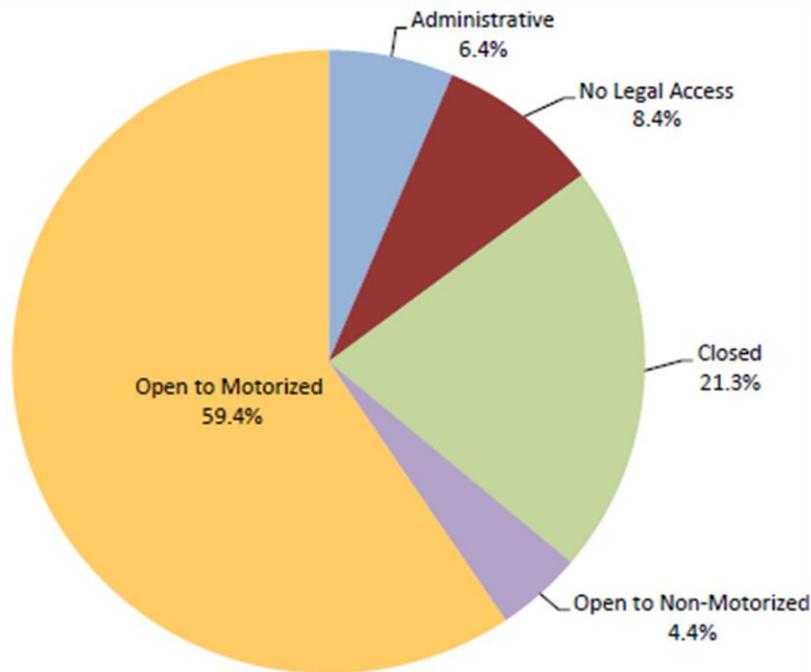
6 miles of closed routes  
2.3 remaining open



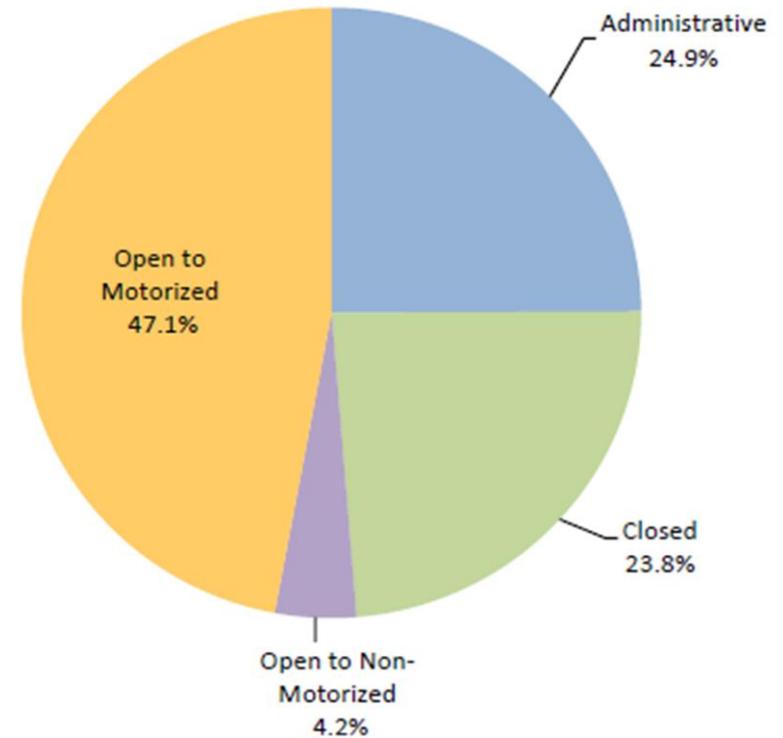


## Route Designation

Proposed TMP



Draft TMP





# GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE



## next steps

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



## Appeal Period

### What is an appeal?

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