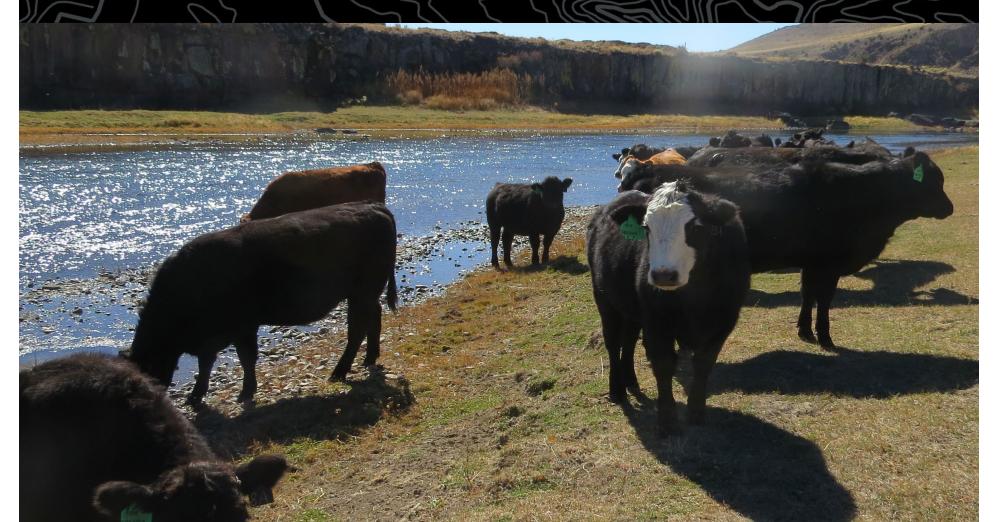
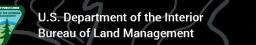


BLM Colorado – Rocky Mountain RAC

Your Public Lands – 245 Million Acres of Possibilities





Day 1: Thursday, June 22 Morning session

- 8:00 a.m. Meeting begins
- 8:05 a.m. Introductions
- 8:15 a.m. **Opening remarks**
- 8:30 a.m. SLVFO Field Manager updates
- 8:45 a.m. Restoration Landscapes Initiative update and discussion
- 9:45 a.m. SLVFO chronic livestock trespass update and discussion
- 10:45 a.m. Break/potential chair election pending quorum present
- 11:25 a.m. SLVFO solar leasing update
- 11:30 a.m. SLVFO cultural resource discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch



- 1:10 p.m. **RGFO Field Manager updates**
- 1:25 p.m. Brown's Canyon National Monument update
- 1:35 p.m. RGFO campground business plan
- 2:00 p.m. Penrose Commons RAMP
- 2:30 p.m. Penrose Commons OHV
- 2:45 p.m. Break/potential vote on fee increase pending quorum present
- 2:55 p.m. **Public comments**
- 3:55 p.m. Closing remarks
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management **Rocky Mountain District RAC Overview**

CATEGORY 1

Representative	Interest	Term Expiration
Curtis Howell	Outdoor Recreation	April 6, 2025
Preston Larimer	Commercial Recreation Activities	June 1, 2026
Chris Cooper	Energy and Minerals	June 1, 2026
Pete Stagner	Grazing	June 1, 2026
VACANT		

CATEGORY 2

Representative	Interest	Term Expiration
John Sztukowski	Environmental Organizations	April 6, 2025
Irene Shonle	Dispersed Recreation	April 6, 2025
Loretta Mitson	Dispersed Recreation	April 6, 2025
Michael Daniel	Dispersed Recreation	April 6, 2025
Kelly Collins	Dispersed Recreation	June 1, 2026

CATEGORY 3

Representative	Interest	Term Expiration
Ray Douglas	Elected Official	Jan. 14, 2024
Kent Wood	Public-at-Large	April 6, 2025
Lawrence Pacheco	Public-at-large	April 6, 2025
Travis Black	State Agency Representative	April 6, 2025
Arthur Koensell	State Agency Representative	June 1, 2026

Rocky Mountain District

- RAC Charter Member Roles and Responsibilities
- Chair Responsibilities

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES: The Council will serve in an advisory capacity concerning the planning and management of the public land resources located within BLM's Rocky Mountain District (encompassing the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley field offices).

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES: Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:

- Develop recommendations for BLM with respect to the land use planning, classification, retention, management, and disposal of the public lands
- Make recommendations regarding a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee,
 - The implementation of a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee or the establishment of a specific recreation fee site;
 - The elimination of a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee; or
 - The expansion or limitation of the recreation fee program.

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

• At the conclusion of each meeting or shortly thereafter, provide a detailed recommendation report, including meeting minutes, to the DFO.

ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: Meet approximately two to four times annually. The Council will be comprised of 15 members distributed in a balanced fashion among the three interest groups. Members will be appointed to the Council to serve 3-year terms.

RECORDKEEPING: These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).



Leader of the board

To function effectively, groups need a leader. A board leader is approachable and available. He or she is objective and listens actively. He or she needs to be a strategist, knowledgeable about the organization and board practices, a coach, and a conciliator. Finally, he or she must be respected in the community. The chair most commonly performs the following functions:

- Serves as the contact point for every board member on board issues.
- Sets goals and objectives for the board and ensures that they are met.
- Ensures that all board members are involved in committee activities; assigns committee chairs.
- Motivates board members to attend meetings. Assisting in <u>recruiting</u>, <u>welcoming and onboarding new members</u>



High Level Personnel Changes

FMO/AFMO

SLVFO FM

NEPA



BLM HQ Rulemaking Efforts

• Public Lands Rule

blm.gov

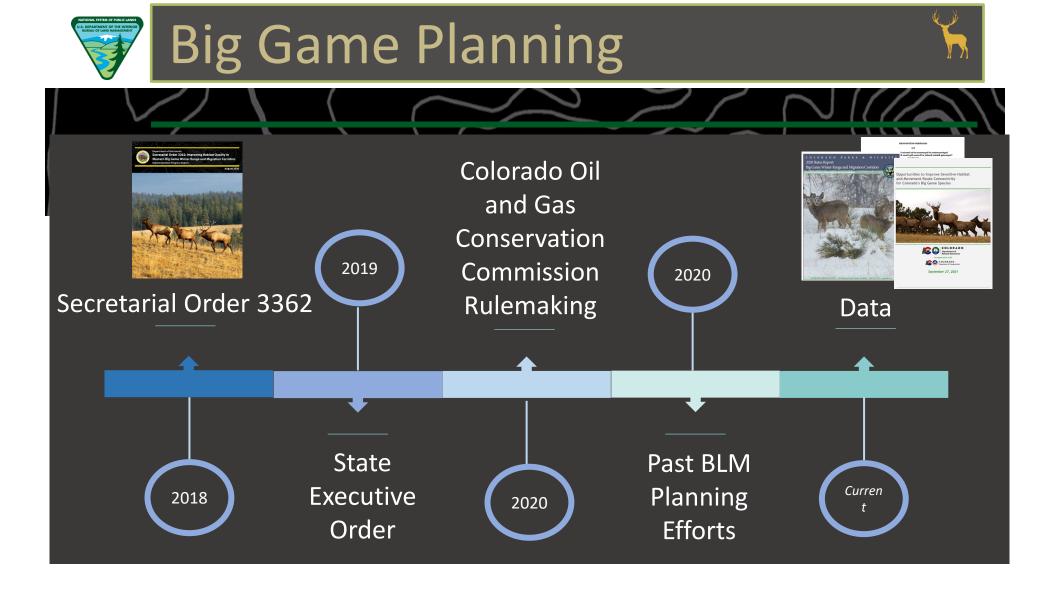
https://www.blm.gov/public-lands-rule

- Renewable Energy Rule
 - Renewable Energy Rule | Bureau of Land Management



BLM Colorado Planning Efforts

- Big Game RMPA/EIS
- Gunnison Sage Grouse RMPA/EIS
 - Solar PEIS



https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018400/510

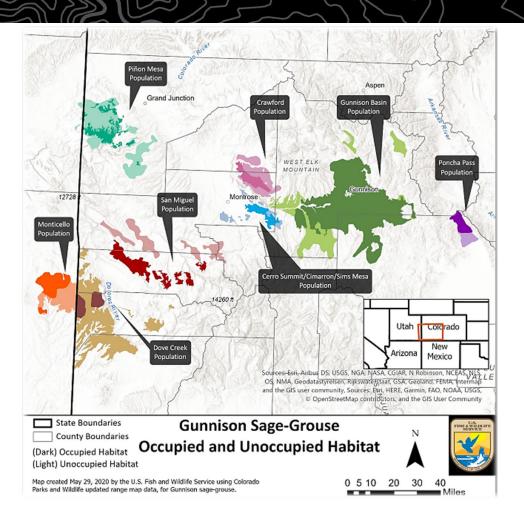
Gunnison Sage Grouse RMPA/EIS

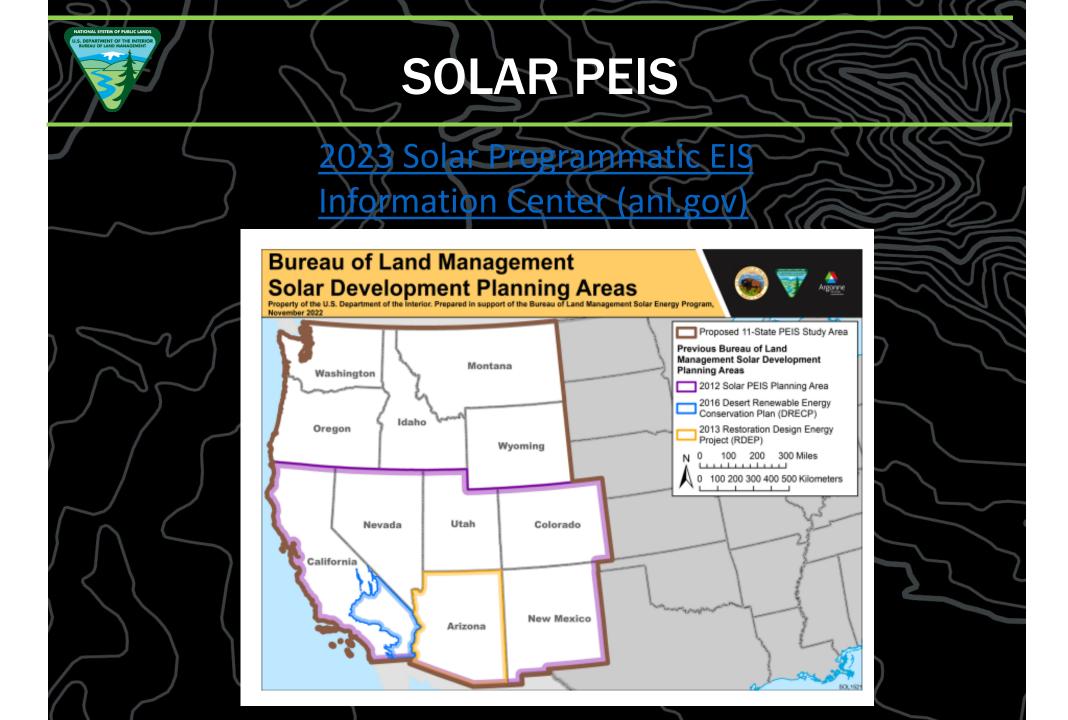
Gunnison sage-grouse (Centrocercus minimus)

- Require expansive sagebrush for food and cover
 - Eat exclusively sagebrush during winter
- Current range limited to eight isolated populations in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah

Current Status: The BLM is circulating the draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS for sequential review by Colorado BLM staff, cooperating agencies, Solicitors and Headquarters staff.

Website: <u>https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019031/510</u>







Break/Chair Election

San Luis Valley Field Office

- Manages nearly 500,000 acres of public land in Colorado's Rio Grande Basin.
- Myriad ecosystems: from alpine desert to the majestic Sangre de Cristo Wilderness on the eastern side of the Valley.

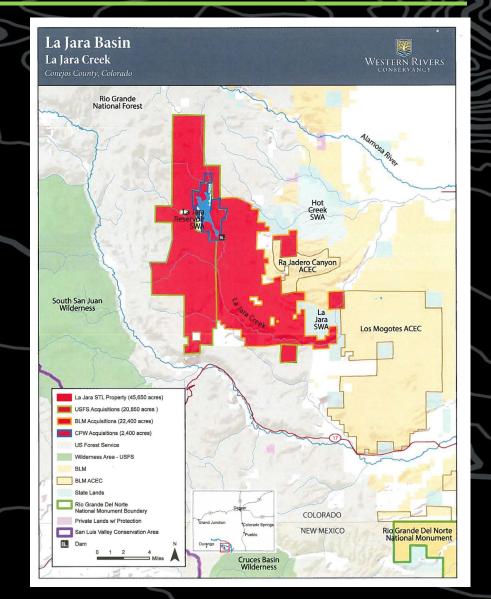
Dario Archuleta, Assistant Field Manager New Field Manager announced soon!

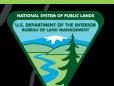


Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

La Jara State Lands Trust Acquisition:

- State Land Board wants to sell 45,650 acres
 - to:
 - Forest Service,
 - BLM (22,400 acres), and
 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - 3rd-party partner: Western Rivers Conservancy
- Time-frame: 2 to 3 years
- Beneficial for:
 - Hunting and fishing
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Traditional uses
 - Cultural sites
 - Grazing
 - Recreational opportunities





North Tract Acquisition

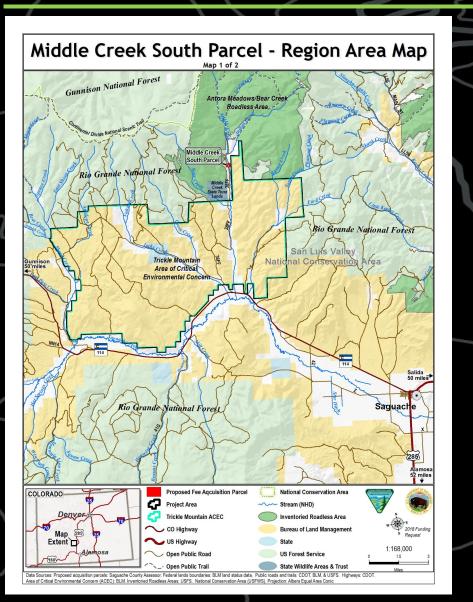
BLM San Luis Vallev Field Office Planned Blanca Wetlands Expansion via Land Acquisition COLORADO 1.55 00 **BLM Ownership Boundary BLM Aquisition Area from TNC**

State Ownership Lands

- 970 acre tract owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), next to Blanca Wetlands
- At very beginning stages of project
- Time-frame: by end of 2023
- Acquisition would help restore wetlands, which provide crucial habitat for various species, and protect cultural resources

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF FUELIC LANDS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MARAGEMENT

Middle Creek South (Haymaker) Acquisition





- 24.8 acres, with water rights
- Acquisition facilitated by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Enhances conservation stewardship, increases outdoor recreation opportunities, and improves management of habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species



Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve

Coalition formed in 2019, with the intention of achieving Dark Sky Reserve certification from the International Dark-Sky Association

Goals:

- Promote Astro-tourism, enhancing local economies.
- Promote the connection to nature and enjoyment of the night sky.
- Promote protection of the night-time environment.
- Encourage land administrators, surrounding communities, and private interests to identify dark skies as a valuable resource in need of proactive protection.

Partners:

- BLM-San Luis Valley and Royal Gorge Field Offices
- USFS-Rio Grande and Pike/San Isabel National Forests
- USFWS-San Luis ValleyNWR Complex
- NPS-Great Sand Dunes National Park
- SLVGO!-San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
- Town of Crestone
- Orient Land Trust

Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve

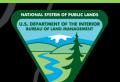
Proposed Reserve: 2,706,502 ac. BLM lands: 273,282 ac. (10.1%) • SLVFO: 99,831 ac. RGFO: 173,447 ac. All BLM lands are in the peripheral zone USFS: 520,177 ac. NPS: 136,493 ac. USFWS: 97,463 ac. State: 57,894 ac. Private: 1,621,193 (60%)



Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve

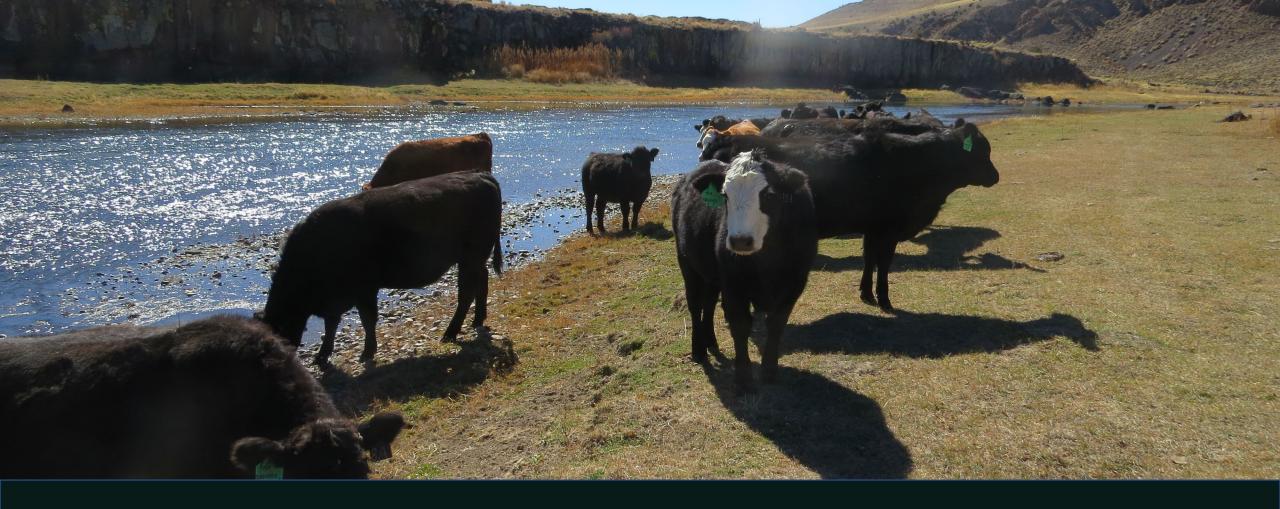
Next Steps:

- Developing Lighting Management Plan
- Preparing application for Reserve certification
- Continue Public Outreach



San Luis Valley Restoration Landscape





Trespass Grazing Monitoring Toolkit

SLVFO devised integrated monitoring tools with Survey 123 and automated the paperwork & records management

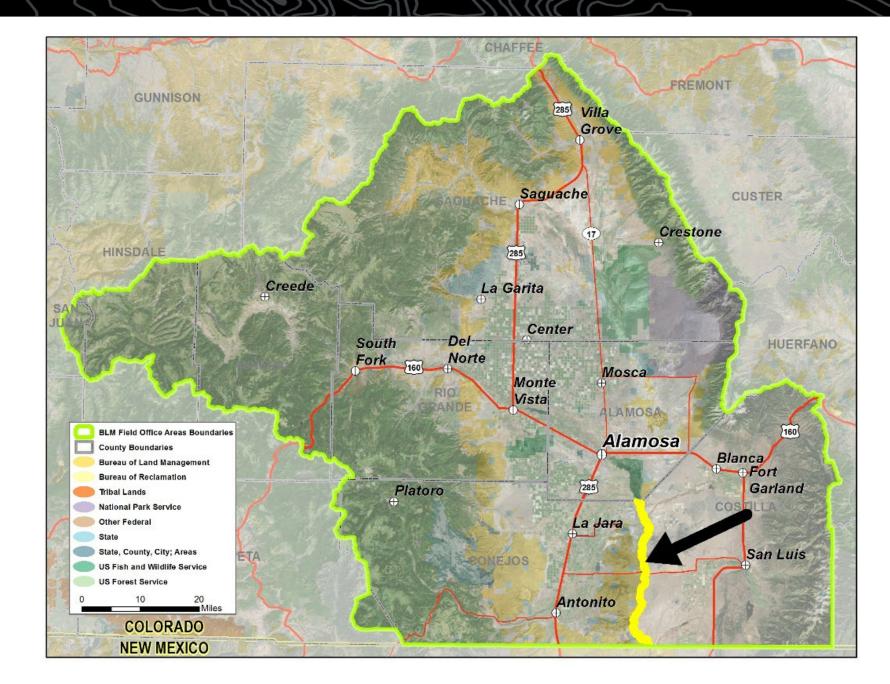
Rio Grande Natural Area

- Designated by Congress on Oct. 12th 2006
- Established to conserve, restore, and protect natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of lower Rio Grande in Colorado
- Provides critical habitat for Southwest Willow Flycatcher & Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Tremendous degradation of riparian and upland vegetation from decades of persistent livestock trespass

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

Rio Grande Natural Area

Stretches \sim 33 miles along the Rio Grande, from the southern boundary of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to the New Mexico state line, extending ¹/₄ mile on both sides of the river (~4,275 acres BLM)



Livestock Trespass Monitoring

- Summer 2022: New process initiated to provide legally defensible livestock trespass reporting mechanisms
- Need to track multiple trespass locations, dates, times, livestock types, herd numbers, and additional details with identifying brands and photos
- Necessary to use standard DOI/BLM unauthorized use and livestock reporting forms Form 9230-10: *Initial Report of Unauthorized Use* Form 4150-2: *Certificate of Livestock Count*

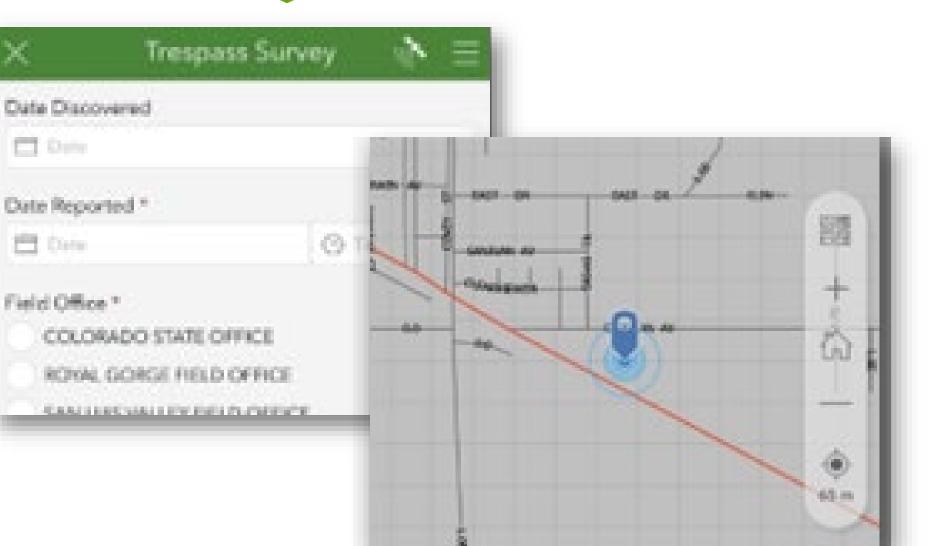
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

"Survey123 for ArcGIS is a simple and intuitive form-centric data gathering solution..." – Esri website

Trespass survey was crafted and published to ArcGIS Online (AGOL) based on the requirements of DOI/BLM Forms 923010 & 4150-2

Survey automatically collects locations of the observer and prompts easy-to-fill-out check boxes & dropdown selections

Survey123 Trespass Monitoring



Survey123 😰 Trespass Monitoring

Each survey can include up to four photos



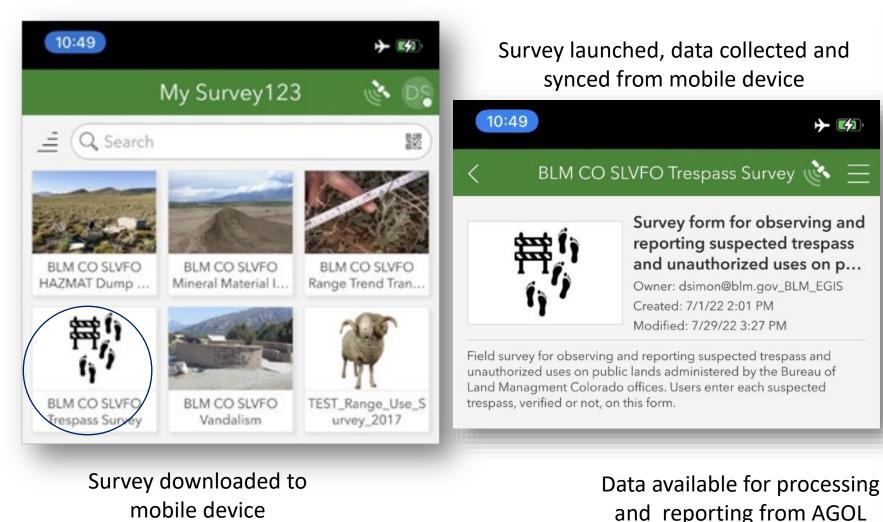
Smart Sketching allows user to *sketch* observed brand(s) on-screen

A monitoring route through the RGNA was developed for consistent data collection. A custom basemap of this route along with other reference data is downloaded to device along with the Survey



Survey123 😰 Trespass Monitoring

Data collected are available in ArcGIS Online (AGOL) immediately upon survey submission



BLM CO SLVFO Trespass Survey Open in Map Viewer Report rd ate Highway ate Highway 142

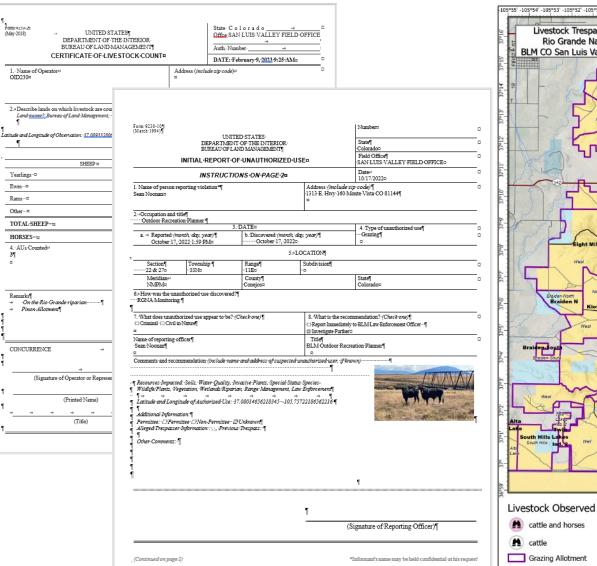
(May-2018)

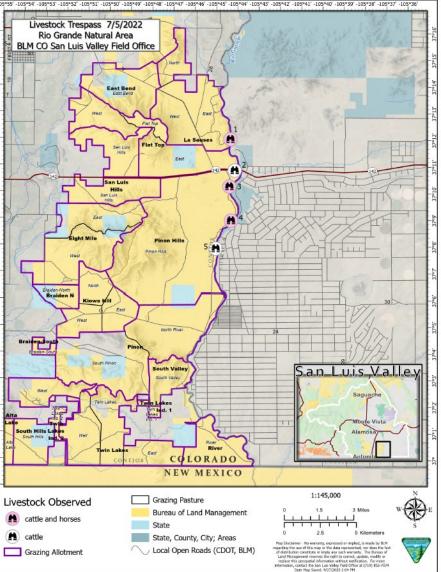
Survey123[©]Trespass Monitoring

Data & photos from each survey auto-populate two MS Word templates: Form 9230-10 & Form 4150-2

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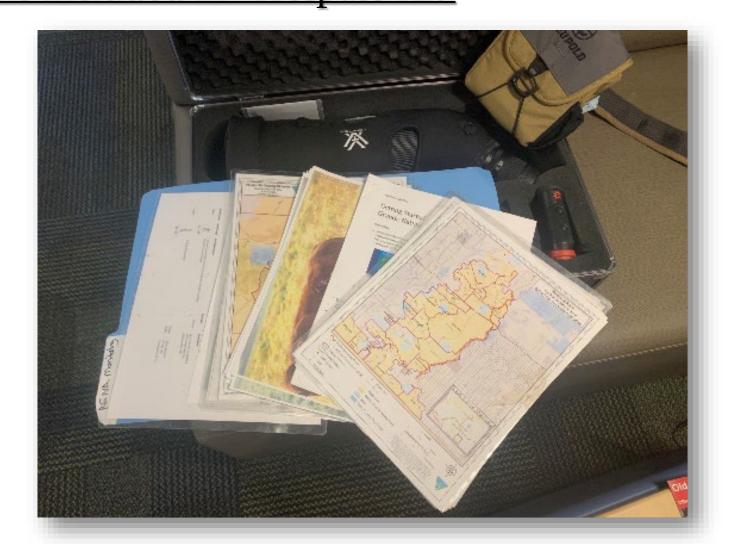
Daily maps are also created to display trespass locations





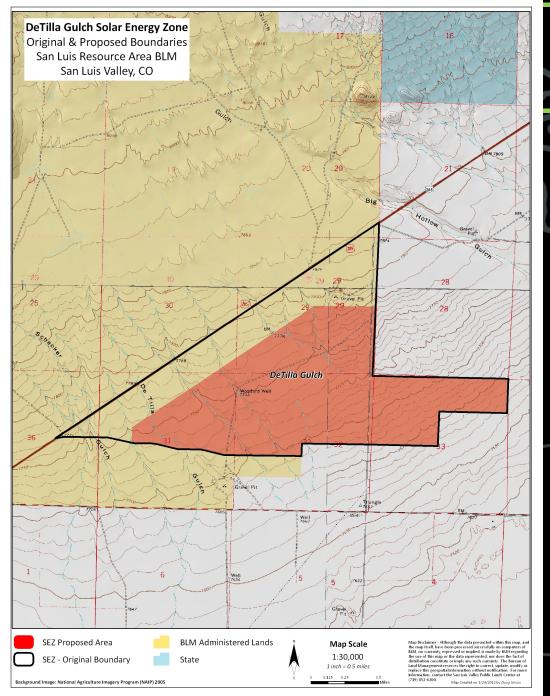
Livestock Trespass Monitoring Kit Items included in 'Trespass Kit'

- Shared tablet with latest version of Survey123 & Field Maps
- Binoculars and windowmounted, high-powered scope
- Laminated, hardcopy maps of monitoring route and grazing allotments proximate to RGNA
- Field guide for Survey123
- Brand sheet for common trespass livestock in area
- Example photos of prior trespass livestock with brands



Livestock Trespass Monitoring Noteworthy Considerations

- PII should <u>not</u> be included on Survey123 forms but only added to the processed MS Word document reports
- 'No Trespass Observed' is an important data option
- Trespass livestock can be wily. It's not easy to identify brands. Patience, a good mounted scope, and camera are essential for proper documentation
- Tracking staff hours becomes important for determining cost to Govt. when issuing trespass violations
- A good documenting and tracking process needed

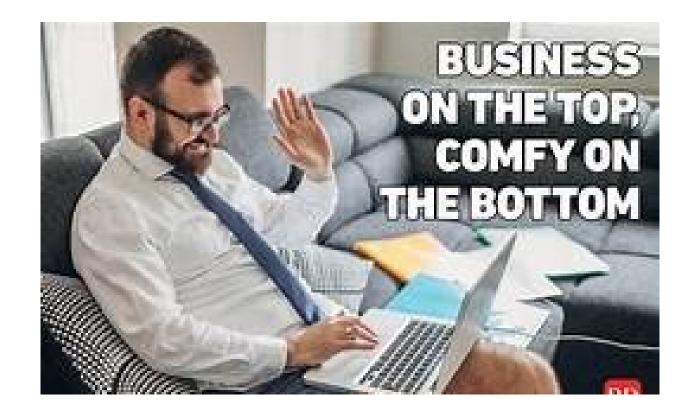


Solar Leasing Update



Cultural Considerations

- Lobatos Bridge
- Los Mogotes
 - **Bishop Rock fuels**
 - treatment



Lunch Break



Royal Gorge Field Office Campground Business Plan



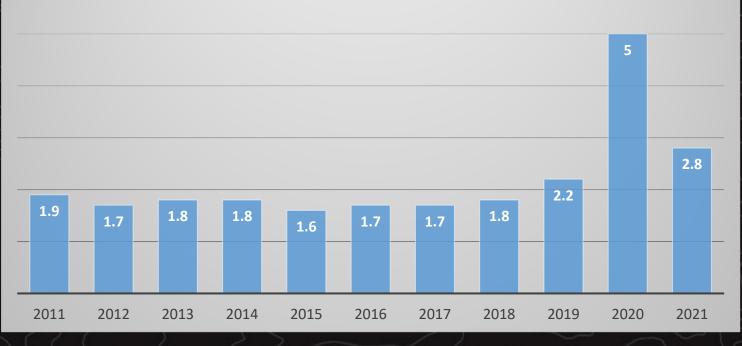


Kalem Lenard Assistant Field Manager/ Browns Canyon National Monument Manager Royal Gorge Field Office jlenard@blm.gov 719-433-8486



Visitor Use Trends

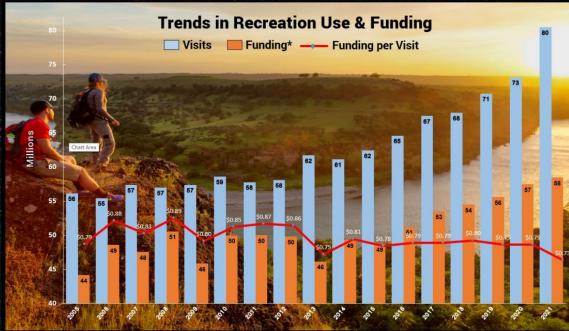
RGFO Visitation # of Visits (Million)



47% increase since 2011



Visitor Use and Budget Trends



*Appropriated funding for Recreation Resources Management Subactivity L1220

BLM's 21st Century Recreation Strategy



Report to Congressional Committees. GAO-21-592

Funding per Visitor



✓ 5 / 14 | ⊕ ♀ ♀

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Royal Gorge Field Office Campground Business Plan

Current Fee Sites:

- Sand Gulch Campground; \$7 individual site, \$14 group site
 - The Bank Campground; \$7 individual site, \$14 group site
 - (Last fee increase from \$4 to \$7 was in 2012)

Proposed Fee Sites:

Turtle Rock Campground; No fee currently

Potential Fee Sites*:

- Burmac
- Shavano
- Browns Grotto
- Fourmile County Road 304

*Identified in Chaffee County Camping and Travel Management Plan; fee would only apply if/when facilities are constructed per management plan direction





Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees cover specialized outdoor recreation sites and services including but not limited to developed campgrounds with at least a majority of the following amenities: (1) tent or trailer spaces, (2) picnic tables, (3) drinking water, (4) access roads, (5) fee collection by an employee or agent of the BLM, (6) reasonable visitor protection, (7) refuse containers, (8) toilet facilities, (9) simple devices for containing a campfire (Sec. 803.(g)(2)(A) of REA).



Expanded Amenities Checklist

Campground	Sites/Fee	Group Site/Fee	Tent/Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection	Visitor Protection	Trash	Toilet	Fire Rings
The Bank	33/\$7	2/\$14	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sand Gulch	16/\$7	1/\$14	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Turtle Rock	22*/\$0	N/A	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Proposed	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shavano	N/A	N/A	Proposed	TBD	No	Yes	TBD	Proposed	No	TBD	Proposed
Burmac	N/A	N/A	Proposed	TBD	No	Yes	TBD	Proposed	No	TBD	Proposed
CR 304	N/A	N/A	Proposed	TBD	No	Yes	TBD	Proposed	No	TBD	Proposed
Browns Grotto	N/A	N/A	Proposed	TBD	No	Yes	TBD	Proposed	No	TBD	Proposed
Overflow**	N/A	N/A	Proposed	No	No	Yes	Yes	Proposed	No	Yes	No

*Expansion Proposed **Only where offered and signed for overflow use



Estimated Management Costs

Basic Campground

Cost Type (Averages, including benefits)	Estimated Cost/15 site Campground
Park Ranger Salary (maintenance, camp host support) 8 hours per week for 34 weeks @ \$33.43/hour (cost to government)	\$9,093
Vehicle - 1 days/week for 34 weeks @ \$100/day	\$3,400
Supplies (cleaning supplies, toilet paper, sign repair, etc)	\$1,500
Services (toilet pumping = 3 pumps/year/ double vault @ \$600/pump)	\$1,800
Road/Site Maintenance	\$3,000
Campground Host Per Diem; \$400/month for 8 months	\$3,200
Law Enforcement 2 trips/month/site, 8 months @ \$5,000/months	\$10,000
Total Cost	\$31,993
10% Reserve for Deferred Maintenance	\$3,200
Total Cost Plus 10% Reserve	\$35,193









Estimated Management Costs

Primitive Campground

Cost Type (Averages, including benefits)	Estimated Cost/15 site Campground
Park Ranger Salary (maintenance, camp host support) 8 hours every other week for 34 weeks @ \$33.43/hour (cost to government)	\$4,546
Vehicle - 1 day every other week for 34 weeks @ \$100/day	\$1,700
Supplies (cleaning supplies, toilet paper, sign repair, etc)	\$1,500
Services (portable toilet rental \$60/week))	\$2,040
Road/Site Maintenance	N/A
Campground Host Per Diem; \$400/month for 8 months	\$3,200
Law Enforcement 1 trips/month/site, 8 months @ \$5,000/months	\$5,000
Total Cost	\$17,986
10% Reserve for Deferred Maintenance	\$1,798
Total Cost Plus 10% Reserve	\$19,785



Rate Comparison of Regional Campgrounds*

Campground Name	Agency/Private	Fee
Penitente Campground	BLM	\$11
18 Road, Fruita	BLM	\$20
Hecla Junction	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$28
Collegiate Peaks Campground	US Forest Service	\$22
Chalk Creek Campground	Private	\$42 (tent site)

*Business Plan provides more examples and comparison of services provided

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Rate Revenue Comparison

Estimated Budget Surplus/Deficit

	Site Fee Scenario	Occupancy/ Compliance Rate	# Nights	Estimated Campground Revenue @ 15 sites/one restroom	Estimated Management Cost (Table 4)	Surplus/Deficit Estimate
oposed Fee-	\$7	87%	167	\$15,255	\$35,193	-\$19,938
Basic CG	\$10	87%	167	\$21,793	\$35,193	-\$13,400
73 20	\$15	87%	167	\$32,690	\$35,193	-\$2,503
	\$20	87%	167	\$43,587	\$35,193	\$8,394
	\$25	87%	167	\$54,485	\$35,193	\$19,292

of nights is based on a six-month visitation season. Occupancy/compliance rate is based on actual estimates at The Bank and Sand Gulch Campgrounds.

Actual Budget Surplus/Deficit

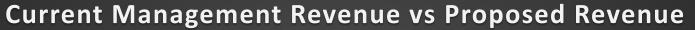
Campground	Current Site Fee	# of sites	Actual 2022 Campground Revenue	Estimated Management Cost (Table 4)	Surplus/Deficit Estimate
The Bank	\$7	33	\$31,644	\$42,152	-\$10,508
Sand Gulch	\$7	16	\$18,031	\$35,193	-\$17,162
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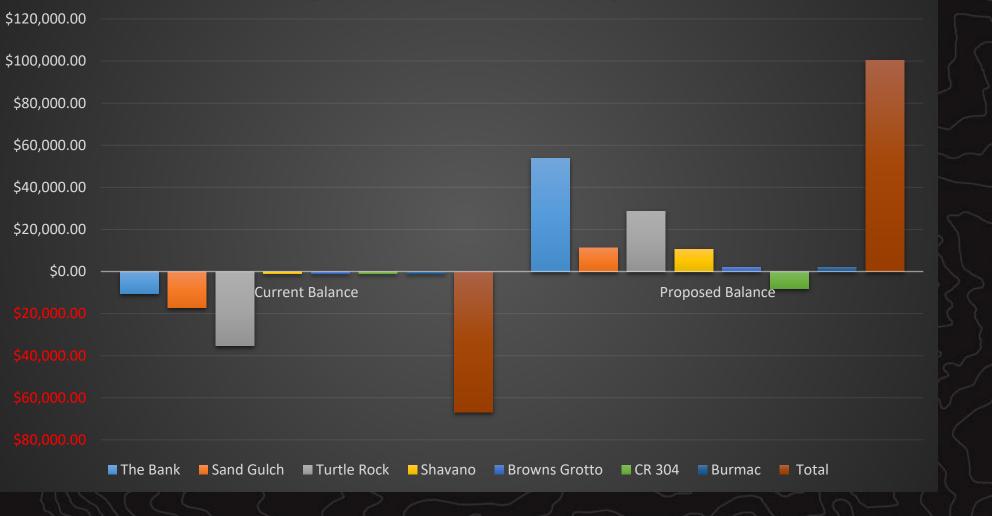
Proposed Fee – Primitive Campground and Overflow = \$10

Estimated Revenue

Campground	Proposed Site Fee	# of sites	% Occupancy/ Compliance Estimate	# of nights	Anticipated Revenue	Estimated Management Cost (Table 4)	Surplus/Deficit Estimate
The Bank	\$20	33	87%	167	\$95,891	\$42,152	\$53,739
Sand Gulch	\$20	16	87%	167	\$46,493	\$35,193	\$11,300
Sand Gulch Expanded	\$20	32	87%	167	\$92,986	\$42,152	\$50,834
Turtle Rock	\$20	22	87%	167	\$63,928	\$35,193	\$28,735
Shavano	\$10	80	87%	167	\$116,232	\$105,520	\$10,712
CR 304	\$10	8	87%	167	\$11,623	\$19,785	-\$8,162
Burmac	\$10	15	87%	167	\$21,794	\$19,785	\$2,009
Browns Grotto	\$10	15	87%	167	\$21,794	\$19,785	\$2,009
Overflow	\$10	N/A	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown









Impacts of Implementing and Not Implementing

Implementing

- Ability to provide basic sanitation and visitor health and safety services
- Improved management of adjacent areas
- Reduced impacts to resources from recreation use
- Potential displacement of lower income visitors or those not willing to pay fees









Not Implementing

- More allocated funding going to managing camping; fewer resources available to manage non camping related recreation use
- Reduced management of adjacent areas
- Increased impacts to resources from noncamping recreation use
- Less displacement of lower income visitors or those not willing to pay fees
- Could displace visitors seeking clean and sanitary camping conditions

Public Comment

- Press Release was picked up by Chaffee County Newspapers
- Link to Business Plan was posted on Mountain Project (Rock Climbing Forum)
- 11 comments received
- 8 supportive
- 3 opposed
 - Concerns with displacement of lower income populations



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Next Steps

- RAC provides feedback on Business Plan
- RAC recommends approving or not approving with any changes
 - Federal Register Notice if recommended for moving forward
- New fee structure goes into affect 180 days from Federal Register Notice



Questions or Feedback?

Thank you!



Royal Gorge Field Office

Penrose Commons Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP)









Background

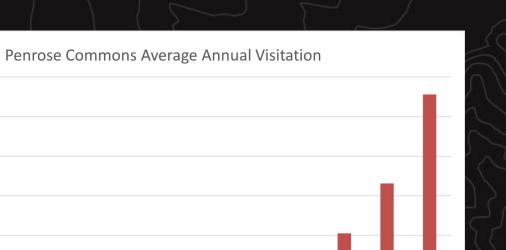
- 2003 Gold Belt Travel Management Plan established designated route network and objectives for the area
- Currently 30 miles of roads, ATV trails and rock crawler trails
- Objectives
 - Enhance motorized recreation in concert with other uses.
 - Provide intensive management of motorized recreation use
 - Expand and pursue partnerships with motorized recreation interests
 - Two Grazing Allotments (winter use)
- Commercial Decorative Rock Collecting Area



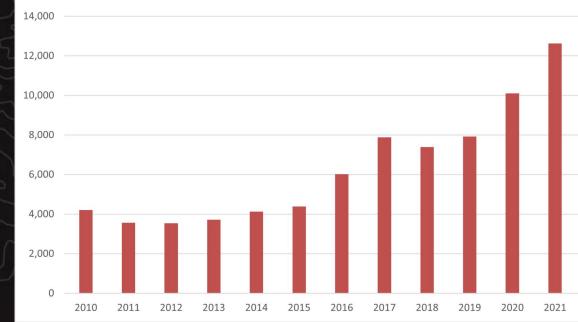
18,000

16,000

Royal Gorge Field Office



2022



300% increase from 2010 to 2022



Management Issues

- Camping/Residential Use Impacts
- Side by Side Use on ATV Trails
- User Created single-track trails
- Overall site capacity
- Staff capacity
- Trespassing onto adjacent private lands





Public Scoping

- Consulted with OHV groups, grazing permittees and adjacent private property owners
- 30 day Public Scoping period held October 2022
- 185 comments received
- Issues Identified
 - Desire for single-track motorcycle trails with advanced skills and beginner trails
 - Desire for a motorcycle trials area
 - Widening routes for Side-by-Side OHVs
 - A mix of comments support some level of camping management either developed or designated dispersed camping.

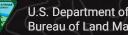


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Proposed Action - Management

- Widen and allow side x sides on ATV trails where feasible
- Designate a hill climb practice area in an old quarry
- Add single-track trails to network
 - Only if other aspects of the plan are being effective and minimal impacts to resources
 - No more than 7 miles
- Assess and better organize parking for the larger vehicles
- Limit camping to designated sites only
- Consider a motorcycle Trials Area



Proposed Action - Administration

- Establish a "Friends of" Group to assist with managing <u>ALL</u> aspects of recreation use in the area.
- Consider a day-use fee if other funding sources are not sufficient to provide necessary level of management
- Consider a camping fee if issues with • camping continue and additional management is necessary
- **Provide direction for Special Recreation** ulletPermits (organized groups, commercial and competitive use)





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Proposed Action - Information and Education

Integrate shared use messaging into education materials Education on camping, parking and recreation use regulations and ethics





Proposed Action - Monitoring

- Camping Monitoring
 - Human waste, trash, staying beyond 14 days, camping outside of designated sites, following fire restrictions, demand, visitor satisfaction
- OHV Use
 - User created routes, capacity (facilities and crowding)
- Grazing Impacts
- Soils and Vegetation Impacts
- Noxious and Invasive Weed Species





Proposed Action - Adaptive Management

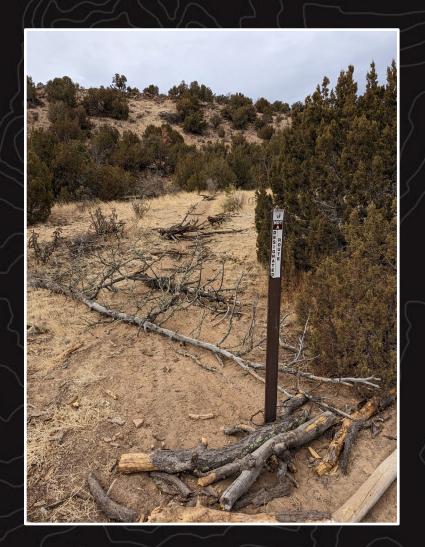


- Based on monitoring
 - Attempts to try lowest level of management first and assess cause
- Increased vehicle controls and information
- Increased education and visitor contacts
- Could eventually scale to additional infrastructure and fees (camping and/or day use)
- Could include trail closures
- Could include limits on number of visitors



No Action Alternative

- Would still attempt to increase education of visitors with current funding sources
- Can still put into place vehicle barriers to protect resources and retain route designations





Next Steps



- Incorporate public comments into final EA
 Determine Finding of No Significant Impact
- Issue Decision
- Implement Decision



Questions or Feedback?

Thank you!



Time for us to take Public Comments

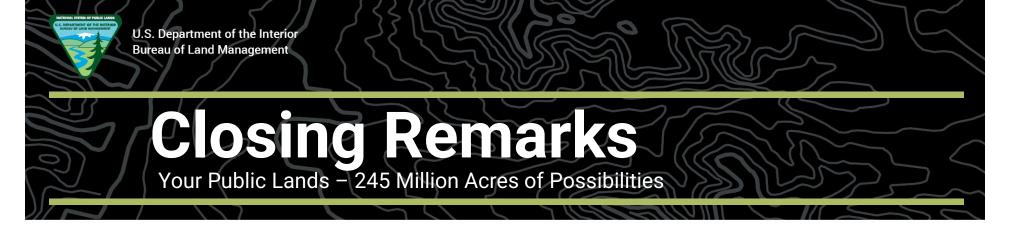


Wrap Up



Day 2: Friday, June 23

- 9:00 a.m. Meet at SLVFO
- 9:10 a.m. Travel to location
- 10:10 a.m. Location tour
- 10:40 a.m. Travel to secondary location?
- 10:50 a.m. Secondary location tour?
- 11:30 a.m. Return travel





Q&A

Please drop your questions in the chat or raise your hand