



Field Manager Report

February 2024

Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM)

Note: Topics below are labeled either “**Status Update**” or “**New Update**” to help identify items that have changed from the previous report.

Planning

Transportation and Access Plan (TAP2) - Status Update

The second TAP involves BLM lands located in Dolores, San Miguel, and Montrose counties. The RMP maintenance map, which established all inventoried routes for the planning area, was published on December 5, 2023. Using this inventory as the baseline for designations, the BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) are starting the route-by-route review, and development of alternatives, this month (January 2023). Our target is to share the plan with the public in the fall of 2024. Scoping, with public meetings, will be planned to coincide with the issuance of the preliminary analysis.

Fuels and Timber

West Rim Timber Sale - Status Update

To keep ponderosa pine forests healthy, the BLM has completed a contract on 484 acres in the East Pines area, as well as 178 acres of thinning in the North Pines area. Piles from the logging sale have been burned and to date 375 acres of piles have been burned. The BLM will complete an additional 110 acres of skidding on these previously thinned areas.

Dawson

Additional units in the Dawson project were designed by Colorado State University and University of California Berkeley in conjunction with the BLM. The overarching goal is to create more research and literature on the pinyon and juniper vegetation type. Implementation of the prescription is mostly complete and the BLM is now burning piles.

Yellow Jacket Noxious Tree/Brush Removal - Status Update

The BLM completed a cut, pile, and spray of 20 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive along Yellow Jacket Creek. The piles will be burned this winter or next.

Dawson Draw Prescribed Fire - Status Update

Dawson prescribed fire units 1-3 were burned and seeded last fall totaling 912 acres. Additional units have been developed in the project area and prep and burning may start this year for 989 acres.

West Rim Prescribed Fire - Status Update

992 acres were accomplished in FY23. We are planning on burning up to 1,594 acres in FY24.

Durango Area Hazardous Fuels Projects (signed January 2021)

This project reduces hazards associated with vegetation near and around the Durango area and addresses a long-term need to manage vegetation adjacent to critical infrastructure, which includes reducing tree and shrub densities and fuel loads and protecting ecosystem heterogeneity. The BLM is implementing various treatments, including prescribed fire, manual tree removal/felling, pile burning, understory burning, and vegetative mastication.

Grassy Mountain - New Update

In Durango most of our efforts will focus on the Grassy Mountain Project for 411 acres on BLM lands in conjunction with the National Forest Foundation, Forest Service, and Colorado State Forest Service.

Animas City Mountain - Status Update

As part of the Durango Area Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, the BLM completed 495 acres of broadcast burning.

Edgemont Highlands

The BLM completed 40 acres of tree removal work at Edgemont Highlands near Durango in September. Piles generated from this work were burned in early January 2024.

Grandview - Status Update

The BLM will be looking to burn 247 acres of piles this winter. Due to unfavorable fire effects, only 30 acres were burned in early January. Attempts will be made when fuels are drier.

Sailing Hawks, Forest Lakes (Grassy Mountain), and Skyline areas

Over the next two years, the BLM will be working to complete follow-up retreatment actions on 5,638 previously treated acres and initiate treatment actions on 2,710 acres in ponderosa forest.

Wildlife

Durango Area Winter Wildlife Closures

The BLM successfully completed the installation of permanent gates at popular recreation access points within the winter wildlife closures areas around Durango. This action will help bolster enforceability of and conformance with annual winter wildlife closures in this popular recreation area. In winter 2022-2023, 231 groups and 318 individuals were caught on game cameras violating the seasonal closures for Animas City Mountain. In addition, there were 107 groups and 148 people on game cameras in the Grandview Ridge area. There were also multiple pictures of off-leash dogs chasing deer.



In summer 2023, TRFO added fencing around Sale Barn and Big Canyon trailheads to improve compliance with winter wildlife closures. The BLM also plans to install fencing between two gates on Animas City Mountain to keep individuals from walking around closure gates and improve compliance.



Summit Point Habitat Improvement Project

This project is in the planning phase. Data is being collected in 2023, with a draft EA planned for release in fall 2023. The Summit Point area has been surveyed for cultural resources, woodland raptors, and pinyon jays. The project is being designed to improve habitat for mule deer and pinyon jays. Currently, no pinyon jays have been documented to use the area. If successful, this project will provide insights into managing fuels to improve habitat for pinyon jays.

CANM Big Game Habitat Management

In 2019, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) updated big game critical winter range mapping, adding 100,000+ acres of critical winter range to CANM. The BLM is currently working to determine how to manage these areas. Funding has been requested to allow CANM to monitor wildlife and recreation use in critical winter range and identify possible actions to effectively manage the area with the intent of balancing the needs of recreation and wildlife. An RMP amendment process is presently underway to incorporate these mapping updates.

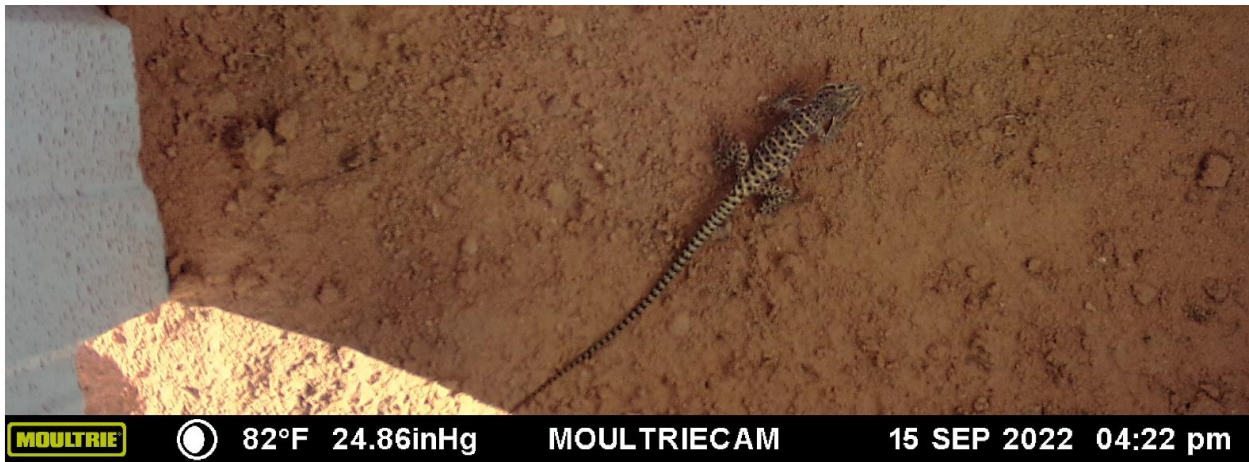
Unit	FY 19 Acres	CPW Update Acres	Increase in Acres
TRFO	181,984	230,985	49,001
CANM	0	100,846	100,846

Inventory/Monitoring Projects

TRFO, in coordination with the Fuels program, put out contracts to inventory almost 13,000 acres of habitat for forest-dwelling raptors. This would enable TRFO to improve efficiency in implementing fuels reduction projects.

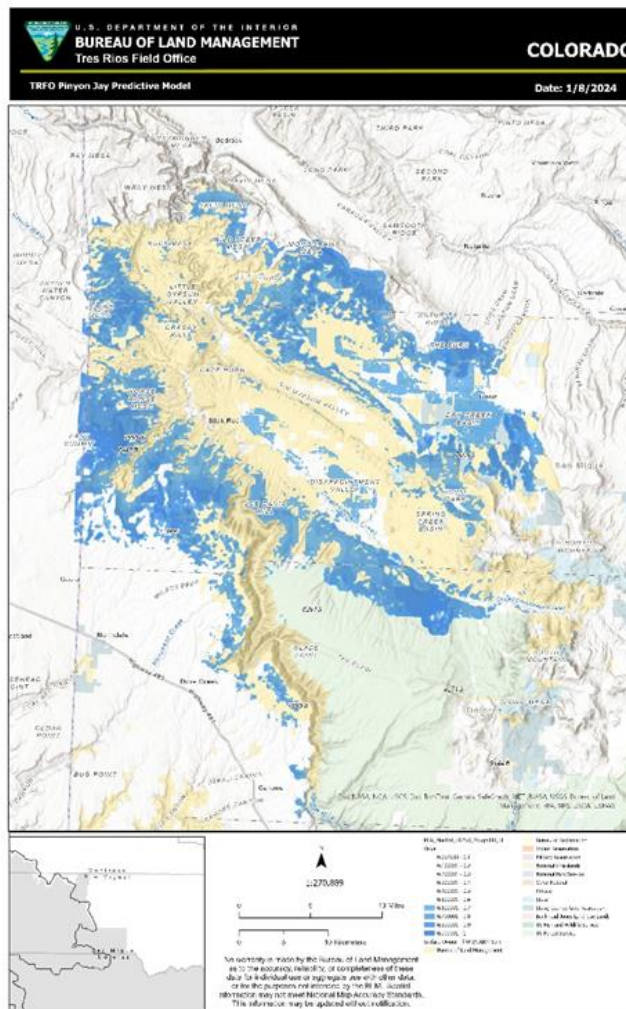
The longnose leopard lizard is a BLM sensitive species and presently occupies habitat in CANM. Current monitoring efforts include refining a lizard drift fence to facilitate recording the presence and habitat of these unique desert reptiles. AIM data was collected at all sites to quantify soil and vegetation data near the trap locations. An increase in captures per day from 2021 to 2022 at both McElmo and Risley was recorded. McElmo 1 had a 92% increase and McElmo 2 had a 45% increase. Risley 1 increased by 80% from 2021 to 2022. Cannonball Mesa 1 showed a decline in 2022 of 42% and 49% at Cannonball Mesa 2. The increase in species detected is most likely due to modified camera trap design. The new design appears to increase the number of detections and image quality.





TRFO has increased efforts to monitor for pinyon jays on the landscape. Multiple new colonies were identified in spring 2023 and several thousand acres were inventoried.

The wildlife program has developed a predictive model for Pinyon Jay occurrence within the TAP2 Transportation Planning area. This spring surveys will be conducted for Pinyon Jays to validate and improve the predictive model. Surveys will follow the Pinyon Jay Working Group Landscape protocol where appropriate.



Summit Point Habitat Restoration Project

The TRFO Wildlife Program is coordinating with Colorado Parks and Wildlife on a 1,200-acre habitat improvement project for Pinyon Jays and big game. The project aims to improve habitat for Pinyon Jays using various treatment methods for thinning pinyon and juniper to provide multiple age classes.

The *Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Program* will be wrapping up a multi-year Monitoring Study Design, completing over 221 study plots. A final 53 plots will be completed this year. In winter 2023, the BLM will summarize the data and report vegetation summaries for Grassland, Mixed Conifer, Mixed Mountain Shrub, Pinyon Juniper Woodland, Ponderosa Pine, Riparian, Sagebrush Steppe, Salt Desert, and Sage-grouse habitat.

Range and Weeds Management

General Permit Administration

TRFO Range staff have completed all 2023 range permit renewals. The BLM continues to pursue and complete the land health and cultural surveys required to fully process grazing permits presently set to expire in 2024.

Weeds

The local BLM weeds crew directly treats approximately 300 acres of BLM-managed lands in TRFO and CANM annually. These acres are treated strategically to benefit functioning ecosystems and prevent new outbreaks from spreading, particularly in critical and potential habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse.

Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA)

The current wild horse population is 64, which is within the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the HMA. In 2023, PZP (porcine zona pellucida vaccine) contraceptive efforts focused on retreating 18 mares that were not vaccinated last season.

Gypsum Valley Grazing Decision (TRFO)

The final grazing decision was signed in August 2021 and appealed shortly thereafter by Western Watersheds Project. A petition to stay the decision was denied and the new permit was issued. The appeal is presently before the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Recreation

TAP1 Implementation Actions

TRFO continues to implement the TAP1 decision as funding and other opportunities present. An unplanned late season funding opportunity in the final days of FY22 enabled TRFO to inject much-needed funding into TAP1 area trailheads and parking areas. As a result in FY23, three parking areas were developed, two at the Aqueduct trail system and one at Turtle Lake Bouldering area. The Southwest Conservation Corps performed trail construction on the Lupine Trail in the East Animas area, bringing the Durango portion of TAP1 closer to completion. In a continued effort to increase uniform visual presence for visitors at public lands and access points kiosks and portal signs were

also installed. Wayfinding kiosks were also installed at the Aqueduct and on East Animas Mountain in Durango. Position vacancies in Recreation were filled in FY22 and FY23 through recreation staff promotions and recruitment within the BLM. Newly promoted and hired staff are being brought up to speed on TAP1 implementation and starting to work on TAP2.

Aqueduct Trail Project

Construction on all the single-track trails within the Aqueduct Parcel has been completed. The final singletrack trail was completed in spring/summer 2023. Construction on this trail network restarted in 2022 with the lifting of the seasonal wildlife closure on May 1. Mancos-area trail construction has been an entirely volunteer effort between the Mancos Trail Group and Southwest Colorado Cycling Association. Wayfinding signs and updated maps have been finalized and installed. Construction of parking areas on County Road 39 is also being completed.

Phil's World Travel Management Cultural Mitigation

As part of our effort to protect cultural resources at Phil's World, TRFO executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to resolve adverse effects caused by portions of the motorized trail network in the original portion of the Phil's World trail system. A future EA will address trail closures and reroutes stipulated in the MOA to enhance the preservation of cultural resources in this area.

Durango Area Trails Alliance (DATA)

TRFO continues to participate in an inter-governmental working group with the City of Durango, La Plata County, CPW, and the San Juan National Forest. The purpose of the group is to balance enhanced recreational opportunities with improved coordinated wildlife habitat management around Durango, primarily through coordinated inter-agency trail management. In 2021, DATA was successfully awarded a \$60k trail maintenance grant and pursued additional grant funding options to improve resource management and recreation user experience across land ownership boundaries. In 2022, this collaboration continued in the form of trail maintenance and trail user information campaigns. In spring 2023, trail maintenance and stabilization work was conducted by the Southwest Conservation Corps on the East Animas climbing access trail. The SCC also conducted trail construction on the undeveloped Lupine Trail on Animas City Mountain this summer.

Chutes and Ladders Dispersed Recreation Area

In 2022, TRFO staff took the SWRAC on a field trip of the Chutes and Ladders dispersed recreation area to discuss issues with neighbors in the area. The neighbors have appealed the Travel Analysis Planning decision that allows for camping and development of more formal amenities. The appeal is still unresolved and there is no estimate of when resolution might occur. TRFO planned on initiating an EA during the appeal to evaluate a more formal campground opportunity, but due to staffing shortages, the effort has yet to be started.

Cultural Resources

Uravan Mineral Belt Interpretation Loop

The TRFO archaeologist is working on route designation of an existing driving loop, accompanied by

interpretive materials at select locations, that would be known as the Yellowcake Trail. The intent of the historic interpretive loop would be to preserve and share the history of uranium mining around Radium and Wedding Bell Mountains.

National Register Nominations

The Burro Mine draft national register nomination is expected to be completed by March 1st 2024 and is anticipated to be officially listed by summer 2025.

Travel Planning and Implementation PA

In this BLM multi-office agreement, TRFO will continue to systematically complete cultural resource inventory of travel routes in the TAP2 planning area, and work towards revisitation of 183 historic properties with travel routes in their boundary and assess those sites for travel-related effects.

Minerals (Fluid)

Paradox Resources- Status Update

TRFO has been working in conjunction with the BLM Colorado State Office, Utah State Office, and Office of Natural Resource Revenue (ONRR) on a long-running compliance issue regarding royalty payment from federal units existing in both Colorado and Utah. Shut-in requests were received from ONRR in January, and the orders were translated into Incidents of Non-Compliance (INCs) and issued to Paradox in early March. 42 wells within the Andy's Mesa Unit (San Miguel County, Colorado) were issued and executed, with potential civil penalties in excess of \$38,000,000.00 to begin on June 1, 2023.

In May 2023, Paradox filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and is currently working with BLM solicitors, bankruptcy courts, and ONRR solicitors on a resolution that may or may not result in a lifting of the shut-in order. BLM Colorado submitted a proof of claim in October for \$157,916,000 for remediation and reclamation of all of Paradox and Four Corner's assets and federal interests.

On November 7, 2023, the bankruptcy court approved a proposed sale of all of Paradox and Four Corner's assets, including its federal interests. As part of the proposed plan of sale, GNG Partners agreed to pay all of the outstanding royalties and rentals to ONRR quarterly over 5 years. This comes to approximately 3 million dollars. The payment plan is backloaded with larger payments due in 2025. Typically, this is something that DOI would object to, but a decision was made by Interior leadership to not object to the sale based on the payment plan.

Leadership determined that allowing the sale to move forward with a payment plan was in the best interest of the United States because (1) the likelihood of recovery of past due rents and royalties was more likely with the new buyer than if this case converted to Chapter 7, and (2) the substantial P&A liability would transfer to GNG Partners and not come back to the United States. As long as the bankrupt debtors and any third parties (GNG) that are parties to the settlement agreement are in compliance with the settlement agreement's terms for payment of past due amounts, and are in compliance with the current monetary obligations under the leases, the lease accounts can be considered to be "in good standing" from a monetary standpoint. The BLM still has the opportunity to review the leases and decide to approve the record title assignment and/or operating rights.

Oil and Gas Development Projects - Status Update

Fluid mineral development recently has focused on tribal interests, with nearly 100% of current activity within the TRFO taking place on Southern Ute Indian Reservation surface in the northern portion of the San Juan Basin, targeting primarily Mancos Shale methane gas.

Summary of FY23 Approvals – New Notice

Operator	APD/Facility	Disposition	Date of Disposition
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/705H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/703H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/701H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/8H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/7H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/6H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/5H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/4H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/3H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/2H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/1H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
SIMCOE LLC	SOUTHERN UTE U/3	6/7/2023	APPROVED
SIMCOE LLC	SOUTHERN UTE U/2	6/7/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-4	3/14/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-3	3/14/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-2	3/14/2023	APPROVED
KINDER MORGAN CO2 COMPANY LLC	CB/4	2/22/2023	APPROVED
GUNNISON ENERGY LLC	IPU LOWER 1291/#13-24 H4	9/28/2023	APPROVED
GUNNISON ENERGY LLC	IPU LOWER 1291/#13-24 H3	9/28/2023	APPROVED
MARALEX RESOURCES INCORPORATED	MOLLIE CORYNNE 33-7-2/3C	5/5/2023	APPROVED
KINDER MORGAN CO2 COMPANY LLC	RC/4	10/26/2022	WITHDRAWN
KINDER MORGAN CO2 COMPANY LLC	RC/3	10/26/2022	WITHDRAWN

Inspection and Enforcement

Planned Inspections for FY 24

PET/PAT Workload:

Drilling: 15 (Federal- 5; Indian- 10)

Plugging: 36 (Federal- 16; Indian- 20)

Production Inspection: 314 (Federal- 6 high, 65 low; Indian- 12 high, 231 low)

Idle: 52 (Federal-13, 5 extra; Indian-34 high, 0 extra)

Workover: 100 (Federal- 0; Indian- 60 high, 40 low)

Oversight for PI: 7 (Federal- 2; Indian- 5)

Records Verification: 232 (Federal- 21 high, 70 extra; Indian- 71 high, 70 extra)

Oversight for RA/RV: 7 (Federal- 3; Indian- 4)

Surface Workload:

Environmental Surface: 255 (Federal- 125; Indian- 130)

Environmental Monitoring: 98 (Federal- 25; Indian- 68)

Coordination - New Notice

TRFO held quarterly meetings with the Southern Ute Tribe, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, to ensure our relationships and communication pathways remain open and collaborative. Quarterly meetings were also held with Kinder Morgan, which is our largest federal fluid mineral producer actively pursuing APDs.

Coordination meetings were also held with the Montezuma, Dolores, LaPlata, and San Miguel Boards of County Commissioners.

NSJB Stakeholder Meetings

TRFO is once again participating in the Northern San Juan Basin Stakeholder meetings organized by the San Juan National Forest (SJNF). These meetings serve as coordination on fluid mineral issues between the BLM, Columbine Ranger District of the SJNF, ECMC, and LaPlata and Archuleta counties, as well as representatives from local industry groups.

Proposed Methane Waste Prevention and Royalty Loss Rule Consultation- Update

In April and May of 2023, TRFO in conjunction with the BLM CO State Office and Headquarters held meetings regarding comments received from the Southern Ute Tribe on the proposed rulemaking. Substantive conversations were held and continued collaboration and consultation has taken place throughout the summer and fall as the BLM has worked to finalize language in the draft rule.

Southern Ute Community Action Programs, Inc. (SUCAP) Outreach Meetings

TRFO also participated in joint mineral outreach meetings organized by the ONRR and held in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute agencies), as well as the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. The June meetings were held in both Ignacio and Towaoc, CO to answer questions for individual Indian mineral owners.

Minerals (Solid)

Locatable Minerals Projects

43 CFR 3809 Claims Under General Mining Law

Summary: TRFO has active uranium/vanadium as well as copper notices as well as one plan of operations update.

Plans of Operation

Sunday Mines Plan of Operations - Status Update

TRFO is in the initial review of the Environmental Assessment prepared for the plan of operations update. Colorado State Office as well as SOL reviews are underway, a draft document for public review is anticipated late Winter 2024 or early Spring 2024.

Notices- 3809

Operator	Notice Title	Disposition	Status
Nuvemco	Blue Streak	Approved	Active
Alianza	Stateline	Approved	Active
Alianza	Klondike	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Section 23	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Groundhog	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Rimrock	Approved	Active
Slickrock	SlickRock	Approved	

43 CFR 3601 Mineral Materials

Summary: Multiple active Free Use Permits (FUPs) as well as one recently released competitive (COMP) pit.

FUPs and COMP- 3601

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
San Miguel County	Klondike	Approved	Active
	Tozer		
Dolores County	Disappointment	Approved	Active
Dolores County	Black Snag	Approved	Active
San Juan County	Dry Creek	Approved	Active
LaPlata County	Montoya	Approved	Active
Robert Dougherty	Cedar Point	Released	Closed

43 CFR 3500 Solid Leasable Materials

Summary: Recent submission of potash project identical to one previously analyzed (10 years ago), currently under analysis and review at the Colorado State Office BLM.

Prospecting Permits- 3500

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
Ranahan	CO106326175	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326177	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326178	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326179	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326181	Received	Under Analysis

43 CFR 3400 Coal Management

Summary: The King Coal Lease boundary modification was finalized in Summer 2023.

Exploration Permits-3400

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
GCC	CO106100173	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106052020	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106093503	Approved	Active

43 CFR 3601 Mineral Materials Disposal Discussion

Disappointment Pit Expansion

TRFO is in the process of scoping an expansion for the Disappointment Gravel Pit (free use pit, permit held by Dolores County Road and Bridge) for the expansion of an additional 5 acres of disturbance associated with the continued use of the Disappointment Pit. In April 2023, TRFO approved an additional deepening of the existing pit to continue production while the field office analyzed the additional disturbance. External scoping of a draft EA is anticipated for November 2023. Currently the TRFO is working with ROW holders to move powerlines out of the area planned for expansion.

Black Snag Pit

TRFO anticipates processing an EA to expand the existing Black Snag Pit located in upper Disappointment Valley. BLM is also working with Dolores County on a possible upgrade to the Disappointment Creek crossing on the access road.

Montoya Pit

TRFO conducted an inspection of the currently operating Montoya Pit in LaPlata County. The continued production of gravel for the Four Corners Region is reliant on this pit. An additional quantity of disturbance (exact size unknown) is expected to be proposed in later 2023, recognizing the current production area will be mined out within the next 24 months. TRFO anticipates an EA for this likely beginning spring 2024.

Coordination

Western Small Miners Association

TRFO participated in regular meetings that most recently met in October of 2023. The purpose of the meetings is round table discussion with regulators, industry representatives, and interested public related to federal and state permitting processes as well as the future of mining on the western slope of Colorado.

Abandoned Mine Lands

TRFO AML Program Update

TRFO completed NEPA documents the closure of approximately 200 hazardous abandoned mine openings by DOE/DRMS and Freeport in FY2023. DOE/DRMS completed construction of approximately 145 hazardous abandoned mine openings in Spring and Fall 2023.

Northwind

Northwind completed their physical safety hazard inventory on hundreds of mine openings in western San Miguel, Montrose, Dolores, and Montezuma counties in Summer 2021 and were issued a contract for remediation work to be completed in FY2022, including surveys, NEPA analysis, and closure construction. In Fall of 2023 Northwind completed 15 closures; no more closures are anticipated from Northwind.

DOE-DRUM - Status Update

The Department of Energy survey work is almost completed on Cold War-era defense-related uranium mines (DRUM) in San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma counties. DOE/DRMS completed construction of approximately 145 hazardous abandoned mine openings in Spring and Fall 2023. TRFO expects to receive a draft proposed action in February 2024 for additional closures to be performed by DOE and DRMS in 2025.

Freeport McMoRan - Status Update

Freeport completed construction on a portion of what was approved in Fall 2023 (~30 features), and have additional closures pending for Spring or Fall 2024(~5-10). Freeport is almost complete with new feature closures in TRFO, and will be working with the office to address sites which were put on a wait list due to difficult conditions and continue monitoring closures which were already performed.

Lands and Reality

Program Update

TRFO is in the process of filling a critical vacancy, our realty program has been getting by without a specific realty specialist for over two years at this point. An announcement seeking new individual closed in mid-November, interviews were recently held. TRFO anticipates having a full-time realty specialist in place by mid-spring 2024.

Tri-State Line Maintenance-Goodman Point to Sand Canyon

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. conducted critical maintenance on the Goodman Point to Sand Canyon portion of the CO2 Loop in October of 2023. The BLM had previously approved their maintenance request for Goodman Point-Main Switch. Tri-state was able to make resources available this year to accommodate additional required maintenance.

Hawkes Ditch

In 2018, the BLM collected money for a trespass maintenance action that took place on a historic ditch adjacent to privately held property, now in the possession of new ownership (Hawkes) in the southern portion of Montezuma County, near the town of Mancos. BLM is worked with the landowner this summer using over \$7,000 of trespass funds collected to restore the ditch to proper function.

32nd Street Parcel

The BLM is helping the city improve water quality in the Animas River and eventually plans to dispose of the land to the city of Durango. The land will be used as stormwater retention and control. The sale of the land is under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 1926, *as amended*. The purpose of the Act is to provide land to local government or qualifying non-profit

organizations for the public purposes (such as community improvements, infrastructure), or recreation. The land is under lease by the City under this Act. The City must provide a plan of development that is approved by the BLM and NEPA requirements are followed. Once the City meets the plan of development through the term of the lease, the City may apply for the ownership of the land. The land gets patented and must remain compliant under the Act (the use must continue to follow the intent of the Act).

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Visitor Center and Museum - Status Update

Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum underwent a major floor stabilization project in spring and summer 2023. The project was completed in July and the center is open under a normal operating schedule, currently Tuesday through Saturday from 9 to 5.

New permanent visitor center exhibits were installed in August. The exhibit upgrades provide a much-improved overview of the Monument, as well as providing an opportunity to understand the opportunities available to visit public sites. The exhibits include a strong indigenous voice and visit with respect message. A new special exhibit opened in August 2023 featuring a series of landscape paintings from local artist Stanton Englehart. The title of the exhibit, "My Calendar", communicates that 12 of the paintings depict each month of the year. The exhibit will be in place through December 2024.

Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park Grazing Allotments - Status Update

CANM initiated Section 106 consultation for a proposal to reissue permits for livestock grazing on the vacant Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park allotments. Staff are developing a programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to identify potential adverse effects to cultural resources and associated mitigations. Once the agreement is complete, CANM will go through the NEPA process, with input from tribes and other interested parties to analyze other potential impacts from the proposal. Draft language for the identification portion of the agreement has been finalized. The next steps for the PA will be mitigation and resolution.

Painted Hand Road Relocation and Trailhead Improvements Project - Status Update

The road accessing the Painted Hand cultural site has been improved and relocated from private property onto nearby public lands managed by the BLM. In addition to a crowned gravel road, a developed 20-site parking area, picnic shelter, restroom, and improved trail system have also been completed. New interpretive signs will be installed along the trail by November.

Mary Austin Acquisition (CANM)

The final decision for the Mary Austin acquisition was appealed by several parties opposed to grazing in the Monument on the grounds of adjusting the percent public lands as it relates to billing the permittees on the effected allotments. A petition for stay was denied. The administrative record is presently under review by a Department of Interior Solicitor prior to submission to the IBLA.