COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Proposed Resource Management Plan
and Environmental Impact Statement

CHAPTER 5—CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 Introduction

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) represents extensive collaboration with and input from interested individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures the public's involvement in the decision-making process, as well as allowing for full environmental disclosure.

Public involvement for the CCNCA RMP is occurring in two phases:

- Public scoping prior to NEPA analysis to obtain public input on issues and proposed alternatives, and
- Public review and comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, which includes analyzing possible environmental impacts and identifying the preferred alternative.

Throughout the scoping and planning process, which officially began in December 2001, the CCNCA Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups composed of the various user groups met with BLM extensively to discuss resource and management issues, took numerous field trips facilitating better insight into the issues, and then worked together in developing a spectrum of recommendations for resolving the issues.

5.2 Public Scoping Activities

The objectives of public scoping prior to NEPA analysis are to:

- Invite individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to participate;
- Identify a preliminary list of environmental and socioeconomic issues to address in the NEPA document; and
- Identify and eliminate issues determined to be insignificant.

5.2.1 Notice of Intent

The scoping process for the CCNCA began on December 7, 2001, with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. With this, the public was officially notified of the BLM's intent to develop a plan for those BLM-managed lands lying within the CCNCA. This Notice of Intent also solicited public comments.

5.2.4 Public Scoping Meetings

Along with numerous open houses held in communities in close proximity to the planning area, an intensive schedule of meetings, field trips, presentations, event exhibits, and training was maintained throughout the planning process (see Table 5-1). The open houses provided the public with an opportunity to receive information, ask questions, and offer input. All public outreach activities were scheduled with the intent to encourage public participation through extended and/or convenient dates and times. Collaboration, among the diverse individuals and organizations participating in the planning process with the BLM, was strengthened by both one-on-one interactions as well as in group settings. Attendees have had the opportunity to view exhibits and presentations on the CCNCA, covering both general and resource specific items, at various events. Chosen venues, including the BLM conference room and civic and community centers, ensure accessibility for the disabled and also encourage a broader participation through the diverse venue settings. Cooperative agreements have been executed between BLM and several other agencies, including the Department of Natural Resource, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Bureau of Reclamation. BLM also benefits from working closely with the city of Fruita, Mesa County-Colorado, the National Park Service/Colorado National Monument (COLM), and the BLM Moab Field Office (Utah). Both the COLM and BLM Moab resources share common boundaries with the CCNCA.

Table 5-1
Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips

JANUARY 2002	
January 14-18	Training: "Successful Land Use Planning" Washington, State, and Field Office personnel
January 22	CCNCA Planning Open House, Grand Junction
January 24	Western Colorado Tourism Council Meeting
January 29	Quiet Trails Coalition Meeting
FEBRUARY 2002	
February 5-7	Cooperative Involvement in Colorado National Monument Scoping Meetings -Glade Park, Fruita, Grand Junction
February 11	CCNCA Planning Open House, Fruita
February 14	Initial Advisory Council Meeting

Table 5-1 Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips	
February 19	Presentation to Grand County, Utah, Council
February 22	Presentation to Mesa County Commissioners
February 27	Gateway Community Workshop
February 28	Working Group Membership Open House
MARCH 2002	
March 12-14	Training: Community-Based Partnership for Stakeholders
March 11	Initial Wilderness Working Group Meeting
March 12	Initial River Working Group Meeting
March 13	Initial Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting
March 14	Advisory Council Meeting
March 18	Initial Rabbit Valley Working Group Meeting
March 19	Wilderness Working Group
March 21	Mack Ridge Working Group
March 26	River Corridor Working Group
APRIL 2002	
April 1	Colorado National Monument Cooperating Association Meeting
April 1	Rabbit Valley Working Group
April 2	Wilderness Workshop-Working Group and Public
April 3	Meeting with Backcountry Horseman's Association
April 4	Mack Ridge Working Group
April 7	Rabbit Valley Working Group-Field Trip; Rabbit Valley Recreation Area
April 8	Rabbit Valley Working Group
April 9	Interagency Collaboration Session with Representatives of Ute Tribes
April 9	River Corridor Working Group
April 11	Advisory Council Meeting-McInnis Staff Briefing and Telecon
April 12	River Corridor Working Group-Field Trip; Colorado River
April 13	Wilderness Working Group-Field Trip: Wilderness Front Country
April 16	Meeting with Mesa County Planning Department
April 16	Wilderness Working Group
April 18	Mack Ridge Working Group
April 20	Wilderness Working Field Trip-Wilderness Backcountry
April 22	Rabbit Valley Working Group
April 23	River Corridor Working Group
April 23	Meeting with Mesa County Planning Department
April 24	City of Fruita Planning Meeting/Tour
April 30	BLM State Office Planning Briefing
April 30	Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip-East Mack Ridge

Table 5-1 Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips	
MAY 2002	
May 2	Tour of CCNCA with Congressman McInnis's staff
May 6	Planning Meeting with Moab (UT) Field Office
May 6	Presentation to Mack Area Community Council
May 9	Advisory Council Meeting -Great Sand Dunes National Monument Mgr. -Colorado Department of Natural Resources
May 9	Meeting with Sierra Club
May 9	Grand Junction Travel Expo Exhibit
May 13	Rabbit Valley Working Group
May 14	Briefing to Grand Junction Departments of Planning, Development, and Visitor & Convention Bureau
May 16	Mack Ridge Working Group
May 21	Wilderness Working Group
May 21	Meeting with Colorado Division of Wildlife
May 22	Initial Consultation Meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
May 23	Presentation on CCNCA Plan to Community Economic Development Strategy Session
May 28	River Corridor Working Group
May 30	Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip-West Mack Ridge
May 30	Training: Sonoran Institute Economic Profile System
JUNE 2002	
June 4	Wilderness Working Group
June 13	Advisory Council Meeting -Moab Field Office -U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
June 18-19	Representatives of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation Visit CCNCA
June 18	Wilderness Working Group
June 25-27	Support to Colorado National Monument Public Meetings
June 27	Mack Ridge Working Group
JULY 2002	
July 2	Wilderness Working Group
July 8	Rabbit Valley Working Group
July 9	Meeting with Colorado Department of Natural Resources to draft Cooperating Agency Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding
July 10	Meeting with Mesa County Commissioners
July 11	Advisory Council Meeting -Socioeconomic Profile of Mesa County
July 15	Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip

Table 5-1 Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips	
July 18-19	Benefits-Based Management Training (BBM) CCNCA staff and Advisory Council
July 18	BBM Workshop-Advisory Council and Working Group Members
July 26	Advisory Council Field Trip-Wilderness Front Country and Mack Ridge
July 30	Glenwood Springs Field Office-Land Exchange Meeting
July 30	Wilderness Working Group
July 31	Initial Consultation with Ute Indians of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
AUGUST 2002	
August 2	Execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Colorado Department of Natural Resources
August 3	Advisory Council Field Trip-River Corridor Working Group
August 5	Mack Ridge Working Group
August 6	Rabbit Valley Working Group
August 8	Advisory Council Meeting
August 17	Advisory Council Field Trip-Glade Park
August 20	Congressman McInnis's Staff Tour of CCNCA
August 27	Wilderness Working Group Field Trip
SEPTEMBER 2002	
September 3	Wilderness Working Group Meeting
September 9	Grant Writing Training-CCNCA Staff, Advisory Council, and Partners
September 9	Rabbit Valley Working Group Meeting
September 12	Advisory Council Meeting
September 16	Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting
September 17	Wilderness Working Group Meeting
September 19	Colorado State Planners-CCNCA Planning Seminar
September 23	Great Old Broads for the Wilderness-Briefing on CCNCA
September 26	Consultation with Southern Ute Tribe
September 26	Great Old Broads for the Wilderness-Briefing on CCNCA
September 28	Advisory Council Field Trip-Rabbit Valley
OCTOBER 2002	
October 7	Mack Ridge Working Group
October 10	Advisory Council Meeting
October 15	Rabbit Valley Working Group
October 22-23	BLM Planning Workshop
October 28	Mack Ridge Working Group Visioning
October 29	Wilderness Working Group Visioning
NOVEMBER 2002	
November 6	Grand Mesa Jeep Club Coordination Meeting
November 12	Mack Ridge Working Group Visioning Exercise
November 14	Advisory Council Meeting

Table 5-1 Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips	
November 18	Rabbit Valley Visioning
DECEMBER 2002	
December 3	Briefing to Mesa County Inter-Agency Government Meeting
JANUARY 2003	
January 9	Advisory Council Meeting
January 14	Coordination Meeting with Colorado National Monument Staff
January 23	River Corridor Working Group Meeting
FEBRUARY 2003	
February 6	Advisory Council Meeting
February 21	Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting
February 28	Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting
MARCH 2003	
March 6	Advisory Council Meeting
March 7	Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting
March 10	BLM Moab Planning Team
March 17	Meeting with COLM Management
March 27	Planning Update to Colorado Department of Natural Resources
APRIL 2003	
April 3	Advisory Council Meeting
MAY 2003	
May 1	Public Open House on RMP/EIS
May 17	Briefing to Colorado Plateau River Guides
May 29	Meeting with BLM Moab Planning Team
JUNE 2003	
June 5	Briefing to BLM Director Clarke
June 5	Advisory Council Meeting
June 9-12	Interdisciplinary Team Impact Analysis
June 26	Briefing to Secretary of the Interior Norton
June 30	Float trip with Local Media
AUGUST 2003	
August 7	Advisory Council Meeting
SEPTEMBER 2003	
September 4	Advisory Council Meeting
OCTOBER 2003	
October 2	Advisory Council Meeting
2004	
January 28	Public Open House
June 30	Public Open House

5.3 Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups

In recognition of the local community's historic involvement in public land management, the Act included specific language directing the BLM to incorporate a Citizen's Advisory Council as an integral element in the

RMP/EIS planning process and plan implementation. The CCNCA Advisory Council is composed of ten members from the local community, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior (see Table 5-2). The Advisory Council meets monthly, and all meetings are open to the public.

Table 5-2
Citizen Advisory Council Members

Name	Location	Interest
Ken Currey	Fruita	Northwest Resource Advisory Council
Art Donoho	Fruita	Public-at-Large
John Foster	Grand Junction	Public-at-Large
Doralyn Genova	Grand Junction	Mesa County Official
Warren Gore, Chairman	Glade Park	Grazing Permittee
Doug Hall	Fruita	Public-at-Large
Joe Keys	Clifton	Public-at-Large
Dan Rosenthal	Grand Junction	Public-at-Large
Bob Silbernagel, Vice Chair	Palisade	Public-at-Large
Russ Walker	Grand Junction	Public-at-Large

To facilitate the work of the Advisory Council, the CCNCA was divided into four planning zones with Working Groups established for each of the zones (see Figure 1-1 and Table 5-3). These Working Groups do not have a decision-making, voting, or official advisory role, nor are the participants pressured to reach consensus, but the knowledge and input the group members provide proved invaluable to the successful development of this RMP and will continue to do so during the implementation as well. After an intense meeting schedule throughout the planning process, Working Groups meet as necessary to assist the BLM.

The planning zones and representative activities in the CCNCA are:

(1) The Wilderness Zone – hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, grazing, and hunting.

(2) The Rabbit Valley Zone – off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, hiking, Native American rock art viewing, camping, wildlife viewing, mountain bike riding, horseback riding, and grazing.

(3) The River Corridor Zone – boating, hiking, and camping.

(4) The Mack Ridge Zone – mountain bike riding and horseback riding.

Table 5-3
Working Group Members

Mack Ridge Zone	
Name	Location
John Foster	Grand Junction

Table 5-3 Working Group Members	
Dan Rosenthal	Grand Junction
Bob Anthony	Grand Junction
Clare Bastable	Grand Junction
Leonard Bagwell	Loma
Nadja Brozina	Grand Junction
Tommy Collins	Grand Junction
Kevin Foote, Group Leader	Grand Junction
Pat Kennedy	Grand Junction
Tom Lucks	Mack
Neal McKinstry	Fruita
Clark Rieves	Grand Junction
Connie Rosenthal	Grand Junction
Lovell Sasser	Mack
Rabbit Valley Zone	
Name	Location
Ken Currey	Fruita
Art Donoho	Fruita
Bob Silbernagel	Grand Junction
Sue Benjamin	Grand Junction
Tom Boni	Eagle
Nadja Brozina	Grand Junction
Arleta Carr	Grand Junction
Kathy Click	Grand Junction
Mike Click	Grand Junction
David Dunsmoor	Grand Junction
David Farny	Mack
N. J. Fulmer	Grand Junction
Chris Jouflas	Grand Junction
Pete Jouflas	Grand Junction
Chris Long	Collbran
Dave Long	Collbran
Rabbit Valley Zone continued	
Name	Location
Celeste Marsh	Grand Junction
Neal McKinstry	Fruita
Warren Petersen	Palisade
John Potter, Group Leader	Loma
Shari Raso	Palisade
Eric Rechel	Grand Junction
Steve Renstrom	Grand Junction
Roland Reynolds	
Lovell Sasser	Mack
Gary Shaw	Grand Junction
Charlie Sweet	Grand Junction
Paul Toft	Grand Junction
River Corridor Zone	
Name	Location
Doug Hall	Fruita
Joe Keys	Clifton

Table 5-3 Working Group Members	
Russ Walker, Group Leader	Grand Junction
Travis Baier	Grand Junction
Lowell Clark	
Jonathon Cooley	
Dick Cozza	Grand Junction
Shaun Deeney	Grand Junction
Matt Dible	Grand Junction
Mike Dirsmith	Grand Junction
Walter Fees	Grand Junction
Ken Fulmer	Grand Junction
Ted Howell	Grand Junction
Denny Huffman	Grand Junction
Gary Hunt	
Tom Kleinschnitz	Grand Junction
Pete Kolbenschlag	Grand Junction
Scott Larsen	Grand Junction
Jim Majors	Fruita
Paul Merluzzi	Loma
Jerry Nolan	Grand Junction
Mark Peterson	Grand Junction
Trish Soldberg	Grand Junction
Matt Sura	Grand Junction
Greg Trainor	Grand Junction
Clay Urban	Grand Junction
Neville Woodruff	Grand Junction
Wilderness Zone	
Name	Location
Doralyn Genova	Grand Junction
Warren Gore	Glade Park
Joe Keys	Clifton
Duane Carr	Grand Junction
Belle Chesnick	Glade Park
Wilderness Zone continued	
Name	Location
Shaun Deeney	Grand Junction
Mike Dirsmith	Grand Junction
Greg Gador	Grand Junction
Terry Gray	Glade Park
Bill Hamman	Grand Junction
Dave Hawks	Grand Junction
Ted Howell	Grand Junction
Jim Majors	Fruita
Celeste Marsh	Grand Junction
Rod Martinez	Grand Junction
Neal McKinstry	Fruita
Brian Moore	Grand Junction
Warren Peterson	Palisade
David Price	Fruita
Shari Raso	Palisade
Eric Rechel	Grand Junction

Table 5-3 Working Group Members	
Bill Schapley, Group Leader	Grand Junction
Bob Sherrill	Fruita
Harold Snyder	Glade Park

5.4 Public Review and Comment on the Draft RMP/EIS

Following the initial phase of public scoping, the official public comment period on the CCNCA Draft RMP/EIS opened upon publication of the draft document in October 2003. The BLM, however, welcomes public input at any time during this planning process.

The BLM distributed a postcard notification and inquiry via first-class mail to approximately 450 contacts on the CCNCA mailing list, announcing the availability of the draft RMP/EIS in various media formats. The CCNCA mailing list includes federal, state, and local elected officials, federally recognized tribes, property owners in and near the CCNCA, individuals, special interest groups, and organizations. Availability of the draft RMP/EIS was also announced by publishing notices in local newspapers and the *Federal Register*, as well as on the project web site (www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan). The Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups, composed of approximately 120 individuals, were notified by e-mail of the publication of the draft RMP/EIS.

The draft RMP/EIS was provided for public review by bound paper or CD-ROM format upon request, and posted for review or downloading on the project web site. Copies were also available for review at local community libraries.

Along with the monthly Advisory Council meetings in which the public is invited, public open houses were held, from October 2003 to January 2004, during the 90-day public comment period.

5.5 Upon conclusion of the public comment period, all comments received were reviewed and considered, and the draft RMP/EIS revised. Once the proposed RMP/Final EIS is published, the document's availability will be announced in the *Federal Register*. A 30-day public protest period will follow, and any individual considering protesting the proposed plan may meet with the BLM to discuss his or her protest concerns. The BLM Colorado State Director will evaluate and resolve any protests upon closure of the 30-day public protest period. After protests are resolved, the BLM Colorado State Director will publish the approved final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) and announce its availability in the *Federal Register* **.**

5.6 Biological Assessment for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Review

In the spring of 2003 the BLM began informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the CCNCA/RMP. Preparing a Biological Assessment (BA) is a step in the ESA Section 7 consultation process. The BA was drafted and delivered to the Service for preliminary review. Their review resulted in the determination that if Alternative 3 remained the preferred alternative and did not materially change from its form at that time, and no new relevant information changed the situation, no formal consultation would be needed (letter dated May 20, 2003). The Service recommended a half-mile activity restriction around bald eagle nests between November 15 and July 30. They indicated that the southwestern willow flycatcher could be dropped from analysis on the account of Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service provided the contacts and information helpful in streamlining reviews under the ESA.