

# CANYON CLARION

DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA & DOMINGUEZ CANYON WILDERNESS PLANNING NEWSLETTER

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[www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html)

BLM

## D-E NCA Scoping by the Numbers

- 264 comments
- 95 from unaffiliated individuals
- 14 public agencies
- Nine form letter comments
- 13 from businesses
- 133 from non-profit or citizens groups



## Scoping? Check! Next Up is a Look at Current Management

The BLM has finished one of the earliest steps toward a resource management plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. BLM received 66 unique emails, letters and comment forms during the public scoping period, which ran from August 3, 2010, to October 1, 2010. (There were approximately 2,000 identical form letters, which were treated as a single letter.) From these submissions, the BLM identified 264 separate comments. The BLM then categorized, coded, tallied and analyzed the comments.

Based on external scoping, the following planning topics were of most importance and are presented in descending order according to the number of comments received: recreation, travel management,

Wild and Scenic Rivers, wilderness, general planning, cultural resources, fish and wildlife, law enforcement, vegetation management, air, climate, noise, special designation areas, water and soil, livestock grazing, paleontology and geology, visual resource management and socio-economics.

The BLM will use the planning issues to help guide the development of a reasonable range of alternative management strategies for the RMP.

The BLM is working on the analysis of management situation report, followed by formulation of management alternatives (by summer) and then an analysis of the impacts of alternatives and a draft RMP by late 2011.

After the draft RMP is released a 60-day comment period starts, followed by the publication of the revised RMP and both a 30-day protest period and a 60-day analysis by the Governor of Colorado.

## Travel Management Comments Welcome Through May 1

As part of the travel management planning for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, the BLM held open houses in Delta and Grand Junction in early September.

Maps showing the route inventory for hiking, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle, four-wheel-drive, passenger car and horseback riding routes were available at the meetings.

The public learned that the D-E NCA route maps are also available on the D-E NCA Web site, as well as KML files — a file format used to display geographic data in an Earth browser such as Google Earth and Google Maps for mobile phones.

The public also learned that comments for the D-E NCA travel management planning process are welcome through May 1. A comment form is online at [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp/DENCA\\_RMP\\_Travel\\_Management.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp/DENCA_RMP_Travel_Management.html).

The BLM hopes to learn the public's perspective regarding which routes are important and why. The BLM also wants to know whether any routes are missing from the inventory.

Per D-E NCA legislation, all motorized travel within the area will be limited to designated routes. Also per legislation, no areas in the D-E NCA will be open to motorized cross-country travel. The need for limitations, such as seasonal closures, will also be evaluated. Designated routes for motorized vehicles will be identified outside of the wilderness. The key thing to remember is that the needs of various resources are considered first, and then travel is designated to meet those needs.

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area • COLORADO



## Advisory Council Group Lined Up to Help the Planning Process

### Members

**Steve Acquafresca**, Grand Junction:  
a Mesa County Commissioner and fruit grower.

**Jan McCracken**, Delta:  
an outgoing Delta County Commissioner and co-chair of the Public Lands Partnership.

**William (Bill) Harris**, Montrose:  
a past representative of the International Mountain Biking Association and a current board member of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Trail Association, also a past president of the Colorado Archaeological Society.

**Oscar Massey**, Whitewater:  
a rancher with federal grazing permits within the NCA since the mid-1970s.

**Katie Steele**, Grand Junction:  
the co-chair of the Colorado Riverfront Commission and has chaired the Robb River Rally event in the Grand Valley.

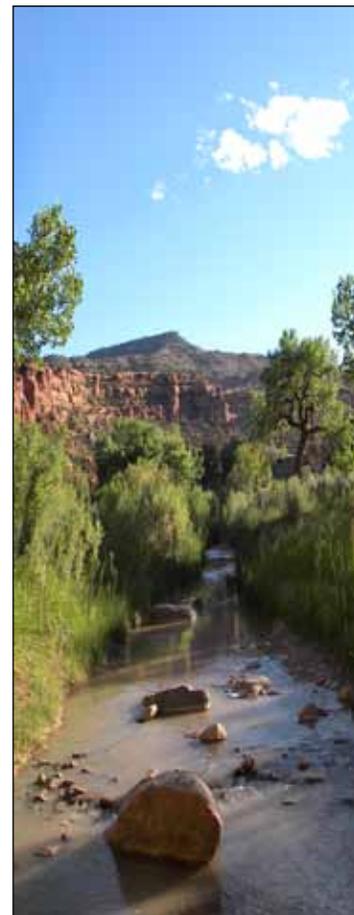
**Jason Beason**, Paonia:  
the special monitoring projects coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the vice-president of the Black Canyon Audubon Society.

**Tamera Minnick**, Grand Junction:  
an associate professor of Environmental Science and Technology at Mesa State College.

**Terry Kimber**, Delta:  
has been hiking, jeeping, hunting and camping in the NCA area for 30 years.

**Neil "Mike" Wilson**, Ecker:  
a member of the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition and vice-president of Thunder Mountain Wheelers.

**Joe Neuhof**, Grand Junction:  
the new executive director of the Friends of McInnis Canyons, a 501(c)(3). Neuhof previously served as the western slope director of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.



## Wild & Scenic River Process has a Very Long Way to Go

*W*ild and Scenic River eligibility for streams in Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area was determined through the eligibility reports for the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices' planning processes.

The two eligibility reports determined that D-E NCA had 11 segments on eight streams that are free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable value, thus meeting the W&SR eligibility requirements. View the summary W&SR eligibility report online at:

[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html)

The suitability of these segments will be part of the resource management plan for each field office. A W&SR stakeholders group was formed to provide suitability recommendations. These meetings are open to the public. See [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild\\_and\\_scenic\\_river.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild_and_scenic_river.html).

### MEETINGS

D-E NCA Advisory Council  
3 - 6 p.m., February 2, 2011  
Mesa County Courthouse Annex  
544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

## Institute Works Statistical Magic for DENCA

*M*esa State College, in cooperation with the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, facilitated a series of informal conversations with recreation users, held in September and October, sponsored by the Natural Resources and Land Policy Institute. Timothy Casey, Ph.D. field coordinator for the Institute, said there were 120 participants.

In addition to data gleaned from the focus groups, the Institute has also collected survey data from people entering various parts of the NCA. The Institute plans to deliver a draft statistical report and analysis to the BLM and the public by mid-January.