

DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Manager's Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2013

BLM

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DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Manager's Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2013

October 1, 2012 — September 30, 2013

Bureau of Land Management

Grand Junction Field Office

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Dominguez-Escalante Profile

Unit: Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

Designating authority: Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11), March 30, 2009.

Acreage: 210,012 acres, including the 66,280-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. There are 8,000 acres of non-BLM land within the boundaries of the NCA.

Elevation: 4,639-8,356 feet (1,414-2,547 meters).

Estimated number of visitors in FY 2013: 72,411 visitors.

Fiscal year 2013 budget: \$636,420

Field offices: Grand Junction Field Office, Northwest Colorado District; Uncompahgre Field Office, Southwest Colorado District.

Contact information:

Collin Ewing, NCA Manager

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office

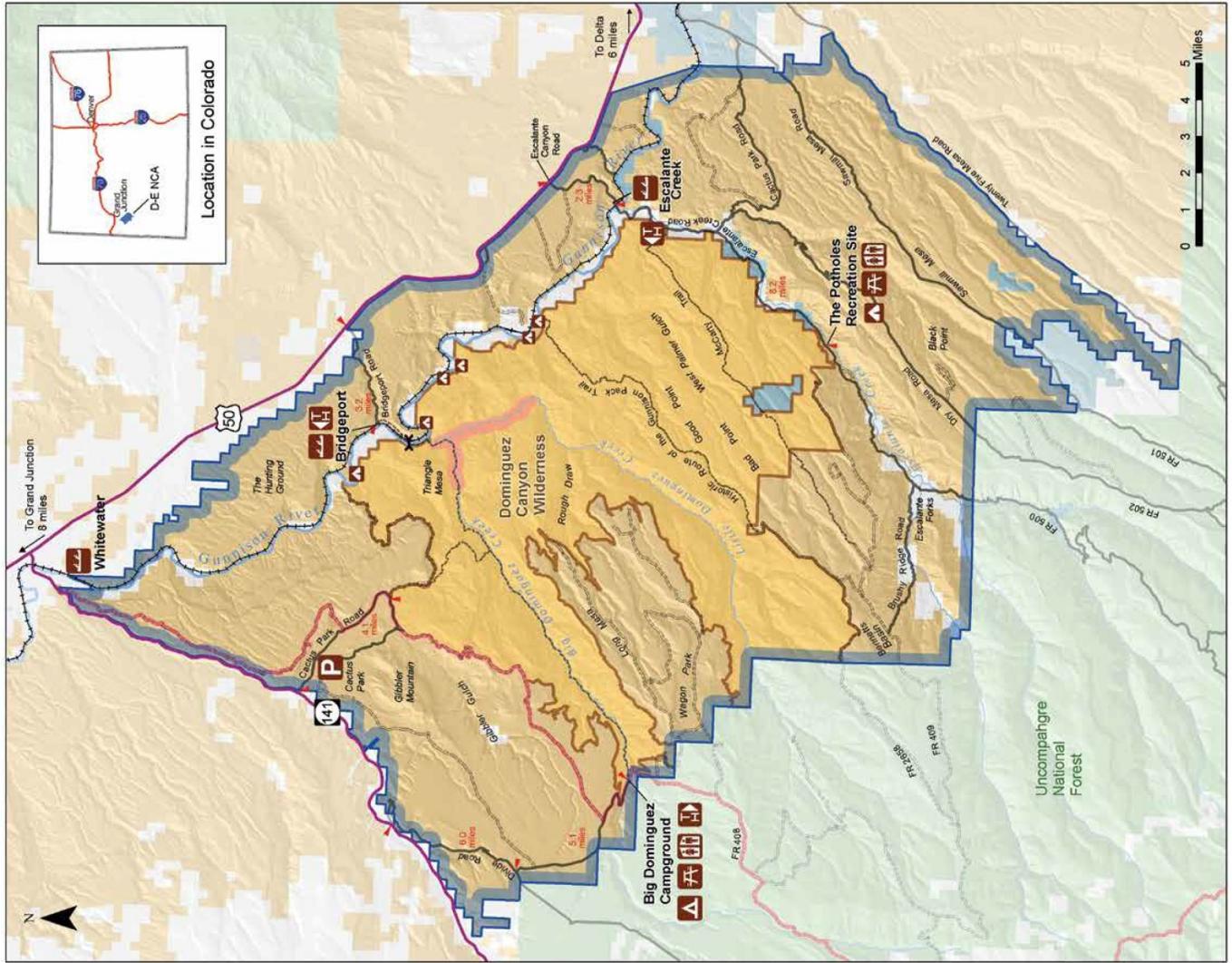
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Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area



Legend

- Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA)
- Dominguez Canyon Wilderness

Land Ownership

- BLM
- State Wildlife Area
- National Forest
- National Park or Monument
- Private Land
- Area Limited to Day Use Only

- Parking Area
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Primitive Campsite
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Trailhead
- Boat Launch
- Foot Bridge

- State or US Highways
- Maintained Road
- Primitive Road
- Trail
- Tabeguache Trail
- Railroad

Note: This map does not show many miles of existing routes. Travel is legal on existing routes, until final route designations are made through the Resource Management Planning Process. Travel Management maps showing existing routes are available through the Dominguez-Escalante NCA website.

RESTRICTIONS

- No bicycles or motorized vehicles within Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.
- Fire pans and washable, reusable toilet systems or landfill approved bag systems required for river campsites.
- Big and Little Dominguez Canyons are managed as Day-use Only areas (see map).

Please Respect All Restrictions and Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

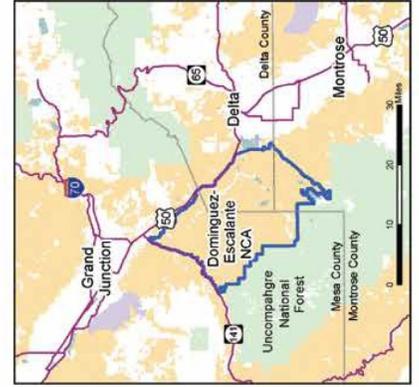


Figure 1. Map of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

Staffing

The permanent staff of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA (D-E NCA) consists of an NCA manager (currently shared with McInnis Canyons NCA), a science ecologist (a joint position that also supports Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons NCAs), a law enforcement officer (shared with McInnis Canyons NCA), and an outdoor recreation planner. The staff supporting the planning effort includes a planning and environmental coordinator and a writer-editor. In FY 2013, seasonal staff included two river rangers shared with the Uncompahgre Field Office and McInnis Canyons NCA.

The NCA receives special recreation permit administration, facilities maintenance and other program support from the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices, primarily in the areas of visitor services and contact; geology and paleontology, cultural resources, range management, wildlife biology, ecology, weed management, geographic information systems (GIS), and soil, water, and air quality.



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Manager's Corner

Collin Ewing was appointed Manager of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA in April 2013. Collin is a native of northern Colorado and a graduate of Colorado State University. He has a background in rangeland ecology.



When I think about 2013, I think about vision. It was an exciting year for the future of the D-E NCA. As directed by Congress, the BLM is in the middle of developing a long-range plan for management of the NCA. Wisely, our guiding legislation, the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, directed us to complete that planning effort with extensive public involvement and input, including forming an advisory council, which has become the centerpiece of our effort to develop an informed plan through consultation with the NCA's stakeholders.

Made up of ten local residents, the D-E NCA Advisory Council has held 35 public meetings to discuss the resource management plan. The Council includes representatives of Mesa, Montrose, and Delta Counties, as well as representatives of several different constituencies and resource interests: grazing permittees, wildlife, science, education, cultural resources, recreation (dispersed, motorized, mountain biking, foot/horse), and wilderness.

These dedicated stakeholders have been integral to the development of the community's vision for the future management of one of their treasured landscapes. This group of remarkable individuals has not hesitated to tackle difficult topics, ones where the community is divided. Through listening to public comments, working with other agencies, and digging into BLM policy questions, this council has provided the BLM with clear recommendations that would have been impossible to reach without its help.

I believe the resource management plan will be successful in managing the purposes, resources, and uses of the NCA in a way that conserves, protects, and restores them and meets the needs of the local community and the citizens of this nation. As a result of the vision set by the community through their representatives on the Advisory Council, this plan will be implemented through partnership with the local community and the BLM. That collaboratively developed vision will be the key to our success.

I believe this success story is the defining one for 2013, and it will serve as a model for future NCA designations and BLM planning efforts.

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Year's Projects and Accomplishments

Major accomplishments

Draft resource management plan released for public comment

In FY 2013, the BLM released the D-E NCA Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public comment from May 17 to September 23. Once completed, this plan will guide the BLM's management of the recreation area for the next twenty years.

New NCA manager appointed

The BLM appointed Collin Ewing as interim manager for the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. Ewing was also made the NCA manager for McInnis Canyons NCA. Both positions were previously held by Katie Stevens, who was promoted to field manager of the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office.

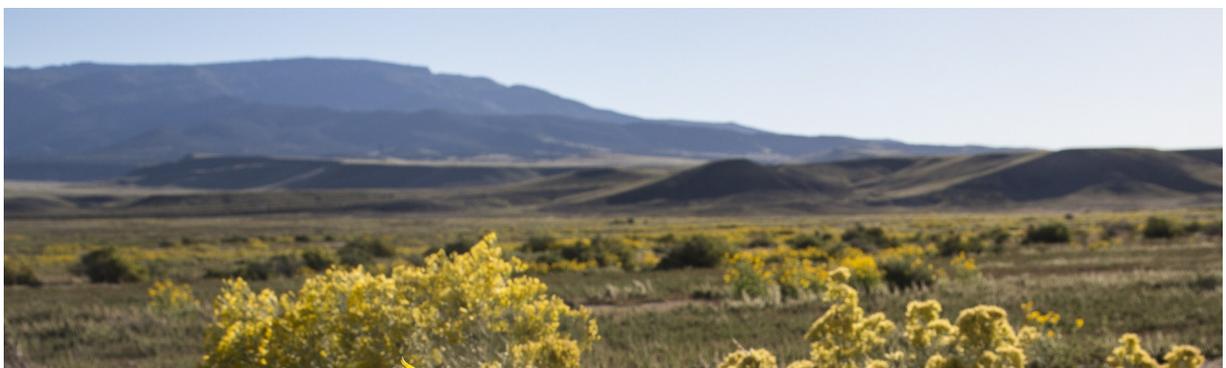
Access to Dominguez Canyon Wilderness improved

The NCA completed a new parking lot and trailhead at Bridgeport (see Figure 1 on page 2), complete with restrooms, interpretive signs, and parking for horse trailers. This is the first phase of a project to improve public access to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, which will ultimately include a railroad underpass to provide safer access across the tracks.

Current areas of focus

D-E NCA RMP development

For FY 2013, the major focus for NCA staff was continuing the development of the D-E NCA resource management plan. Once the public comment period for the draft plan was over, the NCA's interdisciplinary planning team began an intensive review process to analyze all public comments and consider whether to make changes to the RMP on the basis of what the public had to say. This review, which includes the creation of a comprehensive travel management plan, will continue into FY 2014.



Education, outreach, and interpretation

Colorado Canyons Association scavenger hunt

The Colorado Canyons Association, in partnership with the BLM, held the NCA's first annual scavenger hunt on October 23, 2012. The scavenger hunt was attended by 96 third-grade students from local area schools. Ten stations representing different NCA values were set up in Escalante Canyon, and BLM staff and volunteers from several partner organizations (including the Palisade Insectory, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Western Colorado Interpretive Association, and others) operated field stations where children learned about the area's rich cultural history, wildlife, biological soil crusts, biological controls for invasive plants, and other resources in the NCA.

Partnerships

RMP development

Throughout FY 2013, the BLM actively and proactively engaged with many of its most valued partners to continue developing the resource management plan for the NCA. Among these partners were Mesa, Delta, and Montrose Counties; Colorado Division of Natural Resources; the U.S. Forest Service; and the cities of Delta, Grand Junction, and Montrose.

Delta County corrections work program

Inmates from the Delta County Detention Facility, a BLM partner, assisted with construction and maintenance of recreational facilities and with hazardous materials management in the D-E NCA.

Other partnerships

The BLM also closely collaborated with the Colorado Canyons Association, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Colorado Mesa University on several educational and scientific projects.

Volunteers

D-E NCA Advisory Council

The 10-member Dominguez-Escalante Advisory Council met six times in FY 2013, spending 138 hours reviewing the Draft RMP and listening to public comments on the Draft.

Weed-mapping trip

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado partnered with Centennial Canoe Outfitters for a four-day volunteer project along the Gunnison River in the D-E NCA. Twenty-two volunteers donated a total of 619 hours mapping invasive weeds for the BLM. Centennial Canoe provided volunteer guides, equipment, and food for the volunteers.

Budget

The total FY 2013 budget for the D-E NCA was \$636,420, the 1711 base was \$315,732, the 1711 one-time funding was \$58,074, and other funding amounted to \$262,614, \$213,000 of which was 1610 planning money for the D-E NCA resource management plan.

Land or easement acquisitions

In 2013, Western Rivers Conservancy conveyed two important parcels to the BLM:

- American Mountain Men Property - 160 acres of upland habitat in Gibbler Gulch
- Gunnison River inholdings - 214 acres on the west side of the river upstream of Whitewater

Livestock grazing

In FY 2013, D-E NCA range conservation staff inspected four grazing allotments in the NCA for compliance, inventoried 20 acres for the presence of invasive plants or noxious weeds, and applied weed treatments to 200 acres.

Law enforcement

In FY 2013, D-E NCA law enforcement staff handled 69 incidents encountered during patrols, cleared 53 non-drug-related cases, resolved five emergency incidents (search and rescue) and conducted six drug seizures in the NCA.



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Resources, Values, and Risk Factors

Natural and cultural resources, including wildlife, riparian, archaeological, and historical values

Natural and cultural resources are among the 14 purposes of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA listed in its enabling legislation. The NCA enjoys an extraordinary abundance of these resources, including an array of rare and common plant and animal species as well as prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts.

The NCA’s natural and cultural resource management staff focuses on clearly communicating the importance of conserving and protecting NCA values and expanding the BLM’s understanding of NCA resources through assessment, inventory and monitoring.

Summary of accomplishments

In FY 2013, D-E NCA cultural resource staff monitored one mile of a designated national scenic and historic trail, conducted six outreach and education events, engaged in three tribal consultations, inventoried 100 acres, and monitored four acres of heritage resources in the NCA.

Status of natural and cultural resources

Table 4.1. D-E NCA natural and cultural resources - estimated status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Cultural	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Archaeological	Included in cultural		
Historical	Included in cultural		
Natural	Varies depending on species or habitat - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5
Wildlife	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate - see also Table 4.5
Riparian	Varies depending on species or habitat - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5

Table 4.2. Estimated percentage of D-E NCA inventoried for natural and cultural resources, FY 2013

Resource or value	Estimated percentage of NCA inventoried for presence/absence	Basis of estimate
Cultural	20.9%	Latest Class I cultural resource inventory
Archaeological	Included in cultural	Included in cultural
Historical	Included in cultural	Included in cultural
Natural	93%	Land health assessments from 2007 to 2009
Wildlife	50%	Program area staff estimate
Riparian	85%	Program area staff estimate

Risk factors for natural and cultural resources

Stresses on natural and cultural resources and values include (human-caused) wildland fire, invasive plants, recreational use, livestock grazing, domestic livestock diseases, loss of habitat, right-of-way proximity, air pollution, non-native animals, recreational target shooting, water pollution, theft, surface disturbance, vandalism, and increased access. See Table 4.12 for more information.



Water resources

One of the 14 purposes of the NCA listed in its enabling legislation is “the water resources of area streams, based on seasonally available flows, that are necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species and communities” (Section 2402 of the Omnibus Act). There are 115 miles of rivers and streams in the NCA, including the Escalante, Cottonwood, Little and Big Dominguez Creeks, and nearly 30 miles of the Gunnison River. These aquatic resources support an abundance of fish, wildlife and recreational opportunities as well as the existing water rights of authorized landowners.

BLM staff members in this program area work to expand understanding of these resources through assessment, inventory and monitoring, while actively participating in planning and public outreach.

Status of water resources

Table 4.3. D-E NCA water resources - estimated status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Water resources	Varies depending on resource - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5

Table 4.4. Estimated percentage of D-E NCA inventoried for water resources, FY 2013

Resource or value	Estimated percentage of NCA inventoried for presence/absence	Basis of estimate
Water resources	100%	Uncompahgre and Grand Junction field offices' wild and scenic river studies prior to designation (see RMP)

Risk factors for water resources

Water resources may be threatened by invasive aquatic plants, recreational use, livestock grazing, and air and water pollution. See Table 4.12 for more information.



Table 4.5. Estimated status of priority species and vegetation/habitat in the D-E NCA, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status*
Desert shrub/saltbush	Poor to good
Pinyon-juniper woodlands	Good to very good
Sagebrush shrublands	Poor to good
Ponderosa pine	Fair to good
Mountain shrub	Good to very good
Riparian	Poor to very good
Seeps and springs	Fair to good
Aquatic systems	Poor to good
Desert bighorn sheep	Poor to good
Colorado hookless cactus	Fair to good

* Estimates are from the Draft/Proposed RMP for the D-E NCA. See section 6, "Planning and NEPA," for more information.



Recreational resources, including wilderness and scenic values

Recreation is listed as one of the 14 purposes of the NCA in its enabling legislation, and visitors to the NCA can participate in an exceptionally wide variety of recreational activities, including hunting, hiking, boating, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel, rock climbing, wildlife viewing and camping. Visitors can also enjoy a broad range of recreational settings, including remote wilderness, riparian wetlands, and culturally or historically significant sites.

The BLM’s recreation staff assists in planning for and managing recreational resources and facilities in a manner that conserves National Conservation Lands and NCA values. Thus, roads and other facilities are built only when necessary for public health and safety, for exercise of existing rights, to minimize impacts to resources, or to otherwise further the purposes for which the NCA was designated. Recreation staff members actively engage stakeholders through the land-use planning process to help identify existing and potential uses that are compatible with the legislated purposes of the NCA, and the BLM practices a community-based approach to providing recreational services that is consistent with the purposes of the NCA and the socioeconomic goals of adjacent or nearby communities.

Summary of accomplishments

In FY 2013, D-E NCA recreation staff monitored 10,000 acres of wilderness and wilderness study areas, inventoried 35,000 acres of recreational resources, assessed one hazard site, inventoried 50 miles of river resources (e.g., campsites), processed 15 commercial special recreation permits, monitored 65,000 acres of recreational resources, and monitored 50 miles of rivers and trails.

Status of recreational resources

Table 4.6. D-E NCA recreational resources and values - estimated status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Recreational	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Wilderness	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Scenic	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate



Table 4.7. Estimated percentage of D-E NCA inventoried for recreational resources, FY 2013

Resource or value	Estimated percentage of NCA inventoried for presence/absence	Basis of estimate
Recreational	100%	Draft/Proposed RMP
Wilderness	100%	Lands with wilderness characteristics inventory for RMP
Scenic	100%	Visual resource inventory for RMP

Risk factors for recreational resources

Recreational resources and values may be adversely affected by any of the stressors that affect natural and cultural resources, because recreational visitors to the NCA often go there expecting (for example) to see pristine habitat, healthy wildlife, or undamaged rock art. Recreational use itself can damage recreational resources, especially with increased use due to local and regional population growth. Right-of-way proximity and air pollution may also threaten the integrity of the recreational experience. See Table 4.12 for more information.



Scientific, geological, and paleontological resources

The geological and paleontological resources of the NCA are listed in the NCA’s enabling legislation as among its purposes, and these resources are exceptionally abundant in the NCA. Scientific study of these resources benefits the scientific community as a whole and effectively informs the BLM’s management of the NCA. The NCA staff works to identify research needs, encourage science partnerships and citizen science, and incorporate scientific results into management, decision-making and outreach.

BLM staff members promote the NCA to universities and research institutions as an outdoor research, educational laboratory and potential demonstration center for emerging technology and innovative management practices. In turn, academic institutions, aware of the unique and valuable resources in the NCA, seek out partnerships with the BLM to conduct scientific research and education in the NCA.

Summary of accomplishments

In FY 2013, the BLM geology-paleontology staff completed 10 days of surveying and found 12 new vertebrate fossil sites, including four dinosaur bone sites, and intensely recorded five paleontological sites. Volunteers found numerous fossilized tracks and trackways on the Uncompahgre Field Office side of the NCA.

Status of scientific, geological, and paleontological resources

Table 4.8. D-E NCA scientific, geological and paleontological resources - estimated status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Scientific	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Geological (Precambrian to Quaternary rocks)	Good	Very stable	Program area staff estimate
Paleontological (Scientifically important vertebrate fossils)	Good	Stable and improving (more sites found every year)	Program area staff estimate



Table 4.9. Estimated percentage of D-E NCA inventoried for scientific, geological and paleontological resources, FY 2013

Resource or value	Estimated percentage of NCA inventoried for presence/absence	Basis of estimate
Scientific	25%	Program area staff estimate. Proposed RMP completed; however, the NCA does not yet have a science plan.
Geological	100%	Program area staff estimate
Paleontological	75% (500 acres more intensely inventoried - five sites monitored)	Program area staff estimate

Risk factors for scientific, geological and paleontological resources

Scientific resources are affected by anything that affects geological, cultural, paleontological, biological, or wildlife resources. Geological and paleontological resources are primarily affected by theft and vandalism. See Table 4.12 for more information.



Education

Educational resources are cited as one of the 14 purposes of the NCA in its enabling legislation, and they span the gamut of all the other resources in the NCA, which are all suitable as subjects for interpretive and educational activities.

The BLM strives to provide young people with opportunities to engage in recreation and practice stewardship on NCA lands and to learn about NCA resources and land management. BLM staff members seek out partnerships with local schools and educators to help them interpret National Conservation Lands and NCA values. The BLM provides interpretive and educational materials to NCA users through the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices and the NCA website.

Summary of accomplishments

In FY 2013, D-E NCA staff conducted 10 educational events or projects, including a scavenger hunt in the NCA for children from a local elementary school (see page 6) and the construction of several interpretive kiosks.

Status of educational resources

Table 4.10. D-E NCA educational resources - status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Educational	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate

Table 4.11. Percentage of D-E NCA inventoried for educational resources, FY 2013

Resource or value	Estimated percentage of NCA inventoried for presence/absence	Basis of estimate
Educational	100%	Draft/Proposed RMP

Risk factors for educational resources

Because virtually all the resources of the NCA can be considered educational resources, all the risk factors in Table 4.11 apply; however, interpretive signs and kiosks are particularly susceptible to vandalism.



Table 4.12. Risk factors for D-E NCA resources and values

Name of stressor	Description
Wild land fire	Introduced (human-caused) fires may destroy sensitive vegetation and BLM facilities.
Invasive plants	Noxious weeds and other non-native plants may displace native plants and affect the wildlife that depend on them. Invasive plants may also leave soils more vulnerable to erosion, as they (invasive species) typically lack the agents necessary to stabilize soils. Increased erosion may cause sedimentation rates of area streams to increase, reducing water quality.
Recreational use	Users may trample sensitive vegetation and deface or otherwise injure rock art. OHV use or foot travel may place stress upon wildlife, create pollution, and introduce invasives. Recreational use may also alter natural hydrologic function and water quality within affected watersheds by modifying drainage patterns (e.g., interception of runoff by roads or pioneered routes), causing excessive erosion and sedimentation.
Livestock grazing	Livestock grazing may cause soil compaction, introduction of invasive species, and trampling of sensitive vegetation and riparian resources. Grazing may increase erosion potential by reducing plant cover and litter accumulation necessary to protect soils from erosional processes. Grazing may also reduce water quality by increasing erosion and sedimentation of area waters.
Domestic livestock diseases	Domestic animals can transmit diseases to wildlife (e.g., domestic sheep can transmit pneumonia to desert bighorn sheep).
Loss of habitat	May occur as a result of soil compaction or introduction of invasive species due to motorized travel (ORVs), livestock grazing, and off-trail travel. May occur after excavation for construction or (e.g.) paleontological research. May result from pollution of rivers and streams. Wildlife may be displaced because of human or animal presence.
Proximity of rights of way or other development	May introduce invasive vegetation and decrease scenic value.
Air pollution	Emissions from nearby highways or OHVs could affect visitors, wildlife, and scenic values. Dust and deposition could adversely affect soil health, water chemistry, or visitor experience.
Non-native animals	For example, non-native fish can crowd out native fish from the NCA's streams and rivers.
Recreational target shooting	Introduces lead (a wildlife toxin) into environment; may introduce other potentially harmful or hazardous trash into environment; may cause defacement of geological resources or archaeological resources (rock art). Reduces scenic values. Deters quiet-use recreation.
Water pollution	May adversely affect fish and other wildlife
Theft	Unlawful removal of fossil remains or cultural artifacts.
Soil surface disturbance	Due to construction, excavation, or ORV travel (see Loss of habitat).
Vandalism	Defacement of rock art or other cultural resources; wanton destruction of sensitive vegetation; harassment of wildlife.
Increased access	Can cause destruction of sensitive cultural or biological resources.

5

Science

Projects

Colorado hookless cactus

This is an ongoing monitoring project in the NCA conducted by the Denver Botanic Gardens to study populations of *Sclerocactus glaucus*, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Monitoring thus far shows that the species is stable throughout its range in Colorado but is threatened by habitat loss from development.

Riparian monitoring: a volunteer citizen science project

In FY 2013, the Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) entered into an agreement with the BLM to perform riparian monitoring in the NCA, with a focus on Big Dominguez Canyon. The purpose of this multi-year study is to measure the health of riparian ecosystems in areas through which livestock move. The BLM and Colorado Canyons Association staff will train citizen scientists to collect data for a baseline inventory and monitor plants and other indicators.

The CCA plans to develop a replicable research model for using volunteer citizen scientists in the NCA that generates more accurate data than obtained in the past by using a technique called “verified citizen science.” Volunteers trained as “experts” in monitoring will collect data, and the CCA will compare the data they collect to those collected by BLM ecologists to make sure it is consistent. Future training will be modified depending on the results of this comparison.

Other ongoing scientific projects in the D-E NCA:

- Ecological effects of stream drying under climate change in the Upper Colorado River Basin
- Desert bighorn sheep population study
- National rivers and streams assessment
- A survey of the species composition and distribution of pyrophilous tardigrades in the high desert environments of Western Colorado
- Gunnison sage-grouse Pinyon Mesa population models

Status of science plan

None yet written.

6

Planning and NEPA

Status of RMP and implementation strategy

In FY 2013, the D-E NCA's interdisciplinary planning team continued working with partners and the Advisory Council on developing the NCA's resource management plan. In May 2013, the BLM released the D-E NCA Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public comment. The public comment period was an initial 90 days with a 30-day extension, which was made at the request of Montrose County, one of the BLM's key partners for the RMP. Once completed, this plan will guide the BLM's management of the recreation area for the next twenty years. Once the BLM analyzes comments to the draft and makes changes to the plan as appropriate, the Proposed RMP will be released to the public for a 30-day protest period.

Status of activity plans

The NCA staff is currently working on a comprehensive travel management plan as part of the resource management plan.

FY 2013 NEPA actions and/or authorizations

- Desert bighorn sheep-wilderness environmental assessment for the ongoing desert bighorn sheep study being conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the D-E NCA.



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Summary of Performance Measures

Table 7.1. Dominguez-Escalante NCA - estimated resource status and trends, FY 2013

Resource or value	Status	Trend	Basis of estimate
Cultural	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Archaeological	Included in cultural	Included in cultural	Included in cultural
Historical	Included in cultural	Included in cultural	Included in cultural
Natural	Varies depending on species or habitat - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5
Wildlife	Good - see also Table 4.5	Stable	Program area staff estimate - see also Table 4.5
Riparian	Varies depending on species or habitat - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5
Water resources	Varies depending on resource - see Table 4.5	Unknown	See Table 4.5
Recreational	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Wilderness	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Scenic	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Geological (Precambrian to Quaternary rocks)	Good	Very stable	Program area staff estimate
Paleontological (Scientifically important vertebrate fossils)	Good	Stable and improving (more sites found every year)	Program area staff estimate
Educational	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate
Scientific	Good	Stable	Program area staff estimate



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