

BLM News Release

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, 970 319-4130

August 11, 2010

BLM seeks public input on plan for Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

GRAND JUNCTION, CO — The Bureau of Land Management's Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area is asking the public to help identify issues to be addressed as it begins development of a Resource Management Plan for 210,000 acres of public lands within the NCA and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

This "scoping" period, which runs through Oct. 1, 2010, gives the public the opportunity to identify issues to be addressed in the plan before BLM begins drafting it.

"This Resource Management Plan will guide the management of this special area for the next two decades," said NCA Manager Katie Stevens. "The scoping period gives the public a great opportunity to become involved early in the process."

The public is encouraged to attend open house meetings to talk to BLM specialists, learn more about the plan, and provide comments. Open houses will be from 6-8 p.m.:

Grand Junction: August 30, Courtyard Hotel, 765 Horizon Dr.

Delta: August 31, Bill Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Dr.

"It's very important to hear from the public before we begin drafting this new plan," Stevens said. "The lands within the NCA and Wilderness were set aside to protect the unique and special features within them – from recreational uses to cultural resources. We want to work with the public from the outset and develop innovative ways to manage these areas."

Attendance at these open houses is not required to submit scoping comments to BLM. For further information about this plan and how to provide scoping comments, visit http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html, or contact Katie Stevens, NCA Manager, at (970) 244-3000.

Scoping comments may be mailed to 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, faxed to 970-244-3083, or e-mailed to dencarp@blm.gov. Scoping comments will be most helpful if they are specific and received by BLM before Oct. 1, 2010.

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area is one of the BLM's newest National Conservation Areas. Designated in 2009, this 210,000 acre area includes the 66,280 acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. National Conservation Areas are part of the BLM's



National Landscape Conservation System, a unique network of special places that serve as scenic showcases for the conservation, protection, and restoration elements of BLM's multiple use mission. These treasured landscapes make up more than 27 million of the 253 million total acres of western public lands managed by the BLM in the western United States. The NCA is managed by the BLM's Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices.

BLM