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Contact: Katie Stevens, D-E NCA Manager, (970) 244-3049

## **BLM Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area to host two socio-economic workshops this month**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. -- The Bureau of Land Management is hosting two workshops this month to hear from the public on ways BLM can further the social and economic goals of area communities affected by the management of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area in western Colorado.

Workshop participants and the BLM will explore the existing role of public lands in the communities, and how community goals can be supported during the development of the resource management plan for the National Conservation Area.

“The decisions BLM makes in the management plan for the Dominguez-Escalante NCA could have a large influence on the surrounding communities,” said D-E NCA manager Katie Stevens. “We want to make sure we are working with the affected public throughout our multi-year planning process.”

All interested public is invited to attend one of the two workshops:

- Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m., Mesa County Courthouse Annex Multipurpose Room, 544 Rood Avenue, Grand Junction
- Oct. 19, 3-6 p.m., Delta Center for the Performing Arts, 822 Grand Avenue, Delta

Portions of the workshops will be facilitated by Resource Economist Henry Eichman, a BLM economist who has provided socio-economic support for numerous BLM planning efforts across the West.

A draft of the management plan for the 209,610 acre D-E NCA is expected to be released for public comment in the fall of 2012.

For more information about the workshops, call NCA Manager Katie Stevens, (970) 244-3049.

The D-E NCA encompasses 209,610 acres of BLM-managed land in Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties in western Colorado. Within the NCA, 66,280 acres make up the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area. Known for their scenic value, these lands showcase the spectacular canyon country of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Red-rock canyons and sandstone bluffs hold geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years, as well as many cultural and historic sites. Ute Tribes today consider these pinyon-juniper covered lands an important connection to their ancestral past. The

Escalante, Cottonwood, Little and Big Dominguez Creeks cascade through sandstone canyon walls that drain the eastern Uncompahgre Plateau. Nearly 30 miles of the Gunnison River flow through the NCA. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, a 19th Century land trade route, lies within the NCA. A variety of wildlife call the area home, including desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, golden eagle, turkey, elk, mountain lion, black bear, and the collared lizard. The Dominguez-Escalante NCA is one of 16 National Conservation Areas in the west, managed by BLM to showcase the conservation element of the Bureau's multiple use mission.

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