



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (CON0-4000)

AUG 10 2015

Dear Reader:

After many years of hard work and collaboration by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff and the public, the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) completed its Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) that includes a comprehensive Travel Management Plan (TMP). The Approved RMP will provide guidance to manage 1,061,400 acres of BLM land and 1,231,300 acres of Federal mineral estate administered that extends across four Colorado counties: Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Montrose.

The enclosed Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved RMP have been prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The approval of this ROD serves as the final decision for all land use planning and implementation decisions described in the enclosed GJFO Approved RMP.

The Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was subject to a 30-day protest period that ended on May 11, 2015. Nineteen protest letters were received. The BLM Director reviewed and denied all of the protests. Minor modifications and clarifications were made as a result of the protests and are discussed in Section 1.3 of the ROD. The 60 day Governor's consistency review period for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which ensures consistency with State government plans or policies, concluded June 8, 2015. The Governor's Office did not identify any inconsistencies with State government plans or policies.

The enclosed ROD also approves a TMP that includes route designations for the majority of the field office. Approval of the enclosed ROD (and the TMP) initiates a 30-day appeal period for TMP related implementation decisions (see Section 1.4.2 Implementation Decisions) of the ROD. The BLM will continue to coordinate with cooperating agencies and stakeholders to implement the TMP.

The ROD, Approved RMP and TMP are available at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html. Limited printed copies or CD copies are available by request from the Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, or by calling (970) 244-3000.

The BLM greatly appreciates all those who contributed to complete the GJFO RMP. Particularly the public that gave us feedback; our cooperating agencies, which included Federal, State, and local governments; the BLM Northwest Resource Advisory Council (and subgroup members); and Native American Tribes. The extensive public interest and involvement in this planning process has ensured that the Approved RMP will sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of BLM lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruth Welch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Welch
State Director