

United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
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United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Salida Ranger District  
325 West Rainbow Blvd.  
Salida, CO 81201

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**For Immediate Release**

**Cass Cairns  
Mike Picard**

**BLM 719-269-8553  
USFS 719-530-3959**

**April 14, 2009**

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## ***BLM/USFS seeking public comments on proposed Midland Grade Trail work***

Cañon City, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office and the Salida Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service are working on an Environmental Assessment for a proposed project to mitigate existing and potential erosion problems along the Midland Grade Trail. Both agencies are seeking comments during a 30-day scoping period ending May 20, 2009. The area under consideration is located about two miles southeast of Buena Vista on BLM and Forest Service System lands in Chaffee County.

The Midland Grade Trail is a popular non-motorized trail used by mountain bikers and hikers. The trail follows along the old Midland Railroad rail line built during the 1860's. Original railroad crossings of certain gulches are at risk of or currently are washing out during heavy rains and cutting into the trail.

BLM is investigating utilizing smaller sized heavy equipment in this remote trail section to repair the washouts and prevent stored sediment from entering into Trout Creek. If this project moves forward, the public could expect to encounter equipment along the trail sometime over the next year. Plans are not to change the character or use designation of the trail. The intent is to prevent washouts by providing areas for storm water to pass through the trail. The majority of work will be on BLM land and a lesser amount upon U.S. Forest Service.

If you have any comment on proposed work, or would like additional information, please call Dave Gilbert at 719-269-8529 regarding work on BLM lands or Chris Welker at 719-530-3974, regarding work on National Forest Service system lands.

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