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BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Cultural & Paleontological Resources*

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The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Uncompahgre planning area. The Uncompahgre RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM’s dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

Public lands within the Uncompahgre planning area contain a multitude of cultural resource sites. These special places include prehistoric habitation camps, rock art sites and proto-historic Ute wikiup camps. In addition, historic mining camps, homestead settlements, and town sites can be found throughout the Uncompahgre Plateau.

CULTURAL SITE VISITS AND EDUCATION

Hikers and other recreational users make the greatest number of visits to cultural resource sites. Many of these visitors have learned something about the prehistory of a site prior to their visit, through a variety of educational resources.

Educational and public outreach opportunities are critical in helping to preserve for future generations the rich cultural heritage that cultural sites offer. It has been proven that vandalism of sites is less likely to occur following educational exposure, as the public begins to take ownership in and value cultural resources, rather than accidentally or intentionally damaging or destroying them.



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DEVELOPED CULTURAL RESOURCE FACILITIES

The BLM has created repositories for collections of cultural materials. These facilities support public education and awareness of our rich cultural heritage. The Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado welcomes visitors and research scholars to view the museum and collections housed there.

The planning area has several cultural sites with trail guides and information brochures to enhance the public's awareness of the cultural history and prehistoric sites within the canyons and river drainages.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

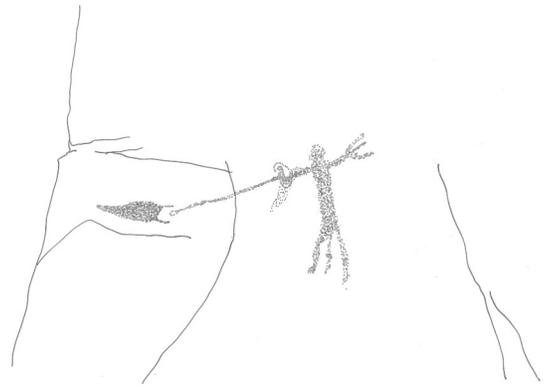
Public lands within the planning area are well known for preserving fossil-bearing sites. Several "World Class" fossil localities are found here, including the Bedrock dinosaur exposure and the San Miguel fossil fish locality. Recent inventories have detailed more than a dozen new fossil sites, including both dinosaur bones and preserved trackways. Public participation is vital to help preserve these irreplaceable scientific treasures for future generations.

FOSSIL APPRECIATION FACILITIES

The BLM currently has no developed sites for viewing fossils, and there are no sites with ongoing excavations. There are several known fossil exposures and trackways being considered for public interpretation.

CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDS

The BLM need volunteers to serve as site stewards, helping to protect fragile cultural and paleontological resources. For hikers and backcountry travelers, there are many sites that need monitoring for suspicious behavior, vandalism and looting. Please consider signing up for a short training and put your name on the list of site stewards to help protect your public land and its cultural resources.



The BLM wants your input...

- How should the BLM manage and protect cultural and paleontological areas and sites within the planning area?
- Should the BLM develop formal sites for viewing rock art, fossil exposures, and dinosaur track-ways in an effort to enhance public involvement, or should these resources be left in an undeveloped state?

UFO Planning Webpage:
www.UFORMP.com

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