

8.2

BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Wildland-Urban Interface*

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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*.

WHAT IS WUI?

The *Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)* is defined as a geographical area where two diverse systems meet and affect each other, giving rise to conflicts between societal values and expectations concerning the management of natural resource systems. Many people think of WUI exclusively as it pertains to wildfire, and the zone where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with vegetative fuels. However, while wildfire is the most significant WUI issue, it is not the only one. Both recreation and land health are impacted by WUI dynamics.



WUI AND THE PLANNING AREA

The planning area has numerous areas of rapidly expanding wildland-urban interface due to increased population, changing demographics, and visitation to the western slope. Examples of these include subdivisions, ranches, electrical transmission lines, communication sites, and recreation sites.

Preliminary planning issues related to WUI include:

Fire Management— Fighting wildfires, as well as managing fuels in order to prevent wildfires, is a complex, costly, and hazardous undertaking. Every year hundreds of homes and outbuildings are lost and lives are endangered throughout the United States due to wildfires in the WUI.

The BLM aggressively manages wildfires to protect the WUI’s valuable resources. In addition, prescribed burning and mechanical fuel reduction treatments are used to modify current fuel conditions and future fire behavior.

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8.2—Wildland-Urban Interface



Recreation— Population growth in local communities increases demand for recreational opportunities and facilities in the planning area. The BLM responds in part by providing additional signs, kiosks, picnic areas, parking areas, boat ramps, toilets, campgrounds, trails, and administrative sites.

Land Health— While generally in good condition, WUI lands are more susceptible to land health problems than other areas. Common concerns include higher levels of weeds, erosion, and bare ground, increased selenium and salinity effects, reduced native species diversity and abundance, and lower plant vigor. These problems can often be attributed to greater levels of human disturbance from casual recreation use, right-of-way developments, livestock trespass, adjacent agricultural lands, and altered wildlife usage patterns.

RMP planning will address how the BLM can accommodate foreseeable growth in the planning area, while balancing the wants and needs of surrounding communities.



The BLM wants your input...

- Under what conditions should fire suppression or fuel reduction activities occur?
- How should recreation in the WUI be managed?

UFO Planning Webpage:
www.UFORMP.com

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