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BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET

Vegetation and Land Health

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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*.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS A PRODUCTIVE ONE

BLM's Land Health Standards require the UFO to manage for healthy plant communities. Health is measured by a community's productivity, diversity, number of native and desirable species, absence of weeds, functional use of sunlight and water, and nutrient cycling. The UFO manages vegetation to achieve land health, while supporting a variety of human uses and natural values.

In the planning area, healthy plant communities are achieved through:

- Implementing protective and mitigation measures identified through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in response to potentially harmful activities and developments
- Targeting carefully designed fuel reduction and wildlife habitat improvement projects
- Restoring communities through activities such as weed management, native species seeding in burned or disturbed areas, and re-treating former chaining areas
- Leaving communities alone to function as naturally as possible.

In turn, a healthy plant community can provide:

- Forage for grazing animals
- Products for harvest, such as firewood, pinyon nuts, and Christmas trees
- Values that benefit people, such as clean water, wildlife habitat, ecosystem resilience, and beautiful vistas.



STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH

The UFO is mandated to manage public lands in accordance with five BLM Colorado Standards for Public Land Health:

- **Standard 1** - Upland soils are healthy with respect to water absorption, erosion, organic matter, and groundcover
- **Standard 2** - Riparian systems and wetlands function properly and can recover from disturbance
- **Standard 3** - Plant and animal communities are healthy, made up of native and desirable species, sustain viable populations in suitable habitat, and are resilient to disturbances
- **Standard 4** - Threatened, endangered, and sensitive species are maintained and enhanced by healthy native plant and animal communities
- **Standard 5** - Water quality on BLM lands meets or exceeds Colorado Water Quality Standards.



BLM

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UFO LAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

LANDSCAPE UNIT	YEAR ASSESSED	NEXT ASSESSMENT	LAND HEALTH RATING	% OF LANDSCAPE UNIT BY LAND HEALTH STANDARD (EXCLUDES UNDETERMINED LANDS)				
				1	2	3	4	5
Escalante	1999	2010	Meets	57	58	43	100	68
			Meets but w/Problems	23	35	28	0	30
			Doesn't Meet	15	0	24	0	0
East Paradox	2000	2011	Meets	90	36	79	100	24
			Meets but w/Problems	8	55	10	0	76
			Doesn't Meet	2	8	11	0	0
Gunnison Gorge	2001	2012	Meets	70	37	43	76	89
			Meets but w/Problems	21	62	44	24	6
			Doesn't Meet	0	0	5	0	5
North Delta	2002	2013	Meets	53	52	13	100	72
			Meets but w/Problems	40	23	70	0	28
			Doesn't Meet	2	23	13	0	0
Mesa Creek	2004	2014	Meets	53	58	53	100	65
			Meets but w/Problems	44	33	36	0	35
			Doesn't Meet	1	9	9	0	0
Roubideau	2005	2015	Meets	44	80	17	100	74
			Meets but w/Problems	43	19	64	0	20
			Doesn't Meet	9	0	16	0	7
Norwood	2006	2016	Meets	80	89	65	100	71
			Meets but w/Problems	15	9	24	0	17
			Doesn't Meet	0	2	8	0	12
North Fork	2007	2017	Meets	48	79	29	84	74
			Meets but w/Problems	43	12	41	6	23
			Doesn't Meet	2	5	24	10	3
Colona	2008	2018	Meets	71	58	31	32	50
			Meets but w/Problems	16	22	52	53	37
			Doesn't Meet	4	14	8	4	13
West Paradox	2009	2019	Meets	47	64	70	87	49
			Meets but w/Problems	50	36	24	10	30
			Doesn't Meet	0	0	3	0	21

ASSESSING LAND HEALTH

UFO public lands are divided into ten landscape units. Every year, one unit is evaluated for land health. The evaluation is documented with a detailed analysis of *lands meeting standards, lands meeting standards, but with problems, and lands not meeting standards*. Where problems are identified, recommendations are made to fix them and address the cause.

The BLM wants your input...

- Should the BLM attempt to improve the condition of lands in the planning area that do not meet standards, or meet but with problems? Where should this be made a priority?
- Vegetation treatments can be expensive and do not always respond in the desired way. Where in the planning area should the BLM focus vegetation treatments? What areas should be left to function naturally?
- In which areas, if any, should the BLM allow dispersed collection of vegetation products, or designate specific areas for public harvest.

UFO Planning Webpage:
www.UFORMP.com

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