4.3

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office
RMP Planning Fact Sheet
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

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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*.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, commonly known as ***ACECs***, are public lands where special management is required in order to protect the area's values. To be eligible for designation as an ACEC, an area must meet criteria for **relevance** and **importance**. ACECs possess significant historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish or wildlife resources (including threatened and endangered species), or natural hazards. This generally requires substantial qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern.

ACECs in the Planning Area

The Uncompahgre planning area contains four ACECs, which were designated in the two existing RMPs:

ACEC	Area (acres)	Values
Fairview	374	Large population of a listed endangered plant species and significant populations of a candidate plant species
Needle Rock	83	A volcanic geological structure with high-value scientific, interpretive, and scenic characteristics
Adobe Badlands	6,383	Consists of Mancos Shale hills and flats which, through wind and water erosion, have formed unique scenic formations. The area's soils are highly erodible and saline, resulting in high sediment loads and very saline runoff. The area also contains known and potential habitat for several endangered and threatened plant species.
San Miguel	22,841	Unique, high quality riparian vegetation resources, the scenic values of the corridor, and preservation of relic riparian communities

Protecting Significant Values

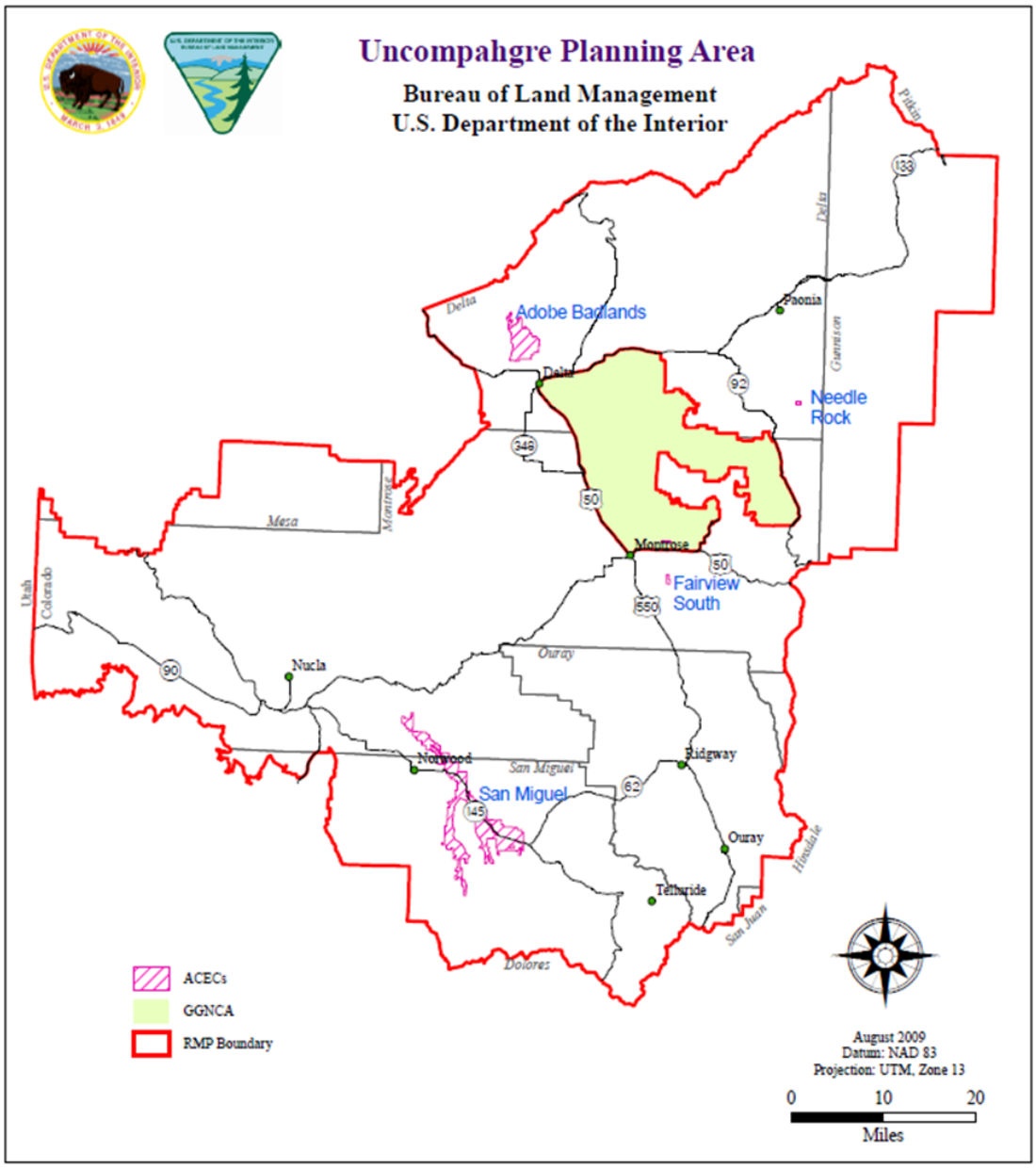
Restrictions arising from ACEC designation are proposed during the final RMP revision and are part of the final decision process. Restrictions are designed to protect the values and/or serve the purposes for which the designation was made. Management prescriptions are developed expressly to protect the important and relevant values of an area. Such measures would not be necessary or prescribed if the critical and important features were not present.

Review of New and Existing ACECs

As part of the RMP revision, existing ACECs will be reevaluated to determine whether:

- the ACEC's relevant and important values are still present and require continued management attention
- threats of irreparable damage to the values have been identified
- current management is sufficient to protect the values.

In addition, new ACECs nominated during the public scoping period will be evaluated for relevance and importance.



The BLM wants your input...

- **Do you know of any areas within the planning area that meet the criteria for becoming an ACEC?**

  Any individual or organization may nominate an ACEC during the public scoping period. The nomination should describe the area's special values. Information on why the area meets relevance and importance criteria (43 CFR 1610.7-2) must be included in the nomination.

UFO Planning Webpage:
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