



**US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado**

Resource Management Plan Revision and
Environmental Impact Statement



***SOCIOECONOMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT
REPORT***

***FINAL
JULY 2010***



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

AUM	animal unit month
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
DOE	United States Department of Energy
decision area	lands within the planning area that are administered by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and are the subject of the Uncompahgre RMP revision
EIS	environmental impact statement
NCA	National Conservation Area
PILT	payment in lieu of taxes
planning area	all lands, regardless of ownership, within the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado, excluding the Dominguez-Escalante and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Areas
public lands	lands administered by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
RMP	resource management plan
socioeconomic study area	all lands, regardless of ownership, within the six counties (Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel) in which the planning area is located
UFO	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado
US	United States
US Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is preparing a resource management plan (RMP) to revise management direction for BLM-administered (public) lands. The UFO is responsible for the management and stewardship of approximately 675,760 surface acres of BLM-administered land and 2,140,720 million acres of subsurface federal mineral estate within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area in southwestern Colorado. The planning area excludes the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas. This report has been prepared to support the RMP process and builds upon other outreach efforts, including the Community Assessment of the Uncompahgre Planning Area (BLM 2009).

The objectives of this report are to:

1. Compile and document the socioeconomic conditions of the planning area, which encompasses six counties: Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel;
2. Summarize the results of six socioeconomic workshops the BLM held with local communities in March 2010;
3. Assess the relationship between the management of BLM lands and local communities on both a Field Office-wide scale and local level;
4. Document input from communities on how management could be revised; and
5. Outline methods to be used in the RMP process for assessing potential impacts to social and economic conditions.

BACKGROUND OF SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN THE PLANNING AREA

Analysis of social and economic conditions and the relation to public lands is required as a component of the RMP revision process as defined in Appendix D of BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005). The BLM UFO has implemented a series of outreach efforts over the last two years to better understand the economic and social relationships between local communities and public lands. The UFO began the process in 2008 by conducting a community assessment to gather input from counties, cities, towns, and local organizations on

their views of BLM-managed lands and BLM management practices (BLM 2009). The UFO hosted 22 meetings throughout the planning area as part of this process. Social and economic input was also solicited during the public scoping period for the RMP, which included seven meetings in January and February 2010. In March 2010, the BLM hosted six additional meetings focused exclusively on the socioeconomic conditions of the planning area; these workshops are described below.

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC STRATEGY WORKSHOPS

On March 9, 10, 16, and 17, 2010, the UFO hosted six economic strategies workshops in Montrose, Delta, Hotchkiss, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, Colorado. In total, 90 citizens, local government representatives, and local interest group representatives attended the workshops. These workshops provided an opportunity for stakeholders from local communities to participate in the planning process. Attendees discussed economic trends in the region, viewed current and historical socioeconomic data, and developed visions for the economic future of their communities. The attendees also discussed how BLM management of public lands is tied to the economy in local communities and in the region as a whole.

Workshop participants identified important current land uses of public lands as they relate to the local economy. Key uses identified include the following:

- Recreation is seen as a critical driver of the economy for some areas. In Ridgway, participants noted the importance of four-wheel-drive vehicle use in Ouray and the surrounding area. In other areas, nonmotorized recreation has more of an emphasis. Representatives from Olathe in Montrose County and Ridgway in Ouray County noted the importance of recreation for local residents.
- Big game hunting is important for local residents as subsistence hunting, and as a local economic driver attracting destination tourists and providing income to local outfitters. Many of the accessible hunting areas are on public lands.
- Livestock grazing represents another important historical and current use of public lands. Workshop participants in Norwood stated the importance of continued access to public lands for grazing to support the local economy.
- Workshop participants, notably those representing western Montrose County, discussed the importance of mining, particularly for uranium, on public lands for the local economy. Extraction of fossil fuel resources was also noted.
- Quality of life is an important contribution of public lands. Workshop participants noted the importance of public lands in preserving open space, providing ecosystem services, and providing local recreational areas. These features may attract new sources of income to the area in the form of retirees, telecommuters, and sole proprietors.

Workshop participants were also asked how the BLM can partner with the community to help it reach its potential. Specific BLM management actions or directions were identified that would help communities reach the desired outcomes or expectations for public lands in the region. In general, workshop participants urged the BLM to recognize the unique needs of the different

planning area regions and stated that a one-size-fits-all management approach would not be appropriate. Recommended actions are summarized as follows:

- Emphasize collaboration with the local community, government, and interest groups. Engage key community leaders in the process.
- Determine what land uses are best suited to support local community needs for economic growth, while preserving quality of life.
- Work with the local communities to foster and support locally appropriate income-producing work, whether from quiet or motorized recreation, livestock grazing, or mineral and fossil fuel extraction.
- Maintain the public lands in a healthy state, and recognize the contribution of public lands to clean air and water and wildlife habitat.
- Keep access to public lands open for livestock grazing, hunting, and fishing.
- Recognize the importance of public land resources for the economic livelihood of some planning area communities.
- Engage local livestock permittees and the ranching community in the RMP revision process.
- Keep user fees low.

PLANNING AREA SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

The UFO is segmented by its abundant natural resources and the diversity of people who reside within its geographic boundaries. Results from the economic strategies workshops held in March 2010 show that communities value the existing features of the natural landscape but also want to diversify economic opportunities and expand potential employment growth. Residents have a strong relationship with public lands and use it for a variety of experiences, such as recreation, nonconsumptive activities (e.g., open space views and western cultural landscapes), and resource extraction. However, how people view and interact with public lands varies within the planning area.

The planning area encompasses portions of six counties (**Figure I-1**, Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area); however, county boundaries tend not to reflect the diversity of socioeconomic conditions within them due to natural topography boundaries and proximity to public lands. Therefore, this report uses the socioeconomic units (**Figure I-2**, Planning Units for the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area) delineated in the Community Assessment report (BLM 2009) and expands on the findings for these areas. While some issues may apply to more than one region, each socioeconomic unit displays common features in landscape and socioeconomic environment. Key issues identified for the different socioeconomic units are presented below.

Socioeconomic Unit I. This unit encompasses the communities of Bowie, Paonia, and Somerset and contains land in Gunnison and Delta Counties. Coal mining represents a key component of the economy in this unit, as do oil and gas development and agriculture. Recreational use of land is important for local area residents. The key issues are providing the

continued access to public lands for traditional agricultural and extractive resource uses while preserving the quality of life for local residents.

Socioeconomic Unit 2. This unit encompasses the communities of Austin, Cedaredge, Crawford, Hotchkiss, and Orchard City and contains land in Delta, Montrose and Gunnison County. Issues in this unit relate to growing the economy in concert with the natural landscape. Utilization of public land and enhancing environmental values while preserving open space is also important. The key issue is finding the balance that allows residents to retain a lifestyle that meets their needs and provides recreational opportunities for visitors to the area.

Socioeconomic Unit 3. This unit encompasses the communities of Delta, Montrose, and Olathe and contains land in Delta, Mesa, and Montrose Counties. The economy in this area is oriented toward agriculture, mining, and timber production. The area also contains geological features that provides recreational opportunities for the local population and attracts visitors. The community of Delta along the US Highway 50 corridor is within easy commuting distance of Grand Junction, the regional center for western Colorado. The key issue for the Delta area is providing maximum public land access for local residents and extracting resources for continued community economic support, while preserving ecologic features that attract visitors to the area.

Like the community of Delta, Montrose lies along the US Highway 50 corridor and is the largest city within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. The regional airport also provides Montrose ready access to areas outside the planning area. Also, the majority of county population resides within eastern Montrose County and thus gives the area an urban economic feel. Though there is less dependency on public lands for economic stability within the urban setting, access to public lands within the UFO attracts visitors to the recreational economic activities, which provides economic opportunities. The key issue in this unit is providing continued access to public lands for an area with a growing population center and increasing importance as a regional destination.

Socioeconomic Unit 4. This unit encompasses the communities of Mountain Village, Norwood, Ouray, Placerville, Ridgway, Sawpit, and Telluride and contains land primarily in Ouray and San Miguel Counties. The eastern portion of the unit is located in Ouray County and eastern San Miguel County. This area is destination oriented and takes advantage of unique geologic features and remote access. Economic opportunities are limited to those activities that fit the landscape. Retaining local businesses and developing tourist- and recreation-oriented activities are important aspects of economic growth. Retirees and self proprietors make a significant contribution to the local economy. The main issue is maintaining the landscape in its “old west” setting, while providing a “new west” economic structure.

The western portion of Socioeconomic Unit 4 is located in the area surrounding the town of Norwood in western San Miguel County. Agriculture represents a significant portion of the local economy. A number of residents commute to Telluride to work in the accommodation sector. Water is a limiting resource, which severely restricts development within the Norwood area. Hunting and fishing provide seasonal economic activity. The main issues are access to public lands for livestock grazing and hunting.

Socioeconomic Unit 5. This unit encompasses the communities of Naturita, Nucla, Redvale, and Paradox and contains land primarily in western Montrose County. Agriculture and mining represent significant portions of the area economy. Uranium mining is particularly significant, which has led to boom/bust cycles throughout the past 40 years. Some residents commute from Naturita and Nucla to Telluride for work in the accommodation sector. The remoteness of the area requires travel to Montrose, Delta, or Grand Junction for all major shopping activities. The main issue is making available public land resources for livestock grazing and extractive uses.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR LAND USE PLANNING

Key economic and social indicators have been identified based on a review of literature and input received during the community assessment meetings (BLM 2009), public scoping process in early 2010, and economic strategy workshops in March 2010. These indicators are provided as a basis for assessment in the RMP process.

Important general social and economic indicators for local communities include employment by job sector, personal income, population change, housing affordability, and ethnic and racial makeup of the area. Indicators specific to public lands include recreational use (including hunting and fishing visitor days, as well as motorized and nonmotorized recreational use), livestock grazing as measured in animal unit months, and energy development and production, particularly for coal, oil and gas, and uranium mining. Right-of-way and other land use information are also important to examine.

In addition to the indicators listed above, social and economic impacts on key groups with a vested interest in local public land management are important. Results from the economic analysis will be applied in measuring the social impacts to determine impacts of different planning alternatives on groups. Important groups that have been identified in the planning area include:

- Ranchers and livestock grazing lessees;
- Private landowners;
- Minerals and oil and gas leaseholders;
- Renewable energy leaseholders;
- Right-of-way holders;
- Recreational users;
- Outfitters;
- Individuals and groups who prioritize resource protection; and
- Individuals and groups who prioritize resource use.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is preparing a resource management plan (RMP) to provide land use management direction for BLM-administered (public) land and federal subsurface mineral estate. The UFO is responsible for the management and stewardship of approximately 675,760 surface acres of BLM-administered land and 2,140,720 million acres of subsurface federal mineral estate within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area in southwestern Colorado. The planning area excludes the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas.

The Uncompahgre RMP will update and replace the current plans that were developed in 1985 (BLM 1985) and 1989 (BLM 1989). Since completion of the previous RMPs, Colorado has undergone many changes that affect the management of public lands. As part of the RMP process, the BLM is engaging local communities to better understand the relationship between public land management and socioeconomic conditions. Also, as part of the process, the BLM will analyze the impacts to the human environment, including social and economic conditions. This report has been prepared to support the RMP process and builds upon other outreach efforts, including the Community Assessment of the Uncompahgre Planning Area (BLM 2009).

The objectives of this report are to do the following:

1. Compile and document the socioeconomic conditions of the planning area, which encompasses six counties: Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel;
2. Summarize the results of six economic strategy workshops the BLM held with local communities in March 2010 (see **Chapter 4**, Economic Strategy Workshops).
3. Assess the relationship between the management of BLM lands and local communities on both a Field Office wide scale and local level;
4. Document input from communities on how management could be revised; and
5. Outline methods to be used in the RMP process for assessing potential impacts to social and economic conditions.

The information presented herein has been researched and validated through a variety of sources, including literature review of published and unpublished documents; review of data from the BLM, partners, and other state and federal agencies; statistical data sources; and responses received through the public scoping process and during economic strategy workshops held in the planning area in March 2010. This report was prepared pursuant to Appendix D of the BLM Handbook H-1601-01, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005) and BLM Instruction Memorandum 2002-167, Social and Economic Analysis.

I.1 SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

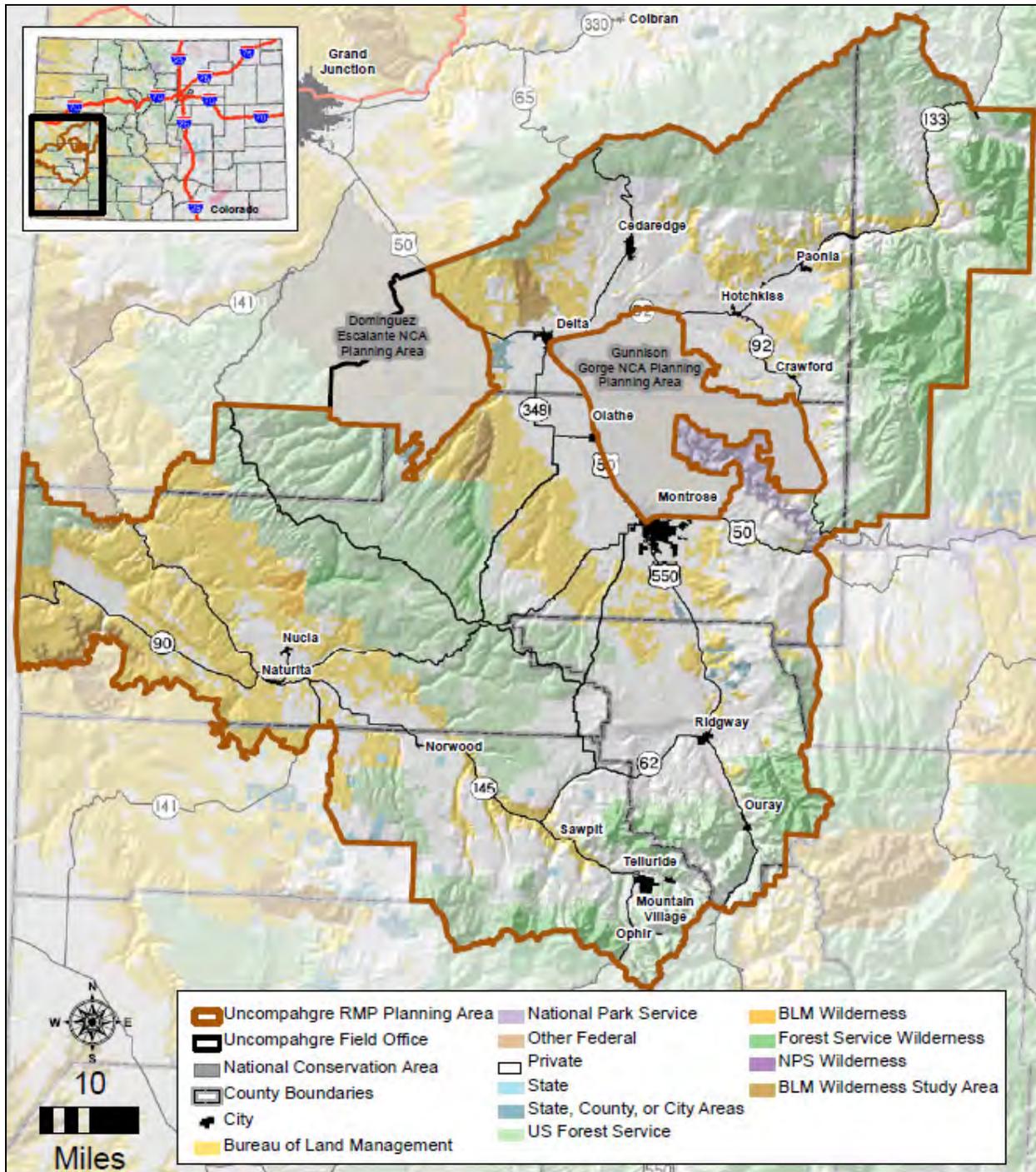
The UFO is responsible for the management and stewardship of approximately 675,760 surface acres of BLM-administered land within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area in southwestern Colorado. The planning and decision areas exclude the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas (NCA). In addition to BLM lands, other federal and state-owned lands are present in the planning area (**Figure I-1**, Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area). An overall breakdown of land status of the planning area is shown in **Table I-1**, Land Status in the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area. The acres of public lands in each county are shown in **Table I-2**, Land Status for Lands within the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area by County. In addition to making land use decisions for the surface estate of public lands, the RMP will provide allocation decisions on over 2.2 million acres of subsurface federal mineral estate in the planning area. The BLM has the delegated authority to allocate leasing on the federal mineral estate that is under other surface ownership (such as United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service [US Forest Service], private, or State lands); these lands are termed “split estate.” Refer to **Table I-3**, Federal Mineral Estate in the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area.

Table I-1
Land Status in the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area

Surface Ownership	Approximate Acres (in planning area)
BLM	675,760
US Forest Service	1,248,390
National Park Service	27,130
US Fish and Wildlife Service	80
State (including Colorado Division of Wildlife [CDOW])	20,110
City	680
Private	1,125,350
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,097,500</i>

Source: BLM 2010a

The planning area includes a diverse range of natural landscapes and social and economic conditions, ranging from urban areas and bedroom communities to mountain towns and small agricultural communities. BLM lands and management have an important presence in the area. While the acreage and influence of the Uncompahgre RMP planning area are discussed in this report, it should be noted that some counties in the RMP planning area overlap into other BLM Field Office boundaries (e.g., Mesa County is within both the UFO and the Grand Junction Field Office).



SOURCE: BLM 2010a

Uncompahgre Field Office Planning Area



No warranty is made on the accuracy, reliability and completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Spatial data may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Figure I-1

**Table I-2
Land Status the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area by County**

Surface Ownership	Delta	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	San Miguel	Total
BLM	120,700	13,400	11,900	448,000	24,500	57,200	675,700
US Forest Service	189,200	338,800	94,100	328,400	126,400	169,900	1,246,800
National Park Service	0	0	0	27,100	0	0	27,100
State (including CDOW)	3,500	10	200	3,200	4,700	6,700	18,300
City	100	0	0	400	200	200	900
Private	285,200	74,500	5,400	375,600	188,800	195,700	1,125,200
<i>Total*</i>	<i>598,700</i>	<i>426,700</i>	<i>111,600</i>	<i>1,182,700</i>	<i>344,600</i>	<i>429,700</i>	

Source: BLM 2010a

*All acres rounded to nearest 100 acres. Acres are approximate only and do not equal totals in Table I-1 due to rounding differences and approximately 3,100 acres of the planning area in San Juan County.

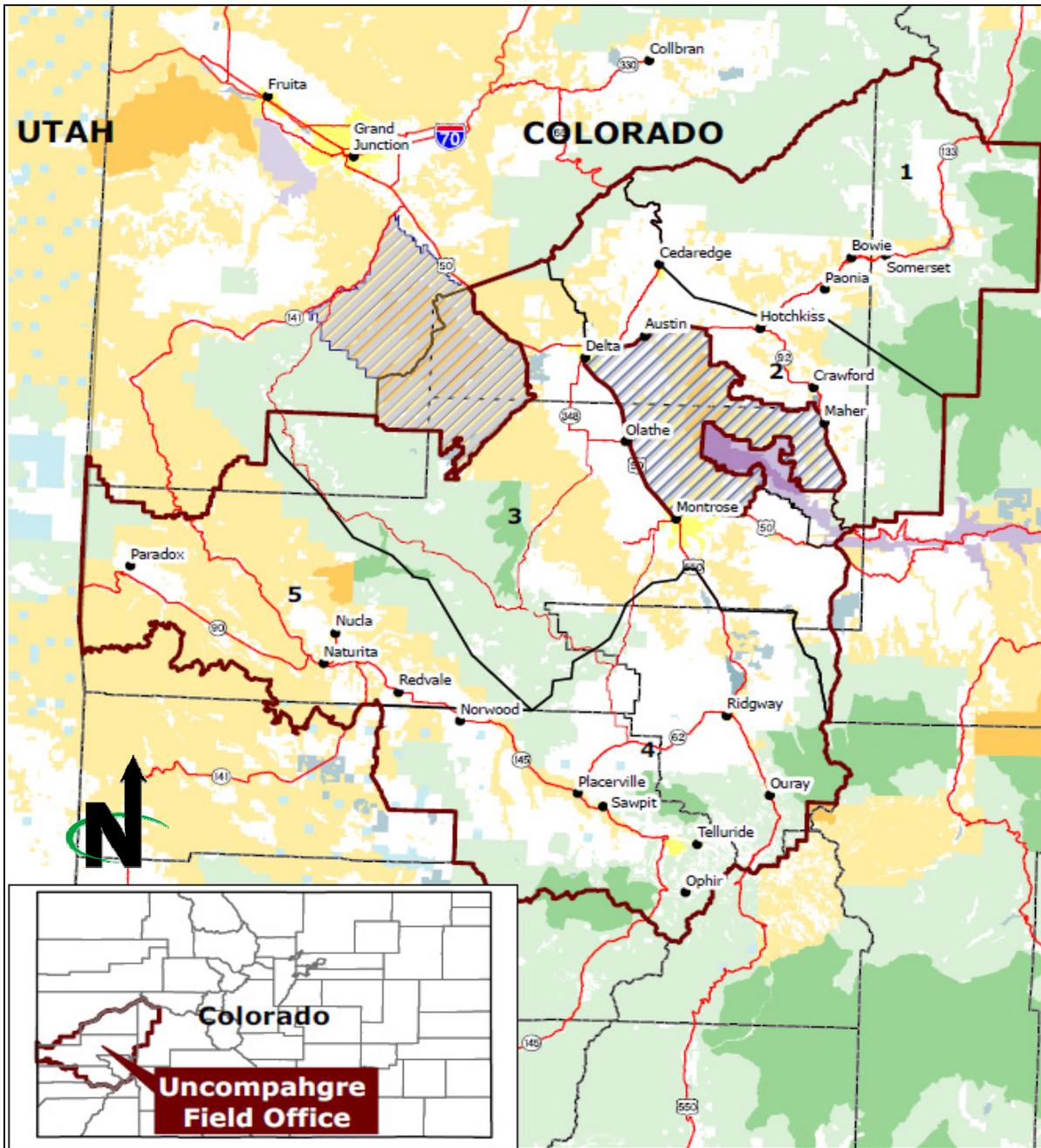
**Table I-3
Federal Mineral Estate in the Uncompahgre RMP
Planning Area**

Surface Ownership	Acres
BLM	669,380
Other Federal Lands (US Forest Service, National Park Service)	1,270,400
Private, State or City	295,000
<i>Total Federal Minerals</i>	<i>2,234,780</i>

Source: BLM 2010a

County borders often fail to represent the social and economic communities that have formed, which is particularly relevant for this planning area due to the area's natural topography that creates geographic barriers between different regions. In an attempt to classify these social communities in the planning area, the BLM has delineated socioeconomic units representing different segments of the planning area (**Figure I-2**, Planning Units for the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area). These units were defined as a result of a comprehensive community assessment that the BLM conducted in late 2008 (BLM 2009). Boundaries for planning units may be amended based on public input throughout the RMP process. These units include the following:

- **Socioeconomic Unit I.** The communities in this unit (Bowie, Paonia, and Somerset) have strong economic ties and social relationships with coal mining, oil and gas extraction, and agriculture. The socioeconomic and political characteristics of residents in this unit are very diverse, and there is mix of multigenerational and new residents. Residents choose to live here because of the strong sense of community, natural resource based jobs, good quality of life, access to federal lands (BLM and US Forest Service), recreational opportunities, and the scenic beauty of the landscapes. Several active oil and gas and coal leases are located on the public lands in this unit.



SOURCE: BLM 2010a

LEGEND:

- Uncompahgre Field Office Boundary
- Management Unit Boundary
- Gunnison Gorge Planning Area
- BLM
- Forest Service
- NPS
- Cities
- Counties
- Private
- State
- WSA
- Forest Service Wilderness
- BLM Wilderness
- NPS Wilderness

Socioeconomic Units in the Planning Area

No warranty is made on the accuracy, reliability and completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Spatial data may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.



Figure I-2

- **Socioeconomic Unit 2.** The communities in this unit (Austin, Cedaredge, Crawford, Hotchkiss, and Orchard City) have an economic relationship with agriculture and mining, as well as ties to the City of Delta. Many residents in the northern part of the unit commute to the City of Delta or are retirees, which has increased socioeconomic diversity. Communities adjacent to BLM and US Forest Service lands view themselves as gateway communities for outdoor recreation and want to maximize their economic potential as such. Residents value their access to public lands, the sense of community, good quality of life, recreational opportunities, and the scenic beauty of the landscapes.
- **Socioeconomic Unit 3.** The communities in this unit (Delta, Montrose, and Olathe) are more tied to urban economies, agriculture, and recreation. Like the other units, people in this unit live here for the good quality of life, access to public lands, and sense of community, recreation opportunities, and scenery. However, economically, this region is less directly dependent on federal lands for economic stability. There is a greater diversity in socioeconomic characteristics and demographics.
- **Socioeconomic Unit 4.** The communities in this unit (Mountain Village, Norwood, Ouray, Placerville, Ridgway, Sawpit, and Telluride) have all experienced some level of transformation from an “old west” to a “new west” economic structure. It is likely that Telluride has served as a catalyst for this transformation. Of all the units, this unit contains the most communities dominated by newer residents (either by population or by influence). In general, residents that move into this unit are attracted to the region for scenery, recreation, and the “western feel.” Therefore, it is not surprising that recreation, open space, and viewshed and watershed protection are important to local residents, as are non-extractive historic uses, such as livestock grazing. Based on census data, this region is economically prosperous, although much of the money may come from outside the region (e.g., second home owners and retirees). The diversity of socioeconomic conditions varies greatly between communities, from relatively homogenous conditions around Telluride to highly diverse conditions in Norwood, which has characteristics of both Socioeconomic Units 4 and 5.
- **Socioeconomic Unit 5.** The communities in this unit (Naturita, Nucla, Redvale, and Paradox) are all unique but share a long and common history of livestock grazing, locatable mineral mining, and leasable energy activity on public lands. Of all the units, this unit has the strongest economic dependence on public lands. For example, the boom and bust cycle of uranium mining is very evident in these communities. Overall, this unit is economically depressed with many social issues. Communities are supportive of resource extraction and use of public lands in an environmentally sustainable manner for economic gain (including recreational uses). The isolation and social independence of this part of the planning area is a prime value of the people who live here, as is access to public lands and the scenery.

As noted above, this report documents conditions in the socioeconomic study area, which includes all lands in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. The study area includes a diverse range of natural landscapes and social and environmental

conditions. This report aims to identify the key social and economic issues in the study area and determine the factors influenced by BLM land management.

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CHAPTER 2

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Local and regional demographic characteristics and economies are affected by public land uses within the planning area. Similarly, social structure and values within the region influence the demand for recreation and other opportunities provided by public lands, as well as the acceptability of proposed land management decisions. In addition, economic and demographic statistics are primarily reported by county. For these reasons, demographic, economic, and social data are presented for the socioeconomic study area, which includes all lands within the six counties that primarily comprise the planning area. A state context is provided for comparison when available, and more-detailed descriptions of individual counties and municipalities are presented as appropriate.

Information reported for all six counties may include demographics that fall outside the planning area. It is likely that the counties containing the most public land within the planning area or the most intensively used public land would be most affected by changes in resource management. Similarly, the counties with the most public land acreage are likely to be the most affected by funding to states and counties through federal payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) and uses of the public lands. Tables presenting socioeconomic information by county and for the study area as a whole, where appropriate, are included in **Appendix A**, Study Area Demographic and Economic Data.

Information was collected from several sources, including Headwater Economics' Economic Profile System (Headwaters Economics 2010), US Census Bureau, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Colorado Department of Local Government, and other data for Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Olathe, and San Miguel Counties and the State of Colorado. Current, historic, and forecast population statistics, age distribution, housing, and education level are the demographic data provided. Economic characteristics discussed include employment levels and industries, major employers, income, government revenues and expenditures, and dependence on BLM resources. Data in **Appendix A** represents the most current information available to the greatest extent possible. It should be noted that for counties with a population under

20,000, most US Census data is collected for the decennial Census only; therefore, data more recent than 2000 is limited for Gunnison, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.

2.1 STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1.1 Population and Migration

The study area total population was 245,075 in 2008, with populations ranging from 4,703 in Ouray County to 144,440 in Mesa County. Population density varied from less than 5 people per square mile in Gunnison County to approximately 34 people per square mile in Mesa County in 2000. Overall, the population density for all counties in the study area remains less than the Colorado average (41.9 people per square mile).

Appendix A, Table A-1, Study Area Population Totals (1980–2008), shows that total population increased dramatically in all six study area counties since 1980, with the highest growth rates occurring from 1990 to 2000. From 1980 to 1990, growth was relatively slow or stagnant for most counties. Overall population in the study area increased 8.3 percent. In the 1990s, growth in the study area was over 30 percent, with San Miguel County experiencing a more than 80 percent population increase. In the 2000s, the area experienced a 21-percent growth rate. Over the same periods, the state population increased by 31 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Since 1980, the most rapid increase in population has occurred in Ouray (144 percent) and San Miguel (144 percent) Counties, while growth in Gunnison (43 percent) and Delta (49 percent) Counties has been lower than the state rate of 73 percent. It should be noted that despite the rapid growth, total population density remains low in the study area.

Population growth in the area is expected to continue over the next few decades, particularly in the current population centers along major travel arteries. **Appendix A, Table A-2**, Study Area Population Projections (2010–2030), shows population projections to 2030. In-migration of people from other Colorado regions and throughout the West is the likely source of much of the anticipated population growth. Feedback from planning area community workshops held in March 2010 indicates that people are often drawn to the area for lack of crowds and outdoor opportunities. In San Miguel County, over 73 percent of the current population was born outside the state of Colorado. Increasing population will continue to add pressure on area public lands as residents seek recreational activities close to home. Population growth is therefore likely to intensify conflicts between users public land resources. Growth through the state and the region may also result in an increased number of people traveling to planning area public lands as a recreation destination.

2.1.2 Age

The median age of residents in the six study area counties ranges from 35.7 in Gunnison County to 43.7 in Ouray County. On the whole, the study area population is older than the state; only Gunnison County falls below the state average of 35.8 for median age. (Colorado Division of Local Government, State Demography Office 2010). **Appendix A, Table A-3**, Study Area Estimated Age of Population (2008), shows the age structure for each county.

2.1.3 Social Indicators

Social characteristics and attitudes within the planning area are affected by the surrounding demographic and economic trends. Changes in regional industry sectors or local population

influx for example, can change the predominant lifestyles and attitudes of the local residents. Social indicators, including education level, crime rate, and marriage status, are important measures and can provide valuable information on the impact of economic changes in a community such as boom and bust cycles in employment or a regional economic down-turn.

Education

Education level of local residents is often tied to other socioeconomic factors including employment and income levels. In the study area, there is a wide range of educational attainment. Gunnison, San Miguel, and Ouray Counties have high proportions of the population who have obtained at least a high school diploma or equivalent (94, 94, and 93 percent, respectively). In contrast, the percent of the population meeting this education level was below the state average of 87 percent in Delta (80 percent), Montrose (81 percent), and Mesa (85 percent) Counties. Similarly, Gunnison, San Miguel, and Ouray Counties had larger populations than the state average (22 percent) with bachelor's degrees, while all other counties in the study area fell below the state average. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-4**, Study Area Education Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older (2008).

Crime Rate

Crime rates are one indicator of the social well-being of a community. Increased crime rates are often tied to disruptions such as local loss of jobs or population changes. Crime rates, particularly for the study area's rural counties, are very low. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-5**, Study Area Crime Rates (2008). Crime rates, especially violent crimes, for all counties other than Mesa were significantly lower than the state average.

Marital Status

Like crime rates, marital status can be an important indicator of the well-being and quality of life. Marital status varies by county, falling in a range around the state average for most categories. The percent of the population that has never married is lowest in Delta County (15 percent) and highest in Gunnison County (42 percent), which is likely correlated with the age of the population. The married population ranges from a high of 66 percent married in Ouray County to a low of 45 percent married in San Miguel County. Divorce rate is lowest in Gunnison County at 8 percent and highest in Delta County (12 percent). Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-6**, Study Area Marital Status for Population 15 Years and Older (2000).

2.1.4 Language, Place of Birth, and Ethnicity

Language Spoken at Home

The primary language spoken at home is one indicator of the diversity of an area. In the study area, the percent of the population that speaks English ranges from a low of 88 percent in Montrose County to a high of 94.3 in Ouray County (US Census Bureau 2000). Percentage of homes that spoke languages other than English ranges from a high of 12 in Montrose County to a low of 5.7 in Ouray County. The majority of these homes speak Spanish. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-7**, Language Spoken at Home (2000).

Place of Birth

The place of birth of current community residents provides important information about migration into a community. More than 90 percent of all study area residents were born in the

US. When the state of birth is examined, however, differences between counties appear. There is a large range for state of birth in the different study area counties; approximately 53 percent of Montrose County residents were born in Colorado, while only 26 percent of San Miguel County residents are native Coloradans (**Appendix A, Table A-8, Place of Birth**). Place of birth compared to current residence can have important social implications for communities, as it impacts the ties that residents have to the community and the region.

Ethnicity

Study area race and ethnicity data are discussed in **Section 5.2, Minority Populations**.

2.1.5 Household Characteristics

The number of housing units in the study area increased since 2000 for all counties, ranging from a 14-percent increase in Delta County to a more than 38-percent increase for Ouray County (**Appendix A, Table A-9, Study Area Household Characteristics**). Housing vacancy rates in the study area are extremely high for some counties, with rates close to 50 percent of housing units, notably Gunnison, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. Based on 2000 Census data, the majority of the vacant housing units, including 90 percent in Gunnison, 48 percent in Ouray, and 80 percent in San Miguel Counties, are second homes used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-10, Vacant Housing Unit Information (2000)**.

Between 1990 and 2000, the cost of study area housing increased, and the percentage of the median income level necessary to purchase the median house also increased. Housing prices for all counties other than Ouray and San Miguel remained relatively affordable. The housing affordability index, which is calculated based on a 20 percent down payment and no more than 25 percent of a family's income going toward mortgage payments, was close to or above 100 in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, and Montrose Counties in 2000, indicating that the median family can afford the median house. However, in Ouray and San Miguel Counties, housing remained out of the median family's reach. Household affordability is described in **Appendix A, Table A-11, Study Area Household Affordability**.

2.1.6 Income Distribution and Poverty Level

Income Distribution

The study area population represents a wide range of income levels. Overall median household income was \$51,500 for the study area in 2008. Among the counties in the study area, median household income in 2008 was highest in San Miguel County (\$61,074) and lowest in Delta County (\$40,994) (US Census Bureau 2009a). Per capita income follows similar trends for 2000 but is not available for all counties for 2008. (**Appendix A, Table A-12, Study Area Income Distribution**).

Income Source

Income is derived from two major sources: (1) labor earnings or income from the workplace; and (2) non-labor income including dividends, interest, and rent (collectively often referred to as money earned from investments) and transfer payments (payments from governments to individuals; age-related, including Medicare, disability insurance payments, and retirements). Labor income is the main source of income for all study area counties. However, non-labor income from rent, dividends, and other sources provides a significant percent of income for

some counties. Ouray and Delta Counties have the highest percent of personal income contributed by non-labor income at 46 and 43 percent, respectively, which is well above the state average of 28 percent (**Appendix A, Table A-13**, Study Area Labor and Non-labor Income Distribution). The high contribution of non-labor income in these counties is likely related to high numbers of retirees and contributions from investment income, particularly in the case of Ouray County.

One segment of labor income of note is proprietors' income, defined as income received by businesses that are operated by their owners, including wage, rent, and profit payments. In the study area, non-farm proprietor's income comprises from 14 percent of labor income in Delta County to 26 percent of labor income in Ouray County. Farm proprietors' income is negative for all counties, indicating that costs and debt associated with farming are higher than income received. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-14**, Proprietor Income. Since 1970, non-farm proprietors' income has increased, while farm proprietor's income has generally decreased throughout the study area (Headwaters Economics 2010).

Income Inflow and Outflow

Data collected for personal income may not accurately reflect the money available in a local community if a high percent of area workers live outside of the county. Inflow of earnings from those commuting into study area counties was compared to outflow of earning from those commuting out of the counties to work. For Gunnison and San Miguel Counties, there is a negative net residential adjustment; income derived from people commuting into the county to work exceeds the income from people commuting out of the county. In Delta and Mesa Counties a positive net residential adjustment is observed, indicating that these counties may act as bedroom communities. Income derived from people commuting out of the county to work exceeds the income from people commuting into the county. For other counties in the planning area, commuting does not appear to have a significant effect, as inflow of income and outflow of income are approximately equal. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-15**, Study Area Income Inflow and Outflow.

Additional loss of income from the local economy, or leakage, is likely to occur in some study area communities due to lack of retail stores, particularly in small towns in Ouray and San Miguel Counties as well as western Montrose County. Refer to **Chapter 6**, Economic Strategy workshops, for further information.

Poverty Level

The percent of people below the poverty level in 2008 ranged from 12 percent in Gunnison County to 7 percent in Ouray County. Most study area counties experienced a reduction in people below the poverty level between 2000 and 2008; however, these levels may have increased in the recent economic downturn in 2008. Poverty levels are further discussed in **Section 5.1**, Low-income Populations.

2.1.7 Employment of Residents

Employment can be viewed as a key economic indicator, as patterns of growth and decline in a region's employment are largely driven by economic cycles and local economic activity. Employment patterns are shown for the six study area counties in **Appendix A, Table A-16**, Study Area Employment Characteristics (2007).

Based on these 2007 data, government employment, retail services, and construction are major sectors of employment throughout the study area. Accommodation and food services are important sectors in Gunnison, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties, as is real estate and rental and leasing. Health care is a significant employment sector Mesa and Montrose Counties. Additional information is provided by county in **Section 2.3**, County Summaries. Note that employment statistics may have changed significantly since the economic downturn in 2008. Trends for employment sectors since the 1970s are demonstrated in **Appendix A, Figures A-1 to A-6**. Service and government jobs have increased for all counties, while the role of agriculture has remained flat or decreased.

It should be noted that for some industries average annual wages are higher than others. In the study area data is not available for all sectors for all counties, however highest average annual wages are typically seen in the government sector and natural resources extraction, particularly in mining. Average wage per job numbers are typically lower in the hospitality sector and in agriculture (Headwaters Economics 2010). Average wage per salary across all sectors is shown in **Appendix A, Table A-17**, Study Area Average Annual Wage. Data for proprietors is not included in this analysis.

Unemployment levels in the study area for 2009 ranged from a low of 5 percent in Ouray County to a high of 8 percent in Mesa County based on preliminary data. In 2009, the Colorado annual unemployment rate was just under 8 percent, which is up from almost 5 in 2008. The national unemployment rate was 9 percent in 2009 (US DOL BLS 2010a). Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-18**, Study Area Unemployment Levels by County, for additional information, including historical data.

2.2 COUNTY SUMMARIES

The following section provides brief summaries of the demographic and economic trends for each of the six study area counties. Refer to **Appendix A**, Study Area Demographic and Economic Data, for complete demographic and economic data tables.

2.2.1 Delta

Delta County has important agricultural lands and is home to the study area's second-largest city, Delta. Within the planning area, Delta is the second largest city. Delta County's wide range of elevation from 4,758 feet to 11,396 feet allows for secluded valleys. The area is regionally known for fruit growing, including cherries, apples, peaches, and grapes. Delta County has shown steady growth in the number of farms between 1987 and 1997 (Delta Area Development Inc 2010a). The North Fork Valley in particular, including the towns of Hotchkiss, Paonia, and Crawford, has become known for wine and produce production. Locally, coal mining is also an important industry. Major private employers in the area include the West Elk and Bowie Coal Mining companies. Delta County Memorial Hospital is an additional major employer in the county (Delta Area Development Inc. 2010b).

The population of Delta County was estimated to be 32,600 in 2008, a more than 13-percent increase since 2000. Since 1970, population growth has generally been slower than the state but has outpaced the nation (Headwaters Economics 2010). Population density is 24 people per square mile, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). Median per capita income for the county was \$20,813 in 2008, and 12 percent of people fell below the

poverty level. Unemployment rates in the county have ranged from a high of 7 percent in 1990 to a low of 4 percent in 2007. Unemployment in 2009 was 7 percent (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Delta County is generally faster than the state and the nation at recovering from economic downturns (Headwaters Economics 2010).

Delta County contains approximately 120,700 acres of planning area public lands, not including additional acres in the Gunnison Gorge NCA, which is excluded from the planning area. In addition, the county contains two state parks, Crawford and Sweitzer Lake, and portions of the Grand Mesa National Forest (189,201 acres in the planning area). The county is also home to a portion of one national trail, Old Spanish National Historic Trail and two national scenic byways, the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway and the Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway.

2.2.2 Gunnison

Gunnison County is dominated by a mountain landscape and is home to a variety of recreational opportunities on BLM-administered and US Forest Service lands that dominate the county. Population density is only 4 people per square mile, the lowest in the study area, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). The population of Gunnison County was estimated to be 15,259 in 2008, a 9-percent increase since 2000. The county has the lowest median age in the study area and a high level of people who have obtained bachelor's degrees or higher. Median per capita income for the county was \$21,407 in 2000, and 12 percent of people fell below the poverty level in 2008. Unemployment rates in the county have ranged from a high of 7 percent in 1990 to a low of 3 percent in 2000. Unemployment in 2009 was 5 percent (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Gunnison County is generally faster than the state and the nation at recovering from economic downturns (Headwaters Economics 2010). Western State College in Gunnison is a major employer. Other important sectors of employment include the accommodations industry and construction.

Gunnison County contains approximately 13,400 acres of BLM-administered lands in the planning area. Paonia State Park is found within the county. In addition, the county contains lands from the Gunnison and White River National Forest (338,845 acres in the planning area), including the Mt. Crested Butte alpine ski area. The county contains a portion of one national scenic byway, the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway.

2.2.3 Mesa

Mesa County is the most populous county in the study area with a population of 144,440 in 2008. Population density is 35 people per square mile, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). Mesa County represents the only county considered non-rural in the study area and contains the largest city in the area, Grand Junction. It should be noted, however, that the planning area excludes Grand Junction and the surrounding metropolitan area. Median per capita income for the county was \$26,580, and median household income \$51,930, in 2008, and 10 percent of people fell below the poverty level. Unemployment rates over the past two decades in the county have ranged from a low of 3 percent in 2007 to a high of 8 percent in 2009 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Important private employers in the county include St. Mary's Hospital, City Market, and Mesa State College (Colorado Department of Labor and Employment 2006). Employment sectors of importance include construction, especially that related to oil and gas development, retail, and health services.

The majority of BLM-administered lands in the county, including McInnis Canyons NCA and almost one-half of the newly created Dominguez-Escalante NCA, are lands administered under the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office or other management. A total of 11,900 acres of BLM-administered land in Mesa County is included in the planning area. In addition, the county contains three state parks, Highline, James M. Robb, and Vega. The county also contains land from three national forests, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and White River, totaling 94,100 acres. The county is also home to a portion of one national trail, Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and three national scenic byways, the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric National Scenic Byway, the Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway, and the UnawEEP/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.

2.2.4 Montrose

Montrose County is the second-most populous county in the study area with a population of 41,302 in 2008, an increase of 24 percent since 2000. Population density is 15 people per square mile, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). Montrose County contains the second-largest city in the study area and the largest city within the planning area, Montrose, a regional hub. Montrose is the most ethnically diverse county in the study area with a significant Hispanic/Latino population. Median per capita income for the county was \$24,298, and median household income \$51,659, in 2008, and 11 percent of people fell below the poverty level. Unemployment rates in the county have ranged from a low of under 4 percent in 2000 and again in 2007 to a high of 8 percent in 2009 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Major private county employers include Montrose County Memorial Hospital, retailers such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot, Volunteers of America, and Russell Stover Candies, as well as Delta Montrose Electric Association (Montrose Economic Development Committee 2010). Agriculture is also locally important to the economy.

The majority of Montrose County is under federal land management. Montrose County contains over 448,000 acres of BLM-administered lands in the planning area and additional acres in a portion of the Gunnison Gorge NCA, which is excluded from the planning area. In addition, the county contains portions of three national forests, including the Gunnison, Manti-La Sal, and Uncompahgre, totaling 328,400 acres. The county also contains the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and a portion of the Curecanti National Recreation Area. The county is also home to a portion of one national trail, Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and two national scenic byways, the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway and the UnawEEP/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.

2.2.5 Ouray

Ouray County was formed on January 18, 1877 and has a rich history of mining and today has a local economy focused on tourism and recreation. Ouray County is the smallest county in the study area with a population of 4,703 in 2008. Population density is 7 people per square mile, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). Median household income for the county was \$59,725 in 2008, the second-highest in the study area, and 8 percent of people fell below the poverty level. Housing prices have increased in median value and decreased in affordability over the past decades (Headwaters Economics 2010). Unemployment rates in the county have ranged from a low of 2.6 percent in 1990 to a high of 9.7 percent in 1990. Unemployment in 2009 was 5 percent (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Major

employment sectors are accommodations, real estate, and construction. Non-labor income and sole proprietors also provide significant contributions to the local economy.

Ouray County contains approximately 24,500 acres of BLM-administered lands in the planning area, and additional acres in the Gunnison Gorge NCA, which is excluded from the planning area. Ridgway State Park is within the county. In addition, the county contains 126,400 acres of the Uncompahgre National Forest. The county contains a portion of one national trail, the Bear Creek National Recreation Trail, and two national scenic byways, the San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway and the Alpine Loop National Scenic Back Country Byway.

2.2.6 San Miguel

San Miguel County was founded in 1883. The area has a long history of mining and employment based in natural resource extraction. Today there is a dichotomy in the local social and economic structure in the communities. Agriculture in the west end of the county has long been valued and still plays an important role in the local economy, as does uranium mining. Recreation and tourism are increasingly dominating the economy, particularly in the area around Telluride and Mountain Village.

San Miguel County had a population of 7,771 in 2008. Population density is 5 people per square mile, compared to 42 for Colorado as a whole (US Census Bureau 2000). San Miguel County has the highest per capita and median household income in the study area, likely influenced by the residents of Telluride and Mountain Village in particular. Housing prices in this county are highest and least affordable in the planning area (Headwaters Economics 2010). Unemployment rates in the county have ranged from a low of 3 percent in 2000 to the high of 6 percent in 2009 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010a). Major employment sectors include the accommodations industry, retail, real estate, and construction in the Telluride area, with agriculture and mining locally significant in other parts of the county.

San Miguel County contains approximately 57,200 acres of BLM-administered lands in the planning area. In addition, the county contains 169,900 acres of the Uncompahgre National Forest in the planning area. The county contains a portion of one national trail, Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and two national scenic byways, the San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway and the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.

2.3 LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AFFECTED BY PUBLIC LAND USES

Local economies realize direct and indirect benefits from expenditures and revenues generated by a variety of activities in the BLM UFO decision area. Activities that tend to have the greatest economic influence include recreation, mining and energy resource development, and livestock grazing. Public lands managed by the UFO cover approximately 2.4 percent of total land area in the six-county study area. Activities that are directly and indirectly impacted by BLM management decisions are discussed in the sections below.

2.3.1 Activities Directly Impacted by UFO BLM Management

The BLM collects revenues from recreational and commercial activities that take place on the nearly 8.4 million acres of public land that it administers in Colorado, and these revenues are redirected back to the state and county governments. These revenues are collected from facilities, such as fees from campgrounds, from BLM recreation permits (special, competitive,

organized group activity, and event use permits), mining leases and mineral revenues, grazing fees, and timber sales. **Table 2-1**, UFO Receipts (Fiscal Year 2008), shows the revenues collected by the BLM UFO in 2008. Additional revenues are collected from royalty payments for oil and gas and minerals extraction; royalties are discussed further in **Section 2.4.2**, Market and Commodity Values.

Table 2-1
UFO Receipts (Fiscal Year 2008)

Resource	Total
Recreation fees	\$27,795
Grazing Fees	\$36,380
Right-of-way	\$53,443
Salable Mineral Materials	\$13,792
Forestry	\$6,253

Source: BLM 2010b

2.3.2 Non-market Values

Some of the most important socioeconomic factors associated with planning area BLM-administered lands are the non-market values offered by public lands management. Non-market values are the benefits derived by society from the uses or experiences that are not dispensed through markets and do not require payment. There are unique and sensitive natural and cultural resources on public lands. These values enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of place, thereby improving regional and local economic conditions. Proximity to undeveloped natural lands and the resources they harbor, including scenic vistas and recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities, add non-market value to the area. Some studies indicate that the importance of non-market values of federal lands are increasing in the west as the role of resource extraction decreases. Rasker et al. (2004) found that only three percent of western counties were classified as resource-extraction driven.

Open Space: Enhancement Value and Attracting Non-labor Income

Open space is an important contributor to quality of life for communities adjacent to public lands providing scenic views, recreational opportunities, and other benefits. Social benefits that local residents derive from open space are discussed further in **Chapter 6**, Economic Strategy Workshops. In addition to the quality-of-life values cited by the workshop participants, these non-market resources may provide indirect economic benefits. Enhancement value is the tendency of open space to enhance the property value of adjacent properties. Public lands in the Uncompahgre RMP planning area may provide enhanced value to adjacent private parcels. Open space is generally seen as an enhancement value, especially if the open space lands are not intensively developed for recreation purposes (Fausold and Lilieholm 1996). While the impact is difficult to quantify due to the different types and uses of open space, an increase of 20 percent in value for property adjoining open space has been cited in one review of parks and open spaces across the county as a reasonable estimate based on a review of tax assessment studies (Crompton 2000).

Additionally, open space may attract new residents who in turn bring new sources of income to the area. Communities adjacent to public lands offer a high level of natural amenities that often attract retirees and others with non-labor sources of income, as well as sole proprietors and telecommuters who bring income from other regions into the local economy. These new residents, in turn, spur economic development. Residents who rely on non-labor income become both a pool of customers and clients for new business and a potential source of investment capital (Haefele et al. 2007).

Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are those goods that an ecosystem provides for human use. Examples include provision of fresh water and air, regulation of wastes, control of climate, formation of soil, and protection from natural hazards. Recent models have been created to assess the economic benefits of ecosystem services so that these economic values can be incorporated into the planning process. A study based in the Pike San Isabel National Forest of Colorado's Front Range determined the total value of ecosystem services to be \$2,208 per acre per year in 2008 dollars (Bacigalupi 2010).

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing play an important role for some local communities as a recreational activity, as well as a method of providing subsistence food. Public lands in the UFO RMP planning area provide opportunities for hunting and fishing, and the preservation of open space provides enhanced wildlife habitat, especially for big game species.

2.3.3 Market and Commodity Values

Recreational Use

Planning area public lands provide recreational opportunities for both local residents and tourists from outside the area, and these recreational opportunities represent an important contribution. Planning area public lands support a variety of land, water, and snow activities, including camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, off-road vehicle driving, and target shooting. Local rivers and streams offer ample opportunities for boating and cold water fishing and attract high visitation from across the state and nationally. Migrating and resident wildlife provide plentiful opportunities for observation, photography, and hunting when visitation in the area peaks.

The BLM collects recreation data by recreational activity for each field office with BLM's Recreational Management Information System. It is estimated that the UFO receives around 396,000 visits per year. **Table 2-2**, Trends in Visitation (2008–2009), provides data for the study area. The Recreational Management Information System data includes information for the entire UFO, including Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante NCAs, which are not included in the RMP planning area. Visitor numbers are estimates. Based on Recreation Management Information System data, the most popular of activities in the UFO are off-highway-vehicle use, driving for pleasure, big-game hunting, fishing, camping, and mountain biking. Participant numbers for all activities are shown in **Table 2-3**, Activities of Visitors to the UFO (Fiscal Year 2009). Much of the recreation in the UFO occurs at developed recreation sites in and along the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers.

Table 2-2
Trends in Visitation (2008–2009)*

Data	2008	2009
Visits	374,159	396,340

Source: BLM 2010c

*Includes data for entire UFO including Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Gunnison Gorge NCA which are not included in the RMP planning area.

Table 2-3
Activities of Visitors to the UFO (Fiscal Year 2009)*

Activity	Participants
Boating (motorized)	
Boat Launching	5,727
Power Boating	694
<i>Total</i>	6,421
Boating (nonmotorized)	
Canoe/Kayaking	8,286
Row/Float/Raft	32,462
<i>Total</i>	40,748
Camping and Picnicking	
Camping	57,097
Picnicking	10,409
<i>Total</i>	67,506
Driving For Pleasure	83,243
Hunting and Fishing	
Fishing – Freshwater	18,734
Hunting – Big Game	77,759
Hunting – Small Game	23,214
Hunting – Upland Bird	123
Hunting – Waterfowl	4
<i>Total</i>	119,834
Interpretation, Education, and Nature Study	
Environmental Education	7,801
Nature Study	1,001
Viewing – Cultural Sites	1,387
Viewing – Other	2,245
Viewing – Scenery/Landscapes	3,711
Viewing – Wildlife	2,768
Viewing – Interpretive Exhibits	26,663
<i>Total</i>	45,576
Nonmotorized Travel	
Backpacking	502
Bicycling – Mountain	43,145
Hiking/Walking/Running	14,052
Horseback Riding	14,087
<i>Total</i>	71,786

Table 2-3 (continued)
Activities of Visitors to the UFO (Fiscal Year 2009)*

Activity	Participants
Nonmotorized Travel – Winter	
Skiing – Cross-country	10,486
Motorized Travel	
Off-highway-vehicle–All-terrain-vehicle	82,040
Off-highway-vehicle – Cars/Trucks/SUVs	113,775
Off-highway-vehicle – Motorcycle	38,895
Snowmobiling	10,855
<i>Total</i>	245,576
Specialized Motor Sports, Events, and Activities	
Rock Crawling – Four-wheel drive	10,394
Specialized Non-motor Sports, Events, and Activities	
Hang-gliding/Parasailing	173
Climbing – Mountain/Rock	9,799
Archery	6,340
Photography	18,803
Racing – Foot	38
Rockhounding/Mineral Collection	115
Social Gathering/Festival/Concert	23,394
Staging/Comfort Stop	441
Target Practice	23,360
<i>Totals</i>	82,463
Water Sports	
Swimming/Water Play	14,594

Source: BLM 2010c

*Includes data for entire UFO including Dominguez-Escalante NCA, and Gunnison Gorge NCA which are not included in the planning area.

In addition to visitor information, the UFO collects information on special recreation permits issued in the planning area. The BLM requires special recreation permits for commercial uses, competitive events, organized groups, and recreation use within certain special areas in the UFO, including rivers, backcountry, and camping areas. Most special recreation permits issued by the UFO are for river activities and upland hunting outfitting.

The UFO currently issues approximately 50 commercial permits, which include guided fishing, white water rafting, vehicle shuttles, big and small game hunting, mountain lion hunting, horseback trail riding, jeep and motorcycle touring, camping, archery tournaments, and mountain bike riding. Fifteen percent of special recreation permit fees are expended on program administration, with the remainder going toward visitor services, monitoring, and maintenance. The BLM received \$27,795 from special recreation permit fees in fiscal year 2008 (see **Table 2-I**, UFO Receipts (Fiscal Year 2008)).

Recreational activity has important economic value both in terms of the satisfaction it provides local residents and the economic activity it generates for the regional economy. In terms of economic activity, recreation generates additional spending in the local economy that supports jobs and income. Economic stimulus occurs as non-residents to the area spend money in the local economy that generates additional spending by local residents. This assumes that if local residents were not participating in recreation they probably would have spent their money on something else in the region's economy. Thus, expenditures by local residents are seen as a shifting of dollars from one sector to another within the local economy and not a net gain to the region. Outdoor recreation in general is important to the region both in terms of satisfaction to residents and economic stimulus for the regional economy.

In addition the recreation data presented for the UFO in the table above, it is likely that recreation on BLM lands not considered in the RMP and on other federal and state lands in and around the study area contributes to the local economy. Notable areas for recreation outside of the planning area include the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Dominguez-Escalante NCA, Gunnison Gorge NCA, and the Curecanti National Recreation Area.

Recreational use of public lands contributes to the local economy through expenditures of visitors and employment of local residents in the service sectors. A 2008 study by CDOW found that hunters and anglers spent an estimated \$1.0 billion on trip expenses and sporting equipment in Colorado in 2007. Watchable wildlife contributions for activities more than one mile from home were estimated at \$703 million. Direct and indirect expenditures, as well as the estimated number of jobs created for counties in the planning area, are shown in **Table 2-4, Hunting and Fishing Economic Contributions (2007)**.

**Table 2-4
Hunting and Fishing Economic Contributions (2007)**

County/State	Direct Expenditures¹ (\$1000)	Total Impact² (\$1000)	Jobs Created³
Delta County	16,310	27,840	297
Gunnison County	31,180	53,140	615
Mesa County	43,980	76,100	813
Montrose County	17,150	29,180	320
Ouray County	2,110	3,440	37
San Miguel County	10,090	17,380	227
Colorado	1,076,310	1,843,310	20,614

Source: CDOW 2008

¹Direct: Trip and equipment expenditures and CDOW expenditures in support of these activities.

²Total: Direct expenditures plus secondary spending by businesses and households (multiplier effects).

³Jobs created includes job creation from direct and secondary expenditures.

Expenditures per visitor for multiple activities can also be estimated by applying the average visitor spending levels developed by the US Forest Service for its National Visitor Use

Monitoring Reports, which were \$57.15 for the average overnight visitor and \$19.02 for the average day-use visitor (US Forest Service 2008).

Employment in recreation and tourism is not collected as a separate industry category; therefore, data on jobs generated are estimates only. Jobs are generally reflected in the accommodation services and retail trade sectors. Together, those industries account for approximately 20 percent of the jobs in the study area (US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis 2009). It should be noted that not all of this employment is related to travel and recreation and that other industrial sectors may also contribute jobs. Furthermore, some of this employment is likely related to the other federal lands in the area, notable US Forest Service lands, although the BLM contribution is expected to be significant.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The BLM manages all facets of environmental review and leasing on over 2.2 million acres of federal mineral estate within the Uncompahgre RMP decision area. In addition to federal minerals underlying BLM lands, the BLM is also responsible for administering federal mineral estate underlying lands managed by other agencies, such as the US Forest Service and the National Park Service, or on reserved mineral estate underlying private lands. The breakdown of mineral estate resources are shown in **Table 2-5**, Mineral Estate Materials in the Planning Area. Generally, mineral estate management programs include locatable minerals (e.g., metals and gypsum), leasable minerals (e.g., fluid leasable such as oil and gas and geothermal, and solid leasable such as coal), and saleable mineral materials (e.g., common varieties of sand and gravel, clay, and rock). The economic contributions of different categories of resources in the UFO are examined in depth below. Renewable energy is discussed in a separate section immediately following.

Table 2-5
Mineral Estate Materials
in the Planning Area

All Federal Minerals	2,140,720
Coal Only	55,580
Oil and Gas Only	11,000
Oil, Gas, and Coal Only	8,970
Other	18,410
<i>Total Federal Minerals</i>	<i>2,234,680</i>

Source: BLM 2010a

Locatable Minerals

Uranium and placer gold are the primary mineral resources found in the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. The uranium-rich Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation outcrops in numerous locations associated with the Uravan Mineral Belt as it passes through western Montrose County. The UFO has over 20 exploration projects currently open, ranging from exploratory drilling to bulk sampling of historic underground mine workings. The US Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Legacy Management currently administers the US DOE's Uranium Leasing Program, managing 32 lease tracts containing approximately 25,000

acres, all located within the Uravan Mineral Belt in southwestern Colorado (BLM 2010f). These public lands are withdrawn to the DOE for the management of uranium and vanadium resources. DOE has the jurisdiction for these resources, and the surface management of other resources like grazing and recreation is under the BLM jurisdiction. The DOE land use plan is managed under the authority and in accordance with 10 CFR 760 in cooperation with the BLM and the State of Colorado (BLM 2010f). Contributions of mining sector employment in the study area are discussed under leasable minerals, below. No figures are available for specific employment of uranium mining; however, recent analysis of economic contributions of uranium in Montrose County suggests that the opening of the proposed Pinyon Ridge uranium processing mill alone would support over 300 direct, indirect, and induced jobs in construction and between 500 to 600 jobs in mill operations (Economic and Planning Systems 2010)

Placer gold deposits occur in the San Miguel River where they are often worked by recreational panning and dredging groups on several active placer mining claims after the seasonal spring runoff replenishes the resource.

Leasable Minerals – Oil, Gas, and Coal

In Colorado, federal lands provide significant contributions to the nation's energy supply, accounting for 20 percent of the oil and 11 percent of the natural gas produced statewide. Coal mines in the UFO are shown in **Table 2-6**, Annual Production and Employment for Coal Mines in the UFO. The UFO currently manages several active federal coal leases related to three coal mines in the North Fork Valley near Paonia in an area known as the Somerset coal field. The Bowie #2, West Elk and Elk Creek mines are actively producing underground coal mines with a combined annual production of 13,950,859 tons in 2008 and 11,801,437 tons in 2009. Employment for the three mines totaled 948 miners in 2008 and 974 in 2009 (Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety 2010). A fourth active mine within the planning area, the New Horizon Mine located near Nucla, is strip mining coal from privately owned mineral estate for use at the local power plant. Annual production from the New Horizon Mine in 2008 and 2009 was 403,230 and 373,758 tons, respectively and the mine provided employment for 23 people in 2008 and 2009 (Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety 2010). The four mines in the planning area produced 44.4 percent of the coal in Colorado in 2008 and 42.6 percent of the coal in 2009. The BLM estimates that coal development would occur in an area generally surrounding existing operations in the Somerset coal field and into eastern portions of the Grand Mesa coal field in the next 20 years. This area encompasses about 45,280 acres and contains an estimated 829 million tons of recoverable coal reserves (US Forest Service 2006). Currently, the three mines in the Somerset area collectively produce 12 to 16 million tons of coal per year. This production rate will likely remain stable and could increase slightly over the next 20 years. The active strip mine in the Nucla-Naturita area will exhaust its current permit in 2013, but if other areas in the region with known coal resource are available for mining, the rate of 350,000 to 420,000 tons of coal per year could be mined for the next 20 years to continue to feed the Nucla Station FBC power plant (BLM 2010f).

Other mineral resources include the potential for leasable phosphate deposits associated with the Paradox Member of the Hermosa Group Formation in Paradox Valley.

Table 2-6
Annual Production and Employment for Coal Mines in the UFO

Company Name	Mine Name	Yearly Coal Production (tons)		Average Number of Miners Employed	
		2009	2008	2009	2008
Bowie Resources, LLC	Bowie No. 2	1,212,977	2,861,938	297	263
Mountain Coal Company	West Elk	4,885,581	5,861,704	350	375
Oxbow Mining, LLC	Elk Creek	5,702,879	5,227,217	327	310
Western Fuels	New	373,758	403,230	23	23
Colorado, ALLC	Horizon				
<i>Total</i>		<i>12,175,195</i>	<i>14,354,089</i>	<i>997</i>	<i>971</i>

Source: Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety 2010

Historical oil and gas production for the study area was obtained from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Refer to **Table 2-7**, Oil and Gas Production within the Study Area. It should be noted that while Mesa County is a major oil and gas-producing county in

Table 2-7
Oil and Gas Production within the Study Area¹

County	Oil Production (barrels)					Natural Gas Production (million cubic feet)				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Delta	857	74	149	8	7	353	47	10	10	5
Gunnison	86	2,239	1,809	1,926	979	4	520	1,066	1,198	872
Mesa	20,194	38,437	64,719	120,933	88,553	10,281	15,040	27,766	36,949	25,519
San Miguel	13,583	9,673	5,629	5,249	3,027	20,777	24,489	17,775	14,034	8,399
<i>Total</i>	<i>34,720</i>	<i>50,423</i>	<i>72,306</i>	<i>128,116</i>	<i>92,566</i>	<i>31,415</i>	<i>40,096</i>	<i>46,617</i>	<i>52,191</i>	<i>34,795</i>

Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission 2010

¹No production recorded for Ouray and Montrose Counties

Colorado, the majority of this county falls outside of the planning area and is therefore not likely to be significantly impacted by management decisions in the UFO.

County employment figures indicate for oil, gas, and coal extraction are included in the employment for mining industries category. This category varies from 5.9 percent of county employment in Gunnison County to 3.5 percent in Delta County. Refer to **Appendix A, Table A-16**, Study Area Employment Characteristics (2007). It should be noted that data for Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties were suppressed to avoid disclosing proprietary information. Additional jobs for this industry are also reflected in construction numbers and other fields that are connected to the exploration and development of resources. Estimates can be made for the economic contributions based on the production of levels reported. Based on data in **Table 2-7**, at an average composite price of \$62.02 per barrel and 92,566 barrels produced, total contributions of oil production in the study area would have been close to

\$5,740,943 in Fiscal Year 2009. At an average well-head price of \$3.71 per thousand cubic feet and 34,795,000 thousand cubic feet sold, total gas sales from wells in the study area would have been approximately \$129,089,450 in 2009 (Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission 2010). As previously noted, this figure includes all production in the study area.

Coal production contributions for the UFO area BLM mines in 2009, for a total production of 12,175,195 tons and a price of \$32.20 per ton, are estimated at \$397,763,620 (US Energy Information Administration 2010).

Saleable Minerals

Sand and gravel deposits located throughout the planning area are primarily extracted for use as road base. In 2009, \$13,792 of receipts were paid to the UFO for gravel sales.

Renewable Energy

The study area contains potential resources for renewable energy production including geothermal, solar (photovoltaic applications and concentrating solar power applications) wind, and biomass (BLM 2010g). There is some potential that geothermal and solar resources will be developed on a commercial scale in the next 20 years. No commercial-scale renewable energy projects currently exist within the UFO on BLM-administered lands. There are no pending leases or right-of-way applications in the UFO for renewable resource use. Two developed hot springs are located in the planning area, but are located off of public land.

Royalties

Royalties to the state and county provide an additional economic benefit of mineral resource extraction. Federal mineral lease revenues are collected by the Minerals Management Service of the Department of the Interior. Approximately 50 percent of the revenues are transferred to the Colorado State Treasurer. This portion, in turn, is distributed to counties, cities, and school districts based on senate bill 08-218. Two factors determine the allocation of federal mineral lease revenue to each county pool for further distribution, 1) The proportion of residents in the county employed in mineral extraction to the total employed statewide, and 2) The proportion of the moneys credited to the mineral leasing fund generated in the county to the total generated statewide (Colorado Division of Local Government 2009).

Revenues from mineral resources extraction in the UFO provide benefits to local communities. Royalties from UFO Coal extraction alone totaled over \$32.9 million in 2009. The contribution of federal mineral extraction directly to study area communities is shown in the distribution of federal mineral lease revenues to study area counties and select municipalities (**Table 2-8**, Study Area Federal Mineral Lease Revenues (Fiscal Year 2009)). Additional funds are distributed directly to area school districts. It should be noted that majority of Mesa and Gunnison counties fall outside of the planning area and federal mineral lease revenues are therefore not likely to be significantly impacted by management decisions in the UFO.

Agriculture and Livestock Grazing

Agriculture has traditionally been an important industry in the study area and continues to be important today. There were 4,551 farms totaling 1,364,562 acres in the study area in 2007 (US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service 2007). Agricultural data are

Table 2-8
Study Area Federal Mineral Lease
Revenues (Fiscal Year 2009)

County/ Municipality	Total
Delta County	\$814,079
City of Delta	\$212,057
Town of Paonia	\$66,218
Town of Hotchkiss	\$37,556
Town of Cedaredge	\$54,138
Town of Crawford	\$16,185
Gunnison County	\$882,155
Mesa County	\$2,323,554
Montrose County	\$1,133,947
City of Montrose	\$48,270
Town of Nucla	\$3,837
Town of Naturita	\$5,179
Town of Olathe	\$5,409
Ouray County	\$234
Town of Ouray	\$33
Town of Ridgeway	\$40
San Miguel County	\$334,132
Town of Telluride	\$54,282
Town of Norwood	\$65,372
Town of Sawpit	\$811
Town of Ophir	\$3,369

Source: Colorado Division of Local Government 2009

represented in **Appendix A, Table A-19**, Study Area Agricultural Data. BLM management actions have the potential to influence farming due to the purchase of farmland.

Livestock grazing on public land continues to be important to local economies within the UFO. In the planning area, 628,754 acres (93 percent) of BLM-administered public land are allocated for livestock grazing. Over the past five years, billed use has averaged 65 percent of total permitted use (BLM 2010e). Livestock grazing, grazing authorizations, and livestock uses are measured in animal unit months (AUMs). An AUM is the amount of dry forage required to sustain one “animal unit” for one month; this equates to a forage allowance of 26 pounds per day. For authorization calculation purposes, an animal unit is one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats. Depending on the composition and weight of animals in the herd, actual forage use may vary. The BLM-administered range in the planning area is permitted at a level of 43,491 AUMs of forage. This figure includes 38,200 active AUMs and 5,291 AUMs of suspended use. Permittees paid to use 29,219 AUMs of forage in 2008 (BLM 2010e). In 2009, 85 percent of the allotment permits were for cattle, with sheep and horse grazing accounting for the remaining 15 percent. Individual operators graze animals on 188 allotments, while the remaining 15 are common allotments grazed by two or more operators (BLM 2010d). In the project area, spring and fall allotments, typically located adjacent to US Forest Service land, see the most

concentrated use. Summer use allotments are commonly found in the North Fork of the Gunnison River area, and winter use allotments are primarily located in the west end of Montrose and San Miguel Counties at lower elevations (BLM 2010e).

The BLM calculates federal grazing fees annually in March based on a formula that is calculated using the 1966 base value of \$1.23 per AUM for livestock grazing on public lands in western states. Annual adjustments are based on three factors: current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. The federal grazing fee for 2010 is \$1.35 per AUM. The grazing fee has been at this level since 2007 (BLM 2010d).

Generally, there is a correlation between ranch land values and federal grazing permits, with ranches that hold such permits having a higher value. This value is based on the premise that the permit's value reflects, at least to some extent, the capitalized difference between the grazing fee and the competitive market value of federal forage. It also reflects the requirement for the permittee to hold private base property to which the federal permitted use is attached, giving the base property holder priority for renewal over other potential applicants. This value is recognized by lending institutions during a loan process and by the Internal Revenue Service when a property transfer occurs.

Permit values fluctuate based on market forces but generally depend on the number of AUMs and other terms of the lease or permit. Permit values may vary widely, depending on the location and the estimated average value of replacement forage. In 2008, the average fee per AUM on private lands in Colorado was \$14.50 (US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service 2010). Based on 38,200 active AUMs in the planning area, the total annual grazing value of all traditional leases would be approximately \$553,900. Under the current federal rate of \$1.35 per AUM, the comparative total annual grazing fee would be \$51,570, more than \$500,000 less than the private grazing fee for all authorized grazing in the planning area. In addition, the average cost of pasture land in Colorado is \$1,350 per acre, which is greater than the national average of \$1,160 per acre (US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service 2007). An acre of rangeland in fair condition can produce about 170 pounds of forage per acre. At approximately 170 pounds of dry forage per acre and 680 pounds of dry forage per AUM, about 4 acres would be required per AUM. The cost of pasture land per AUM would be \$5,400.

Table 2-9, Cost of Replacing Public Lands grazing with Private Grazing, shows the theoretical private costs of replacing the AUMs within the planning region by paying grazing fees to private landowners or purchasing replacement pasture land. In all cases, private costs far exceed the costs to ranchers of using BLM lands. Private grazing, however, would provide an economic benefit to private landowners in the area whose land would be utilized for pasture.

Livestock grazing on public land continues to be important to local economies within Colorado. **Appendix A, Table A-19**, Study Area Agricultural Data, presents the value of livestock sales for 2007, the year of the most recent Census of Agriculture.

Table 2-9
Cost of Replacing BLM-administered Public Lands
Grazing with Private Grazing

AUM Replacement Method	Private Costs	Amount above Costs on BLM Lands
Grazing fees	\$553,900	\$502,330
Pasture land	\$206,280,000	\$206,228,430

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service 2010, 2007

Local Government Revenues

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

PILT are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries. Congress appropriates PILT annually, and the

BLM administers disbursement to individual counties. PILT are determined according to a formula that includes population, the amount of federal land within the county, and offsets for certain federal payments to counties, such as timber, mineral leasing, and grazing receipts. PILT payments are transferred to state or local governments, as applicable, and are in addition to other federal revenues, including those from grazing fees. The study area counties received over \$5.6 million in PILT in 2009 (**Table 2-10**, Study Area PILT Fiscal Year 2009).

Table 2-10
Study Area PILT Fiscal Year 2009

Location	PILT Amount
Delta County	\$187,170
Gunnison County	\$574,135
Mesa County	\$2,273,111
Montrose County	\$1,946,682
Ouray County	\$344,483
San Miguel County	\$290,445
Study Area Total	\$5,616,026
Colorado	\$28,660,622

Source: US Department of the Interior
2010

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CHAPTER 3

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The UFO encompasses a geographically and socioeconomically varied region. The population is diverse from multigenerational families to newcomers. Regardless of their longevity to the region, most residents have a strong connection to public lands and the surrounding National Forests and view them as playing a role in their personal quality of life. For local residents, these lands provide economic opportunities, recreation, open space, a connection to the western historic landscape, and other intangible benefits.

Current social issues related to public land management in the planning area include increased demand of public land use for recreation and continued importance of the local oil and gas, coal, and uranium industries. Additional social themes identified include a desire to preserve undeveloped areas of the UFO and the need to allow access for traditional land uses such as hunting and livestock grazing. This chapter describes the communities and interest groups whose social or economic interests are tied to public lands.

3.1 STUDY AREA COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES

As discussed in **Chapter I**, Introduction, the socioeconomic study area contains communities with diverse social and economic values. Socioeconomic planning units were created in an attempt to group areas with similar resources and values. Additional information on geographic communities is discussed below. Groups and individuals who have similar values but may not represent a physical community or region are discussed in **Section 3.2**, Affected Groups and Individuals.

The socioeconomic study area is generally of rural character. The largest cities within the planning area are Montrose (population 17,834 in 2008) and Delta (population 8,325 in 2008). The largest city in the region is Grand Junction in Mesa County (population 55,189 in 2008), which is included in the socioeconomic study area but is outside of the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. In total, approximately 245,000 people reside within the socioeconomic study area.

The communities next to BLM-administered public lands are an important component of the planning area's socioeconomic makeup. Communities near larger parcels of public land within

the planning area include Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Nucla, Olathe, Orchard City, Paonia, Ridgway, and Telluride. Residents in these communities commonly recreate on public lands and benefit directly from the visitation and tourism associated with public lands.

Many communities in the planning area are dependent on natural resources for their economic livelihood, including everything from passive non-consumptive uses (e.g., boating on the San Miguel River) to traditional resource extraction (e.g., Naturita and Nucla are particularly dependant on coal and uranium mining).

3.2 AFFECTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

In addition to those living within the planning area, there are specific groups to whom management of public lands is of particular interest. These include private livestock grazing lessees and area ranchers, mineral estate owners, oil and gas leaseholders, and renewable energy leaseholders. In addition, there is growing interest in public land use within the planning area for recreation, so recreational visitors constitute an additional interest group. Furthermore, special interest groups and individuals who represent resource conservation or resource use perspectives constitute additional groups with an interest in planning area public lands management. Refer to **Chapter 4**, Economic Strategy Workshops, and to the previously completed Community Assessment of the Uncompahgre Planning Area (BLM 2009) for more information on the social values of affected groups and individuals.

3.2.1 Ranchers and Livestock Grazing Lessees

Ranching is an important part of the planning area's history, culture, and economy. Ranchers face such challenges as fluctuating livestock prices, increasing equipment and operating costs, fluctuating water availability, and changing federal regulations. Additional income sources are often necessary to continue ranching, and ranchers or their family members may also work in other sectors of the economy. Livestock grazing is a historical use of public lands in the UFO and continues to be important to the way of life in the region despite the decreasing contribution to the economy over the past 20 years (Headwaters Economics 2010).

3.2.2 Private Landowners

Much of the land within the planning area (1.1 million acres) is privately owned. Neighboring landowners adjacent to public lands are an important group to consider in the planning process. On the boundary between community and public lands, wildland-urban interface issues are important to consider in the planning process. The wildland-urban interface 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. Issues in the wildland-urban interface include wildfire protection, recreational access, and land health, particularly related to the spread of invasive species. Additional planning issues of importance to private landowners include rural lifestyle preservation.

3.2.3 Minerals and Oil and Gas Leaseholders

Mineral estate leases cover the various extractable minerals found within the planning area, including oil and gas, coal, and uranium resources. Details of the contributions of these resources are discussed in **Chapter 2**, Regional Demographics and Economic Context. Leaseholders are particularly interested in keeping restrictions on leasing minimal in order to

keep and costs and delays of production low. Leaseholders involved in the economic strategy workshops held in March 2010 stated the importance of recognizing valid existing rights of those who hold mineral claims and leases.

In split estate situations, the surface and subsurface rights (such as the right to develop minerals) for a piece of land are owned by different parties. Mineral rights are considered dominant, meaning that they take precedence over other property rights, including those associated with surface ownership. However, the mineral owner must show due regard for the interests of the surface estate owner, and occupy only those portions of the surface that are reasonably necessary to develop the mineral estate. The BLM's split estate policy only applies to situations where the surface rights are in private ownership and the rights to development of the mineral resources are publicly held and managed by the federal government. Split estate owners have a unique interest in BLM management direction and would be interested in management that allowed for mineral extraction that provided opportunities for continued surface use.

3.2.4 Renewable Energy Leaseholders

Due to increasing fossil fuel prices and federal incentives for renewable energy development, interest in non-traditional energy leasing opportunities on public lands is of increasing importance. Renewable energy resources available in the planning area include solar, biomass, wind, and direct use geothermal. Renewable energy leaseholders would be interested in management direction that supports development of these resources in a timely, cost-efficient manner.

3.2.5 Right-of-way Holders

The UFO currently manages approximately 2,500 rights-of-way for land uses such as roads, power lines, natural gas pipelines, water lines, telephone lines, communication sites, and ditches and canals on public land. Right-of-way holders are primarily concerned with continued access to right-of-way lands. Requests for rights-of-way are likely to increase in the next 20 years due to increased growth and development on private land, and the interface of private and urban land with public land. As energy development continues, energy rights-of-way, such as electric transmission lines and natural gas pipelines are likely to increase in importance.

3.2.6 Recreational Users

Recreational visitors to the planning area include both local residents and destination visitors from communities outside the planning area. Approximately 245,000 people live within the six county study area, and many of these residents utilize public lands for recreation activities such as off-highway vehicle use, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, camping, fishing, and hunting. In addition, the planning area has become a destination for visitors, particularly for big game hunting and fishing, as well as motorized and nonmotorized recreation. Rapid community growth within the planning area and in the region has led to an increased importance of public lands as open space and for recreation use. As discussed in **Section 2.2**, the population of the socioeconomic study area is expected to continue to increase over the next 20 years; therefore, the importance of recreation on public lands is likely to increase. Access, delineation of recreation types (e.g., quiet or passive recreation vs. motorized or intensive recreational opportunities), and sustainability are important to this user group.

3.2.7 Outfitters

Local recreational outfitters represent another important group with an economic interest in the management of public lands. Outfitters include retailers and guides who provide services for activities such as river rafting, hunting and fishing expeditions, and four-wheel-drive tours of the area. Outfitters, like all recreations users, have a vested interest in keeping access to public lands open and user fees low.

3.2.8 Individuals and Groups Who Prioritize Resource Protection

Various individuals and groups at the local, regional, and national levels are interested in how the BLM manages public lands. Many of their concerns regard wildlife, water quality, and visual quality. They value public lands for wildlife, recreation, education, scenic qualities, wilderness, and open space, among other aspects. Participants in the March 2010 economic strategy workshops, as well as non-profit organizations with a stake in wildland preservation, have cited the importance of including an assessment of the non-market benefits provided by public lands in the socioeconomic analysis for the RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Non-market benefits include ecosystems services (such as clean air and water), as well as the values of open space for the local community. While there are individuals who prioritize resource protection throughout the planning area, this group has a particularly strong presence in the Planning Unit 4.

3.2.9 Individuals and Groups Who Prioritize Resource Use

Many individuals and groups are concerned about limitations being put on the availability of public lands for commercial uses, such as mineral and energy development and livestock grazing. They indicate that public lands should be managed to be as productive as possible and that the survival of local economies and local communities depend upon resource-use industries. Comments received from participants in the March 2010 economic strategy workshops emphasized the importance of public land resource use for the local economy of some regions of the planning area, most notably those in western Montrose and San Miguel Counties in the Planning Units 1, 2, and 5. In particular, these commenters favored the development of energy resources including coal, oil and gas, and uranium for economic and social benefits. The importance of continued livestock grazing access was also noted for these areas.

CHAPTER 4

ECONOMIC STRATEGY WORKSHOPS

On March 9, 10, 16, and 17, 2010, the UFO hosted six economic strategies workshops in Montrose, Delta, Hotchkiss, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, Colorado. In total, 90 citizens, local government representatives, and local interest group representatives attended the workshops. The purpose of these workshops was to obtain input on how local populations interact with public lands. The BLM intends to complete a collaborative, community-based RMP that reflects careful consideration of the local and regional factors unique to the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. To this end, these workshops provided an opportunity for stakeholders from local communities to participate in the planning process. Attendees discussed economic trends in the region and developed visions for the economic future of their communities. The attendees also discussed how BLM management of public lands is tied to the economy in local communities and in the region as a whole. Detailed records of the workshops, including notes and record of attendees, are included in **Appendix B**, Economic Workshop Records.

4.1 ECONOMIC TRENDS AND LONG-TERM VISIONS

At the workshops, current and historical socioeconomic data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for demographics, employment sectors, unemployment, housing, and income. Natural resource economic data for the study area, including those for agricultural and oil and gas production, were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economies, such as receipts from coal, were also discussed.

To determine what the workshop participants envision for the local economy over the next 20 years, community potential evaluations were completed in small groups at each of the six workshop locations. These forms attempted to capture the desired long-term conditions for planning area communities. Workshop participants first rated each item on the form individually from 1 to 3 in importance for the local economy, with three being the highest importance. Participants then discussed their ratings in small groups to reach a consensus rating. The results of the small groups were then discussed with the larger group, and comments on the rating and desired conditions for the community were noted. Group consensus forms, as well as discussion

notes, are included for each workshop in **Appendix B**. Input from each workshop location has been consolidated and is represented in **Table 4-1**, Summary of Community Potential Evaluations. It should be noted that this exercise represents only one method of input from the communities; the consensus community potential evaluations are not likely to represent all the views of all participants and do not attempt to predict BLM management direction.

4.2 ROLE OF PUBLIC LANDS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

4.2.1 Connection Between BLM Lands and Local Communities

Workshop participants discussed specific uses of public lands. The current and desired future uses varied by community. Desired future conditions are explored in the community potential evaluations discussion (**Section 4.1**, above). Key points from discussions of current uses of public lands are included below. Recreation is seen as a critical driver of the economy for some areas. In Ridgway, participants noted the importance of four-wheel-drive vehicle use in Ouray and the surrounding area. In other areas, nonmotorized recreation has more of an emphasis. Public lands play an important role in both motorized and nonmotorized recreation for planning area communities. Representatives from Olathe in Montrose County and Ridgway in Ouray County noted the importance of recreation for local residents. Hunting and fishing represent another important use of BLM lands in local communities. Big game hunting in particular attracts destination tourists and provides income to local outfitters. Many of the accessible hunting areas are on BLM land. Livestock grazing represents another important historical and current use of public lands. Workshop participants in Norwood stated the importance of continued access to public lands for grazing to support the local economy. Workshop participants representing Nucla and Naturita discussed the importance of mining, particularly for uranium, on BLM lands for the local economy. Extraction of fossil fuel resources was also noted for Montrose County. Overall, many workshop participants noted that socioeconomics of local communities are inseparable from management of BLM lands due to the quality of life benefits and economic resources that these lands provide.

4.2.2 Recommendations for BLM Management Direction

Workshop participants were asked how the BLM can partner with the community to help it reach its potential. Specific BLM management actions or directions were identified that would help communities reach the desired outcomes or expectations for public lands in the region. Many workshop participants urged the BLM to recognize the unique needs of the different planning area regions and stated that a one-size-fits-all management approach would not be appropriate. Recommended actions are summarized as follows:

- Emphasize collaboration with the local community, government, and interest groups. Engage key community leaders in the process.
- Determine what land uses are best suited to support local community needs for economic growth, while preserving quality of life.
- Work with the local communities to foster and support locally appropriate income-producing work, whether from quiet or motorized recreation, livestock grazing, or mineral and fossil fuel extraction.

**Table 4-1
Summary of Community Potential Evaluations**

Item	Ouray County	San Miguel County	Delta County	North Fork Valley (Delta County)	Nucla-Naturia (Western Montrose County)	Norwood (Western San Miguel County)	Montrose County	AVERAGE FOR STUDY AREA
Agriculture	2.7	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Forest Products	1.3	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.3	2.2
Mining – Coal	1.0	NA	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.4
Mining – Uranium	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.2	3.0	3.0	2.3	1.9
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.3	3.0	2.0	1.3	1.8
Energy – Oil and Gas	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.8	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.1
Energy – Renewable	3.0	2.0	2.3	2.7	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.2
Environmental Restoration	2.9	2.5	1.7	2.7	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.4
Business Retention/Expansion	2.6	2.5	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.8	2.6
Local Retail Industry	2.0	2.5	2.3	3.0	3.0	1.3	3.0	2.5
Entrepreneurship Development	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.5	1.7	2.8	2.5
Business Recruitment	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.5	2.1
Local/Regional Tourism	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.6
Pass-through Visitor Services	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	1.5	1.3	2.3	2.0
Destination Tourism	3.0	3.0	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.7	3.0	2.2
Cultural Tourism	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.3	2.5	2.3
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	1.0	NA	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.4
Attracting Retirees	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.7
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.0	1.3	2.0	2.0
Telecommunications Business	1.5	NA	1.7	2.0	2.5	1.0	1.8	1.7
Health Care	2.0	2.5	3.0	2.7	3.0	1.7	3.0	2.5
Bedroom Community	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.0	1.3
Attract/Retain Government Offices	1.4	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0
Categories Added by Workshop Participants								
Recreation	3.0	3.0					3.0	
Small Manufacturing	2.0				2.0			
Craft Brewing/Distilling	3.0							
Other: Local Direct Market	3.0							
Agriculture								
Hunting/Fishing	3.0							
Service Jobs	3.0							
Cottage Industry				3.0				
Sand/Gravel				2.0				
Ecosystem Maintenance				3.0				
Construction					3.0			

Table 4-1 (continued)
Summary of Community Potential Evaluations

Item	Ouray County	San Miguel County	Delta County	North Fork Valley (Delta County)	Nucla-Naturia (Western Montrose County)	Norwood (Western San Miguel County)	Montrose County	AVERAGE FOR STUDY AREA
Higher Education							3.0	

Ranking System: 3= very important to local economy, 2= somewhat important for local economy, 1= low importance for local economy

NA: Category for which workshop participants determined there was no potential in the community due to lack of resources or other constraints

- Maintain the public lands in a healthy state and recognize the contribution of public lands to clean air and water and wildlife habitat.
- Keep access to public lands open for livestock grazing, hunting, and fishing.
- Recognize the importance of public land resources for the economic livelihood of some planning area communities.
- Engage local livestock permittees and the ranching community in the RMP revision process.
- Keep user fees low.

Complete economic strategies workshop records are included in **Appendix B**, Economic Workshop Records.

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, requires that federal agencies identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The BLM has recently developed an instruction memorandum (2002-164) containing guidance for evaluating environmental justice issues in land use planning. Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs, and policies. It focuses on environmental hazards and human health to avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. Low-income populations are defined as persons living below the poverty level based on total income of \$10,991 for an individual and \$22,025 for a family household of four for 2008 data (US Census Bureau 2009b). Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and other non-White persons are defined as minority populations.

5.1 LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

The study area is characterized by a diverse range of incomes. San Miguel and Ouray Counties overall had the lowest percentage of persons below the poverty level at 7.6 and 8.2 percent, respectively. Mesa County, with 10.2 percent of individuals below poverty, was also below the state rate of 11.2 percent. Delta (11.1 percent) and Montrose (11.7) Counties were near the state poverty rate, while Gunnison County was estimated to be slightly higher than the state rate at 12.0 percent of persons below poverty. All counties in the study area were below the national rate of 13.2 percent. See **Appendix A, Table A-11**, Income Distribution, for details of study area counties.

5.2 MINORITY POPULATIONS

The social and economic context of the study area varies among the six counties. **Appendix A, Table A-20**, Study Area Population by Race/Ethnicity, describes the estimated 2008 racial and ethnic composition of the study area. In 2008, approximately 71 percent of Colorado's population was identified as White and not of Hispanic or Latino origin. People of Hispanic or

Latino descent (of any race) were the largest minority group and accounted for 20 percent of the total state population (US Census Bureau 2008). In the study area as a whole, approximately 87 percent of the total population was identified as White of non-Hispanic/Latino origin in 2008. Hispanics/Latinos were the largest minority population, accounting for almost 13 percent of the total study area population.

Appendix A, Table A-20, Study Area Population by Race/Ethnicity, shows that Montrose County was the most diverse county in the planning area with approximately 21 percent of the population of Hispanic/Latino origin, slightly higher than the state level. All other counties in the project area had fewer people who identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, ranging from almost 6 percent in Ouray County to almost 14 percent in Mesa County.

Other races represent a significantly smaller segment of the population. A total of 3,632 people, or 1.5 percent of the study area population, identified themselves as American Indian or Alaskan Native, while 2,283 persons (0.9 percent) identified themselves as Black or African American, and 2,250 (0.9 percent) as Asian.

5.3 NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATIONS

Data in **Appendix A, Table A-20**, Study Area Population by Race/Ethnicity, indicate that Native Americans (and Alaskan Natives) account for a small percentage of the study area population. Members of the Navajo Nation, Northern Ute, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribes traditionally have lived in and around the study area. A total of 3,632 individuals, or 1.5 percent of the study area population, identify themselves as Native American or Alaskan Native.

Policies established in 2006 by the BLM and US Forest Service, in coordination with federal tribes, ensure access by traditional native practitioners to area plants. The policy also ensures that management of these plants promotes ecosystem health for public lands. The BLM is encouraged to support and incorporate into their planning traditional native and native practitioner plant-gathering of plants for traditional use.

5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS AND RMP ANALYSIS

Due to the low percentage of individuals in minority groups or low income populations in the planning area overall, it is not likely that considerations for environmental justice populations will require modification of RMP alternatives or mitigation measures. Impacts on regional and local environmental justice populations will be addressed in the RMP/EIS following standards and guidelines set forth in Executive Order 12898 and BLM instruction memorandum 2002-164.

CHAPTER 6

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS STRATEGY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The UFO is segmented by its abundant natural resources and the diversity of people who reside within its geographic boundaries. Results from the economic strategies workshops held in March 2010 depict communities who wish to retain existing features of the natural landscape while diversifying economic opportunities and expanding potential employment growth. While some issues may apply to more than one region, each socioeconomic unit displays common features in landscape and socioeconomic environment. Issues identified for the different socioeconomic units are presented below.

6.2 KEY ISSUES RELATED TO BLM MANAGEMENT IDENTIFIED BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Socioeconomic issues are drawn from the Community Assessment of the Uncompahgre Planning Area (BLM 2009) and results from the economic strategies workshops. These issues are not intended to be a list of issues, but rather provide a theme for evaluating each unit individually and in looking at the collective impacts by alternative BLM management actions (see **Figure 1-2**, Planning Units for the Uncompahgre RMP Planning Area, for a map of socioeconomic units).

Socioeconomic Unit 1. Socioeconomic unit 1 includes portions of the North Fork Valley and has issues closely related to those discussed in Socioeconomic Unit 2, below. Information for this unit was also collected at the Montrose economic workshop. Coal mining represents a key component of the economy in this unit as do oil and gas development and agriculture. Recreational use of land is important for local area residents. The key issues are the continued access to public lands for traditional agricultural and extractive resource uses while preserving the quality of life for local residents.

Socioeconomic Unit 2. This unit is centered around the North Fork Valley. Information was collected at the Hotchkiss Economic Workshop. Issues relate to growing the economy in concert with the natural landscape. Utilization of public land and enhancing environmental values while preserving open space is also important. The key issue is finding the balance that allows

residents to retain a lifestyle that meets their needs and provides recreational opportunities for visitors to the area.

Socioeconomic Unit 3. This unit encompasses Delta County and eastern Montrose County which have similar characteristics but have some unique issues. Information for the region was collected at the Delta and Montrose economic strategy workshops. The economy in this area is oriented toward agriculture, mining, and timber production. The area also contains geological features that provides recreational opportunities for the local population and attracts visitors. The community of Delta along the US Highway 50 corridor is within easy commuting distance of Grand Junction, the regional center for western Colorado. The key issue for the Delta area is providing maximum public land access for local residents and extracting resources for continued community economic support, while preserving ecologic features that attract visitors to the area.

Like the community of Delta, Montrose lies along the US Highway 50 corridor and is the largest city within the Uncompahgre RMP planning area. The regional airport also provides Montrose ready access to areas outside the planning area. Also, the majority of county population resides within eastern Montrose County and thus gives the area an urban economic feel. Though there is less dependency on public lands for economic stability within the urban setting, access to public lands within the UFO attracts visitors to the recreational economic activities, which provides economic opportunities. The key issue is providing continued access to public lands for an area with a growing population center and increasing importance as a regional destination.

Socioeconomic Unit 4. This unit has two main components with unique social and economic issues. The eastern portion of the unit is located in Ouray County and eastern San Miguel County. Economic data was collected at the Ridgway Economic Workshop. This area is destination oriented and takes advantage of unique geologic features and remote access. Economic opportunities are limited to those activities that fit the landscape. Retaining local businesses and developing tourist- and recreation-oriented activities are important aspects of economic growth. Retirees and self proprietors make a significant contribution to the local economy. The main issue is maintaining the landscape in its “old west” setting, while providing a “new west” economic structure.

The western portion of Socioeconomic Unit 4 is located in the area surrounding the town of Norwood in western San Miguel County. Information for this area was collected at the Norwood economic workshop. Agriculture represents a significant portion of the local economy. A number of residents commute to Telluride to work in the accommodation sector. Water is a limiting resource, which severely restricts development within the Norwood area. Hunting and fishing provides seasonal economic activity. The main issues are access to public lands for livestock grazing and hunting.

Socioeconomic Unit 5. Socioeconomic unit 5 is located in Western Montrose County, information was collected at the Naturita Economic Workshop. Agriculture and mining represent significant portions of the area economy. Uranium mining is particularly significant, which has lead to boom/bust cycles throughout the past 40 years. Residents commute from Naturita and Norwood to Telluride for work in the accommodation sector. The remoteness of

the area requires travel to Montrose, Delta, or Grand Junction for all major shopping activities. The main issue is making available public land resources for livestock grazing and extractive uses.

6.3 KEY INDICATORS FOR ANALYSIS

Key indicators that will be used in the socioeconomic impact analysis in the EIS are listed below. Changes to these indicators will be measured based on BLM management alternatives proposed in the EIS.

Public Land Contributions

- Recreation Use
- Hunting and Fishing Visitor Days and/or Visitor Use Numbers
- Other Recreation Visitor Days and/or Visitor Use Numbers
- Grazing Animal Unit Months
- Energy Development and Production
- Oil Production (barrels)
- Gas Production (millions of cubic feet)
- Coal Production (millions of tons)
- Other Minerals (salables, other leasable, locatables)
- Environmental/Ecological Restoration (acres)
- Land Use and Rights-of-way (acres)
- Ecosystem services

Social and Economic Contributions

- Population (growth projections)
- Changing Demographics (selected indicators)
- Employment (numbers by sector)
- Income (personal income)
- Ethnic and Racial Characteristics of the Region
- Subsistence Contributions
- Open space (land enhancement value and attracting non-labor income)

6.4 ANALYTICAL METHODS TO BE USED

The study area will be broken down using a tiered approach: (1) a six-county study area; (2) the RMP planning area; and (3) the five socioeconomic units as appropriate. Data, where available, will be broken down in the same configuration. Community level data will be provided if available and if they add meaning to the analysis. One to five years will represent the short term analysis spectrum. The long-term analysis will make assessments through the planning horizon of 20 years.

6.4.1 Economics

Through the use of a regional input-output multipliers (such as the US Bureau of Economic Analysis' Recreation Management Information System II), an assessment of impacts to selected industrial sectors of the economy will be evaluated. These multipliers will be applied to changes in final demand resulting from the differing BLM management alternatives in the RMP. The results will measure the change in the level of output, employment, and income for those industrial sectors impacted by each action. Impacts will be measured by category and cumulatively in a regional setting.

6.4.2 Social Conditions

Results from the economic analysis will be applied in measuring the social impacts. A narrative discussion of the impacts to communities and groups that results from a change to baseline conditions will measure social change. The analysis will be sensitive to those who are in vulnerable groups (e.g., environmental justice populations) that may be impacted.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Large variations in the study area, particularly between the UFO planning units, make generalizations about the study area's social and economic conditions complex. Due to the large acreage of public lands in many study area counties, the overall contribution of public lands to local economies may be significant. Influence of public lands at the local level is especially important, particularly in locations where public lands provide a source of employment, such as ranching or energy production, or a significant contribution to quality of life for local residents, such as recreational activities availability or open space preservation. As such, local citizens' concerns, as reflected in the economic strategy workshops will be analyzed during development of the Uncompahgre RMP.

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CHAPTER 8

LIST OF PREPARERS

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the BLM UFO and contractors Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi) and Martin Economics prepared this socioeconomic baseline report.

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CHAPTER 9

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Appendix A

Study Area Demographic and Economic Data

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APPENDIX A

STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC DATA

Table A-1
Study Area Population Totals (1980–2008)

Location	1980	1990	1980–1990	2000	1990–2000	2008 *	2000–2008*	1980–2008*
			Percent Change		Percent Change		Percent Change	Percent Change
Delta County	21,225	20,980	-1.15%	27,834	32.7%	32,600	13.5%	48.9%
Gunnison County	10,689	10,273	-3.89%	13,956	35.9%	15,259	9.3%	42.5%
Mesa County	81,530	93,145	14.2%	116,255	24.8%	144,440	24.2%	77.2%
Montrose County	24,323	24,423	0.3%	33,423	36.9%	41,302	23.5%	69.6%
Ouray County	1,925	2,295	19.2%	3,742	63.0%	4,703	25.7%	144.3%
San Miguel County	3,192	3,653	14.4%	6,594	80.5%	7,771	17.9%	143.5%
<i>Study Area Total</i>	<i>142,913</i>	<i>154,769</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>201,813</i>	<i>30.4%</i>	<i>245,075</i>	<i>21.4%</i>	<i>71.5%</i>
State	2,889,733	3,294,394	14.0%	4,301,261	30.6%	5,011,390	16.5%	73.4%

Source: Colorado Division of Local Government, State Demography Office. 2010

* 1980,1990, 2000 census data, 2008 population estimates

Table A-2
Study Area Population Projections (2010–2030)

County	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Delta	32,737	37,356	43,227	49,410	54,772
Gunnison	15,366	16,394	17,766	18,966	20,018
Mesa	150,430	165,428	184,592	201,613	227,617
Montrose	43,218	49,417	56,638	64,010	71,042
Ouray	4,946	5,748	6,430	6,671	6,833
San Miguel	8,165	9,507	10,952	12,489	13,920
State	5,171,798	5,632,137	6,186,161	6,718,452	7,227,385

Source: Colorado Division of Local Government, State Demography Office. 2010

Table A-3
Study Area Estimated Age of Population (2008)

Location	19 and Under	20–34	35–44	45–64	65–84	85+	Median Age
Delta County	7,898	5,385	3,685	8,691	5,135	801	41.9
Gunnison County	4,079	3,362	2,530	4,052	1,116	120	35.7
Mesa County	38,962	30,543	18,131	36,221	18,088	2,499	36.5
Montrose County	11,436	7,578	5,281	10,618	5,518	868	38.2
Ouray County	1,074	767	590	1,581	636	52	43.7
San Miguel County	1,631	1,523	1,771	2,511	298	30	38.6
<i>Study Area Total</i>	<i>65,080</i>	<i>49,158</i>	<i>31,988</i>	<i>63,674</i>	<i>30,791</i>	<i>4,370</i>	
State	1,399,784	1,051,374	745,292	1,321,080	437,390	56,407	35.8

Source: Colorado Division of Local Government, State Demography Office. 2010

Table A-4
Study Area Education Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older (2000)

Location	Less than 9th Grade	9th to 12th Grade; No Diploma	High School Graduate or Equivalent	Some College, No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Delta County	6.9%	13.0%	34.0%	23.7%	4.8%	12.5%	5.1%
Gunnison County	2.6%	3.2%	17.8%	28.7%	4.0%	31.5%	12.0%
Mesa County	4.6%	10.4%	30.4%	25.7%	7.0%	14.6%	7.3%
Montrose County	7.3%	12.0%	33.4%	23.8%	4.8%	13.3%	5.4%
Ouray County	2.3%	4.4%	21.6%	28.3%	6.5%	23.5%	13.4%
San Miguel County	2.5%	3.9%	15.1%	25.6%	4.6%	36.6%	12.0%
State	4.9%	8.2%	23.2%	24.0%	7.0%	21.6%	11.1%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Table A-5
Study Area Crime Rates (2008)
Crimes per 1000 People

Location	Violent Crime	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle theft
Delta County	0.52	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.64	4.85	1.35	3.28	0.21
Gunnison County	1.24	0.00	0.07	0.00	1.18	1.24	0.07	1.05	0.13
Mesa County	1.20	0.01	0.22	0.10	0.87	9.65	2.67	6.20	0.78
Montrose County	0.68	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.56	4.36	1.45	2.47	0.44

Table A-5 (continued)
Study Area Crime Rates (2008)
Crimes per 1000 People

Location	Violent Crime	Murder	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor Vehicle theft
Ouray County	2.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	5.53	1.06	4.26	0.21
San Miguel County	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	7.18	1.92	5.13	0.13
State	3.38	0.03	0.42	0.67	2.26	28.08	5.64	19.74	2.70

Numbers represent total crimes as reported by Sheriff's office or county police department

Source: US Department of Justice 2008

Table A-6
Marital Status for population over 15 years old (2000)

Location	Never Married (%)	Now Married (%)	Separated (%)	Widowed (%)	Divorced (%)
Delta County	15.1	64.2	1.2	8.1	11.5
Gunnison County	42.4	45.7	1.1	3.2	7.6
Mesa County	21.8	58.8	1.4	6.6	11.4
Montrose County	18.4	60.8	1.1	7.8	11.5
Ouray County	17.8	65.7	0.9	4.1	11.4
San Miguel County	41.1	44.5	2.2	1.9	10.4
State	27.0	55.6	1.6	4.7	11.0

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Table A-7
Language Spoken at Home (2000)

Location	English Only (%)	Language Other Than English (%)	Speak English less than "very well" (%)	Spanish Speaking (%)	Speak English less than "very well" (%)	Other Indo-European Language (%)	Speak English less than "very well" (%)	Asian and Pacific Island Languages (%)	Speak English less than "very well" (%)
Delta County	89.7	10.3	4.4	8.3	4.0	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.1
Gunnison County	93.4	6.6	2.7	4.2	1.9	2.3	0.9	0.1	0.0
Mesa County	92.0	8.0	2.8	6.0	2.3	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Montrose County	88.4	11.6	5.4	10.0	4.9	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0

Table A-7 (continued)
Language Spoken at Home (2000)

Location	English Only (%)	Language Other Than English (%)	Speak English less than “very well” (%)	Spanish Speaking (%)	Speak English less than “very well” (%)	Other Indo-European Language (%)	Speak English less than “very well” (%)	Asian and Pacific Island Languages (%)	Speak English less than “very well” (%)
Ouray County	94.3	5.7	1.4	4.0	1.2	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.0
San Miguel County	89.2	10.9	4.5	7.4	4.3	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
State	84.9	15.1	6.7	10.5	5.1	2.	0.7	1.6	0.8

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Table A-8
Place of Birth (2000)

Location	Born in US (%)	Born in Colorado (%)	Born in Other State (%)	Born Outside US (% Native or Naturalized Citizen)	Born outside US (% not US Citizen)
Delta County	95.3	51.2	48.2	1.6	3.1
Gunnison County	95.8	38.8	59.9	2.3	1.9
Mesa County	96.5	50.6	48.8	1.8	3.0
Montrose County	94.0	52.5	47.0	1.9	5.6
Ouray County	95.9	32.1	67.0	2.7	3.2
San Miguel County	92.0	26.0	73.3	2.0	6.0
State	90.1	44.9	53.6	4.0	5.9

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Table A-9
Study Area Household Characteristics
2000–2008 Comparison

		Delta County	Gunnison County	Mesa County	Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County
Average Household Size (persons)	2008	2.43	2.29	2.46	2.50	2.37	2.17
	2000	2.43	2.30	2.47	2.52	2.36	2.18
Total Housing Units	2008	14,100	10,931	61,589	17,257	2,970	6,333
	2000	12,374	9,135	48,427	14,202	2,146	5,197

Table A-9 (continued)
Study Area Household Characteristics
2000–2008 Comparison

		Delta County	Gunnison County	Mesa County	Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County
Housing Units							
Percent Change 2000–2008		13.9%	19.7%	27.2%	21.5%	38.4%	21.9%
Occupied Housing Units	2008	12,617	6,228	57,092	16,238	1,975	3,567
	2000	11,058	5,649	45,823	13,043	1,576	3,015
Vacant Housing Units	2008	1,483	4,703	4,497	1,019	995	2,766
	2000	1,316	3,486	2,604	1,159	570	2,182

Source: US Census Bureau 2000, Colorado Division of Local Government, State Demography Office 2010

Table A-10
Vacant Housing Unit Information (2000)

	Delta County	Gunnison County	Mesa County	Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County
Total	1,316	3,486	2,604	1,159	570	2,182
For rent	16.0%	3.9%	29.8%	23.6%	6.7%	11.2%
For sale	15.3%	2.4%	21.6%	18.2%	9.8%	1.9%
Rented or sold, not occupied	11.0%	1.3%	9.4%	7.1%	7.4%	1.7%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	35.2%	89.6%	19.5%	16.7%	47.9%	79.8%
For migrant workers	2.6%	0.1%	0.7%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%
Other vacant (including foreclosures)	20.0%	2.7%	19.0%	33.4%	28.1%	5.3%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Table A-11
Study Area Income Distribution

Income (2008)		Delta County	Gunnison County	Mesa County	Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County
Median Household Income	2008	\$40,994	\$43,621*	\$51,930	\$51,659	\$59,725*	\$61,074*
	2000	\$32,785	\$36,916	\$35,864	\$35,234	\$42,019	\$48,514
Per Capita Income	2008	\$20,813	NA	\$26,580	\$24,298	NA	NA
	2000	\$17,152	\$21,407	\$18,715	\$17,158	\$24,335	\$35,329

Table A-11 (continued)
Study Area Income Distribution

Income (2008)		Delta Gunnison County	Mesa Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County		
Persons Below Poverty Level	2008	11.7%	12.0%*	10.2%	11.1%	7.6%*	8.2%*
	2000	12.1%	15.0%	19.5%	12.6%	7.2%	10.4%
Families Below Poverty Level	2008	9.8%	NA	7.4%	7.8%	NA	NA
	2000	8.5%	6.0%	7.0%	8.9%	6.0%	6.6%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000, 2009

*model estimate

NA= data not available for this county

Data from 2000 census in 1999 dollars

Data from 2006–2008 estimates in 2008 dollars

Table A-12
Study Area Labor and Non-labor Income (2007)

County	Personal Income Total (millions of \$)	Labor income (net earnings)		Non-labor income (including dividends, interest, rent, personal transfer receipts)	
		Millions of \$	Percent of Personal Income Total	Millions of \$	Percent of Personal Income Total
Delta	821	466	56.8%	355	43.2%
Gunnison	484	310	64.0%	174	36.0%
Mesa	4,503	2,942	65.3%	1,561	34.7%
Montrose	1,146	715	62.4%	430	37.6%
Ouray	183	98	53.7%	85	46.3%
San Miguel	373	232	62.2%	140	37.8%
Study Area Total	7,510	4,763	63.4%	2,746	36.6%
Colorado	199,483	143,723	72.0%	55,761	28.0%

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis 2009

Percentages do not add to 100% due to adjustments for social security, residence and other factors made by the BEA.

Table A-13
Proprietor Income (2007)

Location	Earnings by Place of Work (\$1000)	Wage and Salary Disbursements (\$1000)	Supplements to Proprietors' income (\$1000)		
			Wages and Salary Disbursements (\$1000)	Non Farm Farm	
Delta County	399,467	284,228	66,582	57,029	-8,372
		71.2%	16.7%	14.3%	-2.1%
Gunnison County	404,710	290,098	65,142	57,943	-8,473
		71.7%	16.1%	14.3%	-2.1%

Table A-13 (continued)
Proprietor Income (2007)

Location	Earnings by Place of Work (\$1000)	Wage and Salary Disbursements (\$1000)	Supplements to Wages and Salary Disbursements (\$1000)	Proprietors' income (\$1000)	
				Non Farm	Farm
Mesa County	3,169,811	2,374,509	500,614	293,041	1,647
		74.9%	15.8%	9.2%	0.1%
Montrose County	807,769	526,060	115,883	169,531	-3,705
		65.1%	14.3%	21.0%	-0.5%
Ouray County	83,138	53,497	11,448	21,346	-3,153
		64.3%	13.8%	25.7%	-3.8%
San Miguel County	301,697	208,322	41,095	54,689	-2,409
		69.1%	13.6%	18.1%	-0.8%
Colorado	159,490,031	110,857,632	24,441,883	24,022,620	167,896
		69.5%	15.3%	15.1%	0.1%

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis 2009, Table CA 30

All state and local area dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

Farm proprietors' income consists of the income that is received by the sole proprietorships and the partnerships that operate farms. It excludes the income that is received by corporate farms.

Table A-14
Study Area Income Inflow and Outflow (2007)

Location	Outflow of Earnings (\$1000)	Inflow of Earnings (\$1000)
Delta County	\$24,978	\$136,268
Gunnison County	\$66,971	\$13,198
Mesa County	\$60,190	\$191,344
Montrose County	\$78,836	\$67,397
Ouray County	\$26,035	\$34,354
San Miguel County	\$45,299	\$5,250

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis 2009

Table A-15
Study Area Employment Characteristics (2007)

Industry	County Employment Totals					
	Delta	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	San Miguel
Farm employment	1,408	311	1,998	1,383	87	120
	8.8%	2.3%	2.3%	5.6%	2.7%	1.4%
Forestry, fishing, related activities	356	72**	299	386	*	*
	2.2%	.5%	.3%	1.6%	*	*

Table A-15 (continued)
Study Area Employment Characteristics (2007)

Industry	County Employment Totals					
	Delta	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	San Miguel
Mining	552	784+	3,425	*	*	*
	3.5%	5.9%	3.9%	*	*	*
Utilities	72	66	234	226	*	15
	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	*	.2%
Construction	1,566	1,714	9,054	3,298	619	1,469
	9.8%	12.8%	10.4%	13.5%	18.8%	16.9%
Manufacturing	828	135	3,743	1,595	60	163
	5.2%	1.0%	4.3%	6.5%	1.8%	1.9%
Wholesale trade	356	91	2,768	613	33	49
	2.2%	.7%	3.2%	2.5%	1.0%	.6%
Retail trade	1,990	1,319	11,006	2,794	291	618
	12.5%	9.9%	12.6%	11.4%	8.9%	7.1%
Transportation and warehousing	195	184	3,239	797	*	76
	1.2%	1.4%	3.7%	3.3%	*	.9%
Information	198	130	1,147	280	41	159
	1.2%	1.0%	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	1.8%
Finance and insurance	444	349	3,551	676	97	199
	2.8%	2.6%	4.1%	2.8%	3.0%	2.3%
Real estate and rental and leasing	836	1,164	4,717	1,384	302	1,180
	5.2%	8.7%	5.4%	5.6%	9.2%	13.6%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	679	676	4,286	1,203	204	544
	4.3%	5.1%	4.9%	2.3%	6.2%	6.3%
Management of companies and enterprises	43	15	134	40	*	39
	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	.2%	*	0.5%
Administrative and waste services	646	458	4,649	992	*	352
	4.0%	3.4%	5.3%	4.1%	*	4.1%
Educational services	*	229	608	121	*	121
	*	1.7%	0.7%	0.5%	*	1.4%
Health care and social assistance	*	445	9,921	2,062	*	258
	*	3.3%	11.3%	8.4%	*	3.0%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	239	919	1,868	428	108	608
	1.5%	6.9%	2.1%	1.8%	3.3%	7.0%
Accommodation and food services	846	1,687	6,574	1,431	555	1,131
	5.3%	12.6%	7.5%	5.8%	16.9%	13.0%
Other services, except public administration	991	749	4,885	1,572	171	519
	6.2%	5.6%	5.6%	6.4%	5.2%	6.0%
Government and government enterprises	2461	1,847	9,374	3,041	374	839
	15.4%	13.8%	10.7%	12.4%	11.4%	9.7%
Total Employment	15,983	13,361	87,453	24,517	3,287	8,674

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis 2009

*Disclosure suppression of data, total employment for counties reflects BEA estimate of this number

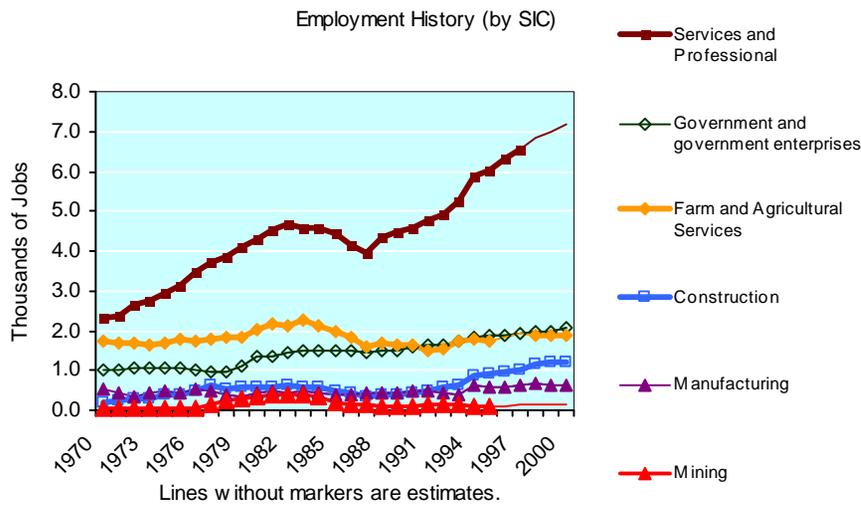
**Data from 2005, 2007 data suppressed

+Data from 2006, 2007 data suppressed

Note for Figures A-1 to A-6

Source: Headwaters Economics 2010. Graphs represent US Bureau of Economic Analysis SIC data. Note that BEA switched to a different classification system (NAICS) system in 2001. Services and Professional includes: Transportation and Public Utilities, Wholesale trade, Retail trade, Finance Insurance and

**Figure A-1
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for Delta County
1970–2000**



**Figure A-2
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for Gunnison County
1970–2000**

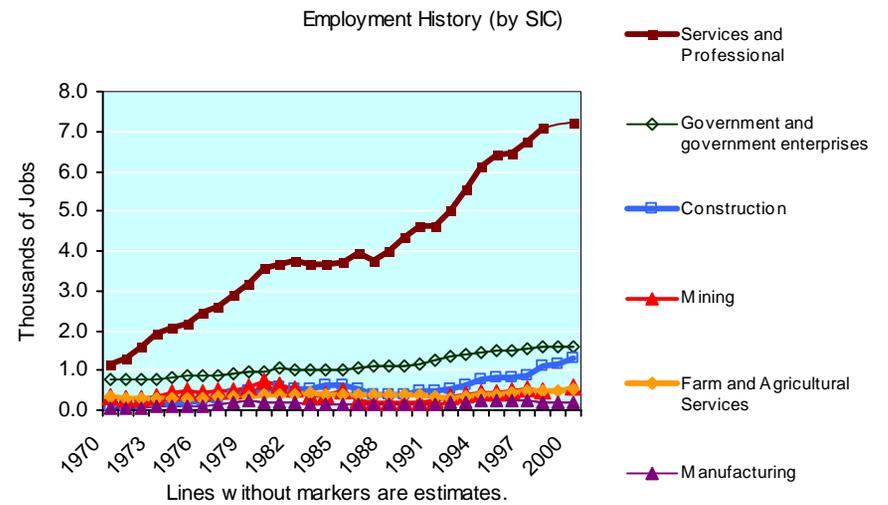


Figure A-3
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for Mesa County
1970–2000

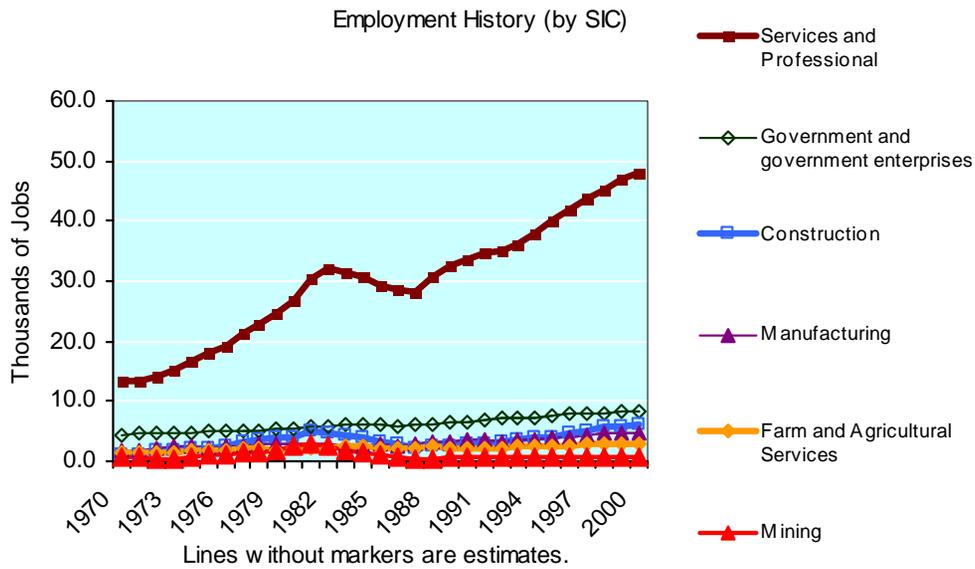


Figure A-4
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for Montrose County
1970–2000

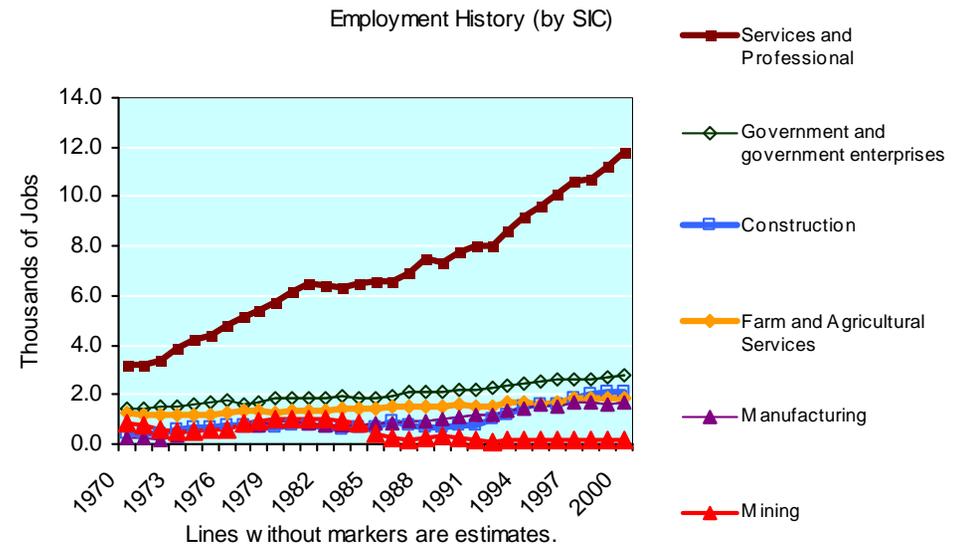


Figure A-5
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for Ouray County
1970-2000

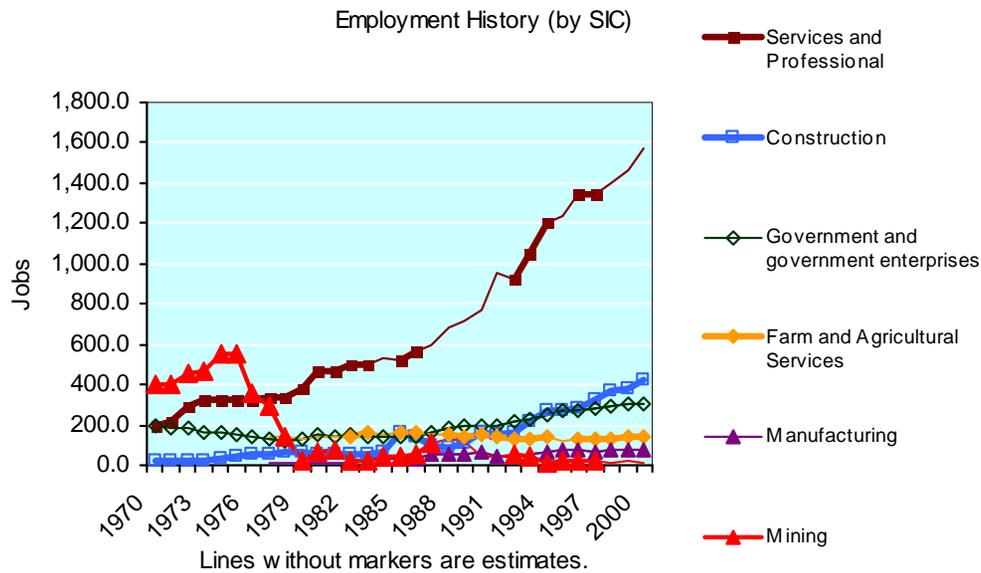


Figure A-6
Employment Characteristics
Long term trends for San Miguel County
1970-2000

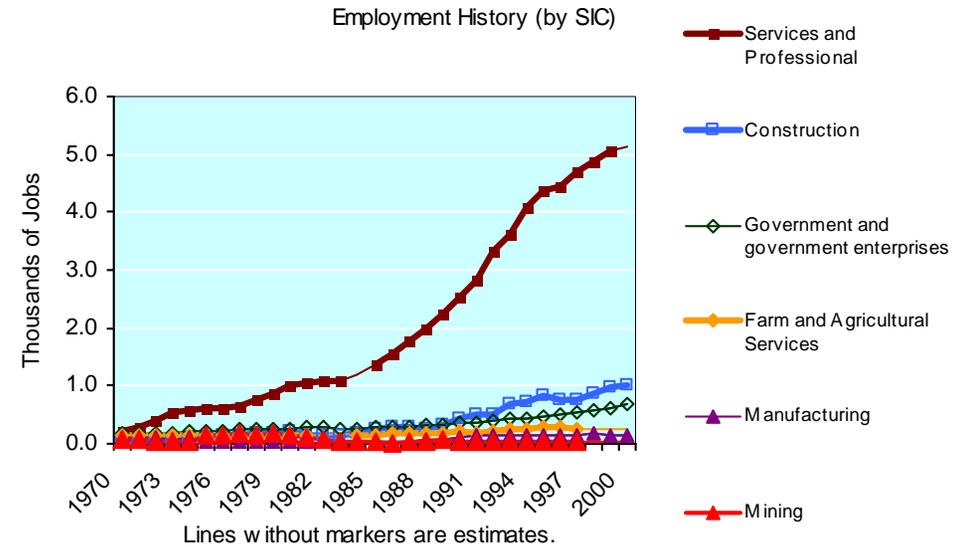


Table A-16
Average Annual Wage (2008)

County/State	Average Annual Wage
Delta County	\$30,079
Gunnison County	\$31,180
Mesa County	\$32,418
Montrose County	\$39,246
Ouray County	\$30,452
San Miguel County	\$38,475
Colorado	\$46,614

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010b

Table A-17
Study Area Unemployment Levels by County
Not Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Delta	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	San Miguel
1990	7.0%	7.3%	5.9%	6.3%	9.7%	5.1%
1995	5.9%	6.1%	5.3%	5.6%	4.9%	4.0%
2000	3.7%	2.7 %	3.3%	3.7%	2.6%	3.0%
2005	5.1%	4.0%	5.0%	4.8%	3.5%	4.3%
2006	4.1%	3.2%	4.0%	4.1%	3.2%	3.5%
2007	3.4%	2.9%	3.3%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%
2008	4.4%	3.6%	3.9%	5.0%	3.7%	4.0%
2009*	6.6%	5.0%	8.1%	8.2%	5.4%	6.1%

Source: US DOC BLS. 2010a

* Preliminary data, through November 2009

Table A-18
Study Area Agricultural Data

Data	Delta	Gunnison	Mesa	Montrose	Ouray	San Miguel	Total Study Area	Colorado
Number of farms	1,294	217	1,767	1,045	105	123	4,551	4,551
Acreage in farms	252,530	173,679	372,511	321,056	93,839	150,947	1,364,562	1,364,562
Market value of agricultural products sold (\$1,000)	46,800	10,731	61,230	67,160	613	3,350	189,884	76,743
Livestock poultry and products (\$1,000)	26,642	8,927	30,969	43,908	2,991	2,696	116,133	37,054
Crops including nursery and greenhouse crops (\$1,000)	20,158	1,804	30,262	23,252	613	654	76,743	4,551

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service 2007

Table A-19
Study Area Population by Race/Ethnicity (2008 estimate)

Population	Delta County	Gunnison County	Mesa County	Montrose County	Ouray County	San Miguel County	Study Area Total	Colorado
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity of any race	4229	982	17,606	7,198	236	685	30936	997062
	13.5%	6.4%	13.8%	21.2%	5.7%	9.0%	12.6%	20.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino, by Race								
White	26,239	14,751	122,470	39,376	4,252	7,391	214,479	3,506,772
	83.5%	90.2%	79.3%	79.3%	91.8%	88.2%	87.3%	71.0%
Black or African American	229	148	1,591	291	3	21	2283	187,959
	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%	3.8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	471	216	2,044	702	99	100	3,632	36,957
	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%	1.7%	2.1%	1.1%	1.5%	0.8%
Asian	225	152	1,410	327	15	121	2,250	125,778
	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	1.2%	0.9%	2.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	17	5	255	20	2	6	305	5,040
	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: US Census Bureau 2008

Note: The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race.

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Appendix B

Economic Workshop Records

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APPENDIX B

ECONOMIC WORKSHOP RECORDS

ECONOMIC STRATEGY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

DELTA WORKSHOP NOTES
DELTA COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

HOTCHKISS WORKSHOP NOTES
HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

MONTROSE WORKSHOP NOTES
MONTROSE COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

NATURITA WORKSHOP NOTES
NATURITA COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

NORWOOD WORKSHOP NOTES
NORWOOD COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

RIDGWAY WORKSHOP NOTES
RIDGWAY COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

**Table B-1
Economic Strategy Workshop Attendees**

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Montrose, CO, March 9, 2010		
Bagnara	Kristine	City of Montrose Planning Commission
Baker	Gary	City of Montrose
Baldus	John	
Carter	Sue	Nuvmco
Ellis	Gary	Montrose County
Files	Ralph	
Free	Jim	
Fyock	Lee	Gunnison Energy Corporation
Garver	Gary	City of Montrose
Goldman	Andy	City of Montrose
Hanson	Jim	
Harold	Scott	City of Olathe
Henderson	Ronald	
Jensen	Kerwin	City of Montrose
Kinsey	Lana	Montrose County Planning Commission
Lutner	Linda	San Miguel County
Murphy	Dennis	Montrose County Planning Commission
Randall Parker	Tammy	US Forest Service
Reams	John	Western Small Miners Association
Robinsong	Andrea	
Sanford	Eric	SG
Scuderi	Kristin	Montrose County
Smith	Jesse	Montrose County
Sondergard	Jedd	
Sopsic	Jenni	Montrose Association of Commerce and Tourism
Swowda	Willie	
Trounce	Wayne	City of Olathe
White	David	Montrose County
White	Steve	Montrose County
Wilson	Brian	Montrose County
Delta, CO, March 10, 2010		
Austin	Jim	
Axchly	Doug	
Bentley	Roger	
Cedarberg	Nelson	
Disner	Dick	Delta County Planning
Ewing	Collin	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
Heppler	Kelli	Delta County Tourism
Hirschfeld	Con	
Johnson	Bob	
Means	Pat	Town of Cedaredge
Meier	Mitch	Town of Cedaredge
Rogers	Missy	
Simonson	Kaye	Mesa County Planning

Table B-1 (continued)
Economic Strategy Workshop Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Sorenson	Brian	
Sowell	Erick	Delta County Planning
Varley	David	Orchard City
Wilson	Mike	
Hotchkiss, CO, March 10, 2010		
Allen	Ross	
Burritt	Brad	Western Slope Environmental Resource Council
Carter	Sue	Nuvmco
Crank	Bill	North Fork River Improvement Association
Crank	Gloria	North Fork Chamber of Commerce
Hansen	Susan	
Kooniz	Wendell	
LeValley	Robbie	Permittee in Hotchkiss
Debra	Littlefield	
Marlin	Littlefield	
Maki	Sheila	Town of Hotchkiss
Nicholoff	Robin	
Owens	Mike	Town of Hotchkiss
Prendergast	Tony	Town of Paonia
Welt	Kathy	Resource Advisory Council
Wiitanen	Monica	Delta County Planning Commission
Ridgway, CO, March 16, 2010		
Clifton	Greg	Town of Ridgway
Crane	Kelly	
May	Joan	San Miguel County
McIntosh	Sue	
Meinert	Keith	Ouray County
Padgett	Lynn	Ouray County
Page	Ed	Colorado State University Extension
Reichard	Gordon	
Risch	Bob	
Sparks	Greg	
Steele	Bill	Public Lands Partnership
Stephenson	Jim	
Szilagy	Paul	Nuvmco
Williams	Dee	
Willits	Pat	
Naturita, CO, March 17, 2010		
Craig	Richard	Town of Nucla
Daniels	Chris	Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce
Henson	Yvette	Colorado State University Extension
Lear	Debra	Town of Naturita
Pierce	Christina	Town of Nucla
Reams	Dianna	Western Small Miners Association
Sonnenberg	Jeff	Town of Nucla

Table B-1 (continued)
Economic Strategy Workshop Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Szilagy	Paul	Nuvmco
Warner	Marty	
Norwood, CO, March 17, 2010		
Bray	Lance	Bray Ranches
Bray	Zandon	Bray Ranches
Reagan	Joe	Town of Norwood



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Delta, Colorado – Wednesday, March 10 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Workshop Attendees		
Barbara	Sharrow	BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Field Office Manager
Bruce	Krickbaum	Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Jim	Austin	
Doug	Axchly	
Roger	Bentley	
Nelson	Cedarberg	
Dick	Disner	Delta County Planning
Collin	Ewing	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kelli	Hepler	Delta County Tourism
Con	Hirschfeld	
Bob	Johnson	
Pat	Means	Town of Cedaredge
Mitch	Meier	Town of Cedaredge
Missy	Rogers	
Kaye	Simonson	Mesa County Planning
Brian	Sorenson	
Erick	Sowell	Delta County Planning
David	Varley	Orchard City
Mike	Wilson	

3. Community Economic Profile

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources

Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System,, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

- Review of the data

- Community feedback on the data

- ✓ *People who work in Delta may commute to Grand Junction or Montrose, and others may commute to Gunnison for coal-related jobs.*
- ✓ *Participant question: How is seasonal movement accounted for, for example the migrant worker population? Response John Martin (Martin Economics): Housing data represents a static point in time; therefore, people who move seasonally would have been counted at their residence at the time of the Census.*
- ✓ *Major crops: Corn and organic crops bring in money; there are also some wineries in the North Fork Valley.*
- ✓ *Oil: A participant recommended checking the data source to see if data is in barrels or thousands of barrels.*
- ✓ *Why is the government getting bigger? Services, schools, etc. grow as communities grow. Government may grow to 25% of national gross domestic product as opposed to 18% or so previously.*

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community?
- What do you want your community to be?
- Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation'

Refer to the community potential evaluation forms for more details. Comments on the forms include the following:

- ✓ Please continue to allow resource use (forest products, coal, uranium). We do not want to see resources locked up.
- ✓ Renewable resources include hydropower, solar, and self-sustaining coal plants by re-burning methane produced.
- ✓ Environmental Restoration: The importance of cutting aspen with sudden aspen death in order to maintain the local aspen population was discussed. Aspen represent an important tourist draw.
- ✓ Business recruitment: There is a problem with people/businesses recruited into the area then leaving when not successful.
- ✓ Destination tourism: Wineries play a role because tourists come into the area, eat local food, etc. Cultural tourism includes Fort Uncompahgre.
- ✓ Transportation: This is important in Montrose, which is the hub. It is less important for Delta, as it is between Grand Junction and Montrose, but it may be increasing in importance due to lack of strict building codes or zoning regulations.
- ✓ Health care: Montrose is the hub, but medical facilities are also located in Delta.
- ✓ Attract/retain government offices: This can bring extra wealth to the community. It often represents the only source of stable income in the community, as opposed to boom and bust cycles in the oil and gas industry, for example. Others do not think the amount of money that the employees bring into the community offsets the taxes paid.

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community?

- ✓ Barbara Sharrow (BLM) discussed the BLM role in business expansion, particularly for recreation-related business such as outfitters, river recreation, etc.
 - ✓ Some participants are concerned with use of public land infringing on private land (i.e., if a river runs through private land, use of river would impact private land).
 - ✓ One participant says that we can do without the BLM in the community. Others say that people are brought here for the public lands.
 - ✓ Barbara Sharrow (BLM) response: In 1976 Congress decided that it was important that public lands be retained and managed. Therefore, the land use plan is important for the local communities.
- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
 - ✓ Participants feel that private and US Forest Service lands play a larger role in Delta than BLM lands do.
 - ✓ Barbara Sharrow (BLM) discussed the potential link between recreation on BLM lands and local retailers.
 - What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ User fees should not be allowed on BLM land because fees are already paid via taxes.
 - ✓ Many people in the workshop do not want to see government grow and would like to see BLM managed without higher fees. Workshop participants feel strongly about government being too big. They suggest that the US Forest Service and BLM be combined and still have enforcement.
 - ✓ Does the BLM need to enhance opportunities in the local area?

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300; bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

Workshop participants ranked each item listed below as High (3), Medium (2), or Low (1) in importance for future of their local community economy. This activity was done first individually by attendees, second within small groups to facilitate discussion, and lastly by averaging across all groups. Community for this exercise was defined as location of residence or employment. All groups at this workshop represented Delta County. Results for the community potential evaluations of groups were discussed, and comments are included in workshop notes. This form represents the results for groups at this workshop and an average for the communities represented. Overall results are discussed in **Chapter 4**, Socioeconomic Workshops.

Communities A, B, and C: Individuals are from Delta County

	Group			Community
	A	B	C	Delta County average
Agriculture	3	3	3	3.0
Forest Products	2	2	3	2.3
Mining – Coal	3	3	3	3.0
Mining – Uranium	1	2	1	1.3
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	2	2	1	1.7
Energy – Oil and Gas	1	2	2	1.7
Energy – Renewable	2	2	3	2.3
Environmental Restoration	2	1	2	1.7
Business Retention/Expansion	3	3	1	2.3
Local Retail Industry	3	3	1	2.3
Entrepreneurship Development	3	3	3	3.0
Business Recruitment	1	2	3	2.0
Local/Regional Tourism	3	3	3	3.0
Pass-through Visitor Services	3	2	2	2.3
Destination Tourism	2	2+	2	1.3
Cultural Tourism	3	2	3	2.7
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	1	1	3	1.7
Attracting Retirees	2	2	2	2.0
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	2	2	3	2.3
Telecommunications Business	2	2	1	1.7
Health Care	3	3	3	3.0

Bedroom Community	1	2	1	1.3
Attract/Retain Government Offices	3	2	1	2.0



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Hotchkiss, Colorado – Wednesday, March 10, 2010 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Workshop Attendees		
Bruce	Krickbaum	BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Ross	Allen	
Brad	Burritt	Western Slope Environmental Resource Council
Sue	Carter	Nuvmco
Bill	Crank	North Fork River Improvement Association
Gloria	Crank	North Fork Chamber of Commerce
Susan	Hansen	
Wendell	Kooniz	
Robbie	LeValley	Permittee in Hotchkiss
Littlefield	Debra	
Littlefield	Marlin	
Sheila	Maki	Town of Hotchkiss
Robin	Nicholoff	
Mike	Owens	Town of Hotchkiss
Tony	Prendergast	Town of Paonia
Kathy	Welt	Resource Advisory Council
Monica	Wiitanen	Delta County Planning Commission

3. Community Economic Profile

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources
Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.
- Review of the data
- Community feedback on the data
 - ✓ *Participant question: How is the location of where people live reflected in employment data? Response John Martin (Martin Economics): Employment data show where people work only. Look at commuting data for a reflection of where people live in relation to work.*
 - ✓ *A few seasonal vendors live in Delta and take wares to Crested Butte in the summer.*
 - ✓ *Participant question: Is all agriculture income non-labor? Response John Martin (Martin Economics): If you have your own ranch, yes; but any laborer's wages would be counted as labor income.*
 - ✓ *Some participants feel that per capita income seems low for Delta County.*
 - ✓ *Housing: Does vacancy information includes rental properties? How about second homes?*
 - ✓ *Nucla and Powderhorn are possible coal mines on private lands.*
 - ✓ *Participant question: Where do fees for gold panning fall in terms of BLM receipts? There is a \$175 annual fee to initiate, as well as a maintenance fee. Look into where these fees are included.*
 - ✓ *Payments in Lieu of Taxes: Can the BLM find more info on how this is calculated and the role of severance taxes? This would be important for some counties, in particular, Mesa County.*
 - ✓ *Participant comment on planning units: The line between planning units 1 and 2 may not be in the right place. All of the North Fork Valley should be in same unit. It is thought of as one social/economic unit that works with the three local chambers of commerce (Crawford, Paonia, and Hotchkiss). The current planning unit line spits Hotchkiss and Paonia. Suggest that the BLM moves the line to south to so that all three communities are in the same planning unit.*

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community?
- What do you want your community to be?

Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation

The focus of the small group discussions was the North Fork Valley.

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation

Refer to the community potential evaluation forms for group summaries. Specific comments from the forms and discussion by the participants are as follows:

- ✓ *Forestry products were rated lower by one group because they do not want to see clear cutting in the area.*
- ✓ *Coal: One group rated this 2.5 due to an uncertainty about coal mine existence in the future, as the resource may be deleted or new regulations may limit use.*
- ✓ *Uranium: This was rated higher primarily due to the west end of Montrose County.*
- ✓ *Hard rock: Some groups included sand and gravel in hard rock and others did not. This point should be clarified on the evaluation forms.*
- ✓ *Oil and Gas: Groups rated this area lower because they do not want the community overrun by energy development. They are concerned about boom and bust cycles.*
- ✓ *Renewable: Hydropower, biomass, and solar were discussed. Bruce Krickbaum (BLM) comment: Less than 50 acres in the planning area are rated suitable for wind power development.*
- ✓ *Environmental restoration: There is a difference between restoration (pick a point in time and restore to that condition) and reclamation (not to the same level; not ecology focused). Participants considered this more from a natural resource perspective than an economic perspective. The North Fork Valley is economically and socially dependant on healthy lands.*
- ✓ *Role of BLM in retail/business: Some resources on BLM land are well suited for entrepreneurs, for example wood for woodworking. There is a small amount of pine nut gathering.*
- ✓ *Tourism: The majority of tourism is passing through. There is not that much to do in the local area. Hunting and fishing are the main reasons for destination tourism in the area. Cultural tourism has potential in the form of ranching and mine tours (heritage tourism).*
- ✓ *Retirees: Participants feel that they do not need more retirees in the area. The problem with retirees is medical issues. Health care is in Delta and Montrose, not in the North Fork Valley. Retirees are already here, and we do not need to attract more.*
- ✓ *Lone eagles: Ranchers and farmers were defined as sole proprietors here, which influenced the high rating for this category. One small group had business owners as participants; they think that if they can do it, then others should also have the opportunity.*
- ✓ *Health care: One group thinks that it is important but not something that the area should work on.*
- ✓ *Government: Local government, a county annex, and a US Forest Service office in Paonia were considered in the high ranking. This is an important part of the local economy.*
- ✓ *Added categories:*
 - *Cottage industry: Delta County has several industries in people's homes. Some could employ additional people. It is often a transition industry when trying out a new business.*
 - *Ecosystem maintenance: Public lands provide environmental maintenance (e.g., clean air and water). Ecosystem maintaince examines management of the whole ecosystem rather than single species management. BLM's role in ecosystem maintenance is to monitor the*

health of the land at the landscape level . BLM should consider the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act (ie. managing at the species level) as compared to managing at the ecosystem level.

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community?

- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
 - ✓ *Public lands are very important for the local community.*
- What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ *Renewable energy development is an important area in which partnerships could be formed.*
 - ✓ *Livestock grazing probably impacts a larger amount of acres than any other single industry in the areas. In the past the BLM has gone to great lengths to work with agriculture industry to determine the future impacts etc. This seems to have changed recently as livestock grazing has taken a second seat to recreational use. This is a conflict with these issues in some cases. All has to be continually discussed and considered in the planning process. Consider ways that both uses can be allowed but not conflicting with each other*
 - ✓ *Suggestion- BLM need to keep coming to the table, participating in local meeting of local government as well as interest groups. One participant suggest that BLM attend quarterly meetings of local communities.*

Other information sources:

- ✓ *Study of US Forest Service and BLM allotments looked at the number of acres of private land held plus leased land, which totals 50%. This was done by Colorado State University and the US Forest Service during the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests' planning process in 2002 and 2005. A workshop participant committed to emailing this study to the BLM.*
- ✓ *The IMPLAN model as applied to socioeconomic modeling does not consider non-economic values. See the study "Ecosystem Services – their value and use in public land planning," which was provided by a workshop participant.*
- ✓ *Participant comment: If IMPLAN is used, then information would need to be regionalized (for example, no automobile production here). Most models use secondary data due to cost and complications of doing a primary study. Does IMPLAN account for negative influences of any actions (e.g., pollution from a coal mine)? If not, then BLM should use a different source or supplement information obtained with models.*

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300;
bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

Workshop participants ranked each item listed below as High (3), Medium (2), or Low (1) in importance for future of their local community economy. This activity was done first individually by attendees, second within small groups to facilitate discussion, and lastly by averaging across all groups. Community for this exercise was defined as location of residence or employment. All groups at this workshop represented the North Fork Valley in Delta County. Results for the community potential evaluations of groups were discussed, and comments are included in workshop notes. This form represents the results for groups at this workshop and an average for the communities represented. Overall results are discussed in **Chapter 4**, Socioeconomic Workshops.

Groups A, B, and C: Individuals are from the North Fork Valley (Hotchkiss/Paonia)

	Group			Community
	A	B	C	North Fork Valley average
Agriculture	3	3	3	3.0
Forest Products	3	3	2	2.7
Mining – Coal	3	3	2.5	2.8
Mining – Uranium	1	1.5	1	1.2
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	2	1	1	1.3
Energy – Oil and Gas	2	2	1.5	1.8
Energy – Renewable	2	3	3	2.7
Environmental Restoration	2	3	3	2.7
Business Retention/Expansion	3	3	3	3.0
Local Retail Industry	3	3	3	3.0
Entrepreneurship Development	3	2	2	2.3
Business Recruitment	2	2	2	2.0
Local/Regional Tourism	3	2	3	2.7
Pass-through Visitor Services	2	2	3	2.3
Destination Tourism	2	2	2	2.0
Cultural Tourism	3	2	2	2.3
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	1	1	1	1.0
Attracting Retirees	1	2	2	1.7
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	3	2	3	2.7
Telecommunications Business	2	2	2	2.0

Health Care	3	3	2	2.7
Bedroom Community	1	1	1	1.0
Attract/Retain Government Offices	3	2	3	2.7
Other: Cottage Industry	3			3
Other: Sand/Gravel			2	2
Other: Ecosystem Maintenance		3		3



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Montrose, Colorado – Tuesday, March 9, 2010 (1:30–4:30 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Barbara Sharrow (BLM) Provided intro to socioeconomics workshops: This workshop represents a new method of public involvement to aid in socioeconomic data gathering and assist in the RMP planning process

John Martin (Martin Economics, workshop facilitator) John provided overview and agenda.

Workshop Attendees

Barbara	Sharrow	BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Field Office Manager
Bruce	Krickbaum	Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Kristine	Bagnara	City of Montrose Planning Commission
Gary	Baker	City of Montrose
John	Baldus	
Sue	Carter	Nuvmco
Gary	Ellis	Montrose County
Ralph	Files	
Jim	Free	
Lee	Fyock	Gunnison Energy Corporation
Gary	Garver	City of Montrose
Andy	Goldman	City of Montrose
Jim	Hanson	
Scott	Harold	City of Olathe

Ronald	Henderson	
Kerwin	Jensen	City of Montrose
Lana	Kinsey	Montrose County Planning Commission
Linda	Lutner	San Miguel County
Dennis	Murphy	Montrose County Planning Commission
Tammy	Randall Parker	US Forest Service
John	Reams	Western Small Miners Association
Andrea	Robinson	
Eric	Sanford	SG
Kristin	Scuderi	Montrose County
Jesse	Smith	Montrose County
Jedd	Sondergard	
Jenni	Sopsic	Montrose Association of Commerce and Tourism
Willie	Swowda	COA
Wayne	Trounce	City of Olathe
David	White	Montrose County
Steve	White	Montrose County
Brian	Wilson	Montrose County

3. Community Economic Profile

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources

Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Some highlights of the data are included below. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

- ✓ *Population: There was little growth in the population from 1980 to 1990 and has been much more growth from the 1990s to present day. This has been due in part to in-migration and natural resources extraction.*
- ✓ *Age: Most counties in the area are populated by older (older average age) residents than the rest of the state.*
- ✓ *Ethnicity/Origin: Mesa and Montrose Counties are more diverse. The significant minority group is Hispanic/Latino.*
- ✓ *Major industries include government, construction, transportation, and agriculture for some counties.*
- ✓ *Unemployment: The rate is lower than the national average.*

- ✓ Location of work to residence: Delta and Ouray have the highest commuting rates.
- ✓ Income: There is labor and non-labor income. High non-labor income is prevalent in Delta and Ouray Counties. This may be due to the high numbers of entrepreneurs and retirees.
- ✓ Per capita income: Other than Ouray and San Miguel Counties, per capita income is about 85% of the national average. Ouray and San Miguel Counties are above the state average.
- ✓ Household income needed to buy a house: This is increasing, especially in certain counties. There is a high vacancy rate in San Miguel and Gunnison Counties because of investment properties.
- ✓ Natural resources:
 - Agriculture: Delta, Mesa, and Montrose Counties are higher.
 - Coal: There is a coal plant in Montrose County that is not shown because it is not on BLM land.

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community?
 - What do you want your community to be?
 - Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation
- The boundaries for the community potential evaluation were future desired conditions.

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation

See the results of the community potential evaluation forms for details from the small group discussions. The participants at this workshop were from across Montrose County, as well as a few from San Miguel and Delta Counties. Groups that formed for small group discussion included Montrose County, the North Fork Valley, and San Miguel County. The differences between these groups was noted in the following discussion:

- ✓ Agriculture was rated high for all groups.
- ✓ Local retail was rated high for all groups.
- ✓ Tourism was ranked high by all groups: it is good for the community as long as does not result in an influx of people moving to the area.
- ✓ Destination tourism: Areas need something else to attract people. From the Montrose airport, approximately 80% of people are leaving the community; in summer this number is closer to 50%.
- ✓ Recreation: more could be developed for some areas with activities such as bicycling races, etc.
- ✓ Cultural tourism: Opportunities noted in the area include the Ute Museum, Dominguez Canyon, ghost towns, mining towns, and the Southwest Colorado heritage program. Delta County has a dinosaur recovery site, but it is not publicized due to fear of disturbance.
- ✓ Lone eagles: These are viewed differently in the different communities.
- ✓ Government: This is viewed differently in different communities.

Question: Does BLM have fees for different uses of public lands?

Response from John Martin (Martin Economics): The BLM does have special areas with fees where you pay at the trailhead. A participant suggested that the BLM simplify fee collection.

Comment: A large number of people live in the area due to recreation opportunities, but it is not covered on the community potential evaluation. The same applies to higher education, which brings in more degrees and money to the local economy.

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community?

Note: Follow-up information gathered via email from workshop participants after the workshops is also included verbatim.

- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
 - ✓ *Socio-economic impacts of Montrose County on the BLM, and the BLM on Montrose County, are deeply intertwined and in fact, inseparable both as to the lifestyle we enjoy as well as several business ramifications using the resources of the BLM on the West and East flanks of the Uncompahgre National Forest. Montrose County has not fully arrived at its practical potential as a legitimate recreational playground for the local population. Montrose County can be a destination recreational site for the traveling USA, World, public, seeking that which they cannot find anywhere but in Montrose County BLM Lands. Public and US Forest Service lands account for 74+% of the land mass in Montrose County. The BLM and Montrose County have valuable properties including: Mineral sources, biomass sources, recreational opportunities, , ecological preservation & continuance of flora and fauna, scenic Vistas, Grazing for domestic and wild creatures, water Management for Montrose, role in County's transportation plan (connectivity of the East and West portions of Montrose County), Catastrophe fire mitigation, AND much more*
 - ✓ *Resources on public lands are important.. Our security as a nation is also tied to these very concepts. To put a price on these values is not possible, their value is immeasurable for obvious reasons. To create jobs that originate in Montrose County have a much larger multiplier impact than those that don't, but secondary jobs are an essential contributor.*
 - ✓ *Montrose County is definitely different from Ouray and San Miguel Counties in what we have to offer geologically as well as the socio-economic differences. How Montrose County, BLM, and the National Forest work with these differences will make ALL THE DIFFERENCE to the Nation and the County Residents in enjoying the lifestyle available here.*
 - ✓ *Montrose County has a large amount of BLM, which limits land available for residential or commercial development (pros and cons; frankly, my opinion is that some of these limits are good).*
 - ✓ *The City of Montrose is committed to the economic development of this community. People often think that public land recreation helps attract tourists. That may be, but I believe the main benefit of nearby public land recreation is attracting and retaining companies and employees. Many of the people I know would not live here if public land weren't available for hiking, biking, and motorized recreation. The Peach Valley area, Spring Creek Canyon, Dry Creek Canyon, etc. give people a quick dose of solitude and fun just outside the city limits.*
 - ✓ *The town of Olathe's main economy is agricultural related. We pride ourselves on being the place for those types of jobs. We also feel our small town is affordable to those in related industries that do not require college degrees and thus higher annual salaries. That being said, most of our citizens both in town and in the surrounding area don't have the economic status to take large out of state and out of country vacations or trips. They rely on our local activities and destinations for their leisure time. BLM and National Forests are a very large part of this activity. I have heard from many locals that use trails and areas for*

their personal "getaways". This includes all-terrain vehicle, horse and foot traffic. As you know from other meetings and public input, often these different uses have different viewpoints on "how" to use these public lands. Continue to develop those resources and let the Town know when there is going to be public meetings about changes and we will get the word out!

- What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ Many people are here for the open space views and the outdoor activities. The more that the BLM can work with the local municipalities to foster and support income-producing work (whether guided fly-fishing, gold-panning, hiking, unique eco-tourism, gem stone mining...), the more people will value BLM.
 - ✓ All the communities (in the area) enjoy the open space that the public lands provided out their backdoor. The more the BLM can work with the counties and communities in providing access to these close in parcels the higher lifestyle values can be achieved. This means that some of these parcels are no longer multiple use. The open space will need to be withdrawn from minerals other commodity type outputs. Work with the local recreation districts or communities to adopt these parcels for outdoor classrooms.
 - ✓ My experience has been that it's very difficult to get significant numbers of people engaged in meetings, discussion groups, etc. People do get engaged if they see a direct impact to them. Yet many are cynical of the politicians. It's important that key leaders and stakeholders participate, yet they need to demonstrate that they listen.
 - ✓ The BLM lands are very important to the Uncompahgre Plateau Project in looking at landscape restoration objectives. Health native plant communities provide for multi outputs. We have and continue to loss the carrying capacity of the land.
 - ✓ The heavy woody overstory vegetation continues to reduce the carrying capacity for wildlife, livestock and water yield. etc. Much of the mountain shrub/pinyon-juniper country is so thick one can't ride thru it on a horse or crawl thru on foot. BLM needs to be more aggressive in creating the mosaic serial stages across the landscape. Invasive species management is a given. The synergy between the BLM and Uncompahgre Plateau Project is excellent. We just need to continue to make it happen.
 - ✓ Woody Biomass should be higher on the BLM's economic radar screen. If the Nucla power plant coverts to using some woody biomass (it is closer than you think) the opportunity to accomplish resource objectives will be right out your back door. Need to jump on board with our biomass assessment study. The need for Native Plants to follow treatments will come next and then comes the need for good seed storage. The Uncompahgre Plateau Project has a project under way to bring all the agencies together to accomplish a seed warehouse facility. Can the BLM become a partner?
 - ✓ An all season road from the West of Montrose County to the East would enhance recreational and commercial ventures in all of the BLM and Private Lands in Montrose County. The BLM Lands in Montrose County will contribute to a strong national, state, and local economy through the holistic use of the resources available now and soon to be in the future.
 - ✓ Mission critical communications is key to the partnership between Montrose county and the BLM. Mutual recognition of the value of a closely communicated relationship would and is a powerful tool. Working together, we can mutually promote and direct the activity that takes place on the BLM Lands in Montrose County to the benefit of the largest portion of

potential participants. Montrose County can be most especially helpful to the BLM by working in and with the private sector promoting communication and information.

- ✓ *The possible designation of Wild And Scenic Rivers on the San Miguel as it flows through Montrose County would be a huge blow to maintaining the agricultural/ranching flavor found there as well as impairing municipal and commercial growth and/or maintenance in that area of Montrose County.*
- ✓ *The BLM should initiate communications with the City of Montrose and other economic development organizations to discuss the options and look into the feasibility of recreation development options. It seems to me that most local officials aren't aware of the possibilities. I've noticed other communities have extensively developed nearby BLM lands for trails and other recreation pursuits, and have marketed these lands effectively. Information describing the experiences of successful communities would be very helpful.*
- ✓ *I think BLM's first responsibility is maintaining the public lands as best you can in a healthy natural state for the benefit of wildlife and natural values. High rankings on the community assessment form for agriculture should not be interpreted by BLM as justifying grazing on the public lands to the detriment of wildlife and other natural values. The same would be true of recreation etc.*
- ✓ *I would appreciate keeping Olathe on your list as an interested party as I think we have a lot of traffic that comes through Olathe to get to Public lands. Going both east and west from Olathe to get to those public lands. We want to make sure the traveling public knows that Olathe has gas stations, convenience stores, a great hardware store with needed camping, fishing and RVing supplies, a grocery store for all their needs and some excellent restaurants. If we can help in any way with signage or displays or anything along that line, we welcome your input.*

Additional Sources of Information:

- ✓ *Another source is the school districts. They can tell you that over 50% of school children are on free and reduced lunch and that Olathe loses X percent of their population during winter months. School district information is current (the gap is that it doesn't cover the retiree population).*
- ✓ *Montrose County is completing our own socio-economic study which will be available soon which Montrose County will gladly provide a copy.*

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300; bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

Workshop participants ranked each item listed below as High (3), Medium (2), or Low (1) in importance for future of their local community economy. This activity was done first individually by attendees, second within small groups to facilitate discussion, and lastly by averaging across all groups. Community for this exercise was defined as location of residence or employment. All groups at this workshop represented Montrose County with some discussion of the planning area at large in group D. Results for the community potential evaluations of groups were discussed, and comments are included in workshop notes. This form represents the results for groups at this workshop and an average for the communities represented. Overall results are discussed in **Chapter 4**, Socioeconomic Workshops.

Community A: Montrose County

Community B: Montrose County

Community C: Montrose County

Community D: Montrose County and the planning area

	Group				Community
	A	B	C	D	Montrose County Average
Agriculture	3	3	3	3	3.0
Forest Products	3	2	2	2	2.3
Mining – Coal	2	2	2	3	2.3
Mining – Uranium	3	3	2	1	2.3
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	1	1	2	1	1.3
Energy – Oil and Gas	1	2	2	2	1.8
Energy – Renewable	2	2	2	2	2.0
Environmental Restoration	3	2	2	3	2.5
Business Retention/Expansion	3	3	3	2	2.8
Local Retail Industry	3	3	3	3	3.0
Entrepreneurship Development	3	3	2	3	2.8
Business Recruitment	3	2	3	2	2.5
Local/Regional Tourism	3	3	3	3	3.0
Pass-through Visitor Services	3	3	2	1	2.3
Destination Tourism	3	3	3	3	3.0
Cultural Tourism	3	2	2	3	2.5
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	3	3	3	1	2.5
Attracting Retirees	2	2	2	1	1.8
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	3	3	1	1	2.0
Telecommunications Business	2	2	2	1	1.8

Health Care	3	3	3	3	3.0
Bedroom Community	1	1	1	1	1.0
Attract/Retain Government Offices	2	3	3	1	2.3
Other: Higher Education			3		3
Other: Recreation				3	3



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Naturita, Colorado – Wednesday, March 17, 2010 (2:30 – 5:30 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Workshop Attendees		
Bruce	Krickbaum	Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Richard	Craig	Town of Nucla
Chris	Daniels	Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce
Yvette	Henson	Colorado State University Extension
Debra	Lear	Town of Naturita
Christina	Pierce	Town of Nucla
Dianna	Reams	Western Small Miners Association
Jeff	Sonnenberg	Town of Nucla
Paul	Szilagy	Nuvmco
Marty	Warner	

3. Community Economic Profile

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources
Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

- Community feedback on the data. Comments on data included the following:
 - ✓ *Leakage: Shopping for large purposes occurs in other locations (such as Montrose and Grand Junction).*
 - ✓ *Age: The area has an older population. Population is somewhat limited by the location of medical facilities.*
 - ✓ *Ethnic Diversity: Montrose County's diversity is mainly reflected in the eastern part of the county and not the western part.*
 - ✓ *Commuting data: The west side of Montrose County has people that commute to Telluride to work.*
 - ✓ *Unemployment data: Unemployment may have gone up more recently. One participant suggests that Mesa County's unemployment rate is now as high as 12%. Suggests that there is locally a 10-month lag compared to the national average in terms of unemployment numbers.*
 - ✓ *Income: Non-labor income may include much of the local agriculture community as many of those people are self employed. Median income data may be influenced by a small number of people with very high incomes. Some factors are more expensive here due to the higher cost of gas. This influences the cost of goods due to higher transportation costs.*
 - ✓ *Housing: Until 2008, it was difficult to find housing. More recently, the amount of vacancies has increased. Montrose County's east side has more of a tie to Telluride and vacation communities; there are some vacancies in that area that may reflect second homes.*
 - ✓ *Agriculture: The importance of local market crop growth is increasing in the area. Livestock grazing is still the more important factor.*
 - ✓ *Oil and Gas: There is currently no oil or gas in Montrose County. The local feeling is that the resource is there but access is needed to drill on public lands.*
 - ✓ *Coal: There is a local mine (New Horizon Mine) on private land for the local power plant. The power plant is a 105-megawatt plant, and its power goes to the local grid. The mine and power plant are cooperatives. Coal is trucked between the mine and plant. The plant is cleaner operating than a traditional plant and was designed to burn rubbish; therefore, there is the potential for future use with biofuels.*
 - ✓ *Land status: Participants discussed subsurface mineral rights and the role of the BLM in subsurface management of minerals on federal lands, as well as on some private lands.*

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community?
- What do you want your community to be?
- Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation

The area of emphasis for the community potential evaluations was western Montrose County and San Miguel County. Refer to the community potential evaluation forms for future desired conditions for the community.

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation

Refer to the community potential evaluations for details. Comments on the evaluation include:

- ✓ *Agriculture: Livestock is very important to the local area. There is the potential use of algae for biofuel, but these do not play a big role in the local economy. There is a local farmers market.*
- ✓ *Forest products: Include post and pole, firewood, pellets, and fuels management, especially in areas affected by beetle kill.*
- ✓ *Coal mining: Important to area.*
- ✓ *Uranium: Especially important to this area. Participants wanted a higher rating than is available on the evaluation form.*
- ✓ *Hard rock: There are still some placer claims in the area. Mined mineral include silver, platinum, and gold.*
- ✓ *Oil and Gas: Rated high, although there is no existing production. Oil and gas companies with offices in San Miguel County are good corporate neighbors.*
- ✓ *Renewable Energy: Not cost effective yet, therefore rated low.*
- ✓ *Environ Restoration: This sector was rated high. Mine closures in particular are important.*
- ✓ *Business retention and expansion: Participants want to stop economic “leakage” out of the area. If local business go out of business, then there are no other options. The grocery store in Nucla was closed for some time and resulted in higher prices and difficulties for residents. The next closest store is in Norwood.*
- ✓ *Entrepreneurship development: Rated important but not most important. Participants had trouble thinking of business ventures that would work here.*
- ✓ *Business recruitment: Need to continue to try to get businesses here. Many have closed within the last three years.*
- ✓ *Tourism: Not seen as the area’s strong suit, as the area is not believed to have much destination tourism. A possible exception is hunting and mine tours. There is an effort to get a museum at Uravan. Petroglyphs on BLM land are a potential for cultural tourism. Some participants do not want bicyclists due to concerns about safety on roads; they do want special treatment for bicyclists or other recreational users over resource users. Participants expressed concerns about the BLM’s travel management planning process.*
- ✓ *Retirees: Want more retirees to bring in social security money.*
- ✓ *Lone eagles: Not rated high.*
- ✓ *Telecommunications: Viewed as very important for the remote area. There is a small private company that has cell phone service that is a very important support function for the area.*
- ✓ *Medical: The medical sector was rated high, but participants realize that large medical facilities are not likely in the area. There is currently a clinic and emergency care.*
- ✓ *Transportation: The airport is important for the area. If it were expanded, it would add jobs to the community. Airport was added with a ranking of “3” on the evaluation form.*

- ✓ *Government offices: Want to keep existing offices and get back the ones that they have lost. If these offices are not around, then they have to go to Montrose for services.*

Additional Categories Added:

- ✓ *Light manufacturing: Defined as more than one to two people (e.g, electronics).*
- ✓ *Construction: Housing and infrastructure for the town are important. Water is not the issue that it is in Norwood. Naturita is only at 60% capacity for water usage, assuming no major changes due to in-stream flow rights.*
- ✓ *Other important sectors: A youth center or some kind of programs for kids are important. There are few opportunities and a limited ability to pay and parent participation. Participants discussed the potential role of the BLM in environmental education in local schools.*

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community?

- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
 - ✓ *There are too many regulations by all governmental agencies. If there is a way to lift some restrictions or be more cooperative with users, then this would benefit the local community.*
 - ✓ *The local area's economy is 100% tied to the BLM. Ranching and mining are critical to this area, so anything that the BLM can do to allow for these uses is critical due to the large amount of BLM acreage in the area. Other activities are also related. For example, the local telecommunications line requires BLM involvement. The participants suggested that some land tenure changes may be appropriate around town.*
 - ✓ *Participants are concerned about how travel management decisions by the BLM could impact future mining opportunities.*
 - ✓ *Local residents feel that they have been unfairly labeled as "anti-environmentalists." They feel that this is unfair, as they are local stewards of the land as they are surrounded by it and live here. Ranchers in particular have an important role in local land management.*
- What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ *Participant Question: How do you decide the weight of the local community comments versus the national agendas of the BLM?*
 – *Bruce Krickbaum (BLM) response: There is no easy answer. The BLM collects comments and determines the issues of highest concern and attempts to achieve a balance.*
 - ✓ *Participant Question: Concern is that local residents feel that sometimes they provide lots of input but that their comments do not have weight. They feel that their views are often in direct opposition to other areas (i.e., Telluride) and that groups representing these areas may get more attention despite the fact that the economy here is directly tied to management decisions on public land due to the high amounts of public land in this part of the county.*
 – *Bruce Krickbaum (BLM) response: Bruce discussed the RMP revision process and the local representatives that are involved in the process through the Southwest Resource Advisory Council, Resource Advisory Council subcommittee, and the Cooperating Agencies.*
 - ✓ *Another participant emphasized the point that the role of the public lands in western Montrose County is a "bread and butter" role with direct effects on means of living, as opposed to the role of public lands as a "play place" for different areas in the UFO, such as Telluride.*
 - ✓ *Participant expressed the concern that local input will be overridden from BLM Washington Office decisions.*

- ✓ *The participants know that resource use, particularly for the resources available in the area, are not always popular with neighboring communities, but it is what they have locally (to support the local economy), and the neighboring communities do not provide them alternative resources.*
- ✓ *A participant expressed a desire for planning that reflects the local needs rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.*
 - *Bruce Krickbaum (BLM) explained the role of the planning units, which are defined to reflect areas with similar concerns. This may allow for different objectives/management for these different planning units.*

- **Additional information**

Information provided includes a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on Montrose County economic impacts of mining. A draft study is to be released soon.

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300; bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

Workshop participants ranked each item listed below as High (3), Medium (2), or Low (1) in importance for future of their local community economy. This activity was done first individually by attendees, second within small groups to facilitate discussion, and lastly by averaging across all groups. Community for this exercise was defined as location of residence or employment. All groups at this workshop represented the Nucla-Naturita area in western Montrose County. Results for the community potential evaluations of groups were discussed, and comments are included in workshop notes. This form represents the results for groups at this workshop and an average for the communities represented. Overall results are discussed in **Chapter 4, Socioeconomic Workshops**.

Group A and B: Western Montrose County

	Group		Community
	A	B	Nucla - Naturita (Western Montrose County) average
Agriculture	3	3	3.0
Forest Products	2.5	3	2.8
Mining – Coal	3	3	3.0
Mining – Uranium	3	3	3.0
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	3	3	3.0
Energy – Oil and Gas	3	3	3.0
Energy – Renewable	1	2	1.5
Environmental Restoration	2	3	2.5
Business Retention/Expansion	3	3	3.0
Local Retail Industry	3	3	3.0
Entrepreneurship Development	2	3	2.5
Business Recruitment	2.5	2	2.3
Local/Regional Tourism	1	2	1.5
Pass-through Visitor Services	1	2	1.5
Destination Tourism	1	2	1.5
Cultural Tourism	2	2	2.0
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	1	1	1.0
Attracting Retirees	1	2	1.5
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	1	1	1.0
Telecommunications Business	2	3	2.5

Health Care	3	3	3.0
Bedroom Community	2	1	1.5
Attract/Retain Government Offices	1	3	2.0
Other: Light Manufacturing		2	2
Other: Construction		3	3



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Norwood, Colorado – Wednesday, March 17, 2010 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Workshop Attendees

Bruce	Krickbaum	Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Lance	Brae	Brae ranches, located in Naturita canyon to
Zandon	Brae	Norwood. BLM land intermixed with private land on ranch. Also have hunting operation in fall on private land.
Joe	Regan	Town of Norwood. Owns horse breeding/training/boarding company

3. Community Economic Profile

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources

Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

- Community feedback on the data

Comments on data presented include the following:

- ✓ Age: The lower median age in San Miguel County may be due to the lack of local medical facilities.
- ✓ Employment sectors: Mining has a presence more in Montrose County than in San Miguel County. San Miguel County has natural gas production. Jobs in this field would also be represented in the construction segment. A local excavator did much of the construction work, such as creating pads, for natural gas drilling in the area.
- ✓ Uranium operations play a role in Montrose County. Once the proposed mill (Pinyon Mill) is operational, then we may see an increased influence on the local economy.
- ✓ Construction: Telluride draws from whole county for housing/building construction when economic times are good.
- ✓ Housing:
 - Telluride influences housing prices throughout the area.
 - Wrights Mesa population growth and inventory of houses is almost 100% related to water availability issues. Until this issue is solved, population growth will be limited. If housing inventory is increased, then housing prices would go down. The issue is municipal water supply problems due to cost of systems to clean water and lack of water rights owned by the town. In-stream flow requirements impact availability as well.
- ✓ Natural Resources:
 - Oil Production: None in Montrose County; San Miguel County has some oil in the Hagner area.
 - Natural gas: Production may increase in the future due to pipeline under construction. There are no current producing wells in Montrose County.
 - Coal is found in the Naturita area but on private lands, not on BLM lands.

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community? (some information taken from other points of discussion)
 - ✓ The predominant ecological model in Norwood is agriculture. Agriculture tends to remain a relatively stable component of the local economy. Not many ranches totally lay off their workforce, even in bad economic times. The other part of the population in Norwood

primarily works in Telluride in retail and other service areas. This segment of the population suffers more in economic downturns.

- ✓ There are many close similarities between western Montrose County and western San Miguel County. The Norwood, Nucla, and Naturita area (Wrights Mesa) is more of a community than that laid out by county boundaries. Participants recommend that chambers of commerce can be sources for information for cases such as this when counties do not accurately display local statistics.
- ✓ Recreation plays a minor role in the local economy. This region has some fishing, hunting, etc. These activities may bring in money to local communities for public land hunting. Hunting and fishing activities do include some destination tourism.

- What do you want your community to be?
Refer to community potential evaluations.

- Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation
The area of interest for the community potential evaluations was Western San Miguel County and western Montrose County. Due to small attendance size, no group discussions were held for Norwood. Community potential evaluations were filled out individually and discussed as a group.

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation

See community potential evaluation from for consensus results for each category. Discussion comments for evaluation items are:

- ✓ Participants noted the ideological split in the county: Agricultural issues are on top of the list of community in Norwood, and environmental issues would be on the top of this list in Telluride.
- ✓ Forestry products: not much current cutting in area. Most of use is area is post and pole, firewood etc.
- ✓ Coal mining: there is more in other parts of San Miguel County.
- ✓ Uranium: rated high based on the assumption of opening of Pinyon mine. The environmental community in the area is very opposed to the Pinyon mine. There is tension from this mine; Telluride is trying to dictate the decisions made in San Miguel County.
- ✓ Hard Rock Minerals: sand and gravel led to higher rating here.
- ✓ All mining: rated high due to potential for local employment.
- ✓ Renewables: Potential for opportunities, but not really sure what they are. Wind power? One participant thinks there is opportunity, but there are high capital costs and would require financial partnerships. Solar power is similar with a potential but high start-up costs. The low population density makes a large-scale project unlikely due to the need for transmission for use. Environmental groups often object to wind farms, etc. due to visual impacts.
- ✓ Business retention: The business environment makes it difficult to start new businesses. Norwood is not in an area that is on a travel route. You have to want to drive this direction. This limits business development opportunities but also provides some positive quality of life factors (e.g., no fast food).
- ✓ Local retail: you will not have much unless you have a population increase.
- ✓ Business recruitment: Mining would help the local economy. Companies could be brought in from out of state. There is a chamber of commerce but no local development council.

- ✓ *Destination tourism: Tourism/recreation drives economies but the draw is much more to the Telluride area, not Wrights Mesa. Participants are not opposed to tourism. Western way of life (hunting/fishing/ranching) attracts tourists, but it will take time for this to be more developed. The area is not advertised, and there is some sense of the locals that “I don’t want a bunch of people from California.” Hunting and fishing attract tourists now. There is the potential for ranching tourism to increase in the future as fewer places have active ranching.*
- ✓ *Health care: There are clinics in Norwood and also Naturita, but you need to go to Montrose for more complicated medical needs. Grand Junction has the better medical care in the area. Hunting licenses have search and rescue fee attached for search and rescue needs.*
- ✓ *Bedroom community: Norwood acts as a bedroom community for some who work in Telluride.*
- ✓ *Attract/Retain Government: County seat of San Miguel is in Telluride. Some departments are in other locations.*
- ✓ *Lone eagles: Participants note that it is often hard to attract new people to the area unless they have ties to the area (e.g., family).*

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community?

- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
- What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ *Recreation potential is #1. Big game hunting is especially important in the area. The Uncompahgre Plateau is a big area for this. Much of this area is public land. Participant believes that some restrictions are okay and there should not be free reign for off-highway vehicles, but that public property should be open and accessible. A good example where management prohibits this is Colorado Division of Wildlife lands, which are great areas but cannot be accessed, especially by older residents. There is also limited ability to access them via horseback or walking.*
 - ✓ *Other recreational opportunities: Mountain biking. Some opportunities, but information is limited. Opportunities need to be publicized more.*
 - ✓ *Water Quality: Agricultural activity can decrease water quality, but it is not the only factor that impacts water quality. For Norwood, the US Forest Service is attempting to remove livestock from certain watershed areas for water quality protection, but participant thinks that this is not needed. He suggests that BLM should not follow this same route of removing grazing allotments.*
 - ✓ *The BLM should be aware that any time use of public land is changed, the first reaction the ranching community will have is “how does this affect our grazing.” Participant thinks wilderness area designations are a big mistake. Ranchers want to graze and hunt; this requires motorized access. Some of the fear about changes to BLM management and the RMP revision is a knee-jerk reaction, so the BLM needs to take the time to explain the changes and make sure that the ranching community understands how they will be impacted. Ranchers play an important role in stewardship of the land; they are interested in preserving the land. Careful grazing (not overgrazing) can have positive impacts for wildlife habitat and land health. Current BLM access is better than current US Forest Service access. Ranchers pay fees to graze the land and need good local range manager in order to get your money’s worth per animal unit month. There is no one-size-fits-all*

approach that will be effective for range management. One participant locally works with Mr. Dean Stindt (BLM UFO) and thinks that he does a good job.

✓ *Summary: Multiple use of public lands is important; access is critical.*

- Other sources of info

✓ *Participants are not aware of any other sources of information.*

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300; bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

Workshop participants ranked each item listed below as High (3), Medium (2), or Low (1) in importance for future of their local community economy. This activity was done first individually by attendees, and secondly by averaging across individual responses. and Community for this exercise was defined as location of residence or employment. All individuals at this workshop represented the town of Norwood and the surrounding area. Results for the community potential evaluations of groups were discussed, and comments are included in workshop notes. This form represents the results for groups at this workshop and an average for the communities represented. Overall results are discussed in **Chapter 4**, Socioeconomic Workshops.

Groups A, B, and C: All individuals are from the town of Norwood

	Group			Community
	A	B	C	Norwood area (western San Miguel County) average
Agriculture	3	3	3	3
Forest Products	2	2	2	2
Mining – Coal	3	1	3	2.3
Mining – Uranium	3	3	3	3.0
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	2	1	3	2.0
Energy – Oil and Gas	3	3	3	3.0
Energy – Renewable	2	2	2	2.0
Environmental Restoration	2	2	2	2.0
Business Retention/Expansion	2	3	2	2.3
Local Retail Industry	1	2	1	1.3
Entrepreneurship Development	2	2	1	1.7
Business Recruitment	2	2	2	2.0
Local/Regional Tourism	2	2	2	2.0
Pass-through Visitor Services	1	2	1	1.3
Destination Tourism	1	2	2	1.7
Cultural Tourism	1	2	1	1.3
Transportation Hub/Warehousing		2	1	1.0
Attracting Retirees	1	2	1	1.3
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	1	2	1	1.3
Telecommunications Business	1	1	1	1.0

Health Care	1	3	1	1.7
Bedroom Community	1	3	1	1.7
Attract/Retain Government Offices	2	3	1	2.0



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE



Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan Revision and EIS ECONOMIC WORKSHOPS

Ridgway, Colorado – Tuesday, March 16, 2010 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify local economic and social issues, conditions, and trends, including relationships between communities and BLM lands
- Identify desired local economic and social conditions
- Identify opportunities to advance local economies and social goals through planning decisions, within the authority of BLM or other partners
- Identify partnerships with local communities, organizations, and cooperating agencies
- Identify important sources of information regarding social and economic issues

1. Welcome

2. Introductions and Logistics

Workshop Attendees		
Bruce	Krickbaum	Planning & Environmental Coordinator and RMP project lead
Bill	Bottomly	West Slope Mediation and Facilitation, LLC
Zoe	Ghali	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi)
John	Martin	Martin Economics
Greg	Clifton	Town of Ridgway
Kelly	Crane	
Joan	May	San Miguel County
Sue	McIntosh	
Keith	Meinert	Ouray County
Lynn	Padgett	Ouray County
Ed	Page	Colorado State University Extension
Gordon	Reichard	
Bob	Risch	
Greg	Sparks	
Bill	Steele	Public Lands Partnership
Jim	Stephenson	
Paul	Szilagy	Nuvmco
Dee	Williams	
Pat	Willits	

3. Community Economic Profile – Focus on San Miguel and Ouray Counties

- How communities function

The static rain barrel model was presented as a model of a simple economy. In this model, water represents economic prosperity. Leakages out of the local economy occur due to purchasing goods outside of the area or when high school graduates leave the area. Input can occur when people bring investment income, transfer receipts, or income from other sources to the area. The key to economic prosperity locally is to retain or capture as many dollars as possible in the local economy.

- Snapshot of the data and identification of data sources

Data were provided for study area socioeconomic conditions by county. Sources of data include that from the Headwaters Economic Profile System, US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, and other local sources. Data were presented for population and future population projection, age of population, and racial and ethnic background of residents. Information on employment sectors, long-term employment trends, unemployment numbers, and commuting was also provided. Income, poverty, and housing affordability were also discussed. Natural resource economic data for the area, including agricultural and oil and gas production data were presented. BLM land ownership and specific contributions to the local economy, such as receipts from coal, were discussed. Refer to the economic workshop Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for additional details.

- Community feedback on the data.

Comments on data presented include the following:

- ✓ Leakage: Residents of Ouray and San Miguel Counties go outside for shopping, which represents leakage.
- ✓ Population: High growth rate but still overall low population.
- ✓ Age: Young people leave the area; retired people move to the area.
- ✓ Unemployment: Participant questioned the reason for the high unemployment rates in 1990.
- ✓ Ouray County: 1990 unemployment rate at 9.7%. Mines had already closed at this point so not a likely factor. This period was just before the Telluride construction boom. Region-wide economic downturn is the most likely explanation.
- ✓ Work and residence: Commuting time is higher for Ouray County, as people travel to Montrose to work.
- ✓ Income: Average per capita income is higher than state and national Averages. What does median info for per capita income look like? How does it compare with cost of living?
- ✓ Housing: Participants note that San Miguel County has over 6,000 homes and only 7,000 residents. This helps to explain the high rates of vacant homes if these numbers include homes that are occupied only a small percentage of the year.
- ✓ Agriculture: Participants are interested the trends in agriculture in the area, such as how the rate is changing over time and what the rate of farmland loss is. Current crops in the area include alfalfa and hay.
- ✓ Recreation is a very important issue in the area. There is currently a planning effort underway to open more recreation trails in the area of Ridgeway and in the river corridor in San Miguel County.
- ✓ Tourism: Participants requested that information on the contributions of tourism to the local economy be included in BLM analysis. Public lands contribute to the way of life and are often the reason that people visit and/or live here. Need to balance the money from extractive use of land and the money that can be brought into the area by tourism. Source of the best information was discussed. Colorado tourism board has some info. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has produced study on the economic impacts of hunting and fishing.

- ✓ How do you put a number on the “quality of life” brought by public lands? This is a difficult question but should be considered for the BLM’s analysis.
- ✓ Question on mineral estate: The BLM will be making decisions on split estate lands and mineral estate underlying other surface ownership lands (e.g., US Forest Service land).

4. Overview of Community Assessment Results

Bill Bottomly provided an overview of community assessment report and referred participants to the project web site (www.uformp.com) for further information.

5. Group Discussions

- How do you perceive your community?
- What do you want your community to be?
- Break into groups and complete community potential evaluation

The area of interest for the community potential evaluations was Ouray County. Due to participants attending from other area, San Miguel County was also discussed.

6. Summary of Group Discussions and Community Potential Evaluation

Refer to the community evaluation form for group rankings of importance of economic sectors.

Comments provided for the different sectors are included below:

- ✓ *Agriculture: Important not so much economically but in the way it contributes to quality of life. It is what makes Ouray County different from neighboring counties (in addition to tradition/history).*
- ✓ *Forest Products: Beetle-killed trees may influence the future of this resource.*
- ✓ *Uranium plays an important role in the western side of San Miguel County.*
- ✓ *Hard rock mining is the heritage of area. Some people are happy that it is no longer as important. However, this area does have minerals needed for high-tech equipment. The Colorado State Geologist has information on minerals that are used/imported. One participant states that mineral needed in the US market should be mined in the US when available due to the higher level of environmental protection and worker protection in the US compared to other countries.*
- ✓ *Renewable energy: Participants want to see a strong emphasis on this but need to keep in mind the impacts of renewables (i.e., mining for batteries). Geothermal has potential to be significant at a local level (city buildings). Micro-hydro power could play a role.*
- ✓ *Environmental restoration: Not all participants are clear on the definition of this category. Suggest that mining clean up could be important. Also noted is the potential for use of fuel reduction timber waste for biofuels.*
- ✓ *Local tourism and destination tourism: Highly ranked. Festivals are important tourist events in the area.*
- ✓ *Retirees: Some young retirees are here. The lack of medical services makes it harder to retain this group.*
- ✓ *Lone eagles: Participants state that the area has a need for economic diversification, and this is one avenue. Lone eagles brings in income from outside the county and therefore do not compete for county or city funds or jobs. Their link to BLM and public lands: attracts high-tech, young, attracted-to-the-outdoors types of people.*
- ✓ *Health care: Better to have this in the community so that people do not have to leave for services.*

- ✓ *Bedroom community: Participants recognize the fact that parts of Ouray County do function as a bedroom community for Montrose.*
- ✓ *Recreation: This is THE driver of the economy of the counties. In particular, four-wheel-drive activities and the ice park in Ouray were noted. Hunting and fishing are also important, and some people come to area specifically for hunting. Participants voiced concerns that people in the area recreate in the whole area and not just in the local communities, so taking information just for local communities may not capture all of these data. Participants emphasized the importance of recreation in the area and stated that the quickest way to build the economy is through recreation, as it does not require the same permitting as other developments do, such as construction, etc.*
- ✓ *Small Manufacturing: Some recreation-based small-scale manufacturing is present, such as in Silverton where there is outdoor recreation manufacturing (i.e., skis).*
- ✓ *Added categories for community potential include:*
 - Craft Brewing: This is opening up in the area.*
 - Local direct market agriculture: Telluride provides the market for local produce. Local use of geothermal energy can also play a role.*
 - Services: Babysitters, home cleaning, etc.*

7. How does the BLM fit in with your community? (information incorporated from emailed input and group discussion)

- How does the use of public land fit into community objectives?
 - ✓ *It is very important to San Miguel County residents and government programs to be able to work with the BLM to plan and hopefully build recreational trails. It is a long-standing goal to connect San Miguel County to Ouray County and beyond via a trail for hiking and bicycling over Dallas Divide. Parts of the trail are in place on the San Miguel County side. This trail would connect to the regional Galloping Goose Trail, which connects Telluride and Lizard Head Pass. Recently, the County Open Space program began exploring the concept of connecting Norwood/Wrights Mesa to the Placerville area. The idea was to try to utilize the old mine roads on the north side of Colorado Highway 145 and the mesa top in some places. In addition, the Norwood Recreation District is interested in developing a mountain biking trail system in an area near Naturita Creek west of Norwood. In addition, the Norwood Recreation District is interested in developing a mountain biking trail system in an area near Naturita Creek west of Norwood. All of these trail concepts would depend on a partnership with the BLM.*
- What can BLM do to partner with your community (county, etc.) to reach its potential?
 - ✓ *Participants stated that the most important tie-ins with the BLM and the community for the Ouray County area are:*
 - *Recreation*
 - *Motorized use of public lands is very important in some area. Four-wheel-drive recreation drives the town of Ouray. It is not as important in other parts of the county (i.e., near Ridgway) where passive use has higher importance.*
 - *Quality of life provided by open space*
 - *Environmental services (water quality and availability)*
 - *Wildlife habitat*
 - ✓ *Comments on the role of BLM in managing subsurface mineral rights:*

– BLM must recognize valid existing rights. Property rights (on split estate lands for example) should not be trampled. In many cases, the BLM does not have the ability to make changes due to valid existing rights and this should be recognized in the RMP revision.

– The BLM should investigate purchasing mining claims in area to bring them into the public domain. Work has been done with the US Forest Service but not successfully with the BLM. This land of former mining claims will either become public or be bought out by private owners.

8. Summary of Workshop and Questions of BLM Representative(s)

9. Complete Workshop Evaluation

10. What Is Next and Project Contacts

- Project website: www.uformp.com
- Contact: Bruce Krickbaum, BLM, Montrose, CO; (970)240-5300; bruce_krickbaum@blm.gov

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY POTENTIAL EVALUATION

What do attendees want your community to be in the future?

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Group A: Ouray County

Group B: Ouray County

Group C: San Miguel County

	Group			Community	
	A	B	C	Ouray County Average	San Miguel County Average
Agriculture	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.5
Forest Products	1	1.6	2	1.3	2
Mining – Coal	1	1	NA	1	NA
Mining – Uranium	1	1	1.5	1	1.5
Mining – Hard Rock/Minerals	2	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.5
Energy – Oil and Gas	1	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.5
Energy – Renewable	3	3	2	3	2
Environmental Restoration	3	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.5
Business Retention/Expansion	3	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5
Local Retail Industry	2	2	2.5	2	2.5
Entrepreneurship Development	3	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5
Business Recruitment	2	2	2	2	2
Local/Regional Tourism	3	3	3	3	3
Pass-through Visitor Services	2	2.6	2	2.3	2
Destination Tourism	3	3	3	3	3

Cultural Tourism	3	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.5
Transportation Hub/Warehousing	1	1	NA	1	NA
Attracting Retirees	2	2.2	1.5	2.1	1.5
Attracting Lone Eagles (telecommuters or sole proprietors)	3	2	2.5	2.5	2.5
Telecommunications Business	1	2		1.5	
Health Care	2	2	2.5	2	2.5
Bedroom Community	2	1.2	1	1.6	1
Attract/Retain Government Offices	1	1.8	2	1.4	2
Recreation		3	3	3	3
Small manufacturing	2			2	
Craft brewing/distill.	3.5			3.5	
Local direct market agg.	3			3	
Hunting/Fishing			3		3
Service Jobs			3		3