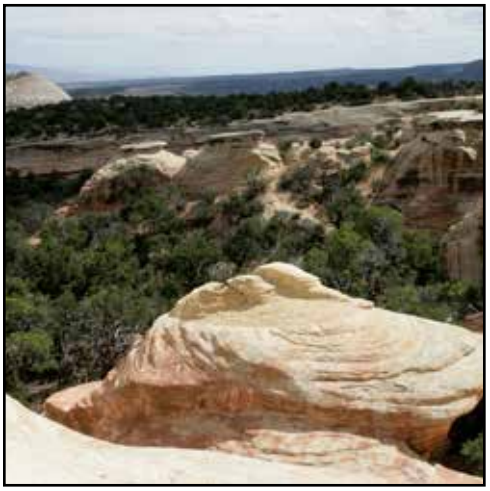
BLM

COLORADO



BRIEFING BOOK

2015

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66.4 MILLION acres (66,386,000) total surface lands in Colorado
24.6 MILLION acres are Federal, including:
- **8,349,000** BLM
- **15,168,970** U.S. Forest Service
- **776,739** National Park Service
- **163,620** Fish and Wildlife Service
- **200,000** Bureau of Reclamation

27.1 MILLION subsurface acres managed by BLM Colorado

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM (NLCS)

1.2 MILLION acres of NLCS lands
2 National Monuments (approx. 199,589 acres)
3 National Conservation Areas: Gunnison Gorge (62,840 acres), McInnis Canyons (123,430 acres), and Dominguez-Escalante (210,149)
5 Wilderness Areas (205,949 acres in CO): Black Ridge Canyons (75,500, with 5,120 acres located in Utah), Gunnison Gorge (17,784), Powderhorn (48,115), Uncompahgre (3,390) and Dominguez Canyon (66,280)
53 Wilderness Study Areas (539,000 acres within 10 field offices)
1 National Historic Trail: Old Spanish National Historic Trail (85 miles)
1 National Scenic Trail: Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (1 mile)
2 Congressionally-Designated Management Areas: Tabeguache Congressional Designated Management Area (8,075) and Rio Grande Natural Area (2,900)

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

22 ACEC-listed values: Recreation, Scenic, Wildlife, Cultural, BLM Sensitive Plants, Paleontology, Historic, Wetlands, Fish, Hanging Gardens, Scientific, Reduce Saline Soil, Plants, T&E Plants, Geology, Visual, Botanical, Heritage Resources, Hydrologic, Riparian, Natural Hazard, Natural Processes
68 ACECs (approx. 518,753 acres within 12 field offices) including:
- **2** National Natural Landmarks: Garden Park Fossil Area and Slumgullion Earthflow
- **1** National Historic District
- **1** Outstanding National Area
- **7** Research Natural Areas
- **11** Special Recreational Management Areas
- **5** Wilderness Study Areas
- **3** Popular visitor designations: Garden Park Fossil Area ACEC/NNL, Royal Gorge Field Office; Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality ACEC, Kremmling Field Office; and Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC, Royal Gorge Field Office

RECREATION

354 developed recreational sites (including 111 developed sites)
7 Colorado Scenic and Historical Byways
29 Special Recreation Management Areas (850,000 acres)
3 Blue Ribbon Fisheries (19.6 miles)
3 Fourteeners
30 Thirteeners

RESOURCES

5.1 MILLION acres of forested land (2.9 million acres of this includes Pinion Juniper Woodlands)
97,000 acres of alpine habitat
671 wildlife species
18 amphibian species
69 fish species
50 reptile species (26 snakes, 5 turtles, 19 lizards)
130 mammal species
473 bird species (278 breeding, 195 winter and migratory)
31 Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species (28 listed, 3 candidates)
108 BLM Sensitive Species

7.9 MILLION	acres of small game habitat
7 MILLION	acres of big game habitat
39,000	acres of waterfowl habitat
4,300	miles of riparian habitat
10,000	acres of riparian-wetland habitat (associated with lakes, ponds and reservoirs)
4	Wild horse herd management areas (Piceance-East Douglas, Little Book Cliffs, Sandwash Basin and Spring Creek Basin)
7.8 MILLION	acres grazed by livestock
5	National Historic Landmarks (Lowry Pueblo, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Central City-Black Hawk Historic District, Leadville Historic District and Cripple Creek Historic District)
39	National Register of Historic Places listings (536 contributing properties)
49,736	cultural resource sites

ENERGY

7,675	producing federal oil and gas wells
2,195	Producing federal leases
439	Approved Applications for Permits to Drill on Federal Land
4,039	Approved APDs from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, (this number includes federal permits)

SERVING THE PEOPLE THROUGH PROGRESSIVE STEWARDSHIP OF THE PUBLIC LANDS

In Colorado, the BLM manages 8.3 million acres of public lands and more than 27 million acres of mineral estate. Much of this land is concentrated in the western portion of the state. BLM lands in Colorado range from alpine tundra, colorful canyons and mesas in the southwest, to rolling sage covered hills in the northwest.

The people of Colorado value balanced use, conservation, resource development, recreation, and tourism. The economic health of many Colorado communities is supported by ranching, mining and tourism associated with public lands. Public lands offer recreational opportunities, cultural resources, resource and energy potential and – in an increasingly urban world – vast open spaces.

BLM Colorado adheres to the principle of multiple-use management, which means we manage public lands for both commercial and public uses. Colorado's lands produce vast amounts of coal, oil, natural gas, wind, solar and geothermal power to help meet the nation's energy needs.

More than one-third of Colorado is owned by the public and is available for public use. We partner with other federal and state agencies, local governments, private employers, environmental groups and the public to ensure we are responsive to their needs.

BLM Colorado is committed to transparent, collaborative management of the public's lands and resources based on sound science.

HISTORY OF BLM

The BLM's roots go back to the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. These laws allowed for the survey, sale, orderly settlement and governance of the original 13 colonies ceded to the federal government after the War of Independence. The geographer of the United States surveyed and numbered public lands into six-mile square townships.

As the United States acquired additional lands from Spain, France and other countries, Congress directed that the lands be explored, surveyed and made available for settlement. In 1812, Congress established the General Land Office in the Department of the Treasury to oversee these federal lands. As the 19th century progressed and the nation's land base expanded further west, Congress encouraged settlement by enacting a wide variety of laws, including the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Mining Law of 1872.

These statutes allowed settlement in western territories. With the exception of the Mining Law of 1872 and the Desert Land Act of 1877 (which was amended), all have since been repealed or superseded by other statutes.

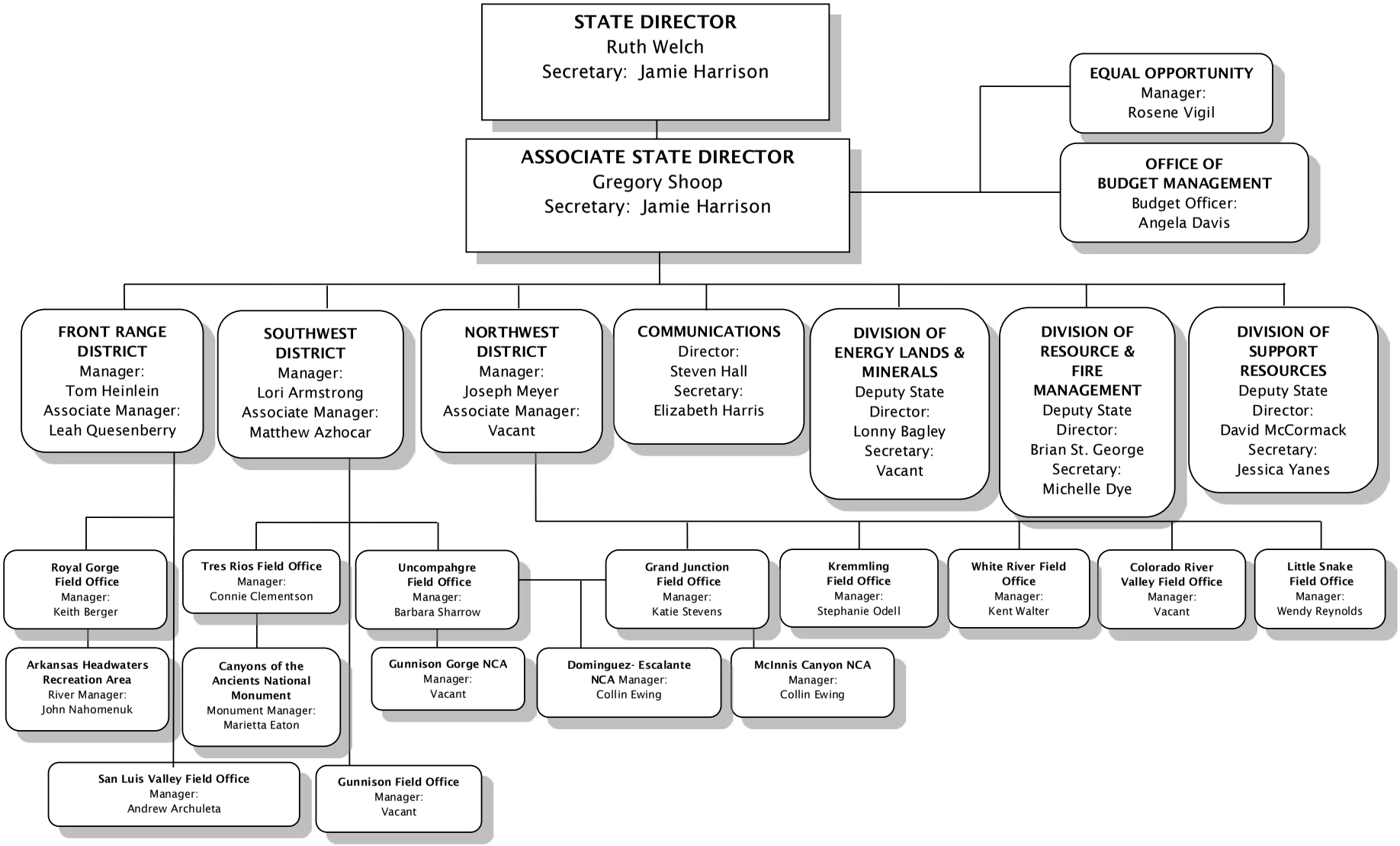
The late 19th century marked a shift in federal land management priorities with the creation of the first national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. By withdrawing these lands from settlement, Congress amended the policy goals served by public lands. Instead of using them to promote settlement, Congress recognized that they should be held in public ownership for other resource values.

In the early 20th century, Congress took additional steps toward recognizing the value of the assets on public lands and directed the Executive Branch to manage activities on the remaining public lands. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 allowed leasing, exploration and production of selected commodities such as coal, oil, gas and sodium to take place on public lands. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established the U.S. Grazing Service to manage the public rangelands, while the Oregon and California Act of 1937 required sustained yield management of the timberlands in western Oregon.

In 1946, the Grazing Service merged with the General Land Office to form the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior. When the BLM was initially created, there were more than 2,000 unrelated and often conflicting laws for managing the public lands. The BLM had no unified legislative mandate until Congress enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

In FLPMA, Congress declared that these lands would remain in public ownership. Congress also gave the BLM the term "multiple use management," defined as "management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people."

BLM COLORADO ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



BRANCH CHIEFS & PROGRAM LEADS

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Fire Management Officer
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Fluid Minerals
Vacant

Forestry
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Fuels Program
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Information Resources Management
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Lands & Realty
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Vacant

Paleontology
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Planning
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Recreation
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Rocky Mountain Fire Coordination Center
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Roy Smith
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Wild Horses
David Sjaastad
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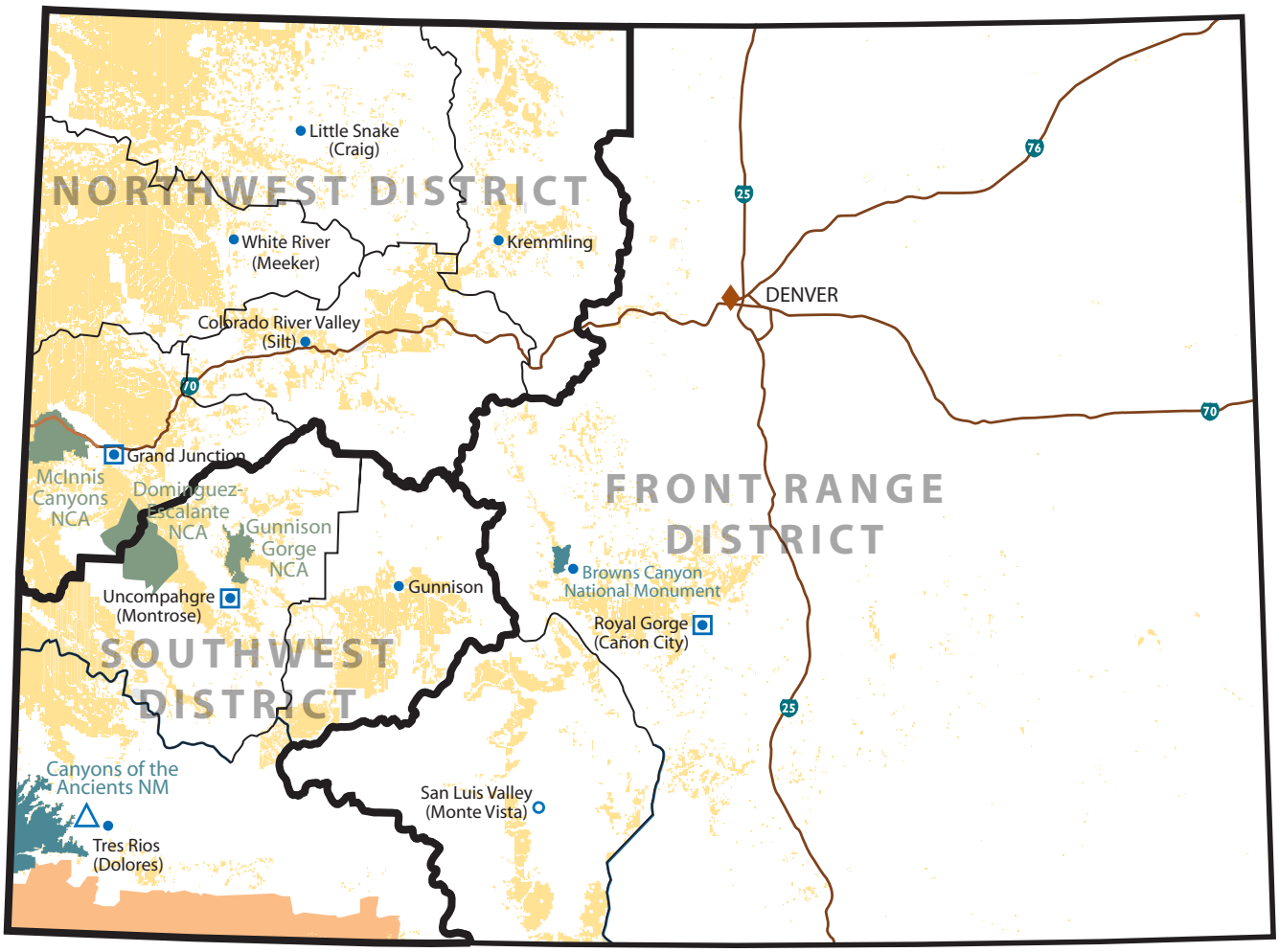
Wildlife and T&E Species
Vacant

BLM COLORADO OFFICES



BLM-managed Lands

BLM National Monument

BLM National Conservation Areas

Tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations

BLM State Office

BLM District Office

BLM Field Office

Anasazi Heritage Center

Major Highways

BLM District Office Boundaries

BLM Field Office Boundaries

2850 Youngfield Street • Lakewood, CO 80215 • 303-239-3700 • 303-239-3934 fax • www.blm.gov/co

RECREATION

About 20 percent of BLM lands in Colorado are managed specifically for recreation and tourism. Recreation areas include Special Recreation Management Areas, National Landscape Conservation System units, fishable and boatable rivers, cultural heritage and natural resource attractions, off-highway vehicle areas, scenic byways, watchable wildlife areas, and places to hunt and fish. The balance of BLM Colorado's lands receives less intensive recreational use, and is managed to maintain visitor freedom to choose where to go and what to do. Primary recreation opportunities include: heritage touring, sightseeing, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, climbing, mountain biking, hiking, OHV driving, fishing, skiing, camping, hunting, picnicking, skiing and even spelunking. BLM Colorado issues approximately 32,000 recreation use permits, and administers approximately 700 special recreation permits, including more than 30 for competitive events, annually. These recreation attractions are less refined than those provided by other agencies, enabling visitors to reconnect with important heritage and cultural landscapes found just outside local communities.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, also known as the National Conservation Lands, highlights some of the West's most spectacular public lands. These areas conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological and scientific values. The National Conservation Lands are congressionally or presidentially designated and include national monuments, national conservation areas, national historic and scenic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas and wilderness study areas. Colorado is home to 65 National Conservation Lands areas encompassing more than 1 million acres — about one about one eighth of all the BLM land in the state.

FORESTRY

BLM Colorado manages 3.5 to 4 million acres of forested land. More than 2.5 million acres are considered woodlands, dominated by Pinyon pine, juniper and oak. The remaining forested acres consist of traditional commercial tree species like Ponderosa pine, Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. Some of the wood products harvested include sawtimber, firewood, Christmas trees, post and poles, and biomass. Forested lands in Colorado tend to have low productivity rates. Therefore, the focus for the BLM's management in Colorado is to restore forest health conditions rather than produce commercial timber on forested lands.

Major forest health concerns:

- Mountain pine beetle outbreak in North Central Colorado
- Decline of aspen stands
- Pinon bark beetles in Southern and Western Colorado
- Effects of fire suppression on ponderosa pine stands

Goals of the forestry program:

- Improve the health and vitality of forests for multiple use management.
- Promote forestry-related projects.
- Improve/support wood-product markets, including biomass, at the state and local levels.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildland fire threats grow each year partially due to past land management practices and aggressive fire suppression in the last 100 years. During Colorado's fire season (May-September), 19 BLM engines are staffed five to seven days a week. BLM Colorado also hosts a 20-person national interagency hotshot crew based in Craig. Other resources include a Type-3 helicopter in Rifle, the seven-person Unaweep Wildland Fire Module in Grand Junction and a five-person initial attack squad in Craig. At various times throughout the summer, BLM Colorado hosts a contingent of Great Basin Smokejumpers. In 2014 BLM Colorado Fire Units accomplished 8,307 wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI), acres of mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire treatments along with 10 Community Assistance actions. Highlights of the fuels program efforts include 1,849 acres of treatments associated with sage grouse habitats.. Throughout the year, BLM Colorado helps counties complete wildfire protection plans by offering technical expertise and assistance agreements. Since 2004, BLM Colorado averaged 433 fires per year. Average annual acres burned since 2004 are 10,804.

These units include:

- Northwest Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit – Craig
- Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit – Grand Junction
- Southwest Interagency Fire Management Unit – Montrose
- Front Range Interagency Fire Management Unit – Cañon City
- San Luis Valley Interagency Fire Management Unit – Monte Vista

BLM Colorado hosts the following fire suppression resources in the state:

- One Interagency Hot Shot Crew (20 people)
- One Wildland Fire Module (5-10 people)
- Twelve Type-6 wildland fire engines
- Seven Type-4 wildland fire engines
- One Initial Attack Squad
- One exclusive use Helicopter and staff for a 90-day contract during fire season
- One Large Air Tanker Base in Grand Junction
- Six interagency Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) reload bases

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION

The Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&R) program focuses on mitigating the impacts wildland fires have on ecosystems and communities. Wildfires that have the potential of significant damage to a natural or cultural resource may require ES&R. ES&R includes rehabilitating burned landscapes, reseeding vegetation, protecting watershed quality and preventing the spread of noxious weeds following severe wildfires. On average, the BLM initiates ES&R treatments on six to 10 fires annually. Given Colorado's extensive WUI issues, problems with invasive species such as cheat grass and rugged terrain, most stabilization issues involve soil stabilization, construction of temporary fences and closures to prevent further damage from public use.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The diverse ecosystems and mosaic landscapes of BLM Colorado's public lands provide habitat for more than 671 species of fish and wildlife, and 100 special status plants and animals including 14 Federally Threatened and 14 Federally Endangered species. BLM Colorado's wildlife habitat management goal is to ensure the natural abundance and diversity of fish, wildlife and special status species of both plant and animal resources on public lands by restoring, maintaining, and enhancing habitat productivity and quality.

Colorado's broad diversity of wildlife is composed of:

- 473 bird species
- 130 mammal species
- 49 reptile species
- 69 fish species
- 18 amphibian species

BLM Colorado also hosts a number of invertebrates, including mollusks and crustaceans. Colorado is nationally recognized for its stream fishing and big game hunting. Flora is also abundant in the state. Approximately 3,700 species and subspecies of plants, representing 132 families and 941 genera, have been described in Colorado.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

In 1971, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act to protect and manage wild horses and burros on public lands. BLM Colorado manages four wild horse herd management areas: Piceance/East Douglas, Little Book Cliffs, Sand Wash Basin and the Spring Creek Basin. Colorado adopts about 150 wild horses and burros each year. Wild horses and burros are offered for adoption two Fridays each month at the Canon City Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) and occasionally in other areas of the state. In 1986, the BLM and Colorado Department of Corrections formed a partnership creating the WHIP, which is administered from the Royal Gorge Field Office. Select mustangs are trained by inmates who undergo both classroom and job training through

an accredited college curriculum. Since the inception of the program, more than 3,000 inmates have participated and have gentled or trained more than 5,000 animals gathered from western rangelands.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

BLM Colorado's cultural resources program manages archaeological and historical sites. Sites include prehistoric camps, Fremont rock art, Ancestral Puebloan masonry pueblos, Ute wickiups, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and historic mines and ranches. The Anasazi Heritage Center, near the town of Dolores, is one of three Bureau museums and holds about three million objects from the Southwest. It is also the visitor center for the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Features:
- 1.93 million acres inventoried for cultural resources
- 49,736 recorded archaeological and historic sites
- 536 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 5 National Historic Landmarks

Popular visitor destinations:
- Lowry Pueblo, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- Sand Canyon Pueblo, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- Canyon Pintado, White River Field Office

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Colorado public lands also have several internationally known paleontological sites, which are referred to as "localities." Garden Park, near Cañon City, is one of the most significant localities for dinosaurs in the world. The Kremmling Cretaceous-Ammonite locality is one of the largest concentrations of marine fossils in North America.

Features:
- Garden Park Fossil Area National Natural Landmark
- Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark

Popular visitor destinations:
- Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Locality, Kremmling Field Office
- Garden Park Fossil Area, Royal Gorge Field Office
- Gold Belt Scenic and Historic Byway, Royal Gorge Field Office
- Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Byway, Grand Junction, Little Snake and White River Field Offices
- Rabbit Valley Interpretive Trail, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area
- Dinosaur Hill Interpretive Trail, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area
- Fruita Paleo Area Trail, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

GRAZING

On June 28, 1934, the Taylor Grazing Act was passed and signed into law. Congress dubbed its passage as "the Magna Carta of American conservation." The stated purpose of the Act was to "stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration, to provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development, to stabilize the livestock industry dependent on the public range and for other purposes." Today, the BLM authorizes livestock grazing on approximately 7.8 million acres within Colorado. These lands support livestock management on approximately 2,400 separate grazing allotments by more than 1,500 ranching operations.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

The Cadastral Survey program is responsible for land surveys conducted throughout Colorado, including a fiduciary trust responsibility on Indian lands, specifically the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute tribes in Southwestern Colorado. Cadastral surveying services support land exchanges and disposals, identification of trespasses, identification of range allotment boundaries for fencing purposes, fuel hazard reduction efforts, surveying of wilderness or other congressionally designated area boundaries, and the collection of coordinate data on public land survey system corners for incorporation into the Geographic Information System. Cadastral Survey is also responsible for the Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) initial data collection, maintenance, and updates for Colorado. GCDB is the standard for the depiction of the Public Land Survey System. Uses include digital updates of the Master Title Plats, tracking oil and gas leases, visual display of stipulations associated with parcels, used as a graphical understanding of data in the Resource Management Planning process, provides updates for the 100K mapping, and is the basis for all land management decisions.

Perform these services for and in cooperation with:
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Federal Highway Department
- Department of Defense
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

RENEWABLE ENERGY

BLM Colorado established a Renewable Energy Team to help expedite processing renewable energy project applications.

Geothermal: The BLM began issuing leases for geothermal development in 1974. In 2012, BLM Colorado leased two parcels for geothermal production totaling 8,353 acres in the Gunnison Field Office. These two parcels are the only authorized leases on public lands within the state of Colorado. In 2012, the BLM released a final environmental assessment and proposed amendment to the 1991 BLM San Luis Resource Management Plan for geothermal energy leasing on BLM-managed lands.

Solar: The BLM and Department of Energy (DOE) completed a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in July 2012, which assessed the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with solar energy development on BLM public lands. The PEIS informed an October 2012 Department of Interior Record of Decision (ROD), which resulted in a Western Solar Plan and BLM Solar Energy Program, including policies, practices, and mitigation strategies for future project-level applications. In Colorado, 13 land use plans were amended by the ROD to either allow or exclude utility-scale solar development of 20 megawatts or higher, and identified four Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) totaling 16,308 acres and another 95,128 acres outside of the SEZs as available for utility-scale solar development under a variance process for resource-conflict screening.

Transmission: New electric transmission lines are being proposed in Colorado to accommodate additional electricity generation capacity for the next several decades, including new renewable generation and improved reliability to reduce congestion on the grid. Large (345kV and higher) right-of-way electric transmission applications within the state, proposed to cross public lands, include:

- TransWest Express, a TransWest Express, LLC project, is a 725-mile, 600kV DC transmission project from south central Wyoming to southeast Las Vegas.
- Energy Gateway South, a PacifiCorp (dba Rocky Mountain Power) project, is a 350-400 mile, 500 kV AC transmission project originating near Medicine Bow, Wyoming and terminating near Mona in central Utah.

AIR QUALITY

Air resource management is a complex component of the BLM's soil, water and air program. Air quality monitoring is required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act. The BLM uses air quality monitoring to assess current conditions and inform decision-making. The air program works with stakeholders to address emerging issues, analysis, monitoring and regional modeling.

FLUID MINERALS

Oil and natural gas development from federal minerals serves as an economic driver for Colorado's economy. BLM Colorado hosts up to four lease sales per year. The State of Colorado receives 49 percent of the proceeds of each lease sale. In Fiscal Year 2014, Colorado received more than $169 million from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for all federal minerals, including oil and gas. Statewide, more than 22,900 jobs are tied to mineral and energy development on public lands. The BLM has a robust regulatory framework to guide leasing and development mandated by laws like the Mineral Leasing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. The BLM implemented oil and gas leasing reforms in 2010 to provide the public more involvement earlier in the process to better inform our decisions, and help reduce conflict, protests and litigation.

SOLID MINERALS

Solid mineral production on BLM land in Colorado involves three distinct mineral categories: locatable, leasable, and saleable. Locatable minerals includes gold, silver, copper, molybdenum and uranium. Leasable minerals include coal, potash, and sodium. Currently, there are eight producing coal mines (six underground and two surface operations) encompassing 66,000 acres in the state. In Fiscal Year 2013, coal energy production on BLM Colorado public lands directly contributed $734 million to the economy, generated $42 million in royalty revenues and accounted for 5,936 direct and indirect jobs. Mineral materials produced here include limestone, rip-rap; flagstone, cut stone, moss rock, boulders, granite; non-decorative large rock; sand & gravel; burnt shale, river cobbles, cinders and scoria; fill material and non-decorative cinders; bentonite, clay; decomposed granite; masonry sand, and aggregate; and concrete sand, and road base. Common sand, gravel and other construction and landscaping materials are available to the public through material sales at fair market value, or through free-use permits to local, county, and state agencies and nonprofit organizations. Colorado is one of the major mineral material producing states in the country.

ABANDONED MINE LANDS

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program involves closing/securing hazardous mine openings and cleaning up old mine sites with acid discharge and tailings containing toxic concentrations of hazardous substances.

Although Colorado's extensive mining history exists statewide, most of the BLM AML program work is done near the mining districts of the Upper Animas River, Upper Arkansas River, the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, and the Colorado Plateau. BLM's Colorado AML program maintains an inventory of known abandoned mine lands on BLM administered public lands. Most of the sites are abandoned hardrock mines; however, our inventory of abandoned uranium mines has been growing by more than 200 per year since 2011 and will continue for the next several years as we continue our inventory efforts in the remote areas of the Colorado Plateau. The BLM's AML program closes approximately 100-200 unsafe features annually and has completed 17 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act actions with potentially five more planned in the next six years. As of 2014, the BLM's AML inventory in Colorado contains more than 14,000 features of which approximately 2,500 features were secured for public safety; remediated of toxic effects; or have been determined do not require further action.

OIL SHALE

Oil shale lands managed by BLM Colorado are part of the largest known concentration of oil shale in the world - the Green River Formation. More than 70 percent of the formation is on public lands in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the Formation holds the equivalent of 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Based on the National Energy Policy Act of 2005, BLM Colorado approved seven Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) leases via two separate solicitations for lease nominations. All of the RD&D leases were let to encourage industry to develop and test technologies aimed at developing oil shale resources on a commercial scale. In November 2012, the BLM published a plan to promote oil shale and tar sand resources on BLM-administered land in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The final programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) and plan amendments would make nearly 700,000 acres in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming available for research and development of oil shale. The final PEIS also includes provisions for wildlife habitat conservation including Greater Sage-grouse habitat. In Colorado, the plans that have been amended are the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan, the White River Resource Management Plan, and the Colorado River Valley (formerly Glenwood Springs) Resource Management Plan.

LANDS AND REALTY

The BLM provides for land use, purchase, exchange, donation and sale; determines the boundaries of federal land; and maintains historic records for these ownership transactions. Land ownership transfer through purchase, exchange, donation and sale is an important component of the BLM's strategy. Disposing (by sale or exchange) small, isolated and difficult to manage parcels improves the BLM's overall ownership pattern which reduces costs associated with managing those parcels and reduces the potential risk of conflicts with adjacent landowners. Consolidated ownership patterns provide an efficient landscape for BLM managers and their planning and decision making processes for preservation, conservation values considered important to remain under the BLM jurisdiction. The bureau completes ownership transactions involving land and interests in land when such transactions are in the public interest and consistent with publicly-approved land use plans.

VETERANS GREEN CORPS

Veterans Green Corps, a collaborative initiative of Veteran Green Jobs and existing conservation corps, empowers Veterans to transition to civilian life by leveraging their leadership experience to meet pressing conservation needs on public lands. In support of President Obama's 2009 executive order, BLM Colorado employs crews of trained, returning veterans to work on outdoor-conservation projects on public lands.

DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Colorado Youth Corps Association administers the BLM Diversity Internship Partnership Program in partnership with accredited Colorado youth corps using BLM funding. The program focuses on employing youth and young adults age 15 and 25 years old, but all candidates are eligible to apply and are considered on a competitive basis. Youth corps provide young adults with meaningful work experiences such as mentoring, conversation and stewardship ethics, employable skills and career transition counseling. The BLM's goal is to offer youth corps graduates and other young people, especially those from ethnically diverse backgrounds, the opportunity to work with BLM personnel on BLM projects/facilities. Through this partnership, the BLM hopes to encourage youth and young adults to consider or continue careers and education in natural resources, especially with the BLM or other Department of the Interior agencies.

VOLUNTEERS

BLM Colorado's volunteer program is an essential component of the BLM's mission. The thousands of hours volunteers donate each year make it possible for the BLM to accomplish unfunded conservation work that would otherwise not be completed. In 2013, 4,147 volunteers statewide donated 199,039 hours at an estimated value of $4,337,076.

Ruth Welch
Colorado State Director
303-239-3700

Ruth Welch began her Federal career with the Office of Surface Mining in 1989 and joined the BLM in 1993. Since then, she has served in a variety of positions throughout the Bureau. As a management analyst with the Office of Information Resource Management (IRM)/ Modernization and as the special assistant to the first BLM Chief Information Officer, she helped design the Bureau's IRM organizations to meet the changing technology needs during the late 1990s. She moved to the field in 2001 as an Assistant Field Manager for the Milwaukee Field Office and then to the Eastern States Office as the Deputy State Director for Business Services. In 2006, she transferred to the Washington Office as the Division Chief for Business Resources, managing Bureauwide programs for engineering, property, contracting, and grants/agreements, as well as providing human resources, IRM, and business services support to the Washington Office. From 2009-2012, she has held the position of Associate State Director for Wyoming and Nebraska. During that time, she co-led the Secretary's wild horse and burro initiative and acted as the State Director for Eastern States. Most recently, Ruth served as the NOC Director since April 2012. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and English literature in 1986 from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. Ruth earned a Master of Public Administration at the University of Colorado at Denver in 2000. Ruth and her husband Mark are Colorado natives who enjoy cycling, hiking, skiing, and other outdoor activities. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Greg Shoop
Associate State Director
303-239-3700

Greg Shoop was named BLM Colorado Associate State Director in October 2014. Greg came from the BLM's national office in Washington where he served as the Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning. From July 2009 to July 2012, Greg was the District Manager for the Front Range District in Colorado. Previously, Greg worked as a senior mineral leasing specialist in the BLM's national office in Washington, DC, his second tour of duty in that office. His experience includes 15 years of executive-level work in the private sector in California, as well as management positions in the BLM Colorado State Office and the BLM Craig District Office. Greg began his career in the BLM's Eastern States Office in 1977. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from the University of Maryland in 1977. Greg and his wife, Robyn, have two adult sons.

STEVEN HALL
Communications Director
303-239-3672

Prior to coming to Colorado, Steven Hall was the BLM Wyoming Communications Director. Before heading north, Steven served as the Colorado Western Slope Public Affairs Specialist for the BLM from 2002-2005. Steven was formerly the Director of Public Affairs and Marketing for Colorado State Parks. Raised in Western Colorado, Steven worked his way through college and graduate school as a back-country and fly fishing guide in the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming.

Brian St. George
Deputy State Director
Resources and Fire Management
303-239-3801

Before joining the Colorado State Office in October 2014 as the Deputy State Director for Fire and Resources, Brian was the Field Manager for Gunnison Field Office in southwest Colorado. Before that, he was in charge of the land-use planning group in the Colorado State Office. He also served as the acting branch chief for social and cultural resources. He started with the BLM after graduating from Indiana University with a masters degree in land-use planning. He also holds a degree in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. His career in public land and resource management includes work for the BLM, the City of Lakewood, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and rural communities in southern Africa. During his tenure with BLM Colorado, he has focused on developing comprehensive resource management plans for public lands. This experience provides broad exposure to the resource management issues and challenges in the state, and the wide variety of stakeholders and interests involved in public land management.

LONNY BAGELY
Deputy State Director
Energy, Lands and Minerals
303-239-3923

Prior to joining BLM Colorado, Lonny was the BLM's Fluid Minerals Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) Specialist. These responsibilities included program policy development, regulatory writing, training employees, program oversight of 31 field offices across the nation, participating on American Petroleum Institute standards committees, advising BLM management and field office staff regarding issues related to the I&E program and assessing the performance, achievements and effectiveness of the program to ensure program objectives were being met. Lonny began his government career in the North Dakota Field Office as an Oil and Gas Inspector in 1984. In 1989, Lonny moved to the Montana State Office in Billings, MT, where he held the I&E Specialist position. He has also served on many detailed assignments into field manager positions and was selected to assist the Hungarian Government in developing an oil and gas program in 1993. Prior to his government service, he has an extensive oil and gas industry background as a heavy equipment operator, roustabout and a field superintendent. Lonny is a North Dakota native growing up on a family ranch in Bowman County.

DAVID MCCORMACK
Deputy State Director
Support Services
303-239-3957

David brings more than 20 years of experience in both the private sector and civil service. David has a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Project Management. In addition, he has a Project Management Professional Certification with the Project Management Institute. David started his civil service career in 1998 with the Corps of Engineers at a large hydro power facility. He then moved to the Corps of Engineers, Seattle District as an IT Project Manager leading local and national projects. In 2006, David accepted a position with Central Federal Lands Highway Division as their IT Program Manager supporting all federal lands highways IT programs in the western states. In 2009, David accepted a Chief Technology role for Central Region in USGS. In 2012, David was assigned to restructure the Science and Information Delivery Program for USGS. In January 2013, David joined the BLM Colorado as the Information Management Officer and later became the Deputy State Director for Support Services.

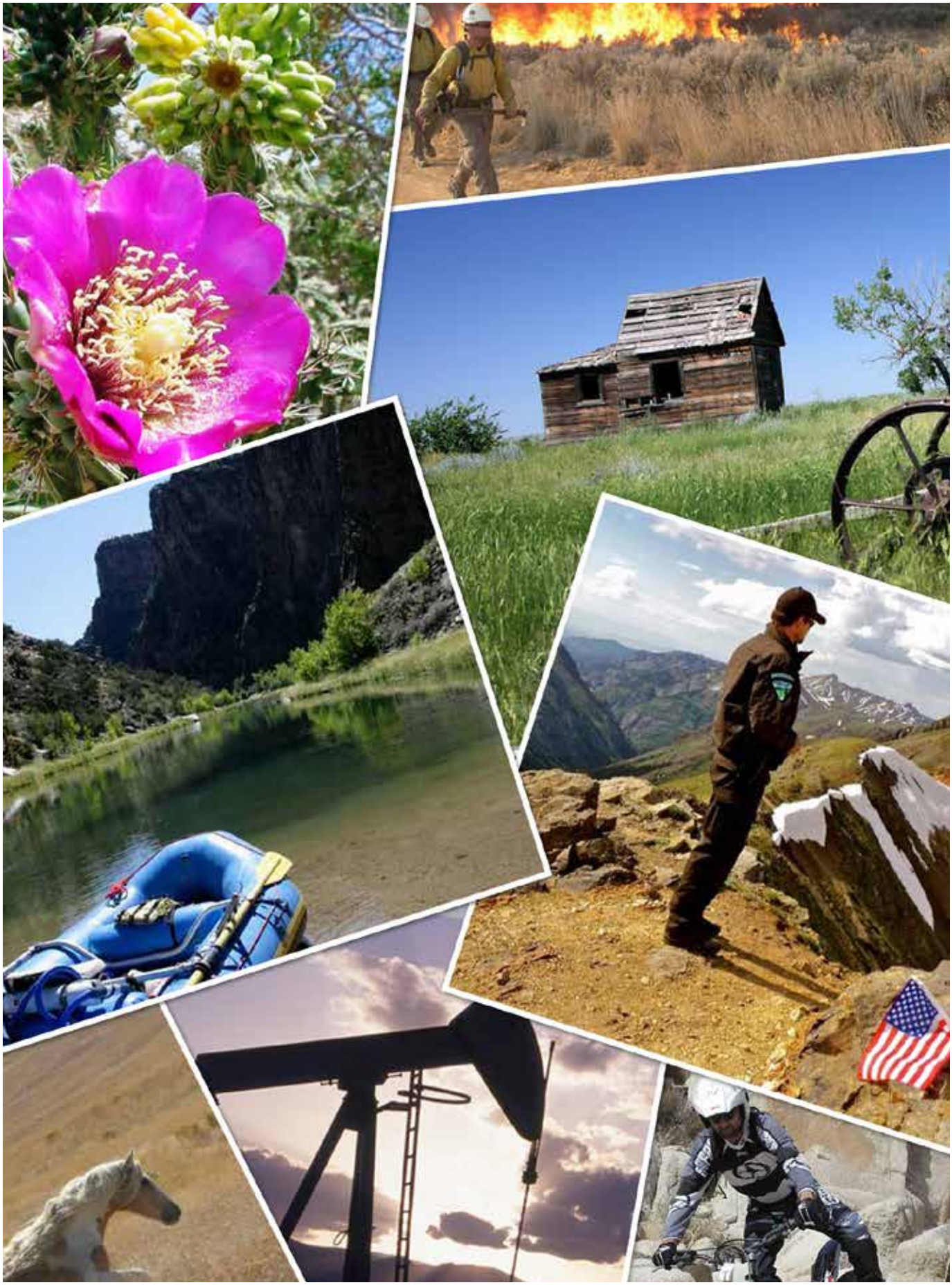
GARY MANNINO
Special Agent-in-Charge
303-239-3803

Gary Mannino transferred to Colorado from the Pacific Northwest where he had been working for the BLM's Office of Law Enforcement as the Region 2 Special Agent in Charge over Oregon / Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. Prior to coming over to the BLM in 2010, Gary worked as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge and Special Agent for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Law Enforcement in the Pacific Northwest. Gary began his federal career as a Secret Service Agent in Atlanta, Georgia in 2001.

FEDERAL LANDS/MINERALS WITHIN BLM FIELD OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

Minerals on public lands includes surface and associated federal mineral estate acreages, (the major portion of the BLM acreage), and surface-only (minerals owned by third parties). The Federal split estate mineral acreages underlying non-federal surfaces are collected separately and include minerals transferred to the Department of the Interior jurisdiction from the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. ("All Minerals" reserved in patents issued under the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 comprise the major portion of this "split estate" acreage). Both compilations derive from lot-by-lot, 40-by-40, sections, townships, and county compilations of BLM-administered lands maintained for annual statistical report purposes and for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) annual reports (not all BLM lands are eligible for PILT payments). These acreages are updated when public lands/minerals are sold, exchanged, or acquired by purchase, donation, etc.

Forest Service ownership acreages derives from their Forest-by-Forest, county-by-county annual statistical report. Some of these acreages are BLM estimates as some BLM-administrative boundaries within the Forests do not have common boundaries with Ranger District or other Forest Service Management Units. Forest Service sales, exchanges, acquisitions acreages are updated as information becomes available; however, considerable lag time may occur between the time a transaction occurs and the date the Forest Service accepts title to lands re-conveyed to the United States and provides copies of the documents to BLM.



FRONT RANGE DISTRICT

3028 East Main Street • Cañon City, CO 81212 • 719-269-8500 • 719-269-8599 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html

The Front Range District manages about 1.3 million surface acres and 9.5 million acres of subsurface minerals. The district's federal surface and sub-surface acres cover three-fifths of the state of Colorado. The district is comprised of the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) and the San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO). Both the RGFO and the SLVFO are Service First Centers working with the U.S. Forest Service.

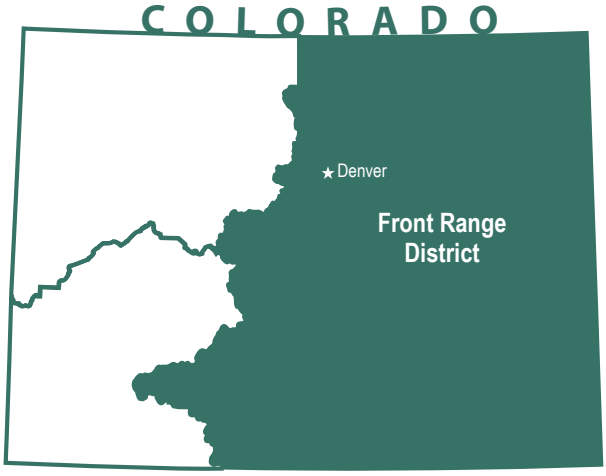
The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, part of the Royal Gorge Field Office, is co-managed with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and is nationally recognized as one of the nation's most popular areas for commercial and private whitewater rafting, as well as premier guided and private fishing opportunities. The area attracts more than 740,000 visitors annually who contribute more than $1 million to the local economy.

The Front Range District is also home to the Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP) located in Cañon City. The WHIP is the BLM's largest of five wild horse and burro holding facilities in the country that work with inmates. The WHIP is a cooperative agreement with the Colorado Department of Corrections, in which select wild horses and burros receive personal and extensive training as part of an inmate rehabilitative program. Horses and burros are then offered for adoption two Friday's each month. Since the inception of the program, more than 3,000 inmates have participated. They have gentled or trained more than 5,000 animals gathered from western rangelands.

Browns Canyon National Monument

On Feb. 19, 2015, President Obama designated approximately 21,500 acres of rugged cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and stunning mountain vistas in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, as Browns Canyon National Monument.

The proclamation allows for continued historic uses of the area, including hunting, fishing, and livestock grazing, which will continue to be managed under existing rules and regulations. The designation does not alter or affect the valid water rights of any party and does not affect agreements governing management of the Arkansas River flows. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service will jointly prepare a management plan for the monument that will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement, including tribal, local and state governments, area ranchers and other permit holders.



TOM HEINLEIN
Front Range District Manager
719-269-8554

In November 2012, Tom came to Colorado from Monticello, Utah, where he was the field manager. Heinlein received his Master of Science degree in Forest Ecology from Northern Arizona University in 1996. Prior to joining the BLM in 2008, he was employed as a Research Fire Ecologist with the Northern Arizona University Ecological Restoration Institute, a Biologist with the National Park Service Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network, Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources and Assistant Park Supervisor for Western Arctic National Parklands and Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Outside of his federal service, Heinlein enjoys Telemark skiing, backpacking, boating, woodworking and outdoor photography.

ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE

FACTS

- 681,155 surface acres
- 6,847,323 subsurface acres
- 86 recreation sites (23 developed, 18 picnic areas, 32 camping areas, 20 boat ramps)
- 2 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 5 Wilderness Study Areas and 1 Instant Study Area (71,680 acres)
- 4 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways
- 1 National Scenic Byway
- 151,700 acres of woodlands (97,062 acres of forest land)
- 18 Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species (12 listed, 6 candidates)
- 487 miles of streams and rivers
- 570,000 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Custer, Crowley, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, Teller, Adams, Arapaho, Boulder, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, Kit Carson, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma

RECREATION

Located on Colordo's Front Range, the Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) recreation program is positioned to collaborate with adjacent communities in its planning efforts. The RGFO is actively involved with regional partners in the Cañon City area to develop recreation opportunities to further community health and partnerships. The BLM is working closely with the local communities of Cañon City, Florence and Penrose to develop a regional trails and open space master plan for the extensive recreation opportunities in the area.

Salida Mountain Trails, the City of Salida and several other local groups and businesses, are working with the BLM to develop an extensive mountain bike trail system that allows people to ride directly from the city of Salida. Salida is one of Colorado's top mountain bike destinations.

Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway: The byway retraces historic railroad and stagecoach routes from the Arkansas Valley to the Cripple Creek Gold Mining District. The Gold Belt Byway is managed through a partnership of 10 local, state, and federal agencies, and a private nonprofit association (Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway Association, Inc.). Three internationally significant fossil sites lie along the Byway, including the: The BLM Garden Park Fossil Area, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and Indian Springs Trace Fossil Site. The Byway includes Shelf Road Recreation Area, Phantom Canyon and the Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area. For more information visit: goldbeltbyway.com.

Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway: The Colorado Transportation Commission designated 57-miles of roadways through Chaffee County as a scenic byway. The Byway program identifies ways to preserve and manage resources along designated byways and their larger heritage areas. In 2011, a wayside interpretive plan was completed for the area, and implementation of that plan will begin soon. For more information visit: collegiatepeaksbyway.org.

Shelf Road Recreation Area: Huge limestone cliffs attract thousands of technical rock climbers annually. The area's accessibility from Colorado's Front Range cities and its relatively mild winters provide year-round opportunities for climbing enthusiasts. The scenic beauty, undeveloped character and availability of designated trails attract mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers. Two developed campgrounds, Sand Gulch and The Bank, are open year-round. The BLM manages Shelf Road Recreation Area in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to outdoor adventure and national and international conservation. Work has begun to establish an additional partnership through a friend's group to continue these

Texas Creek OHV Area: This area's rugged terrain, spectacular views of the Arkansas River Valley and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, as well as its proximity to U.S. Highway 50, attracts thousands of motorized users each year. The BLM manages the routes in the Texas Creek area and works with motorized recreation groups to assist in developing and maintaining motorized routes. Routes are available for 4-wheel drive vehicles, side-by-sides, ATVs and motorcycles

Fourmile Recreation Area: Located east of the Arkansas River near Buena Vista, this area encompasses BLM and National Forest Service Lands with a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Highlights include the Midland Bicycle Trail, Barbara Whipple Trail System, Carnage Canyon Extreme 4-WD Trail and the Bald Mountain Gulch motorized trail system.

BLM lands are physically connected to the town of Buena Vista via a bridge over the river. Multiple volunteer projects with Arkansas Valley Velo (AVV) Mountain Bike Club, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association and Colorado Mountain Club have been completed to improve current routes located within the Fourmile Travel Management Plan. A trail proposal for additional trails has been submitted by AVV and will be evaluated in the next year. The new proposal would tie in with the community's master trail plan, currently being updated.

Oil Well Flats: Just uphill from the first oil well drilled west of the Mississippi River, the trail system at Oil Well Flat provides high-quality hiking and mountain biking opportunities close to Cañon City. Volunteers from numerous organizations have assisted the BLM in developing the trail system, including AmeriCorps NCCC, Mile-High Youth Corps, Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado, Backcountry Horsemen of America, Lower Arkansas Mountain Bike Association and Canon Land Hikers and Walkers.

Guffey Gorge and Cache Creek are two areas with special management needs due to the high volume of visitors coming to each area. Guffey Gorge is popular for its cliff jumping opportunities. Cache Creek is known for its recreational mining activities. The RGFO also manages Cucharas Canyon and Stanley Creek in Huerfano County, and Deer Haven and Four Mile/High Creek in Fremont and Teller Counties, each valued for their undeveloped character and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

WILDERNESS

The RGFO has five wilderness study areas (WSA) and one instant study area (ISA).

Beaver Creek WSA: This area consists of more than 26,150 acres of steep, remote granite canyons and is valued for its wildlife and fish habitat. The primary trailhead is located within the Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area at the end of Fremont County Road 132. A portion of this WSA, 13,734 acres, is within the Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Browns Canyon WSA: This 6,614-acre area is located between the towns of Salida and Buena Vista just east of the Arkansas River. Rugged topography in the area creates a variety of settings including canyons and gulches that open to ridge tops with sweeping views of the Arkansas River Valley and the nearby Sawatch Mountain Range. The primary trailhead is located near the Ruby Mountain Recreation Site along Chaffee County Road 300. The entire WSA is located within an ACEC.

Lower and Upper Grape Creek WSAs: Spanning a large portion of the Grape Creek WSA watershed, these two WSAs are located nearby Cañon City and Westcliffe. Lower Grape Creek WSA consists of 11,220 acres and Upper Grape Creek consists of 10,200 acres. Rugged peaks and inviting pools in the WSAs provide a diversity of terrain and offer a relatively long recreation season for hikers, anglers, hunters, and equestrians. Primary access is at the Bear Gulch trailhead. There are no developed trails within these WSAs. Grape Creek's riparian corridor is also an ACEC.

McIntyre Hills WSA: This area covers almost 16,000 acres of rugged country on the south side of the Arkansas River canyon about 15 miles west of Cañon City. There are no developed trail heads or trails within this area. A small portion of the WSA near the Arkansas River is within the Arkansas Canyonlands ACEC.

High Mesa Grassland ISA — This area covers 680 acres of public land, 13 miles northwest of Cañon City in Fremont County. It spans the rolling mesa and steep slopes of Table Mountain, locally known as Sommerville Table. Elevation varies from 8,500 to 9,100 feet. The unit includes 17 species of native grass, and the ISA is within a research natural area and an ACEC.

PALEONTOLOGY

Garden Park Fossil Area: This area is important for paleontological research because of its wealth of Jurassic fossil data. The GPFA was designated by the State of Colorado under the Natural Area Program as a Research Natural Area. The National Park Service also designated the area in 1972, with a large addition in 2013, as a National Natural Landmark (NNL) with international significance. In addition, the BLM identified the area as an ACEC because of its paleontological resources.

Paleontology Education: The RGFO partners with multiple groups to protect paleontological resources through an education program that highlights the

resources in the Garden Park Fossil Area. The RGFO shows the public the significance of the irreplaceable paleontologic resources on public lands. The RGFO also created a presentation for the marsh Quarry Tour, and these materials are part of a curriculum local school teachers can use to help fulfill state Department of Education history and science requirements. The BLM's partners the Fremont County Stones and Bones, Garden Park Paleontology Society, the National Park Service National Natural Landmark Program, the Geological Society of America's GeoCorps Program and many local volunteers. The RGFO's efforts are funded by multiple programs including Hands on the Land, Take it Outside and other Department of the Interior youth initiatives.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The RGFO manages cultural resources on BLM-managed land from the Continental Divide to the borders of Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Sites and artifacts in the area range from more than 12,000 years old to 50 years old. Several historic mining districts still contain many scattered parcels of BLM land. These historic mining districts are near Cripple Creek, Leadville, Querida (Westcliffe/Silvercliff), Central City/Black Hawk, and areas west of Boulder. A historic trail is located on a parcel in Larimer County, and many of the reservoirs on the eastern plains still have BLM land underneath them. Sites include a charcoal-making camp, town site, historic toll road and railroad.

Aboriginal sites range from the Paleo-Indian stage through the protohistoric. Prehistoric archaeological data are ephemeral, and often consist of chipped stone, faunal remains, ground stone, pottery and structural elements. The RGFO monitors 19 historic properties and performs proactive inventories on several other sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Each year BLM resource specialists provide educational programs to local students on a variety of topics including: wildlife, geology and paleontology. The BLM also supports local community events like the Arkansas River Clean-Up Green Up, Safety Town and Science Fairs. The BLM works with the Southwest Conservation Corps and Mile-High Youth Corps to provide stewardship projects and educational programs to youth aged 15-24.

Teaching Environmental-education Science Naturally (TEN): TEN helps educators develop ways to teach environmental education in the classroom, on the school grounds or "outdoor classrooms" on public lands. The Fremont program is a cooperative effort between the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, BLM, Natural Resources Conservation Service and two school districts. The four-day class is attended by teachers and college students annually from around Fremont County. Educational materials are loaned to teachers through this program.

Hands On the Land: The BLM's Garden Park Fossil Area is a member of Hands On the Land, a national network of field classrooms connecting students, teachers, and parents to their public lands. For more information visit: www.handsontheland.org/garden-park/.

Take it Outside Youth Initiative Programs: For the past 18 years BLM has teamed up with Rocky Mountain Field Institute to bring students from the Fountain Valley School to public lands to do service projects. Each year approximately 75 students participate in trail maintenance, education programs and team building.

Federal Fossils: When the Garden Park Paleontology Society closed the Dinosaur Depot Museum in 2013, they started a local Federal Fossil Collection of paleontological material from the Garden Park Fossil area. This collection was relocated to Canon City's Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center in 2014. The museum is a new partner in paleontological education and houses several BLM fossils. They are in the process of upgrading their displays to be more attractive to youth.

Ecological Literacy Program: Ecological Literacy Program: Greater Arkansas River Nature Association's (GARNA) mission is to develop awareness of and appreciation for the resources of the Greater Arkansas River area through educational activities, volunteer projects, community involvement and partnerships. Using Take it Outside funding, GARNA, the BLM and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area have developed a program that pairs high school students with BLM staff, engaging them in outdoor activities. The program also works with 3rd, 6th and 7th graders as well.

Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA): In 2013, youth corps crews assisted the BLM on trail projects on the Midland Hills trails, including trail restoration, re-routes and trail maintenance.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps: In 2013, the RGFO hosted an eight person crew for six weeks. While the crew was originally slated to perform trail work at Oil Well Flat, intermittent snow allowed the crew to assist various organizations throughout the community including the Fremont County Historical Society, Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center, Boys and Girls Club of Fremont County, Fremont County Parks and Recreation District.

Hangin' Out Outdoors: This was the second year that BLM participated in this summer program for children 12 to 17 years old. The program introduces children to geo caching, fishing, horseback riding, rappelling, gold panning and whitewater rafting. These activities are led by BLM staff and community volunteers.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The RGFO manages wildlife habitats from low elevation short-grass prairie to alpine tundra on the top of Mosquito Pass. Habitats are managed to provide quality browse and forage, hiding cover and open spaces. Land Health Assessments and resource evaluations are important in determining the effectiveness of management practices.

The RGFO biologists help provide expertise to important multi-agency workgroups that include the Southern Colorado Streamlining Team, Colorado Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team, several habitat partnership committees, boreal toad recovery team and the South Park Wetlands Focus Group. The RGFO partnered with Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative to monitor Penland alpine fen mustard, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to conduct a Mexican spotted owl demography study, and it continues its collaboration with Western State Colorado University to study the effects of fuel treatments on migratory birds.

RGFO listed species include:

- Canada Lynx
- Colorado butterfly plant
- greenback cutthroat trout
- least tern
- lesser praire chicken
- Mexican spotted owl
- New Mexico meadow jumping mouse
- Penland alpine fed mustard
- Pawnee montane skipper
- Preble's meadow jumping mouse
- piping plover
- Ute ladies'-tresses orchid

FORESTRY

Thirty-eight percent of the land managed by the RGFO is classified as commercial forest land or woodlands. The primary commercial species are ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, lodgepole pine, aspen and Engelmann spruce. Primary woodland species are pinyon pine, Rocky Mountain juniper and one-seed juniper.

The RGFO forestry program issues approximately 600 special forest product permits annually. These permits include personal-use permits and commercial permits (for small local companies). Currently, about 10 small sawmills and several logging companies scattered throughout the communities within the RGFO. In 2013, the RGFO forestry program awarded three timber sales, covering 326 acres and more than 1.5 million board feet of lumber. One of these sales was completed in FY13 and the others should be completed in FY14. The RGFO is currently working on four new timber sales for FY14.

The RGFO completed seven stewardship contracts including nine project areas over the past seven years. The eighth stewardship contract was awarded and is currently be implemented. These contracts have resulted in many acres treated and provided forest products that support the local forest product industry. The RGFO has two on-going bark beetle outbreaks within the field office and minor endemic population of other bark beetles. The pinyon IPS beetle has been active in the pinyon/juniper woodlands around Canon City. The spruce beetle was discovered in FY13 in the Jack Hall timber sale and three large spruce beetle spots were found in the Two Creek timber sale. Both of these sales are in Fremont County and the total extent of this outbreak is currently unknown. Additional on-going forestry activities include monitoring of all RGFO forest management projects, intensive forest inventory, regeneration surveys, forestry input into other resource projects, database up-keep, timber stand improvement and public education.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The RGFO administers 480 grazing permits/leases on 512 allotments for 30,000 Animal Unit Months. The rangeland program is responsible for ensuring that grazing allotments meet standards related to Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado.

WEED MANAGEMENT

This year, the weed management program expects to inventory 10,000 acres for new weed infestation areas and treat more than 900 acres. Evaluations are conducted to determine effectiveness of the previous years' treatments of about 700 acres. Aggressive treatments planned in 2012 of noxious weeds include, but are not limited to, knap weeds yellow toadflax, white top, various non-native thistles, leafy spurge, and salt cedar (Tamarisk). The RGFO's program works in cooperation with the Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Area, including Fremont and Chaffee counties.

LANDS AND REALTY

The RGFO is seeing increasing use of public lands in the area, due primarily to its close proximity to metropolitan areas such as Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo. The Lands and Realty program is further complicated by fragmented and split-estate ownership of surface and subsurface lands within the field office's boundaries.

ABANDONED MINES PROGRAM

The RGFO AML program focuses clean-up efforts in the Leadville and Westcliffe historic mining districts. In conjunction with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS), the BLM is conducting safety

closure work on dangerous abandoned mine openings near Boulder in the Fourmile Canyon area. The RGFO is also participating in a nationwide effort to validate AML sites in our national database.

Lake Fork Watershed: The Dinero and Nelson Mine dumps were remediated in the Lake Fork Watershed, a few miles west of Leadville. The BLM helped with the successful implementation of source water control at the Dinero Tunnel that was releasing large quantities of zinc and other metals into the Lake Fork of the Arkansas River. These cleanup projects have improved the water quality in tributaries to the Arkansas River. Additional work is taking place on the Tiger Tunnel and Venture Mine sites. This work is accomplished in cooperation with the multi-agency Lake Fork Watershed Working Group.

FLUID MINERALS

The RGFO manages approximately 2,500 oil and gas wells across eastern Colorado. The RGFO ensures that wells are permitted and inspected for compliance with federal regulatory requirements on drilling and production operations as well as the final abandonment of a well. Production records are routinely monitored and verified to ensure accurate royalty payments to the federal government. RGFO's well-trained staff is dedicated to protecting public lands and their resources by ensuring environmentally sound reclamation and rehabilitation procedures where lands are disturbed by oil and gas operations.

SOLID MINERALS

Solid minerals management for the RGFO extends east from the Continental Divide to the Colorado-Kansas border and includes hard rock mining, placer activities, gravel pit management, and uranium and coal exploration. Minerals management is complex because of the scattered land status that is often un-surveyed in mountainous areas, as well as the split-estate minerals that are prevalent in eastern Colorado. The vast mineral resources and heightened interest by the public has prompted the RGFO to revamp its public minerals website and initiate a Mineral Potential Report for the entire field office area.

The RGFO manages more than 21 notices and 11 Plans of Operations under the Locatable Minerals Program. This includes gold mines in Lake and Boulder counties, a number of small placer mining operations along the Arkansas River from Cañon City to Leadville, new exploration operations for gold and uranium in Fremont County, and other possible upcoming exploration on a multitude of rare earth element claims. The RGFO also manages six common use areas and more than 18 commercial and noncommercial gravel pits used for road maintenance and construction, building construction, and landscaping.

Efforts are underway to establish a sound production verification program and pursue approximately 10 potential trespass cases on split-estate. The RGFO has initiated an effort to use photogrammetry methods for conducting the required production verification, as well as to quantify material removed in these potential trespass cases.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Front Range Interagency Fire staff operates under an interagency fire and fuels management partnership with the U.S. Pike and San Isabel National Forests. Existing interagency efforts include dispatch coordination, wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire, fuels management, fire mitigation, fire prevention and education activities.

Through a formal agreement, specialist and technical skills are exchanged to meet the changing needs of fire and fuels management programs including mitigation, prevention and public education.

The unit completes more than 2,500 acres of fuels treatment annually through the use of prescribed fire and mechanical methods. This figure consists of about 1,500 acres on BLM lands and about 1,000 acres on U.S. Forest Service lands. Annually about 60 suppression actions are conducted across 951,000 acres of federal land.

KEITH BERGER
Royal Gorge Field Manager
719-269-8522

Keith Berger graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology in 1985 and has worked in a number of positions for the BLM including Rangeland Management Specialist and a Resource Advisor, not to mention other positions in the Colorado State Office and Gunnison Field Office.

Keith worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Bridger/Teton National Forest in Pinedale, WY and for the U.S. Agricultural Research Service in Grand Junction and Greeley, CO, before coming to BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office in 1988. Keith and his wife Jolee have two children, Zach, and Nicole. His interests include hunting, fishing, hiking, dirt biking and spending time with his family.

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

307 West Sackett • Salida, CO 81201 • 719-539-7289 • 719-539-3771 fax • parks.state.co.us/Parks/arkansasheadwaters

FACTS

- 9,890 acres comprise the Cooperative Management Area
- 45 recreation sites (19 developed, 6 camping areas, 19 boat ramps)
- 2 Wilderness Study Areas (Browns Canyon 7,003 acres - McIntyre Hills 16,800 acres)
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Top of the Rockies (also a National Scenic Byway), and Colligate Peaks

Counties: Lake, Chaffee, Freemont and Pueblo

RECREATION

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is a cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Formed in 1989, this partnership allows agencies to provide visitors with recreation opportunities and care for significant natural resources of the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The U.S. Forest Service has also joined the partnership, although the BLM and the State retain the primary management for the recreation area.

Fees are collected at a number of self-service stations at recreation sites and campgrounds throughout the area. The AHRA visitor center includes the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) bookstore containing maps and books on the area and activities.

The AHRA issues commercial agreements to 54 boating outfitters, 15 walk and wade fishing companies, 28 photography companies and three shuttle companies.

The CPW also provides employment for 25 seasonals with an annual payroll of about $200,000 and nine full time employees with a budget of about $500,000.

The BLM employs one full-time river manager and one seasonal recreation technician. The AHRA stretches 152 miles along the Arkansas River.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for:

- Fishing
- Rafting
- Kayaking
- Picnicking
- Hiking
- Camping
- Mountain biking
- Sightseeing

JOHN NAHOMENUK
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area River Manager
719-539-7289

John Nahomenuk began his career with the BLM in 1984 as a volunteer and completed his college internship requirement with the BLM Gunnison Field Office. He continued work as a seasonal wilderness and river recreation technician with the Grand Junction, Kremmling and Canon City offices. In 1990, he became a permanent BLM employee and worked as the Royal Gorge Resource Area, Outdoor Recreation Planner for five years before relocating to the AHRA as the Upland Recreation Planner. In 2004, John became the River Manager at AHRA.

John earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Natural Resource Management (Outdoor Recreation) from Slippery Rock University in Western Pennsylvania. He lives in Salida and enjoys snowboarding, golf, ping-pong, fishing and running the river.

SAN LUIS VALLEY FIELD OFFICE

46525 Highway 114 • Saguache, CO 81149 • 719-655-2547 • 719-655-2502 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvfo.html

FACTS

- 500,290 surface acres
- 4 recreation areas
- 3 Wilderness Study Areas
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway
- 26,127 acres of woodlands
- 11 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (3 listed, 2 candidates)
- 102 miles of streams and rivers
- 500,290 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos and Costilla

The public lands managed by the BLM's San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO) present myriad ecosystems; from alpine desert to the majestic Sangre de Cristo Wilderness on the eastern side of the Valley.

RECREATION

The San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO) has a wide assortment of recreation opportunities ranging from camping and hiking to bird watching and rock climbing. The SLVFO completed a travel management plan in 2010, which restricts motorized and mechanized travel to designated roads, trails and areas.

Blanca Wetlands: Long ago, a network of playa lakes, ponds, marshes and wet meadows shimmered in the desert scrub of the San Luis Valley. Today, many of the wetlands are dry due to a lower ground water table and decreased rain and snow runoff from the mountains. The Blanca Wetlands – a part of this wetlands network – is making a comeback through the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management and its many partners. Ponds, marshes, playas, wet meadows, and uplands intermingle at Blanca Wetlands to provide rich and diverse habitats for wildlife and a haven for people.

Blanca Wetlands has been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, or an ACEC, specifically for its recreation and wetland values, including playa and marsh habitats containing large populations of water birds, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and 13 threaten, endangered and sensitive species.

Penitente Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): This SRMA is an internationally recognized climbing area, offering 300 incredible sport climbing routes. The routes tend to be short but challenging and range from 5.2 to 5.13c on the Yosemite Decimal System rating scale. Among the more famous routes are: Los Hermanos de la Weenie Way (5.11c) and Bullet the Blue Sky (5.12c/d), both in inner Penitente Canyon; Forbidden Fruit (5.12a) on the "Whipping Wall" in Penitene Canyon; and Copacetic (5.11b) in the Rock Garden area. A developed campground offers tent and camper accommodations next to sheer orange-colored cliffs. An extensive trail system provides superb hiking and mountain biking opportunities.

Rio Grande Natural Area: The Natural Area was established in 2006 to conserve, restore and protect the 33-mile stretch of the Rio Grande between the southern end of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to the Colorado-New Mexico state line. The area encompasses both BLM-managed lands along the western banks of the Rio Grande, as well as private lands along the Rio Grande's eastern banks. Many types of wildlife call the Natural Area home including: prairie, peregrine, Swainson's, ferruginous and red-tailed hawks; great horned, barn, burrowing and long-eared owls; mule deer; pronghorn antelope; Gunnison prairie dog; northern leopard frog; golden and bald eagle; Rio Grande chub; mountain plover; swift fox; and southwestern willow flycatcher.

Approximately 35 percent of the natural area is managed by the BLM. The section running through the BLM-managed land is popular with river boaters in May and June. The area offers excellent fishing opportunities and pull-outs with beautiful views of the river as it winds through the dry Fairy and Brownie Hills. A nine-citizen member commission is developing a management plan for the private land within the natural area.

Zapata Falls Campground: This new campground sits among pinyon and juniper trees on the lower flanks of the Blanca Peak massif. Incredible views of the San Luis Valley and the San Juan Mountains can be seen from both the campground and nearby Zapata Falls Picnic Area. A short 1/4 mile trail leads from the picnic area to the beautiful Zapata Falls. For those in good physical condition, the trail continues from the falls up to the high country of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) were established through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which directed the bureau to inventory and study its roadless areas for wilderness characteristics. Until congress makes a final determination on a WSA, the BLM manages these areas to preserve their suitability for designation as wilderness. There are three WSAs managed by the SLVFO: Black Canyon, Papa Keal and San Luis Hills.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The San Luis Valley has a rich cultural landscape that includes traces of the mammoth hunter's of the Late Pleistocene (ca. 12,000 BC), Hispanic settlements and the gold mining camps of Bonanza and Duncan. Stone structures throughout the Valley suggest a possible Puebloan influence, and culturally peeled trees reflect the migrations of the Utes and Jicarilla Apaches. The Valley's wetland environments drew people from as far away as the high plains to exploit the rich game resources that included waterfowl, fish, elk and bison. The Valley also boasts segments of the Old Spanish Trail (1829-1848) and the newly established Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area.

Mammoth traces – Mammoths left their mark in the San Luis Valley. The BLM's Elephant Rocks Area was habitat for Colombian mammoths that lived in the San Luis Valley during the Pleistocene Epoch. Local legend says that these giant creatures left their mark, and people visit the area to see the marks where mammoths rubbed against the rocks. In 2011, the vertebra of a young mammoth was found on BLM land near the town of Villa Grove in Saguache County. It is estimated that the bones were deposited about 25,000 years ago. The last mammoths in the San Luis Valley died out about 13,000 years ago.

La Garita Caldera – The La Garita Super Volcano blew its top about 27 million years ago, and is the largest volcanic eruption ever documented. The La Garita eruption was the planet's biggest explosion since the Chicxulub asteroid strike about 65 million years ago. Fifty times stronger than La Garita, Chicxulub may have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. By contrast, the largest known volcanic eruption at the Yellowstone Caldera was only half as powerful as the La Garita Caldera. Located in the San Juan Volcanic Field that then covered much of southern Colorado, the La Garita explosion spewed more than 1,200 cubic miles of pumice and ash. That's enough to fill Lake Michigan. Compare that to the recent Mt. St. Helen's eruptions, which expelled 0.25 cubic miles of material.

Kerber Creek Restoration - Since the early 1990s, the BLM's San Luis Valley Field Office has been involved with restoring Kerber Creek. The most recent project began in 2005 as a coalition of government agencies, environmental organizations, and local landowners all dedicated to restoring the Kerber Creek Watershed after a historic mining boom in Colorado's northern San Luis Valley. In the late nineteenth century, silver ore was discovered in the area, resulting in an economic boom as miners and their families moved to what became the Bonanza Mining District. Large-scale mining came to an end in the 1930s; however, significant amounts of mine wastes were deposited along the stream and by the 1990s, had been transported throughout the watershed by floods. The results have been depleted aquatic life and riparian vegetation, altered stream channels, and deteriorated water quality that has led to Kerber Creek being placed on the 2006 Colorado Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired water bodies.

After voluntary cleanup efforts by the American Smelting and Refining Company in the 1990s, the BLM analyzed 19 miles of the creek, from the town of Bonanza to Villa Grove, to determine further clean-up options. Since 95 percent of the land along the stream and within the floodplain is privately owned, further rehabilitation required local landowners' cooperation. Thus, the Bonanza Stakeholders Group (BSG), a coalition of local landowners, was established in 2007.

Through partnerships with numerous governmental agencies and nonprofit groups, the project has received more than $2 million in grants and more than 13,000 volunteer hours of restoration work. Additional funding has been provided by several governmental agencies. The clean-up project and BSG have been the recipients of numerous awards, including, the 2011 American Fisheries Society—Western Division's Riparian Challenge Award and the 2011 Public Lands Foundation's Landscape Stewardship Award. Today, restoration work continues as the project engages in community development and education efforts. For more information about the Kerber Creek Restoration Project please visit: www.kerbercreek.org

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The SLVFO manages a diversity of wildlife habitat ranging from low-elevation wetlands to mid-elevation ponderosa pine forests. Waterfowl, shorebirds, amphibians and other wildlife inhabit the rich wetlands, while species such as the Gunnison prairie dog live in the dry low elevation grasslands. Black bear, mountain lion and mule deer are prevalent in the low and mid-elevation forests and bighorn sheep inhabit some of the steep rock terrain managed by the field office.

Federally Threatened and Endangered species include:
- Mexican spotted owl
- Mountain plover
- Southwest willow flycatcher (Endangered)

Candidate species include:
- Gunnison prairie dog
- New Mexico jumping mouse
- Rio Grande cutthroat trout
- Sage-grouse
- Yellow billed cuckoo

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The SLVFO manages 82 livestock grazing permits on 115 active grazing allotments for approximately 32,400 Animal Unit Months and covering 474,000 acres. Grazing allotments are monitored to ensure range conditions are meeting the standards for public health. Those allotments being managed to improve resource conditions are monitored more frequently than those managed to sustain existing satisfactory conditions. The field office continues to manage for drought conditions on an allotment by allotment basis in coordination, with affected permittees and other interested publics.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The BLM Colorado Renewable Energy (RE) program is focusing on improving agency mitigation policies and practices based on a landscape approach. Currently the RE Team is working on a landscape assessment in the San Luis Valley and Taos Plateau following rapid eco-regional protocols. This includes an analysis of land management questions, conservation elements and change agents such as human development, climate change, fire and invasive species. The landscape assessment is concurrent with and informs the development of Regional Mitigation Strategies for three solar energy zones (Antonito SE, Los Mogotes E and De Tilla Gulch). In 2014, the RE program coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to research golden eagle movement in wind, solar, and transmission development areas; the Department of Energy-National Renewable Energy Laboratory on transmission and power consumption models to inform RGFO resource management planning; supported NEPA for high-altitude military training; and processed lands and realty case files, including R&PP leasing.

FLUID MINERALS

Ninety-nine percent of the SLVFO managed lands are open to leasing. The BLM received a completed Application for Permit to Drill (APD) in June 2012 for a split-estate parcel about five miles south of Del Norte. The BLM expects to complete its analysis of the APD in 2013. The proposed drill site was leased in 2006 and is located in a rural residential area. Currently, there are no producing oil and gas wells on federal mineral estate in the San Luis Valley.

ANDREW ARCHULETA
San Luis Valley Field Manager
719-655-2547

Andrew Archuleta has been a federal employee for 28 years. Prior to becoming the Manager for the San Luis Valley Field Office, Archuleta served four years as the district ranger and field manager at the Saguache Public Lands Office. Prior to working in the San Luis Valley, Archuleta worked as the abandoned mine lands program manager on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland as an environmental contaminants specialist and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

2815 H Road • Grand Junction, CO 81506 • 970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html

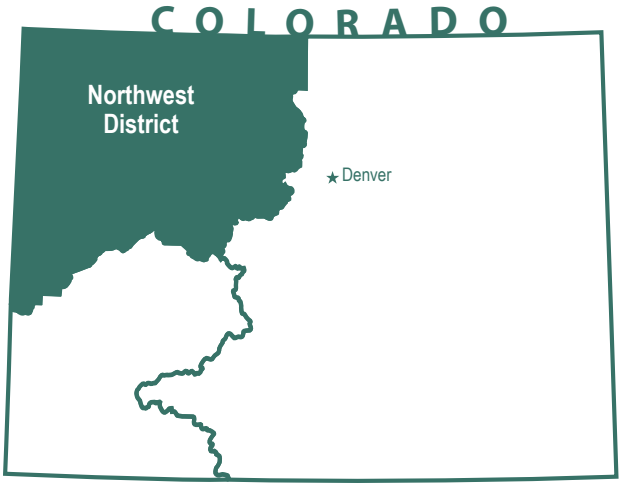
The Northwest Colorado District manages about 5 million surface acres – 60 percent of all the BLM surface acres in Colorado. It's comprised of the Grand Junction, Colorado River Valley, Kremmling, Little Snake and White River field offices, which provide a wide variety of multiple uses.

The District includes the Colorado River corridor along with the White and Yampa rivers. It is home to some of the largest deer and elk herds in the county, along with pronghorn, both Greater and Gunnison's sage grouse, and a wide variety of other wildlife. Three of Colorado's four wild horse herd management areas are in the Northwest District.

The Northwest District also manages 8.7 million acres of subsurface minerals, which includes some of the most productive oil and natural gas fields in the state, four of Colorado's nine coal mines, and vast deposits of oil shale.

The District includes the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area and part of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

With the I-70 corridor and the largest population in western Colorado within the Northwest District, urban interface issues and increasing pressure on BLM lands from recreation and other uses is an on-going management challenge.



Joe Meyer
Northwest District Manager
970-244-3000

Joe Meyer has been the Northwest Colorado District Manager since September 2014. He came to BLM Colorado from Wyoming, where he had been the Field Manager for the BLM Casper Field Office since 2008. Meyer worked for the BLM in Wyoming for 25 years in a number of positions, including hydrologist, assistant field manager, and field manager. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point in watershed management and resource management with an emphasis in soil science. Joe and his wife Anne have two grown children. They enjoy camping, fishing and hiking.

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE

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FACTS

- 377,900 surface acres
- 2.29 million subsurface acres
- 22 recreation sites (8 developed, 5 picnic areas, 9 camping areas and 9 boat ramps included in recreation numbers)
- 2 Recreation Management Areas: Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area and the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area
- 3 Wilderness Study Areas (8,872 acres): Troublesome 8,158 acres, North Sand Hills ISA 681 acres, Platte River Contiguous 33 acres
- 6,955 acres of woodlands
- 93,900 acres of forest land
- 12 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (11 listed, 1candidate)
- 198,900 acres priority habitat and 18,900 acres general habitat for Greater Sage Grouse
- 220 miles of streams and rivers
- 337,742 acres grazed by livestock
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways – Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway (Jackson County); Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic Byway

Counties: Grand, Jackson, Summit and portions of Eagle and Larimer

The Kremmling Field Office (KFO) is comprised of three regions: North Park, Middle Park and the Laramie River Valley. North Park is situated on the east side of the Continental Divide and is the headwaters for the North Platte River. Middle Park is situated on the west side of the Continental Divide and forms the headwaters of the Colorado River. The Laramie River region is located east of North Park on the east side of the Medicine Bow Mountains.

RECREATION

The KFO manages 30 miles of the Colorado River from Byers Canyon to State Bridge. The majority of the river corridor consists of Class I and II white water, with Gore Canyon offering a 5-mile section of expert-only Class IV and V white water. The KFO manages three primary public recreation areas along the Upper Colorado River: Pumphouse, Radium and State Bridge.

Most of the fall recreation use occurs in the forested areas. There are several major roads that provide access to large forested blocks of public land. Summer and winter travel maps are available at the Kremmling Field Office. At the North Sand Hills in Jackson County, use over holiday weekends (Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day) ranges from 1,000 to 3,000 people per day. Other weekends average about 100 people per day, while weekdays average about 50 people per day. Total visitation for the summer months is estimated at more than 20,000 visits a year.

KFO recreation activities include:

- Rafting
- Trout fishing
- Kayaking
- Camping
- Hunting
- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- OHV use
- Horseback riding
- Wildlife viewing

The Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): The area is popular with the public for its recreation opportunities and proximity to Grand, Summit, Routt, and Eagle counties, and the Front Range metropolitan area. The stretch of the Colorado River from Pumphouse to State Bridge is among the top three commercially-used rivers in the state. Annual visitation to that area exceeds 60,000 people.

The North Sand Hills (SRMA): This is an intensive OHV-use area that includes the only sand dune area in Colorado open to public OHV use. Motorized travel in this SRMA is limited to the open sand dune complex and existing open roads and trails.

Colorado River Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway: The partnership for this Byway includes Grand County, communities along the Byway, and federal and state agencies. The Byway starts at the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center and ends at State Bridge on Colorado Highway 131. The Byway is about 80 miles long and winds through or by a variety of public lands. The Byway provides an educational message about the national significance of the headwaters of the Colorado River, and historic and present-day water use.

WILDERNESS

Troublesome Wilderness Study Area (WSA): Consists of 8,250 acres of lodgepole pine forest located about 15 miles north of Kremmling. It has been recommended as not suitable for wilderness designation.

Platte River Contiguous WSA: Consists of 30 acres of steep ground along the North Platte River in North Park, near the Wyoming border. The WSA is contiguous with the U.S. Forest Service's Platte River Wilderness, which has resulted in the WSA being recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

North Sand Hills Instant Study Area: Consists of 672 acres within a sand dune complex that includes open sand, aspen and sagebrush habitats located 15 miles northeast of Walden. It was recommended as not suitable for wilderness designation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resource program emphasizes consultation and coordination with the Tribal Councils of the three Ute tribes and the Northern Arapaho and the Eastern Shoshone tribes. The University of Northern Colorado began an in-depth ethnographic study of North Park beginning in 2008. This involves on-site visits to Traditional Cultural Properties by Native Americans with ties to Middle and North Parks. The Prehistoric resources discovered in Middle and North Parks contain a rich wealth of information spanning a 12,000 year history, and include Native American buffalo kill sites, tipi rings, eagle traps, wickiups, vision quest locations, burial sites, lithic quarries, and camp sites. The Yarmony Pit House site southwest of Kremmling is the oldest documented habitation structure in Colorado and is dated to 6,200 years ago. A burial removed from this location dates to 6,400 years ago, and is the third oldest burial ever to be discovered and scientifically excavated in Colorado.

The KFO also has significant invertebrate and vertebrate Paleontological resources, and a long history of scientific investigation. The Hayden Expedition of 1869 recorded the first dinosaur bone scientifically collected in Colorado, a tail vertebrate from an Allosaurus. Extinct species from the Miocene Era related to the modern horse, camel, deer, beaver and antelope have been discovered and excavated here.

Barger Gulch – Folsom Habitation and Procurement Site: Dates to 10,200 or more years ago. A ten-year excavation by the University of Wyoming was completed in 2007, revealing a rich history dating to the Folsom period.

Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite site: Contains about 125 fossil invertebrate species, and dates to 72.5 million years ago. The KFO manages this area as a Research Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental concern. The Giant Ammonite placenticeras meeki is the most obvious fossil at this site with some female specimens measuring up to a meter across. Ten new species of bivalves, gastropods and mollusks were also discovered at the site.

WILDLIFE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The KFO administers public lands that support more than 300 species of fish and wildlife in a variety of habitats. These species inhabit 13 distinct habitat types ranging from wetland bottoms and riparian areas to subalpine forest. Wetland habitat is especially important in North Park at the Hebron Waterfowl Area which has been managed by the KFO with an emphasis on waterfowl habitat since the mid-1970s.

The KFO, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and several private partners worked together to develop a Watchable Wildlife Education Area at the Windy Gap Reservoir near Granby, which is an excellent example of collaborative planning and funding. The educational displays also include information about cultural resources, and the purpose of the reservoir and water diversion pipeline.

As a result of a land exchange completed in 1999, the BLM acquired 125 acres of land with adjudicated water rights, adjacent to the Colorado River, near Kremmling. That acquisition is known now as the Junction Butte Wetland Area. The KFO and Ducks Unlimited recognized the potential of the area to become very valuable habitat for waterbirds and BLM-sensitive amphibians by creating, enhancing and maintaining it as a wetland.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The KFO administers 142 livestock grazing permits on 256 allotments covering 338,054 acres of BLM-administered public lands in Middle Park, North Park, and the Laramie River area. The KFO is dedicated

to improving the condition of rangelands through partnerships with permittees, local organizations, and other government agencies. Compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health by implementing rotation-grazing systems is an integral part of maintaining or improving range condition on KFO-administered public lands.

Since many of the 256 allotments contain both BLM-administered and private land, cooperation is necessary to properly manage rangelands. In North Park, the Owl Mountain Partnership and the North Park Habitat Partnership Program have become strong partners with the BLM in efforts to improve the condition of rangelands.

RIPARIAN PROGRAM

The KFO manages riparian vegetation along approximately 220 miles of streams, and about 4,850 acre of wetland vegetation. Due to the land ownership pattern, many partnerships to manage the resource. The program is activity involved in range permit renewals, improvement projects and monitoring and inventory of resources.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The KFO uses an integrated approach to noxious weed control. Emphasis is on prevention and incorporating high standards for site reclamation in all project implementation. Use of herbicides is the main mechanism for controlling weeds, although biological and mechanical treatments are used. The KFO partners with Grand, Jackson and Larimer counties to identify, map and control noxious weed infestations on BLM-administered lands. Currently, a manageable level of noxious weeds exists in the KFO. New weed infestations are being found, which could pose a risk of invading native habitat.

SOIL, WATER AND AIR

The KFO manages lands in the headwaters of three major drainages: the Colorado, the North Platte and the Laramie rivers. The program primarily facilitates resource projects by securing water rights and state permits for projects, assisting in developing projects, mitigating impacts, and monitoring the results of projects.

Since 2006, the office has participated in the state's "Water for the 21st Century" effort, attending the Colorado Basin and the North Platte Basin Roundtables as a BLM liaison. The KFO also is on the Non-Consumptive Use Subcommittees for the Colorado Roundtables, helping quantify water needs for recreational and biological purposes. As part of the RMP revision, the area's Travel Management Plan focuses on sustainable trails and roads that have minimal impacts to long-term soil health and water quality.

The KFO is part of the Grand County Water Information Network, which coordinates comprehensive water quality monitoring, information and educational programs in the county. The KFO is assisting the Owl Mountain Partnership in writing a watershed plan for Jackson County. The Plan is funded by a 319 grant and addresses water quality and best management practices for land uses in the North Park area.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Approximately 100,000 acres (about 30 percent) of the area administered by the KFO is in forest or woodlands. The following is the acreage by species:

- Lodgepole Pine 68,000
- Aspen 18,000
- Subalpine Fir/Engelmann Spruce 2,000
- Douglas-fir 5,000
- Pinyon/Juniper 7,000

The lodgepole pine forest has experienced a major mountain pine beetle epidemic over the last 10 to 15 years, resulting in the loss of lodgepole pine stands over a large acreage. The forest has been through an extended drought and most stands are mature or overmature.

Dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant, is also common in most of the lodgepole pine stands and is a forest health problem that likely will infect lodgepole regeneration. A looming problem exists in the more than 3,000 acres of young lodgepole pine stands that were regenerated during the 1980s and 1990s, which need to be pre-commercially thinned to prevent stagnated "doghair" stands and to remove mistletoe infected trees. These stands have between 2,000 and 5,000 trees per acre, while a desirable level is 200 to 450 trees per acre.

Between 150 and 300 acres a year are treated, resulting in more than 2 million board feet that are salvaged annually. Jackson County has entered into a long-term stewardship agreement with the BLM for forest health and fuels reduction. This agreement will allow the BLM and Jackson County to implement contracts and projects to move the forests toward a healthier condition and to reduce the chances of a catastrophic fire.

FUELS MANAGEMENT

Fuels treatments using both mechanical and prescribed fire, are important for vegetation management in KFO. The fuels management program assists other programs, mainly forestry, wildlife and rangeland management in accomplishing management objectives. Pile burning following timber sales, hazardous tree removal in diseased lodgepole pine stands, sagebrush treatments to

improve forage for wildlife and livestock and removing pinon/juniper to improve the variety of wildlife habitats are examples of fuels management activities. Among recent fuels management projects are a fuels reduction project along the public-land boundary with the Gore Lakes subdivision, and the continued emphasis on the removal of hazardous trees due to the pine beetle epidemic along BLM roads. Successful fuels management employs collaboration with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Colorado State Forest Service Grand and Jackson counties and the U.S. Forest Service.

LANDS AND REALTY

The configuration of public lands in the KFO lends itself to an active land tenure program. The priorities are to acquire public access for recreational opportunities; retain public access, critical wildlife habitat, T&E species habitat, and riparian areas; and improve management of existing public lands by blocking up certain areas. The 1984 Kremmling Resource Management Plan is being revised. Most All land tenure projects are on hold so as not to make any decisions that would affect long-term planning decisions.

The rights-of-way program has an average of 15 20 proposals per year. The KFO is active in the compliance, monitoring and reclamation aspects of the rights-of-way program, including weed and erosion control. Resolving trespass issues is a growing workload, due to the land configuration and high use of the public lands in the KFO.

FLUID MINERALS

The primary fluid mineral resources being developed are oil, carbon dioxide (CO2) gas and some methane gas. The KFO has a long history of oil and gas drilling and production activity, with nearly 675 wells having been drilled since the early 1920s. Most of these wells are located in the central portion of Jackson County in the McCallum and surrounding fields. New wells drilled within the KFO's jurisdiction over the next 20 years likely will be targeted at the Coalmont Niobrara Formation. The high potential area for oil and gas falls entirely within Jackson County. Interest in oil and gas leasing is mainly in Jackson County but also to some degree in Grand County, although, no oil or gas has been produced outside of Jackson County for more than a decade. Recent horizontal extraction techniques and economic discoveries of Niobrara oil production may promote leasing interest in unleased areas of the KFO.

Coal: Commercial or industrial coal mining in North Park ceased and no mining activity is likely in the KFO in the future. Although a considerable volume of mineable and marketable coal remains on federal lands in the McCallum area of North Park, the lack of reasonable-cost transportation in the area hinders use of this resource. There is some potential for methane gas in the near surface and deeper areas of the McCallum coal area.

Locatable Minerals: No significant future activity is anticipated on BLM-managed lands in the KFO. There may be interest in future drilling and exploration of gold placer claims on Independence Mountain in northwest Jackson County.

Saleable Minerals: Continuing trends of urbanization in eastern and southern Grand County and concentration of ownership in agricultural lands into single large ranches in Grand and Jackson counties yield long-term concerns about the availability of sand and gravel in the future. Existing free-use pits are in their last years of material supply: closures and reclamation of the old pits are anticipated. Demands from Jackson and Grand county governments are expected to increase for free-use sand and gravel resources on BLM-managed lands. Continuing demand for decorative stone will likely drive additional sales and the permitting of the new areas as they are discovered or requested.

STEPHANIE ODELL
Kremmling Field Manager
970-724-3000

Stephanie began working for the BLM in Farmington, NM in 1991 as the hazardous material coordinator and a Superfund site project manager.

She also worked as the abandoned mine lands project manager for the San Juan Public Lands office in Durango and for the Southern Ute Tribe as a water quality and environmental protection specialist within the oil and gas development division. She most recently was the abandoned mine lands program lead in the Washington D.C. office.

She was raised in Greeley Colo., where she graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in biology with minors in chemistry and geology.

LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE

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FACTS

- 1,336,517 surface acres
- 2,569,139 subsurface acres
- 12 recreation sites
  (6 developed, 4 picnic areas, 4 camping areas, 1 boat ramp)
- 6 Recreation Management Areas
- 7 Wilderness Study Areas (78,249 acres)
- 261,059 acres of woodlands (309,556 acres of forest land)
- 9 endangered, threatened, and candidate species
  (8 listed, 1 candidate)
- 570,400 acres priority habitat and 479,700 acres general habitat for Greater Sage Grouse
- 303 miles of streams and rivers
- 1 wild horse herd management area (157,730 acres)
- 1.2 million acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco

RECREATION

Axial Basin: The Axial Basin encompasses 29,000 acres of public lands, private lands, and state lands between County Roads 55, 17 and 32. The area is known for its large population of deer, elk, and antelope. As a result, the Axial Basin Coordinated Resource Management Plan was developed opening up more than 11,000 acres of privately owned lands for public hunting access. This popular hunting area has become known to sportsmen as the Axial Basin Triangle.

Cedar Mountain: Cedar Mountain is a prominent landmark located five miles northwest of Craig, Colorado. The mountain encompasses an 880-acre block of public land and has an elevation of 7,500 feet. It rises 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley providing panoramic views. Because of Cedar Mountain's isolation from similar terrain, the horseshoe-shaped rim provides a vantage point which offers a superior view of the surrounding countryside. Cedar Mountain offers a variety of recreational opportunities year round including: scenic and wildlife viewing, nature study, picnicking, hunting, hiking, mountain biking, crosscountry skiing, snow shoeing, and horseback riding on 3.5 miles of trails.

Diamond Peak: The Diamond Peak area, located in the northwest corner of Colorado, has the small Rocky Reservoir campground situated among a grove of Aspen trees at more than 8,600 feet. Access to the campground is by dirt road and usually requires a high clearance vehicle. The area provides a remote and scenic experience with trophy big game and the opportunity to view moose.

Emerald Mountain: The Emerald Mountain Special Recreation Management Area is a 4,139 acre parcel situated southwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The parcel was acquired in 2007 through a land exchange with the Colorado State Land Board and assistance of the Emerald Mountain Partnership. The SRMA is managed as two separate management zones. Zone 1 provides opportunities for strenuous, challenging mountain biking, Nordic Skiing, hunting, and similar activities. Zone 2 provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and similar non-mechanized activities. Positive working relationships with partners, the local community, and organizations have resulted in the completion of Ridge Trail and continuing plans for future trails and trailhead facilities. The area is designated as day-use only and is closed to all motorized travel.

Little Yampa Canyon: The Little Yampa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area is located 40 miles south of Craig. The 19,840-acre SRMA includes Duffy Mountain, Iles Mountain, Juniper Mountain and portions of the Yampa River and Yampa Valley Trail. The Yampa River through the SRMA is a popular flatwater boating area and is eligible for Scenic and Wild River status. The Yampa Valley Trail, which crosses through the Little Yampa Canyon SRMA, extends from Steamboat Springs, Colorado to Dinosaur, Colorado and connects with other regional trails. The area is popular for hunting, fishing, and OHV activities. Motorized and mechanized vehicles are allowed on designated routes only. Colorado Parks and wildlife is the primary manager of Yampa River public land access sites. State Parks provide consistent day-to-day management, facilities, signing, maintenance,

and regulation enforcement, while Parks and Wildlife and BLM cooperatively enforce all applicable laws and regulations on public lands within the Yampa River corridor. The BLM is expanding recreation opportunities in this SRMA through expansion of campground facilities, development of interpretive hikes and drives, and partnership in marketing with the local Moffat County Tourism Bureau

Sand Wash Basin: The Sand Wash Basin is located northwest of Maybell, Colorado and is easily accessible from Colorado State Highway 318. The Basin is a large, scenic expanse of high desert country that abounds with solitude and recreational opportunities including horseback riding, rock-hounding, hunting and off-highway vehicle use, which is the most popular recreational activity of the area. Approximately 160,000 acres of public lands is also home to the largest wild horse herd in Colorado.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS & WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Cross Mountain WSA: This 14,081-acre site offers spectacular views into Cross Mountain Canyon where the Yampa River rages 1,000 feet below the canyon rim. The Yampa River in the canyon provides the expert kayaker with high risk and challenging white water not found elsewhere in the region. The south end of the mountain is excellent for day hikes while the north end of the mountain provides a large area for backpacking and backcountry camping. Erosion has worked on the mountain's east and west flanks, exposing colorful rocky rims, side canyons, and rock outcrops. This area is easily accessible from county roads and the National Park Service parking area along the Deer Lodge Road at the west end of Cross Mountain Canyon. All forms of motorized and mechanized vehicles are prohibited.

Diamond Breaks WSA: This 36,520-acre site is located south-west of Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge and provides a scenic mountainous backdrop to the Browns Park area. The series of colorful pinyon-juniper covered red sandstone ridges break toward the Green River to the north in Browns Park. The area offers opportunities for day hikes or backpacking. The WSA is west of and adjacent to the north end of Dinosaur National Monument and provides views into the Canyon of Lodore. Activities in the WSA include photography, nature study, wildlife viewing, hiking, backpacking, hunting and enjoying the cultural heritage. Motorized or mechanized vehicles are prohibited.

Douglas Mountain WSAs: Douglas Mountain lies north of the Yampa River and east of the Green River. There are four BLM wilderness study areas directly adjacent to the northern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument on Douglas Mountain. They are the Ant Hills (4,354 acres), Chew Winter Camp (1,320 acres), Peterson Draw (5,160 acres), and Vale of Tears (7,420 acres). These remote WSAs consist of rugged hills and valleys on the flank of Douglas Mountain and are extensions of the landforms of Dinosaur National Monument to the south. This area provides interesting scenery with its ponderosa pine forest contrasting with red sandstone outcrops. There are no developed recreation sites in the Douglas Mountain area, but the area offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy deer and elk hunting, camping, sightseeing, hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. Motorized and mechanized vehicle travel is limited to existing roads and trails.

West Cold Spring WSA: This 17,682-acre site on the north side of Browns Park extends 20 miles west to east with rough and steep south-facing slopes. Much of the area is characterized by draws and canyons that have cut the O-Wi-Yu-Kuts Plateau, forming a series of plateaus and ridges. Beaver Creek Canyon along the Utah border provides an excellent area for hiking or backpacking. A cattle trail extends the length of the canyon and Beaver Creek supports a trout fishery. The rugged Matt Trail also provides a challenging hiking route up or down the south face of the mountain. Spring hiking is good in the lower elevations, with summer and fall hiking at higher elevations. Both of these trails are closed to motorized vehicles.

Irish Canyon ACEC: Irish Canyon is a relatively remote and highly scenic canyon that makes up 11,680 acres. It is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern because of its unique geology, scenery, plant species and cultural resources. There is an interpretive exhibit and trail of ancient petroglyphs at the south entrance to Irish Canyon with other unmarked cultural sites in and around the area. All sites and artifacts are protected by Federal laws. At the north end of the canyon is a small campground. There are no developed trails. Primitive roads to the east and west provide excellent mountain biking opportunities. Motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated routes.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resource program provides support and Native American consultation to renewable and nonrenewable program efforts. This includes planning efforts, lands and reality, oil and gas, coal, range, forestry, wild horse and burros, wilderness, recreation, and wildlife programs. The program consults with Moffat County Commissioners on certain projects where they may be able to provide information about historic properties. Cultural program knowledge of the prehistoric and historic archaeological resource has progressed through these support activities, especially as a result of oil and gas development. Recent work

associated with large pipelines has resulted in more excavation than anywhere in Colorado. Cultural program knowledge has also progressed via partnerships with the Vermillion Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, University of Northern Colorado, and Moffat County. These partnerships enable the BLM fiscal and research opportunities that would not be possible on our own. The program was also one of the first in the National BLM to participate in the popular Passport in Time programs, reaching out to volunteers to accomplish on-the-ground work.

Currently, archaeological work in Northwestern Colorado provides evidence of a strong Paleo-Indian presence, and extensive Archaic habitation of the area. We have further defined the presence of northern Fremont peoples through open sites, rock shelters, and rock art. Proto-Ute, Numic (Ute and Shoshone), and historic Ute peoples are evident in the archaeological record. Euro American historic archaeology is present from about 1820 A.D. to the early 21st Century and revolves around the themes of homesteading, ranching and mineral exploration.

WILD HORSES

Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area: Sand Wash Basin covers about 160,000 acres of public lands between Vermillion Bluffs and Seven Mile Ridge and is home to a wild horse herd ranging in size between 163 and 362 animals. The wild horses in this herd are the size of a typical domestic horse (average size is between 14.5 and 15 hands, with horses reaching as large as 16 hands). Wild horses can easily be observed from County Road 75 North (the Seven Mile Ridge road) and from County Road 67 and 126 from Sheepherder Springs north to the junction of County Road 75 North. The primary foaling season is between March and June each year with herd recruitment averaging 20 percent each year. The HMA was last gathered in October of 2008; 262 horses were removed from the HMA and transported to the BLM wild horse facilities in Canon City, Colorado. 118 wild horses were returned to the HMA and of these, 62 mares were treated with the fertility control drug PZP. The LSFO partnered with the Humane Society of the United States on a recently completed five-year study of the effects of the PZP on the behavior of wild horses. The current population is estimated to be 360 horses.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The LSFO provides habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species. Habitat types include:

- Salt desert shrub
- Sagebrush steppe
- Pinyon and juniper woodlands
- Mountain shrub
- Aspen woodlands
- Lodgepole pine forests

Substantial populations of elk, mule deer and pronghorn exist throughout the area and the LSFO provides crucial winter range for these species. Numerous species of small game, non-game mammals, reptiles, raptors and songbirds are also present.

Common species include:

- White-tailed prairie dog
- Wyoming ground squirrel
- Mountain lion
- Bobcat
- Coyote
- Red fox
- Badger
- Golden eagle
- Red-tailed hawk
- Chukar partridge
- Wild turkey

Threatened or Endangered species include:

- Canada lynx
- Razorback sucker
- Colorado pike minnow
- Bonytail
- Humpback chub
- Black-footed ferret
- Yellow-billed cuckoo

Special Status species include:

- Greater Sage Grouse
- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse
- Ferruginous hawk
- Great Basin spade-foot toad
- Midget faded rattlesnake
- Mountain plover
- Northern leopard frog

BLM lands within the LSFO support approximately 50 known Greater Sage-Grouse leks. Another sixty leks are known to occupy lands in which the LSFO manages the federal mineral estate. The LSFO is actively managing greater sage-grouse habitats to prevent unnecessary fragmentation and to restore degraded habitat.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The LSFO oversees the largest BLM grazing program in Colorado with 23 percent of BLM Colorado's total AUMs (animal unit months), which includes 317 permits and leases on 325 allotments. The Axial Basin Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) was developed in 1993 by a team of specialists from various agencies and institutions, including Moffat County, Colorado State University, the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colowyo Coal Company

and private ranchers. This plan was designed to resolve identified conflicts between wildlife and livestock and public and private land ownership patterns. The CRMP provides a grazing management system for three permittees on two allotments covering 28,882 acres and although the plan is 17 years old, the technical team still meets at least once a year to tour the area covered by the plan to identify and resolve on-going issues and concerns.

FLUID MINERALS

The Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFD) forecasts more than 3,000 new wells could be drilled in LSFO jurisdiction over the next 20 years. The majority of these wells will be targeted at tight sand and shale formations containing natural gas. The main development areas for these new wells will be in the Hiawatha, Powderwash, and Great Divide areas.

SOLID MINERALS

LSFO contains known economic deposits of coal, uranium, high purity limestone, and sand and gravel. Based on known occurrences and/or known favorable geologic settings, the area has the potential for other significant deposits of these commodities, as well as other mineral resources, including oil shale and associated commodities, precious and base metals, zeolites, construction stone, and clays. The LSFO has one of the largest coal programs in the state with more than 16 million tons of coal produced in FY 2009 from three coal mines.

PALEONTOLOGY

Fossils found in the LSFO encompass the geologic time scale from the Cambrian to the most recent. Fossils found in the LSFO include Paleozoic invertebrate fossils such as stromatolites, trilobites, brachiopods, pelecypods, and a variety of ichnofossils. Fossils representing the Mesozoic and Cenozoic include vertebrate fossils representing the dinosaurs, marine reptiles and land mammals. Additionally, Mesozoic and Cenocoic invertebrates of Phylums representing Pelecypoda, (Bivalvia), Cepholopoda, Insecta, and ichnofossils can be identified in the LSFO. The LSFO is responsible for managing permits from scientists associated with several academic institutions. Among those institutes are the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Western Colorado, the University of Colorado Museum Geology/ Paleobiology Section, the University of Colorado, Colorado University at Denver and the Denver Museum of Science and Nature.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Little Snake Field Office averages about 71 fires per year with an average of 6,500 acres burned. Some natural fires caused by lightning are managed, rather than quickly suppressed, to benefit a variety of resources including wildlife, range ecology, vegetative diversity and hazardous fuels. The fire management program for the LSFO also handles prescribed burn and mechanical fuels treatment projects, which focus on eliminating hazardous fuel conditions that benefit other programs such as Wildlife, Range, ecosystem health, and Oil and Gas operations.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

After a seven-year planning effort, LSFO signed the Record of Decision on its new Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 2011. The two most contentious issues were management of lands with wilderness characteristics, including Vermillion Basin, and protecting important sagebrush habitat in northwest Colorado. In a highly collaborative effort, a broad-based community stewardship group called the Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS) participated in the planning process. NWCOS provided the BLM with consensus and individual recommendations for the Draft RMP.

WENDY REYNOLDS
Little Snake Field Manager
970-826-5000

Wendy Reynolds became the field manager for the Little Snake Field Office in March 2011. She has worked for BLM since 2002. She most recently worked as the field manager for the BLM Upper Snake Field Office in Idaho Falls, Idaho, but has a long history in northwestern Colorado.

Prior to leaving Colorado for Idaho in 2003 to become a BLM field manager, Reynolds was the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the Little Snake office in Craig. She also spent eight of her 12 years with the U.S. Forest Service as the planner with the Routt National Forest in Steamboat Springs. Reynolds spent her other four Forest Service years as a planner for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland in Douglas, Wyoming. She owned and operated a legal and secretarial support business in Steamboat Springs before working for the Forest Service.

WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE

220 E. Market Street • Meeker, CO 81641 • 970-878-3800 • 970-878-3805 fax

FACTS

- 1,456,000 surface acres
- 365,000 subsurface acres
- 14 recreation sites (2 developed, 2 picnic areas)
- 6 Wilderness Study Areas (81,000 acres)
- 8 Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species (7 listed, 1 candidate)
- 122,000 acres priority habitat and 180,200 acres general habitat for Greater Sage Grouse
- 36 BLM Sensitive Species
- 17 Areas of Critical Concern
- 1 Wild horse herd management area
- 1,435,513 acres grazed by livestock
- 1 National Scenic Byway
- 1 National Historic District

Counties: Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Garfield

RECREATION

The White River Field Office, WRFO, is known for its abundance of big game hunting opportunities. Arguably the nation's largest elk herd makes its home here as well as impressive numbers of mule deer. The area also boasts more than 50 miles of the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway, which passes the western side of the field office and bisects the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. The WRFO provides an array of dispersed recreational activities such as off-highway vehicle riding and 4x4 routes. Recreational activities also include camping, horseback riding and hiking.

WILDERNESS

The WRFO has six Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). They include Bull Canyon WSA, Willow Creek & Skull Creek WSAs, which are located north of the town of Dinosaur and south of Dinosaur National Monument. The Oil Spring Mountain WSA is located 30 miles south of the town of Rangely and Black Mountain and the Windy Gulch WSAs are located 10 miles west of Meeker. All WSAs are open to foot and horse travel and total 81,000 acres that allow for primitive types of recreational experiences.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Canyon Pintado National Historic District: Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Canyon Pintado is located in northwest Colorado in the Douglas Creek Valley, between Rangely and Fruita. The canyon was visited repeatedly by a variety of cultures over the last 11,000 years. One culture that left a visible mark on the canyon was the Fremont. Many of the rock art sites left behind are thought to be the handiwork of Fremont-age peoples.

WILD HORSES

Piceance – East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area: This area is home to more than 200 wild horses. The area encompasses nearly 195,000 acres of rolling piñon and juniper woodlands. The best place to view the horses is from the rim of Cathedral Bluffs facing east and looking along the slopes that fall off to the east. The Piceance-East Douglas wild horse herd shares its habitat with elk, mule deer, sage grouse, eagles, hawks, coyotes, fox and an assortment of reptiles.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Threatened and Endangered species: bald eagle, Colorado pike-minnow, Canada lynx, and reintroduced black-footed ferret
- Small game: 15 species, including 1 BLM sensitive species
- Predators: 6 species
- Non-game birds: about 240 species, 60 percent of which breeding or resident, including 14 BLM Sensitive species
- Small mammals: about 36 species, including 5 BLM Sensitive species
- Waterfowl: 7 nesting species
- Amphibians: 5 species, including 2 BLM Sensitive

- Reptiles: 11 species, including 2 BLM Sensitive
- Non-game fish: 12 species, including 4 BLM Sensitive

Federally-listed Threatened plant species:
- *Lesquerella congesta* (Dudley Bluff's bladderpod)
- Physaria obcordata (Piceance twinpod)
- Spiranthes diluvialis (Ute ladies'-tresses orchid)

BLM Sensitive species:
- Boechera fernaldiana (park rockcress)
- Astragalus detritalis (debris milkvetch)
- Eriogonum ephedroides (ephedra buckwheat)
- Gentianella tortuosa (Utah genetian)
- Gilia stenothyrsa (narrow-stem gilia)
- Lesquerella parviflora (Piceance bladderpod)
- Oenothera aacutissima (narrow-leaf evening primerose)
- Oreocarya (Cryptantha) rollinsii (Rollins cryptanth)
- Penstemon grahamii (Graham beardtonque)
- Penstemon scariosus var. albifluvis (White River penstemon)

State Rare species:
- Aquilegia barnebyi (shale columbine)
- Astragulus lutosus (dragon milkvetch)
- Bolophyta ligulata (ligulate feverfew)
- Festuca dasyclada (sedge fescue)
- Penstemon acuaulis var. yampaensis (stemless penstemon)
- Penstemon harringtonii (Harrington beardtonque)
- Sullivantia hapemanii var. purpusii (hanging garden sullivantia)
- Thalictrum heliophilum (sun-loving meadowrue)

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Currently, the field office manages 118 grazing authorizations to graze livestock on 156 allotments. Allotments vary in size from 4 to 142,825 acres of BLM land with grazing capacities ranging from 3 to 11,550 AUMs. Total federal acres grazed is 1,435,513 acres.

LANDS AND REALTY

The WRFO manages 1,600 rights-of-way (ROW) for pipelines, roads and power lines. Nearly half of those ROWs are for oil and gas. We also have communication facilities, telephone and fiber optic lines, power systems, water projects, R&PP leases, material sites, and easements. At this time, the majority of our new projects are energy-related.

FLUID MINERALS

About 2,675,360 acres of land is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The Energy Conservation and Policy Act (EPCA) identified the Piceance Basin of Colorado as one of five sub-basins in the continental United States with large reserves of hydrocarbon potential. The Piceance Basin contains considerable natural gas resources, the majority attributed to the highly productive Mesaverde Gas Play. The WRFO completed a Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and released it to the public for review in 2012. A Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment is scheduled to be completed in 2014. In addition, the Rangely field is the largest oil field in Colorado. The ultimate recovery of oil from this area is expected to be close to one billion barrels of oil.

SOLID MINERALS

Oil Shale: The Piceance Basin contains one of the richest oil shale resources in the world, with 1.5 trillion barrels of oil in place. The bulk of this resource lies within the White River Field Office boundaries. All seven oil shale research design and demonstration leases in Colorado are located within WRFO boundaries. Companies holding leases continue to research whether this tremendous resource can be unlocked in an economic and environmentally sound manner. There are currently seven Research, Development and Demonstration leases in the Piceance Basin.

Sodium: More than 100,000 acres are available for sodium leasing. Currently, there are eight federal sodium leases containing 16,620 acres in the WRFO. Natural Soda Inc, (NSI) holds five of the leases (9,542 acres) and is the only company commercially mining Nahcolite for sodium bicarbonate in the Piceance Basin. NSI's sodium solution mine is located in the Piceance basin 41 miles southwest of Meeker, Colorado.

Hot water is injected in one well and the saturated solution containing sodium bicarbonate is recovered approximately 1,500 feet from the injection well. Once recovered, the solution is piped to the processing plant where the liquid is cooled and the sodium bicarbonate crystallizes out of solution. The product is filtered, and dried and put in a storage facility. Remaining fluid is then reheated injected into the system again. There is no waste or byproduct generated. Production at WRNM started in 1991.

Original consumption of the of the sodium bicarbonate was to be for flue gas de-sulfurization (FGD) in power plants, however, the majority of the product is currently being sold as a cattle feed additive. A plant expansion in 1993 enabled WRNM to enter the food grade market. Other uses for sodium bicarbonate include waste treatment, pulp and paper making, and refineries.

Coal: About 172,700 acres are suitable for coal mining. Blue Mountain Energy Inc. (BME) operates an underground coal mine, the Deserado Mine, on eight federal coal leases in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The mine portals and coal cleaning facilities are located

seven miles east of Rangely, Colorado. About 9,266 acres in the eight federal leases and 11,029 surface acres are permitted. Currently, 145 people are employed at the mine with the majority living in Vernal, Utah and Rangely, Colorado. Modern mining equipment and longwall mining techniques are used in the production of the coal. A coal wash plant maximizes the recovery of the coal resources. Recoverable reserves within the leases are in two mineable coal seams and are estimated to be 52 million tons. Annual production is approximately 2 million tons of clean coal.

The mine's output is committed to the 400 mega-watt Bonanza Power Plant owned and operated by Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative of Sandy, Utah. Construction of the Deserado Mine began in 1981 and coal production began in late 1982. Life expectancy of the Bonanza Power Plant is 40 to 50 years.

KENT E. WALTER
White River Field Manager
970-878-3800

Kent E. Walter has served in this position since October of 2001. Prior to his selection as field manager, he served as the BLM field manager in Monticello, Utah for more than five years. Kent began his BLM career in 1982 as a cadastral surveyor in the Cooperative Education Program in Colorado. Since then he served in positions in Utah, Colorado and the Washington Office as a district manager, deputy state director, deputy field director, W.O. group manager, GCDB project manager, cadastral branch chief, and land surveyor. Kent has served as the management representative on BLM's National Preservation Board and is a member of the Colorado Plateau Manager's Forum. In 1985, he earned a B.S. in land surveying from Oregon Institute of Technology and is a Colorado certified Professional Land Surveyor.

COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE

2300 River Frontage Rd. • Silt, CO 81652 • 970-876-9000 • 970-876-9090 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gsfo.html

FACTS

- 573,000 surface acres
- 773,000 subsurface acres
- 47 recreation sites (9 developed, 6 picnic areas, 13 camping areas, 10 boat ramps, 25 trail heads)
- 7 Recreation Management Areas
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (26,644 acres)
- 9 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (8 listed, 1 candidate)
- 24,700 acres priority habitat and 40,200 acres general habitat for Greater Sage Grouse
- 340 miles of streams and rivers
- 552,000 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Garfield, Mesa, Eagle, Pitkin, Routt and Rio Blanco

RECREATION

The Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) maintains recreation settings and important scenic corridors, and provides opportunities for numerous recreation activities on public lands adjacent to two world-class resorts (Vail and Aspen); 11 communities; the Colorado, Eagle, and Roaring Fork rivers; I-70; and the nation's busiest National Forest for recreation, the White River National Forest.

Activities in this area include:

- Jeeping
- Wildlife watching
- Fishing
- Ballooning
- White water rafting
- Kayaking
- Hunting
- Hiking
- Biking
- Horseback riding
- OHV riding
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Camping

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric archaeological sites include temporary hunting camps, seasonal campsites, rock sheltered camps, vision circles, eagle traps, rock art, game drives, trails, and quarries. Historic period sites include Ute wickiup villages, possible traces of Spanish explorers, Euro-American trading camps, homesteads and ranches, logging camps, mines, aspen art, towns, railroads and toll roads. Hundreds of these sites contain a wealth of information and are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Castle Peak Wilderness Study Area: The 11,940-acre area is located eight miles north of the Town of Eagle. Castle Peak is a prominent peak with steep rugged slopes and rolling hills, basins, and meadows. Many springs, small lakes and perennial streams are found in the area, some providing aquatic habitat and supporting trout. The vegetation is diverse and includes expanses of Douglas-fir, Englemann spruce, aspen and grassy meadows, sagebrush, and mixed mountain brush.

Bull Gulch: The 14,364-acre area is located in Eagle County. The terrain is rugged with steep-sided canyons and gulches draining into the Colorado River. The WSA includes colorful sandstone cliff formations with outstanding stratification. Landslide deposits and volcanic instructions are also found in the WSA.

Hack Lake: The 10-acre area is located in Garfield County 22 miles northeast of Glenwood Springs. The WSA consists of two small parcels adjacent to the Flat Tops Wilderness. It sits on the points of two flat-to-rolling ridges flanked by steep, rugged cliffs with rocky outcrops and rock slides. Deer and elk hunting, horseback riding, and camping are available in the area.

Eagle Mountain: The 330-acre area is located in Pitkin County eight miles west of Aspen. It is recommended for wilderness designation primarily because it is adjacent to the existing Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness on national forest lands. Eagle Mountain is the eastern terminus of a mountainous ridge extending from the high peaks in the core of the existing wilderness. The WSA

is on rugged, steep mountain slopes and includes Eagle Mountain, a 9,937-foot peak.

FISH, WILDLIFE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The CRVFO contains a wide array of diverse vegetation and ecosystems that provide habitats for fish and wildlife species.

Those species include:
- Mule deer
- Elk
- Black bear
- Coyote
- Mountain lion
- Red fox
- Rainbow, brown, brook, and cutthroat trout
- Songbird and raptor species
- Greater sage grouse
- Waterfowl

Threatened, Endangered or Special Status species include:
- Canada lynx
- Razorback sucker
- Colorado pike minnow
- Mexican spotted owl
- Black-footed ferret.
- Yellow-billed cuckoo
- Colorado River cutthroat trout
- Greater sage grouse
- Northern leopard frog
- Great Basin spade-foot toad
- Midget faded rattlesnake
- Utah milk snake
- Peregrine falcon
- Roundtail chub
- Bluehead sucker
- Flannelmouth sucker
- Bat species

Additionally, the CRVFO has a variety of vegetative communities and unique geologic formations that are home to four threatened plant species: Uinta Basin hookless cactus, Parachute penstemon, DeBeque phacelia and Ute lady's-tresses; and four BLM Sensitive plants: DeBeque milkvetch, Roan Cliffs blazing star, Adobe thistle and Harrington's penstemon.

GRAZING

The CRVFO administers 252 grazing allotments with 148 permittees per year. Cattle and sheep graze on allotments from salt bush to aspen /fir-dominated rangeland. Each year, 20 to 30 grazing permits are renewed or transferred, and 200 grazing licenses are issued to grazing permittees.

LANDS AND REALTY

The recent surge in natural gas drilling and production has resulted in the need for many new large and small energy related pipelines and access roads. These off-lease facilities are authorized as rights-of-way. Rights-of-way related to the substantial CRVFO rural-urban interface are a major part of the CRVFO lands program. Municipal water tanks, utilities installations, driveways and access roads to subdivisions are commonly requested. The CRVFO receives multiple proposals for land exchanges every year.

FLUID AND SOLID MINERALS

The CRVFO manages a number of fluid and solid mineral operations including oil and gas, gypsum, cinders, limestone, decorative stone, sand and gravel.

Oil and gas development has increased significantly in the CRVFO since 1999 because of better technology and higher demand for natural gas. CRVFO has been processing about 200 applications for permits to drill (APDs) annually. The vast majority of oil and gas development within the CRVFO boundaries (about 80 percent) is actually on private land and minerals, where BLM has no jurisdiction. About 200,000 acres of the 773,000 acres of federal minerals within CRVFO is leased for oil and gas. CRVFO does not expect much new land to be leased over the next 20 years, but it does expect continued development in the areas that are already leased.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 called for this field office to be one of seven interagency "pilot offices" for oil and gas permitting in the Rocky Mountain States. This led to more than 20 new BLM positions in the field office, along with co-locating five U.S. Forest Service positions and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife position. This has greatly enhanced this field office's ability to manage increased oil and gas activity - including both permitting and compliance inspections. Beginning in FY 2015, CRVFO energy staff will also be responsible for oil and gas NEPA, permitting, and inspections and enforcement for the Grand Junction Field Office. The energy staff can be reached by dialing 970-876-9000.

VACANT
Colorado River Valley Field Manager
970-876-9000

GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

2815 H Road • Grand Junction, CO 81506 • 970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html

FACTS

- 1.2 million surface acres
- 1.6 million subsurface acres – This includes split-estate (178,857 acres) and U.S. Forest Service (378,222 acres) minerals in addition to the subsurface acres.
- 27 recreation sites (3 picnic areas, 2 developed campgrounds, 3 river access sites)
- 2 Recreation Management Areas; North Fruita Desert and Bang's Canyon
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (98,347 acres)
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Unaweep-Tabeguache and Grand Mesa
- 1 National Scenic Byway: Dinosaur Diamond
- 575,000 acres of woodlands
- 10 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (7 listed, 2 candidates)
- 5,600 acres priority habitat and 8,900 acres general habitat for Greater Sage Grouse
- 290 miles of perennial streams and rivers
- 1,198,262 acres available for oil and gas leasing
- 1 million acres of big game habitat
- 1,184,781 million acres grazed by livestock
- 1 wild horse range

Counties: Mesa, Garfield, and Montrose

RECREATION

The Grand Junction Field Office offers numerous recreational opportunities to the western slope's largest population center. Its recreation areas have experienced dramatic increases in use over the last few years. Urban interface and desire for recreation opportunities close to home for the communities in the Grand Valley (Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita) add to the importance of recreation on BLM lands. The quality of the recreation opportunities also draws a significant tourism base. Public lands are marketed by the local tourism boards and is important to the economic viability of the local communities and businesses. Increased use adds to the complexity of managing these areas.

The North Fruita Desert (SRMA): This area is used primarily by mountain bikers, motorcyclists and target shooters. There is a fee area, a 35-unit campground at the base of the Book Cliffs at the end of 18 road. The SRMA includes an extensive multiple-use designated trail system with specific emphasis trails for motorcycle, bicycle, foot, and horse travel. Target shooting is restricted in some of the emphasis areas. Hunting is allowed throughout the field office.

The Grand Valley Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area: Consists of 17-square miles of desert-like terrain. The barren hills of Mancos shale offer challenging rides for all types of vehicles and all skill levels. Cross-country travel is permitted within the Grand Valley OHV Area boundaries.

Bangs Canyon (SRMA): Consists of 57,000 acres south of Grand Junction. The Bangs Canyon area ranges in elevation from 4,500 to 7,250 feet. The area contains opportunities for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, big game hunting, motorcycling, rock crawling and jeep touring. The combination of slickrock surfaces, sand and bentonite clay soils provide a diversity of travel surfaces and trail riding challenges. Ecological zones range from sagebrush and bunchgrass, to piñon-juniper forests, to ponderosa pine at higher elevations.

Gateway Area: Located along the Dolores River, this area is primarily accessed via the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic byway. Recreation interest in the Gateway area is growing due to the presence of the newly constructed destination property, Gateway Canyons Resort. Dispersed recreation use, including jeep touring, motorized activities, big-game hunting, backpacking, rafting, hiking

and camping occurs throughout the area. Emerging uses include climbing and mountain biking. This spectacular valley contains a history rich in mining and prospecting.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Demaree Canyon (WSA): Located in Garfield County about 25 miles northwest of Grand Junction, is characterized by four large, north-south canyons dissecting the high-desert terrain between East and West Salt Creeks. At 22,500 acres, visitors enjoy the solitude along with scenic vistas of the La Sal Mountains in Utah and Grand Mesa to the southeast at the higher elevations of 7,500 feet. Vegetation includes piñon-juniper and dense mountain brush.

Palisade (WSA): The 57,000-acre area is located just north of the town of Gateway. The Palisade is characterized by vertical cliffs, deep rugged canyons, and rolling-to-flat desert valley bottoms dissected by gulches. Higher elevations consist of open, sloping-to-flat grasslands with moderate-to-heavy stands of intermixed piñon-juniper and oak brush.

Sewemup Mesa (WSA): The 19,400-acre area is located south of the town of Gateway along the Dolores River. Access to the top of the mesa is difficult, leaving it virtually untouched by humans. There are outstanding opportunities for solitude when hiking or horseback riding inside this WSA.

The Book Cliffs (WSA): Portions of the 29,000-acre area lie in the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range. This area contains opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as well as wild horse viewing. Canyons in the Book Cliffs are characterized by steep cliff walls on both sides that are up to 1,000 feet deep. The WSA represents the geology, flora and fauna of the Book Cliffs, which extend from the Grand Junction area west to Price, Utah.

WILD HORSES

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range: This area encompasses more than 36,000 acres of rugged canyons and plateaus. There are many hiking, horseback and 4X4 trails in the area. The best place for viewing the horses is near the Coal Canyon Trailhead entrance, in the North Soda Area and around Indian Park. Wintering mule deer, elk, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, bald eagles, hawks, owls, Peregrine falcons and golden eagles also inhabit the Little Book Cliffs.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Red rock canyons, piñon-juniper woodlands, sagebrush parks, desert and mountain shrub lands, small stands of ponderosa pines, subalpine fir, aspen and Douglas fir pockets typify the public lands managed by the GJFO. These provide habitat for:

- Mule deer
- Elk
- Pronghorn antelope
- Bighorn sheep (both desert and Rocky Mountain)
- Black bears
- Mountain lions
- White-tailed prairie dogs
- Green-winged teal
- Common goldeneye ducks
- Peregrine falcons
- Wild turkeys
- Chukar partridges
- Blue grouse
- Sandhill cranes
- Gray vireos
- Scott's orioles
- Diminutive night snake
- Grace's warblers
- Sagebrush voles
- Greater sage grouse
- Gunnison sage grouse

Threatened And Endangered Species include:

- Sclerocactus glaucus (Colorado hookless cactus)
- Penstemon deilis (Parachute beardtongue)
- Phacelia submutica (DeBeque phacelia)
- Greenback Cutthroat Trout (Oncorhynchus clarki stomias)
- Colorado Pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus Lucius)
- Razorback Sucker (Xyrauchen texanus)
- Humpback Chub (Gila cypha)
- Bonytail Chub (Gila elegans)
- Yellow-billed Cucoo (Coccyzus americanus)

Candidate species:

- Gunnison Sage Grouse (Centrocercus minimus)

GRAZING

The area is divided into 212 allotments used by 123 livestock operators. There are 64,840 active Animal Unit Months (AUM) associated with these allotments.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Currently, there are about 1000 rights-of-way in the Grand Junction Planning Area. The office processes about 35 new applications a year and several dozen assignments (transfers to new holders) and renewals.

WEED MANAGEMENT

The GJFO has an aggressive weed program utilizing mechanical, biological and chemical control of weeds. Each year 1,900 weed infestations are treated by both BLM and contract personnel. Primary species of concern are: Russian, spotted and diffuse knapweeds; scotch, musk, bull and Canada thistles; houndstongue; black henbane; tamarisk; hoary cress; perennial pepperweed; dalmation toadflax and yellow starthistle.

The Dolores River Riparian Restoration Partnership remains the GJFO's primary weed control focus. Partnering with other groups, the BLM is targeting tamarisk, Siberian elm, Russian knapweed, Russian thistle, and kochia along the riparian areas of the Dolores River. The project is scheduled to proceed for another two years.

FLUID MINERALS

Approximately 572,102 acres are leased for oil and gas within the GJFO. The office is currently processing several development plans for oil and gas development, reflecting increased interest in shale gas. The office conducts about 400 inspections each year to assure compliance with federal regulations and conditions of approval.

KATIE STEVENS
Grand Junction Field Manager
970-244-3010

Katie A. Stevens was promoted to the Grand Junction Field Manager in 2013. Prior to this assignment, she served as the first National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager for McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante. The Dominguez-Escalante NCA was established through the Omnibus Act of 2009 and Katie was critical in setting the initial management direction for the NCA. Katie came to Grand Junction from the BLM Montana State Office where she served as a Conservation Planner and Planning and Environmental Coordinator for eight years. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from Montana State University in Billings.

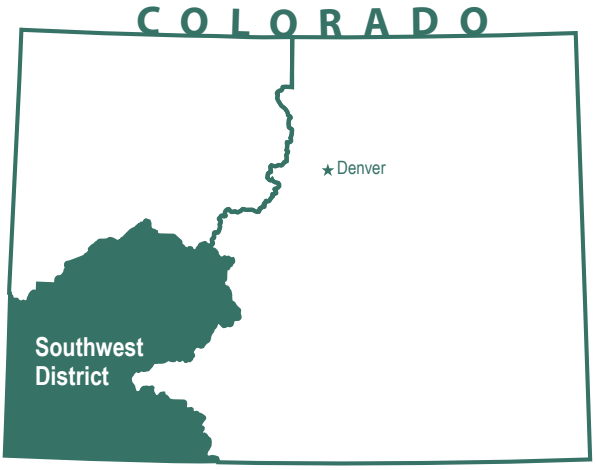
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

2465 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, CO 81401 • 970-240-5300 • 970-240-5367 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

The Southwest Colorado District manages over 2 million surface acres – 30 percent of the BLM surface acres in Colorado. The district is comprised of the Uncompahgre, Gunnison and Tres Rios Field Offices, and is encompasses 6.7 million acres of subsurface minerals, including the natural gas wells of the Northern San Juan and Paradox basins and coal leases in the valley of the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

The BLM's Southwest District includes several specially designated areas, including the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness; the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Anasazi Heritage Center; Powderhorn Wilderness; and about half of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and Dominguez Canyons Wilderness. The Spring Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area is located within the Tres Rios Field Office.

The district includes some of the most spectacular scenery in Colorado, from the adobe badlands and Gold Medal trout fisheries in the Gunnison Gorge to the alpine tundra and stunning Rocky Mountain peaks along the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway to the Canyons of the Colorado Plateau. Three of Colorado's famed "fourteener" peaks are in the Southwest District - Redcloud, Sunshine and Handies peaks. The District is rich in cultural resources and has numerous recreational opportunities.



LORI ARMSTRONG
Southwest District Manager
970-240-5300

Lori Armstrong has more than 20 years of experience with the BLM. Lori came to Colorado as the Southwest District Manager in 2009. She began her career with the BLM as a Botanist in Utah. Lori has worked for the BLM in Utah, Idaho and now Colorado. Her experience covers a variety of resources, including recreation, wildland fire, lands and realty, cultural resources, minerals as well as wildlife and vegetation management.

UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

2465 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, CO 81401 • 970-240-5300 • 970-240-5367 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

FACTS

- 926,655 surface acres
- 2,443,186 subsurface acres
- 35 recreation sites
  (12 developed trailheads, 1 developed rock art site, 1 developed historic site, 5 day-use areas, 11 camping areas, 6 boat ramps)
- 2 Special Recreation Management Areas
- 5 ares managed for wildernesd values (4 Wilderness Study Areas and the Tabeguache Area (43,850 acres)
- 5 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways
- 465,151 acres of woodlands
- 431,970 acres (Woodland Pinyon, Juniper, and Gambel Oak)
- 33,181 acres (Ponderosa, Douglas Fir, etc.)
- 11 endangered, threatened, and candidate species
  (9 listed, 2 candidates)
- 3,120 miles of perennial streams and rivers
- 809,583 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Montrose, Ouray, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Mesa

Twenty-five distinct and diverse communities exist within the UFO with different economic bases, values and resources. They also include high-end resort communities, farm and ranching communities, coal mining towns, and others.

The UFO manages public lands within two ecologic provinces; the Southern Rocky Mountain province, and the Colorado Plateau province. BLM lands within the planning area range from salt-desert shrub (4,701 ft.) to alpine forest (11,449 ft.). The area exhibits varied topography, geology, soil, and flora and fauna components of both provinces including desert scrub, riparian, sagebrush parks, pinyon-juniper woodlands, mountain shrub, ponderosa pine, and spruce-fir forests.

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park all exist within the UFO boundary in addition to four Colorado State Parks.

RECREATION

The UFO manages many of the premier recreation attractions in southwest Colorado.
Recreation opportunities include:

- white water rafting
- canoeing
- kayaking
- hiking
- mountain biking
- horseback riding
- fishing
- hunting
- motorcycle riding
- ATV trail riding
- four-wheel driving
- rock climbing
- wildlife viewing
- picnicking
- photography

Portions of two All American Roads are found in the UFO, including the San Juan Skyway and the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway. In addition, there are two Colorado Scenic Byways including the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic Byway and a portion of the West Elk Loop.

San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern: This area encompasses public lands adjacent to the San Miguel River – a spectacular free-flowing and highly scenic river system. Flowing out of the resort town of Telluride, commercial and private white water boating, fishing and scenic driving are the main recreational activities associated with this special river.

Dry Creek: This area encompasses 115,000 acres of public lands and is a destination site for many recreational users who use motorized and mechanized vehicles. Uses include sightseeing, photography, hunting,

hiking, cross-country skiing, camping, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, ATV riding, technical four-wheel driving, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, and many other uses.

WILDERNESS RESOURCES

The Tabeguache Area: The Colorado Wilderness Act designated the Tabeguache Area Wilderness in 1993. The 17,240-acre area is located on BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. land on the south slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau about four miles north of Nucla, Colorado. Elevations range from 5,600 feet to 8,800 feet, and the central feature of the Tabeguache Area is the 400-800 foot deep canyon of Tabeguache Creek. Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Camel Back Wilderness Study Area (WSA): The 10,402-acre area is located on the north slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau and is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service's Roubideau Area. Elevations range from 5,400 feet to 7,000 feet, and the WSA is characterized by a series of steep canyons and extensive mesas. Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Adobe Badlands WSA: The 10,425-acre area is located three miles northwest of Delta at elevations ranging from 5,200 feet to 8,000 feet. The WSA is characterized by abrupt sloping hills of Mancos shale dissected by rugged serpentine canyons.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The UFO contains a number of prehistoric and historic sites including rock art, cabins, campsites, mines, etc. A number of these sites are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The UFO supports a wide range of wildlife, plants and habitats. Common species include:

- mule deer
- elk
- mountain lion
- coyote
- desert bighorn sheep
- ringtail cats
- jackrabbit
- cottontail rabbit
- ground squirrels
- neo-tropical birds
- raptors
- chukar
- river otter
- waterfowl
- fox
- bobcat
- mourning dove
- lizards and snakes

The UFO also provides habitat for several Threatened, Endangered or Candidate animal species, including the Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, Gunnison sage grouse and American white pelican and the roundtail chub.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The UFO manages 226 grazing allotments with 150 grazing permittees. The UFO contains grazing allotments on a wide range of elevation levels – from approximately 4000 ft. to 9000 ft.

The UFO is continually working on noxious weed and non-native plants. The UFO has ramped up our program to include a BLM seasonal weed crew and is continuing to partner, contract and work with the surrounding counties and other partners in the fight against noxious weeds. In the last two seasons the UFO has worked with the Palisade Insectary to release and monitor tamarisk beetles and have continued the removal of tamarisk and Russian olive along the banks of the Gunnison River.

LANDS AND REALTY

The UFO focuses primarily on issuing and administering rights-of-way (ROWs) for land uses such as roads, power lines, natural gas pipelines, water lines, telephone lines, communication sites, and ditches and canals on public land. Utility corridors cross the UFO along major transmission lines including the TransColorado natural gas pipeline and Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Western Area Power Administration power lines. They provide a grid which follow but are not necessarily adjacent to transportation routes. The lands and realty program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisitions and disposals.

FLUID MINERALS

Within the UFO, mineral development typically occurs in sedimentary strata associated with the Mancos shale and within coal seams in rock formations of the Mesa Verde Group. These fluid mineral resources (primarily natural gas) are found in the same general locations as coal resources in the North Fork of the Gunnison River near Paonia in Delta and Gunnison Counties. To a lesser extent, development of fluid mineral resources is also present in the west end of Montrose County. Overall, a low level of fluid mineral development has occurred in the UFO in

the past five years with an average of one Application for Permit to Drill (APD) per year; however, this number is expected to rise

SOLID MINERALS

The UFO manages seven active federal coal leases held by three separate mining companies and provides for inspection and enforcement for one active coal lease held by one mining company in the Tres Rios Field Office. Mines in the Uncompahgre Field Office are all located in the valley of the North Fork of the Gunnison River near Paonia, Colorado. Although each mine controls coal reserves having a ratio of federal coal mixed with fee coal, about 95 percent of the production is federal coal, and as time goes by the fee coal will be depleted, leaving only federal coal available in the reserve base. Some federal coal leases have a 5 percent royalty by virtue of difficult geologic and engineering conditions; however, most of the coal is mined at an 8 percent royalty. The resulting revenue from federal coal production royalties paid to the federal treasury by these four mining companies varies from $20 to $36 million each year depending on production levels and sales price. Half of that revenue is returned to the State of Colorado.

The UFO manages the surface use of uranium / vanadium minerals exploration and mining activities on its public lands either as a mining notice or a mining plan of operation. Presently there are four mining notices and six mining plans of operation all in the west end of Montrose County. None of these projects have ongoing underground exploratory and development mining at this time. The Department of Energy manages nine uranium lease tracts on lands withdrawn to them for this activity in the same area. BLM coordinates closely with them.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The UFO is part of the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit which also includes the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Black Canyon National Park, and Curecanti National Recreation Area. The UFO averages about 85 fires a year with 95 percent of them caused by lightning. There are only about five fires per year that are human caused. There are eight fire engines and one five-person hand crew in the fire unit that are available to respond to fires in the UFO. On average, three prescribed fires totaling 600 acres are implemented within the UFO annually.

BARBARA SHARROW
Uncompahgre Field Manager
970-240-5315

Barb Sharrow is the Field Office Manager for the UFO in Montrose, Colo. She began this assignment in April, 2004. She came to Colorado from Utah where she was the Assistant Monument Manager for Visitor Services at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. She was the lead for recreation and wilderness on the Monument's planning team. Prior to working for the Monument she spent nine years as an outdoor recreation planner for the BLM State Office in Colorado. She started her career as a backcountry ranger at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE

650 S. 11th Street • Gunnison, CO 81230 • 970-642-4940 • 970-642-4990 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gfo.html

FACTS

- 611,355 surface acres
- 2,235,858 subsurface acres
- 28 recreation sites (6 camping areas)
- 4 Recreation Management Areas: Alpine Triangle, Hartman Rocks, Cochetopa, and Powderhorn
- 3 Mountain peaks above 14,000 feet in elevation
- 2 Wilderness Areas (51,000 acres)
- 5 Wilderness Study Areas (60,000)
- 3 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: The Alpine Loop, The Silver Thread and The West Elk Loop
- 180,000 acres of forest land
- 3 endangered, threatened, and candidate species
- 500,000 acres of small game habitat
- 585,000 acres of big game habitat
- 759 miles of streams and rivers
- 470,460 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Gunnison, Saguache, and Hinsdale

Ecosystems within the Gunnison Field Office (GFO) range from dry sagebrush steppes at 7,000 feet; to forests of aspen, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodge pole pine, Engleman spruce, and subalpine fir; to alpine tundra meadows that reach to more than 14,000 feet.

RECREATION

Overview: Hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoy the beauty and varied recreation experiences on public lands in the Gunnison Basin. The area contains high value recreation opportunities set in some of the most spectacular scenery in Colorado. Settings range from 14,000 foot peaks to lower elevation streams and rock formations. Visitors come from all over the country to enjoy their favorite pastimes on BLM lands in the Gunnison Field Office. Estimated annual visitation is more than 400,000 visits. The field office also receives an annual average of 4,000 hours in volunteer work, which equals $70,000 in labor.

Partnerships: The BLM works closely with the Forest Service, National Park Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, towns, counties and the recreating public to offer and maintain outstanding recreation experiences. Recreation partnerships include Hartman Rocks User Group, Crested Butte Nordic Club, Gunnison Nordic Club, Gunnison Trails Non-profit Organization, Lake City Visitor Center, Lake City Marketing Board, Hinsdale County, Town of Lake City, Hinsdale County Trails Commission, Lake City Snowmobile Club, Hinsdale County Historical Society, Gunnison Trail Commission, Gunnison County, Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association, Gunnison Free Riders, Peaceful Warriors and Western State College.

Alpine Loop Back Country Byway: The byway is an outstanding example of the back country byway system. It covers 65 miles of roads between the towns of Lake City, Ouray, and Silverton. Depending on winter snows, the Loop opens late May/early June and closes in late October. About two thirds of the route is dirt road suitable for two-wheel-drive cars. A four-wheel-drive, high clearance vehicle or off-highway-vehicle is required to traverse the entire route. Visitors can catch the spectacular fall colors or breathtaking wildflowers in American Basin, and get a peek into the challenging life of early pioneers via historic cabins, mills and ghost towns along the drive.

Camping and Trailheads in the Alpine Triangle: The GFO manages three fee campgrounds, 75 dispersed campsites and 10 trailheads in the Alpine Triangle. These area are heavily used for a variety or outdoor pursuits.

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail: During the winter, this trail offers 80 miles of groomed routes. Skiers can use those trails or make their own path on a wide variety of other routes. A hut-to-hut system for skiers is also available south of Lake City.

Hartman Rocks Recreation Area: Hartman Rocks Recreation Area is a popular urban interface recreation area about three miles southwest of Gunnison. Its

proximity to Gunnison makes for easy access to a quick recreation experience close to town or when higher elevation recreation sites are still covered with snow. It is also a destination location for mountain biking, rock climbing and single-track motorized enthusiasts. The BLM estimates Hartman Rocks receives about 15,000 to 20,000 visits each year. The area offers 39 miles of single-track multiple-use trails, 33 miles of roads and hundreds of rock climbing and bouldering routes. Visitors may enjoy recreation activities such as mountain biking, motorcycling, all-terrain-vehicle riding, four-wheeling, rock climbing, bouldering, camping, trail running, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, hill parties, target shooting, and hunting.

Oh Be Joyful Recreation Area: This area is located a few miles north of Crested Butte Colorado along the Slate River in Gunnison County. This area includes a small campground set along the Slate River and Oh Be Joyful Creek, which features beautiful waterfalls. Recreation uses include world-class kayaking, mountain biking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, waterfall viewing, day hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and accessing wilderness.

Cochetopa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area: This area is includes 2,500 acres in a narrow canyon along Cochetopa Creek and is located along State Highway 114 southeast of Gunnison in Saguache County. Recreation use is concentrated in this narrow canyon. The main types of recreation in the canyon are scenic driving and bighorn sheep viewing. Many visitors also camp, fish and picnic along this scenic route.

Hunting: The Gunnison Basin provides great hunting opportunities for elk, mule deer, pronghorn, black bear, coyote, dusky grouse and several other species. Big game units within the Basin are 54,55,551,66,67.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The GFO manages two designated wilderness areas totaling 51,000 acres. GFO also manages five wilderness study areas totaling 65,500 acres. Within the 65,000 acres of WSAs, the Gunnison Field Office manages three 14,000 foot peaks that receive high visitor use. These are the only 14,000 foot peaks managed by the BLM in the Continental U.S.

Powderhorn Wilderness: The area includes 45,000 acres of beautiful Colorado country jointly managed with the U.S. Forest Service. The elevation ranges from 8,600 to 12,600 feet. Above 12,000 ft. are two high-elevation plateaus that make up the largest relatively flat expanse of alpine tundra in the lower 48 states. The plateaus were created by Tertiary volcanic deposits believed to be 5,000 ft. thick in some areas.

Uncompahgre Wilderness: The GFO manages 6,000 acres of the American Flats portion of the Uncompahgre Wilderness. American Flats lies south of Wildhorse Peak. Numerous forks of the Cimarron River rush out of the central section of this wilderness, flowing north to eventually become one. You'll find a few small lakes and many streams with trout.

Handies Peak (WSA): This area is located 10 miles southwest of Lake City in Hinsdale County. This 16,742-acre WSA is steep and mountainous with elevations ranging from 9,500 feet to more than 14,000 feet. Located within the WSA are 12 peaks above 13,000 feet, Handies Peak (14,048 feet) and several alpine lakes.

Red Cloud Peak (WSA): This 37,579-acre WSA is located in Hinsdale County west of Lake City. Elevations in this WSA range from 8,800 feet to more than 14,000 feet. Two 14,000-foot peaks are located in this WSA, Redcloud Peak (14,043 feet) and Sunshine Peak (14,001 feet).

American Flats (WSA): The 4,790-acre American Flats WSA is located on the south side of the larger Uncompahgre Wilderness. This WSA is characterized by its alpine tundra ranging from 11,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation.

Bill Hare Gulch (WSA): This 370-acre WSA is located four miles north of Lake City in Hinsdale County. The topography is steep and is characterized by narrow, rugged drainages.

Powderhorn (WSA): The 6,102-acre Powderhorn WSA includes wild canyons along with mixed spruce fir forest ecosystem in a remote area on the north side of the Powderhorn Wilderness.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The GFO contains a large quantity of cultural resources, covering the entire range of human occupation in North America (since about 12,000 years ago). Sites from the Paleo-Indian through the historic periods are spread throughout the landscape, from mesa tops to drainages, from the lower elevation sagebrush environments up to timberline and above in the southern parts of the field office. The GFO actively preserves, protects, and manages more than 3,000 recorded cultural resources. Many of these are interpreted to educate visitors in the prehistory and history of the Gunnison Basin and on proper site etiquette when visiting these resources.

Alpine Loop Scenic Byway: This area provides an opportunity to view the history of the Lake City mining era through a series of stabilized and interpreted significant sites relating to the mining and everyday life of the early settlers and miners of the high elevation San Juan Mountains.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail: This trail was pioneered in 1829 by Mexican traders as a horse and burro pack route that connected Santa Fe to Los Angeles.

Paleontological resources in the GFO include vertebrate and invertebrate fossils of plants and animals that once flourished millions of years ago. Several of these unique resources are scattered throughout the GFO.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The region's varied ecosystems provide habitat for:

- elk
- deer
- bighorn sheep
- pronghorn antelope
- bear
- mountain lion
- bobcat
- coyote
- beaver
- prairie dogs
- hawks
- eagles
- grouse
- song birds
- trout

Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species:
- Canada Lynx
- Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly
- Gunnison prairie dog
- Gunnison sage-grouse

Gunnison Sage-grouse: The largest population of Gunnison sage-grouse, a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, is found within the Gunnison Basin. The Gunnison Sage-grouse was designated as a separate species from the Greater sage-grouse in 2000. Based upon 2010 population estimates, there are only 3,656 Gunnison sage-grouse remaining within the Gunnison Basin.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing is broken into 122 allotments serving 84 permittees and providing 34,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage for domestic cattle, sheep and horses. Through a variety of vegetation studies and management practices, the GFO works to balance grazing use with wildlife needs, the protection of riparian areas, and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. The range program, in cooperation with Gunnison County, takes the lead on controlling invasive weeds in the area.

LANDS AND REALTY

This program focuses primarily on issuing and administering rights-of-ways including phone lines, access roads and electric transmission lines. The program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisitions, and disposals. In the late 1990s, the field office worked on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison Acquisition Project. The BLM acquired approximately 5,850 acres, which included 650 acres of conservation easements, three miles of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, three miles of Indian Creek, and several miles of smaller streams and riparian areas. We also disposed of 55 isolated and difficult to manage parcels.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The GFO area includes one of only nine areas in Colorado that were identified as having the potential for commercially viable geothermal development. Nearly 9,000 acres on BLM, Gunnison National Forest, and private lands in the Tomichi Dome area were nominated for geothermal leasing. The GFO also manages more than 3,000 acres that were identified as having potential for solar energy development.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Gunnison Basin has emerged as a high priority in Colorado for developing climate adaptation strategies because of the high biodiversity values, analyses of past and projected climate impacts, excellent local research, and the strong engagement of land management agencies. The BLM is participating in a climate adaptation initiative led by The Nature Conservancy and Southwest Climate Change Initiative. The initiative is designed to increase understanding and awareness of the threat posed by climate change to Gunnison Basin resources and ecosystems, and to identify climate change adaptation strategies.

FORESTRY

Commercial forests and woodlands make up approximately 30 percent of BLM-administered land in the GFO. Timber types include (in order of abundance) Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas fir, aspen, ponderosa pine, blue spruce, juniper and bristlecone pine. On average, approximately 410 forested acres per year were managed to meet multiple objectives including: reducing the potential effects of insect and disease outbreaks, forest restoration to reduce the effects of historic fire suppression, wildlife habitat improvement and meeting the local demand for forest products. In 2010, a contract was awarded for nearly 180 acres of forest restoration work through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Currently, four Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) exist within the field office. The BLM is also working with the community to complete county-wide CWPPs for Gunnison and Hinsdale counties. During the last decade approximately 500 acres of prescribed fire have been implemented annually. These projects have varied from treatments immediately adjacent to the wildland-urban-interface to large landscape-scale fuel breaks. In 2009, the State of Colorado and BLM purchased a track mounted brush and tree masticating machine that is based out of the GFO. This equipment has already been used to treat approximately 500 acres of sagebrush and timber in Gunnison field office.

VACANT
Gunnison Field Manager
970-642-4449

TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE

29211 Hwy. 184 • Dolores, CO 81323 • 970-882-7296 • 970-882-6841 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/sjplc.html

FACTS

- 503,589 surface acres
- 2,100,000 subsurface mineral acres
- 3 Recreation Management Areas: Silverton Special Management, Dolores River, Durango Urban Interface
- 8 Wilderness Study Areas (168,000 acres)
- 2 Trails: Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Old Spanish Historic Trail
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Alpine loop back-country and San Juan Skyway
- 1 Wild horse herd management area: Spring Creek
- 10 Endangered, Threatened and Candidate species
- 628 miles of streams and rivers
- 500,000 acres grazed by livestock

Counties: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, San Juan and San Miguel

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

The field office has partnered with the Mountain Studies Institute, CU Boulder and Fort Lewis College in these endeavors to study climate change and carbon management.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Tres Rios' cultural resources run the gamut from historic mining ghost towns to Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and pit houses. Some heritage sites offer guided tours; others are unmarked treasures visitors happen across the backcountry.

Silverton Mining District: contains numerous hard rock mining sites from the 1870s and 1950s. The area also has a high density of archaic and ancestral pueblo sites. Animas Forks was originally named Three Forks and was developed in 1873. Today, visitors can see the remnants of the once thriving town of 30 cabins, a hotel, general store, saloon and post office.

Sound Democrat Stamp Mill: Located in Placer Gulch, the mill was built in 1905 to crush and process gold and silver/lead ore from the Sound Democrat Mine and the Silver Queen Mine.

San Juan Chief Mill: The mine and mill operation included a boarding house and a number of cabins that can still be seen today.

Prehistoric: Gypsum Gap Rock Art Site is located in a shallow canyon within a few hundred feet of highway 141 between Disappointment Valley and Big Gypsum Valley. This rock shelter contains 11 rock art panels. The site was determined to have a consistent occupation from Archaic (5500 B.C.) to historic times. Archaeologists identified a number of rock carving features that resemble deer, elk, mountain sheep, corn stalks, deer hooves and possibly bear paws. Although the images might resemble these items, their actual meaning is not known.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

County Operations Plans are in place to work with local and state governments, fire prevention districts as well as other federal agencies including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service.

The interagency fire management organization is responsible for 1.3 million acres of BLM and USFS lands and averages 106 wildland fires per year. They also conduct prescribed fire activities on 3,000-4,000 acres per year. Suppression activity averages 49 fires per year.

FLUID AND SOLID MINERALS

Tres Rios Field Office includes the Northern San Juan Basin and the Paradox Basin, managing 2.1 million suburface acres.

Tres Rios manages about 1,363 coal bed methane wells; 1,360 conventional and oil gas wells; and 86 carbon dioxide wells. The Solid Minerals Program is responsible for managing all operations related to exploration, mining bonding and reclamation of activities associated with minerals. The Tres Rios Field Office area includes a portion of the Uravan Belt, a major district for uranium resources in the U.S. Metals such as gold, silver, lead and zinc have been historically mined in the Silverton area. Three counties have permits for free gravel for the purpose of maintain roads. The coal deposits located in the southern portion of the Tres Rios Field Office are small, but valuable for the high quality of coal with its low levels of ash and sulfur. The Tres Rios Field Office is also responsible for 24 plans of operations and notices (for uranium or gold), eight contracts and permits (for gravel or decorative rock), six applications for exploration permits (for potash) and one lease (for coal).

The office averages about 67 APDs annually and administers oil and gas for the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes.

LANDS AND REALTY

The lands and realty program focuses primarily on issuing and administering rights-of-way for roads and utility corridors. The program also handles land ownership adjustments through land exchanges, acquisition and disposals.

After extensive negotiations, Standard Metals Corporation agreed to turn over approximately 1,000 acres of mining claims to the BLM. Theses claims will become BLM property over the next 5 years, as environmental cleanups and title transfer work occurs.

In 2011, BLM acquired 225 acres of patented mining claims from Jackson. These claims are distributed throughout the southwest corner of the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area north of Silverton.

Work began on the 100 acre Kendall Mountain Recreation and Public Purposes Act transfer to the town of Silverton. The town is entered into a 2 year lease and it is currently anticipated that this transfer will be completed in 2013.

The BLM and LaPlata County are beginning work on the R&PPA process for the Grandview Multi-Events Center.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The TRFO manages seven Wilderness Study Areas (WSA).

Dolores River Canyon: The Dolores River Canyon WSA (28,668 acres) is located approximately 17 miles west of Naturita and 28 miles north of Dove Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 5,300 feet. The dominant topographic feature of the WSA is the 30 mile long, deeply cut, meandering canyon of the Dolores River. The canyon rim and adjacent mesas support pinon-juniper woodlands with mixed desert shrubs on the slopes. The canyon bottoms support thick desert riparian vegetation and scattered enclavese of cottonwood, ponderosa pine, aspen and spruce/fir occur with the WSA. Desert bighorn sheep and river otter have been re-introduced to the WSA. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are excellent and include backpacking, hiking, photography, rock climbing and whitewater rafting.

McKenna Peak: The McKenna Peak WSA (19,398 acres) is located in San Miguel and Dolores Counties approximately 45 miles northeast of Dove Creek. Elevations range from 6,300 feet to 8,600 feet. The major topographic feature of the WSA is McKenna Peak, which rises 1,000 vertical feet from the Disappointment Valley. The WSA contains a wide variety of topographic features including Mancos shale badlands, Mesa Verde sandstone cliffs, canyons, mesas and rolling hills. This wide variety of topography provides for a diverse vegetation complex within the WSA; barren areas, salt desert shrubs, pinon-juniper woodlands and Douglas fir, oakbrush and mountain mahogany can all be found within the WSA. The diversity of the topography and vegetation provide for outstanding recreation opportunities including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature and scenic photography and rock-climbing. The western third of the WSA is located within the Spring Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Menefee Mountain: The Menefee Mountain WSA (7,089) acres) is located approximately 2 miles south of Mancos and 3 miles east of Mesa Verde National Park. Elevations range from 6,500 feet, 8,600 feet on Meneffee Peak with steep canyons radiating out from the 6-mile long ridge of Menefee Mountain. Pinon-juniper woodland is the dominant vegetation type at the lower elevations, with oakbrush and pockets of ponderosa pine and spruce/fir at the higher elevations. The WSA provides outstanding recreation opportunities for the hiker, backpacker and rock climber.

Weber Mountain: The Weber Mountain WSA (6,303 acres) is located just east of Mesa Verde National Park and is separated from Menefee Mountain, WSA by Weber Canyon. Elevations range from 6,600 feet to 8,200 feet with short, steep canyons radiating out from the 5 mile long ridge of Weber Mountain. Like its “twin WSA,” Menefee Mountain, the Weber Mountain WSA is characterized by pinon-juniper woodland at the lower elevations, with oakbrush and pockets of ponderosa pine

and spruce/fir at the higher elevations. The WSA provides outstanding recreation opportunities for the hiker, backpacker and rock climber.

West Needles Contiguous (944 acres), Whitehead Gulch (1,819 acres) and Weminuche Contiguous (1,930 acres) WSAs: These WSAs are remnants of study areas, which were partially exchanged with the U.S. Forest Service in a boundary adjustment completed in 1983. They adjoin the 245,000-acre Weminuche Wilderness managed by the U.S. Forest Service and offer hikers and horseback riders an opportunity to explore scenic landscapes in solitude.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Rangelands comprise about 85 percent of the public land. Currently, Tres Rios FO manges 100 active allotments serving 81 grazing permits and providing around 24,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage for domestic cattle and sheep.

RECREATION

The Four Corners region is a land of great diversity. From the spectacular San Juan Mountains to the thousands of ancestral Puebloan ruins to the awesome Dolores River Canyon. The Tres Rios Field Office is the steward for many of the premier recreation attractions in southwest Colorado, connecting locals and travelers with grand vistas and craggy peaks of the Rocky Mountains and sandstone rimmed canyons

Recreation opportunities include whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting motorcycle riding, photography, wildlife viewing, picnicking, skiing, snowmobiling, jeeping or just enjoying a drive along one of southwestern Colorado's many scenic routes. Motorized and non-motorized routes offer access to remote and more primitive areas. Popular drives include the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway and the San Juan Skyway, which wind through the San Juan Mountains.

Special management areas include:
- Silverton Special Recreation Management Area
- Dolores River Special Recreation Management Area
- Durango Urban Interface Special Recreation Management Area
- Cortez Special Recreation Management Area

Alpine Loop Back Country Byway: The 65-mile byway is an outstanding example of the back country byway system as it winds through wild lands scattered with old mining ruins, ghost towns, scenic alpine meadows, mountain streams and forested mountains. Today, most of the mines are closed but the roads created during their operation remain and are used by four-wheel-drive, motorcycle and mountain bike enthusiasts. Depending on winter snows, the loop opens in late May/early June and closes in late October. A four-wheel drive, high clearance vehicle or off-highway vehicle is required to traverse the entire route.

The Dolores River: The river flows for more than 200 miles through southwestern Colorado, starting high in the San Juan Mountains and descending to the Colorado River near the Colorado-Utah border. The Dolores flows through five major western life zones, from the alpine life zone at its headwaters to the Upper Sonoran life zone along much of its lower reaches (6,400 feet - 5,000 feet elevation). Private permits are not required for boating on the Dolores River within Colorado. BLM requires all boaters to register at the access points (www.co.blm.gov/sjra/=sjdolores.htm). Bradfield Campground, Big Gypsum Valley and the Dove Creek Pump Station are popular launch sites for rafting trips on the lower Dolores River. There are 16 barrier-free campsites, fully accessible toilets and five barrier-free picnic sites.

Durango Urban Interface: This area encompasses Animas City Mountain, East Animas Climbing Area, Grandview, Horse Gulch, Skyline and Perins Peak. These locations afford residents and visitors the opportunities to bike, hike, climb, ski and snowshoe.

The Silverton Special Management Area: This area contains about 51,000 acres of land including the 1,300-acre Silverton Ski Area. Recreational opportunities include:
- downhill and cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Snowmobiling
- Ice climbing
- Dog sledding
- Hiking
- Biking
- Jeeping
- ATV riding
- Hunting
- Fishing
- White water rafting
- Kayaking

WILD HORSES

Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA): Located just north of Disappointment Creek, the 22,000 acre HMA is open to a variety of multiple uses. We maintain a minimum of 35 adult horses and generally gather the excess when their numbers exceed 65. According to local lore the horses are descendents of those brought to the Disappointment Creek area in the late 1800s by a horse rancher from Montana. DNA and blood testing have indicated that Thoroughbred and Morgan are the primary breed influences in this herd. Travel in the area is restricted to existing roads. This is a

remote area and none of the roads in the herd area are graveled.

San Juan Mountains Association: SJMA's Wilderness Study Area Monitoring and Herd Monitoring Program train's volunteers to monitor gates, grasses, water, fences and count horses within the Spring Creek Herd Area. The HMA overlaps with the McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area. SJMA coordinates the Alternative Spring Break Program, which hosts 10 University of Missouri students each year. The students have repaired and maintained boundary fences, removed an old hazardous fence, built grass monitoring enclosures and provided weed control.

National Mustang Association: Reduced grazing conflicts through the acquirement and retirement of grazing privileges, installation of a water catchment system, fence removal, repair and replacement, weed control, seed plot experiments. Provide assistance with adoptions, including advertising and hiring a wild horse trainer.

Four Corners Back Country Horseman (Durango) and Mesa Verde Back Country Horsemen (Cortez): Offer support to the Alternative Spring Break Program. In addition, they financed gate closure signs. The Four Corners group assist with the official annual herd count held in May each year.

WILDLIFE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

TRFO has a wide diversity of vegetation, which provides habitats for several species including:

- Black bear
- Elk
- Mule Deer
- Moose
- Turkey
- Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep
- Desert bighorn sheep
- Snowshoe hare
- Cotton tail rabbit
- Mountain goat
- Gunnison sage-grouse
- Blue grouse
- Canada lynx
- Southwestern willow fly catcher
- Pika
- Fringed myotis bat
- Yuma myotis bas
- Big free-tailed bat
- Spotted bat
- Big-eared bat

Habitat for Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Candidate Species:

- Canada Lynx
- Mexican Spotted Owl
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- Uncompahgre Fritillary Butterfly
- Bonytail Chub
- Colorado Pikeminnow
- Humpback Chub
- Razorback Sucker
- Gunnison Sage Grouse
- Pediocactus knowltonii

CONNIE CLEMENTSON
Tres Rios Field Manager
970-882-6808

Connie Clementson is the Tres Rios field office manager stationed in Dolores. Prior to accepting the position, Clementson served as the district ranger for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, a 568,000 acre unit, in Grand Junction. She also completed a short-term assignment as the acting field manager-district ranger for the San Juan Public Lands Center. She began her career 25 years ago as a range technician at the Routt National Forest in Craig and went on to become the Range Conservationist within the same forest. Her previous experience also includes serving as the Lands Minerals, Range, Wildlife and Special Use staff for the Routt National Forests in Yampa, CO. Then she gained management experience by supervising the Routt National Forest employees as the acting district ranger and then became the district ranger in 1999 for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. Clementson has a Bachelor of Science in Range Science from Utah State University.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, also known as the National Conservation Lands contains some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. These wild and often remote places provide exceptional opportunities for scientific study, recreation and wildlife viewing. Colorado's National Conservation Lands include national monuments, national conservation areas, national scenic and historic trails, wilderness and wilderness study areas.

Colorado is home to 65 areas encompassing more than one million acres — about 1/8 of all the BLM land in the state.

National Conservation Areas (NCAs) are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance and manage public lands for the enjoyment of present and future generations. NCAs offer landscapes with exceptional natural, recreational, cultural, wildlife, aquatic, archeological, paleontological, historical, educational or scientific resources.

Colorado is home to three NCAs: Gunnison Gorge NCA, McInnis Canyons NCA and Dominguez-Escalante NCA.

BLM Colorado manages two national monuments: Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Browns Canyon National Monument. Canyons of the Ancients has the highest known density of archaeological sites and is one of the most studied archaeological landscapes in the nation. More than 6,000 archaeological sites have been recorded so far up to 100 per square mile in some places. On Feb. 19, 2015, President Obama designated Browns Canyon, which includes 21,500 acres of rugged cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and stunning mountain vistas in Chaffee County near the town of Salida, Colorado, as Browns Canyon National Monument.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 granted the President authority to designate national monuments in order to protect "objects of historic or scientific interest." While most national monuments are established by the President, Congress has also occasionally established national monuments protecting natural or historic features. Since 1906, the President and Congress have created more than 100 national monuments currently managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER

27501 Highway 184 • Dolores, Colorado 81323 • 970-882-5600
970-882-7035 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html

FACTS

- 172,820 surface acres
- 3 developed recreation sites and 3 picnic areas
- 3 wilderness study areas (25,549 acres): Cross Canyon, Cahone Canyon, and Squaw-Papoose
- 2 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways: Trail of the Ancients and San Juan Skyway
- 127,895 acres leased for fluid minerals
- 24 grazing allotments

Counties: Montezuma and Dolores

The Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument are located in the Four Corners region of southwest Colorado. The Heritage Center is 10 miles north of Cortez and three miles west of Dolores. The Monument was designated on June 9, 2000 by Presidential Proclamation to protect cultural and natural resources on a landscape scale. Canyons of the Ancients is about 45 miles west of Durango, three miles west of Cortez and 12 miles west of Mesa Verde National Park.

RECREATION

The Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) is southwest Colorado's premier archaeology museum, featuring permanent and changing exhibits on archaeology, regional history, and Native American cultures. It serves as administrative headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, providing visitors with information, maps, and publications about CANM and the Four Corners region. The AHC complex is contained on an 80-acre parcel that includes a 40,000 square foot museum; a 1/2 mile accessible interpretive trail with shaded picnic tables; and two archaeological sites available for public visitation (Escalante and Dominguez pueblos). The area is closed to off-road motorized and mechanized travel.

Four areas in the Monument are minimally developed for visitors: Painted Hand Pueblo, Lowry Pueblo, Sand Canyon Pueblo, and the Sand Canyon Trail.

Lowry Pueblo is the most accessible of all the archaeological sites in the Monument with a parking area, universally accessible trail, interpretive signs, picnic tables, and rest rooms. The site has about 40 rooms, 8 kivas, and a great kiva.

Painted Hand Pueblo consists of a tower, some room blocks, and kivas that are still in their original condition. The site gets its name from two pictographs that are in a nearby rock shelter.

Sand Canyon Trail includes elevation gains and drops along its 6 1/2 mile path. Several small cliff dwellings are visible from the trail. The Sand Canyon/East Rock Special Management Area also includes the adjacent Rock Creek and East Rock Trails.

Sand Canyon Pueblo was excavated by Crow Canyon Archaeological Center from 1984 to 1989 and 1991 to 1993, but the majority was left untouched to preserve the fragile structure. Access to Sand Canyon Pueblo is easiest from the northern end.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Highest density of cultural resources in the United States
- 10 sites and one Archaeological District (Sand Canyon) listed on the National Register of Historic Places; one National Historic Landmark (Lowry Pueblo)
- 130 years of archaeological research
- 3.5 million artifacts curated at the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC)
- 25 Native American tribes with cultural affiliation

The Monument contains the highest known cultural resource site density in the United States, with rich, well preserved remnants of native cultures. The more than

7,000 recorded sites reflect all the physical components of past human life: villages, field houses, check dams, reservoirs, great kivas, cliff dwellings, shrines, sacred springs, agricultural fields, petroglyphs, and sweat lodges. Some areas have more than 100 sites per square mile. The number of sites is estimated to be 20,000 to 30,000 total.

The Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC), opened to the public in 1988, was developed and built in a partnership between the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation. Cultural resource management activities at the AHC include curation of and access to 3.5 million artifacts and associated records, interpretation of the history and cultures of the Four Corners region, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Outreach activities include development and distribution of educational curricula, workshops, and regular free community lectures and events related to Four Corners and Southwest history and culture; and permanent and traveling exhibits about Four Corners and Southwest history and culture. In addition, the museum hosts activities for the public such as educational programs for school groups, craft demonstrations by local artisans, and interpretive tours for visitors. The museum also features a variety of resources for teachers, changing special exhibits, a research library, a traveling exhibit program, and archaeological sites within walking distance.

The AHC and the Monument partnership and volunteer programs are nationally recognized for their excellence. The AHC and Monument received the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on the Historic Preservation Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation awards.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Monument is home to a wide variety of wildlife species including:

- Mesa Verde nightsnake
- Long-nosed leopard lizard
- Twin-spotted spiny lizard
- Peregrine falcons
- Golden eagles
- American kestrels
- Red-tailed hawks
- Northern harriers
- Gambel's quail
- Mourning dove

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

There are three Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Monument, the Cross Canyon WSA, the Squaw/Papoose Canyon WSA and Cahone Canyon WSA.

The San Juan Mountain Association (SJMA) recruits, trains, and provides volunteers to monitor the Cahone Canyon and Cross Canyon WSAs. Volunteers visit these WSAs monthly from different access points and record/report activities observed, such as types of recreational activities occurring, and also report on the condition of WSA access signs. The WSAs are managed to provide visitors the opportunity to experience remoteness and a natural setting. The types of recreational uses within the WSAs include hiking, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, visiting archaeological sites, and dispersed camping.

LANDS AND REALTY

To date, 7,193 acres have been acquired since June 2000. Resources include a National Register-listed site and about 100 archaeological sites dating from the Archaic (3000 B.C.) to Pueblo III (A.D. 1300) periods. Purchases have been funded by emergency and congressionally appropriated Land and Water Conservation Funds and Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act funds.

FLUID MINERALS

About 77 percent of the Monument, which includes the Paradox Basin, is leased for oil and gas. Production comes primarily from the McElmo Dome field (containing carbon dioxide reserves) and the overlying Island Butte II, Cutthroat, and Canyon units (producing natural gas, condensate, and oil).

MARIETTA EATON
Monument Manager and
Anasazi Heritage Center Director
970-882-5616

Marietta Eaton holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Northern Arizona University, where she also completed course work on a Master's in Anthropology/Archaeology. Here career spans both the BLM and USFS. From 1997 to 2008, she worked in several capacities at the BLM Grand Staircase-Escalante national Monument, including Science Program Administrator, Assistant Monument Manager for Cultural and Earth Sciences, Acting Science Program Administrator, Acting Public Affairs Officer and Planning Team Lead for Cultural and Earth Sciences. From 1979 to 1997, Eaton worked as an archaeologist on the Coconino, Kaibab and Sequoia National Forests.

McINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

2815 H Road • Grand Junction, CO 81506 • 970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/mcnca.html

FACTS

- 123,430 acres
- 19 recreation sites
  (14 trailheads. 3 primitive campgrounds, 3 picnic areas, 3 interpretive trails)
- 6 Recreation Management Zones
- 1 Wilderness Area (75,500 acres, 5,200 acres in Utah)
- 4 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (4 listed)
- 114,000 acres grazed by livestock
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway
- 1 National Historic Trail
- 14 grazing allotments

Mesa County

The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) was created in 2000 by the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act. The name was changed through congressional legislation to McInnis Canyons NCA in 2005.

Management in the area is guided by the McInnis Canyons NCA Resource Management Plan, which was completed in 2004. Visitors can enjoy the primitive solitude of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, view scientists at work in paleontological quarries, engage in motorized recreation in Rabbit Valley, and mountain bike on internationally known technical trails on Mack Ridge. The NCA also provides qualified institutions and individuals with opportunities to conduct paleontological and land restoration research.

RECREATION

Front Country/Urban Interface: This area provides more than 25 miles of loop trails managed exclusively for foot travel and horse use. Due to its proximity to Fruita and Grand Junction, the area is heavily used, and is highly valued for its access to the canyon systems and views of the Grand Valley. Motorized and mechanized use, camping, and recreational shooting are not allowed in the Front Country.

Rabbit Valley: This area spans 24 square miles of high desert terrain. Recreational opportunities in Rabbit Valley include camping, hiking, biking, motorized recreation, and hunting. More than 25 miles of trail wind through unique sandstone formations and overhangs. Although there is no vehicle access to the Colorado River, there are many scenic overlooks.

Mack Ridge: An internationally-known mountain biking destination, Mack Ridge offers opportunities for mountain bikers of all skill levels. The Kokopelli Loops are comprised of 35 miles of technical trails and include the origin of the Kokopelli Trail. The Kokopelli Trail is a system of single tracks, two tracks, and county roads that winds through 142 miles of remote desert sandstone and shale canyons before reaching its end in Moab, Utah.

WILDERNESS

Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness: This area is named for the high, east-west trending Black Ridge, which lies on the northwestern flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau. It is dissected by seven major red rock canyon systems draining the plateau into the Colorado River. Canyons run 12 miles or more in length and reach depths of almost 1,000 feet.

Geological features include side canyons, spires, windows, giant alcoves, desert patina, as well as the second largest concentration of natural arches in the country in Rattlesnake Canyon. Spring runoff and summer thunderstorms create glistening waterfalls and plunging pools. Vegetation in the meandering canyon bottoms includes pinyon-juniper, grasses, cottonwoods, willow and box elder; transitioning to pinyon-juniper and sagebrush parks at higher elevations.

Mechanized and motorized travel is not allowed within the wilderness boundary - except where specifically authorized.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

McDonald Creek: McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Management Area lies within Rabbit Valley, and was designated by BLM to protect the fragile, prehistoric archaeological sites found here.

Native Americans chose McDonald Creek as home because it provided them with everything they needed to survive. The cliffs provided shelter, McDonald Creek provided water, and the many different native plant species provided food and medicine. An abundance of berries grow here, from the fragrant barberry to serviceberry and skunkberry bushes. Pigweed, the first to green in the spring, provides seeds that may have been used for flours or in soups. Other favorites include pinyon nuts, yucca and prickly pear cactus. The variety of plants is also attractive to mice, rabbit, deer and desert bighorn sheep, which were also part of the Native American diet.

You will not find trails or even signs pointing you toward the Fremont and Ute rock art in the area. Instead, McDonald Creek offers the chance to explore and experience the excitement of individual discovery.

The Rabbit Valley area also includes the Mygatt-Moore paleontological quarry and the Trail Through Time paleontological interpretive trail. The quarry is believed to have been an ancient watering hole for dinosaur species including Apatosaurus, Diplodocus, Brachiosaurus Camarasaurus, Ceratosaurus, Allosaurus, and Nodosaurus, among others. May through August, visitors may find paleontologists at work in the quarry. The Fruita Paleontological Area and the Dinosaur Hill historic quarry just outside Fruita offer additional paleontological interpretation.

WILDLIFE

The NCA provides habitat for deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, antelope, desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, sage sparrows and sage-grouse. The diversity of bird species is especially high. Rabbit Valley was identified as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

Other Special Status species found within the resource area include:

- humpback chub
- long nosed leopard lizard
- snowy plover
- long-billed curlew
- Wilson's phalarope
- gray vireo
- river otter
- canyon tree frog

COLLIN EWING
McInnis Canyons NCA Manager
970-244-3049

Collin Ewing previously served as the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the BLM Grand Junction Field Office. Collin is a northern Colorado native graduating from Colorado State University with a BS in Rangeland Ecology. Collin's resource management career spans multiple agencies with three years with the BLM. He has a background as a range land management specialist, and with threatened and endangered species consultation and archaeology.

Collin is an accomplished fisherman and enjoys hiking and hunting on public lands.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Grand Junction Field Office • 2815 H Road • Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 • 970-244-3000 • 970-244-3083 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html • Uncompahgre Field Office • 2465 S. Townsend Avenue • Montrose, Colorado 81401 • 970-240-5300 • 970-240-5367 fax • www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

FACTS

- 210,149 surface acres
- 1 wilderness (66,280 acres make up the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area)
- 9 recreation sites (1 primitive campground, 1 day-use/picnic area, 5 trail heads, and 2 primitive boat launches)
- 3 grazing allotments

Counties: Mesa, Delta and Montrose

The Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area was designated by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The newest NCA in Colorado, its designation was supported by local, regional and national interests in recognition of the outstanding resources in the area.

The BLM Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field offices are developing a resource management plan (RMP) for the NCA and Wilderness. The RMP will provide long term protection for and management of the values and resources identified in the legislation. The plan will address important geographic areas within the NCA, including Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, Cactus Park, Escalante Canyon, Sawmill Mesa, Gunnison Bluffs, and the Gunnison River from Delta to Whitewater, and will address issues including:

- Wilderness Management
- Multiple Use Recreation
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Landscape Restoration
- Traditional Land Use, Including Ranching
- Travel Management

RECREATION

Lands within the NCA are popular for experiencing the spectacular canyon country of the Uncompahgre Plateau. From hiking to boating to horseback and off-highway vehicle riding, areas within the NCA provide a variety of recreational opportunities to the public.

The canyons of the Gunnison River and Dominguez and Escalante Creeks provide visitors outstanding opportunities to explore and learn about geologic, archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources set amidst visually stunning red-rock desert scenery. The Bridgeport Bridge provides non-motorized access to the cascading waterfalls, historic areas, and Native American rock art sites in the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness.

Other activities in this area include:

- Fishing
- Hunting
- Sightseeing
- Wildlife photography
- Backpacking
- Mountain Biking
- Visiting historic and archeological sites
- ATV, motorcycle, and four-wheel driving

Cactus Park: This area provides rich opportunities to motorized vehicle enthusiasts to experience the back country. Miles of trails wind within the NCA provide access to the Uncompahgre National Forest, which manages a successful multi-recreational trail system. Opportunity exists for BLM to link into this system. The 142-mile Tabeguache Mountain Bike Trail, which connects Grand Junction to Montrose, goes from Cactus Park on its ascent from Grand Junction to the top of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Visitors interested in the geology of the area can stop at the Gunnison Gravels Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which contains geologic evidence of the ancestral route of the Gunnison River through Unaweep Canyon.

Gunnison River: The relatively flat stretch of river between Escalante Canyon and the mouth of the Dominguez Canyon is attracting increasing numbers of commercial and private boaters, with its unprecedented views of stunning red-rock canyons and wildlife viewing opportunities. Nearly 30 miles of the river flow through the NCA. Campsites are marked and available along the river.

Escalante Canyon: Escalante Canyon includes the Potholes Recreation Area, popular with extreme kayakers in the spring and picnickers in the summer. Restrooms and picnic tables are available for day-use recreation as well. The Escalante Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) contains sensitive plant species, natural seeps, and several globally-unique plant associations including beautiful hanging gardens of small-flowered columbine and Eastwood's monkeyflower. A 15-mile county road offers visitors a trip back to pioneer days through Escalante Canyon's "Red Hole in Time" (popularized by local author Muriel Marshall. The road provides easy vehicle and viewing access to historic cabins and trails, rock walls with early settler and Native American inscriptions, and spectacular geologic formations.

Sawmill Mesa: Immediately adjacent to the town of Delta, this area provides critical motorized links to the Uncompahgre National Forest. The Delta-Nucla/25-Mesa Road borders the NCA on the southeast and connects Delta to Nucla and the Divide Road, which follows the spine of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Mesa Road and Dry Creek Road provide Forest Service access to hunting in the fall and 4 wheel drive, ATV, and mountain bike access spring, summer, and fall. This area is rich in history, providing the only access route for settlers in Escalante Creek to Delta in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Gibbler Gulch: The BLM recently acquired a 160-acre in holding parcel in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The Gibbler Gulch acquisition known as the American Mountain Men property brings the total acreage of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area to 210,149.36 acres. Funding for the purchase came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Western Rivers Conservancy (a non-profit organization) helped to facilitate the acquisition. The property was completely surrounded by BLM and is now open for members of the public to enjoy.

WILDERNESS

The sandstone canyons and pinyon-juniper covered mesas of the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness offer excellent hiking opportunities. The Little Dominguez Creek creates habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles. Desert bighorn sheep have been reintroduced to the area and often graze at the base of the cliffs in the wilderness. Hikers along the Big Dominguez Creek pass historic structures, traces of the early miners and settlers who lived and worked throughout the area. Rock art on the canyon walls and wickiups on the mesas are evidence of the thousands of years that Native Americans used the area for hunting, shelter and as a travel corridor from the Gunnison River Valley to the Uncompahgre Plateau. The legislation designating the Wilderness took a unique approach to water rights that, when successful, could become a template for other water rights language in lower elevation areas where there are perennial streams.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The red-rock canyons and sandstone bluffs in the NCA contain geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years. Ute Tribes today consider these pinyon-juniper covered lands an important connection to their ancestral past. Cultural and historic sites showcase the homesteading and agricultural history of the area. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, a 19th Century land trade route, passes through the NCA.

WILDLIFE

Common species include:

- desert bighorn sheep
- mule deer
- golden eagle
- turkey
- elk
- mountain lion
- black bear
- collared lizard

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Collin Ewing previously served as the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the BLM Grand Junction Field Office. Collin is a northern Colorado native graduating from Colorado State University with a BS in Rangeland Ecology. Collin's resource management career spans multiple agencies with three years with the BLM. He has a background as a range land management specialist, and with threatened and endangered species consultation and archaeology.

Collin is an accomplished fisherman and enjoys hiking and hunting on public lands.

GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

FACTS

- 62,840 surface acres
- 10,000 acres of woodlands (pinyon-juniper); 20,000 acres - saltbush; 16,000 acres sagebrush community, 18,000 acres grass/forb rangeland
- 21 recreation sites (6 developed, 3 picnic areas, 6 camping areas, 3 boat ramps, 3 river overlook sites)
- 3 Recreation Management Areas
- 3 endangered, threatened and candidate species (2 listed, 1 candidate)
- 24,000 acres of small game habitat
- 22,000 acres of big game habitat
- 46,000 acres grazed by livestock (5,644 AUMS, 11 allotments)
- 1 Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway: West Elk Byway
- 1 Wilderness Area; Gunnison Gorge Wilderness (17, 784 acre

Counties: Montrose and Delta

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA) was designated in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999. The GGNCA is part of the Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose, Colorado.

RECREATION

The GGNCA encompasses a diverse landscape including adobe badlands, rugged piñon-juniper covered slopes, and double canyons within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area.

Activities in this area include:
- Wilderness white water boating
- Gold Medal trout fishing
- Big-game hunting
- Motorized and non-motorized recreation use
- Domestic sheep and livestock grazing
- Sightseeing
- Wildlife photography
- Hiking
- Backpacking

Flat Top, Peach Valley OHV Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA):
- Campground/picnic area
- Two OHV staging areas
- A motorcycle/ATV training site
- Beginner riding area
- 2,700 acres of "open" riding areas
- 7,000 acres with 75+ miles of designated trails
- Southern terminus of 20-mile multiple-use single-track Sidewiner Trail

Gunnison River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA):
- A campground, accessible fishing pier and campsite
- A picnic/day use area
- A staging/entrance area for equestiran and motorized users and northern terminus of Sidewinder Trail
- Two boat ramp sites
- Designated river campsites
- A interpretive trail (rock art site)
- Two river/Wildereness access trails
- Jeep trails

Gunnison Gorge Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA):
- Four Wilderness trail heads/picnic/camping areas
- Bobcat-Duncan loop equestrian/hiking trail
- 20 designated Wilderness river campsites
- 20-mile Redrocks-Nighthorse Rim trail
- Wave Eagle Jeep Loop

WILDERNESS

The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is located in the heart of the NCA within the unique black granite and red sandstone double canyon system of the Gunnison River. It encompasses 17,784 acres of public lands, including 14 miles of the river, extending from the northwestern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park north one mile from the confluence of the Smith Fork and the main stem of the Gunnison River.

The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is managed to preserve and protect its outstanding wilderness, scenic and non-

motorized recreational values. The Wilderness offers a technical (Class III-IV) and remote boating experience for rafters, kayakers and white water canoeists. The boating changes with every flow and is very dependent on winter snow pack.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The GGNCA contains a number of prehistoric and historic sites including rock art, cabins, campsites, mines, etc. Many of these sites are eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Findings from the Gunnison River Rock Art site show Fremont occupation dating back more than 8,000 years making this a rare and significant site. A major goal of the GGNCA plan is to provide users enhanced interpretation of the area's outstanding cultural resources to increase their awareness and understanding of the need to protect these areas.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The GGNCA contains a variety of upland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife species and habitats. The Gunnison River is designated as a Gold Medal Trout Fishery by Colorado Division of Wildlife because of its excellent trout population, including rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout.

Common species include:
- mule deer
- elk
- mountain lion
- coyote
- ringtail cats
- small mammals
- neo-tropical birds
- raptors
- chukar
- river otter

Sensitive species in the NCA include:
- clay-loving buckwheat
- Montrose penstemmon
- Rocky Mountain thistle
- Delta lomatium
- Unita Basin hookless cactus
- wintering bald eagles
- spotted bats
- river otters
- kit foxes

The east side of the GGNCA contains a small population of 200-300 Gunnison sage-grouse that are managed under the 1998 Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership Conservation Plan. The 2004 GGNCA plan designated three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: the Native Plant Community ACEC, Fairview ACEC (sensitive mancos shale plant species) and the Gunnison Sage Grouse ACEC/Important Bird Area.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing permits in the GGNCA contain special stipulations requiring a visual setback for livestock grazing activities (bedding grounds, water sites, supplemental feed sites, etc) of 500 feet from established recreational sites such as roads, trail heads, user areas, and fee collection sites.

LANDS AND REALTY

All forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal are prohibited in the GGNCA and Wilderness. Rights-of-way applications in the NCA are decided on a case-by-case basis. Acquisitions are addressed as opportunities arise on a case-by-case basis with willing sellers.

VACANT
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