



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE
2465 South Townsend
Montrose, CO 81401
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html

In Reply Refer To:
1210 (COS050)

MAY 28 2014

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA), is seeking public comment regarding a proposal to construct a hiker/equestrian trail in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness.

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Wilderness Resource Management Plan (November 2004) directs BLM to “construct primitive trail segments where needed to connect East Side overlook(s) to Smith Fork Way Trail to reduce user-created routes on Wilderness rim” (implementation decision REC-1-99).

Trail access into the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is currently via four trails on the west side of the wilderness and two trails that enter the wilderness from the north along both shorelines of the Gunnison River. There is one trail on the east side (Smith Fork Trail), which was an old mining route that only connects to private land in Smith Fork Canyon. There is no publicly accessible trail on the east side. (See attached maps.)

BLM proposes to construct approximately 1.8 miles of primitive hiker/equestrian trail to connect Black Ridge with Smith Fork Trail within the wilderness.

The BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and is seeking any comments you may have related to the proposal. Your comments will assist in identifying issues that should be addressed as part of the analysis being prepared for this project. If you are interested in participating in the environmental analysis process, or have specific concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like addressed, please mail written comments to:

Black Ridge Trail
Attn: Edd Franz
BLM, Gunnison Gorge NCA
2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, Colorado 81401

or

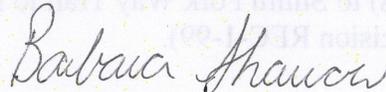
E-mail: efranz@blm.gov

Comments must be submitted in writing by mail or email. Comments concerning this proposal must be submitted no later than June 30, 2014.

Comments must concern this project, have a direct relationship to the proposed action being considered or propose another alternative, and include supporting reasons for the Authorized Officer to consider. Also, for appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request. Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, email address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

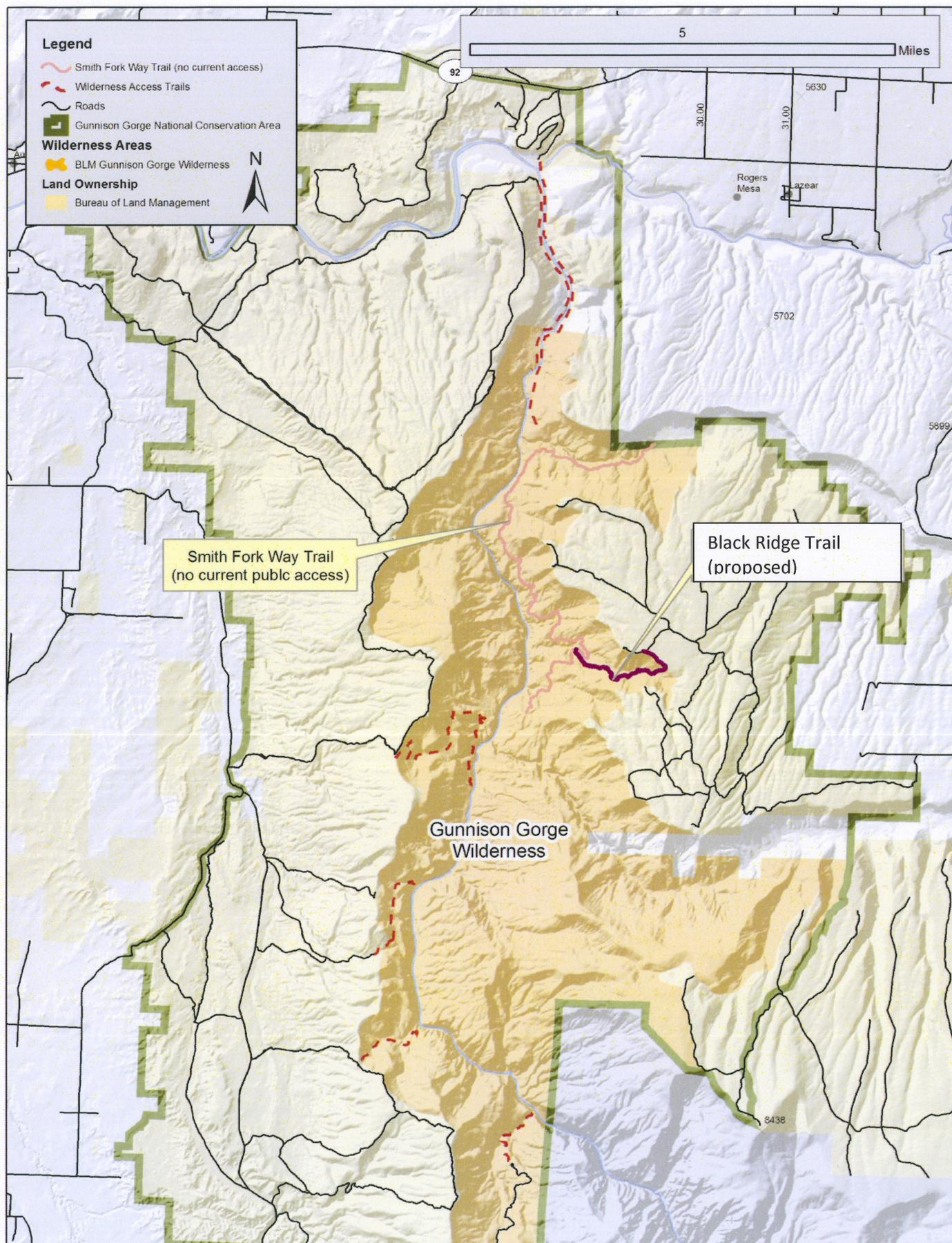
Sincerely,



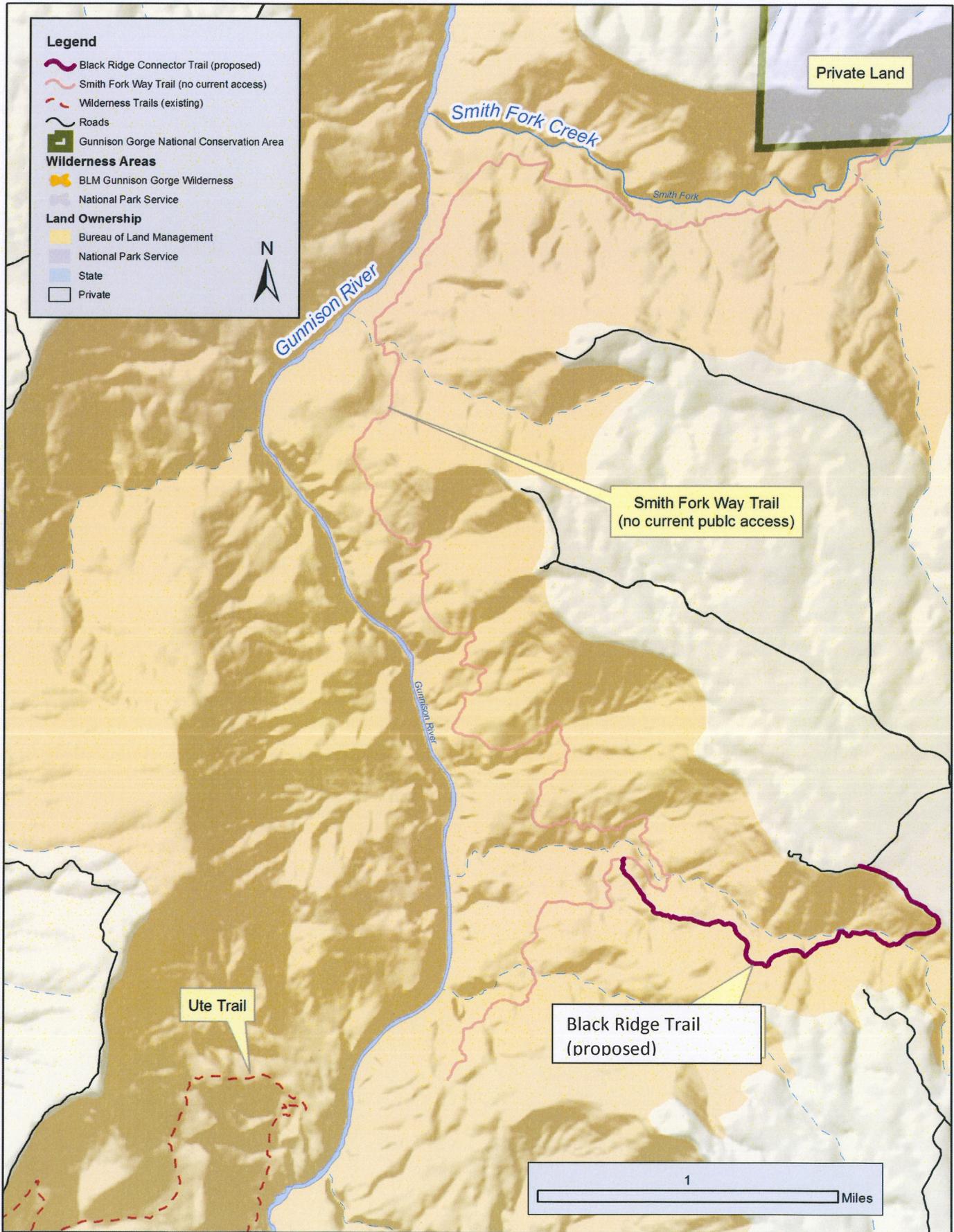
Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

Attachments: Three Maps

Map 1. Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area



Map 2. Broad Project Area



Map 3. Focused Project Area

