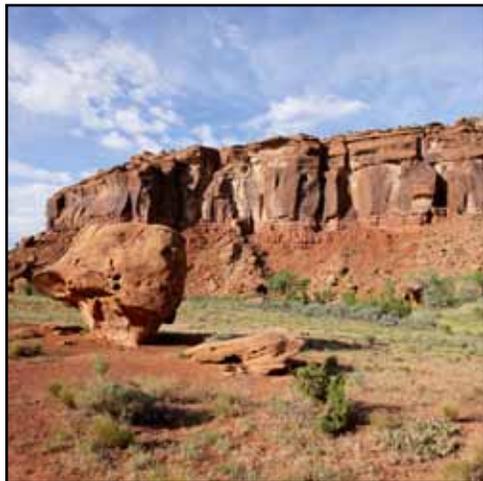
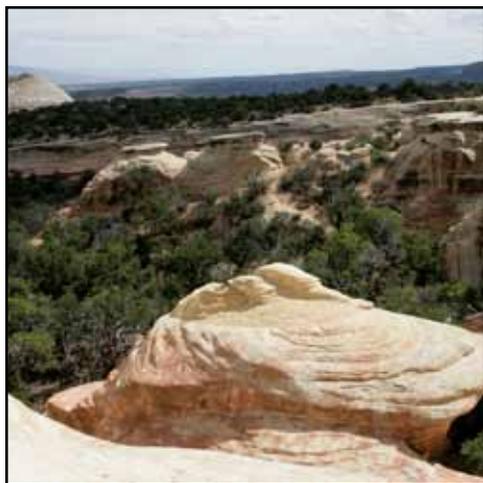


COLORADO



BRIEFING BOOK

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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)	
1.174 MILLION	acres of NLCS lands
1	National Monument (approx. 170,850 acres): Canyons of the Ancients, Anasazi Heritage Center, 3.6 million total objects housed
3	National Conservation Areas: Gunnison Gorge (62,840 acres), McInnis Canyons (123,430 acres), and Dominguez-Escalante (209,610)
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)
54	Wilderness Study Areas (548,000 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 Area: Tabeguache Congressional Designated Management Area (8,075) and Rio Grande Natural Area (2,900)
2	Natural Landmarks: Garden Park Fossil Area and Slumgullion Earthflow
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)
42	Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species (32 listed, 10 candidates)
126	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
ENERGY	
4,826	producing federal oil and gas wells, FY 2010
681	Approved Applications for Permits to Drill on Federal Land, FY2010
4,109	Approved APDs from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, FY 2010 (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.

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.

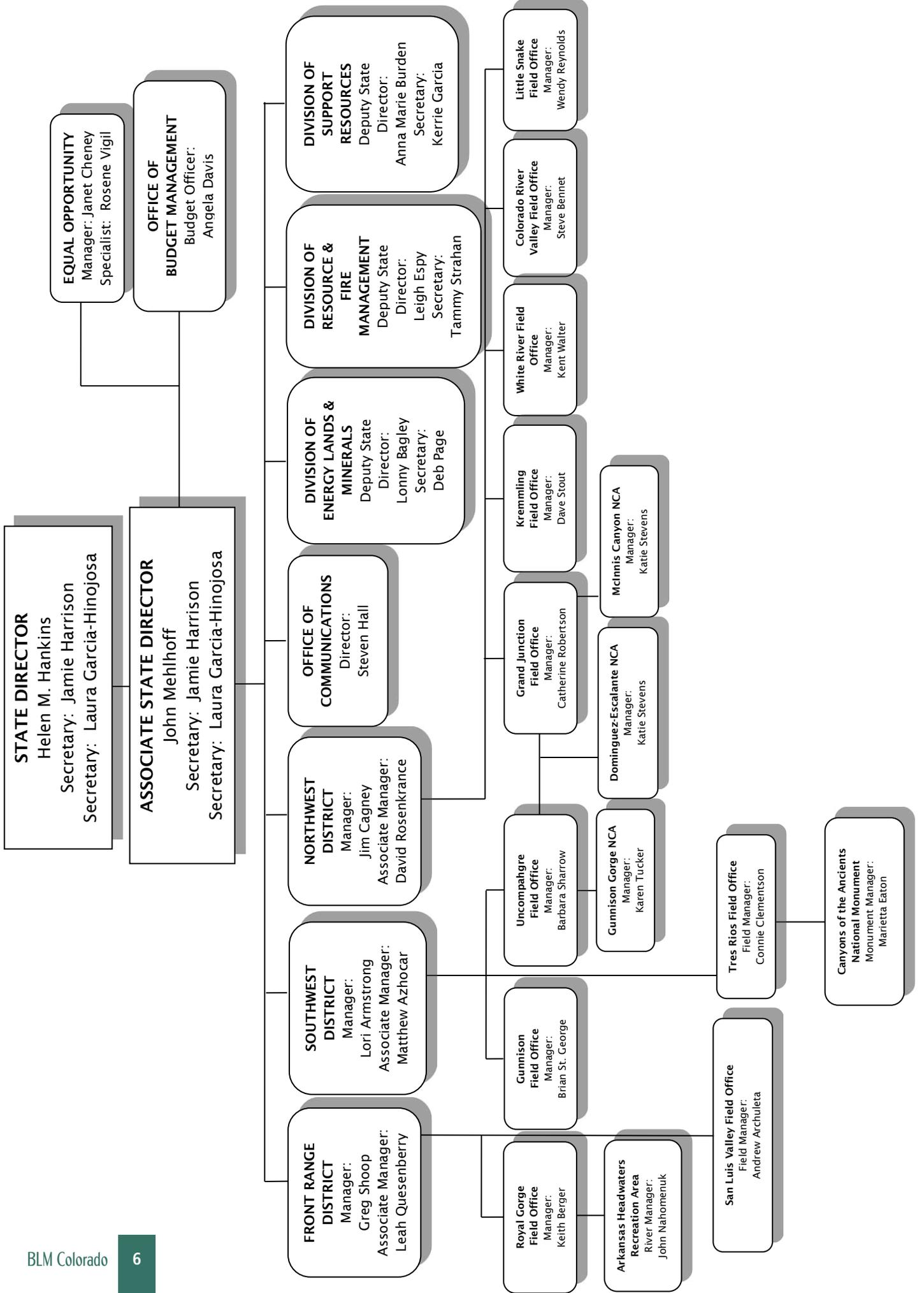
The late 19th century marked a shift in federal land management priorities with the creation of the first national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. By withdrawing these lands from settlement, Congress amended the policy goals served by public lands. Instead of using them to promote settlement, Congress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



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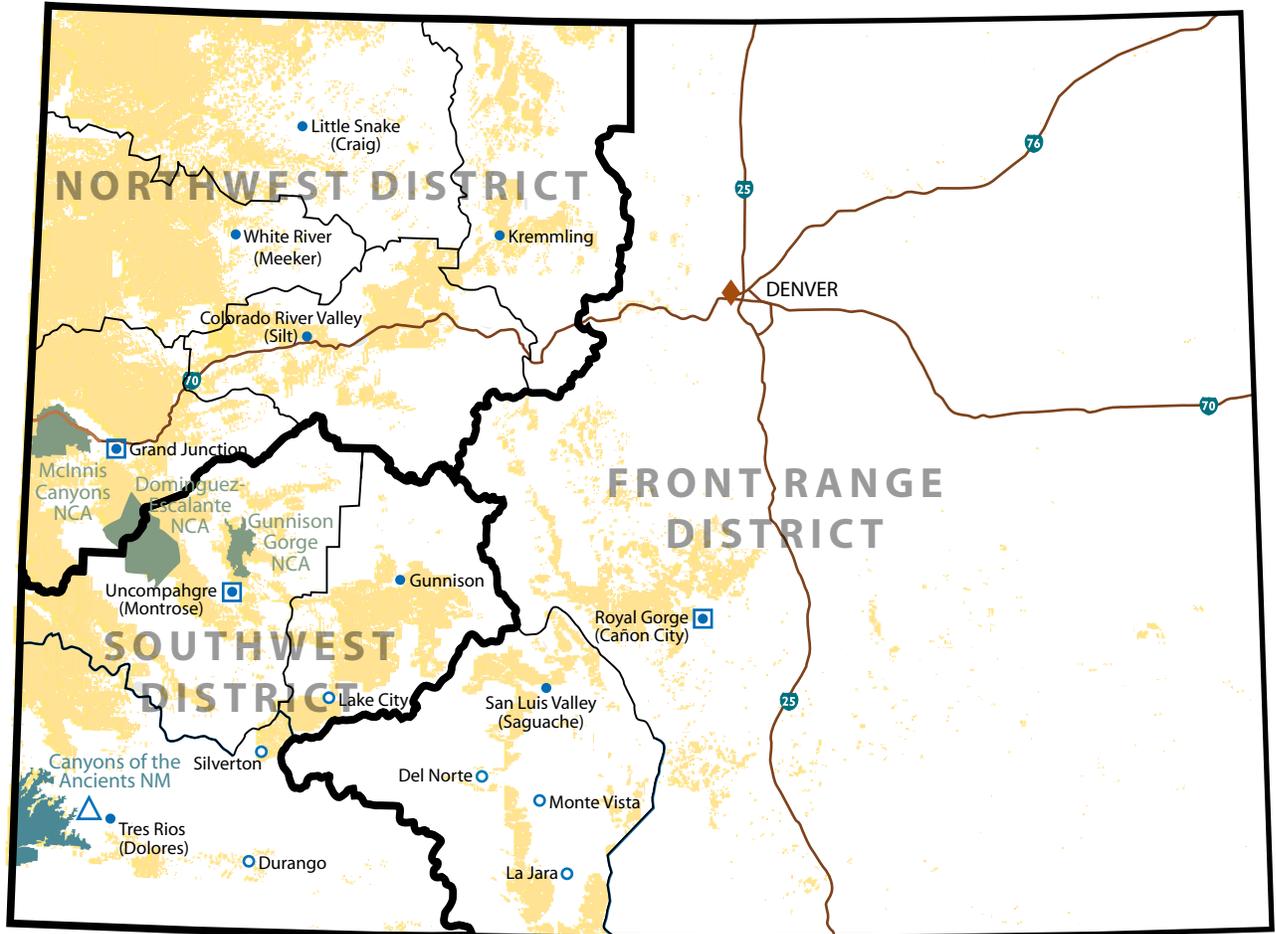
Wild Horses

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Royal Gorge Field Office
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Wes Anderson
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BLM COLORADO OFFICES



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
|  | BLM-managed Lands |  | BLM State Office |
|  | BLM National Monument |  | BLM District Office |
|  | BLM National Conservation Areas |  | BLM Field Office |
|  | Tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations |  | Information Center |
| | |  | Anasazi Heritage Center |
| | |  | Major Highways |
| | |  | BLM District Office Boundaries |
| | |  | BLM Field Office Boundaries |





RECREATION

More than one-fourth 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 issued approximately 32,000 recreation use permits, and administers approximately 460 special recreation use permits, including 34 for competitive events, annually.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) 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. Conservation System 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 66 NLCS areas encompassing more than 1 million acres — about one eighth of all the BLM land in the state.

FORESTRY

The BLM manages 3.5 to 4 million acres of forested land in Colorado. 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 such as 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 BLM’s management in Colorado is to restore forest health conditions rather than produce commercial timber on forested lands. The combined fire, fuels and forest management budgets are around \$14 million. With that, BLM Colorado offered more than 30,000 tons of biomass through forestry and fuels projects and treated more than 17,500 acres through the fire and fuels program in fiscal year 2010.

Major forest health concerns:

- Mountain pine beetle outbreak in North Central Colorado
- Decline of aspen stands
- Pinion 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.
- Initiate forest and fire ecology research

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) 16 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. Annually, the BLM completes about 15,000 acres of fuels reduction projects in the state. BLM Colorado focuses its fuels reduction efforts on areas near communities known as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) About 68 percent of the BLM acres treated for fuels reduction in Colorado were within the WUI. The remaining 32 percent of fuels work goes to enhance and sustain healthy ecosystems. Throughout the year, BLM Colorado helps counties complete wildfire protection plans by offering technical expertise and assistance agreements. The BLM and its cooperators have completed several hundred community-based, interagency education workshops to support community wildfire preparedness, planning and hazard migration.

These units include:

- Northwest Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit – Craig
- Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit – Grand Junction
- Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit – Montrose
- Front Range Interagency Fire – Canon City
- San Luis Valley Field Office – Monte Vista
- Tres Rios Field Office – Durango

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)
- 12 Type-6 wildland fire engines
- Four 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
- Seven interagency Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) re-load bases

Since 1997, BLM Colorado averaged 482 fires per year with a high in 2003 of 753 fires and a low in 2008 of 331 fires. Average annual acres burned since 1997 are 11,698 with a high in 2002 of 28,529 and a low in 1998 of 3,228.

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, regardless of size, that have the potential of significant damage to a natural or cultural resource 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, BLM initiates ES&R treatments on six to 10 fires annually. Given our extensive wildland urban interface (WUI) issues, problems with invasive species such as cheat grass and rugged terrain, most stabilization issues involve planning, soil stabilization and 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 13 Federally Threatened and 16 Federally Endangered species. BLM's Colorado's wildlife habitat management goal is to ensure the natural abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife, and special status species of both plant and animal resources on public lands by restoring, maintaining, and enhancing habitat productivity and quality.

Colorado boasts a broad diversity of wildlife, which has been verified and/or reliably recorded in the state 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. The BLM 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

The BLM Colorado 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:

- 1.86 million acres inventoried for cultural resources
- 46,957 recorded archaeological and historic sites
- 532 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 4 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 the management of livestock 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 renewable energy projects include wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass as well as siting transmission facilities to deliver power. BLM Colorado received almost \$4 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Renewable Energy Authorizations, which includes funding for eight projects to support large-scale production for renewable energy development. A Renewable Energy Team was also established to help expedite processing for renewable energy project applications.

Geothermal: In 2010, BLM Colorado leased an 800-acre geothermal parcel in Chaffee County earning \$29,600 in total proceeds. This is BLM Colorado's first geothermal lease sale since the 1980s. The Gunnison Field Office is currently amending its Resource Management Plan to allow for geothermal leasing along the Gunnison Basin and is reviewing associated lease stipulations. The San Luis Valley Public Lands Center is also in the planning phases to potentially open public lands for geothermal leasing.

Solar: The BLM initiated a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in 2009 with the Department of Energy to assess the environmental, social and economical impacts associated with solar energy development on BLM public lands. BLM Colorado identified four Solar Energy Areas in the San Luis Valley. There are two pending right-of-way applications for two of the proposed BLM Solar Energy Zones. Those applications will be placed on hold until the Solar PEIS is complete, which is expected summer 2012.

Wind: Colorado has received a few wind testing applications in the last few years, mostly in the Northwest and Front Range District Offices.

Transmission: There are two right-of-way electric transmission applications within the state. The Energy Gateway South project, is a 350-400 mile 500 kV AC transmission project from Medicine Bow, Wyoming to Clover, Utah. If or when completed, this project will transmit up to 3,000 megawatts of electricity. The

TransWest Express project is a 725-mile, 600kV DC transmission project from south central Wyoming to southeast Las Vegas. The Draft EIS is estimated to be published summer 2012.

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 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 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

BLM is responsible for leasing, permitting, production verification, bonding, reclamation inspection and enforcement of oil and natural gas on public lands. The BLM's responsibilities include sound siting of drilling locations and production support facilities, verification of production, and the proper abandonment and reclamation of well and facility sites. The BLM has the responsibility for oil and natural gas leasing of all onshore federal minerals. BLM Colorado holds quarterly oil and gas lease sales. The federal mineral estate managed by the BLM is an important component of Colorado's oil and gas production. The goal of the fluid minerals branch is to facilitate and regulate oil and natural gas development of the 28 million acres of federal minerals in Colorado. There are 29 million acres of federal mineral estate in Colorado. As of Jan. 1, 2011, 4.4 million acres were leased for oil and natural gas. There are 5,959 (producing) active wells on those federal leases. Federal leases account for 13 percent of all (producing) active wells in Colorado.

SOLID MINERALS

Solid mineral production on public land in Colorado involves three distinct mineral categories: locateables, leaseables, and saleables. Locateables include minerals like gold, silver, copper, molybdenum and uranium. Coal and sodium are also available for mineral leasing. Leases are issued for specific periods of time, and the lessee pays an annual rental fee, and royalties on the minerals produced. In Colorado, there are currently nine coal producing mines (seven underground and two surface) encompassing 75,000 acres. The State of Colorado receives about 49 percent of the federal royalties collected. Mineral materials produced here include limestone, rip-rap; flagstone, cut stone, moss rock, boulders, granite; non-decorative large rock; sand & gravel; brunt shale, river cobbles, sand, cinders and scoria; fill material and non-decorative cinders; bentonite, clay; decomposed

granite; masonry sand, sand, gravel and aggregate; and concrete sand, sand and gravel, 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 government 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 hazardous mine openings and cleaning up old mine sites with acid discharge and tailings containing toxic concentrations of hazardous substances. Because of the extensive past mining activities which occurred in these areas, the BLM's Colorado AML program focuses on the Upper Animas River, Upper Arkansas River and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. The AML program enhances public safety and improves water quality by reducing or eliminating the effects of past hardrock mining in the western United States. BLM maintains an inventory of known abandoned mine lands on public lands. Most of the sites are abandoned hardrock mines. As of 2011, the BLM's AML inventory in Colorado contains nearly 15,935 features within approximately 4,000 sites. Approximately 2,209 features have been reclaimed or remediated; or have reclamation actions planned or underway; or do not require further action. The BLM and its partners are working on sharing and displaying AML spatial data within a National Mine Land Inventory. Within the BLM, the AML program coordinates projects with the BLM's Hazardous Materials Management program. Many AML sites have hazardous material features that need to be remediated.

OIL SHALE

The 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. If so, this resource would be enough to meet U.S. demand for oil at current usage levels for 110 years. The bureau's oil shale program is in the Research, Development and Demonstration (RDD) phase. Currently there are six RDD leases, five of which are in Colorado. There is a second round of RDD leasing with three nominees, two of which are in Colorado going through NEPA analysis process. The BLM's role is to make available lands that are suitable for Oil Shale development.

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.

HELEN M. HANKINS
Colorado State Director
303-239-3700



Helen Hankins previously served as the BLM Associate State Director in Arizona since 2007. Helen began her career in 1970 as a clerk typist in the BLM's work study program in the Albuquerque District. After earning a degree in geology from the University of New Mexico, Helen worked at the Phoenix Training Center (now the National Training Center) and later at Durango. In Durango, Helen enjoyed seeing the area's cliff dwellings and watching archaeological excavations near what is now the Anasazi Heritage Center. She recalls fondly riding horseback to conduct compliance work in the mountains around Silverton. In 1979, Helen accepted the district geologist position in the Anchorage District, Alaska. Over the next eight years, Helen worked at the district and state level as a geologist, including environmental work on oil and gas leasing on the North Slope of Alaska.

Helen moved to Washington D.C. in 1988, working in the BLM's national Division of Budget for two "intensive" years. Helen's next assignment was the Kobuk District Manager in Alaska, where she experienced the thrill of landing on the Yukon River in a float plane. In 1995, Helen transferred to Elko, Nev., where she served as District Manager. Helen's more notable achievements in Elko include ensuring the design and construction of the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, and restoring hundreds of thousands of acres of desert after wildfires. After Elko, Helen became the Arizona Associate State Director. Helen married Michael Mauser in Durango in 1976. They have hosted 11 Rotary youth exchange students from eight different countries. They have two cats. Helen has been active in Toastmasters, and participated in a Spanish-English Toastmasters club in Phoenix. Helen and Michael enjoy international travel, particularly involving hiking or backpacking. A high point of those travels was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Helen has more than 35 years of service with the BLM, and loves the public lands and the challenges and the opportunities they provide.

JOHN MEHLHOFF
Associate State Director
303-239-3700



John Mehlhoff brings a broad range of experience in public land management to this position having served at every level of the BLM (Field, District, State, Washington). In his capacity, he holds the number two leadership position for BLM-Colorado, behind Helen Hankins who is the State Director.

Raised on the family homestead in North Dakota, John earned a degree in Petroleum Engineering from Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology (Montana Tech). He is a career veteran of BLM, with more than 26 years of service. In his position as Field Manager for the Oklahoma BLM Office in Tulsa, he has management responsibility for a three state region (Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas). Job postings include numerous National Project Teams; Field Manager in Colorado; Legislative Assistant to a U.S. Senator under the Congressional Fellowship program; Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals; Program Lead to BLM's Assistant Director of Energy and Minerals in Washington, D.C.; Platte River Field Office Petroleum Engineer, Wyoming; and Montana State Office Petroleum Engineer. John is married to Suzanne. They have two daughters, Jessa and Jade. He enjoys fly fishing, golf, and hunting in his free time.

ANNA MARIE BURDEN
Deputy State Director
Support Services
303-239-3957



Anna Marie Burden is responsible for five branches including Administrative/Business Services, Engineering Construction and Maintenance, Human Resources, Information Resources (IT/Records), and Cadastral Survey. Born and raised in Montrose, Colo., Anna Marie began her public service career at the age of 16 as a volunteer with the National Park Service (NPS) at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. After two years as a volunteer and four years as a Seasonal Ranger, she became a permanent employee at Rocky Mountain National Park working as a Park Interpreter. She was a graduate of the Cooperative Education Program, now known as the Student Career Experience Program. Her career includes more than six years at Rocky Mountain National Park; nearly seven years as Chief of Interpretation at Arches National Park; three years as Chief Ranger at Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments; three years as Superintendent of Navajo National Monument in Arizona, and five years as Superintendent at Canyon de Chelly National Monument. In 2000, she began a three-year assignment as Director of the Office of Strategic Planning for the National Park Service in Denver, working as a member of the NPS Director's immediate staff. After declining a reassignment to Washington D.C., Anna Marie accepted the position of Deputy State Director for the BLM Colorado State Office in June 2003. She is a graduate of Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. with a degree in American History and a graduate of OPM's Executive Leadership Program. She currently lives in Littleton with her husband, Otto, and their dogs.

LEIGH ESPY

Deputy State Director
Resources and Fire Management
303-239-3801



Leigh Espy started as the Deputy State Director of Resources and Fire Management for BLM Colorado in late 2010. She previously served as the BLM Colorado Branch Chief for Natural Resources from 2008-2010. Leigh started her federal career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Geosciences Laboratory in Rockville, MD in 1991. In 1995, Leigh accepted the position of Program Support Group Manager with NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration in Seattle, WA where her unit supported oil and chemical spill response all over the world. In 2000 she left federal service to become an Assistant Division Manager, Operations for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and was responsible for multiple statewide aquatic resources programs including tribal shellfish coordination, fishery management, derelict vessel removal, and invasive species control. In 2005 she returned to NOAA, this time as the Chief of Staff for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the South-East Region of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Leigh earned a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington and a Bachelor degree in History from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Leigh grew up in Arlington, VA. She has a penchant for travel, typically to visit friends and family, or simply to road-trip when the occasion presents itself. When not on the road, she enjoys spending time secondhand shopping and spoiling her two oversized cats.

LONNY BAGELY

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



Prior to his selection as Field Manager, Lonny was the Bureau of Land Management'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.

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 Western Slope Public Affairs Specialist for the BLM from 2002-2005, providing public affairs support for BLM offices in Kremmling, Craig, Meeker, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Montrose and Gunnison.

Steven was formerly the Director of Public Affairs and Marketing for Colorado State Parks. He also directed public relations and marketing efforts for the State of Colorado's outdoor recreation programs, including boating, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles and trails. With a master's degree in journalism from CU Boulder, Steven also worked as an adjunct professor of journalism from 1999-2002. Before the move to public relations, Steven was an award-winning journalist for newspapers in Western Colorado and the Denver metro area. His freelance writing has been published in magazines such as Colorado Outdoors and Outdoor Life. 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.

JANET CHENEY

Manager
Equal Employment Opportunity
303-239-3665



As Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program Manager, Janet Cheney is responsible for planning, directing, monitoring and evaluating EEO program activities in Colorado, in line with existing federal laws, Executive Orders, Interior Department directives and BLM policy. She works very closely with the State Leadership Team in ensuring that EEO laws and the BLM Policy on Zero Tolerance of Discrimination are applied in all facets of recruitment, employment, training, development, advancement,

supervision, and treatment of employees and applicants. Janet also manages Colorado's Affirmative Employment/Diversity Program, with a view to promoting diversity in the workforce, instilling an appreciation for diversity among employees, and maintaining a workplace where employees are valued, respected and supported. Janet runs Colorado's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program, which takes a pro-active role in encouraging communication in the workplace, as well as resolving allegations of discrimination and workplace disputes early and effectively.

Janet began her career in 1989, with the USDA Research Division of the Forest Service in Boise, Idaho in Administration. Moving up the ladder, Janet went to work as Business Management Assistant for the Boise Ranger District in Boise, Idaho. From there Janet went on to work as Administrative Assistant for USDA, Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and then on to Administrative Officer for the Interior Columbia Ecosystem Management Project in Boise, Idaho. In 1996 Janet began her career with the office of Civil Rights/EEO in Ogden, Utah for the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region. In this position she was the regional Title VI, Title VII, ADR Manager, Mediator and regional program manager for all Special Emphasis Programs and in 2003 accepted a transfer to Twin Falls, Idaho where she was the Lead EEO Specialist for the northern half of the Intermountain Region, Forest Service. In addition from 1997 to 2005, Janet was the Regional Human Resource Specialist Coordinator (fire) for the Eastern and Western Great Basin. In 2005, Janet left the Forest Service, Intermountain Region and accepted a new position as a senior EEO Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region and in 2009 accepted a Senior EEO Specialist with the National Park Service, Intermountain Region, Denver.

Janet is married to Dave Cavallier and together has 7 grown children, a 16 year old daughter at home, four dogs and four guinea pigs (and counting).

JEANNE M. PROCTOR
Special Agent-in-Charge
303-239-3803

Special Agent-in-Charge Jeanne Proctor has 18 years of law enforcement experience; 10 years as a supervisor/manager; and most recently, since 2001, as a BLM special agent with duty assignments in both Colorado and Eastern States working the full spectrum of resource



cases, special events and details. Prior to coming to the BLM, assignments included security specialist for the Internal Revenue Service, supervisory police officer for the Department of Commerce and serving American citizens in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain, as a combat support Military Police Officer leading 30-176 soldiers in peacetime and war. Jeanne holds a B.A. in Sociology, a Master's degree in Public Administration with added post-graduate work in regional land-use planning and a PhD. in Education with a focus in natural and cultural resource interpretation.

MELISSA DUKES
Human Resources Officer
303-239-3920



Melissa Dukes became Colorado's Human Resources Officer in February 2001. Prior to her current assignment, Melissa worked at the National Human Resources Management Center (NHRMC) which is now part of the National Operations Center, as the Bureau's senior Staffing Specialist. Melissa's federal career spans nearly 30 years and includes experience as acting EEO Manager for NHRMC; Staffing Management for the Navy's Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office in New Orleans, Louisiana; Principal Classifier and Personnel Management Specialist for the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake (Ridgecrest), California; and Labor Relations Specialists for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. She started her federal career as a cooperative education student with the Department of the Navy in China Lake. She completed her undergraduate work at California State University, Fullerton, in American Studies, and her graduate work at the University of Southern California in Systems Management.

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 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 district's federal surface and sub-surface acres cover three-fifths of the state of Colorado.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area 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 white water 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. A 2009 study funded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported direct spending within 50 miles of the AHRA to be about \$55 million.

The district is working with local communities, state regulators, industry, and other federal agencies in building a clean energy future by providing sites for environmentally sound renewable energy development on public lands. In 2009, four Solar Energy Study Areas were identified in the SLVPLC for large-scale solar projects. Those areas were later designated as Solar Energy Zones (SEZ) and are part of the national Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement initiated by the BLM and the Department of Energy. A draft of the evaluation was published in December 2010 for public comment and a supplemental to the draft was released in 2011. The supplemental adjusted the acreages of the SEZs to exclude wetlands, sensitive wildlife habitat, and the visual impact to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. The BLM received two applications in December 2010 on the proposed Los Mogotes East SEZ in Conejos County and the De Tilla SEZ in Saguache County. Both applications are on hold pending the completion of the study.

In November 2010, the first geothermal lease parcel sold in the U.S. since the 1980s was sold in the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs area near Buena Vista, Colorado. The lease parcel covers 799 acres of federal minerals managed by the RGFO. The Mt. Princeton geothermal project is in the exploration phase and has the potential to become Colorado's first source of electricity generated using geothermal resources. The SLVFO is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to amend the San Luis Resource Area Resource Management Plan to consider which lands to make available for geothermal leasing,



what environmental stipulations for resource protection would be put in place, and which areas would be closed. The EA evaluates alternative geothermal leasing allocations on approximately 640,000 acres of federal surface and subsurface mineral estate for geothermal leasing and energy development.

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.

Vacant
Front Range District Manager

Greg Shoop previously 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 fifteen years of executive level work in the private sector in California, as well as management positions in BLM's Colorado State Office and BLM's Craig field office. Greg began his career in the BLM's Eastern States Office in 1977.

FACTS

- 681,155 surface acres
- 6,847,323 subsurface acres
- 86 recreation sites (23 developed, 18 picnic areas, 32 camping areas, 20 boat ramp)
- 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

The Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) is systematically designating a network of roads and trails through the travel management planning (TMP) process. To date, the Cache Creek, Box Creek, Four Mile, Arkansas River and Gold Belt management plans are being implemented.

Within the RGFO there are two recreation management areas: the Arkansas River Recreation Management Area and the Gold Belt Recreation Management Area. The areas outlined below fall within either one of these two management areas.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA): This area stretches almost 150 miles along the Arkansas River and is a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The area offers opportunities for fishing, rafting, kayaking, picnicking, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and sightseeing among deep canyons, broad valleys and towering mountain peaks. The social and economic benefits to local communities are quite evident by the \$55 million dollars visitors spent within a 50-mile radius of the AHRA in 2008. In conjunction with AHRA the RGFO process' 142 commercial special recreation permits, 28 competitive special recreation permits and 18,000 individuals use permits annually.

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: 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: On November 17, 2005, 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 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 each year. Two small developed campgrounds, Sand Gulch and The Bank, are open year-round. 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.

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. BLM manages the routes in the Texas Creek area and works with motorized recreation groups to assist in developing and maintaining motorized routes.

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.

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, which are valued for their undeveloped character and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

WILDERNESS

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. Areas that held the status as Primitive or Outstanding Natural Areas or Research Natural Areas prior to FLPMA automatically qualified and are known as Instant Study Areas. 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 an 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 create a variety of settings including canyons and gulches

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 host 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 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 and 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 paleontology research because of its wealth of Jurassic fossil data and was designated by the State of Colorado under the Natural Area Program as a Research Natural Area with national significance. The National Park Service also designated a portion of the area in 1972 as National Natural Landmark (NNL) with international significance. In addition, the BLM identified the area as an ACEC because of its paleontological resources. Currently, the RGFO is working on expanding the NNL designation to include all of the historic dinosaur quarries and some more modern discovers as well, including Ms. Spike, the nearly complete stegosaur that was discovered in 1992. The Garden Park Paleontology Society, a nonprofit organization, manages the Dinosaur Depot Museum in Cañon City and provides significant support to the BLM in managing this area. The Dinosaur Depot includes a museum, a fossil preparation center, and a library, all of which have a focus on the Garden Park Fossil Area.

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 (GPFA). Through this program the RGFO shows the public that paleontology resources are irreplaceable since 50 percent of paleontology materials in museums today were found on public lands. As part of this endeavor, the RGFO created a website with podcasts demonstrating the significance of the historic quarries in GPFA. The RGFO also developed 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. RGFO's partners in these endeavors include the Dinosaur Depot Museum, the National Park Service National Natural Landmark Program, the Geological Society of America's GeoCorps Program and many local volunteers. The RGFO's efforts have been funded by multiple programs including Hands on the Land, Take it Outside and other Department of Interior youth initiatives.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The RGFO manages cultural resources on BLM-administered land from the Continental Divide to the borders of Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Sites, and artifacts in the area range from 12,000 years old to only 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, townsite, historic toll road and railroad and mining loci.

Aboriginal sites range from the Paleo-Indian stage through the protohistoric. Because many of the Native Americans living in the area were not sedentary, there is no evidence of large settlements. Archaeological data are often ephemeral, and consist of chipped stone, faunal remains, ground stone, and, pottery. The RGFO Cultural Resources program monitors 16 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. BLM also supports local community events like the Arkansas River Clean Up Green Up, Safety Town, Science Fairs and Harrison School Outdoor Classroom. The BLM also works with the Southwest Conservation Corps and Mile-High Youth Corps to provide meaningful stewardship projects and educational programs to youth aged 15-24.

Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (TEN) is a course helping educators develop ways to teach environmental education in the classroom, on the school grounds and at "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 Colorado.

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. Educational programs are offered in partnership with Garden Park Paleontology Society and Dinosaur Depot Museum.

Take it Outside: Youth Initiative Programs: For the past 17 years BLM has teamed up with Rocky Mountain Field Institute to bring students from Fountain Valley School to public lands to do service projects. Each year approximately 75 students participate in trail maintenance, education programs and team building.

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

Colorado Youthcorps Association (CYCA) in partnership with the BLM are working on projects that get youth outside appreciating and learning about public lands management.

Hangin' Out Outdoors: 2011 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. This program is part of "Let's Move Outside," initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama, to get youth outdoors and engaging in fun, hands-on activities to help maintain a healthy body weight.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The RGFO manages wildlife habitats from low elevation shortgrass prairie to alpine tundra on the top of Mosquito Pass. Habitats are managed to provide top quality and quantity forage, hiding cover and open spaces. Land

Health Assessments and resource evaluations are key to determine the effectiveness of management practices. Transplants and relocation of animals such as turkey, mule deer and bighorn sheep are done in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also a key part of the program and is required when BLM activities affect species or habitats.

RGFO biologists help provide expertise to important multi-agency workgroups that include the Southern Colorado Streamlining Team, Colorado Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team, Colorado Black-tailed Prairie Dog Working group, several habitat partnership committees, boreal toad recovery team and the South Park Wetlands Focus Group.

RGFO species include:

- Mexican spotted owl
- peregrine falcon
- bald eagle
- least tern
- mountain plover
- piping plover
- lesser prairie chicken
- lynx
- black-tailed prairie dog

FORESTRY

Thirty-eight percent of the land managed by the RGFO is classified as commercial forest land or woodlands. Approximately 600 Special Forest Product (SFP) permits are issued annually for local personal use and commercial needs. These permits include firewood, post and poles, transplant, craft wood, and Christmas tree sales. Additional on-going forestry activities include monitoring fuels and forestry projects, forest inventory, pre-commercial thinning, timber stand improvement, and public education.

The RGFO completed a landscape environmental assessment for the Three Peaks area that will provide commercial timber sales over the next five to seven years. The first sale from this project occurred in Fall 2008 for \$22,000 and should be completed Summer 2012. In 2011 a second timber sale covering 50 acres was completed. In 2011 the RGFO prepared for a 255 acre ponderosa pine timber sale which should be completed in the next year.

In Lake County the RGFO has been salvaging mountain pine beetle killed trees in the Zion and Cache Creek areas. This work includes cutting, removing and utilizing the trees killed by the beetle, mainly for firewood.

In 2005, the RGFO was selected as a Biomass Demonstration Area. From 2006-2010 the RGFO and

its stewardship contractor kept the local power plant in Canon City supplied with woodchips from thinning projects that the power plant mixed with coal to “green” its energy making process.

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. Annual operations and responsibilities include term permit/lease renewals and health assessments. The RGFO develops allotment management plans on acquired and vacant BLM lands, conducts permit/lease transfers, process new applications, uses studies and compliance checks, and monitors for unauthorized livestock use. Range improvement projects are conducted annually on the ground to help improve livestock management and promote healthy rangelands. Program achievements are obtained through cooperation and partnerships with grazing permittees, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Land Board, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and interested publics.

WEED MANAGEMENT

The weed management program expects to inventory 17,000 acres for new weed infestation areas and treat more than 1,100 acres. Evaluations are conducted to determine effectiveness of the previous years’ treatments of 800 acres. Aggressive treatments are planned in 2012 on salt cedar (Tamarisk) infestations that affect riparian areas. Our 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 boundaries.

ABANDONED MINES PROGRAM

The RGFO AML program focusses clean-up efforts in the Leadville, Cripple Creek and Westcliffe historic mining districts. In conjunction with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS), BLM is conducting safety closure work of dangerous abandoned mine openings in the Rosita area near Westcliffe and Longellow Gulch, east of Salida as well.

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 is releasing large quantities of zinc and other metals. 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.

Milsap Project — Approximately 290,000 yards of material was moved in a massive mill tailings stabilization effort. The DRMS contributed \$900,000 and the Department of Corrections contributed more than 18,000 hours of heavy equipment operational labor. Sixty five acres of land was stabilized. The project received several awards including the Cooperative Conservation Award in 2008 and the 2009 Western Regional Award from the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land programs.

Querida Tailings Removal Project — This project is located in Custer County near the town of Westcliffe and aims to remove tailings created by the historic Bassick Mine and Mill from an intermittent stream in the Grape Creek Watershed complex. It is being developed and completed in collaboration with DRMS, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency.

FLUID MINERALS

The RGFO manages 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. Our 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 gold mining, placer activities, gravel pit management, and uranium exploration. Minerals management is complex because of the scattered land status that is often un-surveyed in mountainous areas that include historic mining districts. The RGFO manages the historic Gold Hill mine established in 1873 and hundreds of small placer mining

operations along the Arkansas River from Cañon City to Leadville. The RGFO has seen renewed interest in possible mining operations at Dawson Mountain as well as a multitude of rare earth element claims. We recently released the Draft EA for a placer gold/sand and gravel operation proposed for a BLM parcel that lies adjacent to a residential area in the town of Fairplay.

The RGFO also manages commercial and non-commercial gravel pits and rock collection permits used for road maintenance and construction, building construction, and landscaping. Efforts are underway to pursue approximately 20 potential trespass cases on split-estate. The RGFO has used photogrammetry to more accurately conduct production verification, as well as quantify material removal in the potential trespass cases.

The uranium boom of 2007 inspired uranium exploration within the RGFO. Black Range Minerals has an exploratory drilling program in the Tallahassee area west of Cañon City. Another company has submitted a notice and bond to conduct exploration activities in this area. Both exploration projects are near rural residences and have spurred public interest. Applications have been submitted for exploration and prospecting in the U.S. Forest Service Pawnee National Grasslands, which BLM is responsible for managing the sub-surface minerals.

In December 2007, the RGFO received a Coal Lease By Application for coal mining west of Trinidad. The lease was analyzed in a draft EA and received public comments in March 2010 concerning methane released into the air during mining operations. The RGFO is in the process of redrafting the EA to include responses to these comments. The mine is primarily private minerals and has been operating since spring 2010.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Front Range Interagency Fire staff operate 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 between the two agencies to meet the changing needs of fire and fuels management programs including mitigation, prevention and public education.

The unit completes 1,000 acres of fuels treatment annually through the use of prescribed fire and mechanical methods. Annually about 35 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.

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

Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Pueblo Counties



RECREATION

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is a cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 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.

In 2011, the AHRA had nearly 740,000 visitors who brought in more than \$1 million in user-related fees. Visitors also spend time and money in the communities throughout the AHRA that includes Leadville, Buena Vista, Poncha Springs, Salida, Howard, Cotopaxi, Cañon City, Florence and Pueblo. The 2009 CORONA Research and a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Marketing Assessment reported direct spending (within a 50-mile radius of the AHRA) from all visitors at about \$55 million annually.

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

The AHRA 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 AHRA employs one full-time river manager and three seasonal recreation technicians.

The AHRA stretches 150 miles along the Arkansas River. The area offers outstanding opportunities for:

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

Available at AHRA's visitor center in Salida are:

- Colorado boat registrations
- Off-highway vehicles and snowmobile registrations
- Colorado State Park Annual Passes
- Mineral Placer Notices (for the Arkansas River and Cache Creek)
- Fuelwood Permits
- Seasonal Christmas Tree Permits
- Colorado Department of Wildlife hunting and fishing licenses
- Habitat stamps
- Colorado Search and Rescue cards

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, CO and enjoys snowboarding, golf, ping-pong, fishing and running the river.

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

Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande Conejos, Costilla counties



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: These wetlands include over 200 ponds, marshes and playas, which provide important habitat for a variety of resident and migratory birds and other wildlife. The wetlands are closed to the public from February 15 to July 15 to protect nesting waterfowl and shorebirds. Bird watching and fishing opportunities abound in the summer and fall.

Penitente Canyon Special Recreation Management

Area: This SRMA is an internationally recognized climbing area, offering 300 incredible sport climbing routes. 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 area was established in 2006 to conserve, restore and protect the 33-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River between the southern end of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Colorado-New Mexico state border. 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 1/3 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 six WSAs managed by the SLVFO: Black Canyon, South piney Creek, Papa Keal, Zapata Creek, Sand Castle 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 Before Present), 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. Wetland environments drew people 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.

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 species include:

- Southwest willow flycatcher
- Mexican spotted owl
- Mountain plover

Candidate species include:

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

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Currently, the SLVFO manages 115 active range allotments. All grazing allotments are monitored to ensure range conditions are meeting management goals. Those allotments being managed to improve resource conditions are monitored more frequently than those managed to sustain existing satisfactory conditions. Last year, grazing was restricted on many allotments due to dry conditions. In order to comply with federal law, this year the SLVFO is requiring "crossing permits for individuals who drive livestock over BLM-managed lands. .

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Within the SLVPLC, four potential solar energy zones are being analyzed in the National Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

FLUID MINERALS

Ninety-nine percent of the SLVFO managed lands are open to leasing. The BLM received an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) in December 2011 for a split-estate parcel located about five miles south of Del Norte. The BLM expects the APD to be completed in the spring of 2012, once the snow melts enough to allow for an on-site inspection. The proposed drill site was leased in 2006 and is located in a rural residential area.



ANDREW ARCHULETA
San Luis Valley Field Manager
719-655-6102

Andrew Archuleta has been a federal employee for 26 years. Prior to becoming the Manager for the San Luis Valley Field Office, Archuleta served four years as the district ranger and field office manager at the Saguache Public Lands Office. Prior to his work 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 and held positions 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, Glenwood, 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, 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.



JIM CAGNEY
Northwest District Manager
970-244-3000

Jim Cagney became the Northwest District Manager in March 2011. He previously served as the field manager for the Lander Field Office in Wyoming. He began his career with the BLM in 1977 working on an inventory crew in Burley, Idaho. He has spent the past 32 years in various positions in Colorado and Wyoming, including eight years as the associate field manager in the White River Field Office in Meeker. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Range/Forest Management from Colorado State University.

FACTS

- 337,900 surface acres
- 2.29 million subsurface acres
- 36 recreation sites (10 developed, 5 picnic areas, 15 camping areas, 11 boat ramps)
- 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, 1 candidate)
- 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



Grand, Jackson and Summit counties, and portions of Eagle and Larimer counties

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 two primary public recreation areas along the Upper Colorado River: Pumphouse and Radium.

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 500 to 2,000 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 to be 15,000 to 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 SRMA 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 one of the top three commercially used rivers in the state. Annual visitation to that segment of the river exceeds 50,000 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 sand dune complex and existing 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 vertebrae 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.

Buffalo Kill 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 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 *platiceras 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 have also been 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.

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.

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 a 550-acre prescribed fire with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to provide habitat critical for bighorn sheep and treatment of more than 600 acres on Yarmony Mountain to reduce dense stands of sagebrush. 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.

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. However, interest in oil and gas leasing is occurring 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 unleashed areas of the KFO.

Coal: Commercial or industrial coal mining in North Park has ceased and no mining activity is likely in the KFO in the foreseeable 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 fee-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.



DAVE STOUT
Kremmling Field Manager
970-724-3000

Prior to his appointment as Field Manager of the Kremmling Field Office in June 2007, Dave Stout served two years as the Assistant Deputy State Director in the Eastern States Office in Springfield, Va. Dave began his BLM career in 1976. He spent his first eight years with the BLM as an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Shoshone and Washakie resource areas in Wyoming before becoming the Community Planner for the Worland District, a position he held for five years. He spent the next eight years in New Mexico, first as a Supervisory Multi-Resource Specialist in Carlsbad, then serving as both an Assistant Area Manager and NEPA and Planning Coordinator in Roswell. He worked the next eight years as the Associate Field Manager in Elko, Nev. Dave's home state is Colorado, and he earned his bachelor of science degree in Outdoor Recreation Planning from Colorado State University. He also earned a master of science degree in Park Administration from Texas Tech University.

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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)
- 303 miles of streams and rivers
- 1 wild horse herd management area (157,730 acres)
- 1.2 million acres grazed by livestock

Moffat, Routt and Rio Blanco Counties



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. The Colorado Department of Parks and Recreation 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 State Parks 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 Shepherder 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% 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 is partnering with the Humane Society of the United States to study the effects of the PZP on the behavior of wild horses. The study is anticipated to continue over the next five years with personnel from HSUS monitoring the study groups through the spring and summer months. The current population is estimated to be 190 horses.

WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The LSFO provides habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.

Habitat types:

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

Substantial populations of elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope 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 management area encompass the geologic time scale from the Cambrian to the most recent. Fossils that can be found in the LSFO area include a number of 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 Cenozoic invertebrates of Phylums representing Pelecypoda, (Bivalvia), Cephalopoda, Insecta, and a variety of ichnofossils can be identified in strata representing the LSFO. The LSFO is responsible for managing permits from a number of 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

In 2004, the Little Snake Field Office kicked off a revision of its 1989 Resource Management Plan (RMP). The two most contentious issues are 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. No consensus was ever achieved for Vermillion Basin development. The Little Snake Draft RMP/EIS was released for public comment in 2007. The draft contained a rolling 1 percent surface disturbance development alternative for oil and gas in Vermillion basin. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was released for a 30-day protest period and a 60-day governor's consistency review in August 2010. In a change from the Draft RMP/EIS, in Alternative C (Proposed Plan), Vermillion Basin is closed to oil and gas leasing, protecting its wilderness characteristics. This proposed decision is very controversial locally. The BLM is currently in the process of resolving protests and developing the Record of Decision, which is scheduled to be released in May 2011.

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.

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)
- 36 BLM Sensitive Species
- 17 Areas of Critical Concern
- 1 Wild horse herd management area
- 1,434,640 acres grazed by livestock
- 1 National Scenic Byway
- 1 National Historic District



Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Garfield Counties



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)

Federal Candidate species:

- *Penstemon grahamii* (Graham beardtonque)
- *Penstemon scariosus* var. *albifluvis* (White River penstemon)

BLM Sensitive species:

- *Boechera fernaldiana* (park rockcress)
- *Astragalus detritalis* (debris milkvetch)
- *Eriogonum ephedroides* (ephedra buckwheat)
- *Gentianella tortuosa* (Utah gentian)
- *Gilia stenothyrsa* (narrow-stem gilia)
- *Lesquerella parviflora* (Piceance bladderpod)
- *Oenothera aacutissima* (narrow-leaf evening primrose)
- *Oreocarya* (*Cryptantha*) *rollinsii* (Rollins cryptanth)

State Rare species:

- *Aquilegia barnebyi* (shale columbine)
- *Astragalus lutosus* (dragon milkvetch)
- *Bolophyta ligulata* (ligulate feverfew)
- *Festuca dasyclada* (sedge fescue)
- *Penstemon acuauilis* 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 127 grazing permits to graze livestock on 144 allotments. Allotments vary in size from 40 to 134,602 acres of BLM land with grazing capacities ranging from 7 to 14,716 AUMs.

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. WRFO is currently amending its 1997 Resource Management Plan to address this anticipated increase in oil and gas exploration. 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: In December 2006 BLM issued five 160-acre oil shale Research Demonstration and Development (RD&D) leases southwest of Meeker and West of Piceance Creek. These projects will allow the lessees to pursue oil shale recovery technology.

Shell Frontier Oil and Gas holds three leases, while Chevron USA Inc. and American Shale Oil, LLC (AMSO) hold one lease each. The lessees hold preferential rights to an additional 4,960 acres per each lease, pending additional NEPA and BLM review. All five leases involve in-situ processing of oil shale.

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.



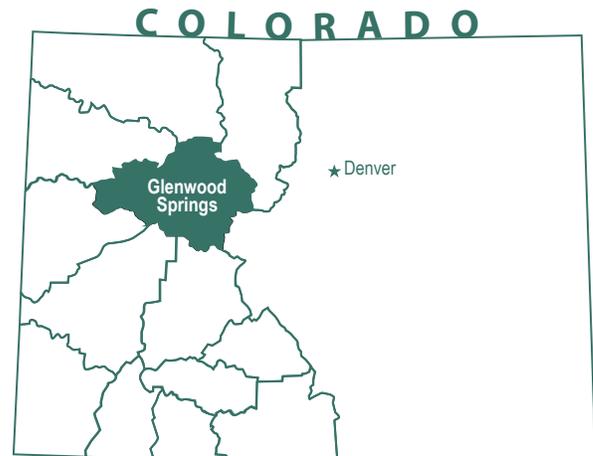
KENT E. WALTER
White River Field Manager
970-878-3800

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 (PLS).

FACTS

- 567,000 surface acres
- 723,000 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)
- 340 miles of streams and rivers
- 552,000 acres grazed by livestock

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



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 intrusions 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 Bald eagles
- 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 one threatened plant species, Uinta Basin hookless cactus; two plant species that are candidates for listing, Parachute penstemon and DeBeque phacelia; and four BLM Sensitive plants, DeBeque milkvetch, Southwest stickleaf, 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 more than a dozen proposals for land exchanges every year.

FLUID AND SOLID MINERALS

Minerals occurring on federal lands within the CRVFO area that are or have been developed include the following: The **Leasable** category includes coal, geothermal, potassium, sodium, oil shale and oil and gas. The **Locatables** (Mining Law) include gypsum, vanadium, uranium, some limestones, gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper. **Mineral Materials** (saleable) include cinders, flagstone, moss rock, lower-graded limestone and sand and gravel. Operations that are currently active include 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 300-400 applications for permits to drill (APDs) annually. The vast majority of oil and gas development within the CRVFO boundaries (about 85 percent) is actually on private land and minerals, where BLM has no jurisdiction. About 200,000 acres of the 766,000 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.

Energy Office staff can be reached by dialing 970-876-9000.

STEVE BENNETT
Colorado River Valley Field
Manager
970-876-9000



Steve Bennett came to Glenwood Springs in 1997 and became Associate Field Manager in 2001. He was named

the Field Manager for the field office in 2009. Steve began his BLM career in 1977 in Cottonwood, Idaho. He has worked as an environmental protection specialist, resource advisor, and supervisory natural resource specialist.

Among Steve's many accomplishments is the successful implementation of the Glenwood Springs Energy Office, which was part of a pilot program under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. He holds a bachelor's degree in recreation management from Utah State University.

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 camping areas, 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
- 9 endangered, threatened, and candidate species (7 listed, 2 candidates)
- 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 management area

Mesa, Garfield, Montrose and Delta Counties



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 which is 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, especially those within a half hour of Grand Junction.

The North Fruita Desert (SRMA): This area is used primarily by mountain bikers, motorcyclists and target shooters. There is a 35-unit campground at the base of the Book Cliffs at the end. An extensive multiple-use designated trail system with a bicycle, hike, and horse emphasis areas has been developed. There is no target shooting allowed in any of the emphasis areas.

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, 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

GRAZING

The area is divided into 238 allotments used by 155 livestock operators. There are 75,000 active Animal Unit Months (AUM) associated with these allotments.

LANDS AND REALTY

The BLM recently worked with Western Rivers to acquire 400 acres of land along the Gunnison River which was threatened by development. The land is within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and its acquisition will allow the BLM to better manage the special resources protected by the NCA.

The GJFO is currently working with local community on several projects, including transferring acres to the GF Regional Airport to allow them to expand and improve safety under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act and to provide acres for a Public Safety Officer training facility for Mesa County under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

The BLM is also working on a land exchange with Mountain Island Ranch to improve access and improve management.

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.

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.



CATHERINE ROBERTSON
Grand Junction Field Manager
970-244-3000

Catherine Robertson was appointed field manager of the GJFO in June 1992. Prior to that, she served as the Clear Lake Resource Area Manager, Ukiah District, Cali. Catherine began her career in 1980 as a student intern working as a Community Planner for the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Office. In 1981, she transferred to the Washington Office on a management development program. In 1984, she transferred to the Colorado State Office where she served as the Oil and Gas Program Coordinator and later, as the Fluid Minerals Branch Chief. In 1988, she transferred to the Clear Lake Resource Area as the Area Manager. During Catherine's tenure as Field Manager, the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area has been established and management plans have been completed for that area as well as the North Fruita Desert, involving extensive public involvement and support. Under Catherine's leadership, the BLM has gained strong working relationships with local and state governments, other federal agencies and the Grand Valley public.

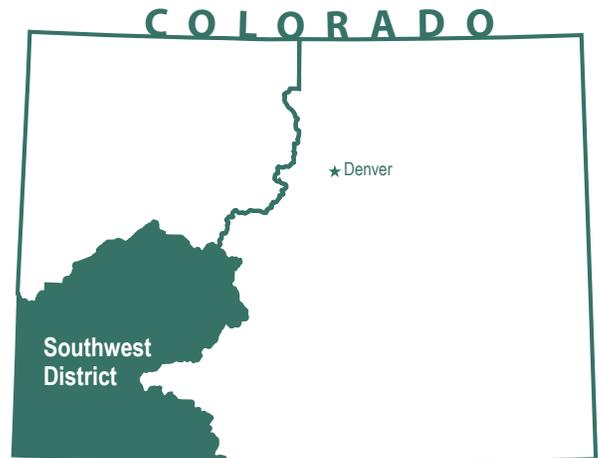
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

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 2.86 million surface acres – 30 percent of the BLM surface acres in Colorado. It's comprised of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Field Offices, as well as the San Juan Public Lands Center, a Service First center that includes the Dolores, Columbine and Pagosa Springs Field Offices. The District also manages 3.9 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.

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 San Juan Public Lands Center.

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. Three of Colorado's famed "fourteener" peaks are in the Southwest District - Redcloud, Sunshine and Handies peaks.



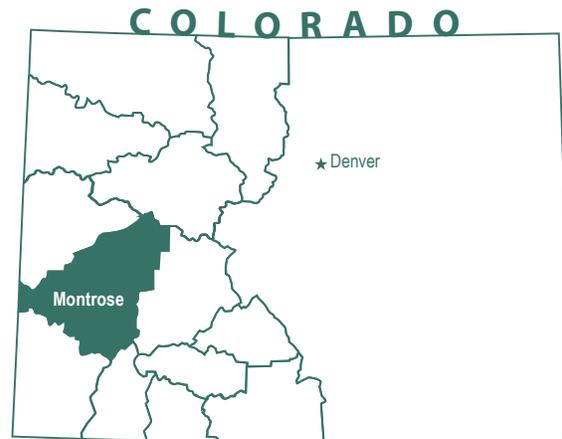
LORI ARMSTRONG
Southwest District Manager
970-240-5300

Lori Armstrong has 18 years experience with the BLM. She previously worked as the Shoshone Field Manager in Idaho for more than three years. Prior to that Lori worked as a botanist covering southwest Utah, and as a renewable resource advisor and associate field manager in Richfield, Utah. Her experience covers a variety of resources, including recreation, wildland fire, lands and realty, cultural resources, as well as wildlife and vegetation management. Lori is the third of three district managers hired in Colorado.

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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
- 4 Wilderness Study Areas (36,102 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



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

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
- extreme 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

The Tabeguache Area: The Colorado Wilderness Act designated the Tabeguache Creek Wilderness in 1993. The 17,240-acre area is located on the south slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau about four miles north of Nucla, Colorado, and is jointly managed by BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. 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 manages 2,500 rights-of-way (ROW) for land uses such as roads, power lines, natural gas pipelines, water lines, telephone lines, communication sites, and ditches and canals on public land. Energy ROWs are on the rise including large electric and natural gas transmission lines across the UFO and adjacent BLM field offices. These 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.

FLUID MINERALS

Development for oil and gas exploration is in the North Fork of the Gunnison River near Paonia (both in Delta and Gunnison Counties), and in the west-end area of Montrose County south of Naturita, Colo. The average annual fluids activity in the UFO has been two geophysical surveys and eight Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs).

SOLIDS

The UFO manages active federal coal leases for all BLM managed coal in the southern half of Colorado. 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 80 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 five mining companies approaches \$15 million each year. 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 20 mining notices and six mining plans of operation all in the west end of Montrose County. Four of these projects have ongoing underground exploratory and development mining. 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 on other surface uses such as grazing and recreation.

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.

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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



Gunnison, Saguache, and Hinsdale Counties

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 of 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 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.



BRIAN ST. GEORGE
Gunnison Field Manager
970-642-4449

Brian St. George became field manager in June 2009. 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.

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
- 7 Wilderness Study Areas (,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

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



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 in the Mayhan Management Area. 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 subsurface acres.

Tres Rios manages 1,363 coal bed methane wells; 1,354 conventional gas wells; and 84 carbon dioxide wells. The minerals program includes two active hard-rock mining operating plans and notices and seven active and bonded mineral material permits for purchase and utilization of large quantities of rock and gravel.

The office averages about 67 APDs annually (as based on a 3 year average), a large number of which are considered wildcat wells. On average, wildcat wells are productive about 30 percent of the time nationwide.

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. These 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. The acquisition is substantially complete and will be finished in early 2012.

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

Lastly, BLM and LaPlata County are beginning work on the R&PPA process for the 57 acre Grandview Multi-Events Center.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The TRFO manages seven Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) totaling acres.

Dolores River Canyon (WSA): 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 enclaves 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 (WSA): 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 Wildhorse HMA.

Menefee Mountain (WSA): 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 Menefee 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 (WSA): 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 (1,240 acres), Whitehead Gulch (1,669 acres) and Weminuche Contiguous (1,533 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 manages 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 swivel through the San Juan Mountains.

Special management areas include:

- Silverton Special Recreation Management Area
- Dolores River Special Recreation Management Area
- Durango Urban Interface

Alpine Loop Back Country Byway: The 65-mile byway is an outstanding example of the back country byway system as it winds through wild, roughed, land 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). Badfield 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 NMA: 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

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
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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

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 the designated Dominguez-Escalante NCA.

The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System 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 NLCS includes national monuments,

national conservation areas, national scenic and historic trails, wilderness and wilderness study areas.

Colorado is home to 66 areas encompassing more than one million acres — about 1/8 of all the BLM land in the state.

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 that are currently managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM.

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
- 23 grazing allotments

Montezuma and Dolores Counties



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 has permanent exhibits on archaeology, local history, and Native American cultures and serves as the administrative headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The Heritage Center provides information, maps, and publications for visitors to Canyons of the Ancients and the Four Corners area. 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.

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

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 6,700 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 Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation. AHC programs 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; educational curricula, workshops, 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.

- 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 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

About 7,000 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 (1300 A.D.) 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
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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. Her 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.

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

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

KATIE A. STEVENS

McInnis Canyons NCA Manager
970-244-3049



Katie A. Stevens has been the National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager for McInnis Canyons since November 2008. She is also serving as the Interim Manager of the newly designated Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. In that role, she will manage development of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA Resource Management Plan, which will guide land use decisions for the next 20 years.

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.

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

- 209,610 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)
- 18 grazing allotments

Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties



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 4-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 Pot-holes 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.

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

KATIE A. STEVENS

Dominguez-Escalante NCA
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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)



Montrose and Delta Counties

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 equestrian and motorized users and northern terminus of Sidewinder Trail
- Two boat ramp sites
- Designated river campsites
- A interpretive trail (rock art site)
- Two river/Wilderness 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.

KAREN TUCKER

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Karen Tucker has been the manager of the Gunnison Gorge NCA since 2002. Prior to assuming that role she was the Supervisory Recreation Planner in the Uncompahgre Field Office for 12 years. Karen started working with the BLM in Colorado as a seasonal river ranger in the Gunnison Gorge in 1986. She began her federal career with the National Park Service in Kings Canyon National Park in 1974 and has also worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado.