

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Proposed Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement

July 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the Department of the Interior, to manage BLM-administered lands and resources in a manner that best serves the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield taking into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Landscape Conservation System is to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes with outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations.

Volume I
PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Proposed Action Location: Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Dolores and Montezuma Counties, Colorado

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
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ABSTRACT: This Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) addresses future management options for approximately 166,000 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (the Monument). The Monument is located in the Four Corners region of southwestern Colorado (approximately 50 miles west of Durango, 10 miles west of Cortez, and 12 miles west of Mesa Verde National Park). Information provided by the public, Federal, State and local agencies and organizations; and BLM personnel was used to develop and analyze the five alternatives considered in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and was used to develop the Proposed Plan, emphasized in this document. This PRMP/FEIS continues the analysis by focusing on Alternative I (No Action), Alternative V (Preferred Alternative) and Alternative VI (Proposed Plan). Alternative I is the No Action Alternative and represents the continuation of current management direction. Alternative V, the Preferred Alternative, was developed using a combination of management actions but emphasized cultural resource values (including tribal values), protection of cultural resource settlement clusters and individual sites and protection and enhancement of natural resources, while providing for resource use and development. The Proposed Plan is similar to the Preferred Alternative but with some key differences based on results from public review of the DRMP/DEIS. The Proposed Plan changes the definition of a “road”, and adds clarification to several concepts including cultural communities (changed to settlement clusters), landscape management, visual resource management, the Geographic Area Development Plan process and others.