

BLM SOUTHWEST DISTRICT Field Manager Reports



MAY 2024



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Field Manager Report

May 2024

Gunnison Field Office (GFO)

Note: Topics below are labeled either “**Status Update**” or “**New Update**” to help identify items that have changed from the previous report.

Gunnison’s New Field Office Location - Update

On March 17, 2023, The Gunnison Field Office completed its move into new quarters located just east of the City of Gunnison in the new “Gunnison Rising” development. The new facility is over nine years in the making after the previous office was consumed in an arson-caused fire in 2013.

Final preparations are underway for the addition of a hazardous materials storage unit where the field office can house its herbicides, as well as fuels, paints, solvents, etc., needed for the maintenance of GFO amenities.



Natural and Cultural Resources

Domestic Sheep Grazing EIS Proposed Decisions - Status Update

On August 27, 2021, the BLM Southwest District Office released two proposed decisions for the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Domestic Sheep Grazing Permit Renewals. Both decisions were protested by multiple groups and individuals for a variety of reasons. The project area is located in Gunnison, Hinsdale, and Ouray counties and includes nine grazing allotments on 65,710 acres of public land.

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) voted on September 8, 2022 to create a subcommittee to analyze domestic sheep grazing in bighorn sheep habitat on BLM-managed high alpine allotments outside of Silverton, Colorado. The Sheep Grazing Subcommittee held six public meetings at the Uncompahgre Field Office from March through August 2023, and presented their recommendations to the BLM on October 11, 2023. Staff are considering those recommendations in light of the protests received and working with SWD Planning and Environmental Specialist Katerina Hardegen to identify a path forward.

North Powderhorn Fuels Reduction Project - Status Update

GFO is currently evaluating a programmatic hazardous fuels reduction project on public lands managed by the BLM near Powderhorn, CO. The total project area consists of 90,725 acres, which includes 53,877 acres within the Powderhorn Wilderness and Wilderness Study Area (WSA). GFO would implement the project over 15 years, with a total treatment target of 20,000 acres, targeting bark beetle outbreaks, including numerous portions of the project area suffering 100% spruce mortality. Site-specific NEPA would follow for individual projects within the project area.

The North Powderhorn project planning effort is nearing completion. The GFO wildlife biologist has begun formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for Canada lynx in the project area. The project was presented to USFWS in September 2023. The BLM anticipates completing the Biological Assessment and receiving the Biological Order from USFWS in spring 2024.

Gunnison Weeds Treatment Project - Status Update

GFO is nearing completion of an environmental assessment (EA) to consider using integrated noxious and invasive plant management within the Gunnison Resource Area to reduce adverse impacts associated with increases in noxious and invasive plants. The EA will tier to the "Biological Assessment for Vegetation Treatments Using Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, Rimsulfuron on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" (PEIS)(BLM 2015), which analyzed the impacts of using Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, Rimsulfuron herbicides (chemical control methods) to treat terrestrial noxious and invasive plants on public lands.

The BLM has begun consultation with the USFWS on the Biological Assessment (BA) for Gunnison sage-grouse and anticipates a letter of concurrence from the USFWS with additional herbicides in critical Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.

The BLM published a [Notice of Availability](#) in the *Federal Register* on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023 and anticipates releasing a Record of Decision shortly for a [final programmatic environmental impact statement](#) analyzing seven herbicide active ingredients that could be used for vegetation treatments to control noxious weeds and invasive species on America's public lands. This would add greater flexibility and additional effectiveness to BLM's vegetation treatment program to combat the rapid expansion of noxious and invasive weeds.

Lake San Cristobal Fuels EA - New Update

The performance period for this contract EA was recently extended. The BLM ID Team is currently working with the contractor, EMPSi, to refine treatment areas, alternatives, and issues for analysis. The GFO Wildlife Biologist, members of the fuels staff, and students from Western Colorado University are currently conducting snowshoe hare studies.

This past winter, BLM recreation and fuels staff members spent field time in the project area to determine the feasibility of incorporating backcountry ski runs as potential fuels treatments. The areas identified for joint fuels-recreation treatments are viable for backcountry skiing. The BLM received the drafts of chapters 1, 2, and 3 and recently completed internal reviews.

The BLM is currently working with Hinsdale County, the Colorado State Forest Service, and West Region Wildfire Council to create a flyer about the Lake San Cristobal fuels project and potential funding to treat private lands directly adjacent to the project area. This flyer would be mailed out in late spring or early summer.

Recreation

Alpine Loop - Status Update

GFO saw significant increases in visitor use on the Alpine Loop in the past year, particularly in July and August. Since 2018, there has been over 20% increase in visitation, with close to 400,000 people visiting the Alpine Loop annually. This has led to parking congestion at popular trailheads and stress on existing campsites and facilities. GFO is working closely with Hinsdale and San Juan counties to address these issues. We have financial agreements in place with both counties to provide law enforcement support and we piloted a wag-bag station at American Basin.

2024 will see continued work toward improving and designating dispersed campsites, modernizing the Mill Creek Campground, adding additional toilets, working with partner groups on outreach and education, and working with the counties to supplement and define parking areas. The BLM evaluated approximately 250 "ad hoc" dispersed campsites along the Alpine Loop as described in the 2010 RAMP to determine which sites were appropriate to designate. Many inventoried sites were impactful to riparian areas or too close to cultural sites. Sites deemed appropriate to designate had signage and metal fire rings installed, with about 100 sites at this time. GFO is working with partners to adopt and improve an existing route from the Mill Creek Campground to access Sunshine Peak, a 14'er on BLM-managed lands in Hinsdale County.

The BLM is also evaluating the acquisition of up to 30 patented mining claims in Hinsdale County. These private lands are adjacent to, or within the boundaries of wilderness study areas and these acquisitions would improve access to public lands and reduce the potential for development in and around our treasured lands on the Alpine Loop.

Fee Campgrounds - Status Update

Now that the necessary consultation and analysis has been completed, GFO plans to make all campsites in the Oh-Be-Joyful Campground and a percentage of the Mill Creek campsites reservable through Recreation.gov. GFO analyzed existing user fees at four campgrounds in the Gunnison area for consistency with criteria found in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. This analysis led to the preparation of a business plan recommending regular fee increases in pace with fees charged at area campgrounds. The business plan was presented at the Southwest RAC meeting in Gunnison in October 2023. The GFO is preparing to roll out the new fees before the spring thaw.

Supplementary Rules - New Update

On February 28, 2024, the BLM published a Federal Register notice announcing a proposed supplementary rule for public lands addressed in five planning efforts in the Tres Rios and Gunnison field offices, along with a 60-day public comment period running through April 29, 2024. The proposed supplementary rule would implement decisions related to motorized and non-motorized vehicles, day use areas, seasonal wildlife habitat protection, camping, and campfires. Among other things, these rules would implement camping and fire restrictions within the Alpine Triangle, as determined in the TRFO RMP and the Alpine Triangle Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), such as providing protections for cultural sites (no camping within 150 feet and no fires within 100 feet of historic structures), limiting camping to below 12,000 feet in the Redcloud Wilderness Study Area to protect Uncompahgre Fritillary Butterfly habitat, and requiring domestic animals (e.g. dogs) to be on a leash or under voice control within the Silverton Special Recreation Management Area.

Pause on New Special Recreation Permit Issuance - New Update

GFO has temporarily paused the issuance of new Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) while we conduct a programmatic EA for the administration and issuance of SRPs. Existing permit authorization will be maintained and unimpacted during this planning action. Complimentary to the GUSG RMP Amendment, Alpine Triangle RAMP, and Hartman Rocks RAMP, this programmatic EA will allow the BLM to balance resource impacts with increasing demand for services. This process will:

- Provide data to assist the BLM with identifying where we are over-permitted or have opportunities to increase permitting
- Assist the BLM with processing applications and unique permitting requests
- Provide consistency in defining authorized use areas and guidance for permit stipulations in critical wildlife areas and designated wilderness lands
- Help define the necessary “guard rails” to ensure we have compliance with regulations and resource needs while continuing to provide opportunities to support our communities and public land visitors.

Lands and Minerals

Mineral Point Water Right Purchase - Status Update

The purpose of the acquisition of the Mineral Point Ditch is to return the historically diverted water to Burrows Creek to maintain instream flows on Burrows Creek and the upper Animas River. The BLM’s acquisition of the property rights associated with Mineral Point Ditch would benefit Burrows Creek by maintaining water supplies for wetlands adjacent to Burrows Creek, diluting heavy metals in Burrows Creek, and facilitating successful implementation of remediation actions taken by BLM’s Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program within the Burrows Creek watershed. The appraisal has been completed and offers to the two holders have been accepted. Work in conjunction with partners will begin soon to monitor the effects on the environment from the reintroduction of this water.

Bonita Peak Mining District - Status Update

The Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) consists of historic mines and mining-related sources where ongoing releases of metal-laden water and sediments are occurring within the Mineral Creek, Cement Creek, and Upper Animas river drainages in San Juan County, CO. Many of these historic mines are located on public lands managed by the BLM, and 80% of the watershed is managed by the BLM.

The BLM, USFS, and EPA signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) in July 2022 clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each agency. The goal of the MOU is improved cooperation between

the agencies with respect to obligations of the EPA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and BLM obligations under NEPA. The EPA is the lead agency for response actions on the private sites and the BLM is the lead for response actions on BLM-managed public lands.

Cleanup actions within the BPMD are ongoing by multiple agencies. BLM priority actions continue to focus on remediation, characterization of sites for remedy development, and operations and maintenance throughout BPMD. The majority of these sites are in the Cement Creek drainage and the Upper Animas River near its headwaters. The BLM completed work on the Wynona and the Joe and John mine sites this summer. Work on the Lark Mine in Prospect Gulch is ongoing and will likely be completed in the 2024 field season.

The EPA is working to install three monitoring wells in the Sunnyside Gold mine workings in the Lake Emma area. Each of the three wells will target narrow mine workings approximately 800 to 1,000 feet below the ground surface. This drilling effort is estimated to take all summer and into the fall. As part of the mobilization, the EPA will need to temporarily close County Road 25 while the drill rig is driven up to Lake Emma.

These characterization activities are important to EPA's understanding of water quality and movement of groundwater within the workings and throughout the BPMD groundwater system. Specifically, they will help determine hydraulic gradient, flow direction, and potential surface expression of the groundwater. The EPA is also constructing a site-wide repository located on top of the large historic tailings piles north of the town of Silverton. They plan to complete work by the end of the 2024 field season and use the repository to store solid waste material derived from the water treatment plant.

Proposed Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Conveyance for Kendall Mountain Recreation Area - Status Update

The Town of Silverton applied to the BLM to acquire public lands managed as part of the Kendall Mountain Recreation Area, under authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926 (44 Stat. 741), as amended and supplemented (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq) (R&PP Act). The purpose of the R&PP Act is to authorize acquisition or use of public lands by states, counties, municipalities, or nonprofit organizations for recreational or other public purposes.

The BLM portion of the Kendall Mountain Recreation Area, located on public lands just east of Silverton, has been operated as a community ski area and recreation area under a BLM R&PP lease since 2001. The Kendall Mountain Recreation Area includes the BLM land and the adjacent town-owned Kendall Mountain Placer and Lackawanna Placer. In March 2001, the BLM classified and withdrew the subject public lands for lease and conveyance under the R&PP Act. The purpose of the classification and application for R&PP lease and potential conveyance was to allow construction and operation of the Kendall Mountain Recreation Area.

GFO accepted and approved a Plan of Development from the Town of Silverton in summer 2020. The proposed action is to convey approximately 93 acres of public lands to the Town of Silverton. Currently the BLM is awaiting concurrence on potential impacts to Canada lynx habitat, and expects this to be received during Spring 2024. Once concurrence is received and snow has melted off, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment will be completed. Because an Environmental Site Assessment report is only good for six months before an update is required, timing is essential.



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Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM)

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Planning

Transportation and Access Plan (TAP2) - Status Update

The second TAP addresses BLM lands in Dolores, San Miguel, and Montrose counties. A resource management plan maintenance map, which established all inventoried routes for the TAP2 planning area, was published on December 5, 2023. Using this inventory as a baseline for designations, the BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) is beginning an internal route-by-route review and the development of alternatives. Our target is to share this preliminary analysis with the public in fall/winter 2024. Public scoping, including meetings, will be planned to coincide with the issuance of the preliminary analysis.

Fuels and Timber

West Rim Timber Sale - Status Update

To keep ponderosa pine forests healthy, the BLM has completed the logging pile burn for 495 acres in the East Pines area. All logging piles have been seeded this spring. The BLM will complete an additional 110 acres of skidding on previously thinned areas in North Pines.

Dawson

Dawson Research project was designed by Colorado State University, the University of Reno Nevada, and the University of California Berkeley in conjunction with the BLM. The overarching goal is to create more research and literature on the pinyon and juniper vegetation types. Implementation of the prescription is complete. The BLM burned some piles this winter and plans to burn the rest in winter of 2024-25. All areas where piles were burned have been seeded.

Yellow Jacket Noxious Tree/Brush Removal - Status Update

The piles created from a previously completed cut, pile, and spray of 100 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive along Yellow Jacket Creek were burned by the BLM and the pile areas were seeded in FY24. The BLM also sprayed 40 acres of previously cut Russian olive and tamarisk in the Yellow Jacket area.

Dawson Draw Prescribed Fire - Status Update

New Dawson units have been developed in the project area. The prep and burning of 990 acres could begin this year.

West Rim Prescribed Fire - Status Update

The BLM accomplished 992 acres with help from cooperators in FY23. We plan to burn up to 1,500 acres this spring and up to 3,091 acres in total in FY24.

Summit Lake

Pile and mastication will continue this year in the Summit Lake area. The 28-acre project area is in an important Wildland Urban Interface area.

Durango Area Hazardous Fuels Projects (signed January 2021)

This project reduces hazards associated with vegetation near and around the Durango area. It addresses a long-term need to manage vegetation adjacent to critical infrastructure, which includes reducing tree and shrub densities and fuel loads and protecting ecosystem heterogeneity. The BLM implements various treatments, including prescribed fire, manual tree removal/felling, pile burning, understory burning, and vegetative mastication.

Grassy Mountain Project - New Update

In Durango, most of our efforts will focus on the Grassy Mountain Project, which involves 411 acres of BLM land. This Shared Stewardship Project with the National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado State Forest Service involves thinning stands and minimizing ladder fuels to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, which in turn reduces potential harm to watersheds and protects recreational opportunities. The project is expected to go out to bid this spring.

Edgemont Highlands

The BLM completed 40 acres of tree removal work at Edgemont Highlands near Durango in FY23. Piles generated from this work were burned in early January 2024 and were recently seeded.

Grandview - Status Update

The BLM burned 247 acres of piles this past winter. Seeding has occurred on all but three of the units.

Rabbit Mountain EA

Work may begin on Rabbit Mountain this fall. The BLM plans to prep/burn previously burnt units (2016-1019).

Wildlife

Durango Area Winter Wildlife Closures

In 2023, the BLM successfully completed the installation of permanent gates at popular recreation access points within the winter wildlife closures areas around Durango. This action helped bolster enforceability of and conformance with annual winter wildlife closures in this popular recreation area. Compared with data from previous years, the 2023-2024 season has seen an approximately 80% improvement in closure compliance. The BLM closely coordinates the annual Durango area closures with the City of Durango and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Closure language will be modified from lifting the closures on April 15 with the possible need to extend through April 30 (if conditions warrant) to lifting the closures on April 30 with the option to open earlier on April 15 (if conditions allow).



In summer 2023, TRFO added fencing around Sale Barn and Big Canyon trailheads to improve compliance with winter wildlife closures. The BLM also installed fencing between two gates on Animas City Mountain to keep individuals from walking around closure gates and improve compliance.



Gunnison Sage Grouse

The GUSG RMP Amendment planning effort is well underway and the Record of Decision is anticipated to be signed in October 2024.

Canyons of the Ancients NM Big Game Habitat Management

In 2019, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) updated big game critical winter range mapping, adding over 100,000 acres of critical winter range to CANM. The BLM is currently working to determine how to manage these areas. Funding has been requested to enable CANM to monitor wildlife and

recreation use in critical winter range and identify possible actions to effectively manage the area with the intent of balancing the needs of recreation and wildlife. An RMP amendment process is presently underway to incorporate these mapping updates.

Unit	FY 19 Acres	CPW Update Acres	Increase in Acres
TRFO	181,984	230,985	49,001
CANM	0	100,846	100,846



Summit Point Habitat Restoration Project

The TRFO Wildlife Program is coordinating with CPW on a 1,200-acre habitat improvement project for pinyon jays and big game. The project aims to improve habitat for pinyon jays, using various treatment methods for thinning pinyon and juniper to provide multiple age classes.

In 2023, the *Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Program* wrapped up a multi-year Monitoring Study Design, completing over 221 study plots. In winter 2023, the BLM summarized the data and generated vegetation summaries for Grassland, Mixed Conifer, Mixed Mountain Shrub, Pinyon Juniper Woodland, Ponderosa Pine, Riparian, Sagebrush Steppe, Salt Desert, and Sage-grouse habitat.

Zeedyke Structures, Dry Creek Basin

In support of improving wildlife habitat in Dry Creek Basin, the TRFO wildlife crew will be installing ten to twelve “rock dam” features (zeedykes) with the aim of improving water infiltration and habitat quality for local wildlife.

Range and Weeds Management

General Permit Administration

By July, 2024 both of the TRFO/CANM Range Specialist positions will be vacant. We have been actively pursuing hiring options since March 2023 but have not yet succeeded in attracting qualified candidates for this important work. 2024 will see our Range workload dialed back to a bare minimum until capacity is restored.

Weeds

The local BLM weeds crew directly treats approximately 300 acres of BLM-managed lands in TRFO and CANM annually. These acres are treated strategically to benefit functioning ecosystems and prevent new outbreaks from spreading, particularly in critical and potential habitat for Gunnison sage-

grouse.

Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA)

The current wild horse population is 65, which is within the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the HMA. In 2024, PZP (porcine zona pellucida vaccine) contraceptive efforts focused on retreating 19 mares that were not vaccinated last season. One new colt joined the herd this Spring.

Gypsum Valley Grazing Decision (TRFO)

The final grazing decision was signed in August 2021 and appealed shortly thereafter by Western Watersheds Project. A petition to stay the decision was denied and the new permit was issued. The appeal is presently before the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Recreation

Dolores River

As of mid-April 2024, the Bureau of Reclamation has not committed to whether McPhee Reservoir will receive enough runoff to provide a boatable spill. Through one of our partnerships, TRFO is preparing to hire river rangers in the event of a spill.

Vandalism

There has been a marked uptick in wanton theft and vandalism of TRFO recreational infrastructure this year. Total costs of replacing and reinstalling stolen signs, gates, and kiosk panels in FY24 is rapidly approaching \$10,000. BLM Law Enforcement, in coordination with local agencies, has done an incredible job of identifying suspects and pursuing justice, although this has had little effect on reversing the unfortunate trend.

Animas City Mountain

On the heels of last year's successful prescribed burn on Animas City Mountain which roughed in burn units based on trails approved during TAP1, both the Southwest Conservation Corps and Durango Trails will be working to finish the ACM TAP1 buildout, Lupine and Merve Trails.

Cultural Resources

Uravan Mineral Belt Interpretation Loop

The TRFO archaeologist is working on route designation of an existing driving loop, accompanied by interpretive materials at select locations, that would be known as the Yellowcake Trail. The intent of the historic interpretive loop would be to preserve and share the history of uranium mining around Radium and Wedding Bell Mountains.

National Register Nominations

Burro Mine, nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, is anticipated to be officially listed by summer 2025.

Travel Planning and Implementation PA

In this BLM multi-office agreement, TRFO will continue to systematically complete cultural resource inventory of travel routes in the TAP2 planning area, and work towards revisitation of 183 historic properties with travel routes in their boundary and assess those sites for travel-related effects.

Minerals (Fluid)

Paradox Resources - Status Update

TRFO has been working in conjunction with the BLM Colorado State Office, Utah State Office, and Office of Natural Resource Revenue (ONRR) on a long-running compliance issue regarding royalty payment from federal units existing in both Colorado and Utah. Shut-in requests were received from ONRR in January, and the orders were translated into Incidents of Non-Compliance (INCs) and issued to Paradox in early March. 42 wells within the Andy's Mesa Unit (San Miguel County, Colorado) were issued and executed, with potential civil penalties in excess of \$38,000,000.00 to begin on June 1, 2023.

In May 2023, Paradox filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and is currently working with BLM solicitors, bankruptcy courts, and ONRR solicitors on a resolution that may or may not result in a lifting of the shut-in order. BLM Colorado submitted a proof of claim in October for \$157,916,000 for remediation and reclamation of all of Paradox and Four Corner's assets and federal interests.

On November 7, 2023, the bankruptcy court approved a proposed sale of all of Paradox and Four Corner's assets, including its federal interests. As part of the proposed plan of sale, GNG Partners agreed to pay all of the outstanding royalties and rentals to ONRR quarterly over 5 years. This comes to approximately 3 million dollars. The payment plan is backloaded with larger payments due in 2025. Typically, this is something that DOI would object to, but a decision was made by Interior leadership to not object to the sale based on the payment plan.

Leadership determined that allowing the sale to move forward with a payment plan was in the best interest of the United States because (1) the likelihood of recovery of past due rents and royalties was more likely with the new buyer than if this case converted to Chapter 7, and (2) the substantial P&A liability would transfer to GNG Partners and not come back to the United States. As long as the bankrupt debtors and any third parties (GNG) that are parties to the settlement agreement are in compliance with the settlement agreement's terms for payment of past due amounts, and are in compliance with the current monetary obligations under the leases, the lease accounts can be considered to be "in good standing" from a monetary standpoint. The BLM still has the opportunity to review the leases and decide to approve the record title assignment and/or operating rights.

Oil and Gas Development Projects - Status Update

Fluid mineral development recently has focused on tribal interests, with nearly 100% of current activity within the TRFO taking place on Southern Ute Indian Reservation surface in the northern portion of the San Juan Basin, targeting primarily Mancos Shale methane gas.

Summary of FY23 Approvals – New Notice

Operator	APD/Facility	Disposition	Date of Disposition
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/705H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/703H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE/701H	10/16/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/8H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/7H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/6H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/5H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/4H	8/21/2023	APPROVED

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ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/3H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/2H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
ENDURING RESOURCES LLC	SOUTHERN UTE 3309/1H	8/21/2023	APPROVED
SIMCOE LLC	SOUTHERN UTE U/3	6/7/2023	APPROVED
SIMCOE LLC	SOUTHERN UTE U/2	6/7/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-4	3/14/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-3	3/14/2023	APPROVED
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	NORTH CARRACAS 32-5/14E-2	3/14/2023	APPROVED
KINDER MORGAN C02 COMPANY LLC	CB/4	2/22/2023	APPROVED
GUNNISON ENERGY LLC	IPU LOWER 1291/#13-24 H4	9/28/2023	APPROVED
GUNNISON ENERGY LLC	IPU LOWER 1291/#13-24 H3	9/28/2023	APPROVED
MARALEX RESOURCES INCORPORATED	MOLLIE CORYNNE 33-7-2/3C	5/5/2023	APPROVED
KINDER MORGAN C02 COMPANY LLC	RC/4	10/26/2022	WITHDRAWN
KINDER MORGAN C02 COMPANY LLC	RC/3	10/26/2022	WITHDRAWN

Inspection and Enforcement
Planned Inspections for FY 24

PET/PAT Workload:

Drilling: 15 (Federal- 5; Indian- 10)

Plugging: 36 (Federal- 16; Indian- 20)

Production Inspection: 314 (Federal- 6 high, 65 low; Indian- 12 high, 231 low)

Idle: 52 (Federal-13, 5 extra; Indian-34 high, 0 extra)

Workover: 100 (Federal- 0; Indian- 60 high, 40 low)

Oversight for PI: 7 (Federal- 2; Indian- 5)

Records Verification: 232 (Federal- 21 high, 70 extra; Indian- 71 high, 70 extra)

Oversight for RA/RV: 7 (Federal- 3; Indian- 4)

Surface Workload:

Environmental Surface: 255 (Federal- 125; Indian- 130)

Environmental Monitoring: 98 (Federal- 25; Indian- 68)

Coordination - New Notice

TRFO held quarterly meetings with the Southern Ute Tribe, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, to ensure our relationships and communication pathways remain open and collaborative. Quarterly meetings were also held with Kinder Morgan, which is our largest federal fluid mineral producer actively pursuing APDs.

Coordination meetings were also held with the Montezuma, Dolores, LaPlata, and San Miguel Boards of County Commissioners.

NSJB Stakeholder Meetings

TRFO is once again participating in the Northern San Juan Basin Stakeholder meetings organized by the San Juan National Forest (SJNF). These meetings serve as coordination on fluid mineral issues between the BLM, Columbine Ranger District of the SJNF, ECMC, and LaPlata and Archuleta counties, as well as representatives from local industry groups.

Proposed Methane Waste Prevention and Royalty Loss Rule Consultation- Update

In April and May of 2023, TRFO in conjunction with the BLM CO State Office and Headquarters held meetings regarding comments received from the Southern Ute Tribe on the proposed rulemaking. Substantive conversations were held and continued collaboration and consultation has taken place throughout the summer and fall as the BLM has worked to finalize language in the draft rule.

Southern Ute Community Action Programs, Inc. (SUCAP) Outreach Meetings

TRFO also participated in joint mineral outreach meetings organized by the ONRR and held in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute agencies), as well as the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. The June meetings were held in both Ignacio and Towaoc, CO to answer questions for individual Indian mineral owners.

Minerals (Solid)

Locatable Minerals Projects

43 CFR 3809 Claims Under General Mining Law

Summary: TRFO has active uranium/vanadium, as well as copper, notices as well as one plan of operations update.

Plans of Operation

Sunday Mines Plan of Operations - Status Update

TRFO is in the initial review period for the Environmental Assessment prepared for the plan of operations update. Colorado State Office as well as SOL reviews are underway, and a draft document for public review is anticipated in late winter 2024 or early spring 2024. The proponent recently notified TRFO staff that they no longer intend to develop the Topaz Mine component of the Sunday Mine Complex. They now intend to reclaim the Topaz Mine site. Given that the incorporation of the Topaz Mine site into the larger Sunday Mine Complex plan of operations was the driver behind the environmental analysis, the BLM determined that the environmental analysis is no longer necessary. TRFO has requested additional information on the reclamation activity to determine whether environmental analysis is needed for those activities.

Notices- 3809

Operator	Notice Title	Disposition	Status
Nuvemco	Blue Streak	Approved	Active
Alianza	Stateline	Approved	Active
Alianza	Klondike	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Section 23	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Groundhog	Approved	Active
Standard Minerals	Rimrock	Approved	Active
Slickrock	SlickRock	Approved	

43 CFR 3601 Mineral Materials

Summary: Multiple active Free Use Permits (FUPs) as well as one recently released competitive (COMP) pit.

FUPs and COMP - 3601

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
San Miguel County	Klondike	Approved	Active
	Tozer		
Dolores County	Disappointment	Approved	Active
Dolores County	Black Snag	Approved	Active
San Juan County	Dry Creek	Approved	Active
LaPlata County	Montoya	Approved	Active
Robert Dougherty	Cedar Point	Released	Closed

43 CFR 3500 Solid Leasable Materials

Summary: Recent submission of potash project identical to one previously analyzed (10 years ago), currently under analysis and review at the Colorado State Office BLM.

Prospecting Permits - 3500

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
Ranahan	CO106326175	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326177	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326178	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326179	Received	Under Analysis
Ranahan	CO106326181	Received	Under Analysis

43 CFR 3400 Coal Management

Summary: The King Coal Lease boundary modification was finalized in Summer 2023.

Exploration Permits - 3400

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
GCC	CO106100173	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106052020	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106093503	Approved	Active

43 CFR 3601 Mineral Materials Disposal Discussion

Disappointment Pit Expansion

TRFO is in the process of scoping an expansion for the Disappointment Gravel Pit (free use pit, permit held by Dolores County Road and Bridge) for the expansion of an additional 5 acres of disturbance associated with the continued use of the Disappointment Pit. In April 2023, TRFO approved an additional deepening of the existing pit to continue production while the field office analyzed the additional disturbance. Currently the TRFO is working with ROW holders to move powerlines out of the area planned for expansion and expects to issue its decision in May.

Black Snag Pit

TRFO anticipates processing an EA to expand the existing Black Snag Pit located in upper

Disappointment Valley. BLM is also working with Dolores County on a possible upgrade to the Disappointment Creek crossing on the access road.

Montoya Pit

TRFO conducted an inspection of the currently operating Montoya Pit in LaPlata County. The continued production of gravel for the Four Corners Region is reliant on this pit. An additional quantity of disturbance (exact size unknown) is expected to be proposed in later 2023, recognizing the current production area will be mined out within the next 24 months. TRFO anticipates an EA for this likely beginning spring 2024.

Coordination

Western Small Miners Association

TRFO participated in regular meetings that most recently met in October 2023. The purpose of the meetings is round table discussion with regulators, industry representatives, and interested public related to federal and state permitting processes as well as the future of mining on the western slope of Colorado. Field and District office staff will attend the next regular meeting of this association in April 2024.

Abandoned Mine Lands

TRFO AML Program Update

TRFO completed NEPA on the closure of approximately 200 hazardous abandoned mine openings by the Department of Energy/Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and Freeport in FY23. DOE/DRMS completed construction of approximately 145 hazardous abandoned mine openings in spring and fall 2023.

Northwind

Northwind completed their physical safety hazard inventory on hundreds of mine openings in western San Miguel, Montrose, Dolores, and Montezuma counties in Summer 2021 and were issued a contract for remediation work to be completed in FY22, including surveys, NEPA analysis, and closure construction. In fall 2023, Northwind completed 15 closures; no more closures are anticipated from Northwind.

DOE-DRUM - Status Update

DOE survey work is almost completed on Cold War-era defense-related uranium mines (DRUM) in San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma counties. DOE/DRMS completed construction of approximately 145 hazardous abandoned mine openings in Spring and Fall 2023. TRFO expects to receive a draft proposed action in February 2024 for additional closures to be performed by DOE and DRMS in 2025.

Freeport McMoRan - Status Update

Freeport completed construction on a portion of what was approved in Fall 2023 (~30 features), and have additional closures pending for Spring or Fall 2024(~5-10). Freeport is almost complete with new feature closures in TRFO, and will be working with the office to address sites which were put on a wait list due to difficult conditions and continue monitoring closures which were already performed.

Lands and Reality

Program Update

TRFO is in the process of filling a critical vacancy; our realty program has been without a full-time Realty Specialist for over two years. A vacancy announcement closed in mid-November and

interviews were completed; unfortunately no candidates were selected. This has been an issue for several positions in TRFO and throughout the state. A new approach was undertaken and TRFO now anticipates having a full-time Realty Specialist in place by late spring 2024.

Tri-State Line Maintenance-Goodman Point to Sand Canyon

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. conducted critical maintenance on the Goodman Point to Sand Canyon portion of the CO2 Loop in October 2023. The BLM had previously approved their maintenance request for Goodman Point-Main Switch. Tri-State was able to make resources available this year to accommodate additional required maintenance.

Hawkes Ditch

In 2018, the BLM collected money for a trespass maintenance action that took place on a historic ditch adjacent to privately held property, now in new ownership (Hawkes) in the southern portion of Montezuma County, near the town of Mancos. The BLM will work with the landowner this summer, using over \$7,000 of trespass funds to restore the ditch to proper function.

32nd Street Parcel

The BLM is currently leasing, and eventually plans to dispose of, public land to the City of Durango to improve water quality in the Animas River under authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 1926. The land will be used for stormwater retention and control. The R&PP Act provides land to local governments or qualifying non-profit organizations for public purposes (such as community improvements and infrastructure) or recreation. In order to acquire the property, the City must provide a plan of development approved by the BLM and ensure that NEPA requirements are met. Once the terms are met, the City may apply for ownership of the land. The land would be patented and must remain compliant under the Act (the use must continue to follow the intent of the Act).

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Visitor Center and Museum - Status Update

The Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum is open for normally scheduled days and hours from 9-5, Tuesday through Sunday.

Our second annual indigenous art market will be held on Saturday, June 15. In addition to tribal artisans, there will be opportunities to learn about indigenous cultures from a variety of speakers, dance performances, and musicians.

Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park Grazing Allotments - Status Update

CANM initiated Section 106 consultation for a proposal to reissue permits for livestock grazing on the vacant Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park allotments. Staff are developing a programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to identify potential adverse effects to cultural resources and associated mitigations. I. A draft final agreement was sent to tribes and interested parties the week of April 15th with a deadline of May 31st for comments. Received comments will be incorporated into the final version of the document. Once the agreement is complete, CANM will go through the NEPA process, with input from tribes and other interested parties to analyze other potential impacts from the proposal.

Mary Austin Acquisition (CANM)

The final decision for the Mary Austin acquisition was appealed by several parties opposed to grazing in the Monument on the grounds of adjusting the percent public lands as it relates to billing the permittees on the effected allotments. A petition for stay was denied. The administrative record is presently under review by a Department of Interior Solicitor prior to submission to the IBLA.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Field Manager Report

May 2024

Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) including Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA) and the UFO portion of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-ENCA)

Note: Topics below are all Status Updates, unless noted otherwise.

Planning

UFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/Environmental Impact Assessment

EMPSi was awarded the UFO RMP Amendment contract in August 2023. The settlement agreements to the 2020 Approved RMP required a Notice of Intent (NOI) formally initiating the project to be published within 60 days of publication of the Notice of Availability for the Draft RMP Amendment for Gunnison sage-grouse, or big game, in the Federal Register, whichever came later. The NOI for the UFO RMP Amendment was published January 5, 2024, opening a 45-day public scoping period that ran through February 20. The BLM hosted two virtual public meetings on January 23 and 24 and one in-person open house at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on February 1.

The EIS will include an alternative that has more acres subject to No Leasing for oil and gas compared to the most conservative alternative (Alt. B.1) in the 2019 Proposed RMP. The RMP Amendment must also carry forward Areas of Critical Environmental Concern previously considered under Alternative B.1 and management of lands with wilderness characteristics previously analyzed, for further consideration. Outreach to cooperating agencies and tribes will occur in October.

Information and documents are posted on the ePlanning project website:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026528/510>

Grazing and Natural Resources

Personnel

UFO Field Manager Suzanne Copping took a position with BLM Headquarters in mid-January. Until her replacement onboard, Field Manager duties have been rotating monthly through three UFO employees: Gunnison Gorge NCA Manager Edd Franz, Assistant Field Manager Andy Laca, and Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist Ken Vicencio.

In addition, we are actively working through the hiring process to get both our vacant permanent Rangeland Management Specialist and Range Technician positions filled, but do not have a timeline of when this will occur. We will have two seasonal Range Technicians to help get field work done this summer. We were able to move our career seasonal weeds technician into a temporary promotion as a Rangeland Management Specialist to help with the workload. Her detail started in early March and will last until mid-June.

Grazing Permit Renewals

Meanwhile, we continue to chip away at the following complex and high visibility permits:

- **Crawford Area Allotments** - The UFO is revising its approach to permit renewals for the Green Mountain, Grizzly Gulch, Iron Springs, Poison Spring, and Gould Reservoir allotments in the Crawford area. Once revisions are completed, the land health assessment and evaluation, along with a draft determination document, will be sent to the interested public for comment. These allotments contain habitat for the Crawford satellite population of Gunnison sage-grouse and desert bighorn sheep. In the interim, we are consulting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a three-year interim grazing plan for the Green Mountain Allotment. As part of that effort, the permittees have voluntarily agreed to more conservative stocking levels until the permits are renewed. Monitoring will take place within these allotments this spring to fill some gaps in information that will help in making determinations of land health and impacts from big game concentrations.
- **Cactus Park & Lower Escalante Allotments** - UFO is working with new permittees on sheep to cattle conversions for overlapping bighorn habitat in the Cactus Park and Lower Escalante allotments in Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. National Wildlife Federation is spearheading the installation of water catchments in support of the livestock conversion. The UFO is working on initiating NEPA analysis on the catchments; as well as reaching out to CO Department of Transportation to explore installing fencing along Highway 50 to prevent livestock and vehicle conflicts on the highway. We are working with National Wildlife Federation on the purchase of Vence towers to facilitate livestock management in these allotments utilizing virtual fences.

Texas A&M Corvid Surveying Project

The BLM is partnering with Texas A&M University and Cal-Poly Humboldt State University to determine raven presence, habitat selection, and density in occupied Gunnison sage-grouse habitat for the Crawford population. BLM Colorado natural resource managers need comprehensive information about the impacts of predators in general, and ravens in particular, on Gunnison sage-grouse populations. A 36-month project was recently funded to include a fully funded MS graduate student hire to begin work in fall 2024.

BLM/CPW Bighorn Sheep Population Estimation

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) periodically conducts research to better understand the nature of bighorn sheep populations including, but not limited to, interactions with domestic livestock, habitat selection and use, general population information, and population dynamics. This information is critical to CPW achieving its mandate of managing and conserving bighorn sheep populations. The information is also necessary for BLM to work with CPW to manage and maintain the S-80 bighorn sheep herd within the Gunnison Gorge NCA. Information collected during this effort will estimate and refine maps of seasonal habitats, including core herd home range (CHHR), and refine density estimates for the S-80 herd utilizing Mark-Resight Density estimation. To this end, the BLM and CPW will be conducting camera resight surveys on marked bighorn sheep in the GGNCA during summer and fall 2024.

Dolores River Restoration Partnership

In FY22-23, the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) completed 22 acres of initial tamarisk removal, 18 acres of revegetation with native plants (mostly grasses and forbs in no longer connected flood plains), and 230 acres of tamarisk resprout treatments in UFO, Tres Rios FO, and

Grand Junction FO. An additional 250 acres of secondary weeds was treated in TRFO and UFO. Forty-five conservation crew members were employed, contributing 588 hours, and we hosted 33 volunteers conducting cottonwood planting near the confluence with the San Miguel River.

UFO received Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding in FY22 to perform mastication work on 26 acres of heavy dense tamarisk on Bureau of Reclamation and BLM lands in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area. The NEPA for the BOR portion was completed in August 2023 and work was completed on 18 of the 26 proposed acres in December 2023. The work occurred about a quarter mile upriver from the Bedrock boat launch. The remaining six acres were no longer accessible to equipment due to large flows in 2023. In early October, an 8-person hand crew (Southwest Conservation Corps) conducted a 5-acre initial tamarisk removal project a half-mile above the confluence with Mesa Creek and will continue work on this stand in fall 2024.

Clay-loving wild buckwheat

Field office staff completed a highly accurate habitat probability model for the endangered clay-loving wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum pelinophilum*) while working with the USFWS on a Species Status Assessment to inform future decision making regarding the species. We prepared a manuscript on the work, which was accepted for publication in the journal *Ecology and Evolution* in December 2023. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ece3.10816>

Recreation

Rim Rocker/Electric Hills Trailhead

UFO staff fabricated and installed a new gate along the Shavano Loop Road to help with compliance with the wintering big game seasonal closure for the Electric Hills Trail System. The singletrack trail system is very close to being fully built.

Montrose County continues work on construction and improvements to the shared trailhead. The county holds a Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease on 40 acres there, including the trailhead and some surrounding lands.

Regional Partnership Initiatives

CPW and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) have collaborated to fund new and existing coalitions to join a statewide initiative working to ensure that Colorado's land, water, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable and quality outdoor recreation experiences. UFO participates in two southwest Colorado initiative groups. Link to the Story Map:

storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/393237b131b2455e9ff2fc3692c4226f

- The Ouray Regional Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORRCA) is generally focused in the Ouray County area. Most of the federal lands in that area are managed by the USFS, so most of the group's focus thus far has been on those lands.
- The Western Slope Outdoors Alliance (WSOA) is focused on Montrose, Delta, and Mesa counties within the watersheds of the Uncompahgre, Gunnison, and Colorado rivers. The group is about a year into the process. UFO staff are on the steering committee for the alliance, and actively involved in the group's work on its focus and goals. The three counties, various user groups, and members of the public are actively engaged. The group is currently looking to hire a facilitator/coordinator and is exploring funding opportunities to implement projects on the ground.

Jumbo Mountain Travel Management Planning

Shortly after The Jumbo Mountain Travel Management Plan went into effect last fall, the BLM, the town of Paonia, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) held a trail work event on the trail system. Volunteers completed over a mile of maintenance on system trails, including the construction of numerous water bars. The trails opened for the season on April 15. Unfortunately, many of the seasonal closure signs appear to have been removed over the winter, and there was evidence of violation of the closure. The BLM plans to work with the local trails group to effectively address the closure in the fall.

West End Trails (New)

The West End Trails Alliance (WETA), along with the towns of Nucla and Naturita in Montrose County's "West End," have been developing proposals for trail systems on BLM-managed lands in that area. Feeling the pain of a local economic downturn in the area following the closure of the New Horizon coal mine and Nucla Station power plant, the communities have been looking at ways to bolster the local economy and improve recreational amenities at the same time. While we are in the early stages of the process, UFO is taking this on as our next travel management planning project.

UFO Business Plan

The UFO Draft Business Plan was reviewed by state recreation leads, and comments have been incorporated. UFO is preparing to submit the plan to BLM Headquarters for a final review/approval before publishing in the Federal Register and implementing the plan.

Lands and Minerals

Defense Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) Program

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Defense Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program is a collaborative effort between the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS) and the BLM to physically close abandoned mine features on BLM-managed lands. DRUM program goals are to reconcile and improve abandoned mine lands (AML) data, conduct and assess condition inventories, and determine physical safety hazards to both human health and environment. Currently, the program's focus is on abandoned uranium mines within UFO, Tres Rios FO, and Grand Junction FO on Colorado's Western Slope. The proposed closures will obstruct and block access into adits, shafts, stopes, breakdown portals, subsidence portals, and unstable historical mining structures related to the uranium mining production era between 1930s-1970s. This work is needed to protect public safety by eliminating or reducing risks posed by abandoned mines while conserving wildlife habitat and preserving cultural resources.

North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan Supplemental Environmental Assessment

The Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO), with the Colorado State Office (CSO) Air Program, UFO, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG), finalized a [supplemental EA](#) in response to a remand of the North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan (MPD) by the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. The supplemental EA addresses the deficiencies cited by the Court, including an updated analysis of greenhouse emissions from construction, production, compression, transportation, and end-use (primarily combustion) of federal oil and gas produced by the project and the potential effects on air quality and climate change.

The updated proposed action provides new estimates of air emissions, conforms with 2021 State of Colorado air quality regulations for oil and gas activities, and includes operator-committed measures to reduce air emissions further and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. The final

supplemental EA incorporates changes and clarifications in response to substantive public comments.

The BLM issued a Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for portions of the MDP involving private and BLM surface in late September 2023. The USFS issued a Decision Notice on Surface Use Plans of Operations for five wells in the Trail Gulch Unit in March, and the BLM is preparing to issue its second decision related to federal minerals underlying the USFS surface by early May 2024.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (GGNCA)

Dark Sky Park Certification

In acknowledgement of the outstanding dark, starry skies of Gunnison Gorge NCA, the BLM, CCA, and community partners, including the Western Slope Conservation Center, collaborated on an application with DarkSky International to certify GGNCA as a “Dark Sky Park.” If successful, the certification would make GGNCA the third federal unit in our local area with that status, along with Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area. NCA staff submitted the final application to DarkSky International this spring.

Cottonwood Days Education Program

Last fall, the BLM and CCA successfully delivered our 15th annual Cottonwood Days Education event. We are glad to be back on-site and in person with the students. Other critical partners contributing to the success of the program included CPW, Gunnison Gorge Anglers (Trout Unlimited), and the Ute Indian Museum. About 400 sixth grade students from Delta and Olathe County schools attended learning sessions along the scenic Gunnison River within Gunnison Gorge NCA. Learning focused on the cultural importance of the river corridor, water use and conservation, fish of the Gunnison River, aquatic invertebrates and the importance of water quality, and how artificial flies imitate the various aquatic species.



UFO (southern) portion of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

Gunnison River Campsite Designation and Permit System

The BLM implemented a decision from the 2017 Dominguez-Escalante NCA RMP to require overnight boaters on the Lower Gunnison River from Delta to Whitewater to obtain a permit. BLM staff updated signage and conducted outreach regarding the change at sites like Mountain Buzz and American Whitewater. An environmental assessment was completed for the campsite designation project. The project will be implemented in 2024.

D-E NCA Business Plan

We are briefing the RACs at this meeting. We are interested in seeking solutions to incorporate RAC input into this process efficiently given that the NCA is split between the Southwest RAC and Northwest RAC.

Escalante Ranch Acquisition Project (new)

Potential acquisition of Escalante Ranch by the BLM will be a topic of discussion at this joint RAC meeting. Details on the recently signed environmental assessment are available on the BLM ePlanning project website: eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2030404/510