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## BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Uncompahgre RMP Planning*

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The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Uncompahgre planning area. The Uncompahgre RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

### UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) manages over 883,000 acres of public lands and 2,344,844 acres of subsurface mineral estate in six southwestern Colorado counties (Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel). The field office includes the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Wilderness and portions of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA, Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, as well as four river systems (the Gunnison, San Miguel, Dolores and Uncompahgre).



The varied topography within the UFO ranges from salt desert shrub and lowland riparian (4,701 feet) to red rock desert to piñon-juniper woodland up to sub-alpine forest on Storm King Mountain (11,449 feet). These lands contain a wealth of resources and opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

Management of the UFO is currently guided by two RMPs: the **1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP** and the **1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP**. Both RMPs have been amended multiple times in order to reflect changing resource conditions and issues within the UFO and surrounding area.

### UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA

The Uncompahgre planning area is the portion of the UFO about which the BLM will make decisions during RMP planning. The planning area is 675,677 surface acres and does not include the Gunnison Gorge NCA or Dominguez-Escalante NCA, both of which are managed under separate RMPs.

The municipalities of Delta, Montrose, and Ouray, and the towns of Austin, Bowie, Cedaredge, Crawford, Hotchkiss, Maher, Mountain Village, Naturita, Norwood, Nucla, Olathe, Orchard City, Paonia, Paradox, Ridgway, Somerset, Sawpit, and Telluride are near or within the planning area. Typical of many western public lands, the planning area has experienced increased use and an expanding wildland-urban interface. In fact, Montrose is one of the nation's fastest-growing counties.

Major **recreational opportunities** within the planning area include hiking, horseback riding, camping, rafting, fishing, biking, Nordic skiing, OHV riding, snowmobiling, sightseeing, and hunting. **Non-recreational uses** include livestock and grazing activities, forest resource activities, mineral exploration and development, administrative purposes, and rights-of-way.

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## LAND USE PLANNING IN THE BLM

The BLM engages in land use planning in order to ensure that public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress, under the principles of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*. Land use plans are one of the primary tools guiding BLM management activities in support of this dual mandate. In addition, effective planning creates enhanced opportunities for a variety of recreational and non-recreational public land uses.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM believes that public involvement is central to crafting a land use plan that reflects local, regional, and national values and receives widespread support, and is actively seeking the participation of local communities and government agencies in this planning effort.

A **Community Assessment of the Uncompahgre Planning Area** was completed in February 2009 in order to help identify issues and provide baseline data that will be used in the planning effort. The assessment is available on the Uncompahgre planning webpage.

The BLM is holding public scoping open house meetings during January 2010 in Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita. **It is not necessary to attend a scoping session in order to submit a comment.**

UFO Planning Webpage:

[www.UFORMP.com](http://www.UFORMP.com)

Email comments to:

[UFORMP@blm.gov](mailto:UFORMP@blm.gov)

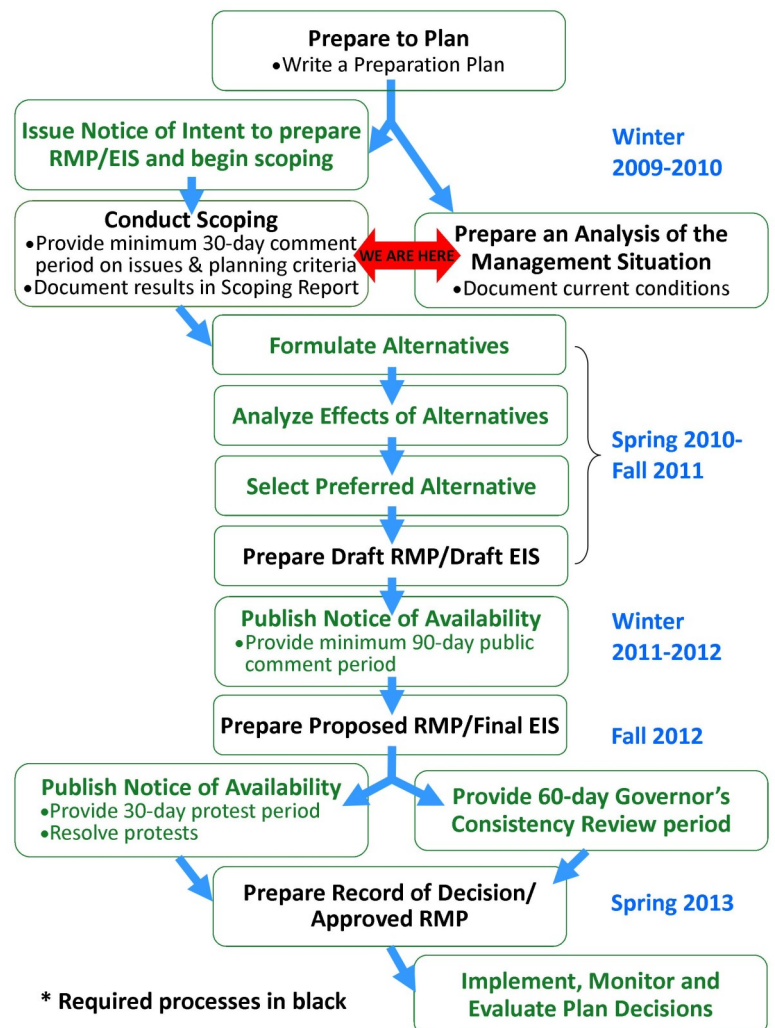
Mail comments to:

**Bruce Krickbaum,**  
RMP Project Manager  
2465 S. Townsend Ave  
Montrose, CO 81401

## MANAGING FOR CHANGE

The BLM identified the following preliminary issues to be addressed during planning:

- Managing vegetative and water resources, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and special management areas, while sustaining biological diversity and native species populations
- Managing mineral and renewable and nonrenewable energy resources
- Managing increasing numbers and types of human activities and uses
- Managing land tenure adjustments, withdrawals, and utility/energy corridors
- Managing and protecting cultural, historical, and paleontological resources and Native American Religious Concerns
- Managing public lands and resources, including authorized and permitted land uses, for a growing population and an expanding urban interface, with consideration for community values and needs.



\* Required processes in black