

Bangs Canyon Implementation Field Trip Summary

Area 4 – August 21, 2004

See Attachment 1 for discussion locations, topics, objectives, sideboards, Bangs Canyon Management Plan (BCMP) Area 4 direction, summary of Area 4 public input component from May BCMP meeting, and associated map.

Attendees/Affiliation:

Rich Alward, Concerned Citizens Resource Association (CCRA)

Mark Schofield, Western Colorado Congress

Neville Woodruff, Western Colorado Congress

Pat Kennedy, Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA)

Bill Hamann, Colorado Mountain Club (CMC)

Britta Laub, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Jim Cooper, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Chris Pipkin, BLM Park Ranger

Ruxton Noble, BLM Recreation Technician

Discussion:

- Group sees need for trail connector from Ribbon Trail to Little Park trailhead.
- Group sees need to connect additional routes to Little Park trailhead to address issues stemming from users parking on road (safety, new trails)
- Viewed closed routes near Little Park trailhead. Discussed reasons for their closure. Group suggested opening some of these routes for hikers.
- Discussed volunteer efforts (trailhead).
- Discussed management issues with dead-end/overlooks. Group did not see need to close these routes, but to use the “Adopt-a-site” program or other volunteer patrol group and placement of picnic tables, grills, and signs to increase traffic, thereby reducing undesirable behavior. Suggested getting churches involved to adopt areas (religious graffiti). Recommended CMC and 4X4 groups show stewardship of area through annual clean-up. Also suggested changing regulation to “No use after dark”.
- Discussed criteria for placement of trails (slope, soils, vegetation). Concern regarding additional Area 4 trails/proximity to private property/homes.
- Discussed issues with size of Area 4 and density of trails required to provide desired recreation opportunity/experience. Area 4 concept: “Lunch Loop” for motorized users.
- Group expressed concern over noise generated from additional motorized use in area/developing and marketing area for motorized use.
- Discussion on what motorized and non-motorized groups want in recreation experiences. Asked for each group to share rationale for interests.
- Benefits based management concept explained. Pro-active recreation direction/management. Question arose if biological component considered within BBM. Answered BBM is outcome for visitor, but biological component considered through analysis.

- Discussed need to determine if there is a demand in Bangs Canyon for motorized recreation opportunities. Some felt the motorized community should be held to the same or a higher use/ethics standard than the mountain bike community.
- Group suggested forming a committee to look at motorized opportunities in Area 6.

Areas 1, 2, and 3 - August 28, 2004

See Attachment 2 for discussion locations, topics, objectives, sideboards, Bangs Canyon Management Plan (BCMP) Areas 1, 2, and 3 direction, summary of Areas 1, 2, and 3 public input component from May BCMP meeting, Area 1 Tabeguache Trail recommendation, Trail Management Objective forms, and associated map.

Attendees/Affiliation:

Bill Grant, CCRA

Rich Alward, CCRA

Shawn Cooper, City of Grand Junction

Bruce Noble, Colorado National Monument Superintendent

Pat Noble, interested public

Chris Pipkin, BLM Park Ranger

Britta Laub, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Discussion:

- Discussed Monument Road trailhead issues:
 - trailhead located on City property
 - City owns 120 acres with property on both sides of road
 - City maintains a “No hands on” approach to management of parcel
 - City hasn’t heard concerns/issues from public about trailhead
 - Suggestion to place sign up indicating this is city property with number to city to call regarding issues/complaints
 - City established and maintains graveled parking area
 - City’s long range plan to place vault toilet and shelter similar to Kokopelli’s, but development not currently budgeted for
 - Discussed need for formal agreement between BLM and City to establish BLM’s “interest” in property (required for law enforcement and future BLM expenditures/development) and to define each parties roles/responsibilities
 - City has no process for use of site (no permit system for commercial/competitive events. BLM has Special Recreation Permit process requirements)
 - City is concerned about overuse of site through advertising of site
- Discussed private property trespass in area and BLM’s efforts to prevent
- Discussion about urban interface issues, homes along road and increasing pressure on site from adjacent properties and community in general
- Discussion about safety issues arising from accessing trailhead from road (fast moving vehicles on Monument road problem/merging traffic to and from trailhead)
- Discussion about dog and human waste on site/sanitation. Suggestion to provide doggy waste bags and install vault toilets. Also suggestion to place mailbox so users can place grocery bags for use as doggy bags.

- Hiked to Bentonite Bowl and discussed litter/trash, cable barriers to prevent trespass, uses of area prior to implementation of the Bangs plan including hill climbing in motorized vehicles, after hour parties, trash dumping on site.
- Discussed opportunity to develop terrain park in the Bentonite Bowl for downhill, and cross country mountain bikers (other non-motorized users not precluded from using area).
- Discussion about BLM staff recommendation to close Tabeguache Trail to motorized in Area 1. Problems with Widowmaker section and motorized play/resource damage below Widowmaker.
- Overview of designated trail system in Area 1, public input for new trails, and trail system concept. Goals of system, need to develop range of challenge routes (beginner to expert). Most existing trails intermediate to difficult.
- Discussion about Holy Cross trail reconstruction/rehabilitation project. Issues with user created trails by all forms of users (trail runners, hikers, bikers, motorized).
- Discussion about city parcel off of Little Park road. BLM received public input regarding parcel/public wants to use as part of Area 1. City has heard nothing regarding this from user groups. Inclusion of parcel within Area 1 could help relieve pressure off of Monument road trailhead and nearby trails. Inclusion of this parcel would change trail system layout in Area 1.
- Discussed specific new trail segments/trail connectors as provided to the BLM by the public. Viewed potential connectors from Tabeguache above Widowmaker. Explained trail design/layout process.
- At "Prayer Rock"/Eagles Nest viewed Area 1 and 2. Viewed religious graffiti. Discussed Ribbon Trail (portions located on Colorado NM). Discussed opportunities to link Ribbon trail to Old Gordon Trail. NPS indicated need to sign to raise awareness of NPS boundaries.
- BLM received specific public input regarding trail connections and alignments in Area 3 to Bangs trailhead in Area 5. Suggestion was made to hike specific trail connections at a later date.

Area 5 and 6 – September 11, 2004

See Attachment 3 for discussion locations, topics, objectives, sideboards, Bangs Canyon Management Plan (BCMP) Area 5 and 6 direction, summary of Areas 5 and 6 public input component from May BCMP meeting, and associated map.

Attendees/Affiliation:

Steve Chapel, Western Slope ATV Association

Pat Kennedy, Northwest Resource Advisory Council (NW RAC), COPMOBA

John Martin, NW RAC

Gregg Cassarini, Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC)

N.J. Fulmer, Sierra Club

Mark Schofield, CCRA

Lee Ann Hill, CEC

Rich Alward, CCRA

Anne Hayden, concerned citizen

Brandon Jett, CEC
Shaun Deeney, Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW)
Steve Kramer, Grand Mesa Jeep Club
Roy Joseph, Grand Mesa Jeep Club
Britta Laub, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Jim Cooper, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner

Discussion:

- Discussed access to Hwy 141 from the Tabeguache. Plan states access would not be pursued at this time but future access not precluded. Participants questioned when access would be pursued. Concern that CDOT would not authorize connector. A participant stated that one could access the Tabeguache across the Craig property through gate which is left open, but technically it is trespass.
- Participants discussed illegal trail/motorized vehicle use and difficulty enforcing travel designations with two law enforcement officers for 1.2 million acres. Discussed need for peer enforcement of users.
- Discussion of the 3 E's ensued. To ensure proper use, the trail must be Engineered correctly, visitors must be Educated about proper use/penalties/ethics, and the travel designations must be Enforced.
- Participants thought north desert was proper place for motorized activity/play. Discussion ensued about various recreation opportunities in various settings (play in open terrain in north desert vs. trail opportunities in Bangs). Brief discussion on loss of vegetative cover (due in part to creation of new routes) in north desert has contributed to salinity production in the Colorado river and discussed BLM's role in minimizing salinity production.
- Participants suggested requiring a motorized use ethic be taught in elementary schools and parents should teach children to care for the public lands. Also suggested additional signage containing educational messages.
- Viewed additional religious graffiti/vandalism.
- Discussion on rock climbing activity in area. BLM manages commercial rock climbing permits, but has seen no representation from this community in Bangs implementation.
- Some members of group suggested improving Discussion Point #2 trailhead (see map) including additional site delineation, graveling the site, and placing additional signage including an interpretive message about weeds and how they are spread. Others felt that by improving the site it would encourage use at the site which may or may not be desirable. Signage may draw visitors to site. BLM may need to meter use.
- Discussed route to south of parking area and a suggestion was made to sign two sections of route with "easier" and "difficult". Discussed success/failure of this type of signing on Tabeguache on slickrock in Area 5 near the Bangs Canyon trailhead. Some viewed this area as a play area. BLM explained plan defines this as two designated routes.
- Discussion occurred about demand for ATV trail systems which are approximately 30 miles in length to provide a desirable trail opportunity.

- Some participants felt certain areas should not be advertised for mountain bike use as this use competes and conflicts with horse use.
- Group discussed need for OHV designations in Cactus Park to connect with USFS trail system. Cactus Park also represents shared use opportunities.
- A discussion occurred about need to provide a place to ride OHV's or users will create opportunities/trails. Some felt this (providing of opportunities) occurred through creation and implementation of Bangs Canyon plan.
- Some felt compliance grows with a higher level of use.
- A comment was made that BLM should make people share and that if people are notified of what to expect ("shared use area") they will comply.
- Discussion point #3 discussed Snyder Hunter access. DOW has an easement across private property to access public land for hunting access. The original landowner and DOW made the agreement. The property transferred to a new owner, but easement is still in place. Other users need to recognize original intent of easement is for hunting access. Gate to remain unlocked. Hunting opportunities include deer and elk. Bighorn sheep also in area.
- DOW's mandate to manage wildlife and to provide/promote hunting access into areas. Allow hunting without harming habitat.
- Discussion on criteria for placement of trails. Rocks, vegetation and soils of area with required slope makes area ideal for trail placement (Area 5-6 field trip map contains slope analysis. Discussed process/methodology for locating trails). Also opportunity for connectivity to other trails/trail systems (Cactus Park and USFS).
- Participants suggested listing pros and cons of trail development.
- Question to BLM regarding future trail connections west of Seldom Feed Park (after land exchange). Will BLM remove fence and allow public access?
- Question to BLM regarding some trails in area 5 marked as closed. (Given that area is not a WSA, what is status of routes?)
- Participants asked if BLM would adopt policy "Closed unless marked open".
- Discussion ensued regarding a compromise between environmental and motorized advocacy members. If motorized give up routes in interior of Areas 5-6, would environmental agree to allow motorized trail system to be developed in Area 6 between Hwy 141 and cliff band sliver? This question will be brought to membership of Western Colorado Congress. CEC can't speak for larger group, but individuals of CEC agreed. Some motorized to follow suit.
- Question if trail system concept/EA will be brought before RAC.
- BLM informed group of next steps: refine proposals into alternatives consistent with the plan. Will include marking alternative routes on map. EA will be developed and released to public in winter of 2004. BLM offered group opportunity to watch BLM go through alternative and trail location development. BLM will post summary of field trips on internet site and send to all participants in field trips either by e-mail or hard copy.

Other information:

- Contacted on August 16 by Shaun Deeney, DOW District Wildlife Manager re: scheduling conflicts w/field trips. Planned on attending September 4/11 field trip.

- Contacted on August 20 by Gregg Cassarini, Colorado Environmental Coalition re: RSVP's for Area 4 field trip.
- Contacted on August 23 by William (Bill) Grant, CCRA and committee member of Western Colorado Congress re: August 28 field trip. RVSP'd and included specific areas of interest.
- Contacted on August 26 by Ryan Cranston, COPMOBA board of directors re: scheduling conflict w/Areas 1-3 field trip. Included specific areas of interest and type of preferred trails in Area 1.
- Contacted on September 2 by Steve Chapel, Western Slope ATV Association re: September 11 field trip. Requested logistical information and will RVSP total attendee numbers in a few days. Wanted to clarify/inform me of Association's role in development of Bangs trailhead, volunteer efforts, and adoption of Tabeguache Trail.
- Contacted by Pat Kennedy, Executive Director COPMOBA re: RVSP for field trips.
- Contacted on September 9 by Gregg Cassarini, CEC re: RVSP for 9/11 field trip.

Attachment 1 – Area 4

Attachment 2 – Areas 1, 2, and 3

Attachment 3 – Area 5 and 6

ATTACHMENT 1

Bangs Canyon Area 4 Implementation Field Trip August 21, 2004

8:00- Stop #1. Little Park Trailhead

Introductions

Discuss maps, objectives, and sideboards of field trip

Closure of paths along Little Park Rd. to all use

Parking for Ribbon trail

Continued unauthorized use of closed trails

8:45- Stop #2. Overlook

Misuse of the location

Management issues and alternatives (information, patrol frequency, closure, others?)

9:30 – Stop #3. Knoll Overlooking Gunny Loop and Canyon

Sustainability of road

Proximity of trails to residences

Process of locating trails – analysis-ground truth

Sustainable trail locations

Criteria for the placement of trails

Site capacity to provide day use only/casual motorized opportunity

10:30 – Stop #4. Canyon Overlook

Application of the trail layout principles

Slope/grade ratio

Pinch points

Entry restrictors

Sound containment

Soil and vegetation selection

11:15 – Stop #5. Third Flats Road.

Illustrate principles of trail layout and design

Use of ATV routes and existing roads to form loops of increasing levels of difficulty

Wrap up.

12:00 – additional discussion may occur and locations may be visited

Objectives:

1. Discuss management issues with dead end routes
2. Trail considerations, criteria for placement of trails, BLM requirements and process

3. Process and consideration in trail layout
4. View implementation actions and public input in the field

Sideboards

1. Site specific topics based on public input and plan consistency
2. Allocations will not change
3. Area boundaries will not be changed
4. Target shooting, fire and camping prescriptions will not be changed
5. Hunting will not be changed
6. Management Objectives:
 - Provide semi-primitive motorized, mechanized and non-motorized opportunities, scenic & natural values
 - Protect natural resources
 - Protect Rough Canyon, Ladder Canyon, Northeast Creek Canyon and Bangs Canyon from surface disturbing activities

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 4 Direction:

- Motorized single track and double track encouraged
- Possible new trail construction
- Billings Canyon road remains open to all
- Develop parking at First Flats
- Smooth wire fence from First Flats to Bangs Canyon staging area to control access
- Vault toilet at First Flats in future if use warrants
- Gunny Loop will remain single track in areas currently single track – no expansion for jeep ATV – bike/hike/horse emphasis
- No overnight camping/fires ½ mile on either side of Little Park Rd

May 2004 Meeting Summary - AREA 4 - 4,476 acres or 8% of entire area:

1. Single track motorized
2. Close to town
3. Challenge
4. Sustainable
5. Future of overlooks?
6. Connections of spur routes has gone too far, stick to plan
7. Want sustainable loops
8. Too intense of development. Must have adequate time experience
9. Appropriateness of high use motorized area?
10. Bigger picture resource/opportunity look
11. Committee to look at motorized opportunities
12. Look at area 6 for motorized opportunities
13. Quiet experience
14. Selfishness
15. Motorized routes use existing as much as possible, minimize new construction
16. Maximize new construction because its more sustainable
17. Closely adhere to intent of plan

ATTACHMENT 2

Bangs Canyon Management Plan Areas 1, 2 and 3

Field Trip Itinerary

Saturday, August 28, 2004

8:00 – Monument Road Trailhead

Introductions

Hand out and discuss maps and field trip objectives

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Shared management between BLM and City of Grand Junction
- Adjacent private property
- Adjacent National Park Service property (Colorado National Monument)
- Parking and Safety
- Sanitation (humans and dogs)

8:30 – Hike Tabeguache Trail from Monument Road Trailhead to bentonite bowl

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Status of motorized use on Tabeguache Trail
- Management of designated trail systems (who can go where)
- Trail development opportunities
- User conflicts?

9:30 – City parcel off Little Park Road

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Status of this property
- Potential for trail connections
- Potential for trailhead

10:15 – Overlook at intersection of Tabeguache and Little Park Road

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Trail connections to Area 4

10:30 – Hike to Widowmaker Hill

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Status of motorized use on Tabeguache Trail
- Trail development/modification opportunities
- Trail design, layout and construction (constraints and opportunities)

11:30 – Hike to “Eagle’s Nest”/”Prayer Rock” (overview of Areas 1 and 2)

Lunch

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Area 2 management

- BLM/National Monument interface, differences in management objectives
- Trail opportunities/constraints

12:30 – Return to vehicles on Little Park Road
Wrap-up of Areas 1 and 2

1:00 – Bangs Canyon Trailhead

Site-specific discussion topics:

- Area 3 management
- Area 3 trail opportunities

At this point we can travel to various locations in Area 3 depending on what participants are interested in (Rough Canyon, Mica Mine, access points off Little Park Road, etc. or we can return to areas of specific interest in Areas 1 and 2.)

**Bangs Canyon Management Plan
Areas 1, 2 and 3**

Field Trip Objectives
Saturday, August 28, 2004

Objectives for the day:

- Provide an opportunity for on-site interaction between members of the public and BLM staff regarding implementation of the Bangs Canyon Management Plan (BCMP).
- Visit specific locations in Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the BCMP to discuss topics raised at recent public meetings and in written public comments about the BCMP.
- Obtain a clearer understanding of user desires/demands for these areas, and the BLM's capabilities and constraints in meeting those demands.
- Explain the BLM process for trail planning, design, layout, and construction.
- Discuss how to protect natural resources while providing high quality recreation opportunities and minimizing user conflicts.

Sideboards:

1. Site specific topics based on public input and plan consistency
2. Allocations will not change
3. Area boundaries will not be changed

4. Target shooting, fire and camping prescriptions will not be changed
5. Hunting will not be changed
6. Management Objectives:
 - Provide semi-primitive motorized, mechanized and non-motorized opportunities, scenic & natural values
 - Protect natural resources
 - Protect Rough Canyon, Ladder Canyon, Northeast Creek Canyon and Bangs Canyon from surface disturbing activities

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 1 Direction:

- Hike and bike targeted, equestrian allowed. Motorized limited (Tabeguache).
- Tabeguache motorized use revisited in accordance with the RMP
- Day use area

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 2 Direction:

- Termination Flats closed to motorized
- Bike/hike only – biking targeted
- One single non-motorized route from Little Park Rd to Termination Flats
- Vault toilet in future if use warrants
- Scenic overlook over Ribbon Trail and Echo Canyon
 - define parking area at area (access to Echo Canyon)
 - designate parking
- Prevent unauthorized use off designated route – barriers

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 3 Direction:

- Hiking emphasis
- Motorized/mechanized at parking lot
- Travel through Rough Canyon designated hiking only
- Slot to Mica Mine hiking only
- Close backdoor access to Area 3 from Little Park through Area 2

May 2004 Meeting Summary:

AREA 1 - 1,428 acres or 2% of entire area:

1. Need for directional trails (up and down) for Freeriding opportunities
2. Loop dead end routes
3. Access to/through city property off Little Park road. Trailhead opportunity.
4. Okay with closure of Tabeguache to motorized
5. Development of quality loop trail system to prevent illegal trails
6. Connect three dead-end routes on BLM to prevent trespass near Mira Monte
7. Trailhead off of city property on Little Park road connect to Gunny Loop. Construct trail that runs between and parallel to Gunny Loop and Little Park road that ties into HolyCross at SE corner of HX. Also begins on city property on Little Park.
8. Construct new trail between SW corner of HX and Tabeguache, connecting near Little Park road (avoiding the Widowmaker section of the Tabeguache).

9. Create two Freeride trails off of rim trail east of Tabeguache dropping into Bentonite Bowl.
10. Develop Freeride trail from high point of Eagles Tail to Widowmaker Hill with an eventual connection to Bentonite Bowl.

AREA 2 - 1,719 acres or 3% of entire area:

1. BLM trail goes into NPS/CNM. Will trail be closed or rerouted? Can NPS property be acquired?

AREA 3 - 2,819 acres or 5% of entire area:

1. Proposed parallel trail to Tabeguache/Rough Canyon junction for hikers (Area 3 and 5)
2. Improve trail above Mica Mine
3. Better marked trail above Mica Mine
4. Make a loop trail by connecting Ladder and Clark's bench trails
5. Heavy use area, look for alternative hiking trail routes
6. Keep area open for livestock grazing
7. Protect mule deer habitat

TO: Catherine Robertson, FOM
FROM: Chris Pipkin, Park Ranger; Britta Laub, ORP
DATE: May 17, 2004
SUBJECT: Recommendation regarding Area 1 Tabeguache Trail travel

As required by the Bangs Canyon Management Plan, 1999, the following is an assessment and recommendation of continued motorized use of the Tabeguache Trail in Area 1.

PLAN DIRECTION:

"Emphasis on management of area will be for mountain bike and foot travel. Horseback riding will be allowed but will not be emphasized... No expansion of jeep or ATV use to existing singletrack trails will be allowed."

"Motorized use of all types will be allowed on existing Tabeguache Trail for a period of one year (to begin upon final completion of plan), at the end of which the area will be evaluated for resource damage and the issue of continued motorized use will be reassessed."

"All forms of maintenance that correct resource damage and soil erosion will be allowed on the Tabeguache Trail. No "improvements" will be allowed on the section of the trail known as the "widowmaker"."

ASSESSMENT: Since implementation of the 1999 plan, motorized use of the Tabeguache Trail through Area 1 has been nominal. The predominant use in Area 1 has been non-motorized recreation, primarily mountain biking, trail running and hiking/dog walking. A monitoring record for the area has been kept since 2000. During frequent patrols of the area, actual observations of motorized traffic have been infrequent. It is estimated that less than three percent of overall use of the area is motorized. This amounts to fewer than 1000 motorized recreationists per year. Observations of vehicle tracks indicate that most motorized use is by full-size vehicles and, less frequently, ATVs and motorcycles. Although motorized use comprises a small percentage of overall use, there have been numerous incidents of resource damage caused by motorized use off of the designated route. These incidents have included: ATV and motorcycle traffic on designated non-motorized singletrack; cross-country travel where no trail exists; spinning "doughnuts" or "brodies" in flat areas adjacent to the trail; and hill climbs and rock crawling by full-size vehicles adjacent to the trail. Increased signage and barrier work to delineate the designated route, along with an increased presence of field personnel has reduced illegal off-trail traffic, but we continue to encounter inappropriate travel causing resource damage. The problem is most prevalent within the first ½ mile of the trail south of Monument Rd. (hill climbs up the side of the wash) and at the base of Widomaker Hill ("doughnuts", etc.)

Much of the designated motorized route is rutted and has widened in some locations where vehicles have driven around obstacles in the trail. Some trail maintenance (construction of rolling dips, barricading and naturalization of short-cut routes) has been implemented to reduce these impacts. Much of this route is on steep grades that are not sustainable without significant ongoing maintenance.

Monitoring records and field observations indicate that resource damage and illegal trail activity (travel off of designated routes) is not limited to the motorized user groups. Illegal foot and mountain bike traffic is also a problem in the area. In general, this impact develops more slowly and can be addressed before major damage occurs. The power and weight of motorized vehicles tends to cause more immediate and significant damage.

The designated motorized route has provided motorized access for administrative activities in the area. It has increased the ease of sign installation and transportation of tools for trail projects.

The Widowmaker section of the Tabeguache (prescribed in the plan to receive no "improvements") has deteriorated to a point that precludes through travel on the route for all but a small percentage of motorized users. It is passable by experienced OHV users but poses a substantial deterrent and/or safety hazard to less skilled OHV operators. This "bottleneck", the rugged nature of the trail in general, and the absence of loop options limits the trail's functionality as a motorized recreation route. It likely contributes to the problem of people "playing" in the flats at the base of the hill when they discover they cannot continue up the route. It also effectively increases motorized traffic on the lower section of the trail since vehicles go out and back rather than just making one pass on a through route.

To make the Tabeguache Trail a safe, functional, and manageable motorized route would require:

- Performing maintenance on the trail up Widowmaker Hill to address resource damage, safety and accessibility concerns. This would not necessarily mean eliminating the technical nature of the trail ("improvements").
- Installation of post and cable barriers along much of the route to prevent off-trail travel and its resulting resource damage.
- Annual maintenance of the existing route with heavy equipment to address significant drainage/erosion problems

With a commitment to these management actions, this section of the Tabeguache could provide a short but interesting motorized route and a connection to other existing sections of the Tabeguache. However, these actions would be costly and would change the area's character as a non-motorized emphasis area, thereby making it inconsistent with the management direction of the plan. This would require an amendment to the plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Based on this assessment, it is our recommendation to close the Tabeguache Trail to motorized use from Monument Road to Little Park Road (Area 1). Some motorized recreation would certainly be displaced, but can be mitigated through the development of new opportunities in the same general vicinity. The management direction for Area 4 offers alternatives to develop more appropriate motorized opportunities.

Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office/Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area

Trail Management Objective

Trail Name _____ **Trail Number** _____

Type of Use:

Hiking/Running _____ Equestrian _____ Mtn. Biking _____ Motorcycle _____ ATV _____ 4X4 _____

Trail Type:

Access _____ Destination _____ Point-to-Point _____ Loop _____

Level of Use:

Recreational Heavy _____ Moderate _____ Light _____

Competition Yes _____ No _____

Commercial Yes _____ No _____

Use Season:

Year round _____ Spring, Summer, Fall _____ Winter _____ Seasonal Closure _____

Level of Difficulty:

Easiest _____ More Difficult/Intermediate _____ Most Difficult/Advanced _____ Experts Only _____

Trail Specifications:

Tread width _____ inches

Surface

Corridor

smooth _____ moderate _____ rough/technical _____

Width _____ feet

Height _____ feet

Operations and Patrol:

Patrolled by:

BLM _____ Volunteer(s) _____ Adopt-a-Trail _____

Frequency of patrols:

Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly _____

Type of patrol:

Law enforcement _____ Maintenance _____ Monitoring _____ Visitor Services (informational/educational) _____

Maintenance:

Frequency:

Six months _____ Annual _____ Three years _____ As needed _____

Work performed by:

Agency _____ Contract _____ Volunteers _____

Method:

Mechanized _____ Hand work _____

Features:

Retaining walls _____

Hardening _____

Bridges _____

Drainage structures _____

Signing: interpretive and informational _____

Switchbacks _____

Drains (culverts, etc) _____

Other _____

Monitoring:

Photo points:

Yes _____ No _____

Frequency _____

Notes:

ATTACHMENT 3

Bangs Canyon Area 5 and 6 Implementation Field Trip September 11, 2004

8:00 - Stop #1 East Creek

Introductions:

Discuss maps, objectives, and sideboards of field trip

Review of the plan for areas 5-6

Opportunities available consistent with plan

Day use restrictions

Shooting restrictions

Access to Tabeguache trail from Hwy 141

9:00 - Stop #2

Potential for improved public access

Possibilities and limitations of trail development

Misuse of trails, potential solutions (trail system development, closure, education, other?)

BLM capabilities to maintain and administer additional remote facilities and opportunities (options?)

Criteria for trail placement

10:00 - Stop #3

Demand for managed recreation

Present access through right of way on private property

Public access and connection to other trails

Conductivity and compatibility with other existing and potential recreation opportunities

11:00 - Stop #4

Public access and connection to other trails

(continued)

Possibilities and limitations of trail development

Misuse of trails, potential solutions (trail system development, closure, education, other?)

BLM capabilities to maintain and administer additional remote facilities and opportunities (options?)

Criteria for trail placement

12:00 – additional discussion may occur locations may be visited

Objectives:

1. Discuss management issues with dead end routes
2. Trail considerations, criteria for placement of trails, BLM requirements and process

3. Process and consideration in trail layout
4. View implementation actions and public input in the field

Sideboards:

1. Site specific topics based on public input and plan consistency
2. Allocations will not change
3. Area boundaries will not be changed
4. Target shooting, fire and camping prescriptions will not be changed
5. Hunting will not be changed
6. Management Objectives:
 - Provide semi-primitive motorized, mechanized and non-motorized opportunities, scenic & natural values
 - Protect natural resources
 - Protect Rough Canyon, Ladder Canyon, Northeast Creek Canyon and Bangs Canyon from surface disturbing activities

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 5 Direction:

- One route for all uses to Rough Canyon
- Clean up webbed, non-designated routes
- Designate existing parking lot/staging area (Rough Canyon Wash)
- Loop trails between Areas 4 and 5 - jeep and ATV
- Emphasis on minimizing environmental impact

Bangs Canyon Plan Area 6 Direction:

- Close all but one access route off 141
- No open fires, overnight camping in East Creek Area

May 2004 Meeting Summary - AREA 5 - 21,326 acres or 37% of entire area:

1. Public access (full size vehicle) from Hwy 141 to Tabeguache would solve current problems with trespass
2. Trailhead/staging area on Hwy 141 (CDOT approved) would allow for growth
3. Preserve wilderness character
4. 40 miles of looped ATV trails (48" wide) without closure of existing two-track
5. Existing archived engineered access to Hwy 141
6. Land exchange opportunities at old coal load out

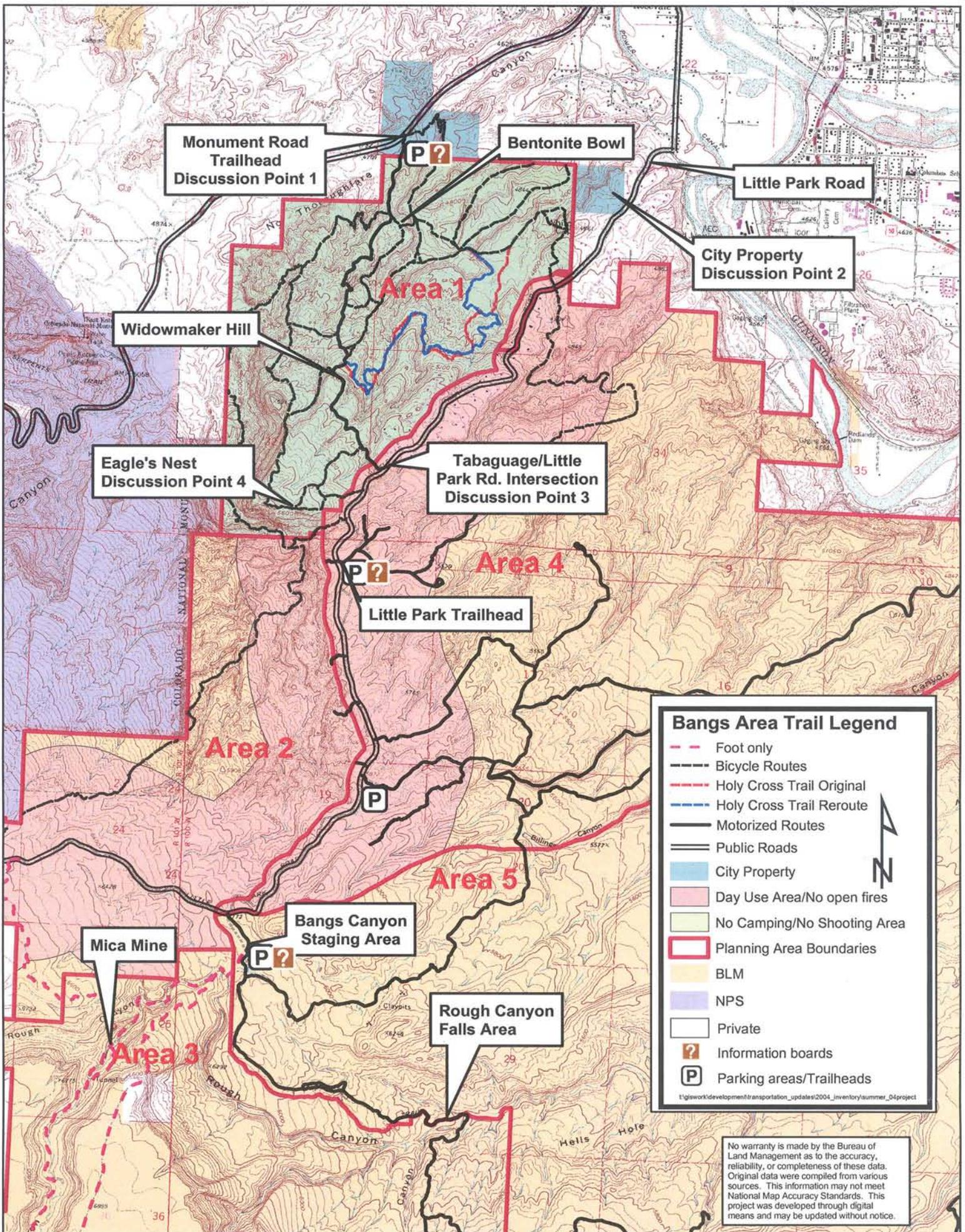
May 2004 Meeting Summary - AREA 5 and 6:

1. Oppose land acquisition if resource damage results
2. Prefer minimum construction to develop loops, not new trail systems
3. 40 miles looped non-motorized single track
4. Connection that would allow single track motorized
5. Implement existing Bangs Canyon Management Plan
6. Construct loops between Areas 4 and 5
7. Adequate resources to regulate current and future use

8. Monitor impacts to wildlife and vegetation as part of implementation
9. Seasonal closures as tool
10. Include triggers as part of wildlife/vegetation monitoring
11. Establish LAC adaptive management, no sledgehammer management
12. Don't exclude Americans from Americans land
13. Inventory all illegal routes
14. Seek out partners for financial assistance in trail construction/maintenance
15. Paint is worse than tracks on slickrock. Painting isn't managing

May 2004 Meeting Summary AREA 6 - 25,707 acres or 44% of entire area:

1. East Creek, skirt private to hook to Tabeguache, other options?
2. Maintain wilderness character
3. 40 miles of looped ATV (48") trail without closure of existing open two track



Monument Road
Trailhead
Discussion Point 1

Bentonite Bowl

Little Park Road

City Property
Discussion Point 2

Widemaker Hill

Eagle's Nest
Discussion Point 4

Tabaguage/Little
Park Rd. Intersection
Discussion Point 3

Little Park Trailhead

Mica Mine

Bangs Canyon
Staging Area

Rough Canyon
Falls Area

Bangs Area Trail Legend

- Foot only
- Bicycle Routes
- Holy Cross Trail Original
- Holy Cross Trail Reroute
- Motorized Routes
- Public Roads
- City Property
- Day Use Area/No open fires
- No Camping/No Shooting Area
- Planning Area Boundaries
- BLM
- NPS
- Private
- Information boards
- Parking areas/Trailheads

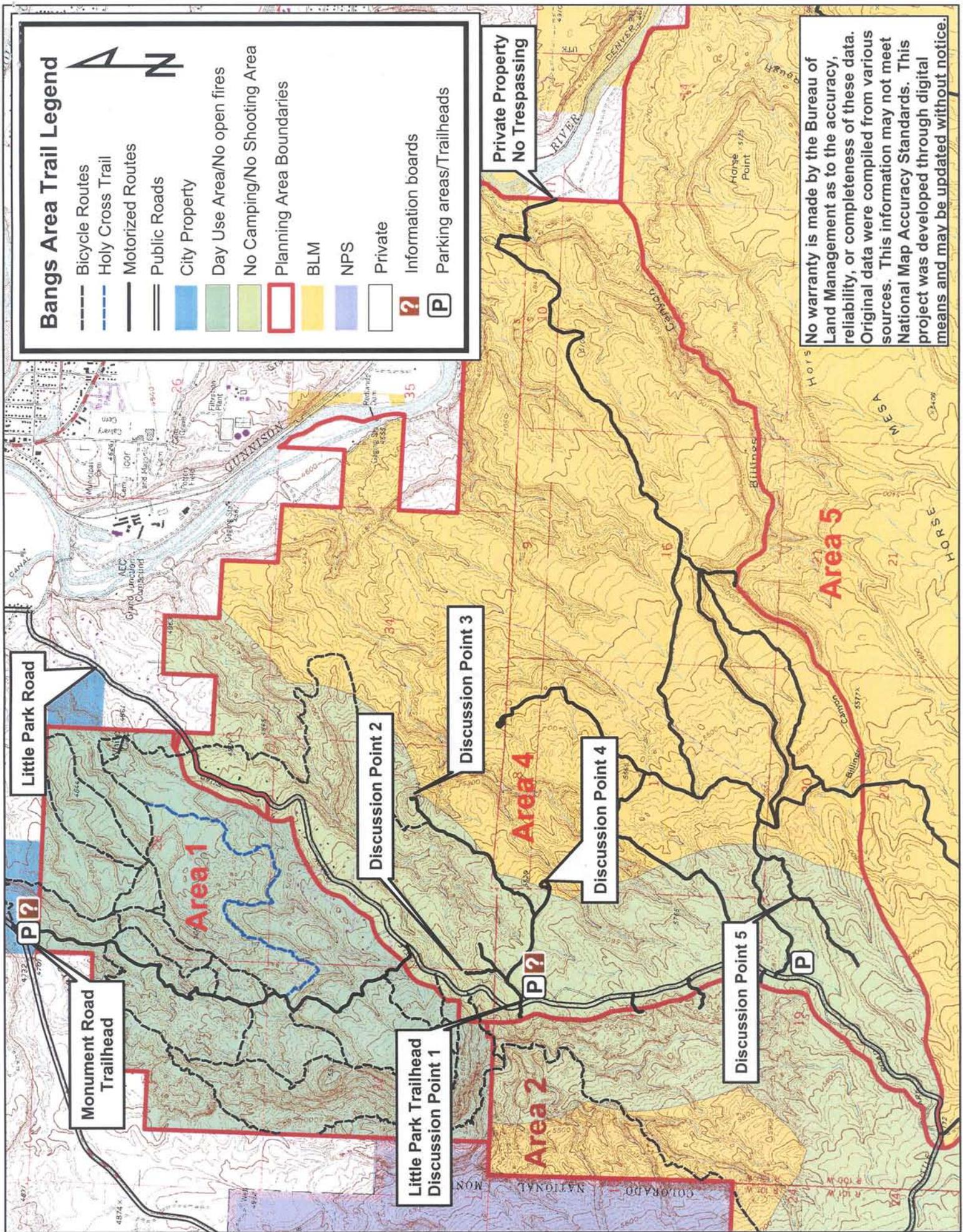
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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

Bangs Area Trail Legend



- Bicycle Routes
- Holy Cross Trail
- Motorized Routes
- Public Roads
- City Property
- Day Use Area/No open fires
- No Camping/No Shooting Area
- Planning Area Boundaries
- BLM
- NPS
- Private
- Information boards
- Parking areas/Trailheads



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Little Park Road

Monument Road Trailhead

Little Park Trailhead Discussion Point 1

Discussion Point 2

Discussion Point 3

Discussion Point 4

Discussion Point 5

Private Property No Trespassing

Area 1

Area 4

Area 2

Area 5

MONTEZUMA NATIONAL MONUMENT

GUNNSION

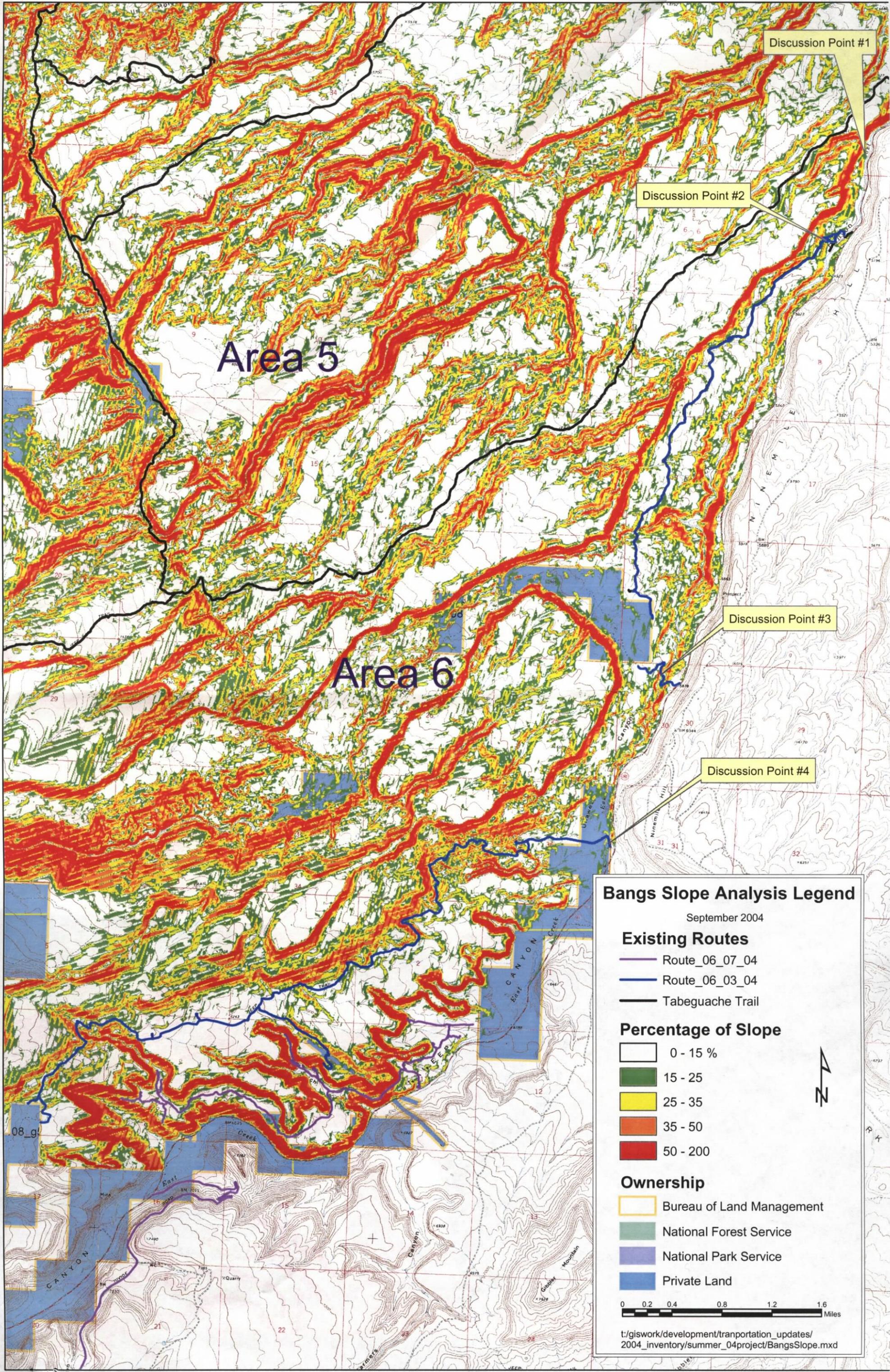
DENVER RIVER

HORSE POINT

BILLINGS CANYON

HORSE CANYON

CORRAL CANYON



Area 5

Area 6

Discussion Point #1

Discussion Point #2

Discussion Point #3

Discussion Point #4

Bangs Slope Analysis Legend

September 2004

Existing Routes

-  Route_06_07_04
-  Route_06_03_04
-  Tabeguache Trail

Percentage of Slope

-  0 - 15 %
-  15 - 25
-  25 - 35
-  35 - 50
-  50 - 200

Ownership

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  National Forest Service
-  National Park Service
-  Private Land



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