

BANGS CANYON

MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESCRIPTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Goal of management direction presented in this plan is to afford protection to the unique scenic, geologic and cultural resources of the Bangs Canyon area, and to not compromise these resources by too much or inappropriate types of recreational activities. Specific management objectives include:

1. Provide semi-primitive motorized, mechanized, non-motorized recreation opportunities, scenic and natural values, and activities such as horseback riding, hiking, trail running, mountain bike riding, and trail oriented OHV's (motorcycles, ATV's, and jeeps).
2. Provide for compatible uses within each discrete unit.
3. Resolve resource user conflicts that stem from abuse of the area.
4. Protect natural resources by utilizing accepted ecosystem management principles, to include: range values, wildlife habitat, scenic, cultural, forestry, recreational, sensitive plant and animal habitats, soils, and watersheds.
5. Protect Rough, Ladder, Northeast Creek, and Bangs Canyon from surface disturbing activities.
6. Identify alternatives to land ownership issues and existing status.

AREA	MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESCRIPTON	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mountain bike and foot travel emphasis. - Horseback riding allowed, but not emphasized. - Designated singletrack trails to remain open. - Non-designated existing trails, webbing and spur routes closed, remediated, and reclaimed. - No expansion of jeep or ATV use on existing singletrack allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage placed/ongoing education. EA completed on Holy Cross trail. Building/re-constructing Holy Cross non-motorized trail, estimated completion date, 12/2004. - Signage. - Maps and signs at trailhead. Signage on ground a continuing project. Trail maintenance. - Signage placed at time of rehabilitation of two-track routes. - Signage placed. Closed routes rehabilitated. User education.
1	<p>Motorized use of Tabeguache Trail allowed for one year, with reassessment of continued motorized use upon end of year. Year of monitoring to begin upon completion of all signing (6/2000 est. signage completion date).</p>	<p>BLM recommendation to be presented at 5/25/04 meeting. * Action required.</p>
1	- Soil erosion and resource damage corrective maintenance	- Trail maintenance occurred on Tabeguache in 2003.

	allowed on Tabeguache. - No improvements allowed on Widowmaker section.	- No action required.
1	Upon completion of cadastral survey, sign BLM boundaries (leaving public land).	- Boundaries signed based on existing land status. Signed at time of Eagles Tail reroute. Additional boundary marking required. * Action required.
1	- Assist Grand Junction City in upgrade of Lunch Loop parking and redesign as needed to restrict motorized travel to designated routes only. - If use levels warrant, install closed vault toilet at site.	- Complete. - Traffic counter installed in 2003 at trailhead. Visitation levels/need for toilet to be analyzed.
1	Close 2-3 arroyos along South Redlands Road to motorized travel.	Arroyos signed as closed in 2002.
1	- Prohibit overnight camping and open fires. - Day use only, no use after dark.	Ongoing education/enforcement/signage.
1	Sign: “No overnight camping, area closed to open fires, no wood gathering”.	Little Park signs placed spring of 2000.
1	Sign: “Area closed to motorized use after dark, consistent with Grand Junction City Parks closures (TBD)”.	“Day use only” signs placed at trailhead, spring 2000.
1	Develop interpretive sign for Lunch Loop parking lot.	Complete. Periodic replacement as needed.
1	Relocate portion of Eagles Trail currently on private lands onto public lands.	Completed 2002.
1	Finalize discussions/negotiations with City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, and Museum of Western Colorado for assemblage of lands leased under any R&PP lease or owned in fee into one parcel to be lease to city under a new R&PP lease. Implementation of recommendation is contingent on city adopting management plan developed by Citizens Advisory Group.	R&PP application withdrawn. Need to develop cooperative agreement with City/Mesa Co. * Action required.
1	Coordinate Lunch Loop parking lot efforts and single track designation with adjacent property owners.	Reroute of Eagles Tail completed and parking coordinated with city. Parking area delineated with cable in 2002 and 2003.
1	Protect all structures from fire on private property in the area.	Ongoing. Active fire education/mitigation occurring.
2	Close Termination Flats to motorized use.	Complete. Ongoing enforcement, signage, education.

	Work with NPS to sign Colorado NM surface boundary.	Ribbon trailhead and fence established, 2000. Signage with NPS ongoing.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate one non-motorized route from Little Park Road to Termination Flats, reclaiming all other spur routes and parking areas. - Designate parking area near Little Park Road, using large barriers, gravel and signs to define the designated route and parking area. - If use levels warrant, install closed vault toilet at site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Route signed and fencing placed in 2000. Rehabilitation by hand, raking out imprints, and trash collection occurred 2000-2001. - Complete in 1999 with assistance from Mesa Co. Ongoing maintenance and enforcement. - Consider implementation through development of EA. * Action required.
2	Allow new singletrack trail construction subject to BLM trail design, construction, and implementation processes.	No new proposals have been received. Route to Colorado NM inventoried (Old Gordon Trail).
2	- Designate and define parking area/scenic overlook at Ribbon Trail/Echo Canyon, across from Area 4 First Flats area.	- Completed in 2000.
2	Prevent unauthorized vehicle use off of designated routes using fencing and barrier rocks.	Completed 2000-2001. Ongoing maintenance and enforcement.
2	Prohibit overnight camping and open fires ½ mile on either side of Little Park Road.	Complete. Ongoing maintenance and enforcement.
2	Sign: “No overnight camping, area closed to open fires, no wood gathering”.	Signed 2000. Replace as needed.
2	Protect all structures from fire on private property in the area.	Ongoing. Active fire education/mitigation occurring.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate motorized and mechanized travel to existing parking lot at staging area and designated route continuing south along Tabeguache (in conjunction w/Area 5 recommendations). - Designate single non-motorized/non-mechanized route to “slot” on east rim of Rough Canyon, reclaiming all other routes and surface disturbance to area west of parking lot to rim of Rough Canyon and slot, using large barriers, gravel, and signs to define designated route and parking area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed utilizing fence, post and cable, and signage. - Completed utilizing fence, post and cable, and signage, 2001.
3	- Allow foot traffic only on route from “slot” to mica mine along stream bed to old mill site.	- Complete, 2001.

	- "Slot" will not be maintained or improved in any manner.	- No action required.
3	Designate travel to foot traffic only through Rough Canyon from "slot" to waterfall parking area in Area 5.	Complete. Ongoing signing and enforcement.
3	Close backdoor access routes into Area 3 and ACEC from Little Park Road through Area 2.	Complete. Little Park road fenced, 2000. Signed as foot traffic only, 2000-2001.
3	Route on Clarks Bench, originating from bottom of "slot", open to foot traffic only.	Complete.
3	Develop interpretive sign for Quartz Mica Mine parking lot.	Need to implement. * Action required.
3	- Access trail to Complex Group mining claims is designated for foot travel only with exception of claimant's authorized use of ATV's for hauling rock samples. - Upon mining claim activity completion, trail may be partially reclaimed for converting into single track foot/horse travel.	- Claimant relinquished the claims and Colorado State Office closed them out in 2003. BLM released the claimant from any reclamation liability. - Complete.
3	Pursue opportunities with landowners, through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private property necessary for wildlife, public access, and recreational use.	In process of negotiating land exchange between BLM and Mesa Mood Ranch.
3	Seasonal closures (March 15-July 1) may be identified in Rough Canyon to minimize disturbance to nesting raptors..	Need to implement this action has not been identified.
3	- Pursue water right on behalf of wildlife and wildlife habitat preservation w/in ACEC. - Continue discussion w/private property owner, addressing management and use of existing private appropriative water rights to provide wildlife and wildlife habitat benefits.	No water rights identified on exchange parcel.
3	Pursue mineral withdrawal for ACEC for 20 years.	Complete, 1999.
3	Protect all structures from fire on private property in the area.	Ongoing. Active fire education/mitigation occurring.
4	- Jeep road north of Billings Canyon open to use by all motorized vehicles, mountain bikes, foot and horse travel. - Designated routes established in accordance with attached maps to picnic and scenic overlook sites on both sides of Little Park Road between first flats and turn to Bangs Canyon staging area.	- Complete. Signed and resigned 2001-2004. - Ongoing efforts to sign map designations on the ground. Ensure consistency between map and on-ground signage. * Action required.

4	Develop parking lot at First Flats.	Complete. Ongoing maintenance and enforcement.
4	Construct smooth wire fence from First Flats along Little Park Road to hillside north of Bangs Canyon Staging Area to control unauthorized vehicle travel.	Complete 2001.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reclaim First Flats consistent with designation of route and parking area and minimize parking and gathering area for motor vehicles along designated route. - Use large barriers, gravel and signs to define the designated route and parking area. - If use levels warrant, install closed vault toilet at site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete. - Complete. County graveled routes to overlook and overlook, 1999. - Consider implementation through development of EA. - * Action required.
4	Gunny Loop to remain singletrack trail with emphasis on mountain bike, foot, and horse travel with no expansion for jeep or ATV travel.	- Ongoing signage, monitoring and enforcement.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reroute existing crossing of Gunny Loop and Little Park road to address grade and safety issues. - Discourage public parking at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No options for rerouting Gunny Loop currently available. - Need identified to work with CDOT and county to sign Gunny crossing across Little Park Road. * Action required.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New singletrack and two track trail construction is encouraged and allowed in the future subject to BLM processes for trail construction, design and implementation. - Existing spur routes inventoried and evaluated for connection to other existing/new routes, including loop trail in Areas 4-5, with spur routes closed if not designated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Billings Canyon jeep trail designated after EA developed and subsequent appeal before IBLA. Estimated completion date, 7/2004. Other proposals analyzed on case by case basis. - Inventory complete. Discussions have occurred with private landowners for land exchanges to provide for connectivity/access near Gunnison. Other spur routes should be considered as part of any trail system proposals/outcome of this meeting.
4	Prohibit overnight camping and open fires ½ mile on either side of Little Park Road.	Complete. Ongoing maintenance and enforcement.
4	Sign: “No overnight camping, area closed to open fires, no wood gathering”.	Complete, 2000-2001.
4	Develop interpretive sign for First Flats (Little Park) parking lot.	Complete.

4	Pursue opportunities with landowners, through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private property along Gunnison River and other private properties necessary for wildlife, public access, and recreational use.	In process of negotiating land exchange between BLM and Mesa Mood Ranch.
4	Protect all structures from fire on private property in the area.	Ongoing. Active fire education/mitigation occurring.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate route for all uses from staging area parking lot to bottom of slickrock on north perimeter of Rough Canyon, approx. 1.3 miles before Rough Canyon wash. - Designate route on slickrock as much as possible while minimizing environmental damage. - Designate routes to protect vegetation islands from damage and further degradation. - Use signs, barriers, and other enforcement efforts to close webbing. - Reclaim webbing and non-designated routes. - Second route for motorized use recommended approx. halfway through slickrock descent where rock ledges are currently being climbed with extent of route located where existing approach to ledges rejoins main trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete. - Painted dashed white line on slickrock to delineate designated route on ground, 8/2003. - * Further action needed as vehicles are traveling over vegetation islands. - Initial signage/barrier work completed, 2002. Ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and enforcement. - Ongoing as routes are created. - Need to place additional signage. Need for public education. * Action Required.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated existing parking lot/staging area as trailhead parking area (in conjunction w/Area 3 recommendations). - Designate additional parking area near Rough Canyon Wash for waterfall access at bottom of slickrock route on designated trail. - Access limited to foot traffic only on south and north ends to Rough Canyon and waterfall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bang's Canyon Trailhead development complete. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring. - Complete. - Complete. Ongoing enforcement.
5	Pursue jeep/ATV loop trail between area 4-5, avoiding private land.	Surveyed 2003. Access discussion not occurred with one landowner. Other access under negotiation with Mesa Mood.
5	Emphasize goal of minimizing environmental impact when considering new trails/new recreational opportunities.	Ongoing, part of NEPA process.
5	Sign at staging area and waterfall parking lot: "No exit to Hwy 141 in Unaweep Canyon at this time".	No signage at waterfall. Determined that signage at trailhead would better inform public prior to travel to

		waterfall.
5	Develop interpretive sign for Bangs Canyon parking lot.	Complete.
5	Pursue opportunities with landowners, through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private property along Gunnison River, at Needum Moore Seldom Feed Park and other private properties necessary for wildlife, public access, and recreational use.	In process of negotiating land exchange between BLM and Mesa Mood Ranch.
5	If desert bighorn sheep population warrants, open areas for bighorns to use through prescribed burns in lower elevations.	No actions implemented after plan approval.
5	Emphasize goal of minimizing environmental impacts.	Ongoing, part of NEPA process.
5	Do not pursue additional access to Hwy 141 in Unaweep Canyon at this time with future access not being precluded.	No change in access at this time.
6	Close all but one access route off Hwy 141 into East Creek area.	EA completed 5-25-00. Signs, boulders, and fencing complete 2000-2001.
6	Prohibit overnight camping and open fires in lower East Creek Area.	EA completed 5-25-00. Signs installed.
6	Sign: "No overnight camping, area closed to open fires, no wood gathering".	Complete, 2000-2001.
6	Pursue opportunities with landowners, through purchase or exchange, for acquisition of private property at Needum Moore Seldom Feed Park and other private properties necessary for wildlife, public access, and recreational use.	In process of negotiating land exchange between BLM and Mesa Mood Ranch.
6	If desert bighorn sheep population warrants, open areas for bighorns to use through prescribed burns in lower elevations.	No actions implemented after plan approval.
6	Seasonal closures (March 15 – July 1) may be identified for raptor nesting in East Creek Canyon.	Need for action has not been identified.
6	If Northeast Creek is classified, classify as "catch and release".	Northeast Creek has not been classified. Classification is a DOW function.
6	Post signs along East Creek informing visitors about value and vulnerability of cottonwood trees emphasizing damage caused from hacking.	No action required as East Creek was closed to camping, open fires, and wood gathering in 2000.
6	Combat spread of weeds, focusing on high human use areas and East Creek.	Tamarisk removal project occurred in 2001. Ongoing.

6	Protect all structures from fire on private property in the area.	Ongoing. Active fire education/mitigation occurring.
All Areas	Sign: “All travel on designated routes only”, “Pack in, pack out” (concentrated use areas), “Enjoy and Protect your Cultural Heritage” (selected sites)	Complete. 2000 to present, ongoing need.
All Areas	Develop educational/interpretive signs for vandalized or scientifically excavated cultural sites which contain educational and recreational values.	* Action Required.
All Areas	Additional rangeland improvement projects may be necessary to improve rangeland conditions or minimize resource conflicts. Projects would be constructed to meet other resource objectives and concerns identified in plan.	Five new ponds constructed on Horse Mesa in 2001, three new reservoirs constructed in Billings Canyon area in 2002, two springs and one reservoir maintained in 2002, one well maintained in 2003 and 2004, and three reservoirs maintained west of Bangs Canyon in 2001,
All Areas	Motorized access into the area would be allowed for livestock permittees for livestock management and maintenance of range improvements.	No action required.
All Areas	Deer winter range prescriptions designed to assist Little Park herd. All land treatments consider impact on wild turkeys.	No land treatments have occurred.
All Areas	- Recreational use conflicting with wildlife reduced by closing certain areas. - Developed travel routes will avoid rims of highest cliffs with exceptions to approach from right angles rather than traversing rim lengths.	- No areas closed to recreation use based on wildlife issues. Ongoing need for monitoring. - Ongoing, part of NEPA process and a stipulation for use in project design.
All Areas	- Beaver control may be justified to protect riparian trees, non-lethal methods being the preferred means of control. - Wire mesh barriers loosely placed around trees to be protected. - USDA ADC authorized to protect riparian area when unacceptable damage from beavers appears imminent.	No action taken due to no reports of beavers in lower East Creek.
All Areas	Inventory and map locations of sensitive and rare plant species.	Inventory compiled using BLM and Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) data. Any new trail/facility proposal locations would be cleared for rare plants prior to implementation.

All Areas	- Perform new trail construction and maintenance of old trails with least disturbance to vegetation. - Trail building minimal entry to riparian areas and prefer parallel routes over riparian interior routes.	Ongoing, part of NEPA process and a stipulation for use in project design.
All Areas	Manage ponderosa pine stands for large-diameter trees at greatest density that supports large diameter classes. Should insect threat require harvesting, use intensive rather than extensive measures with minimum area of treatment and non-removal techniques utilized.	No insect threat in Bangs Canyon Management Area has occurred which would require implementation of this action.
All Areas	Combat spread of weeds, focusing on high human use areas.	Entire area surveyed in 2002. Treatments applied in 2003. Ongoing monitoring. Weed presentation/identification given to Grand Mesa Jeep Club, 5/2004.
All Areas	Conduct Class II and III inventories to identify/assess cultural resources with results used to establish baseline data re: site significance for management.	Assistance Agreement with Dominquez Archaeological Research Group (DARG) to complete Class III surveys in selected areas, 2004.
All Areas	Pursue drainage based analysis unit approach for collecting statistically valid sample size for cultural resource Class II and III inventories.	No analysis yet completed/lack of funding.
All Areas	Monitor National Register of Historic Places recommended sites to assess condition and adverse impacts.	Ongoing/need for additional monitoring.
All Areas	Mitigate adverse effects to National Register eligible sites through recording, analysis, excavation in addition to protective measures (signage, fencing, route closures)	Four sites addressed to date based on monitoring.
All Areas	Address provisions of NHPA, AIRFA, and NAGPRA.	Ongoing.
All Areas	Cultural resources within Bangs Canyon managed through multi-step process of inventory, analysis, mitigation, and protection.	Ongoing on case by case basis.
All Areas	A paleontological resources inventory considered for all ground disturbing projects or land exchanges proposed on any Morrison Formation exposures in area.	No proposals received which would require inventory.
All Areas	Sample inventory for paleontological resources for any large ground disturbing projects proposed in Burro Canyon and	No proposals received which would require inventory.

	Dakota formations.	
All Areas	Scientifically important paleontological resources known or discovered will be properly protected, mitigated, and periodically inventories for condition.	Based on inventory. No inventories have occurred.
All Areas	All paleontological resources managed for appropriate uses including scientific research and collection under appropriate BLM permit.	Ongoing as resources are inventoried.
All Areas	Periodically inventory fossil localities and assess condition.	Based on funding.
All Areas	Use fire to maintain/improve seral stage diversity in sagebrush and greasewood vegetative types.	Prescription incorporated into 2000 Fire Management Plan (FMP). Have not implemented tactics to implement decision as fire occurrence in area has been limited to less than ¼ acre and/or conditions out of prescription.
All Areas	Use fire a primary disturbance element to maintain open areas for livestock and bighorn sheep. Protect all cottonwood trees from fire.	Prescription incorporated into 2000 FMP. Have not implemented tactics to implement decision as fire occurrence in area has been limited to less than ¼ acre and/or conditions out of prescription.
All Areas	Encourage interested organizations and user groups to establish adopt-a-trail programs for patrol and maintenance of all areas and to help prevent irresponsible use, trash, and vandalism problems through a heightened presence and public education.	Grand Mesa Jeep Club adopted Billings Jeep Trail, including minor construction and monitoring duties, and visitor information/public education. COPMOBA heavily involved in trail maintenance program.
All Areas	Complete cadastral surveys to establish public/private boundaries.	Cadastral completed as funding allows. Boundaries surveyed and signed utilizing the GIS system.
All Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish monitoring system to analyze recreational impacts to furnish baseline information for future decisions. - Periodic monitoring conducted by BLM and volunteers including: visitor contacts, resource inspections, and routine patrols. - Recreation conflicts reported to FOM by field personnel with staff recommendations on short term actions to insure resource protection and visitor safety approved by FOM. - User groups notified and asked for input for solutions with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal monitoring system established for Area 1 and Billings Jeep Trail. All other areas monitored through random field trips by recreation staff, reports by public and patrols by Law Enforcement. - Monitoring reports conducted by volunteers made part of record upon receipt by BLM. - Trail counters installed at the Monument Road and Bangs Canyon trailheads.

<p>representatives from these groups informed of short-term and long-term actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photographic trend plots employed to evaluate effectiveness of management methods prescribed in plan with photos taken annually at marked locations. - Annual review and report performed by Outdoor Recreation Planner with decisions concerning designation modifications and recreational facility/trail proposals evaluated at this time. - Representatives from interested user groups asked to participate and comment during review process. - Decision making criteria include: user complaints, user conflicts, quantity and variety of recreation uses occurring, types and numbers of recreation violations, proliferation of unauthorized routes, changes in visitor needs, and documented resource damage. - Final determinations approved by FOM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photo points established for Billings Jeep Trail and Tabeguache in Area 1.
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