

8300 (CO-130)

August 5, 2004

Dear Bangs Canyon Interested Public:

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the Bangs Canyon management area. Attached you will find a summary of the May 25, 2004 Bangs Canyon meeting and a summary of public input received by the BLM regarding the implementation of the Bangs Canyon Management Plan (BCMP).

The next step in the implementation of the BCMP is the engineering and design work for vault toilets at the Bangs Canyon Trailhead on Little Park Road. Based on level of use, the need to address public health and safety, and public demand, the BLM has determined this Bangs Canyon Plan decision should be implemented. Any concerns you might have with this proposal should be directed to Britta Laub, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner at (970) 244-3031 or at Britta_Laub@BLM.gov.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be developed to address the impacts of developing additional trails and facilities in Bangs Canyon in consideration of the public input received and consistent with the BCMP and 1987 Resource Management Plan (RMP). Development of the EA and alternatives will require field trips and additional meetings with the public. A timeframe on the development of the EA is attached.

The BLM has established a Bangs Canyon page on the Colorado BLM internet site. This page contains meeting minutes, public input summaries, implementation updates, environmental documents, and meeting notifications. The Bangs Canyon page is accessed through www.co.blm.gov/gjra/bangscanyon.htm.

Thank you again for your participation and interest in the management of our public lands.

Sincerely,



Catherine Robertson
Field Manager

Attachments

- Bangs Canyon meeting summary
- Public input summary
- EA development timeframe

BANGS CANYON MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting was held by the Grand Junction BLM on May 25, 2004 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 54 members of the public signed in for the meeting and have been added to the Bangs Canyon mailing list. The following organizations had representation at the meeting: Western Slope ATV Association, Motorcycle Trail Riders Association, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Colorado Mountain Club, Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, CCRA, Northwest Resource Advisory Council, Bookcliff Rattlers Motorcycle Club, C.M.D.A., Mesa State Cycling, and the Western Colorado Congress.

The BLM:

- welcomed the public to the meeting
- introduced staff (listed at bottom of summary)
- gave a presentation of action items from the 1999 Bangs Canyon Management Plan which have been implemented to date
- distributed handouts of the implementation status and public input received to date
- asked the public to break out into work groups by area so individuals could express their thoughts on what recreation opportunities they would like to see implemented in Bangs Canyon within the constraints of the Plan and BLM policy/requirements and to document the discussion on flip charts or on forms provided
- asked each group to report back to the larger group
- requested public participation in review of the suggested actions on the ground as applicable

The following describes the content of each work group discussion by area. A summary of input received at meeting and letters received after the meeting follows.

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.
8. Construct trail that runs between and parallel to Gunny Loop and Little Park road that ties into Holy Cross at SE corner of HX. Also begins on city property on Little Park.
9. Construct new trail between SW corner of HX and Tabeguache, connecting near Little Park road (avoiding the Widowmaker section of the Tabeguache).
10. Create two Freeride trails off of rim trail east of Tabeguache dropping into Bentonite Bowl.
11. 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

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 ORGANIZE COMMITTEE
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

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

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

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

BLM staff at meeting:

Catherine Robertson, Field Office Manager

Raul Morales, Associate Field Office Manager

David Lehmann, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Jane Ross, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Steven Hall, Western Slope Public Affairs Officer

Britta Laub, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

Jim Cooper, Transportation Planner

Chris Pipkin, Park Ranger

Andy Windsor, Wilderness Ranger

BANGS CANYON PUBLIC INPUT

Comment No.	Area of Interest	Name	Representing	Comment
1	Entire Bangs Area	Steve Chapel	Western Slope ATV Assoc.	Letter to Ken Currey, RAC. Need for access around private property near Gunnison River to avoid trespassing and user created connection on BLM. Motorized access must be acquired to connect Tabeguache to Hwy 141. Need for staging area construction to mitigate highway traffic hazards. This project high priority with group willing to construct trailhead. Supports proposal for more ATV trails in Area 4, but more ATV trails are needed. Need for connector route between lower proposed staging area and existing Bangs staging area. People currently ride on Little Park road to access both areas. BLM needs to accommodate demand for ATV trails (30-40 mile loops) which could be open to all forms of transport/uses. BLM spending a lot of resources on non-motorized trails. ATV trails needed in Bangs and in other areas managed by GJ BLM. Willing to apply for grants and finance work if supported by BLM. One trail/year constructed with their trail dozers and their qualified operators. Reminded BLM of purpose of acquiring dozers/shared with BLM and USFS. Explained needs and expect results. Have been compromising and losing roads for years. Now their turn.
2	Not specific to Area	Dave McCollough	Grand Mesa Jeep Club	Revisions to management plan suitable now that ATV trails are included. Appreciate BLM staff work and consideration of user demographics. BLM finally completing management plans.
3	Area 4, 5, 6	Pete Kolbenschlag	Colorado Environmental Coalition	E-mail communication w/BLM. Request for copies of NEPA documents re: Bangs Canyon Area 4 with response that NEPA was being drafted and was not yet available. Request list of scoping contacts/plan with response that scoping was completed when plan was drafted, over the course of several years. Also response that analyzing specific actions to implement the plan would not involve the same level of public input as was warranted for the plan development and BLM had/will actively meet with constituent groups. CEC states circumstances had changed in the 5 years since plan was drafted. Request copies of annual reports by BLM since 1999 and asked which interested user groups had commented on the reports. States future management decisions stem from annual reports. States scoping should occur on new motorized trails in area and wilderness advocacy group proposed wilderness study areas. Requests BLM meet with CEC and Quiet Trails Coalition.
4	Areas 2, 3, 4, 5	Doug Killerud	Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Assoc.	Support proposed trail additions. Recommendations: trail runs north/south from Little Park Road to rim of Rough Canyon from south portion of Area 2 and north portion of Area 3, BLM should look into connecting that dead end with Bangs Canyon trailhead. Focus parking/trailhead activity in well developed area. Supports motorized singletrack in Area 4 and hopes mountain bike use of these trails won't be discouraged. Supports mechanized use in two of the areas and lack of trail development in Area 5. Tabeguache provides access without intrusion and is suitable for challenging mountain biking use. If access can't be secured across private, could build connector. Thanks BLM for work and hopes to support efforts with trail crew work.

5	Area 4	Steve Bonowski	Colorado Mountain Club	Concerned about a State grant application for development of motorized trail system in Area 4, not sure what proposal actually is, if is consistent with Bangs Management Plan, and if NEPA work has been completed. Given travel planning status, concerned grant for OHV trail work in Area 4 is premature. States grant proposal and management plan are inconsistent (OHV trail system built from existing/new trails). Requests for status of cultural resource study and fossil location inventory. Requests if annual review has occurred recently and how the review relates to the grant. Requests mileage of proposed motorized trail system and if NEPA has occurred for project. Aware BLM under pressure to create motorized routes but BLM shouldn't bow to pressure, shortcutting evaluation and public process. Committed to working w/BLM for proactive outcomes.
6	N/A	Steve Bonowski	Colorado Mountain Club	Letter to David Hause, Chief, Statewide Field Services, Colorado State Parks, CC'd to BLM, Re: follow-up on State Trails Quarterly meeting, specifically surprised BLM/applicant obtained good management status with OHV program based on performance record with grants awarded to USFS. Records should be kept at both entities to confirm performance. Need for more clear and objective criteria to attain good management status. Performance records should be made available for public review. Concerned about reluctance from OHV program to provide funding for agency enforcement and restoration. Other recreation interests should serve on OHV Subcommittee. OHV registration stickers should be larger and more legible.
7	Not specific to Area	Pete Kolbenschlag	Colorado Environmental Coalition	Requesting review of documents/information including: monitoring data, visitor contacts, resource inspections and routine patrols, recreation conflicts/solutions, staff recommendations on actions, documentation showing involvement of user group representatives, photographic trend plot information, annual reviews and public involvement, other administrative record material.
8	Not specific to Area	Pete Kolbenschlag	Colorado Environmental Coalition	Scoping on BCMP implementation failed to reach affected public. Requested scoping notice four times and has no notice. Meeting in future after BLM gathers information as requested and after scoping period is insufficient and needs to meet with BLM prior to 4-17/scoping deadline. Compiling own administrative record and reviewing legalities of this matter. Wish to avoid formal challenge but patience wearing thin. Documents are required for implementing/administering plan. BLM cannot begin process until materials compiled. BLM may have its mind made up based on funding or because of BLM personnel pre-disposition to new motorized routes regardless of what record actually demonstrates. BLM should produce record prior to determination of new trail locations, but signaled intent to move forward, has neglected to inform public, and has scrambled to produce/create record. Troubled with process and are now exploring next step options. Would like to set up meeting.
9	Not specific to Area	Debbie Brush	Self	Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Fully consider resources to be compromised. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use on designated routes with routes clearly marked and all other routes closed to motorized.

10	Not specific to Area	Dani Meyers	Self	Keep Bang's exclusive to non-motorized use.
11	Not specific to Area	Jan Rahmani	Self	Implement management which preserves wilderness qualities and doesn't sacrifice qualities to motorized use.
12	Not specific to Area	George and Frances Alderson	Self	Astonished BLM considering OHV activities in proposed Bang's Canyon Wilderness that would impair wilderness values. Rep. DeGette introduced legislation to designate area wilderness and BLM should not preclude Congress from designation, which is what motorized vehicle activity would do. Implement after public participation in adherence to the plan. BLM should make priority protection of wilderness, cultural, and wildland values. Strike balance between motorized/non-motorized uses. Proposed wilderness closed to motorized travel. Designated routes elsewhere with all other routes closed to motorized vehicles.
13	Not specific to Area	Wendy Parker	Self	Plenty of areas for motorized use already, protect Bangs from motorized vehicles. Must protect wild places from damage from motorized use that takes generations to heal. Follow plan in implementing rules to keep Bangs clean and quiet.
14	Area 4, 5	Gregg Cassarini	Self	Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance and not turn area 4 into motorized playground. BLM should protect wilderness quality areas in BCMA as demand for beauty, solitude has increased. Many BCMA tasks have not yet been completed, some are being ignored, and other are being interpreted outside intent of plan. Broader public review should occur on larger implementation actions. Damage caused in Area 4 and 5 along Tabeguache by illegal motorized user created routes including routes next to/over closed signs. BLM needs to properly manage/monitor existing motorized use prior to developing new trails. How many motorized routes in GJ BLM and how many illegal motorized routes in GJ BLM?
15	Not specific to Area	Laura Turner	Self	Implement publicly supported plan for Bangs that protects natural, wilderness and cultural resources and balance of recreation use. Proposed wilderness shouldn't become national motorized destination, forcing out quieter uses.
16	Not specific to Area	Nancy LaPlaca	Self	Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Fully consider resources to be compromised. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use on designated routes with routes clearly marked and all other routes closed to motorized. Balance recreation uses including non-motorized and quiet uses.

17	Not specific to Area	Karl Hanzel	Self	Keep motorized vehicles out of Bangs canyon for wildlife in Bangs and people of Grand Valley.
18	Not specific to Area	David Nelson	Self	Maintain Bangs as wilderness area. Protect Bangs from roads and traffic, noise and overhead aircraft noise. Do not allow motorized use and don't build any roads through Bangs.
19	Not specific to Area	Anne-Marie Matula	Self	Moved to CO in part because of beauty of state. Preservation/protection gains include: tourist dollars from outdoor enthusiasts, peace from living near beauty, protection/preservation of environment for plant and animal life and future generations. Consider management of beautiful and quiet areas for hikers, trail runners, wildlife viewers, horseback riders to enjoy. Hold public meeting to address issue.
20	Not specific to Area	Bill Day	Self	Supports 1999 "Bangs Canyon Wilderness Character Inventory Evaluation". Motorized travel be restricted to currently existing routes in areas BLM didn't find wilderness qualities.
21	Not specific to Area	Debbie Olson	Self	Reconsider management plan for Bangs Canyon. BCMP to be implemented according to specific standards with input from BC citizens advisory committee. Part of citizens wilderness proposal and federal legislation sponsored by Congresswoman GeGette found by BLM to contain features necessary to be wilderness. Once BLM meets administration and monitoring obligations per the BCMP, implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use on designated routes with routes clearly marked and all other routes closed to motorized.
22	Not specific to Area	Eric Edelstein	Self	Appalled BLM proposing to increase motorized use. Worth saving due to proximity to major metropolitan area, wild nature, cultural heritage, and desert environment. Desert Bighorn Sheep do not mix well with motorized vehicles. Protect wild places.
23	Not specific to Area	Joan Sample	Self	Won't go to Bangs Canyon if wilderness and quiet are compromised.
24	Not specific to Area	David A. Lien	Self	Protect roadless/wilderness quality lands in BC. Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, wildlife habitat, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Fully consider resources to be compromised. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use on designated routes with routes clearly marked and all other routes closed to motorized. Close all illegal roads/trails to return to state of naturalness.
25	DUPLICATE LETTER OF PREVIOUS E-MAIL (comment #12)			

26	Not specific to Area	Mark Archuleta	Self	Follow appropriate scoping process before changing use of Bangs Canyon.
27	Not specific to Area	N.J. Fulmer	Self	BLM needs to preserve critical deer winter range and bighorn sheep habitat by not allowing mechanized travel disturbance. Lands meeting wilderness criteria should be protected under wilderness guidelines. BLM shouldn't compromise natural scenic beauty and cultural characteristics by allowing increase recreation use or oil drilling in Bangs.
28	Entire Area	Jared Renner	Motorcycle Trail Riding Association	Commend BLM for work. BC great for all types of recreation and user groups. Supports proposed routes in draft plan dated 1/9/04 concern about segregation of user groups with areas divided up for motorized/bicycles/horses/walker emphasis. This will happen, but with Colorado NM, Black Ridge Wilderness area, and other non-motorized areas to BC, no reason for all of BC to included motorized routes, esp. single track. Like to see motorized single track in Areas 5 and 6 to connect with single track in all other areas to form large loop which will disperse motorized use and enhance area. Let area be public land where all enjoy diverse recreational opportunities.
29	Area 4, 2	Clark Rieves	Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Assoc.	Support new single-track proposed on canyon rim in area 4. Hope mountain bikers can use these trails. Slickrock best surface for mountain bike/motorcycle shared trails. Hope engine noise not impact nearby non-motorized use. Prevent motorized traffic from emerging on Gunny Loop by use of kiosks with ethic message, signage, sight barriers, and physical barriers. Use choke points or similar features to keep motorized use off of single track trails. Thanks for BLM efforts.
30	Entire Area	Clare Bastable Gregg Cassarini Bill Grant Nic Korte Eric Rechel Mark Scholfield	Mesa County Wilderness Coalition	BCMA critical natural and undeveloped landscape which wilderness characteristics should be maintained. Possess sense of remoteness and solitude. Area sees high volume of recreational use and corresponding impacts, mainly inappropriate and unmanaged use of motorized vehicles. Commend BLM for efforts to manage motorized/non-motorized use, but considerable resource impacts caused from current motorized use. More is needed to protect area from motorized recreation impacts. Part of citizen wilderness proposal and federal legislation sponsored by Congresswoman GeGette found by BLM to contain features necessary to be wilderness. BLM should protect area from irreversible and irretrievable impacts. New information about wilderness qualities should be considered. Area meets wilderness requirements necessary for federal designation and with this in mind, BLM should amend its RMP. BLM didn't follow protocol established in BCMP and is considering management changes which could alter wilderness character area. Bangs wilderness would protect natural and undeveloped landscape and sensitive and endangered plants and animals, critical animal habitat, and cultural resources. Any commitment of wilderness resources requires an amendment to RMP. Changes should not occur through implementation process but through public involvement. Outside area BLM in 2000 found to have wilderness area, recreation and travel management should provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and areas set aside for responsible motorized use, with all travel limited to designated routes under a closed unless posted open policy. Commend BLM for managing areas such as area 1 as quiet use areas. BLM efforts to eliminate illegal

				motorized and non-motorized in other areas through signage is noticeable. With exception of Billings Jeep trail, implementation hasn't involved significant commitment of resources which new proposal does. Closed routes/existing routes are used with new routes being created. BLM staff resources not adequate to stop/prevent illegal use and new routes shouldn't be created until they can. BLM obtained funds to implement project prior to meeting BCMP protocol. Area 4 popular quiet use area. Large scale motorized system will negatively affect non-motorized use experience. Not aware of any monitoring plan for BC which should be developed and include implementation protocol prior to any large new development. Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Redo scoping.
31	Not specific to Area	Jeremy B. Jolley	Self/MTRA	In favor of proposed motorized riding areas in Bangs and anticipates other future connecting trails.
32	Entire Area	Gregg Cassarini	Colorado Environmental Coalition	Interested in information BLM has regarding recreation use numbers for BCMA and areas 1-6. Interested in finding out how information was obtained and would like copies of data.
33	Not specific to Area	John Martin	Self	Supports creation of 23 miles of motorized single-track trails. NCA has closed many historical routes. BLM constructs non-motorized trails and should pay attention to motorized community who are often best supporters, including annual funding. No other user group offers regular financial support. Complaining seems more effective than partnership.
34	Area 1, 2, 4	Pete Kolbenschlag	Mesa County Wilderness Coalition	Letter to Charlie Kerr, Northwest RAC, CC'd to BLM, Re: .Part of citizen wilderness proposal and found by BLM to contain features necessary to be wilderness. New information about wilderness qualities should be considered. Area meets wilderness requirements necessary for federal designation and with this in mind, BLM should amend its RMP. BLM didn't follow protocol established in BCMP and is considering management changes which could alter wilderness character area. BLM should keep inventories of public land resources current and consider this information in plan updates/implementation. BLM has not analyzed wilderness character of land in NEPA document and not notified public about travel management planning and implementation. Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Major infrastructure development must be based on administrative record. Areas 1, 2, and 4 should provide fair mix of non-motorized and motorized recreation, the core roadless maintaining primitive characteristics. BLM should amend plan taking into account protection of proposed wilderness lands, segregation of motorized/non-motorized uses, no motorized thoroughfare for Tabeguache Trail, and protections for habitat, sensitive species, cultural resources and other public land resources.

35	Not specific to Area	David Merriam	Self	Supports creation of 23 miles of motorized single track. BLM constructs non-motorized trails and should pay attention to motorized community who are often best supporters, including annual funding. No other user group offers regular financial support. Complaining seems more effective than partnership.
36	Area 4, 5, 6	Mark Schofield	Concerned Citizens Resource Association	Wishes to be consulted and included as a stakeholder for BC implementation. Interested in area 4 motorized proposal and plans affecting wilderness quality lands in areas 5 and 6. Asks for next process step for implementing/determining new motorized routes in Area 4. Asks for opportunity for group to give input of proposed new routes.
37	Entire Area	Lon S. Carpenter	Colorado Mountain Club	<p>Preserving areas wild values and ecological integrity and providing fair balance of recreational activities important. Recognition during trail design that visitors exhibit a range of skill levels and reasons/experiences for trail use. Like to see nature, wildlife and scenery aspects considered for hiking trails in BC. Preservation of wild/quiet places with sustained ecological values should be considered by BLM in allocation of recreation locations/densities. New trails subject of through environmental analysis. Understand concept of shared trails but would prefer to see non-motorized trails. OHV use not compatible with backcountry experience. Hiking trails priority in BC as this is largest user group on BLM in CO and Mesa Co. Interest in clarifying CMC and BLM data sources. Hiking trails less impact on environment and are consistent w/plan. Specific comments by area and general comments follows:</p> <p>AREA 1: sufficient trails in Area 1 to meet travel emphasis needs. Recommend: acquire access of trailhead easement off Mira Monte Road for access location alternative, construct parking area off Little Park Road near upper end of Lunch Loop to serve Eagles Wing and Ribbon Trail. Do not improve/upgrade Widomaker section.</p> <p>AREA 2: consider area unique/special. Outstanding hiking/backcountry experience with easy access. Attracts experienced hiker with most foot travel cross country. Has one hike/bike trail (Ribbon) bisecting area. No new trails should be constructed in Area 2 to preserve backcountry experience with exception of ¼ mile trail off Little Park road extending to connection to south end of Old Gordon Trail. Recommend construction of parking area on west side of Little Park Road near north end of Ribbon Trail.</p> <p>AREA 3: Most popular area for hiking due to Mica Mine Trail. Other two trails accessed from parking area (lower Rough Canyon and old cattle trail to Clarks Bench) are used less due in part to lack of directional signs and difficulty finding route. Improvement of hiking trails appropriate in area including: improve downstream trail in Rough Canyon between 'slot' and falls and continue trail below falls, provide more directional signs for Clarks Bench trail and improve trail above Gunsight Notch, and improve existing, heavily eroded trail which bypasses falls above Mica Mine and connect it with existing trail above falls. Trail section below Mica Mine follows creek bed through willows, may consider reroute section above creek.</p> <p>AREA 4: Travel planning most controversial in this area. BLM recently proposed significant increase in motorized trails based on interpretation of plan. BLM acting as if mandate set to develop high-density</p>

			<p>motorized use in Area 4. Disagree with interpretation based on three key points: 1.) plan allows for motorized trail construction with limitations on any form of trail construction. Guidance for locating new trails and criteria for selecting new routes for any type of trail is connectivity to existing routes and designated OHV system will be developed from existing trails. 2.) 26 miles of additional motorized routes in Area 4 does not fall within letter or spirit of plan which states “no...recreation management or other public land uses allow unique, scenic, and cultural resources of Bangs...to be compromised”. 3.) BLM focuses only on motorized trails when discussing single track. Single track can also refer to hiking only trail. If BLM must develop trails in Area 4 recommend they be singletrack. First Flats and Billings Canyon turnoff offer moderate terrain appealing to dog walkers, less strenuous hikes, and runners. Area 1 contains these type trails and is showing signs of overuse. Great need for more Area 1 type trails. 4.) Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for single track construction only and didn’t refer to two-track (wording from 1st draft of plan). Now two-track is part of plan and must be considered. Out of respect for four years of committee work, it is appropriate for greater weight be given to single track construction as opposed to two track or ATV trails. Recommend the following: allocate recreation only to degree that wild values, natural quiet, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, and other natural values protected for enjoyment of future generations. Recreation enjoyment significantly diminished if landscape loses basic ecological integrity, provide designated hiking trails on old interlaced road system at First Flats by installing signs and rock barriers to guide hikers, complete Magellan Route for use by motorized and mechanized users, connect existing road at First Flats with existing road ½ mile to south for use by OHV’s, and upgrade parking area at turnoff to Billings Canyon and place information kiosks.</p> <p>AREA 5: Most remote/interesting/attractive parts of Area 5 are West and Main Bangs Canyons. Minimal use of two canyons by hikers because of long hiking approaches/access difficulties. Primary users of Area 5 are mountain bikers, ATV users, dirt bikers and jeeps modified for rough road travel. BLM found in official wilderness inventory 21,000 acres of Bangs Canyon management area qualified as wilderness. Deserves protection. Do not recommend construction of any type of new trails in Area 5. Two locations where motorized trails exist where hiking could be accommodated: 1.) north rim of Rough Canyon (on Kayenta slickrock layer) south of present two track. Main improvements needed include signage although minor regarding and clearing may be required, 2.) old ATV trail to mining claims in Rough Canyon be converted to hiking use if activity at mine suspended. Prefer to keep Area 5 wild as possible. Oppose construction of road from Hwy 141 to termination of two track portion of Tabeguache at south end. Larger and more accessible staging area for hikers and mountain bikers recommended off Hwy 141.</p> <p>AREA 6: Few hikers spend time here due to difficulty of accessibility. Only feasible approach for hikers along Tabeguache. Prefer to keep area in current wild state with no new trail construction.</p> <p>GENERAL COMMENTS: CMC available to work with BLM on new construction and improvements. Formed Stewardship Committee which is presently working with BLM on similar trail projects in other areas. Plan includes “Adopt-A-Trail” program and would be interested in taking on a trail. Encourage</p>
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				<p>implementation of annual review and report process followed by participation/comments from users. All motorized/mechanized use in Bangs managed so use in allowed only on designated routes marked as open.</p> <p>Strongly oppose proposal of 26 miles of new motorized trail system in Area 4. Primary concerns are: BLM gone to considerable work to lay out, survey trails, and initiate EA work prior to notifying all users and public. Better to have notified public that travel management plans being prepared for area and request comments per CEQ's regulations pursuant to NEPA and BLM's NEPA handbook. Network of roads not in compliance with management plan. Proposal reflects bias towards motorized use. Members not likely to use trails as presence of OHV's conflict with hiking experience. Currently less than 2 miles of signed and designated single track hiking trail in entire area. Support emphasis on single track trails if trails are to be built. Recommended slight increase in hiking trails and reduction in motorized trails. Must be balance in trail types and BLM must provide opportunities for all travel. Not realistic approach to achieve balance separately in each smaller management units in GJFO. Higher concentration of motorized trails may be more appropriate in lower desert such as Bookcliffs. Other locations, including Bangs, where protection of resources are more important would be higher concentration of hikers and hiking trails. In BLM advisory meeting, motorized recreation community advocate admitted Area 4 not ideal place for high intensity motorized use. BLM involve public in implementation of plan. Should conduct scoping as required by NEPA and CEQ regulations. Notify all members of public about proposed projects, don't be pre-decisional, and provide adequate opportunities for public to provide input. Notified that scoping not been formally initiated on travel management proposal re: 26 miles of new motorized trails in Area 4. Urge BLM to initiate scoping before proceeding further with project development and design. Bangs important to CMC, would like to preserve natural character while offering responsible recreation opportunities. Interested in scheduling time with BLM to discuss contents of letter.</p>
38	Not specific to Area	Vicki Mercer	Self	<p>Reconsider management plan for Bangs Canyon. BCMP to be implemented according to specific standards with input from BC citizen's advisory committee. Part of citizens wilderness proposal and federal legislation sponsored by Congresswoman GeGette found by BLM to contain features necessary to be wilderness. Once BLM meets administration and monitoring obligations per the BCMP, implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use on designated routes with routes clearly marked and all other routes closed to motorized.</p>
39	Not specific to Area	Patrick Huber	Self	<p>Growing demand for wild places. BLM should adhere to BCMP protocol. Protection of scenic and natural values take precedence to OHV's. Motorized trails posted open. BLM should adopt balanced vision where roadless areas are kept motor free.</p>

40	Not specific to Area	Chelsea Morgan	Self	Protect roadless/wilderness quality lands in BC. Implement BCMP through public, broad based process adhering to plan protocol. Implement plan after meeting administration and monitoring obligations specified in plan. Designate protection of natural, wilderness, wildlife habitat, scenic, and cultural resources as highest priority. Ensure recreation and travel management provide balance including quiet use areas, non-motorized/non-mechanized/backcountry areas and motorized use with clear indication of what routes are closed to vehicular travel. Rare because of proximity to large metropolitan area.
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Comments received during and after meeting

Comment No.	Area of Interest	Name	Representing	Comment
41	Not specific to Area	Richard Spotts	self	Concerned about controversy. Observed resource damage/user conflicts caused by increased OHV uses. Must manage and control OHV uses to reduce damage, conflict and to ensure multiple use on healthy public lands. Soil disturbance caused by OHV uses is contributing cause of conversion of 4,000 acres every day to invasive exotic weeds in the west. Recreation use shouldn't be at the expense of other natural resources. Designated OHV roads/trails should be designed to minimize problems. Days of "open" and "free play" areas should be over. Users should help pay for OHV trails and managing the resource damage caused by OHV use and taxpayers should not subsidize.
42	Core area	Crystal Murphy	self	Preserve wilderness in Bangs Canyon which she and family has enjoyed for years. Do not allow motorized routes in the core area of Bangs containing wilderness qualities. Uphold management plan.
43	Not specific to Area	Charles Stoyer	self	Support management plan which is a good mix of access for both motorized and non-motorized uses. As he gets older, will likely prefer motorized.
44	Not specific to Area	Cara Golden	self	Concerned about more motorized use in Bangs Canyon. Live in GJ and hikes with friends and dog. Dogs can get hit by motorized vehicles. Hike is pleasant, quiet and scenic. Ecosystem needs preserving as intact ecosystems have intrinsic value. Allow no motorized access in core of Bangs found to contain wilderness character by BLM in 1999. Conduct site-specific NEPA for all proposed trails. Trails in valley not crowded or overused.
45	Not specific to Area	Ernest Bradley	self	Heard BLM is considering allowing motorized traffic in core area of Bangs. BLM isn't close to areas value as wilderness. Bangs is one of only protected areas for desert bighorn sheep. Home to number of natural wonders and wildlife would be significantly impacted if motorized travel allowed in these areas. BLM reconsider allowing further motorized travel in Bangs.
46	Not specific to Area	David Battista	self	Support Bangs Canyon plan. Anti-access people have no right to fight plan.

47	Not specific to Area	Jim Maucker	self	<p>Heard that 23 miles of motorized trail is proposed in Bangs. Want to ride dirt motorcycle in Bangs. Many riding areas closed or reduced so must travel further to find interesting places to ride. In favor of 23 miles of new motorized multiple use trails. Construct to connect with other trails giving loop route. Understand area is designated for motorized recreation and other areas closed to motorized recreation. This will help replace lost opportunities. Local clubs willing to partner on trail care and Colorado OHV program can help fund project. The more wiggly and unusual the trail the better.</p>
48	Not specific to Area	Jacob Wilbert	self	<p>Historically used Rough Canyon in four wheel drive. Always cleaned up trash and stayed on trail. One of favorite trails because of beauty and diverse terrain. Trail now closed. Four wheeling helps him deal with wife on active combat duty. Still uses Bangs area regularly because of close location and scenic beauty. Like to see re-opening of Rough Canyon trail. Like to see sustainment of all current trails in area. Not advocate of new trail construction but interested in keeping four wheel drive trails open to four wheel drive vehicles. Environmental impact of existing trail has already been made and closing an existing trail doesn't unmake it.</p>
49	Entire Bangs area	Jared Renner	MTRA	<p>Bangs excellent area for motorized use. Already areas of exclusive hiking emphasis. Motorized community benefited large portions of BLM in area from funds for licenses for use of land, use of vehicles, and volunteered time for clean-ups and land management. Community has benefited from tourism due to motorized trails in area. Grand Valley needs more food motorized trails especially single track. Connecting dead ends of trails is a win for all users and greatly reduces tendencies of all users to go off the trail. Steer away from segregating user groups. Some non-motorized groups fabricate/embellish conflict because outcome proven to always benefit them. If BLM feels segregation necessary to curb conflict, ask that motorized-only trails be created to implement fairness among user groups. Give consideration to more motorized trails in all six areas in Bangs.</p>
50	Entire Bangs area	Scott and Diane Waybright	self	<p>Applaud BLM for recognizing differing needs for recreational users other than hiking. Appreciate BLM is considering constructing trails in area 4, allowing for close access for motorized users. Close dead end trails and develop loops so party spots are removed and decrease existing erosion problems through responsible trail design. Is there an opportunity to create trails specific to needs of each type of user: hiking trails for hikers, single track for mountain bikes, separate single track for motorcycles, etc? Limited resources available to fund project, but possibility to appease everyone. Comments given by environmental concerns about group to find other areas to construct motorized trails in areas other than Bangs. Oppose this suggestion as this appears to be stall tactic when efforts and resources have already been utilized to find solution and implementation of this recreational area. Sat in area four group and not involved in other discussions, but agree area three should be expanded for the hiking community. Oppose any wilderness designation in Bangs. Oppose closure of Tabeguache trail. Questions BLM motivations for closing Tabeguache.</p>
51	Area 4	Steven Schiff	self	<p>Area 4: area represents only 8% of Bangs Canyon. Motorized trail system appropriate. Leaves 92% of area as predominately non-motorized. Dirt bikers legitimate user group who have rights to enjoy public lands with proper trail design and maintenance. Dirt bikers just as respectful as other user groups. Also</p>

				environmentalists, without environment, could not enjoy sport and therefore must be good stewards of the land.
52	Bang not mentioned	No name given	No name given.	Appreciate opportunity to share views in forum. Meeting with adversaries can be useful for all. Lay out better ground rules for spokespeople to report objectively the broad, diverse outcomes of working groups.
53	Bang not mentioned	Tamera Minnick	self	Some trails designated as motorized use only. Exclusive use for hikers and sharing motorized trails disingenuous. Non-compatible uses. Alleviate complaints by motorized users to designate some for their exclusive use.
54	Bangs not mentioned	No name given	No name given	Public comment by area presentations became editorials by presenter with bias slant. Fair approach pursued so audience can hear objective presentation.
55	Bangs not mentioned	Wayne McFeetidge	Self (Western Slope ATV stationary)	Assist trails coordinator. Want new trails. Trails closed puts more use on trails left open. Hikers have 100% of trails.
56	Bangs not mentioned	Richard Alward	self	No additional roads and trails constructed until BLM has resources to enforce use on existing roads and trails. May "partner" with user groups to accomplish this. Resources allocated for monitoring of user effects on resource. Trails designated as OHV use only.
57	Area 4	Tamera Minnick	Self.	Plan talks about motorized trails in area 4. Understand wanting more loops instead of out and back trails, which is in plan. Proposed single track trails in area do not seem to work into management goals. Trail areas that are erosion prone should be closed, replaced with other trails and connecting trails put in with no new loops placed. This would make a high density motorized trails area changing the areas current character in spite of management goals. Minimize building of new trails in area.
58	Entire area	Wade/Nate Green	Member of Western Slope ATV Assoc.	Open closed trails to OHV use. Construct new connected loops and trails in area 5 and 6, the longer the loop the better. Access to Bangs area from Hwy 141 and parking area. Use volunteers and clubs to help. Utilize area with handicapped persons in mind.
59	Bangs not mentioned	Clark Rieves	self	Motorized users need to improve ethics before building new motorized trails. Uncompahgre Plateau motorized users serve as good model.
60	Entire area	Gary Shaw	Western Slope ATV Association	Construct trail around private property on ??? (not legible) Construct trailhead from Hwy 141. Open closed motorized trails. Close no more motorized trails. No credit given during presentation to WSATVA for club adopting Tabeguache Trail and cleaning up trash and litter. Will gladly volunteer to assist in relocating trails for loops.
61	Area 5 and 6	Jerry Haberland	Western Slope ATV Association	Recommend additional trails for four wheelers in areas 5 and 6. Need staging area off 141. Existing trails that have been closed in 5 and 6 that could be easily looped into existing trails. Organization willing to help.
62	Entire Bangs	Steve Chapel	Western Slope ATV Association	Open all routes closed as a result of citizen's wilderness proposal. Area should become Citizens Recreation Area. Construct new ATV trails in areas 5 and 6. These areas more environmentally friendly for motorized trail use than other areas due to topography. Provide Hwy 141 access to Bangs to increase accessibility in all directions and keep existing Bangs staging area from becoming over populated. Two staging areas will balance use/prevent over use. Willing to become involved in

				locating, constructing, and financing (via grant monies) ATV trails in Bangs and elsewhere. Want at least one 40 mile loop open to all uses except full size vehicles. Currently several hundred miles of ATV trails on USFS land and less than 20 miles on nearby BLM.
63	Entire Area	Deborah Napier	self	Monitor unleashed pets. All areas monitored for animal waste from pets especially areas closed to GJ. Encourage volunteer work groups to identify and eradicate invasive weeds and non native species. Consider presence of young children on al trails. Post trail use rule where shorter people can read them. Consider safety of children and/or threat posed by unleashed pets.
64	No comment given	Jacob Wilbert	Self	Requesting copies of powerpoint slides and all handouts.
65	Area 1	No name given	self	A couple of designated at top and bottom with signage of downhill travel only. Make sections hard enough that they can't be ridden uphill. Create "freeride" area at bentonite hill area where several lines can be built, with big drop offs and jumps. This will help with illegal building of trails. This will draw high level riders to area and bring revenue to city.
66	Entire area	Oscar Massey	self	All areas open for mule deer habitat and livestock grazing. Upper end of Bangs has small herd of elk as well as Rough Canyon, Clarks Bench and Horse Mesa for mule deer. Guided for mule deer in these areas in past (outstanding), last year saw only one buck. Consider wildlife winter habitat. Close some roads, sand flats, rough canyon from Gunnison River to Round Knob roads. Close roads and trails when game winters here. Keep pristine areas free of roads and trails. Public needs some place to get lost in without signs, vehicles or guidance. Don't forget the explorers. Do away with WSA/Wilderness. Work with landowners and permitted livestock permittees. Make signs that address the rattlesnakes and mountain lions. Small herd of elk in Billings.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS TIMEFRAME – BANGS CANYON

Bangs Canyon Implementation meeting – May 2004

BLM review of public input – ongoing

Feedback to public and request to participate in development of EA – August 2004

Site specific components of EA developed by area:

- Area 1, 2, and 3 – August and September 2004
 - Area 1-3. August 28, field trip to view trail location proposals. Meet at Monument Road trailhead at 8:00 a.m.*
- Area 4, 5, and 6 – August through December 2004
 - Area 4. August 21, field trip to view trail location proposals. Meet at Little Park Road trailhead at 8:00 a.m. Group will caravan to sites. All participants responsible for own transportation. Four wheel drive vehicle, required.*
 - Area 5-6. September 11, PLEASE NOTE, THE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED DATE OF SEPTEMBER 4 WAS POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Field trip to view trail location proposals. Meet at East Creek day use area, approximately 3.5 miles south of Hwy 50 on Hwy 141 at 8:00a.m. Area signed as “East Creek Day Use Area”. Group will caravan to sites. All participants responsible for own transportation. Four wheel drive vehicle required.*

Refinement of proposal, development and publication of EA – December 2004

* RSVP to Britta_Laub@co.blm.gov with your phone number, e-mail address, or other contact information. Be ready for an all day field trip. Bring lunch, water, hiking shoes, and clothing layers in case of inclement weather. TO BETTER MEET LOGISTICAL NEEDS, USE OF ATV'S AND MOTORCYCLES ARE NO LONGER AN OPTION FOR THE FIELD TRIP. FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION ONLY.