

Dominquez Escalante NCA

Recreation Planning Focus Groups Report 2010-2011

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Part 1: Focus Groups

I. Introduction

Aside from traditional public land uses, like grazing, the Bureau of Land Management has begun to recognize the opportunity to manage for the beneficial outcomes that result from recreation. These include benefits that accrue to the individual (quality-of-life), to the community (in social, political, and economic terms), and to the environment (landscape and natural systems maintenance). The recognition of these benefits has necessitated the use of diverse investigative methods that reflect changes in management practice and can support and inform those practices. Gathering public input on public land management issues has become increasingly reliable because of the diversity of methods available. Such diverse methods are not only useful but necessary in untangling the complex issues and concerns attendant on managing for not only traditional public land use but also for emerging and changing recreational use.

In the past, BLM recreational planning has taken several forms. In activity-focused management, the focus solely on activities fails to yield an explanation of why a particular activity occurs in a specific place or what the results of recreating in a particular way might produce. While still a management option, activity-focused management is enhanced by an experience-based approach. Experience-based strategies attend to the importance of where recreation takes place. It is not enough to know that people hike on public lands; it is also important to know why certain locations—because of views or archeological points of interest—are more important to hikers. This approach regards recreation as something more than simply a sweaty activity and indicates that users have less tangible values that they attach to public lands. Finally, outcome focused management combines the virtues of both activity-based and experience-based strategies with a recognition of the importance of the results of such recreational practices. If views are what draw users to public lands, the outcome of resource extraction has to be balanced against views. Clearly management plans that incorporate all three models require a diversity of methods to untangle their complexity. This reports the results of the use of diverse methods in analyzing and supporting recreational decisions about the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (DENCA) and the newly created wilderness area that is a part of it.

II. Methodology

Focus groups are part of the standard research portfolio available to and encouraged by the BLM as part of the RMP process. What focus groups add to surveys is the language which groups use to describe and explain their own preferences. Participants decide how to discuss the management plans, the terms of that discussion, and the justifications or explanations for those terms. According to one argument, “[t]he interrelationships between a variety of issues and concerns, while complex, provide insights that should guide policymakers’ decisions by offering a better picture of the preferences and opinions of diverse groups of citizens about the implementations of policy” (McCarney, Shreckhise, and Lovrich 1999 155). Focus group research is centered on the participants and driven by the participants rather than by the researchers. In this way, it leaves rooms for ideas and information to come from rather than being imposed on the natural dialogue. Since the participants in the planning process are also the most regular users of the public lands under discussion, this is not simply a gesture of good will on the part of the BLM but may provide essential clues as to how to express planning decisions.

In combining I-clicker technology with a focus group format the NRLPI was able to, primarily, make the best use of the short time frame available for conducting the interviews. Since researchers had a fairly limited time for each meeting, the combination of I-clickers, which allowed researchers to see immediately where areas of consensus or areas of disagreement existed, focus the group’s discussion on those issues. In this way, the maximum amount of time and discussion could be devoted to an examination of the reasons why such a range of opinion might exist.

The I-clicker technology used is fairly new. By linking each I-clicker to the central computer, researchers could show participants the group's responses to any question. Responses were displayed as a bar graph at the end of a few seconds when all participants had had the opportunity to input their individual responses. Anonymity was maintained because, while the group could see the final responses represented as a bar graph, there was no way of assigning any particular vote to any particular person. The I-clickers also include technology that allows the researchers to see if any participant changed their response before the time allowed expired and how long it took each respondent to settle on a particular "vote." These two pieces of additional information might allow investigators to make some statements about the certainty or stability of participants' opinions.

A. When and Where to meet

The DENCA is located halfway between two population centers, Grand Junction and Delta. Citizens from both locations are frequent visitors to the NCA and significant stakeholders in the process, therefore it was determined that the focus groups should be held in both locations. Two non-wilderness focus group meetings were held in Delta and two in Grand Junction. The zone that each focus group covered was determined by proximity to the population centers. Zone 1 and 3 meetings were held in Grand Junction because these zones are principally accessed by the northern and western boundaries of the NCA and Grand Junction is located northwest of the NCA. Meetings for zones 2 and 5 were held in Delta because zone 5 is on the eastern edge of the NCA adjacent to Delta, and Zone 2 (the river corridor) is principally accessed for water-based recreation at points in Delta County (although many of the takeouts are located in Mesa county).

Because stakeholders for the Wilderness area are located in both population centers, it was decided to hold two focus groups on the Wilderness, one in Delta and one in Grand Junction. The questions for each of these focus groups were the same (with a few noted additional follow up questions in Delta that emerged from the conversation); however, the responses to the same questions differed dramatically between the two locations. In hindsight, choosing two locations for the same meetings on Wilderness turned out to be an important dimension of this research and their results. It is recommended, given the differences between responses from a rural community (Delta) and a regional city (Grand Junction) that another focus group be conducted in a "local" urban area such as Denver or Salt Lake City to compare the possible differences in attitudes and values regarding the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. Such a focus group was not part of the original study.

B. Invitations and Populating Groups

The focus groups were populated through open invitation to all interested members of the public in the form of press releases announcing meeting times, locations and zones of focus. All meetings were also posted on the BLM website and invitations were emailed to all contact lists generated by NRLPI focus groups in the pre-designation focus groups sponsored by the county commissioners of Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties. Because of the open invitation format, these focus groups were facilitated as focused scoping public meetings.

III. Zones

The non-wilderness portion of the DENCA was divided into 4 zones (1,2,3,and 5) for the purposes of facilitating conversation with the public about the diversity of landscape. Originally these zones were setup (along with the wilderness area as zone 4) in the pre-designation conversations in order to discuss the unique areas within the proposed NCA. Zone 1 is the area between Highway 50 (NCA northern boundary) and the river corridor known as the "Hunting Grounds." Zone 2 is the Gunnison River corridor. Zone 3 is the area between Highway 141 (NCA western boundary) and the western boundary of the WSA. This area is known as "Cactus Park" and is principally accessed from routes on the western edge of the NCA. Finally, Zone 5 comprises every other part of the NCA that isn't already a part of another zone. This zone (5) focuses on Escalante Canyon, Sawmill Mesa, and the remote area between the Big and Little Dominguez Canyons on top of the mesa known as "Wagon Park." These areas were grouped into the same zone

due to similar access and use patterns (ranching, hunting, riding, etc.) in the eastern portion of the NCA. A decision was made to maintain continuity with the pre-designation process by maintaining the use of these zones in the current recreational surveys and focus groups so that comparisons could be made between the two points of public input (pre and post designation) in an effort to maximize the opportunity for public input.

The Dominguez Canyon Wilderness was established by Congress in the 2009 enabling legislation for the Dominguez Escalante National Conservation Area (DENCA). The legislation outlines the boundary for the Wilderness Area and places the landscape under the regulation of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Most, but not all, of the former WSA was established as Wilderness. The WSA had been known as Zone 4 in previous focus groups, but because of the very distinct requirements of Wilderness Management it was determined that there should be two separate focus group scripts (see Appendices 1 & 2) for Wilderness and non-wilderness landscapes within the DENCA. While the non-wilderness focus groups were to highlight recreation related questions to supplement the results of the recreation surveys also conducted by the Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute (NRLPI) at Mesa State College; the Wilderness focus groups needed to consider a broader perspective beyond recreation to address the unique challenges of wilderness management. Questions for both focus scripts were developed in collaboration with BLM staff.

Five zones were established in the Wilderness area to see if the different settings would have an impact on the way the public perceived wilderness values and management options in those areas. Zones 1 and 2 are the highly trafficked portions of the Wilderness at either end of the Big Dominguez Canyon (Zone 1 is the three miles after the confluence with the Gunnison River to the popular petroglyph site known as “Newspaper Rock”; Zone 2 is the first few miles downstream from the BLM Dominguez campground, itself situated just beyond the Wilderness boundary). Zone 3 is the area between these two zones along the Big Dominguez Canyon as well as the Little Dominguez Canyon from the confluence to Poison Canyon and Lightning Basin. The zone acts as a transition zone between the two highly visited zones (1 and 2) and the most remote zone in the Wilderness (Zone 5 which encompasses the upper portion of Little Dominguez Canyon down to Poison Canyon). Zone 4 is the mesa area on the eastern half of the Wilderness area from the eastern rim of Little Dominguez Canyon to the western rim of Escalante Canyon. This zone is primarily accessed from the east through Escalante Canyon and holds most of the grazing leases in the Wilderness area. Some differences were noticed in the responses between these particular zones, but not as many as one might have expected. It seems that the public made more distinction between specific issues/actions in the Wilderness than on specific landscapes in the Wilderness.

IV. Focus Group Demographics

A total of 117 participants signed in at to at least one of the focus groups in this phase of the research. The largest focus group had 28 participants in Delta for zone 5. The smallest focus group had 10 participants in Delta for zone 2. Participants were encouraged to sign in (although when compared to participation in the i-clicker portion of the meeting about 10 percent in any given meeting chose not to sign in. Numbers reported reflect only those who signed in).

Table 1 Focus Group Participant Numbers

Location	Zone	Participants
Grand Junction	1	15
Delta	2	10
Grand Junction	3	24
Delta	5	28
Grand Junction	Wilderness (4)	27
Delta	Wilderness(4)	13

V. Zones by group affiliation

Participants were asked to provide their name, email address, phone number and “organizational” affiliation, if any. Based on the responses in the organizational affiliation column in the sign-in sheets the following pie charts were created. Some meetings such as zones 1 and 2 and both wilderness meetings had a diverse representation of various stakeholders, while meetings on zones 3 and 5 had far less diversity of stakeholders. In the Zone 5 meeting, which covers Escalante Canyon, one third of the participants identified themselves as ranchers on the sign-in sheet and most of those self-identified as residents of Escalante Canyon. Given the under-sampling of this group in the survey intercept methodology, the focus group offered valuable insight into the concerns of these key stakeholders and provided them with an opportunity to participate in the planning process in a way that they might have missed without the focus group.

The Grand Junction Wilderness meeting had a particularly diverse mix of individuals, and the second largest total of participants (27) in the study. Although OHVs are restricted from accessing wilderness, nearly a quarter (22 percent) of the participants in that wilderness meeting identified themselves as associated with an OHV organization. The Grand Junction Wilderness focus group had participation from county government, ranchers, and organized recreational groups representing a wide variety of activities (hiking, fishing, hunting and horseback riding). One quarter (26 percent) of the participants at the meeting did not offer an affiliation, which is the highest percentage of unaffiliated of any Grand Junction meeting. Two meetings in Delta had nearly 40 percent of the participants opting not to identify and affiliation, which might reflect a greater distrust of organizational identification consistent with research on rural communities in the inter-mountain West. This explanation was supported by many of the comments made at those meetings by the participants. The Grand Junction Wilderness meeting was also balanced well demographically by a wide range of ages among the participants and far more gender balance than most of the other meetings including several members of the “Great Old Broads for Wilderness” organization. The specific percentage of group affiliation by participants of all meetings is represented in the accompanying pie charts.

Chart 1: GJ Zone 1

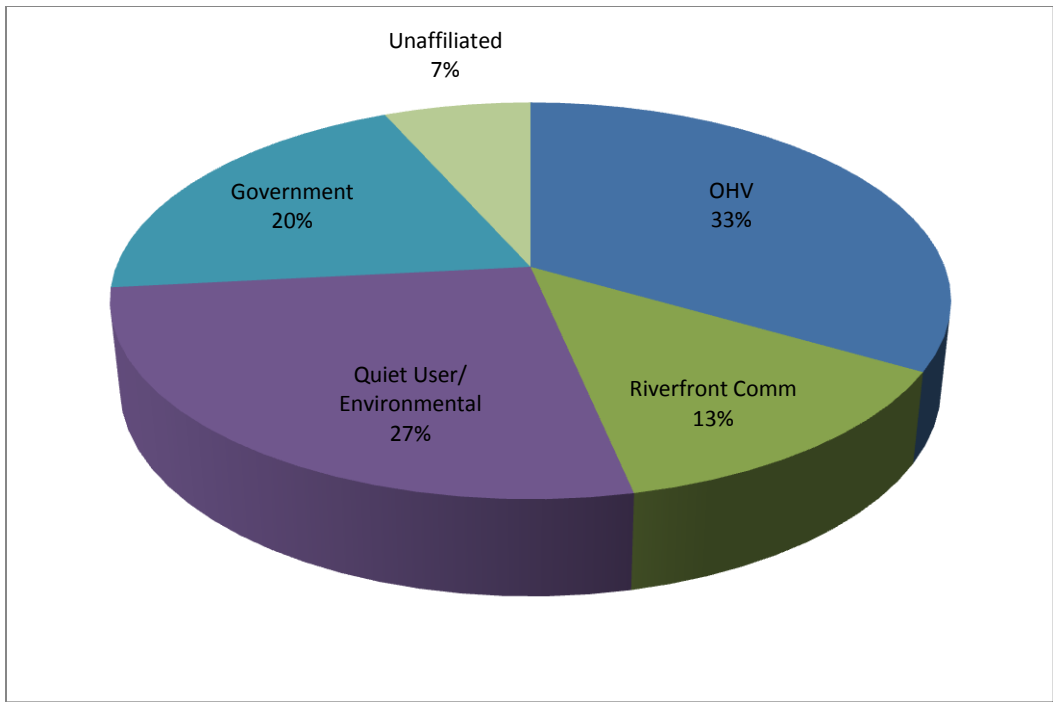


Chart 2: Delta Zone 2

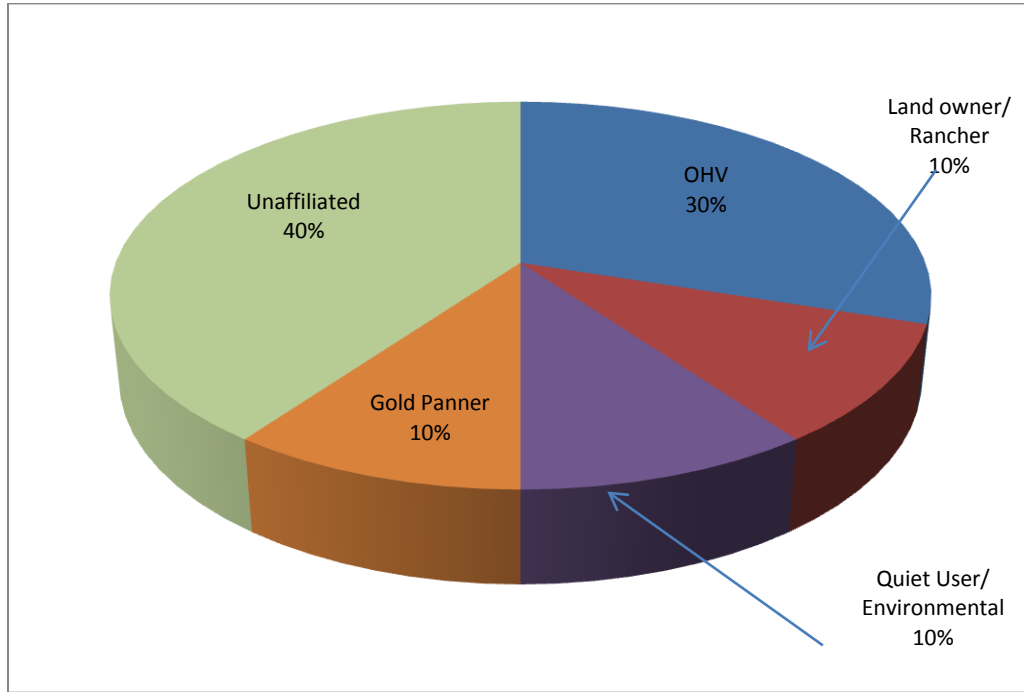


Chart 3: GJ Zone 3

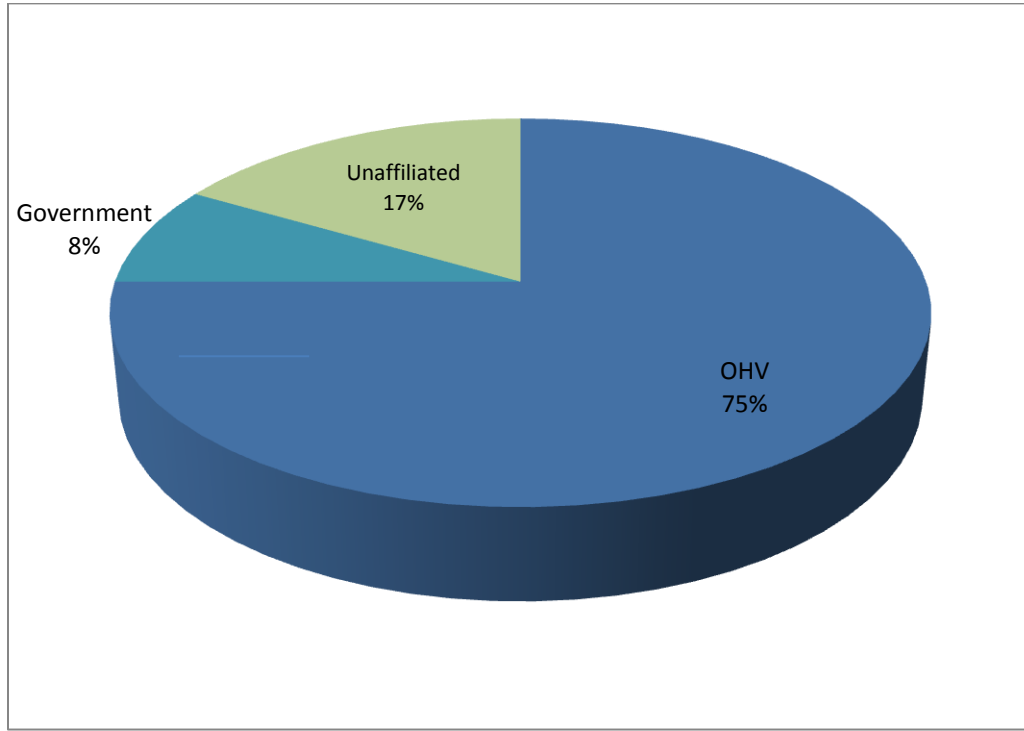


Chart 4: Delta Zone 5

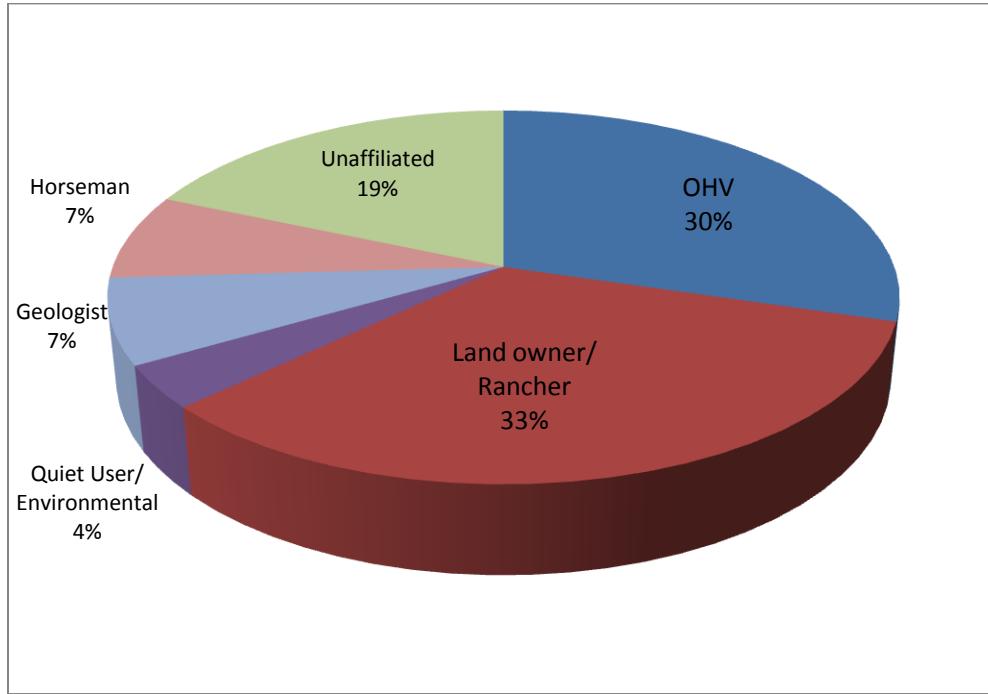


Chart 5: GJ Wilderness

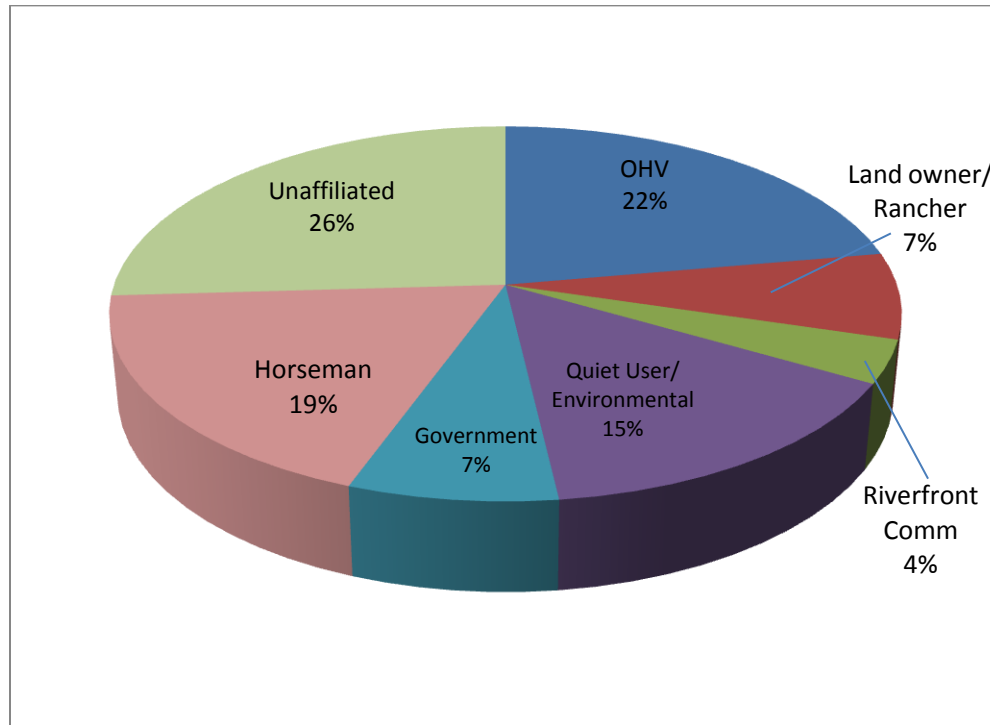
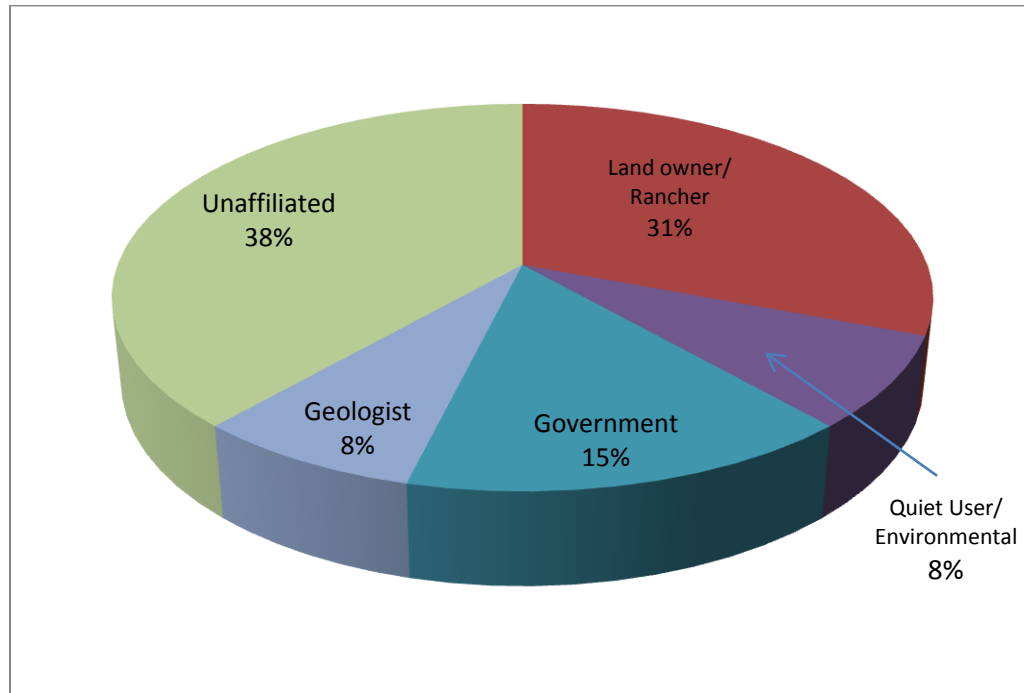


Chart 6: Delta Wilderness



VI. Non-Wilderness Focus Groups

The attached scripts (Appendices 1 and 2) have complete wording and context of each question asked in the non-wilderness zone based recreational focus groups and the Wilderness Management focus groups in both locations. What follows is a brief discussion of why specific questions were asked in each the non-wilderness zone recreation focus groups.

In the non-wilderness focus groups (zones 1,2,3 and 5) the same questions were asked for each zone. Initially, the participants were given a list of issues that were raised for that zone in earlier focus groups conducted by the staff of NRLPI prior to NCA designation. This continuity was important for several reasons. It would be foolish to throw out those issues and start fresh when many of them would just be placed on the agenda again. The i-clicker question on the salience of the issue would be able to sort out issues that were no longer of concern for the zone. The participants, many of whom also participated in those earlier discussions, need to see that their efforts at identifying issues were honored and respected in the process. After the issues were listed, participants were given the opportunity to add to the lists as many issues as they thought were faced in that particular zone. For a complete set of all issues raised in each zone as well as a record of comments made throughout the focus groups not captured in this report see the complete meeting notes of each meeting attached to this report as Appendix 4. Next, in an effort to facilitate deeper discussion on a few issues raised that were of the highest important to the participants there (an average of 10-20 issues were listed for each zone), and to hear from everyone in the room on every issue efficiently, i-clickers (audience polling technology) were used to anonymously poll the participants on the importance of each issue to the zone today. Three to four issues were identified in each zone as most important to a majority of participants as recorded through their i-clicker responses. After each

issue, the results of the i-clicker responses were displayed as a bar graph for each value in a 5 point scale. This display was used for follow up discussion and transparency in the process.

For the purposes of this analysis, the mode and the median were selected as better measures of central tendency than the mean or average. Mode and median are most often used where the intervals between responses on a continuum have no measureable meaning. The difference between “most important” and “second most important” are purely subjective in the minds of the respondents; this means the mean or average sheds little light on the data. Selecting the mode, or most popular response (or responses), however, allows researchers to examine where populations have “loaded” their answers on a single response, like consensus, where they are divided between two responses, or where no consensus exists at all. The mode then allows BLM personnel to assess not only which values are most important but how broad the consensus on their importance is. The median is the response that falls in the exact middle of the sample when all responses have been arranged in order from largest to smallest. In a way similar to mode, the median gives a more accurate picture of the distribution of responses in each group and for each value. The scale used in the non-wilderness focus groups ran from A “not at all important” (coded 1) to E “most important” (coded 5) The null value on this scale, the equivalent of “I don’t know” or “I have no opinion,” fell at “B” and was coded as 2.

Table 2 Issues in Non-Wilderness Focus Groups

Issue	Zone	Mode	Median
Trails	1	5	5
New Routes	3	5	5
Rec. Opportunity	3	5	5
Road Closures	3	5	5
Community Connection Trail	1	5	4
Travel Management	5	5	4
Permits	2	5	3
Multiple Use	1	5/4	4.5
	5	5	5
Private Land/Property	1	4/3	3
	2	5/3	3
	5	5	4
Water Rts./Diversion	2	4	4
	5	4	4
Hunting	2	4	4
	3	4	3
	5	4	4
Scenic Views	1	4	3.5
Gates/Fences	3	4	3.5
	5	4	3.5
Stock/Wildlife Ponds	3	4	3.5

	5	4	3.5
Overuse	2	4	3
Law/Plan Enforcement	2	4/3	3
	3	3	3
	5	5	4
Camping/Fire/Grp. Use	3	4	4
	5	3	3
Grazing	1	2	2
	5	5	4
Litter/Vandalism/Partying	1	3	3
	3	3	3
	5	4	4
Restrictions	5	3	3.5
Trespassing	5	3	3.5
Spanish Trail	1	3	3
Commercial Outfitting	2	3	3
Consumptive Use (firewood/quarry)	3	3	3
Separate Use Groups	3	3	3
Weekend/Weekday Use	3	3	3
Potholes	5	3	3
Streams and Riparian	5	3	3
Archeological Sites/Protect	1	2	2.5
	2	4	3
Rec. Prospecting	2	3	2
Fishing	5	3	2
Wildlife (corridors/buffers/habitat)	1	3	3
	2	4/3	3
	3	2	2
Access to wilderness	2	2	3.5
Search and Rescue	5	2	2.5
Fire Suppression	2	2	2
Vegetation/Plants	1	none	2.5
	5	none	3
Target/Undefined Shooting	1	3/2	3
	5	1	2
Railroad	1	1	2.5
Day Use Fees	2	1	2
Noxious Weeds	2	1	2

This table summarizes the mode and median for issues discussed in various zones. It, also, reflects the fact that some issues were important in more than one focus group. As such, it shows the degree of consensus both within and between zones. So, for example, zones 2, 3, and 5 agree that hunting is a “really important” (coded as 4) with the most participants responding in that way in their own groups and those groups sharing a common most popular response. This tells BLM planners that hunting is a value that is broadly shared (across three areas/groups) and that it is a “really important” issue to users of public lands in those areas. It is important to remember at this point that not all issues were raised in all focus groups. Some issues, like archeological sites, may only have been pertinent to zones that actually have significant archeological sites, in this case petroglyphs.

Table 2 also reveals the complexity of opinions within zones. So, for example, it is not enough to be able to say that grazing and cattle related issues are important to the participants in the zone 5 focus groups. By examining the table, BLM planners can easily extract exactly what about grazing and cattle-related issues concerns public land users. From the table, multiple use, gates and fences, trespassing, stock ponds, etc. are all either “most important” (coded as 5) or “really important” (coded as 4) to the participants in zone 5. This might be expected from the fact that 33 percent of the participants in that group were ranchers, but the exact nature of their concerns—non-ranching users do not consider closing gates, recognize that they are trespassing on private property or misusing stock ponds.

VII. Community and Environmental Benefits

According to the theory of Benefits Based Management there are three types of benefits that the BLM manages for when formulating recreational policy. These are: benefits to the individual; benefits to the community; and benefits to the environment. An example of individual benefit from mountain biking might be exercise that makes the individual healthier. An example of community benefit from OHV riding could be the economic benefit of buying gas and supplies and staying in local hotels, etc. An example of an environmental benefit from hunting would be the overall health of the herd by reducing the number of deer competing for winter grazing. When a recreational user engages in an activity on public land, benefits accrue in one or more of these areas. While one would hope that these benefits are positively enhanced as a result of the activity, there is also the possibility of negative outcomes as a result of individual participation in a particular activity in a given area. The participants were asked two questions to get at their perceptions of benefits in any category and negative outcomes as a result of certain activities in a particular zone. Since the recreational survey did a good job at identifying many individual benefits to particular activities, the participants were encouraged to consider the benefits to the community and the environment.

Table 3: Community and Environmental Benefits

Benefit	Zone(s)
Enhances tourism	1
Historic Preservation – link to heritage	1,2
Education about public lands	1,2
Economic benefits – gear, lodging, restaurants, refueling, guiding	1,2,3,5
Get out of city – get refreshed	1

People come back happier/more productive	1,2
Get away from everyday life	1
Meet friends – develop social relationships	1,5
Creates a sense of ownership/stewardship for public lands	1,3
Community Development	1
Enhances civil society	1
Agriculture in area contributes millions \$ and food	2
Adds kids to school system	2
Rest and Relaxation	2
More eyes on ground to help law enforcement	2
Community policing	2
Family bonding time	3
Volunteers help build trails (save BLM \$)	3
Pick up trash while recreating	3,5
Hunting, Fishing, wood cutting - help manage wildlife and vegetation	3
Assist in search and rescue operations	5
Access all year round – way to be outdoors	5
Enhances quality of life for residents	5
Builds connection to land, they want to protect it	5

The table above indicates the responses given to the question of benefits and the zone meetings that in which they were mentioned. Where the benefits were identified in more than one zone, each of the zones it was mentioned in is indicated. For example, the economic benefits to the local communities as a result of recreational activity in the NCA were mentioned in all zones. The educational and heritage theme so prominent in the partnership responses was also identified here as desirable especially in the zone 1 and 2 meetings. It is interesting to note that in zone 1 a number of responses indicated that recreation activity in the NCA enhances the community development and understanding of how to participate in the democratic process (civil society), as well as providing an opportunity to address such issues as the need for law enforcement (identified as an issue in every zone) because of the increase of “eyes on the ground”, neighborhood watch model of community policing. It was also suggested that a sense of ownership/responsibility/stewardship could be enhanced by participation in recreation activities in the NCA.

VIII. Public-Private Partnerships

Once the key issues (for that particular zone) were identified, participants were asked how the BLM and partners could address these issues. The results of this discussion generated a useful list of potential partnerships the BLM can pursue to maximize limited resources in the management of the NCA.

Table 4: Suggested Partnerships

Zone	Partner	Task/Notes
1	Riverfront Commission	Trail from GJ to Delta through Zone
1	County Governments	Law Enforcement, recreation prioritization
1	School Districts	Educational outings with students
1	Partners Program	Opportunities for youth work on BLM lands
1	Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts	Opportunities for youth work on BLM lands
All	Natural Resource Venturing	Connecting youth to landscape through adventure recreation
1	Local Chapter of Old Spanish Trail Association	Historic Trail Preservation
1	Mesa Land Trust	
1	WSATV	Trail Building, Cleanup days, Search and Rescue
1	Cabelas, Sportsman's Warehouse and others	Public information campaigns and in-kind donations of materials
2	Law Enforcement -County and State	Vandalism, trespassing and other enforcement issues
2	Local/adjacent landowners	Planning process, vandalism, trespass and other property issues, access
2	Railroad	access, safety
2	Volunteer groups	Take head counts of recreation groups in zone
2	Stakeholders advisory group	on-going consultation with BLM on issues as they arise
3	WSATV	Trail Building, Cleanup days, Search and Rescue

3	Ranchers	Gates, trespass issues
3	DOW	wildlife habitat management
5	County Stakeholder's Association	
5	USFS	Joint use land management issues because of proximity and shared watershed
5	Law Enforcement -County and State	Vandalism, trespassing, speeding on Escalante Canyon Road and other enforcement issues
5	County Governments	Law Enforcement, recreation prioritization
5	Property owners	planning process, vandalism, trespass and other property issues, access

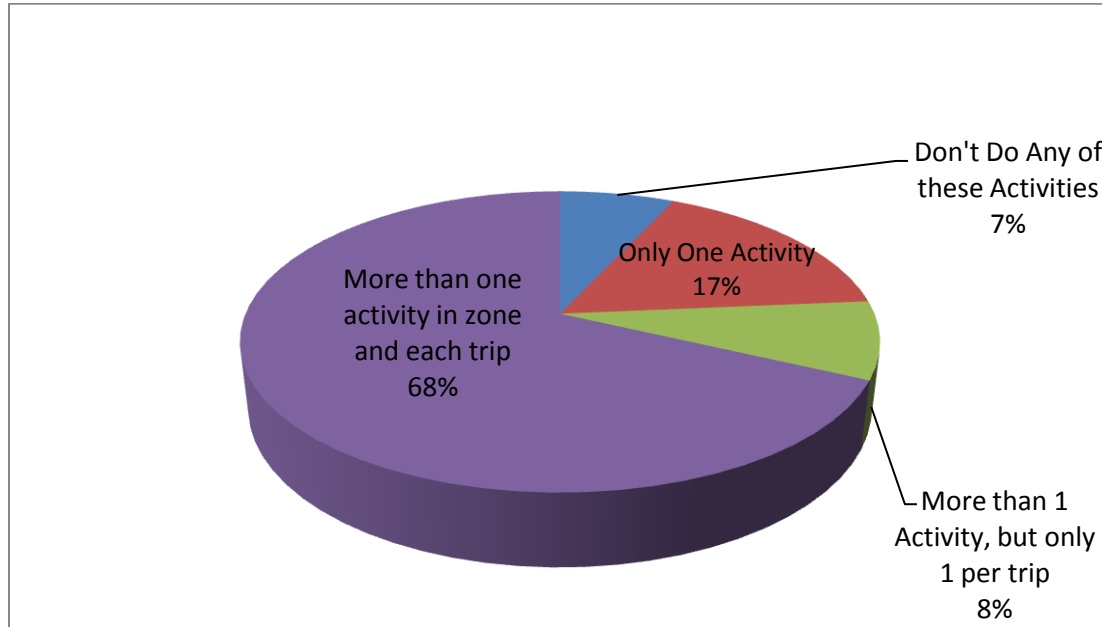
Several partnerships that were suggested draw from on-going relationships between the BLM and various organizations in other parts of Western Colorado such as the work done by COPMOBA on trail building; the efforts of WSATVA on search and rescue, trail building and cleanup days. Other partnerships mentioned highlight the need for the BLM to engage cooperating agencies such as the DOW on habitat management; the county government on law enforcement and recreation prioritization; and the USFS on joint management of watersheds. Local property owners adjacent to the NCA (from ranchers to railroads) are mentioned often as vital partners to address issues of access, safety and trespass/vandalism. Trails were listed as very important issues in several zones, and partnerships with local trails organizations such as the Riverfront Commission and the local chapter of the Old Spanish Trail to work on the trails (particularly in zone 1) were suggested as fruitful partnerships moving forward. It is interesting to note how prevalent the suggestions of partnerships with youth organizations arose as a unique opportunity in the NCA as a whole and in zone 1 in particular. Participants seemed to strongly emphasize using the NCA as an opportunity to renew outreach and partnerships by the BLM involving education and engagement of the young in the management and enjoyment of public lands. Educational and interactive partnerships suggested include the local school districts, the Partners program in Grand Junction, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and Natural Resource Venturing. Finally, participants also indicated the value of developing partnerships with local service providers such as Summit Canyon Mountaineering, Cabelas, REI and Sportsman's Warehouse to support volunteer projects through in-kind donations and public relations campaigns. Asking the simple question on possible partnerships to assist in addressing issues raised generated a tremendous list of opportunities for the BLM to pursue, but it also educated the public on their responsibilities to participate in the management of public lands. Through the discussion, participants gained from each other concrete examples of how they might develop partnerships with the BLM in the future.

IX. Single use vs. Multi-Use

The participants were asked to list the activities that they engaged in while visiting that particular zone which was the focus of the meeting. The lists generated for each zone are contained in the meeting minutes (see Appendix 4) and don't differ substantially from the activities identified in the surveys (see survey report). A follow up question was asked regarding how many activities the participants engaged in within the zone on each visit. Much of the research on recreational activity on public lands accepts that the lands are multi-use, but generally treats the individual participants as single activity

participants. One is either a hiker or a mountain biker or an OHV rider or a birder, etc. Although recreational management on BLM lands is supposed to be outcomes focused management, often management plans are written for activities. Surveys often assume that every response to questions about outcomes and setting characteristics refer to a single activity¹. The focus group question on multi-activity use tests the validity of the traditional planning assumption of single activity recreation.

Chart 7: Experience of Activities in this Zone (aggregate of all zones)



Every participant was able to record their response to the activity question through the use of the i-clickers. It should be clear from the pie chart aggregating all zone data that the majority of users (68 percent) are multi-activity participants each trip to the NCA. An additional 8 percent of respondents engage in a variety of activities, but tend to participate only in a single activity on any particular visit to the NCA. Only 17 percent of the respondents indicated that they were only considering a single activity in a particular zone. Although these figures are aggregated across all zones, when disaggregated the percentages reported remain very similar for each individual zone. If recreational planning is based primarily on managing for specific activities in a particular location, these results suggest that it misses the most common approach to recreation by the public. These results seem to indicate that regarding recreation, the public not only supports the BLM's multi-use mandate for the landscape, but they also embrace that multi-use mandate as individual recreation users in their personal approach to the NCA.

¹ Another way of addressing this gap between activities and outcomes is the development of niche bundles which is discussed at length and used in the analysis within the survey portion of the NRLPI report for the DENCA.

X. Interactions between Recreation and other Management Objectives

These non-wilderness focus groups were designed to better understand not only recreational options, but the interaction between recreation and the other management objectives. The final two questions in the focus group asked the participants to identify how the interaction between management for other purposes beyond recreation (i.e. vegetation, visual resource management, public safety, etc.) impacts their desired outcomes while recreating, and how their recreating can impact those management objectives. The following table highlights the responses given to those questions and the zones in which those responses were given.

Table 5: Interaction between Recreation and other Management Values

Zone	Impact of other Management Objectives on Recreation	Impact of Recreation on other Management Objectives
1	Travel management decisions impact access	Archeological Sites get disturbed by increased recreation
1	Need wildlife and habitat to make recreation worthwhile	Increased interest in archeological sites as recreationists encounter them
1	Noxious Weeds	Increased recreation leads to gates left open
1	Disparity of treatment between recreationists and other users by BLM	Building trails increases stress, and noxious weeds
2	Disparity of treatment between recreationists and other users by BLM	Restricted access to recreational opportunities because of other issues.
2	Need to protect arch sites and traditional uses.	
2	Make public aware of opportunities and limitations through maps.	

3	Travel Management closes roads	Overuse of landscape from concentrated activities in one area
3	Gates left open	Need for public education in the area.
3	Overgrazing can hurt the appeal of an area.	Need signage to direct uses

XI. Conclusions

Responses to issues, partnerships and benefits questions indicate that recreational participation can have a direct impact on the other thirteen management objectives identified in the enabling legislation for the NCA. These purposes include: scenic, geological, cultural, archeological, paleontological, historical educational and natural values, as well as scientific understanding, wilderness, wildlife, riparian habitat and water. If properly managed, recreational opportunities in the NCA can enhance these other management objectives and contribute to their preservation. However, there are certain potential negative outcomes such as trash, vandalism and habitat destruction also identified in the issue and negative outcomes questions in relation to recreational activity that must be addressed through an integrated resource management plan focused on the interrelationship between all fourteen identified management objectives. It is important not to plan for any one of these objectives without considering the interaction and impact on all others.

XII. Wilderness Meetings

A. Wilderness Act and Wilderness Values

There are three principle documents that guide our conversation regarding Wilderness Management. The first was passed by Congress in 1964 entitled the Wilderness Act. This is the guiding document for all designated Wilderness in the federal landscape. While it is a lengthy document with a wide variety of regulations and guidelines for how Wilderness Areas are to be managed, for our purposes here it is worth noting that in Section 2 (c) it outlines several guiding values for Wilderness management. It is worth quoting that section in its entirety as it defines what wilderness is and what its wilderness characteristics are.

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

The second guiding legislation is the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act which specifically designated the Dominguez Escalante area as a National Conservation Area to be part of the *National Conservation Landscape System* and further designated the area we are discussing tonight as the Dominguez Canyons Wilderness Area to be managed according the 1964 Wilderness Act, with specific Unique and Supplemental Characteristics to also be preserved. According to that act, several characteristics are unique to the NCA as a whole, although not necessarily the Wilderness area specifically, they include such things as: ancient petroglyphs and dwellings, flower-strewn meadows, outstanding habitat for desert bighorn sheep, and scenic streams replete with waterfalls and plunge pools.

The final set of guiding documents are the various agency field manuals and RMPs one interagency set of guidelines is called “Keeping it Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System” written in 2008, which, as the name suggests, is an interagency document trying to operationalize the values embodied in the Wilderness Act and develop management guidelines to preserve these values. These concepts were conveyed to the Wilderness focus groups before questions were asked in order to give them a context and frame of reference in order to answer questions.

B. Script – Questions Asked

The Wilderness meetings were centered around a series of hypothetical management situations that forced a tradeoff between two or more wilderness values. Often it is difficult to manage for both at the same time, so the BLM was interested in getting public input on these tradeoffs if that were the case. Complete questions and descriptions of all tradeoffs are located in the Wilderness script in Appendix 2. Complete i-clicker responses to all questions asked in the Wilderness meetings for tradeoffs and zones are located in Appendix 3. Table 6 is derived from the complete data in Appendix 3. Of the questions asked when one value had the clear majority of responses strongly favoring it, then it was considered the dominant value for that trade off. The number in the table represents the number of times that value was a dominant value in the hypothetical tradeoffs. If no value had a clear super majority, but it still was significantly ahead of another value it was recorded as “split leans X” where X represents the dominant value. These splits indicate some disagreement within the group over which value should dominate in the tradeoff. If both values received roughly similar support, or the balanced option (C) was dominant, then that tradeoff was recorded as “True Split – no dominant.”

Table 6: General Tradeoff Dominant Values

Dominant Value	Delta Wilderness	Grand Junction Wilderness
Untrammeled (UT)	7	2
Primitive and Unrestricted Recreation (UR)	3	1
Natural (N)	1	2
Solitude (S)	3	1
Undeveloped (UD)	3	1
Unique and Supplemental Values (UV)	2	6
True Split – no dominant	3	2
Split – leans UT	0	1
Split – leans UR	1	1
Split – leans N	1	1

Split – leans S	0	2
Split – leans UD	1	1
Split – leans UV	0	2

See Appendix 3 for complete responses on all values.

Table 6 makes clear that there are a number of differences between the two communities regarding wilderness values. The Grand Junction group had far more splits between the values than the Delta community did. Delta seemed to favor leaving the landscape (UT) and the people (S or UR) alone in the Wilderness Area, whereas the Grand Junction group favored the Unique and Supplemental Values (UV) as well as the naturalness (N) associated with this particular Wilderness area. Although table 6 gives a nice overview of the dominant values associated with each set of tradeoffs, table 7 below offers a more nuanced understanding of the responses to specific tradeoffs. It is important to know not only the dominant value, but the strength of that dominance, and the value it is juxtaposed against in a particular hypothetical tradeoff. In table 7, the dominant and non-dominant values are shown for each specific tradeoff as well as the relative strength of that dominance as measured by the total number of responses indicating that a particular value is either strongly preferred or somewhat preferred. By listing these values and the number of participants selecting them in a given tradeoff, we can see more clearly how the various values relate to one another for the focus group participants.

Table 7: Specific Value Tradeoffs

Question Number	Description	Delta				Grand Junction			
		Dominant Value	#	Non-Dominant Value	#	Dominant Value	#	Non-Dominant Value	#
1	Remove Gate	UT	6	UD	2	True Split	11	True Split	11
2	Limit Use	S	8	UR	3	Split UR	14	S	12
3	BH Sheep Capture (UT)	UT/N	8	UV	3	UV	22	UT/N	5
4	BH Sheep Capture (S)	S	7	UV	3	UV	23	S	3
5	Habitat Treatment for BH Sheep	UT	8	UV	3	Split UV	15	UT	10
6	Exiting trails for access to UV	Split UR	7	UV	5	UV	17	UR	7
7	Reveg existing trails	UT	10	N	2	UT	23	N	3
8	Construct Trails	UD/UR	12	UV	1	UD/UR	11	UV	7
9	Tamarisk w/ hand tools	True Split	6	True Split	6	N	17	UT	6

10	Tamarisk w/ chainsaw	True Split	6	True Split	6	N	14	UT	9
11	Limit Group Size	Split UR	7	S, UT	5	S, UT	15	UR	6
12	Const. minor facilities to protect Archeo.	UV	8	UD	4	UV	15	UD	8
		Delta				Grand Junction			
Question Number	Description	Dominant Value	#	Non- Dominant Value	#	Dominant Value	#	Non- Dominant Value	#
13	Const. major facilities to protect Archeo	UD	8	UV	3	UV	14	UD	6
14	Const. minor facilities to protect Archeo	UR	9	UV	4	Split UV	13	UR	9
15	Interp signs in Wilderness	Split UD	8	UV	5	UD	16	UV	6
16	Interp signs at trailhead	UV	8	UD	3	UV	16	UD	4
17	Paleo Research	UT	13	UV	0	Split UT	14	UV	9
18	Paleo Research	S	14	UV	0	Split S	13	UV	11
19	Fire Restoration – human caused	N	9	UT	5	N	19	UT	5
20	Trail Restoration	UT	10	UD	4	True Split	11	True Split	11
21	Recreation Survey in Wilderness	S	11	UV	3	Split S	12	UV	8
22	Recreation Survey at trailhead	Split S	7	UV	6	N/A		N/A	
23	Stock pond construction for grazing	UV (grazing as UV)	11	UD	1	N/A		N/A	
24	Fire Restoration –Natural Causes	Split N	8	UT	5	N/A		N/A	

On a number of occasions similar questions were asked to determine the extent of support for particular values as management actions increased in intensity or the scenario juxtaposed a variety of different values against each other. In the case of management for Bighorn Sheep (a unique value [UV] identified in the enabling legislation for the NCA, the hypothetical situation required Trammeling by darting and collaring the Sheep, but it also impacted solitude as helicopter over-flights are a typical way to gain access to the sheep to dart them. Another question regarding Bighorn Sheep suggested a tradeoff between habitat treatment to improve the health of the herd and the trammeling that would take place to treat that habitat. The Grand Junction focus group consistently sides with the unique value of the Bighorn Sheep herd (although there intensity does vary as seen in table 7), while the Delta focus group seemed to prefer leaving the wilderness alone and let “nature” take care of the sheep. Although Tamarisk removal is popular almost anywhere in the West, the method of removal (hand tools vs. chainsaw) had absolutely no impact on the Delta focus group, and only a slight change in the Grand Junction support for removal. Another series of tradeoffs centered around the construction of facilities (such as a low or high fence) to protect the unique values of the petroglyphs. The first two questions in the series tried to tease out a threshold if it existed on how major or minor the fence (Development, UD) could be, or did it matter. The next question assumed a minor facility and tested instead the tradeoff with unrestricted primitive recreational opportunity. In this case, the size of the facility had almost no impact on the Grand Junction focus group, but it entirely changed the dominant value in the Delta Focus Group. In Delta they were also very concerned about restrictions on personal liberties in a Wilderness area, and hence they favored unrestricted recreation (UR) over almost anything it is paired with. When asked whether interpretive signs for the petroglyphs should be located near the sites in the wilderness, or out of the wilderness at the trailhead; the resounding response was to construct the signs at the trailhead out of the wilderness. The last few paired questions were asked only in the Delta meeting as follow up discussion to the original questions posed. In the case of fire restoration, although the distinction was asked for between human caused fire and natural caused fire, in terms of how they would be treated. This did not seem to have much impact at all on the preferences expressed. Moving recreational surveys to the trailheads to preserve solitude in the wilderness itself was favored by larger margins, but in general, they are not as open to recreational surveys as we might have hoped for given the volume of recreational surveys we have administered across Western Colorado. The participants in Delta also asked that we consider grazing as a unique value (since it is mentioned in the enabling legislation), and pose that against the value of UD, the results were clearly in favor of the ability to construct stock ponds, even in the Wilderness area. It is also interesting to note from the table 7, the difference between the focus groups in Delta and Grand Junction. In 50 percent of the tradeoffs, the focus groups arrived at different dominant values, in some cases the difference were substantial (such as the questions regarding Bighorn Sheep management and preservation of archeological sites). These divergent value selections and the significant number of split decisions within each focus group will pose a challenge for land managers to determine what the publically preferred management decision should be. It will be important that these tradeoffs, in particular, be delineated in the various alternatives developed for the Resource Management Plan so further discussion might clarify the issues surrounding the disagreement about which wilderness value to emphasize in each case.

C. Zone Dominant Values

The Wilderness area was divided into zones and the participants were asked within the zone to rank their preferences for particular Wilderness values. This was designed to help planners have some idea of public desires for those areas if future tradeoffs arose that were not anticipated in the hypothetical tradeoffs discussed earlier. Once again i-clickers were used and each value was assigned to a particular choice on the audience polling device. Each zone (described earlier in this report) was identified then participants were asked to choose their most important value for that zone, then their second most important value for that zone, then the least important value for that zone. The table below indicates the number of zones (5 total) in which a particular value was ranked as most important (second most or least) as the choice by more than a third of participants at that meeting. Thus, more than one dominant value could be selected for a zone if there was a relatively close split among the participants. Appendix 3 has the complete data of choices made for each value on each zone at each meeting.

Table 8: Value by Wilderness Zone

Value	Most Important		2 nd Most Important		Least Important	
	<i>Delta</i>	<i>GJ</i>	<i>Delta</i>	<i>GJ</i>	<i>Delta</i>	<i>GJ</i>
Untrammeled (UT)	3	0	3	0	3	1
Naturalness (N)	0	5	0	3	2	0
Undeveloped(UD)	0	0	0	3	0	0
Solitude or Unrestricted Recreation (S,UR)	5	1*	4	0	0	4
Unique and Supplemental Values(UV)	0		0	0	4	4

* Zone 1

Although untrammeled (UT) was the most preferred value in specific tradeoffs for the participants of the Delta focus group, when considering the Wilderness area by zone, the dominant value for all five zones (for at least 33 percent) was primitive and unrestricted recreation (UR).² Untrammeled was also an important value for at least three of the zones according to the Delta focus group, but it was also the least important in three of the zones as well, indicating a split among the group on that value. The Delta group seemed to have the least importance for unique and supplemental values (UV) in the majority of zones which is consistent with their responses during the direct tradeoff portion of the discussion. For the participants of the Grand Junction focus group, there was a clear preference for naturalness (N) in all five zones, with a secondary emphasis on the undeveloped (UD) wilderness characteristic in the majority of zones. In four of the five zones, they selected unrestricted recreation as the least important value in direct contradiction to the strong emphasis placed on that value by the members of the Delta focus group. These differences between focus groups will be explored further in the next section. Complete responses to each of these questions as well as specific zones related to these value preferences can be found in Appendix 3. Zone 1 stands out in the Grand Junction focus group for the emphasis on unique values (UV) of the petroglyphs and bighorn sheep populations. In all other zones, the Grand Junction focus group was in agreement with the Delta focus group that unique and supplemental values are the least important characteristic of the zones.

D. Differences between Communities

One of the most interesting outcomes of this discussion of Wilderness values with groups from Grand Junction and Delta is the noticeable, often completely opposite, differences between the communities. The strong emphasis in the Delta focus group on the wilderness characteristics of untrammeled and unrestricted recreational opportunities as well as some emphasis on solitude and undeveloped characteristics suggests a vision of wilderness as an area that should largely be left alone, not interfered with. The strong emphasis on unrestricted recreation and solitude would seem to

² It should be noted that solitude and primitive, unrestricted recreational opportunities have been collapsed into one category in the Wilderness Act and here in this research. However, as the tradeoff questions suggest, these two may also be in conflict. Certainly they mean different things to most people, therefore, if selected by over a third of the participants a follow up question was asked to distinguish between the two. In the Delta focus group, every time that question was asked, the overwhelming majority of the group indicated they were thinking of primitive and unrestricted recreation rather than solitude.

indicate that they not only wish the landscape to be left alone, but that a Wilderness area is a place in which people should be left alone as well. This image of wilderness, which certainly can find support in the 1964 Wilderness Act, highlights the values of freedom and independence which can often be found in rural parts of the Intermountain West. Several of the follow up comments from the Delta group seem to suggest that the Wilderness Act itself is already too restrictive, so if Congress has designated the area as Wilderness, managers shouldn't add to the restrictions by directing recreational opportunities or trammeling on the landscape.

This vision of wilderness stands in contrast to the emphasis on unique and supplemental values as well as naturalness found in the Grand Junction focus group. In one quarter of all specific tradeoffs, the participants of Grand Junction favored unique and supplemental values over competing wilderness characteristics. Although that support did not carry over to general zones in the wilderness (except for zone 1), there was a very strong emphasis on naturalness in the rest of the zones and several specific tradeoffs as well. This emphasis would suggest a different vision of wilderness centered around wilderness as special place that stands in contrast to the ordinary and the obvious influences of humanity that characterize life in a more suburban environment such as Grand Junction. John Muir suggested that one of the values of wilderness is that one knows there is a place out there which hasn't come under the influence of humanity in a way that urban and suburban communities have. Wilderness, in this case becomes an opportunity for contrast to the "modern" world. The strong showing of undeveloped (UD) in the Grand Junction group would also seem to support this thesis. Given the developed nature of the city environment in Grand Junction, it should not surprising that this vision of wilderness would find more resonance in that population. The emphasis on unique values also indicates that what is special about wilderness to the Grand Junction group is that it's not an ordinary place, and thus in need of protection to maintain the uniqueness. This vision of wilderness as difference and wilderness as natural (as opposed to a place manipulated by humans) can also find support in the description of wilderness embodied in the 1964 Wilderness Act and the enabling legislation for the Dominguez-Escalante NCA.

Where the two visions of wilderness represented by the Delta and Grand Junction focus groups coincide, there should be clear direction for managers to develop a plan of action, however, in many cases the differing visions of wilderness seem to be pulling the management in two directions simultaneously. In these cases, it will be important that a reasonable range of these choices is presented in various alternatives in the draft EIS so that the impacts of differing emphasis can be assessed. The public discussion during the review of the alternatives will be important to determine if there are ways to resolve the seemingly contradictory aspects of various wilderness visions.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Non-Wilderness Focus Group Script

Focus Group Questions for Dominguez-Escalante NCA Recreation Planning
BLM GJFO RMP process
September 2010
Mesa State College

Introduction: {Introduction Slide with title information – institute, NCA title, zone number}

Good evening/afternoon, My name is Tim Casey, I am a professor of Political Science at Mesa State College and the field coordinator for The Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute at Mesa State. A few years ago we were asked by the county commissioners of Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties to assess the community support for the designation of a National Conservation Area (NCA) in the Dominguez –Escalante Management area between Grand Junction and Delta, Colorado. As a result of those discussions, and others, Congress acted to create the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. Part of the designation was a mandate for BLM to develop a management plan for the NCA with public input as an important component of that planning effort. Our meeting here tonight/today is part of that process. We have been asked by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help them understand better how recreation fits into the community vision for this landscape. This is not the only way to gather information from the public, we have a number of issues that surfaced in our initial discussions two years ago, we have been surveying visitors on the landscape over the past year, and the BLM has a formal scoping process in which they will be accepting public comments until October 1. This focus group is designed to better understand some of the information we have already gathered by asking follow up questions, your participation in this focus group is a critical part of this planning process. I want to thank you for your willingness to spend some time with us to better understand the community's desires regarding recreation on BLM public Lands in the DENCA. Your participation in this focus group is entirely voluntary, and you are welcome to leave at any point, or simply choose not to answer a question if you don't want to. Your answers to these questions will remain anonymous, but the responses in this focus group will be part of the public administrative record of the NCA planning process. The entire focus group experience should take about an hour and a half or two hours at the most, and there are some snacks in the back that you are welcome to go and get at anytime. Are there any questions so far?

As part of the focus group process, we will be using the "i-clickers" that you were handed when you came in. Please turn your clicker units on at the top when we ask for you to record your input through the "i-clicker". You can do so by pressing the on/off button at the bottom of the clicker unit until the power light at the top of the unit stays on. When you push a letter choice (A-E) it will be recorded anonymously by the receiver unit plugged into my laptop. We can then display the results on the overhead to facilitate further discussion. You are free to change your selection until I close the voting, which I will announce before I do it. We will not be using the clickers on every question, but they are an effective tool for us to be able to assess the intensity of your concerns regarding issues that are raised. My assistant _____, is a student at Mesa State and I have asked him/her to join us today and take notes on your responses. Because your comments are important to us, we have also set up a microphone to record the conversation so that we can go back and make sure we didn't miss anything. Are there any questions over how we will proceed?

Geographic Orientation and Map discussion:

Okay, then let us begin,

{Slide 2: Zone map of the DENCA}

In order to facilitate the conversation the area in the DENCA has been divided into 5 regions that have related recreational opportunities. We will have a meeting on each area so that we can focus in more depth on the issues specifically in that zone.

Zone 1 is the Gunnison Bluffs or Hunting Grounds area which stretches from US Highway 50 to the bluffs above the Gunnison River on the north side. Zone 2 is the river corridor and riparian area along the Gunnison and the riparian corridor along Escalante Creek up to the potholes. Zone 3 is the area on the west side of the NCA from US Highway 141 to the edge of the Wilderness area and from the bluffs above the river on the south to Divide Road. Zone 4 is the designated Wilderness area itself in the NCA and there will be two meetings on this zone due to its unique management mandates embodied in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Finally zone 5 is the rest of the NCA which includes the area of Wagon Park and the eastern side of the NCA around Sawmill Mesa including Escalante Canyon. This meeting will focus on Zone _____. Realizing that there are shared issues across the landscape, please try to keep your comments related to this zone for this meeting, and you are welcome to attend other meetings on different zones to offer comments there as well.

Issues Raised at Past gatherings and their relative importance:

{Slide 3: Past Issues raised regarding recreation in the NCA – there will be a unique slide for each zone, show only the slide which corresponds to the zone of the meeting – see attachment for list of issues}

In our past discussions several issues were raised regarding recreation in this zone. On this slide we have a list of those issues. Please take a look at the list and let us know if we are missing some issues that we should talk about tonight. {Record those issues that are raised if they don't already fit into one of the issue categories listed}

Realizing we can't discuss each of these in depth in our limited time in this meeting, we would like you to give us a bit of feedback through the i-clickers so we can focus in on the issues that are the most important issues for this group. Then we will ask some follow up questions about those issues.

{Slide 4: Issue clicker slide – can write in the name of the issue at top, then clicker choices ranging from this is not at all important to me, to this is critically important to me – list each issue and have them rate it by clicker then display that in bar graph on screen so all can see results}

The following three (or four) issues _____, _____, _____, _____, seem to be the most important to the majority of this group, so we are going to ask the next set of questions about these issues.

Actions and Partnerships to address issue:

{Slide 5: room to write the issue on the top of the slide followed by the question: “What can we do to address this issue in the planning process for this zone? What partnerships can individuals, businesses, groups, communities, or government agencies form with the BLM to address this issue in this zone?” - responses will be recorded in blank space on the slide so all can see}

We are here to gather input about these issues that will help with the planning process for this zone, I will write the name of the top three (or four) issues one at a time on this slide {refer to Slide 5 now up} and then ask you to respond to the following question:

“What can we do to address this issue in the planning process for this zone? What partnerships can individuals, businesses, groups, communities, or government agencies form with the BLM to address this issue in this zone?”

Then I will record our responses by writing them down so we can project them on the wall for all to see.

{Repeat process for issue identified (no more than 4)}

Activities:

{Slide 6: List of Recreation Activities from past focus groups and surveys in the zone}

This slide is a list of the recreational activities that have been mentioned in association with this zone either in our discussions two years ago, or in the survey work done by our institute in the past year. Are there any recreational activities that are particularly suited to this zone that we have missed? { jot down any additional recreation activities mentioned} I will record those additional activities on this slide for all to see.

{ Slide 7: Multiple Use Measurement of activities – Text: Which of the following best describes your experience of these activities in this zone: “A=I don’t do any of these activities in this zone, B= I have done only one of these activities in this zone, C= I have engaged in more than one of these activities in this zone, but only one each trip, D= I have engaged in more than one of these activities in this zone, and engage in more than one activity each trip”}

We are going to use the clickers again on this next slide to determine the nature of your use or multiple use of this zone for recreation activities. Please select the choice from this slide that best represents your recreation in this zone. {Discuss the results by displaying a bar graph of clicker results}

Outcomes of Recreational Activity (Positive and Negative):

{Slide 8: Blank slide for recording responses – Writing at the top: “Naming a specific activity or set of activities in this zone, what is a benefit to the community or the environment of people engaging in this activity in this zone?” – record activity(s) and benefit mentioned on screen so all can see, then discuss set of responses to understand their interaction better.}

We have gathered a great deal of information about the personal benefits of engaging in these activities from past focus groups and the surveys. What we want to focus on is the benefits of people engaging in these activities IN THIS ZONE for the broader community or for the environment. For example,

exercise in hiking or biking might lead to a healthier population and less sick leave from their place of employment. I will record your responses, so please identify a specific recreational activity or set of activities in this zone and then indicate a benefit.

{Slide 9: Negative outcomes – repeat conversation about positive benefits and record on blank slide, but write the following question at the top: “What are the negative outcomes that might accrue if people engage in a particular activity in this zone? Again try to focus on outcomes to the community and the environment/landscape.” - record activity(s) and benefit mentioned on screen so all can see, then discuss set of responses to understand their interaction better.}

Now we would like to know are the negative outcomes that might come about from particular recreation activities in this zone. In particular, we are interested in negative outcomes to the community or the environment. Please indicate the activity or activities and the negative outcome you wish to avoid from that activity in this zone.

Interaction with other parts of the plan:

{Slide 10: Blank slide with the following question at the top: “Realizing that the BLM must manage the land for a variety of other issues beyond recreation (ie. Vegetation, resource development, public safety, etc), what could the BLM do in other policy issue areas that would positively or negatively affect your activities in the area of this zone you have identified as important to you?” – record answers on screen so all can see results}

At this point, we would like you to think about how the management of this land for uses beyond recreation such as vegetation management, grazing, wildlife habitat, archeological research, and visual resource management are likely to impact the recreational activities you feel are important in this zone.

{Slide 11: Blank slide with the following question at the top: “How is recreation activity in this zone likely to affect other parts of the land management plan, such as archeological sites, or grazing, etc.”}

Finally, we need to consider how you think recreational activity in this zone is likely to have an impact on other parts of the plan such as vegetation, or archeology, or range management for example. I will once again record your responses here on the screen and we can discuss them.

Conclusions:

{Slide 12: Picture background slide with contact information at the bottom and the following question at the top: “Are there other issues/comments/suggestions concerning:

1. Public Lands
2. The land use planning process, or
3. This group discussion.” }

Thank you for your time and participation in our focus group. Your responses are vital to a successful NCA planning process that takes account of the hopes and concerns of the communities that are affected by public lands nearby. These responses will be compiled with the responses of other focus groups we are conducting in the area. We will report the results to the BLM who will incorporate those responses into their development of a management plan for the DENCA. We encourage you to stay active in the process throughout. Our report on this focus group and the other focus groups regarding the DENCA, as well as the survey data and analysis will all be available on the BLM's Website for the Dominguez-Escalante NCA(which is linked to the GJFO and UFO websites). Thank you again for your time, have a good day.

Focus Group Questions for Dominguez-Escalante NCA Recreation planning
BLM GJFO RMP process
Wilderness focus Groups
October 2010
Mesa State College

Introduction: {Introduction Slide with title information – institute, NCA title, zone number}

Good evening, My name is Tim Casey, I am a professor of Political Science at Mesa State College and the field coordinator for The Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute at Mesa State. A few years ago we were asked by the county commissioners of Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties to assess the community support for the designation of a National Conservation Area (NCA) in the Dominquez –Escalante Management area between Grand Junction and Delta, Colorado. As a result of those discussions, and others, Congress acted to create the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. Part of the designation was a mandate for BLM to develop a management plan for the NCA with public input as an important component of that planning effort. Our meeting here tonight is part of that process. We have been asked by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help them understand better how recreation fits into the community vision for this landscape. This focus group is designed to better understand the public desires for achieving various and sometimes conflicting values of Wilderness embodied in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the designating legislation of 2009 for the Dominquez Escalante National Conservation Area, your participation in this focus group is a critical part of this planning process.

I want to thank you for your willingness to spend some time with us to better understand the community's desires regarding the management of BLM public Lands in the DENCA, particularly in the Dominquez Canyons Wilderness Area. Your participation in this focus group is entirely voluntary, and you are welcome to leave at any point, or simply choose not to answer a question if you don't want to. Your answers to these questions will remain anonymous, but the responses in this focus group will be part of the public administrative record of the NCA planning process. The entire focus group experience should take about an hour and a half or two hours at the most, and there are some snacks in the back that you are welcome to go and get at anytime. Are there any questions so far?

As part of the focus group process, we will be using the “i-clickers” that you were handed when you came in. Please turn your clicker units on at the top when we ask for you to record your input through the “i-clicker”. You can do so by pressing the on/off button at the bottom of the clicker unit until the power light at the top of the unit stays on. When you push a letter choice (A-E) it will be recorded anonymously by the receiver unit plugged into my laptop. We can then display the results on the overhead to facilitate further discussion. You are free to change your selection until I close the voting, which I will announce before I do it. We will not be using the clickers on every question, but they are an effective tool for us to be able to assess the intensity of your concerns regarding issues that are raised. My assistant ASHLEY MATES AND MAUREEN MCCARNEY/ASHLEIGH HAJLOO, are students at Mesa State and I have asked them to join us today and take notes on your responses. Because your comments are important to us, we have also set up a microphone to record the conversation so that we can go back and make sure we didn’t miss anything. Are there any questions over how we will proceed?

Geographic Orientation and Map discussion:

Okay, then let us begin,

{Slide 2: Zone map of the DENCA}

In order to facilitate the conversation the area in the DENCA has been divided into 5 segments that have related recreational opportunities. We have had a meeting on each area so that we can focus in more depth on the issues specifically in that zone. These last two meetings were reserved for the Wilderness Area set aside by Congress in the designating legislation for the NCA.

Zone 1 is the Gunnison Bluffs or Hunting Grounds area which stretches from US Highway 50 to the bluffs above the Gunnison River on the north side. Zone 2 is the river corridor and riparian area along the Gunnison and the riparian corridor along Escalante Creek up to the potholes. Zone 3 is the area on the west side of the NCA from US Highway 141 to the edge of the Wilderness area and from the bluffs above the river on the south to Divide Road. Zone 4 is the designated Wilderness area itself in the NCA and there will be two meetings on this zone due to its unique management mandates embodied in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Finally zone 5 is the rest of the NCA which includes the area of Wagon Park and the eastern side of the NCA around Sawmill Mesa.

This meeting will focus on Zone 4, the Wilderness Area. Realizing that there are shared issues across the landscape, please try to keep your comments related to the Wilderness Area as it has been designated by Congress. Whether you think there should have been Wilderness designated in the area is not the question we can ask, because Congress has already decided there should be a Wilderness area here, the question is how to manage the landscape given

that designation and the controlling legislation such as the 1964 Wilderness Act that govern the uses of the land.

{Slide 3:

guiding legislation}

There are three principle documents that guide our conversation this evening. The first was passed by Congress in 1964 entitled the *Wilderness Act*. This is the guiding document for all designated Wilderness in the federal landscape. While it is a lengthy document with a wide variety of regulations and guidelines for how Wilderness Areas are to be managed, for our purposes here it is worth noting that in Section 2 (c) it outlines several guiding values for Wilderness management. It is worth quoting that section in its entirety as it defines what wilderness is and what its wilderness characteristics are.

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are *untrammelled* by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of *undeveloped* Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to *preserve its natural conditions* and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has *outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation*; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) *may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.*”

The second guiding legislation is the *2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act* which specifically designated the Dominguez Escalante area as a National Conservation Area to be part of the *National Conservation Landscape System* and further designated the area we are discussing tonight as the Dominquez Canyons Wilderness Area to be managed according the 1964 Wilderness Act, with specific Unique and Supplemental Characteristics to also be preserved. According to that act, several characteristics are unique to the NCA as a whole, although not necessarily the Wilderness area specifically, they include such things as: ancient petroglyphs and dwellings, flower-strewn meadows, outstanding habitat for desert bighorn sheep, and scenic streams replete with waterfalls and plunge pools.

The final set of guiding documents are the various agency field manuals and RMPs one interagency set of guidelines is called “Keeping it Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System” written in 2008, which, as the name suggests, is an interagency document trying to operationalize the values embodied in the Wilderness Act and develop management guidelines to preserve these values.

{Slide 4: Wilderness Values}

On the hand out you have been given for reference, the 5 guiding values for wilderness in this area have been briefly described. These characteristics emerge out of the 1964 Wilderness Act Section 2 (c). They are Untrammeled, Natural conditions, undeveloped, outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation, and other unique and supplemental values as outlined in the designating legislation. Let us look at the descriptions of each briefly.

- 1) Untrammeled: A “trammel” is literally a net, snare, hobble, or other device that impedes the free movement of an animal. Here, used metaphorically, “untrammeled” refers to wilderness as essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation.
- 2) Natural: Wilderness ecological and evolutionary systems are substantially free from the unintentional effects of modern civilization. It is “protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.”
- 3) Undeveloped: Wilderness has minimal evidence of modern human occupation or modification. It is land “retaining its primeval character and influence,” “without permanent improvements or human habitation,” “with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable,” and “where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”
- 4) Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Wilderness provides opportunities for people to experience natural sights and sounds, solitude, freedom, risk, and the physical and emotional challenges of self-discovery and self-reliance. It “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation” and “shall be administered...in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.”
- 5) Unique / Supplemental: Wilderness areas “may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” Though these values are not required of any wilderness, where they are present they are part of that area’s wilderness character, and must be protected as rigorously as any of the four required qualities. These values may or may not overlap with the other four qualities. They are usually identified in the area’s designating legislation, legislative history, original wilderness inventory, wilderness management plan, or at some other time after designation.

While the “Keeping it Wild” management document suggests that none of these is to be valued over another, the reality is that these values often seem to be in conflict when making specific management decisions. The BLM staff of the DENCA believe these conflicts are an opportunity to get valuable public input on their preferences regarding these tradeoffs to help guide the management plan. This focus group is designed to get your input on these

tradeoffs in this particular Wilderness area. The following questions will utilize the i-clicker technology to record your preferences to help them develop management alternatives for the Wilderness Area.

{Slide 5: Tradeoffs in Wilderness Characteristics/Values slide}

Although the Wilderness Act and other governing documents call for all of these Wilderness values and characteristics to be treated equally, it is sometimes difficult for these values to both be upheld when they come into conflict in a particular management situation. It is in these cases that it is perfectly appropriate for the managing agency to seek public input on which of the values/characteristics of Wilderness is preferred in the specific dilemma/tradeoff. The BLM staff has identified a whole series of management situations in which two or more Wilderness Characteristics seem to be in conflict in the Dominguez Canyons Wilderness, and they have asked us to gather some data from the public regarding what values they would prefer to emphasize when the values are in conflict. The next several slides will help us identify these for specific Wilderness management challenges.

{Slides 6-25: Specific Tradeoffs – each of these tradeoffs will offer a spectrum of choices with A=Strongly prefer value 1, B=Somewhat prefer value 1, C=don't know, D= somewhat prefer value 2, E= strongly prefer value 2. Each slide will have a title of the value, the facilitator will offer a brief description of the tradeoff, ask if there are any questions, then conduct a participant poll for that specific tradeoff. This will be repeated for all 17 tradeoffs described below. NOTE: Some tradeoffs contain tradeoffs between more than one value, in these cases each value tradeoff for the situation will be polled separately and have a different slide}

1. Removal of an old gate – untrammeled v. undeveloped

A large metal gate was installed on an old route out to Triangle Mesa before the area was designated as a wilderness. Should BLM go in and remove this gate (trammeling the wilderness) to improve the undeveloped character of the wilderness?

2. Sheep capture – untrammeled v. natural; natural v. solitude

The Division of Wildlife proposes to use a helicopter to dart, net, and study desert bighorn sheep. They will use the information gathered to develop a greater understanding of population regeneration, migration, and overall health. The helicopter would fly over the wilderness for approximately two days and would land between 5 and 10 times for approximately ½ hour each time. This project would trammel the wilderness and reduce the naturalness of the area with tags and collars on bighorn sheep. Opportunities for solitude would also be affected by helicopter over-flights. Should BLM permit this project within the wilderness?

3. Habitat treatment – natural v. untrammeled

The Division of Wildlife proposes to use heavy motorized equipment (hydro-axe, bulldozer, etc.) to treat approximately 500 acres of pinyon-juniper to remove up to 50 percent of the existing vegetation on the mesa above one of the canyons. Doing this would open up the area to increased travel by desert bighorn sheep ewes and lambs. DOW believes this would increase the herd population and health, but it would trammel the wilderness. The effects of the treatment would be apparent for many years and the natural ground cover would be altered but conditions would improve for a key native species. Should BLM permit a treatment like this within the wilderness?

4. Limit use to preserve solitude – unconfined v. solitude

BLM must manage a wilderness area to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude OR a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. These two are frequently in contrast to each other. Solitude is eliminated when too many people are in too small of an area. BLM could limit use of an area to preserve and enhance the opportunity for solitude, but this would reduce one's ability to enjoy an unconfined type of recreation. Would you support a limited use permit system even if it meant you might not be able to visit the wilderness any time you wanted to?

5. Existing trails – natural v. undeveloped; supplemental values v. undeveloped

There are several miles of existing routes within the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. Should these routes be adopted into a designated trail system? Adoption of these routes would improve access to the wilderness but would reduce the ability to experience an unconfined type of recreation. These trails could be rehabilitated and restored to a more natural condition.

6. Trail construction – supplemental values v. unconfined recreation and undeveloped character

Building new trails may make it easier to access the resources identified in the designating legislation but would reduce the ability to enjoy a primitive and unconfined type of recreation while also reducing the undeveloped nature of the area. Should new trails be built to improve access to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness?

7. Tamarisk treatment (hand) – untrammelled v. natural

The Tamarisk Coalition proposes to remove all of the tamarisk in Big Dominguez Canyon. They would use hand tools to cut the tamarisk and herbicide to spray the stumps to reduce the potential for regrowth. Tamarisk would be piled for prescribed burning over the winter. Should BLM allow the Tamarisk

Coalition to manually cut, chemically treat, and stack tamarisk for burning. It would trammel the wilderness but in the long run would make the area more natural.

8. Tamarisk treatment (motorized/mechanized) – untrammled v. natural

The Tamarisk Coalition proposes to remove all of the tamarisk in Big Dominguez Canyon. They would use chainsaws to cut the tamarisk and herbicide to spray the stumps to reduce the potential for regrowth. Tamarisk would be piled for prescribed burning over the winter. Should BLM allow the Tamarisk Coalition to use chainsaws to cut tamarisk, chemically treat stumps and stack the cut trees for burning. It would trammel the wilderness but in the long run would make the area more natural.

9. Group size limits – opportunities for solitude v. unconfined recreation

Most wilderness areas have a group size limit of 12 people. These limits are in place to help preserve the feeling of solitude in an area while also reducing the physical impacts associated with larger groups. Group size limits can be higher, or lower, however, and can even vary in different areas of the wilderness. A group size limit of 12 helps to preserve solitude and reduce physical impacts, but a limit of 6 or 8 would be even more effective. Conversely, a group size limit greater than 12 would allow larger groups to enjoy the resources of the wilderness, and physical impacts could be limited if well-designed and constructed trails are available.

10. Signs inside wilderness boundary – undeveloped v. primitive recreation

Wilderness areas should have only the minimum level of signs necessary to provide for visitor safety and resource protection. However, this level can vary not only from wilderness to wilderness but within different areas of the same wilderness. Signs can help visitors orient themselves and navigate through the wilderness and can also be used to protect resources by informing visitors. What level of signing should BLM use within the wilderness? Should the level of signing vary from zone to zone?

11. Constructing facilities to protect cultural sites – undeveloped v. untrammled; supplemental values v. undeveloped; supplemental values v. unconfined recreation

Cultural resources are identified by the designating legislation as one of the reasons for the establishment of DENCA and the DCW. If necessary, should BLM construct minor facilities such as a fence to keep visitors from being able to touch a Native American petroglyph?

12. Interpretive signs within the wilderness – supplemental values v. undeveloped

Wilderness is essentially without permanent structures such as interpretive signs. However, there are significant cultural resources within Dominguez Canyon Wilderness that visitors enjoy. Their experience may be enhanced with information about the resources they are enjoying, and these resources may be better protected if people know how to treat them. Should BLM construct information signs near a petroglyph panel to help people understand what they are looking at and how they can help protect it?

13. Paleo research and excavation – supplemental values v. untrammeled and undeveloped; solitude vs. supplemental values

A museum proposes to excavate a newly discovered dinosaur fossil from within the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. This excavation would require light motorized equipment using existing routes and would last for several days. Excavation would enhance scientific understanding of the area but would negatively affect natural and untrammeled quality of the wilderness. Should BLM permit scientific excavation of a dinosaur fossil from the wilderness?

14. Fire restoration – untrammeled and undeveloped v. natural

If a human-caused fire broke out in the wilderness and burned 140 acres of sage and pinyon-juniper, should BLM go in after the fire is out and attempt to reseed and restore the area to its condition before the fire? This would trammel the wilderness but would also improve the naturalness of the area in the long term.

15. Trail restoration – untrammeled v. undeveloped and natural

Several existing two-track routes exist within the wilderness. These routes are no longer open to motorized travel and are no longer necessary in their current form. Some visitors enjoy hiking on two-track routes because they can hike next to their companion and talk to each other while they walk. The area's naturalness would increase if these two-tracks were rehabbed into single-track hiking trails, but to do so would impact the untrammeled character of the wilderness. Should BLM rehab existing two-track routes into single-track trails?

16. Recreation participation survey – solitude and unconfined recreation

Visitors to wilderness should have the chance to 'get away from it all'. The Wilderness Act seeks to preserve this opportunity by requiring BLM to provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. However, one of the ways BLM knows if they are achieving their management goals is by talking to the public, frequently through a 3rd party such as Mesa State College. Getting an accurate understanding for what wilderness visitors think is best done by contacting

them while they are recreating. Should BLM or an educational institution be permitted to contact visitors while they are recreating in the wilderness? (this doesn't include wilderness ranger contacts to protect resources or visitor health and safety)

{Slide 26: Zone Map of the Wilderness Area}

The map you now see is of the Wilderness Area itself. It has been divided into management zones for the purposes of this conversation and because there might be different characteristics that you might wish to see emphasized in different parts of the Wilderness Area. While many of the tradeoffs we discussed could happen in any of these zones, there may be characteristics of a particular zone that you feel is the most unique quality of that zone. These zones are:

Zone 1: The lower part of Dominguez Canyon from the boundary near the confluence with the Gunnison River up into Big Dominguez Canyon to the confluence of the Dry Fork drainage and Big Dominguez Creek. This zone only includes that part of the Little Dominguez drainage around the confluence of Big and Little Dominguez Creeks.

Zone 2: The upper part of Dominguez Canyon from the boundary near the Dominguez Campground downstream approximately one mile.

Zone 3: This zone includes all the area within the Big Dominguez Canyon and the lower part of Little Dominguez Creek once it joins Big Dominguez Canyon beyond Poison Canyon and Lightning Basin.

Zone 4: This is the mesa area on the east side of the Wilderness from the eastern top edge of Little Dominguez Canyon to the Western edge of Escalante Canyon at the Wilderness Boundary.

Zone 5: This is the upper part of Little Dominguez Canyon down to Lightning Basin and Poison Canyon beyond the flat iron.

You have a copy of this map on the back of the handout we have given you, so you can reference it in the rest of our conversation this evening.

{Slide 27: Zone Characteristic– Top line : “Zone: _____ Characteristic: _____ important.” Assistant will write zone number in, then a series of statements in Characteristic line each corresponding to an i-clicker poll of the participants. There will be a separate poll for the top two levels in each zone, and one for the least important characteristic of the zone. The Characteristic order is: most important, second most, and least important. The choices for the clickers will be displayed below as follows: A=untrammeled, B=Natural, C=Undeveloped, D=Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, E=Unique and Supplemental Values. This series of 3 questions will be repeated for all zones, gathering a poll on each}

We will begin by looking at these zones, recognizing that you may believe some wilderness values are more characteristic than others in a particular zone. My assistant will write the zone number at the top and a characteristic order starting with most important (for that zone), then second most important, finally the least important.

We will ask you to click in on a value that fits that level of characteristic and will repeat these questions for all zones. Here are your choices:

A=untrammeled, B=Natural, C=Undeveloped, D=Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, E=Unique and Supplemental Values. While we recognize all of these may be important to you, and are important to the legislation, this series of polls will help the BLM determine what you think are the most important values as tradeoffs between these values might emerge in their development of a management plan for the zone. These preferences might be different for you across different zones in the Wilderness, so we will ask this same series of questions for each Wilderness zone. {Note: because Solitude and Unconfined Recreation can often be caught in a tradeoff, if more than 30percent of the participants choose that option, we will ask follow up questions to clarify their intent}

{Slide 28: Additional Comments?- Picture background slide with contact information at the bottom and the following question at the top:
“Are there other issues/comments/suggestions concerning:}

Thank you for your time and participation in our focus group. Your responses are vital to a successful NCA planning process that takes account of the hopes and concerns of the communities that are affected by public lands nearby. These responses will be compiled with the responses of other focus groups we are conducting in the area. We will report the results to the BLM who will incorporate those responses into their development of a management plan for the DENCA. We encourage you to stay active in the process throughout. Our report on this focus group and the other focus groups regarding the DENCA, as well as the survey data and analysis will all be available on the BLM’s Website for the Dominguez-Escalante NCA(which is linked to the GJFO and UFO websites). Thank you again for your time, have a good day.

Meeting Location	Topic	Response A		Response B		Response C		Response D		Response E	
		Delta	Grand Junction	Delta	Grand Junction	Delta	Grand Junction	Delta	Grand Junction	Delta	Grand Junction
Question 1	Gate UT vs UD	5	5	1	6	1	3	1	5	1	6
Question 2	Limited use S vs UR	3	3	0	9	0	0	2	5	6	9
Question 3	Big Horn Sheep UT, Nus UV	6	2	2	3	0	0	1	7	2	15
Question 4	Big Horn Sheep S vs UV	7	1	0	2	0	0	2	6	1	17
Question 5	Habitat Treatment UT vs UV	8	7	0	3	1	1	0	6	3	9
Question 6	Existing Trails UV vs UR	5	11	0	6	0	1	2	2	5	5
Question 7	Existing Trails UT vs N	9	17	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	3
Question 8	Construction trails UV vs UD, UR	1	4	0	3	0	1	1	4	11	7
Question 9	Tamask hand tools UT vs N	5	4	1	2	0	0	2	4	4	13
Question 10	Tamask chain saw UT v N	6	8	0	1	0	0	1	3	5	11
Question 11	Group Size S,UT vs UR	5	11	0	4	1	2	1	0	6	6
Question 12	Construction facilities minor UV vs UD	7	10	1	5	0	0	0	3	4	5
Question 13	Construction facilities major UV vs UD	3	11	0	3	0	2	1	2	7	4
Question 14	Construction facilities minor UV vs P, UD	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	8
Question 15	Interpretive signs w/in UV vs UD	5	4	0	2	0	2	2	1	7	14
Question 16	Interpretive signs @ trailhead UV vs UD	7	11	2	5	0	2	1	1	0	4
Question 17	Paleo Research UV vs UT	0	6	0	3	0	1	1	5	12	9
Question 18	Paleo Research UV vs S	0	5	0	6	0	0	1	4	13	9
Question 19	Fire Restoration human made UT vs N	5	4	0	1	0	1	3	4	6	14
Question 20	Trail Restoration UT vs UD	9	9	1	2	0	1	0	4	4	7
Question 21	Recreation Participation Survey w/in S vs P	9	7	2	5	0	5	0	2	3	6
Question 37	Stock Ponds for Grazing	1		0		0		1		10	
Question 38	Fire Restoration Natural Cause UT vs N	4		1		0		2		6	
Question 39	Recreation Participation Survey @boundary S vs P	5		2		0		1		5	
	Preferred Value	Untameed (UT)	Untameed (UT)	Natural (N)	Natural (N)	Undeveloped (UD)	Undeveloped (UD)	Solitude/Unconfined Recreation (S/UR)	Solitude/Unconfined Recreation (S/UR)	Unique Values (UV)	Unique Values (UV)
Question 22	Zone 1 Most	2	0	1	7	1	3	5	0	3	12
Question 23	Zone 1 2nd	3	2	1	11	1	4	5	1	3	3
Question 24	Zone 1 least	5	8	1	0	2	2	0	12	4	0
Question 25	Zone 2 Most	1	0	2	11	2	6	6	1	1	1
Question 26	Zone 2 2nd	2	1	1	4	1	11	7	2	1	2
Question 27	Zone 2 least	7	4	0	0	0	2	2	7	4	6
Question 28	Zone 3 Most	3	3	1	8	1	2	4	4	2	1
Question 29	Zone 3 2nd	5	2	0	6	1	9	4	4	1	0
Question 30	Zone 3 least	1	5	3	0	2	0	1	7	4	6
Question 31	Zone 4 Most	4	0	1	15	0	1	5	3	0	1
Question 32	Zone 4 2nd	6	1	1	1	1	14	4	3	1	2
Question 33	Zone 4 least	3	8	3	0	1	0	1	4	4	7
Question 34	Zone 5 Most	6	0	1	14	0	0	4	4	2	0
Question 35	Zone 5 2nd	9	1	1	2	1	14	3	3	0	0
Question 36	Zone 5 least	1	4	0	0	2	0	1	7	8	6

Note on all meeting notes: “TC” refers to Dr. Tim Casey of the Natural Resource and Land Policy Institute at Mesa State College who acted in the role of facilitator for all meetings. The Letter “P” in the notes refers to a comment made by one of the participants.

Non-wilderness Recreational Meetings

Location: Grand Junction

Zone: 1

Date: September 20, 2010

TC_ Introduction to the NLUPRI to the BLM and what the BLM is doing here, what NLUPRI is doing. History of the process and NCA. Information about the focus group/meeting.

TC_ Purposes of zone is for conversation, not formal boundary lines. Tonight’s purpose is to focus on zone 1. Introduction to the different zones and orientations to those areas, and the additional meetings.

Slide 3 Issues:

Already raised Issues

Multiuse

Spanish trail

Trash/Party

Private Land

Shooting Areas

Additional issues are as follow:

1. Plants, endanger species
2. Community connection trail, river front: Delta to Grand Junction
3. Types of access-multiuse
4. Engaging the railroad- mostly in zone 2

Slide 4 Issue/Score:

1. Plants : A: 2 B:2 C:2 D:1 E:1

2. Multiuse:D:4 E:4

3. Community connection trail: A:2 B:0 C:1 D:2 E:3

4. Party/Trash: A: B: C:6 D: E:2

5. Undefined shooting areas: A: B:3 C:3 D:2 E:

P_ Is it a signage problem? Or a undefined area issue...TC_ undefined

6. Private Land A:1 B:1 C:3 D:3 E:0

7. Spanish Trail A:1 B:2 C:3 D:0 E:1

8. Railroad A:3 B:1 C:2 D:2 E:

P_Need to be a partner in the planning process whether its access, safety, trespassing,

9. Grazing A:2 B:3 C:2 D:1 E:0

10. Wildlife: A:1 B:2 C:3 D:1 E:1

12. Arc Sites: A:1 B:3 C:2 D:2 E:0

P_ Are there a lot of them, are they being damaged? Are they more risk?

TC_ a lot of them and they are being damaged, potentially at more risk. A lot more than people are aware of. Potential for vandalism or access/opportunity issue.

P_ What is a site TC/BLM official Cultural sites, arc sites, 50 years or older are historical sites, wikiups.

13. Scenic views A: 0 B:2 C:2 D:4 E: 0

P_ Is an issue something that needs to be addressed? TC_ Yes

P_ Minerals TC_ No its is no longer an issue, its already been taking care of in the legislations

14. Trails A:0 B: 0C:2 D:3 E:6

TC_ develop trail systems in the area

P_ Connection trail can be lumped into trail system TC_ yes great idea!

Top Issues:

Wildlife, Partying/Trash/Paintball, Multiuse, Trails &Community Connection Trails

Slide 5:Partnership

Trails

BLM engaged with Delta and Mesa County, riverfront commission

Users groups for Recreation areas like WSATV, COPMOBA, Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition, TPA

Kids and environmental learning, Partners, Environmental, social studies teachers

Boy Scouts, Special Use Permits

Local chapter of Old Spanish trail

Mesa Land Trust, and dealing with private land owners, private land owners.

Ideas to address

Environmental assessments, inventory

Inventory of trails

Find areas important to those groups find prioritize trail. Maybe groups can go through a process that are partnering with the BLM to find their prioritized trails.

P_ This is processes seems kinds of backwards. It seems like we need to know what is already on the ground before we can move forward.

BLM official_ Like?

P_ We already created something to create OHV trails but some of those trails may not be available because what we don't know what is on the ground.

P_ Diverse stakeholders submit their wish lists and create a collaborative conversation. Figure it out together or does the BLM figure it out.

P_ Use others trails as a example.

TC_ The BLM has a variety of tools to help find creative ways to address these issues, MSC's focus groups, surveys and the BLM's own data

MultitUse

TC_ There is already a process set up to bring the multi users together. It worked well with McGinnis NCA. BLM is working on getting that put together

P_WSATVA has lots of volunteer hours and we partnership with them to do things with the BLM

P_ Has to have the users group involved. Thinking about the Grand Mesa Skiing.

TC_ Important to think about mixed use/ or single use. Does this zone lend itself to separate trails

P_Both are out there

P_Connection trail could be a problem, or parallel connection trail for different use, doesn't have to be one trail.

P_ Reason I clicked in: these are public lands, on the land ground local democracy land and we need to find the good for everybody. It gives us an opportunity to do democracy a different way. We aren't just designing something to piece out in a different parts, but rather we need to plan together.

Partying/Trash/Paintball

P_It is convenient and hidden. How do you handle that? It's a difficult issue to solve

P_Staging issues, signs be placed to pack trash out

TC_promote responsibility

P_Partnerships with local schools to help clean up, create public lands day and create ownership

TC_education. How did you develop the sense of responsibility, encourage conservation.

P_ On a individual level, we carry a pick stick and have 2 two bags of trash. OPT:Other People's Trash. As other see me pick up trash maybe others will pick up their own trash

P_Churchs and their youth groups, not that many youth activity. Partnering with towns to **facilate** the kids partying.

TC_ This is more holistic, maybe this is a community issue and we need to deal with kids needing something to do.

Wildlife

TC_ what are the thoughts or issue

P_The scenic beauty is great to look at but the wildlife is most important. Give them respect, and they get to do their own things.

TC_Share the landscape with the wildlife

P_Dovetails back, there has to be areas where wildlife is left alone and a neutral respect.

P_Does the inventory exist of where they exist

TC_ Yes the BLM knows.

P_Is it a real problem out there

P_Its multipurpose and that's the DOW position.
P_Linking it to trail, and that is good trail management and development.
TC_ Maybe there is an opportunity and interact with wildlife.
P: Cabelas or Sportmen's Warehouse

Slide 6: Activity

PPS: ATV, Single Track Motorcycle, MB. Hiking, HBR, Wildlife

Additional:

1. Motorcycle trailer riding,
2. Arc Site viewing
3. Scenic viewing/picnicking
4. Hunting

Slide 7: Multiple Use/Score

A: 2 B: 2 C:2 D: 6

TC_ What does this tell you about planning, or talk about planning?

P_It suggests that it is more important than other people may thinking.

TC_ A lot of people actually go to this area and recreate. Does it suggest that maybe we are multi-users all at once. Not only are there lots of activities but we do them all at once.

P_What my answer should have been: Multiple uses involves the major issues and the access to it.

TC_ We often frame how we get places or access places. But something about more, but its is also important about what we do when we are there.

Slide 8 Activity/ Benefit

TC_ We spend a lot of time talking about what is in it for us? But talk about an activity that happens in this zone that benefits the community .

P_ It enhances tourism in the area. IE ATV riders need to eat and sleep somewhere and it enhances the reputation.

TC_ As people use, there is a spin off to attraction

P_WSATVA build trails, maintain trails by developing trails it helps facilitate others use of the trails

P_Historical preservation, link to history and link to other community i.e. Old Spanish Trail that takes people to Sante Fe Mexico to Los Angles.

P_ Education about public lands and natural history can increase other's education and teaching. Opportunities to learn and share with other people.

P_It gives people an out of the city and find a natural environment and get refreshed.

TC_ How does that benefit the community?

P_People are happier, where we can go and enjoy natural state.

TC_It provides an opportunity for people to get away from everyday life

P_Its great to meet friends, enhances our own feelings, gets passed on to others we come into contact with.

P_ Motivation to get students out there are the same. It creates a ownership

TC_ It creates a development to ownership and limits trash etc

P_It helps community development

TC_It enhances civil society, a lot to this that helps benefit the greater community.

Slide 9 Activity/Negative

P_Partying/ trash

P_ Subdivision out there, and they may not be happy about traffic/noise

P_Overuse or improper use create desecration

P_User conflicts

TC_ Shooting areas

Slide 10: Management Impact

P_Reroute unsustainable routes

P_BLM has id plants and arc sites but did not know exactly know where they were. It forces rec users to go to other zones and than increases traffic

TC_ By making the decision the have to close an area for plant or arc sites, it creates a funneling effect to other areas

P_Managment for wildlife and vegetation needs to be somewhere high on the priority list. That is what makes being there attractive.

TC_It cant just be about recreation

P_Getting rid of noxious weeds

TC_ Create an more natural setting

P_Thinking about noxious weeds, and toxic chemical residue on plants, wildlife or exposure

P_Seems to be disconnects between regulations. Like if an area is closed to motorized use because of a endanger species but then grazing is allowed to go

TC_ A way in which prioritization of recreation and other activity

P_Preservation of the area

TC_ Connect management with preservation of naturalness

Slide 11:Impact

P_If I run into an arc site, it may spark my interest, build an interest and go to other zones

TC_ May build a desire to build support for other sites

P_Increased recreation use may increase negative outcomes ie gates open, intentional or unintentional damage to arc sites

P_building trails brings in extra stress and noxious weeds

P_Is there grazing?

TC_Yes

P_Stock driving that can be readdressed.

TC_ IS it a cultural thing?

P_Yes

Additional Comments:

TC_ Talk about the process, where is are and where we are going.

P_How are these zones created? Are they watershed zones, users zones?

TC_ Landscape dictates that, expect for the wilderness which was designated by Congress, most logical to facilitate conservation.

P_Request: Is there a possibility to get a intermediate rough summary, meeting notes

TC_ Would it be useful to send after the 3 weeks?

Group_Yes?

BLM_ Still is scoping period and you can still send stuff until Oct 1 and submit your own comments

Location: Delta
Zone: 2
Date: September 22, 2010

TC_ Introduction to the meeting, to the NLUPRI, the process and the history of focus groups for BLM land. History of the Dominquez Escalante NCA, the management plan and the scoping periods.

Slide 1, 2 Comments: TC_ Introduction to the area and description of the map. Information about the future focus group meetings.

Slide 3 Issues:

Issues on PPS: Overuse and degradation of resources, permits and limits on use, private property (access and trespass), access to wilderness, recreational prospection, cultural site protection/visitation, water diversions, wildlife corridors, noxious weeds, day use fees

Additional Issues:

- Commercial outfitters
- Fire Suppression
- Hunting and Fishing
- Law enforcement

Slide 4 Issue/Score:

1. Overuse A:2 B:1 C:4 D:4 E:1
2. permits and limits on use A:2 B:3 C:1 D:2 E:3
3. Private Property A:1 B:2 C:3 D:2 E:3
4. Access to wilderness A:0 B: 4 C:1 D:1 E:4
5. Recreational Prospecting A:4 B:2 C:3 D:0 E:2
6. Cultural sites A:3 B:2 C:2 D:4 E:1
7. Water diversions A:1 B:2 C:3 D:3 E:1
8. Wildlife corridors A:2 B:1 C:5 D:3 E:0
9. noxious weeds A:4 B:4 C:1 D:2 E:0
10. day use fees A:4 B:2 C:1 D:2 E:2
11. commercial outfitters A:2 B:2 C:3 D:2 E:2
12. Fire suppression A:3 B:4 C:2 D:2 E:0
13. Hunting/Fishing A:2 B:1 C:2 D:4 E:2
14. Law Enforcement A:2 B:1 C:3 D:3 E:2

Top Issues

Private Property, Permits, Access to wilderness, Hunting/Fishing

Slide 5: Partnership

Private Property/Trespass

P_ Need to get inventory where the private property is

P_ Partnership with law enforcement

P_ Protected against everything it should be a high priority

P_ Are the rules against use it in the NCA

TC_ Its not actually part of it, it cannot tell you what to do

BLM_ It does have its own law enforcement to the NCA

TC_ A concern before was the need for better law enforcement and the NCA brings a dedicated law enforcement officer.

P_ Education the public to with signs, kiosk outlining routs and trails, small easements across private property so the public knows but the BLM needs to plan for

TC_ What is the best way to communicate the private and public land in the area

P_ It keeps everyone out of trouble

P_ The number one issue is going into the canyon and the bridge over that encourages trespass on the railroad even though there are no trespassing signs. If the BLM is going to encourage people entrance, then they need to figure out a way to enter without trespassing.

TC_ Ensure that the BLM

Permits

P_ Do want to see day use fees/ don't know about permits

P_ Its a good way to keep track of stuff and keep track of people go in and out. It is a management tool.

P_ The problem with it there are only one access point, the bridge, but you everywhere else it would be a law enforcement nightmare

P_ It is the same problem for example if I access it from the top and I pay money but so and so doesn't have to because they came in a different way.

P_ Very difficult to enforce it

P_ You can document the commercial outfitters and private people and campers. It has to be inventory and decided about limits.

TC_ Maybe we are talking about different kinds of permits here. Like hunters, floaters, gold panning maybe there are some different ways to do. Are there any partnerships or deal with these issues without the permit process?

P_Volunteer groups to do head counts

P_Changing the name from permits, to register and more people would be better

P_Is the sign in helpful?

BLM_ We use that for river use, but it helps with counts. It doesn't really help with private head counts. The electronic counter are more helpful.

Hunting and Fishing

P_What is allowed and what isn't

TC_ IS it unclear ?

P_It needs to be in the kiosk

P_User conflicts ie duck hunters and river rafters

TC_ What groups could engage and address the problem?

P_Usually happens, the hunters get kicked out. They need to be planned for.

P_ When does commercial rafting end?

BLM_ Its year round but its usually around Spring Break-Now

P_Its a kiosk issue and they like the river corridor. They are always looking for information to expand their information. On the hunting issue, those can be addressed in the signs as well. Special seasons

TC_ Take a step in the right directions is information about the space, and that it's a shared space.

P_Posting the hunting seasons

P_But how many signs do you want out there?

TC_ Do it at the choke places, or there are other ways to do it ie the website

Slide 6: Activity

1. Rafting, Canoeing, kayaking boating, swimming and floating, recreational prospecting, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, arc sites, endangered species protection, camping

Additional activities:

Motorized boating

P_I guess this goes to arc sites; they need to address the right away with the railroad.

P_There is a boating take out issue.

Slide 7: Multiple Use

A:2 B:4 C:1 D:4

TC_ How does this tells us about management?

P_You need to keep it multituse

P_It tells you that people use it at different times for different use. IE I use it once a year for hunting, but he may use it once a year for fishing.

P_It tells you by knocking out use, you may knock out some of the people in the room

P_Access along the railroad is a issue for horseback riders

P_It is also problem at the Escalante Canyon, they should move the put in down. There is a safety issue. They could move the access up the river and if there is an accident then the railroad is going to react

TC_ There should be a partnership with the railroad for the folks in this room

Slide 8 Activity/ Benefit

P_ It creates a economic gain for the community i.e. buying gas, or staying at hotels here

P_Argiculture, several million dollars of produce along the river, employee to farm and raise livestock

P_Bring kids to the school system from the work's family

P_Rest and relaxation for those people i.e. if the boss goes he is less crabby.

TC_Creates happier people

P_ From the cultural sites we hope for education but there is vandalism

P_More people who come out and see cultural sites, more people to see the problems and create law enforcement, more eyes on the field helps law enforcement.

TC_ Having people on the landscape may help with community policing

Slide 9 Activity/Negative

P_Vandalism is a problem

TC_ Knowingly and unknowingly

P_Its usually knowingly

P_Trespass and vandalism to private property owners, digging holes

P_Number of floaters who take out at Bridgeport has ruined the landscape, over use

TC_Creates an overuses problem

P_The wilderness is an oxymoron because it creates more users that weren't there before to come see how special the land is

P_More people, more trash

P_Environmental impact of more people

P_Wildlife takes a beating, degrade habitat.

P_Just from being there, if people are moving through the lambing area during the season, there will be an impact on the population

P_need for law enforcement drains resources

P_ even just uniform presence, like BLM

P_but it still drains resources

TC_ Is it general? Or is specific

P_it is general with more use

TC_ For most these it's an issue of more people the more challenge there is .

Slide 10: Management

P_Treat all the different users as equally important. It is not something that is done on purpose but the squeaky wheel gets the greaser.

TC_ Is it possible to treat everyone equally?

P_ I didn't say that it was realistic

TC_How do you determine what is equal

P_For example, for people who have to pay to float, they give the money to the BLM and there is more attention to the floaters. But when I come in from the top I don't give them money so I am not as important

TC_ But how do you figure that out, how does the BLM "tap you"

P_I just want to make sure we can all co-exist on this beautiful land.

TC_Here we have an opportunity to talk to the BLM, but how can we do that in a concrete way.

P_There should be a stake holders group and would give the BLM a continuous dialogue with the diverse stake holder group.

P_There needs to be information about the about the land like a map of the hunting area

P_IE a note about the noxious weeds removal so I don't want to see that I know not to float that day

P_It (information) needs to be in visitor centers, chambers of commerce, so people who are not local.

P_Its all available at authorized dealers, and its free. There could be referral from other stake holders like "here is the BLM's website"

Slide 11:Impact

P_Are there grazing permits

TC_ Yes there are, how does it impact your recreation

P_Some of the places I use to hunt, grazing permits can restrict access to roads, but I am just asking

TC_Its useful because its clear that the public doesn't know how this works (permits) and they need to address that
P_I don't agree with Sec. Salazar with many things but he wants to protect the traditional uses of the land. I agree with that
P_The arc sites need to be protect, and create awareness

TC_ Does that mean create more information so that people can enjoy it more, or does that mean less signs so people walk pass it
P_I would identify the sites so people can realize how special it is.

P_Wilderness needs to be left alone and as soon as it becomes a sign and a box then it is not wilderness

Additional Comments

TC_Run over the future meetings, public scoping period, and what happens from here and what the BLM will do with the information and how we move forward.

P_When is the citizen advisory council?

P_Still need to create a recreational stake holders need

BLM_It will set a year after the plan was done, but there is talk about creating a friend's group.

TC_ So maybe looking into that would address the partnership

BLM_Maybe in the next month or so

TC_How do you inform them

BLM_News release, newsletter, and website. The group will decide how often they meet etc.

P_how was this meeting publicized

TC_Emails to past participants, email from the BLM

P_It needs to be addressed to the greater public

BLM_ We will look into other ways to connect with people

TC_We will look into improving this.

Location: Grand Junction

Zone: 3

Date: September 27 2010

TC_Introduction to the meeting, zone and the process, BLM officials. History of what has been done before and where the process is going.

Slide 3 Issues:

PPS: Weekend/Weekday use, separate user groups, maintenance of stock and wildlife ponds, road closures, new routes to be created, gates and fences, law enforcement, future drilling, littering/vandalism, wildlife buffer along river

Additional Issues:

Recreation opportunities

Hunting: To keep in the area

Consumptive use: Christmas tree cutting area, stone query, mineral use, firewood

Extend wildlife buffer to streams

Camping

Fire

Group Use

Slide 4 Issue/Score:

1. Weekend/Weekday use A: 4 B:3 C:6 D:4 E:1
2. Separate User Groups A:2 B:6 C:8 D:1 E:1
3. Maintenance of stock and wildlife ponds A: 2 B:2 C:12 D:3 E:1
4. Road Closures A:2 B: C:2 D:4 E: 12
5. New Routes to be Created A: B: C:1 D: 5 E: 13
6. Gates/Fences A: B: 3 C: 10 D:5 E:1
7. Law Enforcement A:1 B: 6 C:7 D:4 E:
8. Future drilling A: B: C: D: E: Dropped out no longer an issue
9. Littering/Vandalism A:1 B:1 C:11 D:8 E:
- 10 Wildlife Buffer along river and streams A:5 B:7 C:4 D:2 E:2
- 11 Recreation Opportunities A: B: C:2 D:4 E:13
- 12 Hunting A: B: 5 C:7 D:9 E:
- 13 Consumptive use: A:3 B:2 C:9 D: 7 E:
14. Camping/Fire/ Group use/ A:1 B:1 C:4 D:9 E :5

Top Issues

Road Closures, New Routes, Rec Opportunities, Camping/Fire/Group Use

Slide 5:Partnership

Road Closures

P_I work with the BLM about trails and roads right now.

TC_ With a group?

P_WSATV, we clean them up and everyone gets to use them, we get to use them. It creates a multi use.

TC_ WSATV is an already existing partnership

P_More with other groups like the mountain bikers

TC_ Widening the user group partnerships to non motor user

P_Deal with the ranchers and the people in the industry

TC_ Consider grazing groups

P_ With individuals and groups have more advance notice about clean up opportunities,

TC_ More information available so it can be better plan

P_ Thanks to the BLM for putting information in the newspaper

TC_ Are there other ways to communicate

P_TV and news

P_Posting things

P_NCA manager, and a volunteer coordinator and create a predictable schedule and plan long term

P_ Webpage, social networking sites

TC_ To draw in new people

P_I know COBMOBA use it

TC_ We work at the college market, we will sure consider some new options

P_Consider how that(road closures) jives with ADA. It locks out people with disabilities

P_Is the issue permitted closures or season closures

TC_ The routes plus no maintenance

P_One way roads create opportunities for loops

P_And two way traffic

P_No need for indication of one way only

P_No closures of spurs with addition of loop route connections

P_Different trails requirements for different use

TC_Single track bike or motorbike use, multi use

P_If lopped areas single track trails are good

TC_ Good opportunities for multiuse to reduce user conflict

New Routes

P_ On the spur rout thing you almost get another ride on the way back. If you start closures you start concerting the use and a funnel effect happens

P_ Where the motorcycle trails, they need a specific area.

TC_ My understanding that it needs a special areas and it is not conducive. Is it a seasonal thing

P_ It is a year round thing

TC_ Restrict access to make sure you don't run into other people.

P_ They set up routes for specific trails

TC_ Might be some advantage to practice however

P_ New routes don't cross over wildlife areas

TC_ Partnership with DOW to make sure that those areas are taken care off

P_ Need to start with what doesn't exist, instead of starting with what does exist. For example there is lots of bike trails and not a lot of motorized trails

P_ Makes it easier for search and rescue if trails exist.

Recreational Opp.

TC_ Anything else?

Camping/Fire/Group Use

P_ It needs to continue.

TC_ What size groups are you talking about? Group sizes that you are concerned about

P_ Existing regulations are okay but concerned about limiting the use, no restriction to night use.

P_ A lot of time when the NCA, the camping gets consolidated

P_ Disperse camping

P_ Leave it primitive use

P_ Where are the camping facilities

TC_ There is a tendency to consolidate camping and wish to keep it keep it disperse

P_ There is already dispersed camping but it is also for other user groups, not creating harm so keep the status quo.

TC_ That is always an option in the management plan

P_ Other issue, the more you consolidate, the more you concentrate the impact like waste and sanitary issues.

Slide 6: Activity

PPS: OHV use: ATC, single track, jeeping, motorcycle trails, hiking, wildlife watching, camping, horseback riding, hunting, grazing, shooting, archeology, auto tourism, mountain biking, firewood/tree cutting, rock hounding/stone quarry(eliminated)

Additional Activities

Fishing

Bouldering/ rock climbing

Slide 7: Multiple Use/Score

A: B:3 C:2 D:16 E:1 (not an option)

TC_So 75% are multi-use. What kind of implication?

P_That need to wide spectrum of uses.

P_Most users are motorized uses, they drove up there

P_Leave it alone

TC_ Create a space to do lots of different thing

P_The bikers have chased us out of Fruita

TC_ So this is a response of not being able to go else where

Slide 8 Activity/ Community Benefit

TC_Search and rescue, Cleaning up specific to ATV

P_ Economic impact

P_Multi use area because there is less conflict

P_Local area and we get all of our stuff like our equipment here in the local area

P_Jeeping does all the same thing

P_When P_said multi-use it was to spread it out

P_Access all year round

P_Community quality of life thing

P_Camping/fire/group use issue, it creates a social place. Those areas are getting shut down and its getting harder to get away. The cactus park area is great because you can drive see people, and keep driving along and find another place

P_Road vs roadless definition. The definition as it is right now is wrong

TC_ There needs to be clarification of what is a road and what is a roadless area.

Slide 9 Activity/Negative

P_ Tree hugging

P_Area closures you start concentrating use like the trees, soil get over used

TC-It creates a negative impact on the environment

P_Too many roads, use it all you can lose it all

P_When you have too much road, it fragments the wildlife and move out, it degrades wildlife habitat. Road degradation hurts riparian problems, air pollution, dust. You do have to control motorized use.

Slide 10: Management Impact

P_ If you start closing areas and roads.

TC_Alot of what we have been talking about is a lot about travel management

P_Reintroduction of some animals. It's a good thing

P_You can have destination places, you can work on those areas. You don't want 10 roads to the same area, you need one. There are some areas out in the open leave it open but some need limited like one road to one area.

P_Keeping wolves out, in general.

Slide 11:Recreation Impact

P_If they over graze it, it will change the way it looks

TC_ Gets back to the last questions and how it degrades use

P_Ranchers are required to put cattle in a single place. If gates and stuff are open then it creates a problem with different user groups (ranchers/recreation). The ranchers can get into trouble if the livestock isn't where it is suppose to be at a certain time of the year. Open gates cause all kinds of trouble for ranchers.

P_Keep cattle guards

TC_Signs on the gates

P_A sign and informational kiosk about saying keep away from livestock. If you chase a cow over a hill because the cow loses weight, it could change the profit margin on that cow and hurt the rancher.

TC_Public education.

P_ Organized users of the land have the ability to pursue people who are doing things that they shouldn't be doing

TC_How can the BLM facilitate individuals get information to the BLM about what is going on the land.

P_Signage, get a number to call in, make a number available. Voluntary patrol.

Additional Comments

TC_ Information about future meetings, other information opportunities, contact us.

P_ In or during the process about trail closures the public should be notified about specific trails.

BLM_ In Nov there will be a meeting about the trail inventory, there will be maps, so you can tell us what we are missing or make comments about specific trails. It will take us a year and half or two years to come up with a draft and when that comes out there will be a 3 month public comment period to comment on the drafts and alternatives.

P_ Is there a way to id the roads

BLM_ In travel management, we are directed to build route systems that meet other objectives. Route decision become a support decision to the other objective. When we do recreation objective it gets look at in another way.

TC_It make you more effective when you connect the other parts of the plan to recreation.

P_Are there plans to add routes at the meeting

BLM_No because we want to know what we have and figure out what trails you like. We need to figure out what this will look like 20 years from now.

P_ Are you starting from scratch, do we have the last 3 year input?

BLM_No we are not, its all part of what we are looking at.

BLM_This has been designed to compliment information we already have. We are trying to get as much information as possible.

P_Any advisory council information?

BLM_ Within the next month or two, Sec. Salazar is making those decisions.

Location: Delta
Zone: 5
Date: September 29 2010

Slide 1, 2 Comments: TC_ Introduction to the area, zone, the process, the institute. History of the process what has been done so far, where we are going.

Slide 3 Issues:

PPS: Travel management, gates/cattle guards, trespassing, grazing interests/rights, stock ponds, hunting use?, law enforcement and fire control, vandalism/trash, increased restrictions on activities, private land issues

Additional Issues:

P_ Streams and riparian areas

P_ Vegetation

P_ Fishing

P_ Water rights

P_ Camping/Overnight use

P_ Why get government involved? It isn't going to fly this area has been here for a long time and its fine. Why fix something that isn't broken.

TC_ Well this area was designated by Congress and sure we are not going to fix everything in the next 20 years. But we need to do this no matter what.

P_ No restrictions at all

P_ I have a grazing permit, and I wasn't contacted to be involved why?

TC_ We tried to get information out as quickly as possible.

P_ How management plan going to be enforced, in general.

P_ Search and rescue issues

P_ Sanitation

P_ Target shooting

P_ Multi-use, we have always used it and now we are going to be restricted

TC_ This is not exactly a restriction plan. As it stands right now there are no new restrictions and we are here tonight to figure out what needs to be in plan.

P_ We are never going to fix the gate problem but we can talk about ways to work towards a solution. Maybe we need to help people better understand, and the need to educate.

P_ There are people who don't want cattle on the range and leave gates open to harass the ranchers.

TC_ We are here tonight help figure out the plan, and the solutions and if the BLM doesn't know the problem they can't address

P_ My concern is the property rights issue, water rights and when you create a plan you need to address the private property and not letting government to override what the land has been use for before. I don't want to government to take away from my livelihood. Whenever government becomes involved,

too many times people who do not live this life and don't understand the need and chip away at our rights. Small government needs to be considered, the more they make rules the more our rights are taken. Less regulation.

TC_That's why are here tonight. The plan does not dictate anything that happens on private property. The federal government needs to create a plan because of the new law. The water rights are working with the state in-stream process. Its written into the law, the federal government is not going to reach.

P_As a student of history, the government takes away. I don't want eminent domain to happen here.

TC_There would be no way to stop that but what is in our control is to figure out what the BLM should know how recreation impacts the cattle or ranch. If we spend all night discussing how the government is going to take your land then they are going to guess about what needs to happen because regardless it needs to be written by law.

P_Potholes

P_No money used to take away water. I don't want the BLM taking out my stock ponds, I have caught them before and they fixed it before but I had to caught them.

P_Another approach and combine them so nothing gets eliminated.

TC_ Everything gets reported to the BLM but we only have time to talk about a couple in..

Slide 4 Issue/Score:

1. Travel management A: 4 B:4 C: 4 D: 7 E:9
- 2.gates/cattle guards A: B:3 C:8 D:2 E:12
3. trespassing A: B: 4 C: 11 D:6 E:9
4. grazing interests/rights A: B:2 C: 6 D:10 E:13
5. Stock ponds A: B: 5 C: 7 D:6 E:13
6. Hunting use A: 1 B: 5 C:5 D:12 E:6
7. Law enforcement/fire control A: 3 B: 4 C: 7 D:7 E:5
8. Vandalism/trash A: 1 B:4 C: 9 D:10 E:5
9. Increased restrictions on activates A: 2 B: 3 C: 10 D: 6E:9
10. Private land issues A: B: 6 C: 7 D:7 E:10
11. Streams/riparian areas A: 2 B: 6 C: 8 D: 4 E:8
12. Vegetation A: 6 B: 6 C: 5 D:6 E:4
13. Fishing A: 9 B: 8 C: 9 D: 1 E:
14. Water rights A: B: 1 C: 4 D: 8 E:16
15. Camping A: 3 B:5 C: 9 D: 6 E:5
16. No Restrictions A: B: C: D: E: Lumped together
17. Plan enforcement A: 3 B: 3 C: 8 D: 6E:9
18. Search and rescue A: 7 B: 8 C: 5 D:5 E:3

19. Target shooting A: 10 B:7 C: 7 D:3 E:1

20. Multi-use A: 3 B:1 C: 2 D: 5 E:19

21. Potholes A:8 B: 6 C: 8 D:4 E:4

Top Issues: Travel management, and private property rights:grazing, water, stockponds, and enforcement:vandalism, plan, restrictions, and multiuse

Slide 5:Partnership

Travel Management

P_Sending out permit holders, contact with county stock holder association and find out their concerns as related to their permits.

P_Get with user groups and use the back country and talk about what we need

P_For example there was a trail that was not safe for horses and we were contacted

P_Coming up for various plans and had all these meetings (when working with McGinnis canyon), there are only a couple of permittee and work with the BLM

TC_ Try and engage people and if water is involved engage the stake holders

P_The user groups came up with their own plans and then it got lumped in together

TC_ Break into smaller areas and get the working groups together and talk about the issues

P_Huge boundary NFS and need to work with them and integrate their plan. Have a designated contact between the areas

TC_ It's a joint use area and needs to be designated that way

P_How many acres, how many dated acres and how many permittee

BLM_at least a half a dozen permittees

P_Traffic has come up three or four fold, the cars and ATV, since the designation of the NCA.

P_Speed limits

TC_ Law enforcement needs to concentrate on the corridor because that seems to be the problem.

P_Its not a ATV road, it's a county road and its dangerous, when people are flying through there.

TC_ So how does the OHV work with that

P_Whenever I am on a county road, always run with the headlights on and run on the right-hand side.

P_How can he ride a ATV on a county when it is not street legal?

P_Unless the county designates it otherwise it is okay.

P_The county decides what is acceptable.

TC_ Maybe the user groups and the county government need to be contact and create partnerships with the private land owners and work out solutions to the problem.

P_ For example when I was near the Arkansas River there were signs all along the trail and it helped that a sheriff was at the end of it

TC_ So it may be a question of law enforcement

P_ We live in the canyon, that's why it is an issue

TC_ So its useful to think about smart restrictions

P_ It would be smart to close the canyon

TC_ But that isn't always possible and so again we need to think about smart restrictions because blanket statements are not helpful.

P_ Last fall, people trespassing during hunting season. I asked about it and it was because all the trails got shut off in the Dominguez area. So when other areas close, then they come here.

TC_ Clearly there are law enforcement issues, there needs to be further dialogue b/w the BLM and the people who live and work up there and the OHV groups.

P_ The BLM needs to be promote it less because it brings in a lot of traffic, it increases the problem

P_ County governments have a huge responsibility on travel management and the BLM needs to coordinate with them.

TC_ Ranchers/land owners, OHV groups, BLM and country governments

P_ I have been hunting for like 35 40 years and now the roads have been closed. They are old jeeping roads and I don't understand.

TC_ So there is no inventory of that at all. So an updated inventory.

P_ Sometimes it's a erosion issue

P_ But they have been there for 100 years

TC_ Sometimes it's a preventative issue

Law Enforcement

TC_ Who do you call when you see something going on

P_ It depends on what they are doing. IT could be a DOW issue or a private land owner issue

P_ Along the lines, get a description, take pictures, time of day

TC_ People on the ground can be eyes and ears, but other groups?

P_ Federal government need to give county money to better managed the NCA.

TC_ Ways to channel the PLOP, maybe grants, the DOW?

P_ The BLM promised money if to make it the NCA.

P_ The BLM officers need to be enforcement,

TC_ So you want the BLM to do the restrictions

Crowd_ No ?

BLM_ It depends on the scope

P_ But you cant give out ticket

BLM_We may not be able to do it right away, but we can do it retroactively when we get the right information.

Private Property

P_It has already be mentioned, it has to be an ongoing thing with the water issues and include the people downstream. And lobbying your congressman, write letters they will respond, talk to the BLM

P_It helps the public to see a sign that explains the private property, stay on the trail.

P_I appreciate the ranchers, you need to know that OHV users do slow down when we see cattle

P_Is it the people go hunting or ride OHV aren't they suppose to be. Is it their responsibility. Its not my bosses job to do that.

TC_ Yes it should be. But that is an opportunity to do some education, and maybe the BLM could put up the signs

Multi-Use

P_Are their designated camping areas?

TC_ No, is that something that you need?

P_Leave it alone, less concentrated problems.

P_more regulations, more problems, more rebels

P_ We have had multi-use forever and we need to keep it going.

TC_ So its not a problem for more people

P_No we need to adjust but I am all for it, its very important to keep that going

P_ Trails get shut down to 48 inches or so, and its hard to haul salt, we try to keep the trail open for example if a tree comes down we take care of it. If you can run a OHV you should be able to run a track on it.

TC_Do you have adequate trails?

P_Yes we do as long as they don't shut them down.

P_We need to be able to get in areas if we need a new pound.

P_ The whole NCA adopt a formal policy goal and continuing existing and historical uses of the land. Make it an express goal.

Slide 6: Activity, see slide

Additional Activities:

Snowmobiling

P_We use the area a lot more for winter than in the summer time

Rockclimbing

Firewood gathering

Dirt Bike

ATV

4wheeling

Jeeping

Slide 7: Multiple Use/Score

A: 1 B:3 C: 1D: 23 E:2

TC_what does that tell us about the plan

P_Leave it alone

P_Talk to property owners and county and concentrate their efforts where the law breaker are.

P_its a popular area

TC_Where you can do lots of things at once.

Slide 8 Activity/ Benefit

P_They buy gas, they eat in the restaurant

P_Hunters come in, guides get to go out

P_Familyy bounding

P_It benefits the land because people get attached to the land and want to protect it

P_Back horse county men help because we help build trails, and save the BLM money

P_There is a lot of history in the area.

P_In the canyon recreation causes problem

P_I pick up other people's trash.

P_Hunting,fishing, wood cutting help management wildlife and vegetation management

Slide 9 Activity/Negative

P_Vandalism, its unsafe

P_Trash the environment

P_People need to be educated with Leave it No Trace

P_ We love it to death sometimes

TC_Its an overuse problem

P_There are areas that cannot stand the traffic and we need to understand that there are areas that we cannot go.

P_Education and respecting privacy, and we live right on the road and I have people viewing the wildlife in my yard.

P_Us cowboys are always out there, we try and always turn people in.

TC_We need to talk about the benefits because if we only focus on the negative, then what is the solution. It gets shut down. If the BLM only sees problems and no solutions it gets shut off. So, we need to focus on both.

Slide 10: Management

Skipped

Slide 11:Impact

Skipped

TC_Closing statements. Explain the process and information gathering. Explanations for future public comment opportunities, and what the BLM is going to do next.

Wilderness Management Meetings

Location: Delta

Wilderness

Date: October 6, 2010

Introduction: TC_ Introduction to the process, the institute, introduction to NCA, wilderness area and history of the process. Explanation of the focus group meeting. Introduction to zones and the map and past focus group meetings.

Guiding Legislation: TC_ The 1964 Wilderness Act, 2009 section 2:c are especially important for tonight's meeting. Quote of the section.

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act: further highlighted values set up by the Wilderness Act, set up the wilderness area that is being discussed tonight, defined the boundaries and unique values like the pools, bighorn sheep, archeology sites, water rights and grazing

Implementation documents:

Keeping it Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System, helps keeps consistency across federal departments

Specific Agency Policy Manuals

The wilderness area is already set so it is not in our purposes to discuss whether or not it should or not.

Wilderness Characteristics

1. Untrammeled
 - a. Untouched by humans, not disturbed
2. Natural
 - a. No modern civilization
3. Undeveloped
 - a. Minimal evidence of modern occupation and development
4. Solitude of primitive and unconfined recreation
 - a. Has trades off solitude v unconfined
5. Unique and Supplemental Values
 - a. Contain supplemental values like cultural aspects, meadows, pools

Management Trade Offs

TC_ There are tradeoffs and the wilderness act suggests all need to protected. But tonight's meetings is talking about specific tradeoffs for this management plan for some hypothetical situations.

Removal of an Old Gate (untrammeled v undeveloped): A:5 B: 1 C: 1 D:1 E: 1

P_It makes sense about what you are saying but congress has required to eliminate those sort of things

TC_But it's a trade off and congress didn't say anything about this particular case.

P_Is this on a fence?

P_No its an old road

P_Well shouldn't it have been taken out in the first place since it's a wilderness area?

TC_ Tonight's meeting isn't about the should have or shouldn't have but it is about things the BLM can do to help in the management plan. So now you can be involved in the management of the wilderness plan.

P_Well we asked to be involved earlier but they didn't listen and so we are asking those questions now

TC- But Congress acted and you can walk away saying you should have or shouldn't have but congress already acted.

TC_ (After vote) It's a clear showing of leave the gate there

P_Well its just taxpayer money to take the gate down, it's a waste of money.

Limited use to preserve solitude(solitude v unconfined recreation) A:3 B:0 C:0 D: 2 E:6

TC_(after vote)What's interesting is there are no people in the center

P_Well they already locked us out so I don't want additional restrictions

Bighorn Sheep Capture(untrammeled and natural vs unique values): A: 6 B:2 C: D: 1 E:2

P_As long as they don't do it during hunting season.

Bighorn Sheep Capture(solitude vs unique values) A: 7 B:0 C:0 D: 2 E:1

TC_ Its clear that solitude is a more important

P_There are studies showing that sheep's heart rates double when people and trucks are around. This would create undo stress on the sheep

P_Well if that is the case all the sheep by my house would be dead

P_Can a private pilot fly over the wilderness zone

BLM_ No control over airspace but you wouldn't be able to land, that is a permit.

Habitat treatment for Bighorn Sheep(untrammeled vs unique values) A:8 B: C: 1 D: E:3

P_This is inside the wilderness?

TC_Yes this would be inside wilderness

After vote

TC_Strong feeling to untrammeled

P_Quite a few years back when they introduced sheep and they got sick and died. It would be my thinking that these people should try and take care of sheep. But if you want to enjoy wildlife, you need to let them do their job

TC-Right live with changes

P_For years Mr.Miller couldn't fix a pound or get rid of brush before the wilderness

P_You need to maintain the land

P_Congress already decided what happens with the land

TC-But that's the point, Congress only gave broad brush strokes but we need input

Stock ponds for Grazing: A:1 B: C: D:1 E:10

TC_ Can someone go in with heavy machines to fix stock ponds

P_ when you fix a stock pond you help everyone

After vote

TC_ Clear support to help fix stock ponds

P_ If ponds were already there before they declared it, can't you go in a fix it

TC_ It depends on the plan but there is a clear indication to be able to do that

Existing trails in Wilderness(unique values vs unconfined recreation and undeveloped) A: 5 B: C: D:2 E:5

After vote

TC-Even split

P-You better leave it alone, more people are going to destroy it. Same deal in Utah and some knotheds shot them up, so leave it alone.

TC_ So improving the access, lets more people in

Existing Trails in Wilderness (untrammed vs natural) A:9 B:1 C:0 D:0 E:2

P_ I haven't rode that area, but do the cattle need the trails to get around?

TC_ Untrammed means leave it alone, natural means get rid of the trails

P_ But we need someone who has been on the trails and how it affects cattle

P_ That can be part of the decision

P_ Why spend taxpayer money, let nature take its course

After vote

P_ You are going to tear up lot more country to "let it be natural"

P_ There is some special soil and it would take a long time to get that back, leave the trail alone

P_ You are going to have a tough time to get the cattle to not use those trails

P_ Wildlife too

Construction trails in Wilderness (undeveloped and unconfined recreation vs unique values)

A: 1 B:0 C: 0 D:1 E:11

TC_ Strong leave it alone

Tamarisk treatment (untrammed v natural) hand tools A:5 B:1 C:0 D:2 E:4

After Vote

P_ Are we looking at an all or nothing scenario, the untrammed v natural based on the whole or based on specific case

TC-That's exactly why we are here and the choices the BLM faces. We need the feedback to see what you the public want to do. This information does not get collapsed but left alone, so you are free to pick a value on case and another value on another case.

Tamarisk treatment (untrammed v natural) chainsaws A:6 B:0 C:0 D:1 E:5

After vote

TC_ Wow clear as mud, it became a little more polarized.

Group size (solitude and untrammeled vs unconfined recreation) A:5 B:0 C:1 D:1 E:6

After vote

P_I know a school teacher takes student out there, he couldn't be able to do that.

P-That is the same thing I was thinking, but could you get a permit system and be a little more flexible

TC_That could be an alternative in the plan and offer an permit for a special permit biases

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites minor (unique values v undeveloped)

A:7 B:1 C:0 D:0 E:4

P_If you don't put the fence there wouldn't be any petroglyph

TC_Right but another person could feel differently

After vote

P_One people don't honor my fence and number two people could find it a challenge to get over it

P_it will need to be a 10ft fence

P_They have been there that long and seem to be okay

P_Part of that, but its usually the hoodlums who destroy it because you have to walk a far away to get there.

P_There are going to be lots more people if you create trails and attractions

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites major (unique values vs undeveloped)

A:3 B:0 C:0 D:1 E:7

After vote

TC- It shifts almost entirely, if you are going to allow this, it helps the BLM know what point the public wont go.

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites minor (unique values vs primitive and unconfined recreation) A:4 B:0 C:0 D:0 E:9

After vote

TC_ Compared to question 13, there is a completely shift

P_Dont let me not go see the petroglyphs is this question but the other one is about help protect them a little bit please

Interpretive signs (wilderness) A: 5 B: 0 C: 0 D:1 E:7

After vote

TC_No clear middle

P_I understand it a sign at every petroglyph, its like a neon sign. It draws attention. Only a couple of access points, put them there

Interpretive signs (trailhead) A: 7 B:2 C:0 D: 1 : E:2

After vote

TC_ A clear shift, help the BLM know that the signs should be at the trailhead

P_ Putting the signs at the parking lots make it a lot better

Palo research(untrammeled, natural v unique value) A:0 B:0 C:0 D:1 E:12

After vote

P_ Want to see the dinosaur right there

Palo research (unique values vs solitude) A: B: C: D: 1 E:13

After vote

TC_ Almost the exact same, keep the museum out

P_ If they want to go, they need tools. But, Jerry can't go in there with his tools to get his fix his stuff

P_ That's my point, it's not against research but it's against the mechanized and the difference in being able to use the land

Fire Restoration human made (untrammled vs natural) A:5 B:0 C:0 D: 3 E:5

After vote

TC_ People are leaning toward reseeding

Fire Restoration natural causes (untrammled vs natural) A:4 B:1 C:0 D:2 E:6

After vote

TC_ Slight shift toward the middle

P_ My feeling is after seeing the come back from the Yellowstone fire, let nature do its course and cost people money when it will take care of it themselves

P_ Yeah but the moisture is a difference what would take 10 years there could take hundred years here

Trail Restoration (untrammled v undeveloped and natural) A:9 B:1 C: D: E:4

After Vote

TC_ Majority to leave the track there

P_ how do you recede it? And whether you recede it or not they will come back, it's a wasted effort.

P_ some day someone might sue the congress because they don't follow their wilderness law

P_ nature will take care of their roads

P_ that's not true look at Google maps, there are trails that were closed to use 20 years ago that are still there

Recreation Participation Survey w/in (solitude vs primitive recreation opportunities) A:9 B: 2 C: D: E:3

P_ Why wouldn't it be done at the boundary?

TC_ We could look at it that way but right now it's within the wilderness

Recreation Participation Survey at boundary (solitude vs primitive recreation opportunities))

A: 5 B: 2 C: D: 1 E:5

P_ I don't understand the primitive recreation

TC_ Because the survey helps the BLM create a primitive recreation

P_ So this is at the trailhead?

TC- Yes, so primitive recreation is you want the survey

After vote

P_ So why can't it be one of those take one and mail in it in later. I know I am a much nicer person when I can do things at my own time and after I have taken care of what I need to take care off first, like unloading my stuff or after I come out I want to go home and take a shower.

Wilderness Characteristics by Zone map slide and description of the zones

Wilderness Characteristics Wilderness Act section 2 c reminder slide

Zone 1 Characteristic Most

A: 2 B:1 C1 D:5 E:3

Ever been to zone 1: 8 people out of 13

Zone 1 Characteristic 2nd

A: 3 B:1 C: 1 D:5 E: 3

Zone 1 Characteristic Least

A: 5 B:1 C:2 D:0 E:4

Zone 2 Characteristic Most

A:1 B:2 C:2 D:6 E:1

How many been to zone 2: 6 out of 13

Zone 2 Characteristic 2nd

A: 2 B:1 C:1 D:7 E:1

Zone 2 Characteristic Least

A:7 B:0 C:0 D:2 E:4

BLm_Curious about whether there is a different b/w solitude or unconfined

P_ I care about the unconfined

TC_ Any one pushing solitude?

P_I did

TC_ Most of you want the unconfined

P_Is it fair to ask how many people have been in zone

TC-We could

Zone3 Characteristic Most

A:3 B:1 C:1 D:4 E:2

How many been to zone 3: 8 out 13

TC- Solitude v unconfined? Nods for unconfined

Zone3 Characteristic 2nd

A:5 B: C:1 D: 4 E:1

TC_ Solitude v unconfined?: 1 solitude all others favor unconfined

Zone3 Characteristic Least

A: 1 B:3 C:2 D:1 E:4

Zone 4 Characteristic Most

A: 4 B:1 C:0 D:5 E:0

How many been to zone 4: 13 out of 14

TC_ Solitude v unconfined?

P_ Unconfined

Zone 4 Characteristic 2nd

A:6 B:1 C:1 D:4 E:1

TC_ Solitude v unconfined? 1 P: solitude all Other Ps: unconfined

Zone4 Characteristic Least

A: 3B:3 C:1 D:1 E:4

Zone 5 Characteristic Most

A:6 B:1 C:0 D: 4E:2

How many been to zone 5: 7 out of 14

TC_ Solitude v unconfined: unconfined

Zone 5 Characteristic 2nd

A: 9 B:1 C: 1D:3 E:0

TC_ Solitude v unconfined: unconfined

Zone 5 Characteristic Least

A: 1 B:0 C:2 D:1 E:8

TC_Solitude v unconfined: unconfined

TC_ Closing information

P_I apologize for the comments about the wilderness area but there is a section of this that hasn't been address the roads above zone 4. Its important for me because I have been up there for 30 years, the roads were closed even though I talked to then Senator Salazar. We need to protect the NCA to be able to use it but they keep closing it off to use, no matter what side of the fence that you are on please stay involved. I am very passionate about this area and it's the best place in the world, continue to fight the good fight. I understand we have give what we have gotten but we need to be able to access it and work with it. It was the perfect natural area anyways, leave it alone. Please keep the traditional uses of the land.

TC_ This process is not done tonight or in the next couple of weeks and the BLM will take all the information and develop different plans and open it up to the public and we go through a series of processes and opportunities to stay involved and engaged.

Location: Grand Junction

Wilderness

Date: October 4, 2010

Introduction: TC_ Introduction to the process, the institute, introduction to NCA, wilderness area and history of the process. Explanation of the focus group meeting. Introduction to zones and the map and past focus group meetings.

Guiding Legislation: TC_The 1964 Wilderness Act, 2009 section 2c are especially important for tonight's meeting.

Onmibus Public Lands Management Act: further highlighted values set up by the Wilderness Act, set up the wilderness area that is being discussed tonight, defined the boundaries and

Implementation documents:

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5. Unique and Supplemental Values
 - a. Contain supplemental values like cultural aspects, meadows, pools

Management Trade Offs

TC_ There are trade-offs and the wilderness act suggests all need to protected. But tonight's meetings is talking about specific trade-offs for this management plan.

Removal of an Old Gate (untrammeled v undeveloped): A: 5 B:6 C:3 D:5 E:6

P_ Does the gate serve a purpose TC_ No it no longer serves a purpose

P_ Not all trammeling is alike, so how do we know?

P_ We need a picture

Limited use to preserve solitude(solitude v unconfined recreation): A: 3 B:9 C:0 D:5 E:9

P_What does unconfined recreation look like? TC_ When congress said unconfined recreation you get to do whatever you want whenever you want

P_Is this the entire area or specific area TC_ This is for general but we will touch on specific areas

After vote

TC_ at least a 1/3 want unconfined recreation but at least a 1/3 of you want solitude. Extra thoughts?

P_I think there are triggers like if I no longer find solitude then this happens inside the management plan If this happens then this happens

Bighorn Sheep Capture (untrammled and natural vs unique values): A:2 B: 3 C:0 D:7 E:18

TC_Lets the DOW do what they need to do but for the health of the herd it need to managed

P_Tagging a sheep always required a helicopter? TC_ I am not really sure

P_They do this in Black Ridge Wilderness Area and they use a helicopter. It's a huge area and helicopter flights are just more effective

Bighorn Sheep Capture (solitude vs unique values) A:1 B:2 C:0 D:6 E:17

P_Is this like once a week or once a summer? P_I think it's once a week in December ? TC_I think its how often they need to

After vote

TC_ A great number of you think that it's okay to give up some solitude

P_Just so you know they do actually have to touch down on the ground with the helicopter

Habitat treatment for Bighorn Sheep (untrammled vs unique values): A:7 B:3 C:1 D:6 E:9

P_Is there already a track? TC_ no we are talking about knocking out 50% of the vegetation P_How many miles would they use? TC_Its on top of the mesa and they would use existing roads to get there P_Is it a burn or a shep? TC-Leave it there P_It improves the sight and helps the sheep feel safer

P_Would the roads be closed off TC_ It is a permitted use so no more motorized use P_It should be recognized that search and rescue can enter the areas

TC_Yes they are exempt and its written into the legislation.

P_Is this something that they wanted to do before it was a NCA

BLM_It was something that was proposed in other areas but this is a hypothetical.

After vote

TC_ More of you side with the sheep

P_I would also be curious about whether there are less intensive options

TC_ So the BLM can look at the data and see that people want the untrammled and now we need to find other ways.

P_This is a have a cake and eat it too. I don't care if it costs more but if the BLM signed up with the wilderness they need to go up with hand tool, even if it costs more.

P_If your using the guide on the back of the map, this goes against most of them

P_my concern is how long it would take get back to normal

P_Controlled burn might be another option

P_My concern was about actually having more sheep, does that affect the area later on. Does that mean more hunting, effects on water etc.

Existing trails in Wilderness (unique values vs unconfined recreation and developed) A: 11 B:6 C: 1 D:2 E:5

P_Saying you like trails, does that mean you need to stay on the trail? TC_If there is a trail it's suggestive but if there are no trails then it leave you open to go where ever you want.

After vote

TC_Most of you want think it would be useful to have a trail system

P_I thought that meant to remove the trails

TC_Next slide

Existing Trails in Wilderness (untrammeled vs natural) A:17 B:6 C: D: E:3

P_ I don't think that making it look "natural" actually makes it worse because social trails pop up and the damage actually becomes wider when you are trying to make it more natural.

P_There is another option, to close the trail and leave it alone, and they don't get adopted into the management plan

TC_untrammeled is to leave it alone whether you adopt it or not, natural means the trails get removed.

After Vote

TC_ It appears that trails need to be left alone.

P_It could go another option: it could lead to more signage or confine people to trails.

TC_ In a few slides

Construction trails in Wilderness (undeveloped and unconfined recreation vs unique values)

A:4 B:3 C:1 D:4 E:7

After vote

TC_ How do you read this? 50% of you think that it should be left alone and no new trails.

P_There are actually lots of trails there and many people don't know how many trails are there

Tamarisk treatment (untrammeled v natural) hand tools: A:4 B:2 C: D:4 E:13

After Vote

TC_ Go ahead and get rid of the tamarisk but some of you think you should leave it alone.

P_The herbicide needs to be applied within 48 hours or it grows back

P_Is this a one-time thing?

TC_ I would assume that if the tamarisk grows back the coalition comes back

Tamarisk treatment (untrammeled v natural) chainsaws: A:8 B:1 C: D:3 E:11

P_The hand tools would create more jobs

After vote

TC_There is a shift, get rid of it. But more of you side of the untrammeled because of the mechanism

Group size(solitude and untrammeled vs unconfined recreation): A:11 B:4 C:2 D: E:6

After vote

TC_50% of you want solitude but 1 of 4 of you think it should be left unconfined

P_My concern is limiting access and I don't want to see people limited or have to book 6 months to see the area

P_ I have hiked in a group of 30 and I can't believe the damage. I understand limiting group size and I think 10 to 12 heartbeats. It creates a lot of damage to have 30 people and 10 dogs there just isn't enough space when people sit down to eat or if you are on trail. It takes a long time for 30 people to pass

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites (untrammled vs undeveloped) A:10 B:5 C: D:3 E:5

After vote

TC_ 65% don't want people to untrammled and protect the site but 35% of you want to leave it how it is.

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites A: 11 B:3 C:2 D:2 E:4

P_How is this different? TC_ It's similar but this is protecting the resources vs your limits as an actor. P_The resource is going to gone if people touch it.

P_Your building something that means no one can touch it vs having a deterrent sign

TC_ Lets the change it, it means a minor or a major change.

After vote

P_How is may apply to other things, like I may have stronger feelings about unique values over untrammled.

P_For example, there is an old corral that people take firewood away and its being damage but I care a lot more about the petroglyphs a lot more.

Construction facilities to protect cultural sites(unique values v primitive and unconfined recreation): A: 13 B:0 C: 0 D:1 E:8

After vote

P_My thoughts are wanting to protect the sites, one of allure for me and seeing and finding them, but as soon as you start building facilities you direct people to them and I lose the adventure if it is confined.

Interpretive signs (unique value vs undeveloped) At the petroglyphs A:4 B: 2 C:2 D:2 E:14

After vote

P_Signs deteriorate and if they are at the trailhead they can be better maintained

TC_It could also take away from adventure

Interpretive signs (unique values vs undeveloped) At the trailhead: A:11 B:3 C:3 D: E:4

TC_Clear shift, leave signs at the trailhead

Paleo research (untrammled v natural)A: 6 B:3 C: 1 D:5 E:9

Paleo research(unique values vs solitude) A: 5 B:6 C:0 D: 4 E:9

Fire Restoration (untrammled vs natural) A: 4 B: 1 C: 1 D:4 E:14

After vote

P_It would make it difficult to have the natural grass to come back

P_It would be reseed but by hand

P_It could be split into more questions, like a fire suppression question, how does the fire get put out.

P_It depends on the legislation; it is there to protect it and reseeding it may protect it and the unique characteristics.

Trail Restoration (untrammled v undeveloped and natural)A:9 B:2 C: 1 D: 4 E:7

After Vote

TC_This tells me that there are very few easy questions about wilderness

P_I think it reflects an earlier questions, just in regards of being a third option. If people walk side by side then its two tracked but if people use it different then the trails may go away or stay the same

P_I have a long term goal, I want a natural look and I will take untrammled for the long term

P_If people start side by side they want to stay that way, often when it turns into a single track people stay side by side and create more trail

P_If it's there now, it can be a reminder of how it used. So the next time there is another wilderness area do it right the first time.

Recreation Participation Survey(solitude vs primitive recreation opportunities) A:7 B:5 C:5 D:2 E:6

P_ Is this the same at the trailhead or in the wilderness?

TC_ In the wilderness

Wilderness Characteristics by Zone

TC_ This is because there are always dilemma and this helps the BLM see what characteristics are most important in each zone. The BLM created zones and we are going to go through each zone and find the most important characteristic. Description of zones

Wilderness Characteristics Wilderness Act section 2 c reminder slide

See Appendix 3 for results

Question 1: Removal of Old Gate on Triangle Mesa (UT vs UD)

GJ : 5-A, 6-B, 3-C, 5-D, 6-E A=Untrammeled, E= Undeveloped

Delta: 5-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-E

The Grand Junction focus group was evenly split on whether the BLM should trammel the Wilderness area by removing the gate, which would enhance the undeveloped characteristic of the area, or not. Delta favored leaving the gate because it is already there and taking it down would be a waste of tax money. There were several questions about whether the gate serves any purpose. If not, then removal is supported. The GJ group highlighted the lack of information in the tradeoff proposed (this was a common concern for that focus group). For example, they asked for a picture of the gate, and more detail on exactly how it would be removed. The utility of the gate and manner of trammeling seemed to matter to both groups.

Question 2: Limited use to preserve solitude (S vs UR)

GJ: 3-A, 9-B, 0-C, 5-D, 9-E A=Solitude, E=Primitive/Unrestricted recreation

Delta: 3-A, 0-B, 0-C, 2-D, 6-E

It is interesting to note that there are no middle values selected in either group. Comments from Delta suggest the Wilderness Area is already too restrictive, BLM should not add to the restrictions. The question was too generalized for the Grand Junction group to feel comfortable engaging it. They suggested there are threshold levels for these values to not rise above or fall below (thermostat effect) They did not offer much of a criteria for determining these thresholds, but they know it when they see it.

Question 3: Darting and Collaring Bighorn Sheep in the Wilderness (UT vs. UV)

GJ: 2-A, 3-B, 0-C, 7-D, 15-E A=Untrammeled, E=Unique Value of Sheep

Delta: 6-A, 2-B, 0-C, 1-D, 2-E

There are real differences on this particular question in terms of which wilderness characteristic to emphasize. The Delta focus group comments seemed to suggest that they did not see the need for the management practice of tagging and collaring the sheep, especially of it happens during hunting season. If the sheep are supposed to be there in the wilderness, it was argued, then let “nature” take care of the problem of herd management. Any additional management can be done through OW regulation of hunting. The GJ group placed a great deal of trust in the CDOW, if they thought the trammeling was necessary for the health of the herd, then it was an acceptable trammeling.

Question 4: Helicopter over flights to dart and collar Bighorn Sheep (S vs. UV)

GJ: 1-A, 2-B, 0-C, 6-D, 17-E A=Solitude, E=Unique Value of Sheep

Delta: 7-A, 0-B, 0-C, 2-D, 1-E

Again there is a distinct difference between the two focus groups on preferred characteristics. The comments from GJ indicate that as long as it is not a weekly or monthly occurrence it can be tolerated if needed for the health of the herd. The Delta focus group expressed concern for the health of the

animals who might be stressed by the helicopters, but it was countered that this is already the procedure in Black Ridge Wilderness in the McGinnis Canyons NCA and there seems to be no detrimental effect.

Question 5: Habitat Treatment for Bighorn Sheep (UT vs. UV)

GJ: 7-A, 3-B, 1-C, 6-D, 9-E A=untrammeled, E=unique value of sheep
Delta: 8-A, 0-B, 1-C, 0-D, 3-E

This question required more detail than was provided as a hypothetical according to comments from the Grand Junction group. For example, it seems to make a difference what degree of trammeling would be needed to improve habitat and how it would be accomplished. In general, the more mechanized and/or intrusive, the less support there was for the habitat treatment. Several options from hand tools to controlled burns to chaining were discussed. Some concern was expressed that improving the habitat might increase the sheep population and create problems elsewhere in the ecosystem. The Delta group discussed a variety of habitat improvements including the construction of stock ponds that can also be used by wildlife as a source of water. They requested an additional question regarding the tradeoff of stock ponds in the wilderness. **A=undeveloped, E=unique value of grazing and wildlife 1-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 10-E.** This follow up question was not asked in the GJ focus group. Clearly there is strong support for continued development other existing stock ponds in the wilderness area, even if they are developed mechanically.

Question 6: Improve existing trails to increase access to Unique Values (UV vs. UR/UD)

GJ: 11-A, 6-B, 1-C, 2-D, 5-E A=Unique Values (Petroglyphs and BH Sheep)
Delta: 5-A, 0-B, 0-C, 2-D, 5-E E=Unrestricted Recreation and Undeveloped

Although the Delta group was split on characteristics to emphasize in the tradeoff, there was little middle ground. Those in favor of undeveloped and unrestricted recreation suggested that improving access would increase the possibility of destroying the unique values as it becomes easier for vandals and others to get to them. The GJ group was more clear in their support of unique values, but the comments afterward suggest that perhaps there was confusion about what each value might mean in terms of action on the ground.

Question 7: Leave existing trails in the Wilderness or remove them (UT vs. N)

GJ: 17-A, 6-B, 0-C, 0-D, 3-E A=Untrammeled, E=Natural (remove trails)
Delta: 9-A, 1-B, 0-C, 0-D, 2-E

The Delta group was primarily concerned about how cattle used the existing trails. If they used them, the group thought it a waste of money to try to remove the trails to make the area look more “natural”, and it was foolish to assume the cattle wouldn’t continue to use the same trails even if they had been removed, thus defeating the purpose of the tradeoff. The Grand Junction group was in agreement that the trails should be left alone if they already exist, but for different reasons. It was suggested that removing existing trails will only encourage more damage through the proliferation of “social” trails that are not planned to be sustainable.

Question 8: Construction of Trails in the wilderness (UV vs. UD/UR)

GJ: 4-A, 3-B, 1-C, 4-D, 7-E **A=Unique Values, E=Undeveloped and**
Delta: 1-A, 0-b, 0-C, 1-D, 11-E **Unrestricted Recreation**

There was a clear indication from the Delta group to leave the Wilderness alone and not construct any trails that aren't already there. The Grand Junction response was more mixed with several indicating there were adequate trails in the Wilderness already.

Question 9: Tamarisk removal treatment with hand tools (UT vs. N)

GJ: 4-A, 2-B, 0-C, 4-D, 13-E **A=Untrammeled, E=Natural**
Delta: 5-A, 1-B, 0-C, 2-D, 4-E

This question was paired with the following to determine if there was a threshold of trammeling that was acceptable to restore naturalness. In this case Tamarisk is an invasive species, removing it would be a trammel, but it would restore the naturalness of the riparian waterway. It is clear that the Grand Junction group favors removal of the Tamarisk, it was even suggested that hand tools would create more jobs as a method of removal. The Delta group was more split with some favoring removal because they do not like the Tamarisk, while others favored leaving the Wilderness alone. If the Tamarisk grew there, leave it alone.

Question 10: Tamarisk removal treatment with chainsaw (UT vs. N)

GJ: 8-A, 1-B, 0-C, 3-D, 11-E **A=Untrammeled, E=Natural**
Delta: 6-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 5-E

The difference in method (from the last question) seemed to be more of an issue for some in the Grand Junction group rather than the Delta group. Although there was movement in both groups toward less trammeling based on the method used, the Grand Junction group clearly favored hand tools over chainsaw as a method of removal, but in both cases there is a preference for removal over leaving the Tamarisk alone.

Question 11: Limitations on Group Size (S and UT vs. UR)

GJ: 11-A, 4-B, 2-C, 0-D, 6-E **A=solitude and Untrammeled, E=unconfined**
Delta: 5-A, 0-B, 1-C, 1-D, 6-E **recreation**

A significant portion of the Grand Junction group would be in favor of limiting group size in the Wilderness in order to preserve the solitude and protect the resources by less trammeling on the landscape done by large groups. There was concern expressed about limiting access or having to book reservations for groups well in advance. If there are limits, 10-12 heartbeats was offered as a reasonable limit. The Delta group expressed concern that limits on group size would impede educational opportunities with school groups. Perhaps a special permit for education could be granted to exceed any limits to group size.

Question 12: Construction of minor facilities to protect Archeological Sites (UV vs. UD)

GJ: 10-A, 5-B, 0-C, 3-D, 5-E **A=protect Unique Values, E=Undeveloped**
Delta: 7-A, 1-B, 0-C, 0-D, 4-E

All participants thought the petroglyphs are worth protecting, but differed on how that can best be done. Some thought facilities would be necessary for the longterm preservation of the rock art, while others thought the fence would be a challenge for people to want to get around. Others suggested that if the petroglyphs had been there that long, they would probably be ok. Several suggested that the construction of facilities themselves would attract more to want to touch the rock art.

Question 13: Construction of major facilities to protect sites (UV vs. UD)

GJ: 11-A, 3-B, 2-C, 2-D, 4-E A=protect Unique Values, E=Undeveloped
Delta: 3-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 7-E

This is a similar set of questions to the previous question on Tamarisk removal designed to determine the extent of development the public will tolerate. Although the only effect of the change from minor to major facilities in the Grand Junction group was to find a few more participants in the middle of the tradeoff, in the Delta group there was a dramatic shift away from construction of facilities (toward UD) when the facilities grew. This does not seem to be the direction to take management of the resource.

Question 14: Construction of minor facilities to protect sites (UV vs. UR)

GJ: 13-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 8-E A=Unique Values, E=Unconfined recreation
Delta: 4-A, 0-B, 0-C, 0-D, 9-E

This question was designed to test a different wilderness characteristic in a tradeoff with protecting the unique value of the petroglyphs. It seems clear that even though there is a split in the Grand Junction group a majority of them want to protect the petroglyphs even if it is a confinement on their recreation opportunities, but one participant indicated that much of the attraction of petroglyphs is discovering them, which would be lost if any facilities were to be built. The Delta group returned to a familiar position of resisting any encroachment on their freedom represented by the limitations of the facilities themselves.

Question 15: Interpretive signs for Archeological sites in Wilderness (UV vs. UD)

GJ: 4-A, 2-B, 2-C, 2-D, 14-E A=Unique Value, E=Undeveloped
Delta: 5-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 7-E

The tradeoff in this scenario was between enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of the unique value of the petroglyphs through a connection with culture and heritage of the area and leaving the sites as they are with no further signs of development in the Wilderness. The Grand Junction group seemed to strongly prefer an option of leaving the sites unmarked by signs. Several in Delta also expressed that signs will draw attention to the sites and invite vandalism. Those who preferred signs, indicated the value of connecting to heritage and opportunities to learn about the past.

Question 16: Interpretive signs for Archeological sites at the trailhead outside the Wilderness (UV vs. UD)

GJ: 11-A, 5-B, 2-C, 0-D, 4-E A=Unique Value, E=Undeveloped
Delta: 7-A, 2-B, 0-C, 1-D, 2-E

This question is the same as the previous question, except that the interpretive sign is located outside the Wilderness at the trailhead or parking/staging area. There is a pronounced shift in favor of interpretive signs from the Grand Junction group if they are at the trailhead instead of inside the Wilderness. There is support for the signs at the trailhead from the Delta group. One comment even suggested that signs would be easier to maintain if at the trailhead. Another indicated that this would alert the public to the heritage in the area, but preserve the adventure of finding it.

Question 17: Paleontology Research in the Wilderness area if Dinosaur bones discovered (UT vs. N)

GJ: 6-A, 3-B, 1-C, 5-D, E-9 A=Untrammeled, E=natural
Delta: 0-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 12-E

Question 18: Paleontology Research in the Wilderness area if Dinosaur bones discovered (UV vs. S)

GJ: 5-A, 6-B, 0-C, 0-D, 9-E A=Unique Values, E=Solitude
Delta: 0-A, 0-B, 0-C, 1-D, 13-E

Questions 17 and 18 were based on the same hypothetical situation in which a new discovery of Dinosaur bones is made in the Wilderness Area. In the first question (17) the tradeoff is based on whether scientists can come in and catalog and excavate the site (thus trammeling) or whether it should just be left natural as it is. In the second question (18) it is a tradeoff between discovering more about the unique and supplemental value of Paleo resources and the disturbance of solitude from the increased activity to do the research. The Delta group was more united in opposition of any activity regarding the research in the Wilderness area than any other issue. Comments suggest that they would prefer to see the bones where they lie (“Isn’t that what a Wilderness is supposed to be all about?”). They were also concerned about the fairness of excluding some uses such as use of newly discovered commercial resources, but allowing other uses such as the research. The Grand Junction group was more split but found the question too hypothetical to avoid different interpretations in the answer. Given their split response, it might be prudent to revisit this issue when there is a concrete choice.

Question 19: Restoration of habitat after a fire (man-made) (UT vs. Natural)

GJ: 4-A, 1-B, 1-C, 4-D, 14-E
Delta: 5-A, 0-B, 0-C, 3-D, 5-E (if fire was human caused)
Delta: 4-A, 1-B, 0-C, 2-D, 6-E (if fire was naturally caused)
A=Untrammeled (interpreted as restoration work by crew), E=Natural

The scenario asked whether there should be restoration work done after a fire in the Wilderness, or whether it should be left alone to allow nature to take care of restoration. The Grand Junction meeting was first and there was some discussion that it might make a difference if the fire was human caused (in which case we might feel more responsible for restoration perhaps) or naturally caused (in which case it might just be a part of the natural cycle and should be left alone). The choice of untrammeled (UT) is actually a trammeling as the restoration would be done by a crew with specific scientific guidelines. As a result, two different questions were asked at the Delta meeting to see if this made a difference. There is a little movement at the extremes, but not a significant shift overall. Some suggested that other areas such as Yellowstone were fine without restoration effort, but

others countered that the lack of moisture and presence of invasive species might make it hard for nature to restore itself quickly or “naturally” to what existed before the fire. Others suggested this ought to be several questions regarding fire suppression techniques, reseeding techniques etc.

Question 20: Restoring a two track trail into a single track trail (UT vs. UD/N)

GJ: 9-A, 2-B, 1-C, 4-D, 7-E **A=Untrammeled, E=Undeveloped/Natural**

Delta: 9-A, 1-B, 0-C, 0-D, 4-E

The question asked is whether restoration work should be done to turn existing two-track trails inside the Wilderness into single track trails with the other track reseeded to match natural setting. There was a good deal of discussion on whether this is the intent of the Wilderness Act to “fix” everything in the Wilderness, or to let nature take its course. Many thought this a wasted effort. Some suggested that the trails should remain two track as a reminder that “it shouldn’t have been Wilderness in the first place since there were roads in there.” Some suggested that even if the two track were limited to non-motorized travel, it is sometimes nice to walk side by side. Many thought it a low priority and not a good use of limited BLM resources. Some suggested that if the long term goal is natural, then several years of trammeling to get to that look is worth it.

Question 21: Recreation Participation Survey within the Wilderness (S vs. Primitive Rec)

GJ: 7-A, 5-B, 5-C, 2-D, 6-E **A=solitude, E=survey to manage for
primitive recreation**

Delta: 9-A, 2-B, 0-C, 0-D, 3-E (in Wilderness)

Delta: 5-A, 2-B, 0-C, 1-D, 5-E (at trailhead)

The final question asked if it was acceptable to diminish solitude by asking survey questions within the Wilderness in order to gain data needed to manage for primitive recreation opportunities. Delta asked for a separate question to see if it would be more acceptable outside the Wilderness at the trailhead, and there was significant movement in favor of the survey there. Most would prefer that the surveys not be taken in the wilderness itself, but at trailheads leading into the Wilderness, if necessary.