

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 31, 2008**  
**Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

Parking changes for horse trailers in McInnis Canyons front country

FRUITA, Colo. — The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA), managed by the Bureau of Land Management, is preparing for improvements later this year to the trailhead that provides access to the front country's Devils Canyon trail system, a popular day-use area for hikers, runners, and horseback riders. As implementation of the 2004 Resource Management Plan for the McInnis Canyons NCA continues, BLM plans to improve the trailhead facilities and rehabilitate damaged resources in areas previously used for parking. Hundreds of visitors every week seek a quiet hike or horseback ride on trails leading into the rugged 75,500-acre Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

In anticipation of the construction, those pulling horse trailers are being redirected, effective immediately, to designated parking areas located on the west side of Opal Hill or near the NCA entrance off Kings View Road. To ensure a parking space, those visitors pulling horse trailers should plan their rides during early morning hours on weekends or on weekdays. To get the word out, BLM is working with the equestrian organization, Backcountry Horsemen, and contacting individual riders, as well as posting information at the trailheads.

"Adding to changes in the area, an adjacent private landowner recently installed fencing, further restricting areas previously available for horse trailer parking," NCA Park Ranger Troy Schnurr said. "Folks are just not going to have the various areas they've become accustomed to for parking, but we'll be working to improve facilities in the area." In addition to the trailhead improvements at Devils Canyon, the BLM and the City of Fruita have cooperatively applied for grant funding to provide a new trailer parking area at Snooks Bottom.

The BLM appreciates your cooperation and patience as these changes are implemented. For additional information, contact Troy Schnurr at (970) 244-3032.

###

**For Immediate Release**  
**Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681**  
**March 19, 2008**  
**Melodie Lloyd 970-244-3097**

BLM Resource Advisory Council Nominations Due April 14

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Colorado. Nominations are being accepted through April 14, 2008, to fill the positions of several members whose terms of appointment will expire this August.

The councils provide advice and recommendations to BLM on the use and management of 8.3 million acres of public lands in the State. In 1995, BLM established councils in Colorado representing three geographic areas: Northwest, Southwest, and Front Range. The RACs enable citizens to have a meaningful say in how public lands are managed. Members give advice to BLM on the broad array of resource, social, and economic issues that confront land managers and local communities.

Colorado State Director Sally Wisely appreciates the contributions made by current and previous members. "RAC members represent a broad array of backgrounds, interests, and experience," said Wisely. "With BLM's diverse responsibilities, RAC members have opportunities to advise us on challenging and complex issues."

The councils operate on principles of collaboration and consensus. Members are sought who are committed to working together with other interests for the long-term benefit of public lands and the people who enjoy and rely on them. "I can't emphasize enough what effective partners the Colorado RACs have been in helping resolve public land issues that affect the quality of life throughout the State," Wisely said.

Council members must be residents of Colorado. Each year, one-third of the membership is up for renewal or replacement. Terms are for three years. Each council consists of 15 members, selectively balanced and representative of three general interest groups:

Group 1 - holders of federal grazing permits/leases; representatives of mining, timber, off-road vehicle use, and commercial recreation;

Group 2 - representatives of recognized national or regional environmental or resource conservation organizations; archeological and historical interests; wild horse and burro groups; and dispersed recreational activities;

Group 3 - State, county, or local elected officials; employees of State agencies responsible for management of natural resources, land or water; representatives of Indian tribes; academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public at large.

Colorado's Northwest RAC, Southwest RAC, and Front Range RAC have vacancies in all three categories.

Qualifications for RAC membership are based on the nominee's:

Education, training, or experience to give informed, objective advice on an industry, discipline, or interest;

Experience or knowledge of the geographical area the council serves;

Demonstrated commitment to collaboration in seeking solutions to resource management issues.

BLM provides training on resource science and management issues to all council members. Members serve without monetary compensation, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses.

Members are expected to attend RAC meetings called by the designated federal officer. Meetings usually occur no more often than every other month. Location of the meetings can vary throughout the state, and may include tours. Meetings will normally be held Monday through Friday, and may last more than one day.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Letters of reference from the interests or organizations the nominee wishes to represent must accompany the nomination form. In addition, each nominee must submit a completed Background Information Nomination Form and should have a demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

The nomination period will close on April 14, 2008, as announced in the Federal Register on February

28. Application forms and additional information can be found at [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Resources/racs.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs.html).

For additional information, please contact:

BLM Northwest RAC, Attention: David Boyd, e-mail [david\\_boyd@blm.gov](mailto:david_boyd@blm.gov)  
50629 Hwy 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (Phone 970.947.2832)

BLM Southwest RAC, Attention: Melodie Lloyd, e-mail [melodie\\_lloyd@blm.gov](mailto:melodie_lloyd@blm.gov)  
2815 H Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81506 (Phone 970.244.3097)

BLM Front Range RAC, Attention: John Dow, e-mail [john\\_dow@blm.gov](mailto:john_dow@blm.gov)  
3028 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212 (Phone 719.269.8559)

BLM Colorado State Office, Attention: Jaime Gardner, e-mail [jaime\\_gardner@blm.gov](mailto:jaime_gardner@blm.gov)  
2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 (Phone 303.239.3681)

###

**For Immediate Release: March 19, 2008**  
**CONTACT: Dan Huisjen, 970-240-5339;**  
**Steve Ellis, 970-240-5353; Mel Lloyd, 970-244-3097;**  
**or Lee Ann Loupe, 970-874-6717**

#### Prescribed burns slated for area

MONTROSE, Colo. – Crews from the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests will be conducting several prescribed burns in west-central Colorado throughout the coming weeks. Burning could begin as soon as Monday, March 24, and will continue throughout the spring and early summer as long as weather permits. The areas slated for treatment include:

Norwood/Nucla Area:

Clay Creek: 200 acres, project area is located 5 miles northeast of Norwood along the Sanborn Park Road.

Patterson Mountain: 425 acres, project area is located 6 miles north of Norwood just south of Highway 90 and the community of Ute.

Basin: 110 acres, project area is located along the Houser Road approximately 12 miles northeast of Nucla.

Uncompahgre-North Fork Valleys

Dave Wood: 400 acres, project area located 12 miles southwest of Montrose adjacent to the Dave Wood Road.

Paxton: 300 acres, project area located 9 miles west-southwest of Montrose just north of Highway 90.

Bear Paw: 100 acres, project area is located 6 miles southeast of Paonia along the South Fork of Minnesota Creek. This burn will also continue into the fall.

Fuels being treated in these areas include mechanically treated and standing pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations, ponderosa pine with a mountain shrub understory at higher elevations, and oakbrush stands. The main objective of these prescribed fires is to reduce dense vegetation to lessen the chance for catastrophic wildfires. Other benefits include improving wildlife habitat, regenerating new growth, and discouraging pine beetle reinfestation in affected areas.

Weather conditions will be closely monitored, and burns will only be initiated if conditions are within established parameters for safe and effective fires. Each prescribed burn conducted by the agencies has gone through an environmental analysis and has a detailed burn plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies. For more information on any of these burns, contact Fire Ecologist Dan Huisjen, with the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit, at (970) 240-5339.

###

**Press Release:**

Temporary Road Closure in Chaffee County

South of Buena Vista, BLM road 6043, access road to Chinaman Gulch and Carnage Canyon, is temporarily closed due to wet conditions. This temporary closure is necessary to protect the road from damage.

BLM will reopen the road when road conditions improve. Please call BLM 719-269-8500 with any questions and for up to date road closure information.

**For Immediate Release**

**March 13, 2008**

**Steven Hall BLM 303-239-3672**

**David Boyd BLM 970-947-2832**

BLM's Roan Plateau plan moves forward

With the issuance of a second Record of Decision, the Bureau of Land Management has completed planning for the Roan Plateau and will implement decisions throughout the entire planning area affecting oil and gas leasing, travel management, recreation and grazing. The BLM's second Record of Decision (ROD) for the Roan Plateau designated 21,034 acres as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and upholds strict protections for these areas.

“This second ROD marks the completion of a 7-year planning effort that has involved thousands of people, the State of Colorado, local governments, communities, various organizations and industry,” said Sally Wisely, BLM Colorado State Director. “This decision provides one of the most environmentally sensitive plans the BLM has ever developed to address oil and gas development. The BLM appreciates the hard work of everyone involved, particularly Governor Ritter who provided input

that has improved this plan and will help guide our implementation.”

The Roan plan outlines an innovative, highly restrictive approach to oil and gas development. Development on top of the Plateau will be conducted in a staged, ridge-by-ridge approach, with well pads more than ½ miles apart to minimize wildlife habitat fragmentation. Development on top of the Plateau will be confined to corridors along existing roads. Surface disturbance on top is limited to one percent, or approximately 350 acres, at any one time. This phased approach to development encourages innovation in minimizing disturbance and reclaiming disturbed areas.

Leases for the top of the Plateau will require operators to enter into a single federal unit. A federal unit requires consolidation of planning and operations under a single unit operator. This approach reduces impacts to other natural resources by consolidating infrastructure and providing for a more orderly, planned approach to development.

An estimated nine trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas underlies the federal lands in the Roan area. Federal revenue from oil and natural gas royalties and lease sales are expected to generate between \$857 million and \$1.13 billion over the next 20-years. The State of Colorado would receive an estimated \$428 to \$565 million as the state’s share of federal royalties and federal leases.

The two RODs follow direction Congress gave the Department of the Interior (DOI) in 1997, when the lands of the Naval Oil Shale Reserves 1 and 3 on top and below the Roan Plateau were transferred from the Department of Energy to DOI. The transfer legislation instructed DOI to enter into leases for the exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas on these transferred lands "as soon as practicable." This direction included the top of the Roan Plateau.

The plan governs 73,602 acres of federal lands and minerals. This second ROD follows the earlier ROD issued in June 2007, which made a number of land management decisions and authorized oil and gas leasing.

More than half of the federal acres in the Roan Planning Area – 38,470 acres – are designated with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations, which mean no ground disturbance. Included in this total are the 21,034 acres of ACECs, all of which carry NSO stipulations.

NSO stipulations are in place to protect steep slopes, fish and wildlife habitat, views from I-70 and surrounding towns, and rare plants. The Roan Plan also includes 30,833 acres of Controlled Surface Use stipulations, which allow the BLM to determine where and when disturbance can occur to protect other resources like wildlife habitat or viewsheds.

“The current plan reflects important input from the State of Colorado received throughout the process,” said Jamie Connell, Glenwood Springs Field Manager. “We look forward to working with our colleagues in state and local government in the implementation phase of this plan to ensure responsible, environmentally sensitive management of the Roan Plateau.”

With completion of the ACEC ROD, the BLM will begin preparing for a possible lease sale later this year. Additional planning and environmental analysis will be required before development on leases could occur.

For more information visit: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/roanplateau>

-- BLM --

**For Immediate Release March 7, 2008**

**Contact: Jim Sample 303-239-3861**

**Steven Hall 303-239-3672**

### BLM May 8 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Information Available

DENVER – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado today announced that it will offer to lease for oil and gas development 133 parcels including approximately 175,430 acres at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale on May 8, 2008.

The sale will include 144,090 acres of U.S. Forest Service land in the San Luis Valley. BLM acts as the leasing agent for mineral rights on all federal lands. The decision to make Forest Service lands available for lease is made in the applicable Forest Service Plan, with the BLM managing the sale of the leases.

"The Forest Service parcels proposed for lease in the May lease sale may be of concern to some of the public, so we will have an open meeting in Del Norte to discuss the process and answer questions," said Dan Dallas, Forest Supervisor/Center Manager for the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center.

"There are currently oil and gas leases on BLM land in the San Luis Valley, but the last parcel leased on the Rio Grande National Forest was in 1994," Dallas said. "We plan on making a concerted effort to bring the public up to date on our land use planning and the BLM's leasing policy."

The sale also includes eight parcels in Jackson County that were deferred from BLM's November 2007 lease sale to allow the BLM to perform additional analysis and community outreach. The additional analysis was to identify potential impacts to sage grouse habitat, while the community outreach involved BLM holding a meeting for local residents and community officials. Two of the parcels that were deferred in November have been fully approved for lease sale, while six of the parcels have portions that are still partially deferred pending further analysis.

"We have worked with the local county and city officials since November to hold public meetings and provide as much information as possible about the oil and gas leasing program," said Dave Stout, Field Manager in BLM's Kremmling Field Office, which oversees the BLM land in Jackson County.

Stout said that one of the key points he and his staff emphasized in the public sessions was an explanation of split-estate lands, where a private entity owns the surface rights and the federal government owns the subsurface mineral rights. Mineral rights include the right to access subsurface minerals.

"Some people may be unaware of this when they buy land," Stout said. "We explained to them that if the mineral rights are reserved by the federal government, they can check this through examining the title insurance at the title company and the deed on file at the local courthouse. They should find out what the plan is for their area. The BLM must consider the public interest in terms of the federal mineral estate, not only the desires of surface owners."

The lease sale will offer parcels in 14 counties (some parcels overlap county lines) including:

Dolores, 348 acres  
Garfield, 523 acres  
Huerfano, 1,080 acres  
Jackson, 7,234 acres  
Mesa, 2,060 acres  
Moffat, 12,702 acres  
Montezuma, 280 acres  
Montrose, 80 acres  
Morgan, 640 acres  
Rio Grande, 109,562 acres  
Routt, 1,280 acres  
Saguache, 36,404 acres  
San Miguel, 2,438 acres  
Weld, 800 acres

“Of the total acreage managed by the BLM, less than one percent experiences surface disturbance from oil and gas activity,” said Acting BLM Colorado Deputy State Director Duane Spencer. “To minimize impacts to the land, the Bureau analyzes the potential environmental effects from exploration and development before offering any leases for sale.”

The federal government has paid \$2.39 billion in mineral royalties, bonus payments and rental fees to Colorado since 1922. In 2007, the state received \$123 million in federal mineral payments.

Statewide, BLM accounts for about 10 percent of new oil and gas leasing activity. In 2007, the state of Colorado processed 6,386 applications for drilling permits, of which 827 were on federal lands or subsurface mineral holdings. The remainder of the wells are on state-owned or private lands.

The BLM is posting the sale notice for 60 days, rather than the 45 days required by law.

“We want to ensure the public is well-informed on oil and gas lease sales, and try to educate the public on what the BLM is doing to manage the public’s mineral estate” said Spencer.

All leases come with stipulations (general requirements) on oil and gas activities to protect the environment; leases can also include specific restrictions, such as limits on seasons when drilling can occur and restrictions on surface occupancy by oil and gas operators. BLM Colorado holds oil and gas lease sales on the second Thursday of February, May, August, and November. Lease sale information can be obtained online at: [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/oilandgas/leasing.html), at each of the Bureau’s field offices, and the Public Room at the Colorado State Office in Lakewood.

Parties interested in receiving regular notification of oil and gas lease sales are encouraged to contact the State Office Public Room at 303-239-3600. Notice documents may also be obtained by calling the Public Room up to 60 days before the sale and requesting a copy of the sale notice be sent to you. There is a \$5 charge for the sale notice. Sale results can be requested approximately one week after the sale for an additional \$5.

National BLM policy requires that all protests filed on nominated parcels must include the specific serial number of the parcel being protested and must be received by the BLM either by mail, hand

delivery, or fax by 4:00 p.m. by April 23, 2008. If a protest is filed by fax, it must be sent to 303-239-3799. This policy allows the Bureau to review protests in advance of the sale, make an appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and meet the statutory deadline for issuing leases. While protested parcels may still be offered, bidders are notified that no lease will be issued until protests are resolved.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the 1987 Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act authorize leasing of federal oil and gas resources. The 1987 law, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act, requires each BLM state office to conduct oil and gas lease sales on at least a quarterly basis where there is interest to do so.

The BLM manages over 8.3 million surface acres of public lands in Colorado, plus more than 27 million subsurface acres for mineral development in the state. These lands are managed for a multitude of uses including recreation, mining, wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release**  
**Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**  
**March 7, 2008**

#### BLM Uncompahgre releases travel maps for public review

MONTROSE, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is proposing to amend the Uncompahgre Basin and San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan, in order to change designations from “open” to “limited to existing” travel for motorized use within the entire Field Office. This proposal is in line with policy recently implemented by the BLM Colorado State Office. A 60-day public comment period opens on Monday, March 10. The public is invited to review maps showing existing routes, and submit written comments and altered maps to assist BLM in identifying routes that may have been missed, as well as issues and concerns to be considered during the environmental review process. The area for this travel planning initiative encompasses approximately 463,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Mesa, and Gunnison counties.

“I’ve been very pleased with the amount of public involvement BLM has seen so far,” said Field Manager Barb Sharrow. “We want to keep the public engaged at every step of the way to assist BLM in developing a more effective travel plan.”

Areas excluded from this proposal include the North Delta OHV Open Area, the area guided by the Gunnison Travel Interim Restrictions Plan Amendment, and other designations such as “Limited to Existing” and “Limited to Designated” areas. All of these areas will be addressed in subsequent travel management planning. Travel decisions in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, for which an RMP was signed in 2004, will not be affected.

A transportation system of designated roads and trails is being proposed through a separate Environmental Assessment for the 115,000-acre Dry Creek area, which is defined by the USDA Forest Service boundary on the west, private land on the east, 25 Mesa Road on the north, and Dave Wood Road on the south. Travel planning in this area addresses all modes of travel including motorized,

mechanized, equestrian and hiking routes.

The UFO will accept public comments on the maps through Thursday, May 8, 2008. The public may submit written comments, including map mark-ups, by mail to the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, ATTN: Travel Management, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; by fax to (970) 240-5368; or by e-mail to [cotmpufo@blm.gov](mailto:cotmpufo@blm.gov). Project maps and an informational briefing may be reviewed at the Norwood USDA Forest Service office; the Naturita, Ridgway and Delta Public Libraries; as well as the Montrose Public Lands Center located at 2505 S. Townsend Ave. Materials, including maps, are also available on-line at [www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co) (select Uncompahgre on interactive map). For further information or to have your name added to a mailing list, send an e-mail to [cotmpufo@blm.gov](mailto:cotmpufo@blm.gov), or contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Jackson, at (970) 240-5310.

-UFO-

**For Immediate Release**  
**Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**  
**March 5, 2008**

Land managers announce temporary closure to protect sage grouse

MONTROSE, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) and the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) are implementing an immediate temporary closure on approximately 17,570 acres within the Gunnison sage grouse “area of critical environmental concern,” or ACEC, located in and adjacent to the Gunnison Gorge NCA. Effective immediately, the temporary closure is intended to protect the sensitive Gunnison sage grouse and its habitat, as well as reduce stress and disturbance to wintering deer and elk herds. Greater than normal winter snows are anticipated to extend muddy conditions this spring. As a result, all forms of human activity, including motorized, mechanical, foot, horseback, and skiing, will be prohibited through April 30, 2008, on portions of Black Ridge and Fruitland Mesas east of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, west of the Black Canyon Road, south of the Smith Fork drainage, and north of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. This area is managed as an ACEC; therefore the BLM is taking extraordinary measures to protect its resources.

“Recent closures on public lands in the Gunnison Basin will likely result in increased human use within the ACEC this spring,” NCA Manager Karen Tucker said. “While winter snows in the ACEC are not nearly as severe as in Gunnison, in recent years we had already begun to see an increase in stress on Gunnison sage grouse and big game populations, and damage to important habitat areas including sage grouse leks, brooding and rearing areas caused by increased motorized and non-motorized use.”

Many people are already familiar with the BLM seasonal gate closure at the intersection of Black Canyon and C-77 Roads. That closure restricts only motorized use in the Fruitland Mesa portion of the ACEC. This new temporary closure, encompassing all human activity, will provide increased protection of important habitat, as well as roads from increased rutting and soil erosion. The Colorado Division of Wildlife is supportive of the temporary closure.

“Working closely with BLM to protect wildlife and key habitat is essential,” District Wildlife Manager Doug Homan said. “Minimizing human disturbance during late winter and early spring should help a variety of wildlife species rebound from difficult winter conditions.”

A map depicting the Gunnison Sage Grouse ACEC closure is available for viewing online at [www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co) (select Uncompahgre on interactive map), or at the Montrose Public Lands Center at 2505 S. Townsend Ave. in Montrose, the DOW office in Montrose at 2300 S. Townsend, and the Forest Service offices at 2250 U.S. Hwy. 50 in Delta and North Rio Grand Avenue in Paonia. BLM will post closure signs at main entry points to the ACEC. The BLM appreciates your cooperation with this effort to protect this special area. For additional information, contact Karen Tucker at (970) 240-5309 or Melissa Siders at (970) 240-5332.

-BLM-

**BLM Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097  
March 3, 2008**

### Gateway Trail Volunteers Needed

GATEWAY, Colo.—Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, 2008, to help with the ongoing construction of a single-track trail near Gateway, a small community of less than 100 people and 55 miles southwest of Grand Junction on Highway 141. The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office began work on a loop trail for mountain bikers and hikers in lower Lumsden Canyon last June during National Trails Day. This year, BLM is partnering with the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA) and Gateway Canyons Resort to continue construction of the trail in an attempt to meet the increasing demand for non-motorized activities in the area.

“The Grand Valley is surrounded by some of the best public lands in the West, but this trail is set in what has to be some of the most spectacular geology and scenic public lands our nation has to offer,” Luke Reece of the Adventure Center said. “You’ve got the confluence of the Dolores River and West Creek, as well as the massive red walls of The Palisade before you.”

“The Gateway area, with its beautiful red rock canyons and numerous old mining roads, is reminiscent of Moab, Utah, in the 1980s,” COPMOBA President Chris Muhr said. “The opportunity for mountain bikers and hikers to help develop and build a new trail in the high deserts and mountains of the Gateway area is something the participants can look back on in the future with great pride.”

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of trail building, including help with volunteer registration check-in and out, taking water and snacks to volunteers on the trail, and more. Volunteer crews, following the guidance and expertise of both BLM staff and COPMOBA leaders, are expected to complete about one mile of additional trail along a low sandstone rim of the canyon. Registered volunteers will receive t-shirts, breakfast and lunch snacks, and a barbecue dinner both days. Drinks and additional snacks will be available throughout both work days. Free camping on near-by public lands will be available, or accommodations may be reserved at the Gateway Canyons Resort. Check room rates and availability at [www.gatewaycanyons.com](http://www.gatewaycanyons.com) or call (970) 931-2458.

“BLM is excited about this project because we’re able to design and build a sustainable trail system ahead of the demand curve,” Field Manager Catherine Robertson said. “The synergy created by this

trail and its setting will provide the public with a quality recreational experience for a long time to come.”

The BLM is developing a Recreation Management Plan for the 198,000-acre Gateway Special Recreation Management Area that would amend the 1987 Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan. The new plan would change the current management guidance by designating travel opportunities; addressing commercial, competitive, special area, and organized group activities and events; identifying recreation needs; and defining recreation management objectives. The public scoping period ended February 29. A draft management plan is expected in early October, with the final decision issued in December 2008. There will be more opportunities for public input in the coming months.

Visit [www.voutdoors.org](http://www.voutdoors.org) and enter the keyword “Gateway” to get more information about the project and to register. There’s a job for everyone, so sign up now! For those planning to volunteer, wear durable work clothes, gloves and a hat, and bring plenty of water, snacks and sunscreen. A limited shuttle service for both days will depart from and return to outdoor gear retailer REI, located at 644 North Ave. in Grand Junction. Contact Luke Reece, Gateway Canyons Resort, at (970) 931-2458, or BLM Park Ranger Chris Pipkin at (970) 244-3024 for additional information.

-BLM-