



Silverton Outdoor Learning and Recreation Center

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**USDI - Bureau of Land Management
San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court
Durango, CO 81301**

**Prepared with the assistance of:
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June 2003

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Type of document: Draft (X) Final ()

Lead agency: USDI – Bureau of Land Management
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Contact: Richard Speegle, Recreation Program Leader
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Type of action: Administrative (X) Legislative ()

Abstract:

Pursuant to Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) directed the preparation of this EIS to provide the public and agency decision makers with comprehensive environmental impact information related to the following Proposed Action: authorization of Silverton Outdoor Learning and Recreation Center's (SOLRC) request for long-term use of 1,300 acres of BLM administered land for backcountry-type skiing, summer recreation, and educational activities. The project site is located about 5 miles north of Silverton, Colorado. The substantive issues addressed in the EIS include the proposal's impact on public safety, Canada lynx, the local winter economy, neighboring private land and private inholdings, public access, and other related issues. Three alternatives to the Proposed Action are addressed, including the no-action alternative (not issuing the requested authorization), an alternative authorizing guided skiing only on public land, and an alternative authoring an integrated guided/unguided operation.

The Proposed Action would require an amendment of the *San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan* to provide for a change in the scope of authorized resource uses. This EIS is not intended to serve any other environmental review or consultation requirements pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.25 (a).

Date issued: June 20, 2003.

Date by which comments must be received: September 18, 2003.

Responsible Manager: Pauline E. Ellis, Columbine Field Office Manager/District Ranger.

Responsible Official: Ron Wenker, BLM Colorado State Director.

