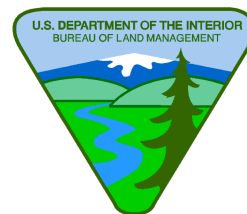


Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Planning Newsletter #2



Before we get into the details of this Newsletter, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the scoping process! Public involvement is a key element helping to direct this planning effort.

Formal Scoping Process a Success!!

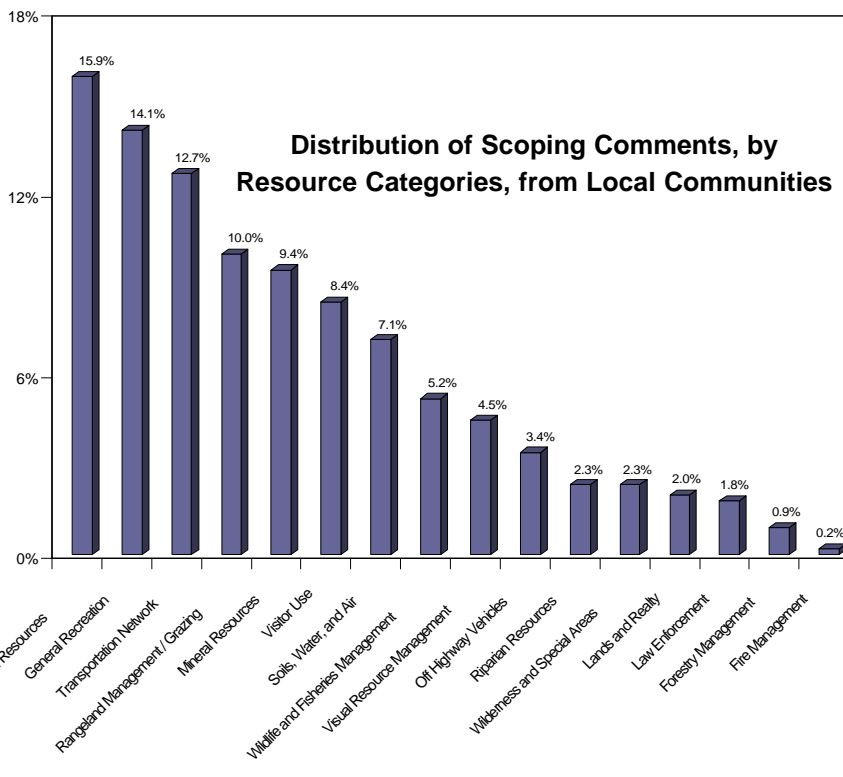
“Scoping” is a term from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that describes the process by which federal agencies ask the public for help in determining the “scope” of issues to be addressed in the planning process. The formal scoping process for the Monument lasted for 19 months, concluding in November 2003.

During the scoping process, BLM held three public workshops, distributed flyers, published media releases, and issued Planning Newsletter #1, which contained a “Scoping Worksheet” for individuals to share their thoughts about the future management of the Monument. As a result of these outreach efforts, BLM received a total of 1,868 submittals consisting of letters, emails, planning worksheets, and form letters. Contained within the submittals, BLM was able to extract 23,744 individual comments. Every submittal was read, evaluated, and manually entered into a database. Each comment, based on content, was assigned to one of 16 designated resource categories (shown in the bar chart to the left), and then further divided into various issues within each resource.

These comments will be considered by BLM throughout the development of the Plan.

Distribution of Scoping Comments

The majority of comments received during the scoping process originated from within the United States, but outside of Colorado and the other Four Corners Region states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah). This fact is directly related to the overwhelming number of form letters submitted. Out of the 23,744 comments received, 94.2% were form letters, followed by letters (2.4%), scoping worksheets (2.2%), and individual emails (1.1%). Excluding the form letters, the majority of scoping worksheets, letters, and emails were sent from local communities (e.g., Dolores, Durango, Cortez, and Mancos). Due to the large number of form letters, BLM evaluated comments both region-



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ally and locally. The bar chart on the previous page illustrates the distribution of scoping comments received from local communities only, across 16 resource categories. The first category, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, received 15.9% of the 561 total comments from local communities. Local residents were particularly concerned with the protection of the Monument’s cultural resources and expressed a desire to see them preserved for current and future generations.

Resource Issues

Combining scoping comments from local communities with those received from all other locations (e.g., regional, national, international) the distribution of comments, across the same 16 categories, changed significantly. As illustrated in the table below, the two resource categories Mineral Resources and Transportation Network received the most input. Combined, these two resource categories comprise more than 50% of the entire number of comments received. The table below shows each resource issue in descending order by total number of comments submitted. The paragraphs below highlight examples of individual comments for the top five resource categories received by BLM during the scoping process.

The resource category that received the most public input was Mineral Resources. Comments primarily focused on limiting fluid minerals development to existing routes and well pad sites, and away from sensitive resources. A nearby resident stated that "protection should be given priority over utilization in this very special area." Another individual requested that BLM “reduce/minimize impacts of oil and gas development.”

The Transportation Network category came in second overall and missed being number one by only three-tenths of a percent. Many local respondents supported the protection and preservation of the diverse resources within the Monument by suggesting route closures and restrictions, prohibiting new routes, and maintaining access only to key visitor destinations. Specific comments from the local community included: “Roads need to be very limited and unofficial trails blocked off and reclaimed” and “Recreation and motorized travel of any sort should be managed within the confines of what is best for the ecosystem overall.”

The third most popular resource category was Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Comments from the surrounding communities expressed a desire for BLM to take "control of off-road vehicle use" and design "a comprehensive travel plan" to help manage OHV use within the Monument.

For the fourth most popular resource category, Wilderness and Special Areas, most respondents wanted the Monument’s resources protected through the designation of wilderness. "The current inventory of Wilderness Study Areas should be updated and expanded" was a comment submitted by an individual who lives near the Monument.

Most of the comments received concerning the fifth resource category indicate that the public highly values cultural resources and wants the Plan to reflect this sentiment. A significant portion of the local comments received asked BLM to “please ensure that all management reflects the importance of cultural resources.”

Where We Are in the Process

Having just completed the scoping and issue identification phases, BLM is currently at the third step of the planning process, which is “Develop Management Strategies, Scenarios and Alternatives.” In general, the Plan must consider a range of alternatives for management of the Monument. Furthermore, this range of alternatives must address the planning issues developed through public comments from individuals, organizations, agencies, and tribes.

Distribution of All Scoping Comments by Resource Category

RESOURCE CATEGORY	PERCENT
Mineral Resources	25.6%
Transportation Network	25.3%
Off Highway Vehicles	12.4%
Wilderness and Special Areas	12.4%
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	7.4%
Soils, Water, and Air	7.2%
Visitor Use	6.5%
Wildlife and Fisheries Management	1.0%
General Recreation	0.7%
Visual Resource Management	0.6%
Rangeland Management / Grazing	0.5%
Riparian Resources	0.1%
Law Enforcement	0.1%
Lands and Realty	0.1%
Forestry Management	0.03%
Fire Management	0.01%

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Resource Management Planning Area

Legend

- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Boundary
- County Boundary
- City
- Lake
- Major Highway
- County Route
- Major River, Stream or Wash
- Destination Point

Land Ownership

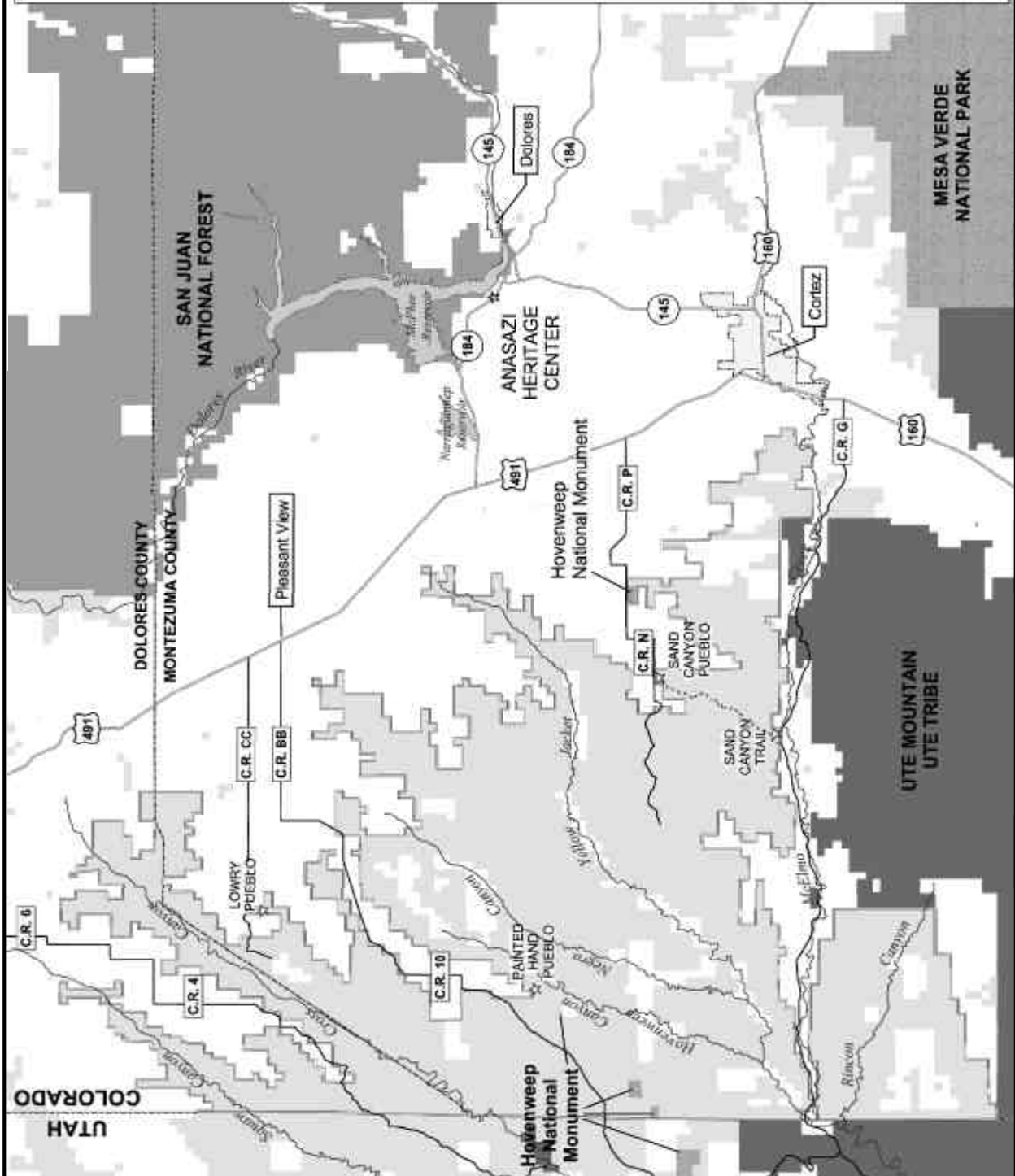
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Native American Lands
- National Park Service

Note: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) coordinates the planning only in the areas administered by BLM. BLM does not own any land in this municipal or county planning jurisdiction of the State of Colorado.

No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this map for purposes not intended by BLM, or to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information shown. Spatial data were obtained from the National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.



Prepared by:
Jones & Stokes



What is the role of the Monument Advisory Committee??

The Monument Advisory Committee (Committee), consisting of 11 members, was established to advise the Secretary of Interior through the BLM concerning the development and implementation of the Plan. The Committee is responsible for several tasks, one of which is to advise BLM on establishing resource management priorities and developing landscape goals and objectives for the Monument. This is an essential component of the Alternative Development process.

MONTH	PLANNING ISSUE
December 9, 2003	First Iteration: Cultural and Historic Resources
January 6, 2004	Second Iteration: Cultural and Historic Resources
	First Iteration: Livestock Grazing
January 27, 2004	Second Iteration: Livestock Grazing
	First Iteration: Recreation Activities
February 17, 2004	Second Iteration: Recreation Activities
	First Iteration: Oil and Gas Resources
March 9, 2004	Second Iteration: Oil and Gas Resources
	First Iteration: Transportation and Infrastructure
March 30, 2004	Second Iteration: Transportation and Infrastructure
	First Iteration: Private Land
April 13, 2004	Second Iteration: Private Land
	Third Iteration: Recreation Activities
May 19, 2004	Finalize recommendations

On November 14, 2003, the Committee identified six key planning issues to discuss through a series of public meetings (see schedule to the left). During the first iteration of each topic, a Committee member provides background information on the issue, discusses resource management priorities, and establishes a preliminary list of goals and objectives. The second iteration, which follows three weeks later, provides the Committee members an opportunity to gather input from the public and their constituents and then revise the list of goals and objectives. The Committee will meet on April 13th and May 19th, 2004 to finalize their recommendations to BLM.

The Committee will continue to be actively involved throughout the Alternative Development process. Once BLM develops draft alternatives, using the Committee's recommendations, the Committee will have the opportunity to review and comment on them.

Neighboring Planning Efforts

Major planning efforts are also underway for the National Park Service's (NPS's) Hovenweep National Monument and BLM's Monticello Field Office in Utah. Four of the six separate units of Hovenweep (approximately 400 acres) are surrounded by Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The NPS is at the beginning stages of developing a general management plan for Hovenweep National Monument. The plan will provide a general framework to guide long-term park management decisions.

BLM's Monticello Field Office abuts the entire western boundary of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and is currently revising their resource management plan. They completed their scoping phase on December 30, 2003 and are now developing plan alternatives.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument has been consulting with both the NPS and Monticello Field Office on the development their plans. This consultation will continue throughout the respective planning processes to assure coordination on a number of overlapping planning issues (e.g., transportation). For more information on these planning efforts please visit their websites or call them directly at:

Hovenweep National Monument
(<http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm> or 435-719-2100)

BLM Monticello Field Office
(<http://www.monticellormp.com> or 435-587-1500)



Monument Planning Criteria

The following is a list of preliminary planning criteria developed by BLM's Monument Planning Team. If you would like to comment on this list, please submit your comments in writing to: Monument Planner, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323. Comments should postmark on or before May 14, 2004.

The final planning criteria will guide and direct the development of the Plan. More specifically, the criteria will determine how the planning team will approach the development of alternatives and ultimately the selection of a preferred alternative.

These criteria may be added to as we continue drafting the Plan. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us!!

1. The Plan will establish the guidance upon which the BLM will manage the resources and values on the Monument. The Monument Plan will supersede the existing 1985 San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan and will be integrated with provisions of existing management plans and policies for adjacent lands (e.g., Montezuma Comprehensive Plan).
2. The planning process will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and culminate with the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD).
3. The Plan will be completed in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), NEPA, and all other applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and BLM policy.
4. The Plan will meet the requirement of the Proclamation to protect the objects of geological, archaeological, historical, and biological value within the Monument.
5. The Monument Planning Team will work collaboratively with the State of Colorado, Montezuma and Dolores Counties, tribal governments, cooperating agencies, municipal governments, other Federal agencies, the Committee, and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
6. Decisions in the Plan will strive to be compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, tribal, and federal agencies to the extent that they are in conformance with Federal law and regulation.
7. The planning process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.
8. The Plan will meet the requirement of the Proclamation to not enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Colorado with respect to fish and wildlife management.
9. The Plan will incorporate the Colorado BLM Guidelines for Recreation Management. It will set forth a framework for managing recreational activities in order to provide for the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public consistent with the Proclamation.



10. The lifestyles of area residents, including the activities of hiking, grazing and hunting, will be considered in the Plan.
11. Any lands or interests located within the planning area boundary that are acquired by BLM will be managed consistently with the Plan, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
12. The Plan will meet the requirement of the Proclamation to prepare a transportation plan that addresses the actions, including road closures and travel restrictions, necessary to protect the scientific and historic resources of the Monument. Furthermore, as required under the Proclamation, motorized and mechanized vehicle use off-road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes.
13. The Plan will not address Monument boundary adjustments or proposals to change the Proclamation.
14. The Plan will recognize valid existing rights within the Monument and will review how valid existing rights are verified. The Plan will also outline the process BLM will use to address applications or notices filed after completion of the Plan on existing claims or other land use authorizations.
15. The Plan will emphasize the scientific and historic resources of the Monument. It will also identify opportunities and priorities for research and education related to the resources for which the Monument was created. In addition, it will describe an approach for incorporating research into management actions.
16. The management of livestock grazing is governed by existing laws and regulations. The Plan will incorporate the BLM Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado. The Plan will lay out a strategy for ensuring proper grazing practices are followed within the Monument.

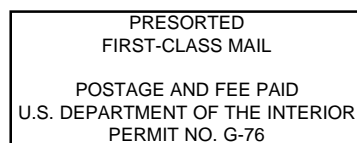
Let Your Voice Be Heard!!

It's not too late! Although the formal scoping process is complete, BLM will continue to accept comments throughout the planning process. Remember, BLM is also accepting comments on the Preliminary Planning Criteria through May 14, 2004. Once a range of draft alternatives is developed, BLM will make them available for public comment through Planning Newsletter #3 and the Monument's planning website.

Upcoming Planning Product

The Analysis of the Management Situation, or AMS, is scheduled for completion in May of this year. The AMS will provide a description of the current management situation, the affected resources (e.g., wildlife), and the capability and condition of the resources within the Monument. The AMS will provide the basis for describing the Affected Environment and "No Action" Alternative in the Draft Plan. In addition, the AMS will provide a basis for determining potential impacts to Monument resources (e.g., archaeology) for each alternative analyzed in the Draft Plan.

Bureau of Land Management
Anasazi Heritage Center
27501 Colorado Highway 184
Dolores, CO 81323



Staying Involved...

Staying involved in the planning process is easy!!

1) Visit the BLM Planning Website

In an effort to help you understand and participate in the planning process, a complete copy of the Scoping Report for the Monument is now available on the Monument's planning website at www.blm.gov/rmp/canm. As other documents, maps, and workshop/meeting schedules become available, they will also be posted on the planning website. Please continue to check this website regularly.

2) Come review the Scoping Report

Hard copies of the scoping report may be viewed at the following locations: Anasazi Heritage Center, BLM Colorado State Office Library, Colorado State Library, San Juan Public Lands Center, Dolores Public Lands Office, Durango Public Library, Cortez Public Library, Mancos Public Library, Dolores Public Library, Dolores County Courthouse, Montezuma County Courthouse, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Library and Complex.