

# News Release



USDA Forest Service  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests  
2250 Highway 50  
Delta, CO 81416-2485

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact(s): Lee Ann Loupe, Public Affairs Specialist, 970.874.6717

## PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

**Delta, CO., (October 16, 2007)** – Along with other national forests around the state and country, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) have finished inventorying and making recommendations for the proposed future management of a variety of recreation sites across the Forest. These sites include trailheads, picnic sites, scenic pull-outs and campgrounds.

The inventory took a forest-wide look at recreation facilities and assessed their condition against a variety of factors, including: how much use the sites receive, changes in the way users recreate in the areas over time (e.g. recreation vehicles vs. tents, developed camping sites vs. dispersed sites, technological changes, backlog maintenance needs, the number and proximity of sites, etc.). This resulted in making some recommendations that are available for interested persons to review, ask questions and provide their input and suggestions to the Forest.

“It’s important to keep in mind that these are *recommendations*, not decisions” stated Charlie Richmond, GMUG Forest Supervisor. He went on to explain, “The Forest Service has always done recreation facility analysis and taken action where use is limited or has changed and/or the sites don’t meet health and safety requirements. This is nothing new. We all want the same thing...quality recreation facilities that are safe, manageable, and provide fun outdoor experiences.” Richmond went on to state that the GMUG always has and always will, continue to provide recreation sites and facilities for the use and enjoyment of forest users.

**-More-**

Termed the “Recreation Facility Analysis” (RFA), it can mean many things. For several sites it may lead to change. For some of those sites it could be the recommended removal of all facilities,

while allowing for dispersed camping and picnicking (just as in other areas of the Forest) to occur. For some sites the user may have to provide their own chairs or portable table or self-contained camping unit. For other sites it could mean the recommendation to remove water and/or trash services or restroom facilities that don't meet health and safety requirements. On other sites it could mean the recommendation to remove the site but retain the toilet, or to consolidate several camping areas in the same vicinity into one site. Again, these are recommendations for the future management of national forest recreation sites.

Now is the time for those who are interested in the Forest's RFA and/or a particular recreation site(s) to review the information, to dialogue with district representative(s) and provide their input and suggestions. It is also the time for those partnerships that may be able to provide funding, assistance and/or sponsored alternatives to the recommendations to identify themselves and enter into the dialogue with forest representatives.

Information and maps about the RFA, which sites, and the forest's recommendations can be obtained on the GMUG Website at: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/) under the "Links" section for "Recreation Facility Assessment."

General questions about the Recreation Facility Assessment can be directed to Lee Ann Loupe at 970.874.6717 or Chiara Palazzolo at 970.874.6671. Questions involving site-specific information should be directed to the following person(s):

**Grand Valley Ranger District:** Connie Clementson 970.263.5804 or Loren Paulson 70.263.5812

**Gunnison Ranger District:** Bill Jackson, 970.641.0471

**Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts:** Kathy Peckham, 970.240.5418 or 970.327.4261

**Paonia Ranger District:** Levi Broyles, 970.527.4131

###