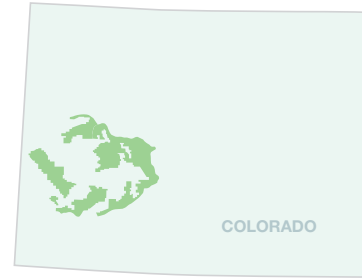


Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests



Sneffels Wilderness



Current Issues

Gunnison National Forest Travel Management Planning

A route-by-route travel planning effort in the Gunnison Basin and Paonia areas continues. When finished, this joint effort with the Bureau of Land Management will complete comprehensive travel management planning efforts for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. A draft travel plan is anticipated for release for public review and comment in early 2009.

Ski Area Expansion

Snodgrass Mountain-Crested Butte Mountain Resort is interested in expanding its skiable terrain to Snodgrass Mountain to provide more intermediate-level skiing opportunities. Geological slope stability and other concerns with the development of this area have been the subject of several studies, testing and analysis. At least two local groups are opposed to the expansion onto Snodgrass, with others in the local community supporting consideration of the area. No application has been submitted to the Forest Service to date.

Northern San Juan Wilderness Proposal

Congressman John Salazar (D-CO-3rd District) plans to introduce legislation that will add additional wilderness acres to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. The forest has provided information and assistance to Salazar's staff in this effort. Many of the forest's suggestions have been incorporated into the legislation. The forest remains concerned that some of the areas proposed for wilderness designation will create management challenges that will result in negative impacts on permittees and other users. It is also anticipated that some of the proposed wilderness acreage additions will result in increased complexity, costs, and potential for appeals and litigation on future management decisions.

Energy and Coal Development

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests cooperates with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (DRMS), and the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to manage the

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Ranger Districts

Grand Valley Ranger District

District Ranger: Connie Clementson
2777 Crossroads Boulevard, Suite 1
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506
970-242-8211

Gunnison Ranger District

District Ranger: Jim Dawson
216 North Colorado Street
Gunnison, Colorado 81230
970-641-0471

Gunnison Ranger District

District Ranger: Jim Dawson
PO Box 89
Lake City, Colorado 81235
970-641-0471 or 970-944-2500

Norwood Ranger District

District Ranger: Judy Schutza
1150 Forest Street, PO Box 388
Norwood, Colorado 81423
970-327-4261

Ouray Ranger District

District Ranger: Tammy Randall-Parker
2505 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
970-240-5300

Paonia Ranger District

District Ranger: Levi Broyles
North Rio Grande Avenue, PO Box 1030
Paonia, Colorado 81428
970-527-4131

operations of three underground coal mines in the North Fork Valley. The mines extract coal from federal coal leases under the national forest. The forest has the responsibility to evaluate the surface impacts of various coal mining related uses of the forest. In 2008, the forest gave consent to three coal leasing actions and two exploration drilling projects, along with concurring to numerous other surface use proposals, including two methane drainage projects needed to maintain underground mine safety. The forest also manages natural gas projects, which currently include 21 natural gas wells and several pipelines and seven natural gas companies with operations on the forest. In 2008, the forest approved two seismic exploration projects, a five-location 32-well drilling proposal, and a

one-location four-well drilling application. Currently, the forest is reviewing 16 proposals for additional natural gas exploration and/or production wells.

The Forest is also actively working with partners on renewable energy projects, including biomass plant development and production with the Intermountain and Delta Timber Companies; methane capture and use in association with coal mining; and alternative energy development through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Delta-Montrose Electric Association. These efforts may require congressional assistance in the future.

Forest Size	Total land area is 3,163,131 acres within the following units, all in Colorado: Grand Mesa National Forest – 351,715 acres Gunnison National Forest – 1,766,941 acres Uncompahgre National Forest – 1,044,475 acres		
Number of Employees - Permanent	165		
Number of Employees - Seasonal	90		
Average Annual Budget	\$14,636,000		
Elevations	Lowest - 6,000 feet above sea level Highest - over 14,000 feet above sea level		
Wilderness Areas	Collegiate Peaks Fossil Ridge La Garita Lizard Head	Maroon Bells/Snowmass Mt. Sneffels Powderhorn Raggeds	Uncompahgre West Elk
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None		
National Scenic or Historic Trails	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Old Spanish National Historic Trail		
National Recreation Areas	None		
Scenic Byways	San Juan Skyway Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway Silver Thread Scenic Byway West Elk Loop		
Outfitter Guides	133 outfitter guides		

Grazing	160 active allotments on 2,526,581 acres 240 term grazing permits
Forest Management and Timber	Timber Volume Sold in fiscal year 2008 – 30,576 ccf Forest Vegetation Improved in fiscal year 2008 – 327 acres
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments	10,046 acres in fiscal year 2008
Unique Features or Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprised of over 3 million acres, the forest is the largest administrative unit in the Rocky Mountain Region and hosts a variety of forested and non-forested riparian areas, wetlands, and a wide range of other ecological settings from alpine tundra to sage-grass prairie.• Approximately 2.8 million acre-feet of water runoff is generated annually from the forest, supporting municipal water supplies, approximately 3,600 miles of perennial streams and supplying about 11,650 acres of lakes, reservoirs and fisheries.• The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests is one of four national forest units from which federal coal reserves are mined and one of four “energy forests” in the Rocky Mountain Region. Forty percent of the coal mined in Colorado comes from mines operating under the forest, and 80 percent of the electric energy used in Colorado is derived from coal.• The forest has a notable concentration of fens (peat-forming wetlands) with concentrated occurrences on the Grand Mesa.
Web Address	http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/