

**For Immediate Release: May 31, 2007**

**Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832**

**Joe Stout, Environmental Planner, (970) 724-3003**

BLM seeks local expertise to review road and trail inventory  
Six workshops to be held in June

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management is asking the public to help as it begins a comprehensive look at travel management within the Glenwood Springs and Kremmling field offices in northwestern Colorado.

BLM will be hosting a series of “trails and routes data collection workshops” in June to give the public the opportunity to review its road and trail inventory for completeness and accuracy, as well as offer suggestions for possible re-routes or new routes that would complement the existing system.

“We really want to hear from the people who are out using our roads and trails,” said Jamie Connell, Field Management for the Glenwood Springs Field Office. “Ensuring our inventory is accurate is the first step in developing a comprehensive travel management plan.”

The travel management plans are being developed as the two field offices revise their Resource Management Plans, or RMPs. The RMPs will provide overall management direction for the next two decades for the 567,000-acre Glenwood Springs Field Office and the 378,000-acre Kremmling Field Office.

The workshops will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the dates and locations below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Address</b>
June 12	El Jebel	Community Center 0020 Eagle County Dr.
June 13	Gypsum	Town Hall - Council Chambers 50 Lundgren Blvd.
June 14	Rifle	Rifle Fire Protection District - Station 1 1850 Railroad Ave.
June 26	Grandby	Granby Community Center 129 3rd St.
June 27	Walden	Wattenburg Center 686 County Road 42
June 28	Kremmling	Chamber Bldg 203 Park Ave

Public comments and information will be accepted at the workshops, as well as in writing through the mail or at each Field Office. BLM is asking for the information to be submitted by July 20, 2007.

The public will be able to comment on the proposed travel management alternatives when the Draft RMPs are released for a 90-day public comment period next year.

“While there will be additional opportunities for public involvement with our trail and route management decisions, we are strongly encouraging people who are interested to get involved as early in this process as possible,” said Peter McFadden, Acting Kremmling Field Manager.

For more information about how to comment, and to view maps of the inventoried trails and routes, log on to <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/co/kfo-gsfo>, or stop by either Field Office: Glenwood Springs Field Office, 50629 Hwys 6 and 24; Kremmling Field Office, 2103 E. Park Ave.

**-BLM-**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 30, 2007**

**For more information, contact Heather Musclow,  
Monument Planner, or LouAnn Jacobson,  
Monument Manager at 970-882-5600.**

BLM Seeking Nominations for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Advisory Committee  
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations for citizens to serve on the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Monument) Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior and BLM on development and implementation on a management plan for public lands with the Monument. Members will be selected based on their knowledge or special expertise, which qualifies them to provide advice from among the categories of interest listed below. Members will serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for Government employees. The membership term will be for two years. Individuals or organizations may make nominations in the following categories of interest (individuals may nominate themselves):

A representative of the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners;

Two persons from any of the following tribes and pueblos representing Native American interests: The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, The Uintah-Ouray Ute Tribe, The Southern Ute Tribe, The Navajo Nation, The Hopi Tribe, The Pueblo of Acoma, The Pueblo of Cochiti, The Pueblo of Isleta, The Pueblo of San Felipe, The Pueblo of Santa Ana, The Pueblo of Santo Domingo, The Pueblo of Jemez, The Pueblo of Laguna, The Pueblo of Sandia, The Pueblo of Zia, The Pueblo of Zuni, The Pueblo of Nambe, The Pueblo of San Juan, The Pueblo of Picuris, The Pueblo of Pojoaque, The Pueblo of San Ildefonso, The Pueblo of Santa Clara, The Pueblo of Taos, The Pueblo of Tesuque;

Two persons who are recognized cultural resource representatives, one of whom represents regional interests and one of whom is from the local area;

One person who is a grazing permittee on Federal lands in the Monument;

One person who represents fluid minerals; and

Three persons representing any of the following: private landowners in or adjacent to the Monument, recognized national or regional environmental or resource conservation organizations, off-road vehicle users, commercial recreation, and/or representing statewide perspectives with no financial interest in the Monument.

To make a nomination, submit a completed nomination form, letters of reference from the represented interests or organizations, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications. The category the application is filed under should be identified in both the nomination form and reference letters. Completed nomination forms and letters will be accepted until June 18, 2007.

Nominations should be mailed to: Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323.

Recommended nominations will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior, who has responsibility for making the appointments. Nomination forms may be obtained from Heather Musclow, Monument Planner.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 30, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

#### Media Advisory: Wrecked travel trailer found off Little Park Road

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office is asking for the public's help in finding the owners of a 1960s-era, white travel trailer that was abandoned and left as wreckage below Little Park Road near First Flats. Contents of the destroyed recreational vehicle are scattered about, but no occupants were found and no one has come forward to claim the wreckage. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office has cleared the site, and BLM is treating it as discarded trash.

A passer-by reported the wreckage Tuesday morning, May 29. The incident likely occurred Monday night. Visible from the road, the destroyed trailer sits about 30 yards down a steep slope in the area near the Tabeguache Trail. BLM is investigating the incident and will attempt to recover the \$700 U.S. taxpayers are facing for removal and landfill fees.

-BLM-

Editor's Note: Photos opportunities of wreckage removal at 11 a.m. today. About 20 minutes west on Little Park Rd. (left on Monument Road, left on D Road (Rosevale Road), right on Little Park Road. Call Mel Lloyd for interviews at the BLM Grand Junction FO, 2815 H Rd. Photos available upon request.

**For Immediate Release: May 29, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

#### Get out and celebrate National Trails Day

GATEWAY, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office, in partnership with Gateway Canyons Resort, is planning to turn National Trails Day 2007 into a weekend-long event full of fun, camaraderie and hard work all rolled into one. On June 2-3, just to the southwest of the Gateway Canyons Resort in Gateway, crew leaders will rally their troops of volunteers to construct about one mile of new singletrack hike and mountain bike trail, completing the first in a series of proposed scenic loop trails near the mouth of Lumsden Canyon.

“National Trails Day is a great opportunity for the family to spend the day together and to do something that will benefit not only the surrounding public lands, but the community of Gateway as well,” Field Manager Catherine Robertson said. “Gateway Canyons Resort is one of BLM's partners in promoting public land stewardship.”

Volunteers, who will be treated to a barbeque at Gateway Canyons Resort after each day's work, are asked to register for the project at [voutdoors.org](http://voutdoors.org). Volunteers will enjoy live entertainment, t-shirts, and free prize drawings provided by REI and the resort that will almost, but not quite, match the spectacular red rock canyon setting of the new loop trail.

“Our guests are traveling to Gateway Canyons Resort to enjoy the magnificent setting—which wouldn't be possible without the surrounding public lands,” Lee Bowden, general manager of Gateway Canyons Resort, said. “Because we benefit from public lands, we're pleased to provide a public trailhead and parking area located on the west grounds of the Gateway Canyons Resort.

“This project provides BLM with a rare opportunity to be ahead of the recreational use this area is certain to experience,” Robertson added. “Rarely do we get to be proactive in protecting public lands ahead of the anticipated use.”

To participate in the National Trails Day event, all volunteers should register at [www.voutdoors.org](http://www.voutdoors.org). Click “Find Opportunities,” type keyword “Gateway,” click “Search” and select “Gateway Trail Construction” to find out more about the project and to sign up. Volunteers may register for either or both days. Volunteers can catch a shuttle or car pool from REI each morning at 7:00 a.m., or follow the signs at Gateway Canyons Resort to join their crew members at 8 a.m. Volunteers should prepare for hot temperatures, wear durable work clothes, gloves and a hat, and bring a sack lunch, plenty of water, snacks and sunscreen. Camping is available on nearby public lands or information on room rates, availability and guest services at the Gateway Canyons Resort can be found at <http://www.gatewaycanyons.com>. For more information, contact BLM Park Ranger Chris Pipkin at (970) 244-3024 or Luke Reece at the Outpost Adventure Center at (970) 931-2458.

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Editor's Note: Media invited to cover the event on June 2, Saturday. Contact Mel Lloyd by May 31 if you plan to travel to Gateway.

**For Immediate Release: May 29, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

### Earth Day dumping becomes lesson of a lifetime for local children

HOTCHKISS, Colo. — Paonia resident Kenny Kirk, age 47, was cited on Earth Day, April 21, 2007, for dumping debris on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office. Kirk recently paid a \$100 fine and has already removed several lilac-bush stumps and discarded dirt from the McDonald Mesa area as part of his penalty. A group of about 30, including BLM staff and several children from the Cocker Kids Foundation, were nearby and witnessed the dumping. Seeing someone actually dump trash on public lands left an impression on the children, providing them with a lesson of a lifetime. The annual “Dobie Clean-Up,” which celebrates Earth Day, serves to pick up trash illegally dumped by others during the past year.

“Public lands are not available or appropriate for public dumping,” said Barb Sharrow, field manager of the Uncompahgre Field Office. “It doesn't matter if it's yard waste, animal carcasses, debris left after target practice, or old appliances—it's illegal to dump on public lands.”

It costs the U.S. taxpayers thousands of dollars annually to have illegal trash removed from public lands and then disposed of properly. Many times, the trash is a public health and safety issue, and must be tested for hazardous materials, which multiplies the costs.

“Disposal costs can range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars per incident for such services as laboratory testing, personnel time involved, and transport and disposal,” said Alan Kraus, BLM hazardous materials specialist covering much of western Colorado. “The public should check with businesses in their local community who may accept such things as hazardous household waste for a minimal fee, or in some cases no fee at all.” For example, most local automobile battery distributors take old batteries for no charge. The public is also encouraged to use the local landfill and approach their local county about maintaining special waste disposal facilities for recycling and composting.

Additionally, the Bureau spends significant resources to eradicate noxious and invasive weeds and plants introduced to public lands through illegal dumping. These weeds and plants can change ecosystems supporting native wildlife and their habitat.

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office and Gunnison Gorge NCA encompass nearly 960,000 acres of public lands. BLM frequently locates household trash and yard refuse illegally dumped on public lands. If you see anyone dumping trash on public lands, BLM encourages you to write down a license number; a description of the vehicle; the date, time and location; and report this information to the BLM Uncompahgre ranger at (970) 240-5300. This increases BLM’s ability to track down those violators and issue citations. If caught, the penalty for this offense usually involves both a fine and many hours of community service cleaning up illegal dump sites on public lands. These are your public lands—BLM needs your help in protecting them.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 24, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

### Dry grass and hot sun spell disaster

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — A Fire Investigation Team with the Bureau of Land Management has completed its “origin and cause” investigation on the Knowles Fire, which was initially reported Saturday morning, May 19, in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. Investigators determined that the 91-acre wildfire, which started at a campsite on the Colorado River at the mouth of Knowles Canyon, was human-caused yet with no intent or negligence. The camping party was cooperative in helping fire investigators determine the exact cause.

A family fun weekend float on the river proved to be a nightmare for Anthony LaGreca and several of his family members; all from various communities across Colorado. While taking a hike up Knowles Canyon, the family turned around to see smoke rising from the river corridor below. Sporting equipment left in the sun ultimately ignited the blaze at the family’s campsite.

“The flames ignited in cured cheatgrass, a flashy, fine fuel that has invaded much of the West,” Paul Peck, manager of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, said. “We’re thankful no human lives were lost, but the fire quickly spread, destroying one of the three remaining cottonwood galleries on the Colorado River between Loma, Colorado, and Westwater, Utah.” Cottonwood galleries within

the river corridor are integral to the river ecosystem, supporting a broad variety of wildlife and providing shade from hot summer temperatures.

Good Samaritan boaters passing by, who remain unidentified, attempted to pull the family's equipment from the flames, while throwing buckets of water on the fire. While their intentions were honorable, wildland fire officials caution the public to leave fire suppression efforts to trained professionals who are properly equipped and prepared for the rigors of fighting wildland fires, which can be highly unpredictable and volatile at best, especially in light fuels such as cheatgrass.

The area remains open to camping, although open fires in the river corridor are being discouraged at this time. The use of firepans and a portable toilet system are always required in the McInnis Canyons NCA. Please familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations in place for your chosen destination point. For additional information on your public lands, visit [www.co.blm.gov](http://www.co.blm.gov). For information on boating in the McInnis Canyons NCA, go to [www.co.blm.gov/mcnca/recreationhp.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/mcnca/recreationhp.htm) or contact Park Ranger Troy Schnurr at (970) 244-3032.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release, May 17, 2007**

**For More Information Contact: Mel Lloyd at (970) 244-3097,  
Or Doug Paul at (970) 244-3106**

#### Wildland fire informational open house scheduled

GLADE PARK, Colo. — The Glade Park Fire Department in collaboration with the Upper Colorado River Interagency (UCR) Fire Management Unit, Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado National Monument has scheduled an open house at the Glade Park Fire Station at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 24, 2007. The 2007 fire season is upon us, and the public is encouraged to attend the open house to be briefed on several issues related to wildland fire, as well as how to create a defensible space around their home.

“We’re really counting on folks to attend this public meeting,” UCR Fire Mitigation Specialist Doug Paul said. “This will be a great opportunity to have everyone in the same room to ask questions and learn about this year’s strategy for reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the Glade Park area.”

For additional information, contact Doug Paul at 244-3106.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 16, 2007**

**Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681**

#### Secretary Kempthorne Recognizes Grand Junction BLM Ranger with Valor Award

In a Washington, DC ceremony on May 9, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne presided over the Department's 64th Honors Convocation, presenting 42 awards to employees and citizens.

“Whether with a single heroic deed or a lifetime of dedicated work, you have served America with integrity and excellence,” the Secretary told the award recipients.

One recipient, former Grand Junction BLM Ranger Dan “Perry” McCoy, was given the Secretary’s Valor Award, for demonstrating unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger, for his work diffusing a hostage situation during a dangerous investigation involving drugs on public lands.

“BLM rangers are asked to cover thousands of acres of public lands on their own, putting their lives on the line for public lands and those who use them,” says BLM Law Enforcement Director William Woody. “Many patrol alone and are special, resourceful individuals, who are dedicated to their jurisdictions, their families and their peers.”

“BLM rangers--and Perry McCoy is one of the best and most dedicated--are right there, working closely with local, state and other federal agency law enforcement personnel, search and rescue, and wildland firefighters,” continued Woody. “McCoy earned his colleagues respect and trust, and for that, there can be no greater reward.”

McCoy was named 2006 BLM Ranger of the Year. He now works for the BLM in Wyoming.

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[Click here for a photo of the ceremony.](#)

**For Immediate Release: May 16, 2007**

**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

#### Public reminded of dangerous potholes

DELTA, Colo. — Warmer temperatures and the call of summer have arrived, and with them comes the desire to head for the local swimming hole. The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office and Delta County Sheriff’s Office want to remind everyone that, not just during spring run-off but year-round, hidden currents found in the area’s popular potholes formations can catch and keep you underwater. The Escalante Potholes, managed by the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, are located in the Escalante Potholes Recreation Area roughly 12 miles up Escalante Canyon in remote southwestern Delta County. Regardless of the river flows or your swimming skills, these currents have proven fatal to many over the years.

“Escalante Potholes is a popular year-round recreation area with everyone,” said Barb Sharrow, field manager of the Uncompahgre Field Office. “While we don’t want to ruin everyone’s fun, public safety is paramount and it’s that time of year to caution those looking for a place to cool off.”

The BLM has seen positive results since new regulations were implemented in March 2005 to protect natural resources and improve public safety. Jumping and diving into the potholes are now prohibited, although swimming or sitting in the potholes is still allowed. Adventurous kayakers have also discovered the potholes area.

“The Escalante Potholes are located in a remote area, and help is 45 minutes away if you get into

trouble,” said Delta County Sheriff Fred McKee. “Parents should talk to their children about the risks and to think before they act—they could lose their life and endanger others in trying to save them.”

The BLM has designated the swimming area as day use only to address public safety and health concerns. Camping is allowed in designated campsites located away from the canyon rim. The Delta County Sheriff’s Office works closely with the BLM to patrol the area, enforcing compliance to encourage a family-friendly destination. For additional information, contact the Uncompahgre Field Office at (970) 240-5300.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 10, 2007**

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

**Vaughn Whatley BLM 303-239-3766**

**Janelle Smith Forest Service 303-275-5359**

#### BLM Colorado’s May 2007 oil and gas lease sale nets \$1.47 million

DENVER - Today the BLM Colorado State Office sold 64 parcels of 74 offered at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale, or about 37,174 acres out of the 41,810 acres of public lands offered. The lease sale earned \$1,471,256 in proceeds, of which 50 percent will go to the State of Colorado.

BLM manages more than 8 million acres of public lands for multiple uses in Colorado, as well as over 27 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate. 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 an interest in such sales. The degree of interest is driven by market demands. In addition to overseeing mineral leasing on BLM public lands, the Bureau also administers mineral leasing on all other federal lands.

“Natural gas production from Colorado’s federal lands continues to play an important role in meeting the nation’s energy needs,” said Lynn Rust, BLM Colorado Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals. “Our focus is on smart up-front planning, solid implementation of best practices and working with industry to reduce environmental impacts.”

Land-use plans, which govern all BLM-managed lands, involve an extensive environmental-review process that determines which lands will be available for specific uses, and what conditions will be applied to minimize impacts. The public has opportunities to provide input throughout the process. BLM also consults with other federal, State and local agencies, environmental groups and industry throughout the land-use planning process.

When preparing or revising land-use plans, or when parcels are nominated for leasing, the BLM considers available new information to determine whether any significant new circumstance or impact has occurred since the completion of the most recent land-use plan. The parcels offered for lease in this sale were analyzed individually to determine whether the existing environmental analysis was adequate.

Leases for oil and gas development come with general requirements to protect the environment from

adverse impacts; additional site-specific stipulations are also included, such as limits on seasons when drilling can occur and restrictions on surface occupancy by oil and gas operators. These stipulations protect resources and values such as wildlife habitat and scenic vistas. Once an operator proposes exploration or development on a BLM-issued lease, the Bureau conducts further environmental analysis to determine what impact-limiting measures are needed.

“Protections are in place to minimize potential impacts from oil and gas exploration, development and production.” said Rust. “It’s important to remember that energy development and protection of natural resources are not mutually exclusive. BLM ensures that the development of energy resources is done in an environmentally sound manner on all lands we manage.”

BLM Colorado notifies the public of each land sale through the media, internet and other means. Anyone may file a protest on a parcel nominated for inclusion in a lease sale; however, all protests must be received by mail or fax at the Colorado State Office by 4 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time), 15 days prior to the date of the sale to be considered. This policy allows the Bureau to review protests in advance of the sale, provides for an appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and helps the agency meet its statutory deadline for issuing leases. Protested parcels may still be offered, although bidders are notified that BLM will not issue a lease until the protests are resolved.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land -- 258 million surface acres -- than any other federal agency. Most of this land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation.

Under the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, energy production and mineral development, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural and other resources on the public lands.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 10, 2007**  
**Contact: Vaughn Whatley BLM 303-239-3766**  
**Jim Sample BLM 303-239-3861**  
**Jaime Gardner BLM 303-239-3681**

#### FACT SHEET - May 2007 O&G Lease Sale

- 74 parcels totaling about 41,810 acres of land were offered at BLM’s May 10, 2007 quarterly oil and gas lease auction. Of those parcels offered, 64 were sold, totaling 37,174 acres.
- Of the 74 parcels offered, 64 parcels were protested.
- BLM Colorado listens to the concerns of those impacted by oil and gas leasing. We rely on input from the public in the planning process and we make every effort to work with local communities, municipalities and other State and federal agencies to ensure any leasing that may occur is conducted with adequate safeguards in place to protect the environment.

- Federal and State protections are in place to minimize potential impacts from oil and gas exploration, development and production. Oil and gas exploration and development is one of the most regulated activities on public lands.
- Energy development and protection of natural resources are not mutually exclusive activities. BLM ensures that development of energy resources is done in an environmentally sound manner on all lands we manage.
- BLM manages more than 8 million acres of public lands for multiple-use in Colorado. BLM also administers mineral leasing for other Federal agencies with lands throughout the State.
- Federal laws, including the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, require BLM to offer lands for lease on a quarterly basis.
- Any U.S. citizen, 18 years-old or older, may bid on the parcels offered at quarterly lease auctions, provided the individual is a registered bidder. Typically, BLM does not select lands to offer for lease. In Colorado, lands nominated by an interested party are made available for leasing, if oil and gas development is allowed by the approved land use plan. In years past, all land available for lease was offered at auction regardless of the interest from industry. Information about BLM oil and gas lease sales, as well as the posting of the official results (available by May 18, 2007) can be obtained at the BLM field offices or at the Colorado State Office Public Room.
- BLM is mandated by the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act to manage public lands for multiple uses - which may include energy development - under existing, approved land use plans developed with considerable public input, and extensive environmental analysis.
- BLM consults with other federal, State and local agencies, partners, environmental groups and industry throughout the land use planning process. These collaborations result in measures to protect all uses and resource values, such as wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species' habitats, recreation, cultural resources, grazing, and others, while still allowing for environmentally sound energy development.
- In all of the areas where parcels were offered, the current land use plans allow energy development. When preparing land use plans, revisions, or when parcels are nominated for leasing, the BLM considers available new information to determine if any significant new circumstances or impacts have occurred since the completion of the most recent land use plan. Every parcel offered for lease in this sale was analyzed to determine whether existing environmental analysis was adequate.
- BLM leases carefully. Every lease contains standard terms and stipulations designed to protect Threatened and Endangered Species habitat. Leases also may include any number of additional stipulations to further protect air, water, wildlife, wilderness, historic and cultural resources as well as require reclamation. For example, No Surface Occupancy stipulations can protect against any surface disturbance. Other stipulations can protect viewsheds, water quality, cultural resources, or may require operations only during certain seasons to protect wildlife or wildlife habitat in the winter or during the breeding season or birthing times.
- Issuing a lease doesn't necessarily result in drilling. The drilling of an exploratory well doesn't guarantee there will be widespread development of wells. Economics, supply versus demand, and geologic information drive industry to nominate areas for leasing, exploration and mineral resource

development. Some leases are never drilled, and are allowed to expire due to changes in supply vs. demand, company finances, or new/updated geologic information.

- BLM Colorado has increased its outreach efforts to prior to the lease sale. In response to requests from the public and interest groups, BLM Colorado now provides the public with the oil and gas lease sale notice 15 days earlier than required by law (60 days). BLM notifies media outlets statewide when the lease sale notice is posted and informs county commissioners of parcels being offered for lease in an upcoming sale through individual notification and through the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission's county liaison program. BLM Colorado also offers presentations at county meetings throughout the state on the oil and gas leasing process, and we post a map of parcels and other lease sale information on the BLM Colorado website <http://www.co.blm.gov/oilandgas/leasinfo.htm>.
- BLM Colorado follows its national policy concerning split-estate Application for Permit to Drill processing, which requires: a copy of or evidence of a signed surface use agreement between the surface owner and the oil and gas operator (but not the actual agreement itself). If an agreement cannot be reached; the operator can gain access to the property through reclamation bonding. BLM Colorado has not had to use the bonding process for any APD's on split estate lands.
- The private surface owner is always invited to the on-site pre-drill inspection, and their concerns are incorporated into BLM approved APDs. BLM Colorado worked with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission on their onsite inspection policy for split- estate wells on private minerals. The State's policy, adopted with industry support, took effect Feb. 15, 2005, and addresses road placement, planning concerns, and gives landowners the right to an on-site meeting about a proposed drilling site. Such procedures have long been in effect for split-estate involving Federal minerals.
- Wilderness Areas can only be designated by Congress. In Colorado, BLM has four existing Wilderness Areas, comprising 149,000 acres, and 50 Wilderness Study Areas, encompassing 623,000 acres. A coalition of environmental groups has proposed areas for wilderness status. Over time, their proposals have added additional areas for consideration, or, in some cases, added additional lands around existing wilderness or wilderness study areas. None of the parcels offered in the May sale are within Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas, BLM identified Wilderness Study Areas, or areas proposed by citizens groups for wilderness status.
- When parcels of land in Colorado are leased for oil and gas development, the federal government returns to the State of Colorado one-half of what is collected on federal bonuses, rentals and royalties from energy development on the public lands within the State. The money is used to help fund counties, schools, cities and some State offices.
- Our goal is sustainable energy development. BLM aims to help meet our country's energy needs while effectively managing the other natural resources that are under our care. The U.S. Department of the Interior is a significant contributor to America's energy supplies. About one-third of all energy produced in America originates from lands managed by the Department of the Interior. Environmentally sound energy development on public lands is one vital part of our national strategy to ensure economic and national security.
- Anyone may file a protest; however, all protests of parcels nominated for inclusion in the lease sale must be received by mail or fax at the Colorado State Office by 4 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time), 15 days prior to the date of the sale to be considered. 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, allow for an

appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and attempt to meet the statutory deadline for issuing leases. Protested parcels may still be offered; however, bidders are notified that BLM will not issue a lease until the protests are resolved.

- When a protest is made, the standard process is for it to be reviewed by the appropriate BLM field office and/or Colorado State Office. BLM Colorado attempts to resolve all protests within 60 days and no longer than 120 days; however, some protests have taken as long as a year to resolve. Before a final decision is reached to issue any leases, a thorough review of the protests on the parcels is undertaken. If a protest is denied, the protesting party has 30 days, from receipt of the decision, to appeal to the Interior Board of Lands Appeals in Washington, D.C. If a protest is upheld, the lease is not issued and the winning bidder's money is refunded.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: May 7, 2007**

**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

### Clean-up kids celebrate Earth Day

CRAWFORD, Colo. — Staff from the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office partnered with the Cocker Kids Foundation and the Western Slope Environmental Resource Council to mark Earth Day on Saturday, April 21. The group of nearly 30 volunteers, many of them children from Joe and Pam Cocker's nonprofit organization founded to support local children, spent the morning picking up everything from beer bottles to a 1,600-gallon plastic tank from the popular adobe badlands between Paonia and Crawford. About 30 cubic yards of trash, yard waste, and animal carcasses illegally dumped, or left behind by target shooters, was cleared from over 100 acres of public lands administered by the Uncompahgre Field Office.

"That Earth Day ethic is important to BLM all year long," said Karen Tucker, manager of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. "These kids gained a true understanding of what we mean when we talk about public lands stewardship. They'll take that home with them, which benefits public lands now as well as down the road."

Volunteers contribute hundreds of hours annually to the BLM to maintain and sign trails, clean up trash, and conduct public outreach. This results in thousands of dollars of savings to U.S. taxpayers. The 8th annual "Dobie Clean-up" saved the BLM about \$500.

"We can't thank them enough for the work they did," said Field Manager Barb Sharrow. "We appreciate their sacrificing a Saturday to come out and help us clean up trash left behind by others who are not as responsible."

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office and Gunnison Gorge NCA encompass nearly 960,000 acres of public lands. BLM staff frequently find household trash and yard refuse illegally dumped on public lands. Along with resource damage and visitor safety issues associated with illegal dumping, the cost for clean up and disposal of these discarded items is unfairly borne by the U.S. taxpayer. If you see anyone dumping trash on public lands, BLM encourages you to write down a license number, a description of the vehicle, the date, time and location, and report this information to the Uncompahgre Field Office, at (970) 240-5300. This increases BLM's ability to track down those violators and issue

citations. If caught, the penalty for this offense usually involves both a fine and many hours of community service cleaning up illegal dump sites on public lands. Please contact your county landfill and learn how you can dispose of unwanted waste responsibly. These are your public lands—BLM needs your help in protecting them.

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Editor's Note: Photos available upon request.

**For Immediate Release: May 2, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

### Tires dumped off Kokopelli's Trail

Grand Junction, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA) are combining resources with the efforts of local mountain bike clubs on Saturday, May 5, to pick up and dispose of over 200 tires dumped off the world-renowned Kokopelli's Trail at the Colorado/Utah border. All too frequently, people use their public lands as a public dump, and BLM is constantly faced with properly disposing of everything from household trash to hazardous materials. That costs us all and takes away precious resources that could otherwise be put to better use.

"Trail maintenance and resource stewardship projects are always on our "to do" list," said NCA Manager Paul Peck. "When we have so many essential projects on our list and energetic partners who understand what public land stewardship is all about, it's unfortunate when we instead spend their time and energy cleaning up after irresponsible folks."

BLM Moab has agreed to cover disposal costs of \$200 per ton for the tires, and transport vehicles are being provided by the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit.

"The public lands between Moab and Grand Junction are some of the most popular and well known in the country—the world actually," said Maggie Wyatt, Field Manager of the BLM Moab Field Office. "Our Westwater rangers welcome the opportunity to partner with others in cleaning up an area that's very special to them."

If you see anyone dumping trash on public lands, BLM encourages you to write down a license number, a description of the vehicle, the date, time and location, and report this information to their local BLM field office. This increases BLM's ability to track down violators and issue citations. If caught, the penalty for this offense usually involves both a fine and many hours of community service cleaning up illegal dump sites on public lands. These are your public lands—BLM needs your help in protecting them.

The 123, 430-acre McInnis Canyons NCA is managed under BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The NLCS is composed of special public lands, many of which have received special recognition and protection through congressional or presidential conservation designations. For more information on the NLCS, go to [www.blm.gov/nlcs](http://www.blm.gov/nlcs). For additional information on this project, contact Park Rangers Troy Schnurr at (970) 244-3032 or Chad Niehaus at 435-259-2136.

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Editor's Note: Photos available upon request.