

Study Group Theme Comments for Disappointment Dry Creek and Slickrock Dolores Meeting 6-29-05

Theme Area #: **A**

Draft Theme Designation: **5**

Comment

Oil and gas development should be allowed, but controlled. It is very important to the nation's energy supply.

Theme 5 is okay, but require wildlife closures to protect the wildlife habitat--big game, eagles, grouse and other.

Theme 5 will affect much wildlife winter range. You should limit new roads to help wildlife survive. Roads and disturbances stress them and kill them. You also need timing restrictions on access.

Road-closure decisions should be made by local people. Too often they are made by officials not familiar with the area.

Theme 5 is appropriate because of the roads and access – there is heavy management.

Theme 5 is appropriate because of oil and gas development – it is appropriate to have new roads here.

Theme 5 is appropriate where you have it on the map if it helps confine new oil and gas roads to this area and not the adjoining 3s.

Theme Area #: **B**

Draft Theme Designation: **1**

Comment

Entire landscape, including the river, should be no less than a '3' and as high as a '5.' We have too many WSA's.

Theme Area #: C

Draft Theme Designation: 2

Comment

Concerned about the horse herd getting too big; concerned about the management prescription being too restrictive and not having the ability to effectively manage the resources in the area.

Keep grazing in this area.

Make sure mitigation measures are established ahead of time for oil and gas development in the HMA. The horse herd is one of a very few in Colorado – protect both resources. Coalbed-methane extraction poses special concerns. Minimize roads.

Any oil and gas development in this Herd Management Area would greatly alter the landscape with pads, wells and roads. Directional drilling from outside the HMA should be done instead.

Theme Area #: C and D

Draft Theme Designation: 1,2

Comment

Both of these areas should be a '3' to allow a wider range of management options: fire control, weed control, etc. (x 2)

I agree with the map designations for the McKenna Peak WSA and the HMA – these form a good buffer for wildlife.

Theme Area #: D

Draft Theme Designation: 1

Comment

There are too many WSA's – the establishment of these areas facilitates the Wildlands Project [general harassment of the American public].

Theme Area #: E

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

Disappointment Creek drops into a steep canyon here – it deserves a '2' designation and a Special Management Plan. There are few roads, difficult access, keep it that way.

Dry Creek Basin needs a riparian plan to deal with issues such as spring runoff and undercutting. Try to bring the water table back up.

Theme 3 is appropriate because of the rugged nature of the landscape and its steep slopes.

Keep all the 2-track roads in the area.

Theme Area #: E and G

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

All of the Theme 3s should be 5s because there are many roads/trails out there that aren't all designated, there is little vegetation, and it's already disturbed.

The Theme 3 designation is appropriate because we are managing for the future, not for what's happened in the past.

I am concerned about the Theme 3 designation because it may close roads/trails.

Theme Area #: F

Draft Theme Designation: 2

Comment

Would like to see some section of the river corridor be managed for multiple uses.

In the section of river where the County Road runs along the river and the canyon opens up, I'd like to have the opportunity for multiple uses—grazing, weed management, burning and other range management improvements. Keep existing access in the area.

Don't develop recreation amenities; don't want to see recreation use marketed and the number of users increase.

If this stays as a Theme 2, be sure to keep all access roads open..

The river should be designated a Wild and Scenic River; if a '2' conflicts with this designation, then it should be changed to a '1.'

I like the 2 better than the Theme 4 because the BLM is not currently managing the area for intensive recreation and there are sensitive plant species, wildlife and fish habitat that should all be addressed in the theme 2 prescription.

The river corridor area should be designated no less than a '2' – it's a beautiful ride for those who can't walk it.

Like the way it is currently managed—continue to allow water recreation and grazing and don't crowd out either use. Also want to have the ability to manage weeds, and make range improvements

Theme Area #: G

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

There's good grazing in this area; theme 3 is appropriate.

Uranium-mining should continue in this area because of its importance to the nation's energy supply.

Theme Area #: Gen

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

The map is appropriate, a good compromise between land/resource values and conflicting uses. I believe that we need extra protection for water resources.

Restoration is a worthy goal but it takes time. The damage was done in the past.

You should separate oil and gas development from the road issue – minimize new roads and well pads, concentrate wells on one pad. Make this clear in the plan.

I'm not promoting building new roads, just not closing existing ones.

Be careful – you need small specialized-use areas for newly identified rare species such as cryptantha gypsophila (a plant that survives in the Big Gypsum Valley).

Realign the BLM district boundaries along understandable (political) boundaries.

There should be blanket exclusion of oil and gas development from all sage-grouse habitat. Make the habitat areas no worse (more developed) than Theme 3 – Theme 2 for leks and nesting areas.

It makes no sense to try to save Gunnison sage grouse if you are also going to reintroduce lynx, which can climb trees and catch them.

The map should have shown sage-grouse habitat. You have a special area for wild horses, but not for the grouse. Maybe make the habitat a Theme 2.

To save the grouse, you will have to control predators.

Theme 3 will result in closures of existing roads, no matter what you say.

Traditional Gunnison sage-grouse areas within the whole area should be Theme 2 to protect the sage grouse and help preclude a federal endangered listing.

If oil and gas areas have to be a Theme 5, manage them with a 3 orientation to preserve their ecological health.

Where roads are, people dump a lot of trash.

All the proposed theme designations look reasonable and appropriate.