Study Group Theme Comments for Silverton, Weminuche, and Animas Valley: Columbine Meeting 6/15 and 6/28

Theme 2

Comment

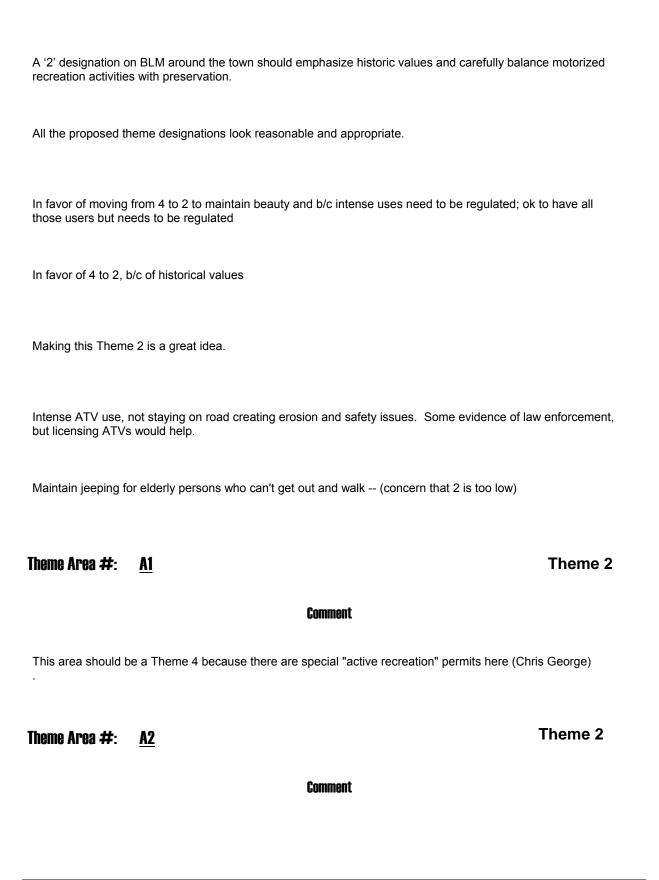
(Comments 8 through 11 all apply to the Silverton area.) The town of Silverton promotes unrestricted ATV us	е
 maybe there should be guides. You also need more enforcement. 	

- 8. D. The theme 2 needs to also address improving and protecting water quality.
- 7. D. Regulations may be appropriate to manage use and protect sites in the area.
- 6. D. Theme 2 is good because the area needs to have a management plan that is proactive and addresses specific management of the area to protect the historic sites and recreation experience and to address conflicts, such as access through and development of private in-holdings.
- 5. D. After inventorying routes there should be a process to evaluate whether all the routes are needed (especially since the road network was developed for mining and now used primarily for recreation). Is there proliferation, should some routes be restored to protect historic sites or better manage the recreation use and
- 4. D. San Juan County has identified and designated many of the roads and trails in this area as county roads. Currently the county has been having meeting and asking the public to bring in information to identify routes for this inventory because there are many trails not identified on the map; need to work with FS/BLM to
- 3. D. Important to keep road and trail access; don't need to develop new roads, but keep what is existing.
- 2. D. Area needs to protect access through private track mining claims; if owners develop on their track the BLM should require that existing public access is kept.
- 1. D. In the Theme 2 important to address recreation, summer cabin use/access and protection of metal mining rights/opportunities.

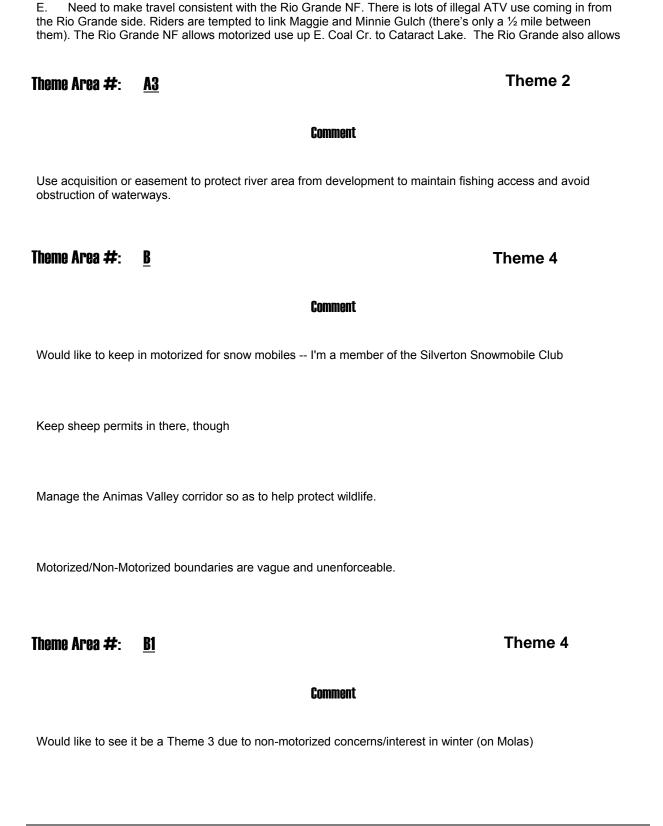
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Agree -- need enforcement of ATVs to get them to stay on the road While the Theme 2 designation is probably ok, some areas shoud be designated for heavier recreation use Existing roads should be Theme 4. Also see comment Numbers, 2-4 Better signage is necessary to protect the landscape from damage. Signs may not be visually appealing, but are better than a damaged environment. Want to maintain existing sheep grazing permits in Eureka and California gulch; don't change those Winter non-motorized use, outdoor education and historic values should be emphasized in the '2' area along Highway 550 to Red Mountain Pass. The San Juan and Uncompanded Forest Plans should be coordinated in this area. Discourage commercialization of the 4 wheel drive and ATV industry - locals ok but no outsiders using roads/trails to make \$ I like the Theme 2 designation, but signs could educate the public about the great job the BLM has done with restoration and water quality. There are historic structures in the Stoney Pass area that should be preserved See if the Colorado Division of Wildlife could assist with enforcement. If this is made a Theme 2, there should be controls of off-road ATV use, which is damaging the fragile alpine environment. There is too much dispersed camping because there are no developed campgrounds.

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Molas Lake: Motorized and non-motorized uses should be separated and supported by winter enforcement presence. The non-motorized component of the current separation is too small.

Some type of segregation is needed on Molas -- give us one area; give snowmobiles another -- it's not fair, all we get is the hole of the donut around Andrews Lake-- This is the most scenic highway in Colorado that is open in winter and it's over-run with motorized

There is support for non-motorized winter travel here (ie cross country skiing and snowshoeing)and not allowing motorized travel here because currently there is not easily accessible non-motorized terrain. Easily accessible terrain is primarily terrain that is available from the highway.

Theme Area #: B2 Theme 4

Comment

Oppose land trade with Tamarron. Find some other way to acquire in-held parcels. This is a popular recreation area, good wildlife habitat/corridor, has historic toll road, one of the few pieces of NF land that goes all the way across the Valley, and has unique characteristics similar to proposed RNA in # 2 above. Avoid

Theme Area #: C Theme 4

Comment

Lots of roadside camping. This occurs because the campground is full.

Concerned about dispersed camping impacts past the South Mineral Cr. Campground; specifically resource degradation between the road and the creek in the falls area. Perhaps signage could be improved and physical barriers put in. Or might the Campground need more sites to meet demand?

There is lots of camping past the S. Mineral Cr. Campground and recreation use; 4 makes sense for the whole corridor.

South Mineral is more appropriate for developed camping and is already heavily used.

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Theme Area #: C and B1

Comment

The '4' designation for Mineral Creek and Molas PassI is overly expansive. It should be limited in area – there is much off-road damage from recreational use here. The Federal agencies should consider these '4' designations to be easements within the larger '3' area.

Theme Area #: D Theme 3

Comment

I recommend a '1' rather than a '3' in this area for the following reasons: roadless, great wildlife habitat, lynx are present, moose, extensive tundra. Private inholdings should be a high priority for acquisition.

Keep livestock in the area

Land trades for in-holdings should be used to avoid development or blackmail, for example in the Ice Lake Area.

- 11. G. Keep theme 3 and boundary as is because this area has a natural setting with recreation, hiking, skiing, etc. Don't want to see mining development and impacts in this area.
- 10. G. Like the theme 3 area boundary as it is; don't combine with Theme 2 or make a 5 for mining potential because this is a wild alpine area.

In Theme 3, good as is - don't build more roads

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Theme Area #:	<u>D1</u>	Theme 3			
	Comme	nt			
I. There is mining potential in the Sultan Mountain and Putman Basin area; Theme in this area should retain opportunity for mining. Combine with Theme 2 area.					
Theme Area #:	<u>E</u>	Theme 8			
	Comme	nt			
Maintain public access to Purgatory Flats and Trail, which is controlled by DMR.					
Theme Area #:	<u>E1</u>	Theme 8			
	Comme	nt			
Limit the ski resort's expansion into the Cascade area.					
All of Cascade Creek up to the headwaters is beautiful and should continue to be preserved.					
Reduce size of Theme 8 area to current ski area foot print. The Northern portion should be added to adjacent Theme 3 with the recognition that there is considerable recreation that must be managed in Cascade Creek.					

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Theme Area #: <u>F</u>	Theme 1			
Comment				
Domestic sheep are overgrazing the Highland-Mary area.				
Sheep grazing is doing resource damage (erosion).				
There needs to be better management of grazing, especially sheep-grazing Weminuche landscape. Much of it has been degraded by grazing.	, on various sites on the			
The Chicago Basin area needs more management of recreation.				
Theme Area #: <u>F and D</u>				
Comment				
West Needles and Lime Creek: domestic sheep grazing threatens health of Bighorn sheep.				
Theme Area #: <u>F1</u>	Theme 1			
Comment				
The development plan at Emerald Lake is not appropriate. If you can do it the	nere, you can do it anywhere			
The development plan is appropriate because of the pre-existing water right	ts.			

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If someone wants to build a dam there, they should have to use shovels and horses, not anything mechanized..

Theme Area #:	<u>G</u>	Theme 5			
Comment					
Change 4 to a 3 ar	nd balance between motor and non-motor				
Most of the Theme	e 4 bubble should be narrowed to follow the River corridor and added	to Theme 1			
Support theme 5 i	in this area.				
Theme Area #: Gen					
	Comment				
Land trades should to the entire landso	d be used as much as possible to avoid development or blackmail an cape.	d protect visual quality			
Print and televisior damage and shoul	n ads for off-road vehicles in wilderness areas are contributing to seri lld be stopped.	ous environmental			
With motorized use	es, there is a great need for enforcement by Federal agencies.				
In '4' areas and els cat skiing).	sewhere, the Forest Service cannot continue to permit conflicting use	es (e.g., snowbiles and			

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We understand the concept of multiple use but when one or more individual uses start to cause damage the Federal agencies should step in to protect the land. Wasn't the Forest Service established to protect?

"Recreation" is an overly broad term – it really breaks down into motorized and non-motorized uses.

Theme Area #:

Comment

Extend theme 2 to take in these areas because they are all part of the caldera geological formation and related outcrop that lends itself to being managed similarly. The remaining theme 3 area is different geologically and resource-wise.

Theme Area #: J Theme 2

Comment

Theme 2 RNA makes sense: very unique geologic features and vegetation, limited access.

Theme Area #: K Theme 8

Comment

BLM should discuss this '8' designation with San Juan County to anticipate unintended consequences for/on private land development around the '8' area. Accommodations should be made for future growth of the ski area.

Skiing is good - -but concern that area will have real estate development

If the current operation fails, this area should be a Theme 5. We are not comfortable with a permanent designation of a developed ski area, but we are ok with the current ski hill operation.

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