

Study Group Theme Comments for Durango Mayhan: Columbine Meeting 4/21/05

Theme Area #: A

Draft Theme Designation: 7

Comment

Most of the population is along the county road corridors. The rest of this area is scarcely populated.

Considerable coal bed oil & gas development on public & private lands

Grazing too, but lots of fencing is required to graze the public lands.

Water is scarce in this area.

Steep area with much wildlife. North Texas Creek has lots of development. The south-facing slope is heavily used by wildlife in winter.

North Raider Ridge: mix of public & private lands; lots of informal trails; wildlife migration corridors. The only formal access is from Florida Road. There's a trail along the top of Raider Ridge.

Horse Gulch Area is heavily utilized for recreation, but private development is starting to close off access.

How well does the proposed '7' mesh with the area to the north, along Missionary Ridge? The same question also pertains to the eastern portion of the map.

Allowing drilling on the Theme 7 urban-interface areas can help private landowners by keeping oil and gas drilling off private lands, providing spacing between well pads, etc.

BLM lands connected with private grazing lands don't require as much fencing.

The Theme 7 designation is not appropriate for this area because this is not truly a residential intermix. Keep it set aside.

The BLM should not dispose of these smaller parcels because, as residential growth crowds in around them, they become more and more important for wildlife.

The BLM should consider selling or swapping these small, isolated parcels because they are hard to manage. If sold, they would go onto the tax rolls, benefiting the county.

As residential growth spreads outward from the Durango area, people will appreciate having parcels of public land for open space.

Residential intermix, 7, not compatible w/lower Horse Gulch -- would like that area somehow preserved -- maybe through land exchanges since it's private

Manage for National Historic trails in the area -- there are two -- they are special and require special management (Old Spanish and Dominquez/Escalante

These BLM tracks have County Roads touching them; pursue easements for access and limit to non-motorized use since the tracks are small. This would also help disperse use from heavy use areas such as Animas and Grandview.

Keeping some isolated parcels of public land at different elevations is important for wildlife migration corridors.

J & K. Keep grazing in this area.

Trading isolated parcels in the Theme 7 area for more remote lands elsewhere would be a benefit to wildlife because nearby residential growth makes these parcels bad for wildlife anyway because of fences, pet dogs, etc.

The oil and gas development on these tracks have access w/gated locks. Keep it this way because the tracks are too small for motorized access.

Support as a 7 -- management under a 7 addresses my concerns about oil and gas development

Support as a 7 as long as grazing/hunting is permitted and allowed plus four wheelers' access (esp. by Forest Lakes)

Theme Area #: A1

Draft Theme Designation: 7

Comment

Water is scarce -- wildlife has to go to the Florida River for water.

Place more emphasis on wildlife, instead of just urban interface

Would like to have access for hiking; acquire an easement for this area.

These tracks are the ridgeline and provide an important viewshed that needs to be protected. Pursue easements for access for hiking and non-motorized uses.

Theme Area #: A2

Draft Theme Designation: 7

Comment

Lots of housing is encroaching in this area. There are also gas wells.

This area is Forest Lakes subdivision's "back yard." Management is largely driven by fire mitigation concerns.

Most of this area is steep and inaccessible, with development in the bottom (Bear Creek).

This area includes large tracts with wildlife oriented conservation easements.

Theme 7 makes sense because this is landlocked with private land.

Theme Area #: **A3**

Draft Theme Designation: **7**

Comment

Heavy recreation use (hiking, biking, dog walking, etc.); also gravel extraction.

Northwest part of this area is much less accessible and provides wildlife habitat. There might be an old coal mine road into the area.

Support as a 7, except would like to have Big Canyon/Telegraph Ridge managed as a 2 for archeology, rec., and wildlife

Make Grandview, Animas Mtn., & Big Canyon areas a Three to have more natural areas in town.

BLM land that occupies the ridges should be kept as natural as possible to preserve views.

Theme 7 is appropriate in this area because it considers public safety.

Theme Area #: A4

Draft Theme Designation: 7

Comment

This area should not be a '7' – should be designated as a more natural area – lots of hiking and walking here – should remain a '3.'

This area should remain a Theme 2 because you can't assume that all the archaeological sites are on the west side.

Expand 2 theme to the east to both sides of CR 204, allow recreational uses in this theme (e.g. hiking, skiing)

Maintain access to Churchcamp Trail. Concerned about private landowners in the area trying to prevent access.

Theme Area #: A5

Draft Theme Designation: 7

Comment

I question the winter closure for wildlife on Animas Mtn. the road kill this causes by them coming down to the valley is way worse than any thing humans would do to them up on the mountain

Crazy to allow hunting on Animas City Mtn. so close to the City

A '7' designation is extremely [overly] broad, especially related to Animas Mountain.

There is a concern that Animas Mountain should not be opened up to logging, etc. in 20 years – a combination of a '2' and a '4' would be better than the current '7.'

Animas Mtn: supports Theme 3 or 4 because close to town, popular recreation area (rock climbing, etc.) in the summer; winter wildlife closure. Some of the lower areas are kept open for recreation in winter. Unique area unto itself.

Support theme 2 for Perins, but extend it north to area of closures on Animas City Mtn.

DOW should be given the responsibility for managing wildlife on Animas Mountain – there is a concern that BLM and DOW need to work closely and cooperatively.

It seems as though we could have a '7' designation with stipulations – recognizing the current management practice and allowing for balance.

Theme Area #: B

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

Leave this area as a 3 to connect with the 3 area to the north.

Theme Area #: C

Draft Theme Designation: 5

Comment

Lots of old logging roads & motorized use.

The area going up to Log Chutes should become a '4' to be more consistent with the adjacent '4' to the south [Junction Creek].

The area should be considered for remaining as a Theme 3 because the plan should be forward-looking, instead of making this a Theme 5 mainly because logging took place there in the past.

Log Chutes – should be a 3 – prescribed burns; vehicles allowed on roads.

Supports a 3: heavy recreation use, but steep terrain prevents loop trails. People come to this area for its natural appeal.

Make Log Chutes area a 4 and manage to mitigate human/rec. impacts

Move to 4 -- plan for future recreational impacts

Important to maintain the area's naturalness.

Close to town, so keep it a 5 to provide accessible opportunities for motorized activities.

Theme 5 good; important to manage fire danger in this area.

Theme Area #: D

Draft Theme Designation: 4

Comment

Consider as extension of Theme 4?

Support 4, lots of recreation happens here -- in line with campground feature

Don't extend 4 because theme 3 doesn't exclude anything, yet discourage further recreation development.

Theme 4 is appropriate because there are lots of people in the area.

In areas like this, that have heavy use with one way in and out access there is congestion. It would be better to create loop trails in these areas and disperse access points to enhance the experience and reduce the congestion.

Theme Area #: F

Draft Theme Designation: 2

Comment

Possible take this to a 1 b/c of pristine wildlife values

The FS should coordinate carefully with DOW to manage Perins Peak, especially since Ridges Basin has been lost to the Animas-La Plata project.

A SG member described hiking and hunting uses in the area. Retain current access in this area especially considering that Perins DOW lands have limited access.

East edge is heavily impacted by human use. Seasonal closure to protect wildlife.

It makes sense to have BLM manage this as a Theme 2 if nearby state land is also managed that way.

Like the way the DOW is managing their lands. Use theme 2 if it will continue the current way the area is managed.

Good b/c it is a sanctuary for wildlife

This area is jointly managed by BLM & DOW, with emphasis on wildlife. Supports a Theme 2.

Theme Area #: G

Draft Theme Designation: 2

Comment

Very important archeological resources around Falls Creek

Would like to see detailed management plan for Falls Creek that involves the special features, includes rec. etc.

Support Theme 2 because it's important to protect cultural resources.

Support as archeological area and support designation

Theme Area #: Gen

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

The Mayhan BLM tracks were described as a private hunting area for adjacent land owners because of the lack of access.

We would like to/should have a copy of the theme map (8-1/2 x 11) to use and have available; should be given out at the meeting or beforehand.

Theme Area #: H

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

E. Animas rock climbing area; should be managed to provide that opportunity.