



Foundation Document

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Colorado

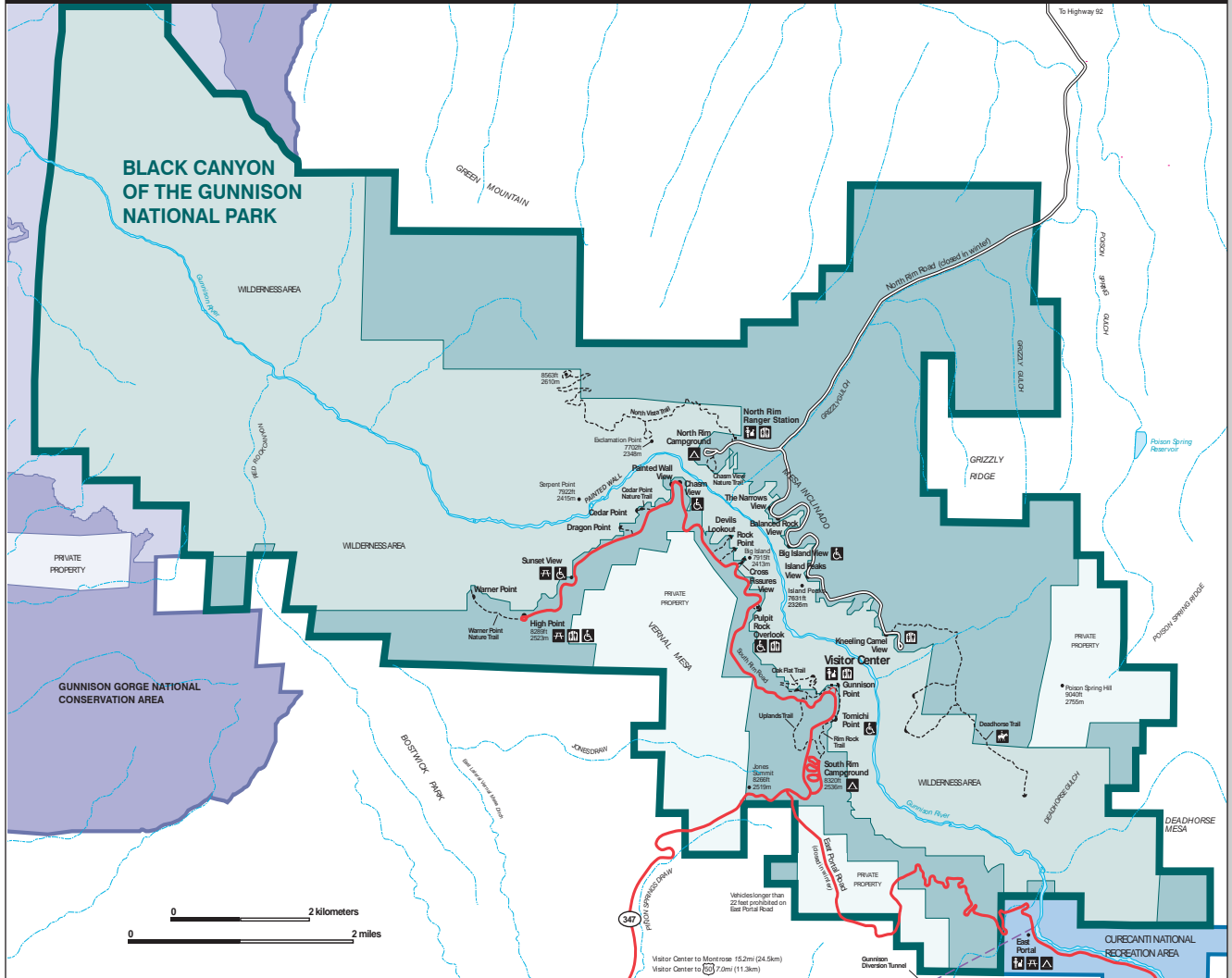
December 2013



Black Canyon of the Gunnison

National Park
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



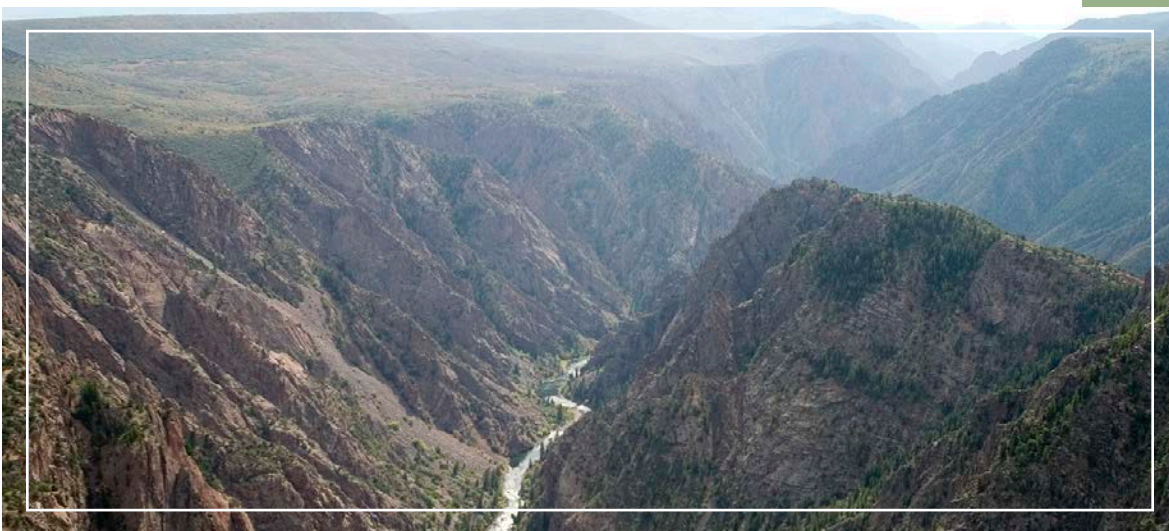
The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system is to have a foundational document that will provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management, or foundation document. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Big enough to be overwhelming, yet intimate enough to feel the pulse of time, Black Canyon of the Gunnison exposes some of the steepest cliffs, oldest rock, and craggiest spires in North America. Over the past two million years, the Gunnison River, along with the forces of weathering, has sculpted this vertical wilderness of rock, water, and sky. The Black Canyon hosts a variety of ecosystems from pinyon pine, juniper, and scrub oak forests at the rim, to the shady and vertical inner canyon walls, and down to the riparian community along the Gunnison River.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is located on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains in west-central Colorado. The park is situated in the transition between the Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountain provinces and hosts riparian habitats, steep canyons, sagebrush hillsides, and areas of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and aspen.



Weather can vary greatly between the canyon rim and canyon floor.

Summer daytime temperatures range from 60°F to 100°F (15°C to 38°C), nights 30°F to 50°F (-1°C to 10°C). Winter daytime temperatures range from 20°F to 40°F (-6°C to 4°C), nights -10°F to 20°F (-23°C to -6°C).

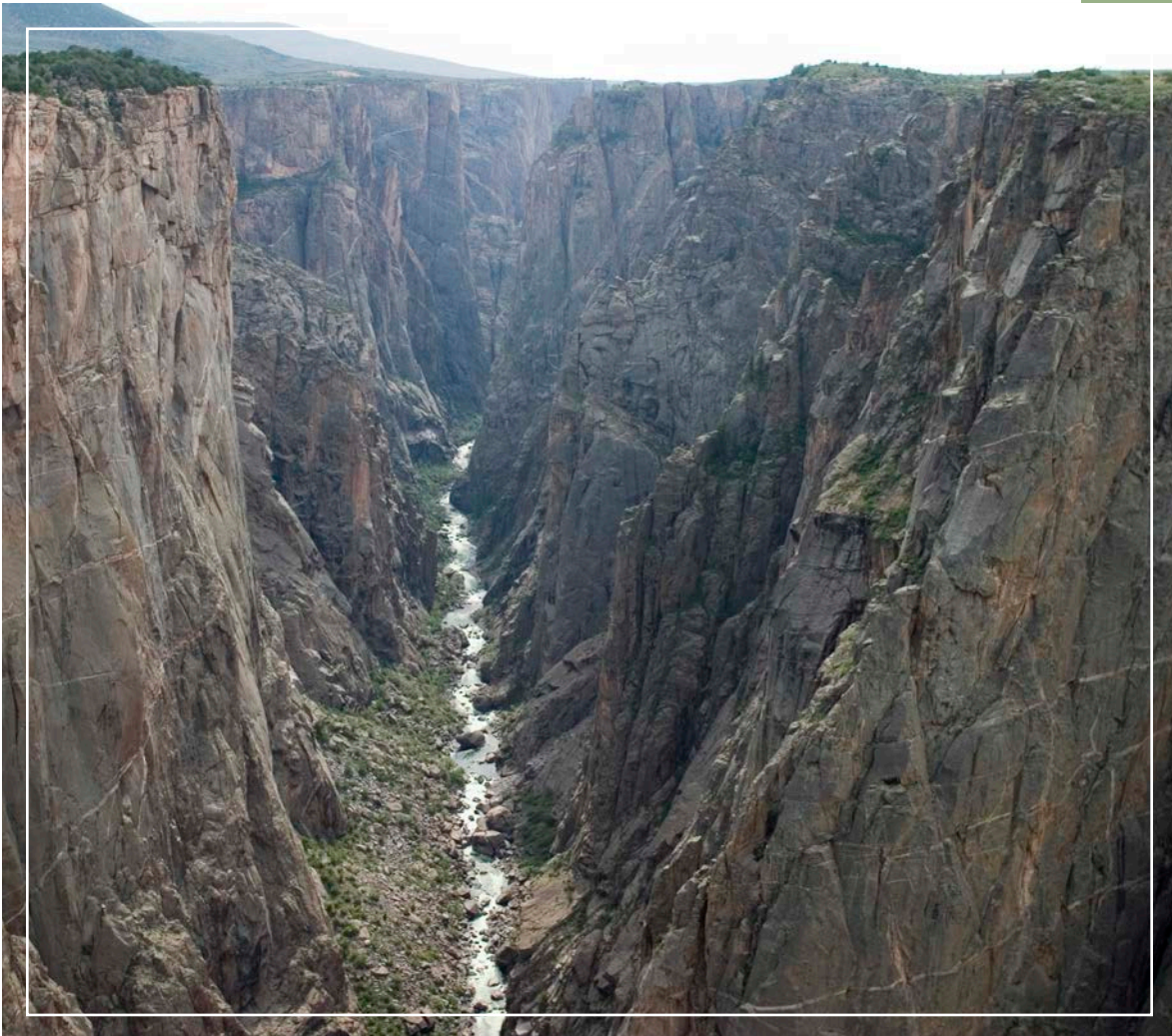
Precipitation is minimal and brief afternoon thunderstorms can occur during the summer.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was designated as a national monument on March 2, 1933, by presidential proclamation (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The following is the purpose statement for the park:

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park preserves an area encompassing spectacular gorges, the Gunnison River, and breathtaking landscapes by protecting its natural, cultural, and wilderness integrity for public benefit, inspiration, and enjoyment.

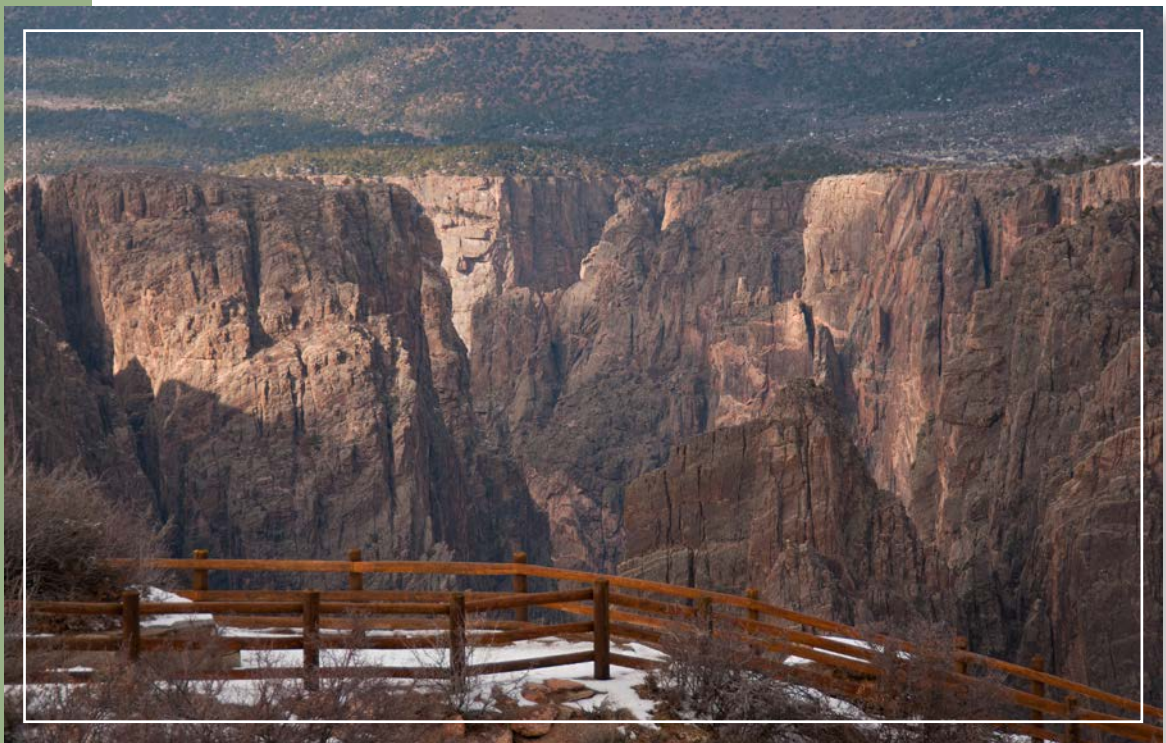


Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. (Please note that the sequence of the statements do not reflect the level of significance.)

- The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.
- The vertical, rugged nature of Black Canyon's inner canyon wilderness presents challenges requiring specialized skill and self-reliance, while providing exceptional opportunities for primitive, unconfined experiences.
- The narrow, vertical nature and sheer walls of Black Canyon, in contrast to the surrounding uplands, provide for unexpected and intimate views of one of the world's premier wild canyons.
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park protects canyon and upland environments that encompass old growth pinyon and sensitive species including hanging garden *Sullivantia*, Black Canyon gilia, Gunnison Sage-grouse, and peregrine falcons.
- Black Canyon, carved by the power of the Gunnison River and born from multiple episodes of uplift and erosion, is one of the steepest, deepest, and narrowest canyons in North America, and reveals 2,000 feet of Precambrian basement rock.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park:

- **The Black Canyon of the Gunnison: The Canyon Itself.** The Black Canyon is carved through some of the oldest rock visible on our planet—nearly half the age of Earth itself. The exposed rock walls are windows to deep earth processes revealing evidence of extreme heat and pressure, magma intrusions, and continental movement. Resistant to erosion, the gorge has weathered into distinct and diverse stretches where the pinnacles and spires are prominent in one location, somber, plunging cliffs in another, and jagged ridges in another.
- **Recreation.** Visitors experience Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and its ruggedness through recreational activities such as sightseeing, photography, hiking, climbing, fishing, kayaking, nordic skiing, and snowshoeing.
- **The Gunnison River and Its Roar.** The Gunnison River is the driving force that formed the Black Canyon, and continues to shape it today. From spectacular views and wilderness challenges, to encounters with nature and people of the past, the river and its roar are at the center of the senses, sounds, and seasonal rhythms of the park. Though regulated by three dams upstream, the river continues to play a major role in the development of downstream communities.
- **Wilderness.** The demanding landscape of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness provides unparalleled opportunities to realize a high degree of self-reliance, profound quiet, intense challenge, and a fundamental solitude difficult to find in our world today.
- **Native Plant and Wildlife Communities.** Surrounded by other federal lands, farmland, ranchland, and scattered housing development, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is an island of upland and canyon habitats with diverse plant and wildlife communities. Habitats including ancient pinyon woodlands, oak brush thickets, canyon walls with hanging gardens, and riparian wetlands. The varied habitats and canyon features provide a protected home to plant and animal species.
- **Spectacular Views.** The approach to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park provides broad views of the surrounding landscape, including the dramatic backdrop of the San Juan and West Elk mountains and the Uncompaghre Valley. There is little in this expansive backdrop to prepare the uninitiated for the sudden appearance of a deep, narrow gash in the terrain that appears before them upon reaching the canyon rims. Once on the rim, the views turn downward and inward, providing an intimate connection with the dark depths.

Other Important Resources and Values

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park, and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and they warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park:

- **Archeology.** The known sites at Black Canyon of the Gunnison suggest human use for the last 9,000 years. The area served as a meeting place for cultures from the Four Corners and the Rocky Mountains.
- **Paleontology.** The Mesozoic rock that caps the canyon rim provides a glimpse of the paleoenvironment of the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods.
- **Cultural Landscapes.** The North Rim Scenic Drive, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, demonstrates the ingenuity the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had at constructing the road and overlooks in harmony with the landscape. The construction of the North Rim Scenic Drive provided employment opportunities for the local community. The East Portal road and town site provide discovery into the struggles and engineering success realized during the construction of the Gunnison Tunnel (a civil engineering landmark in the National Register of Historic Places), the most daring of the first projects built by the Bureau of Reclamation. The South Rim scenic drive is also a CCC construction project, and a proposed cultural landscape.



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significance statements and fundamental and other resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park:

- **Geology.** Through a unique series of geologic events, the Gunnison River has carved one of the world's premier wild canyons.
- **Wilderness.** Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park preserves a vertical landscape at once both accessible and remote, providing rare opportunities for all visitors to experience the values of wilderness.
- **Water.** The Gunnison River provides a home for aquatic and riparian species in an atmosphere of development and politics of the American West.
- **Natural History.** Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park protects fragile resources along a vertical spectrum from canyon floor to dark skies.
- **Cultural History.** The rugged landscape of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park has challenged and limited human influence from pre-history to modern day.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many of the management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memoranda of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The following list includes special mandates and administrative commitments for the park:

- Joint Fire Management-Annual Operating Plan / Interagency Agreement for Wildland Fire Management with Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Montrose County interagency dispatch; time period indefinite; park to cooperatively provide wildfire management and response on and off park lands.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Bureau of Land Management for the Coordinated Management of Rangelands Grizzly Gulch, Brush Point, Green Mountain, Deadhorse Common, Adobe South, Black Canyon Jones Draw allotments; expired 1993 (needs to be renewed); park monitors grazing effects on range.
- Concurrent jurisdiction of lands: memorandum of understanding with Montrose and Gunnison county sheriffs; pending update; park provides counties with \$1,800 per year for services.
- Federal reserved water rights decree filed in Colorado Water Court on December 31, 2008; January 3, 2009, amendment (Colorado Water Court); time period indefinite; park attends water planning meetings and monitors the administration of the water right.
- There are utility right-of-way easements that allow for power lines, cell towers, and transmission lines to service the towns of Delta and Montrose.
- Mandatory Class I air quality (only 42 units in the national park system are designated Class I airsheds) as per Environmental Protection Agency/NPS policy; time period indefinite; National Park Service monitors compliance.
- Commercial use authorizations; expire annually with one-year renewal agreements; park tracks use and verifies compliance.
- Western National Parks Association (WNPA) five-year agreement expires 2016; park provides space and staffing for this nonprofit cooperating association's bookstore, including storage of stock for the bookstore.

- Recycling contract with Waste Management; five-year agreement, expires 2017; park contracts service.
- Western Colorado Conservation Corps five-year agreement expires 2017; park provides opportunities for young people to work and learn in an outdoor setting on and about local conservation projects; park contracts service.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource and value analysis table includes current condition, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Black Canyon of the Gunnison: The Canyon Itself	
Short Description of Importance	The Black Canyon is carved through some of the oldest rock visible on our planet—nearly half the age of Earth itself. The exposed rock walls are windows to deep earth processes revealing evidence of extreme heat and pressure, magma intrusions, and continental movement. Resistant to erosion, the gorge has weathered into distinct and diverse stretches where pinnacles and spires are prominent in one location, somber, plunging cliffs in another, and jagged ridges in another to provide conspicuous features of scientific interest.
Related Significance Statements	<p>The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.</p> <p>The narrow, vertical nature and sheer walls of Black Canyon, in contrast to the surrounding uplands, provide for unexpected and intimate views of one of the world’s premier wild canyons.</p> <p>Black Canyon, carved by the power of the Gunnison River and born from multiple episodes of uplift and erosion, is one of the steepest, deepest, and narrowest canyons in North America, and reveals 2,000 feet of Precambrian basement rock.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness designation has aided in the protection of the canyon by maintaining the natural processes within the canyon. • Geologic research is ongoing by representatives from universities and geologic societies.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple ecological effects of warming, drought, and greater frequency and magnitude of extreme weather or flow events attributable to anthropogenic climate change. • River flow regimes are altered due to upstream dams, flow regulation, and water withdrawals—adversely affecting geomorphic processes. • Vandalism of rocks and, potentially, geographic features. • Potential for regional energy development. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I airsheds create enhanced opportunities for viewing the canyon and landscapes in and around the park. • The scenic nature of the canyon provides educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors to develop a love of nature.
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1997 general management plan. • Big rivers long-term monitoring. • Geologic atlas and map of identified resources. • Surficial geology map.
Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.8) provide general direction on the protection of geologic and soil resources • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.5) states that the National Park Service “will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences” • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act • 1976 Mining in the Parks Act <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Black Canyon of the Gunnison: The Canyon Itself	
Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue long-term monitoring. • Wilderness character assessment (2013). • Continue to monitor climate change data along with contemporary trends. • Geologic hazards inventory, map, and monitoring.
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Resource stewardship strategy.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent federal and state agencies, including Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Permit holders (grazing) • Recreational community (climbers, hikers, anglers, etc.) • Educators (organized curriculum-based education) • Local communities • Academic community and associated researchers • Western National Parks Association • National Parks Conservation Association



Fundamental Resource or Value: Recreation	
Short Description of Importance	Visitors experience Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and its ruggedness through recreational opportunities such as sightseeing, photography, hiking, climbing, fishing, kayaking, nordic skiing, and snowshoeing.
Related Significance Statements	<p>The vertical, rugged nature of Black Canyon’s inner canyon wilderness presents challenges requiring specialized skill and self-reliance, while providing exceptional opportunities for primitive, unconfined experiences.</p> <p>The narrow, vertical nature and sheer walls of Black Canyon, in contrast to the surrounding uplands, provide for unexpected and intimate views of one of the world’s premier wild canyons.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational opportunities exist within a spectrum of difficulty and fitness levels. Difficult hiking and climbing opportunities exist, along with easy viewpoint hikes. There are not many opportunities for intermediate trails. • Current use of wilderness is managed by a permit system. This applies to all recreational activities in Black Canyon Wilderness. • In a typical year, climbing occurs in spring and fall and fishing peaks in June, so user conflicts between these groups are limited. However, user capacity on some routes has been maximized during certain times. • At current use levels, most user groups are able to achieve their desired recreation activities without a formal reservation system, except for in Red Rock Canyon. • Although manageable at its current rate, requests for special park uses (such as running and cycling events) have been increasing. • The park has good data on wilderness use. • Inner canyon fishing continues to be a popular recreation activity.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased warming and drying from climate change, leading to increased high to extreme fire danger, deters visits and overnight stays, especially when fire bans are in effect. • Heat waves are likely to become more common and mean annual temperature is projected to increase 5.2°F to 8.6°F (2.9°C to 4.8°C) during the 21st century for the region. • Drought conditions are projected to become more common as precipitation is unlikely to increase at the same rate as temperature. • According to the Western Water Association in 2008, peak spring streamflow shifted earlier by two weeks in Colorado between 1978 and 2004. Changes in the timing of spring run-off and river flow due to climate change may increase conflicts among user groups (e.g., climbers and anglers). • Inaccessible operations and facilities are a threat to recreational opportunities when lack of accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act accessibility standards) prevents visitors from reaching desired destinations. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park could capitalize on local and regional interest in cooperative park projects such as maintenance of existing trails and development of additional trails. • There has been an increase in road biking and there may be a desire for a bike lane on the road in the future. • Opportunities to work with local tourism agencies to promote recreational use; very active tourism association in Gunnison/Crested Butte. • National fitness initiatives (Let’s Move Outside, Play60, etc.) are opportunities to showcase recreational uses. • Invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial (New Zealand mudsnails, <i>Dydimosphenia geminata</i>, aquatic plants, terrestrial plants [weeds]) threaten the river and riparian system, inner canyon, and uplands. The park could enhance opportunities to communicate with the public about the spread of invasive species.

Fundamental Resource or Value: Recreation	
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Services Project special report by the University of Idaho in 2010. • Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Visitor use data, including climbing statistics. • Wilderness campsite condition data. • <i>Climate Change Trends for Planning at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado</i>, a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez.
Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 • Title 36 <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (28 CFR 36) • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • U.S. Access Board draft accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas of 1999 • Memorandum of understanding with Bureau of Reclamation • State of Colorado fishing regulations • State of Colorado statute for aquatic invasive species <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent's compendium • Off road vehicle draft rule
Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor wilderness and backcountry campsites. • The park does not have visitor use data for the lower canyon (kayaks and pack rafts). • Accessibility assessment. • Commercial services strategy. • Economics data on recreational water value for visitors.
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to look at the feasibility of creating intermediate-level hiking trails (to address the void between beginner and very difficult opportunities). • Wilderness and backcountry management plan has identified potential places for intermediate hiking opportunities (proposed trails are shown on maps).
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Land Management • Adjacent land owners • Trout Unlimited • Local businesses • Recreational community (climbers, hikers, anglers, etc.) • Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Local and regional environmental advocacy groups • Western National Parks Association • Trails user groups • Local tourism associations

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Gunnison River and Its Roar	
Short Description of Importance	The Gunnison River is the driving force that formed the Black Canyon, and continues to shape it today. It gives one a sense of nature's own strength, which is responsible for forming the gorge. From spectacular views and wilderness challenges, to encounters with nature and people of the past, the river and its roar are at the center of the senses, sounds, and seasonal rhythms of the park. Though regulated by three dams upstream, the river continues to play a major role in the development of downstream communities.
Related Significance Statements	<p>The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.</p> <p>Black Canyon, carved by the power of the Gunnison River and born from multiple episodes of uplift and erosion, is one of the steepest, deepest, and narrowest canyons in North America, and reveals 2,000 feet of Precambrian basement rock.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 31, 2008, the Colorado Water Court issued a decree quantifying the reserved water right for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The decree quantifies a water right in the park for Gunnison River flows ranging from a springtime peak flow, to "shoulder" flows before and/or after the peak flows, to a minimum flow for the remainder of the year. These flows are critical to the physical and biological processes that maintain the spectacular Gunnison River Gorge through the Park. • The river as it exists today is a controlled environment influenced by water diversions and the upstream dams of the Aspinall Unit. • Decreed flows for the park are produced as a part of Aspinall Unit dam and reservoir operations. The adjudicated water right has provided for reproduced floods from the Aspinall Unit upstream. These flows imitate the river's natural hydrologic cycle. • Seasonal insect hatches draw anglers to the outstanding fishing opportunities. • Decreed flows are tied to the April through July forecasted inflow to Blue Mesa Reservoir. • The river's channel and bordering geomorphic features are vegetated in some places with reed canary grass and other invasive species. Flows produced for the water right should produce desired results of channel maintenance including vegetation scour and sediment movement. • Cold water discharge from the bottom of Aspinall Unit dams enhances trout and stone fly habitat. The late spring stone fly hatch draws anglers to the outstanding fishing opportunities. • Trend analysis of wilderness visitor counts suggest an increase in demand for hiking opportunities to and along the river, including hiking for angling, enjoyment of the scenery, and experience of wilderness. The demand is greater than current use limits allow. Alternative trails are identified in the wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Gunnison Tunnel annually diverts about 360,000 acre feet of water for irrigation of the Uncompahgre Valley. The tunnel and associated diversion dam and gate are important cultural resources tied to the Gunnison River. • Although altered from historic conditions due to dam discharge, water quality of the Gunnison River is good to exceptional.

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Gunnison River and Its Roar

Threats and Opportunities

Threats

- Although the overall water quality of the Gunnison River is in good to exceptional condition, there is degraded water quality and artificial flow in Red Rock Canyon, a tributary to the Gunnison.
- Effects of drought and climate change are a threat to the Colorado River system.
- During the 20th century, mean annual temperature increased significantly (1.6°F/0.9°C, 1901–2002) while precipitation showed high interannual variability and no directional trend, according to a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez.
- According to the Western Water Association in 2008, peak spring streamflow shifted earlier by two weeks in Colorado between 1978 and 2004.
- The Aspinall Unit was constructed under authority of the Colorado River Storage Project that in part declares the purpose for the unit being to assist the states in full development of their 1922 Colorado River Compact entitlement. A change in United States storage and/or water-marketing policies could result in large volume transfer of water to out-of-basin buyers.
- River flow regimes are altered due to upstream dams, flow regulation, and water withdrawals.
- Climate change and human water diversion continue to threaten water quantity, adversely affecting geomorphic processes, riparian vegetation, and aquatic life.
- Operation for the water right is tied to the May 1 forecast of the April through July forecasting horizon. The relationship between accumulated snow and runoff is not a straight line and smaller snowpack volume seems to produce a much smaller runoff volume. Any condition trending toward overall less winter snowpack accumulation will manifest itself as much lower operational peak flows through the park.
- Climate change as overall temperature increase and/or change in snowpack storage volume change may alter or vary snow melt patterns.
- Colorado River basin-scale landscape changes and associated dust-on-snow events may reduce overall runoff to the Aspinall Unit and the park.
- Increased demands on water use from regional and statewide population growth results in competing demands for water.
- Colonization by invasive plants may stabilize channel bank sediments resulting in a loss of riverine values.
- Water quality degradation from irrigation return flows from the selenium rich soils of Bostwick Park is a threat due to its return to Red Rock Canyon. *E. coli* concentrations regularly exceed state standards.
- The existing nuisance population of *Didymosphenia geminate* (algae) and potential for other aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mudsnail may disrupt the healthy aquatic ecosystem of the Gunnison River.

Opportunities

- The Black Canyon water right is senior to rights governing operation of the Aspinall Unit. Within the vagaries of forecasting and NPS influence on Secretarial decision-making, the right will in the future guarantee water for the river.
- Local communities took an active role in negotiating the claim for water and this presents an opportunity to work with downstream communities to increase high peak flow through the park.
- Work with landowners, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state engineer's office to remedy the artificial flow of water into Red Rock Canyon in order to mitigate degraded water quality.

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Gunnison River and Its Roar	
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected through ongoing monitoring of water quality. Spring seep monitoring through the Northern Colorado Plateau Network. Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. Agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation. Federal reserved water right for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (2008). Existing U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies. Cooperative inventory and monitoring data gathering with Northern Colorado Plateau Network.
Laws and Policies That Apply to This FRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reserved water right for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (2008) Colorado River Compact Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972 (33 U.S.C. § 1251) The Clean Water Act and amendments The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; chapter 425) NPS General Authorities Act: all water resources of the park are protected by the federal government. Only an act of Congress can change this fundamental responsibility of the National Park Service. The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. § 300f) The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended National Invasive Species Act Lacey Act, as amended Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> Director's Order 77-1: <i>Wetland Protection</i> Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management" Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands" Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" Special Directive 93-4 "Floodplain Management, Revised Guidelines for National Park Service Floodplain Compliance" (1993) The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water (5 CCR 1002-31) "Colorado Basic Water Quality Standards" Classifications and Numeric Standards for Gunnison and Lower Dolores River Basins (5 CCR 1002-35) "Gunnison Basin Water Quality Standards" State of Colorado fishing regulations Colorado statute for aquatic invasive species (Title 33. Parks and Wildlife Parks Article 10.5. Aquatic Nuisance Species) <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified

Fundamental Resource or Value: The Gunnison River and Its Roar	
Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor water quality on the lower four miles of the Gunnison River within the canyon (from Red Rock Canyon to the park boundary). • Climate change research to identify resource impacts and mitigation strategies. • It is important to gain a true understanding of flood levels and downstream impacts among residents, agricultural areas, and businesses.
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess where/how flood-proofing could be needed at downstream communities. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Update water resource management plan. • Climate change adaptation strategy. • Climate change scenario plan. • Finalize draft wilderness and backcountry management plan.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Area Power Administration • Uncompahgre Valley Water Users • Conservation groups • Trout Unlimited • Western Resource Advocates • Bureau of Land Management – Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area • Commercial outfitters in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area • City of Delta, Delta County, Mesa County and other local counties and towns • Wilderness users • Water-based recreational users (kayakers, anglers, etc.) • Redlands Water and Power Company • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Colorado River Water Conservation District • Bureau of Reclamation

Fundamental Resource or Value: Wilderness	
Short Description of Importance	The demanding landscape of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness provides unparalleled opportunities to realize a high degree of self-reliance, profound quiet, intense challenge, and a fundamental solitude difficult to find in our world today.
Related Significance Statements	<p>The vertical, rugged nature of Black Canyon’s inner canyon wilderness presents challenges requiring specialized skill and self-reliance while providing exceptional opportunities for primitive, unconfined experiences.</p> <p>Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park protects canyon and upland environments that encompass old growth pinyon and sensitive species including hanging garden <i>Sullivantia</i>, Black Canyon gilia, Gunnison Sage-grouse, and peregrine falcons.</p> <p>The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The untrammled quality of the wilderness is presently very high, but the overall trend is toward more pressure to take management actions in the face of climate change that may make the wilderness less wild. • The trend for the natural quality of wilderness is relatively stable, as ecosystems are protected and improved through programs like invasive plant removal. • The undeveloped quality of the canyon is not likely to change or may even be improved over time as unnecessary structures are removed. • There are likely to continue to be wonderful opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because of access management, but some aspects such as dark night skies and soundscapes are likely to be diminished over time due to increasing regional development and urbanization.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive nonnative plants threaten native species and wilderness character. • Wilderness administration is both a threat and an opportunity; an interdisciplinary group of park staff has been established to review proposed management actions in the wilderness. • Recreational use may threaten resources and wilderness character if not managed carefully. • Commercial services need to be carefully evaluated so as to not threaten wilderness character. • Trespass – unauthorized outfitters and guides, motorcycles, utility vehicles (UTVs), grazing, stock pond development, poaching and hazing of elk. • Hotter and drier conditions due to climate change may increase potential for wildland fire and impact water resources, according to a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness administration is both a threat and an opportunity; an interdisciplinary group of park staff has been established to review proposed management actions in the wilderness. • Completion of the wilderness and backcountry management plan is an opportunity to better protect wilderness values. • The North Rim landscape strategy enhances opportunities to work with adjacent federal and private landowners.

Fundamental Resource or Value: Wilderness	
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft 2013 wilderness character assessment. • Bureau of Land Management / Gunnison Gorge Plan (neighbor conditions). • Visitor use data. • Weed surveys. • Restoration project plans and monitoring. • Rare plant survey and monitoring. • Fire management plan. • Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Adjacent federal agency management plans. • Local government plans and zoning. • 1997 general management plan. • 1993 resource management plan. • North Rim landscape strategy document. • Northern Colorado Plateau Network inventory and monitoring data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrated upland monitoring. • vegetation map. • invasive exotic plant monitoring. • annotated checklist of vascular flora. • Big rivers monitoring. • Upland monitoring. • <i>Climate Change Trends for Planning at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado</i>, a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez.
Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS General Authorities Act: all water resources of the park are protected by the federal government. Only an act of Congress can change this fundamental responsibility of the National Park Service. • National Invasive Species Act • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (6.3, 6.4, 4.9) • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • Wilderness Designation (1976, 1999 laws and language) • Public Law 94-567, Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness, (October 20, 1976) • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Director's Order 41: <i>Wilderness Preservation and Management</i> • Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified

Fundamental Resource or Value: Wilderness	
Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 revised wilderness character assessment (includes wilderness visitor use, encounter rates, number of management activities conducted within wilderness, etc.). • Social science data to improve understanding of wilderness user characteristics including self-reliance and other social constructs. • Development of data on wilderness trends is necessary to understand possible establishment of incompatible uses and entrenched harmful practices, which in turn could impact natural resources, the quality of visitor opportunities, and wilderness and backcountry character.
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Wilderness suitability study (for adding lands, and eligibility). • Climate change adaptation strategy. • Climate change scenario plan. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Update fire management plan.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing permittees • Commercial use authorization holders • Bureau of Land Management • Wilderness enthusiasts • Recreational interest groups (climbers, hikers, anglers, etc.) • Adjacent federal and state agencies: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service • Montrose and Delta counties • Black Canyon Land Trust • Trout Unlimited • Black Canyon Audobon Society • Uncompahgre Partnership • Western National Parks Association • Adjacent land owners • The Conservation Fund



Fundamental Resource or Value: Native Plant and Wildlife Communities	
Short Description of Importance	Surrounded by farmland, rangeland, scattered housing development, and other federal land, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is an island of upland and canyon habitats with diverse plant and wildlife communities. Habitats including ancient pinyon woodlands, oak brush thickets, canyon walls with hanging gardens and riparian wetlands, the varied habitats and canyon features provide a protected home to native, rare and endangered plant and animal species.
Related Significance Statements	<p>The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.</p> <p>Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park protects canyon and upland environments that encompass old growth pinyon and sensitive species including hanging garden <i>Sullivantia</i>, Black Canyon gilia, Gunnison Sage-grouse, and peregrine falcons.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonnative species invasion is increasing overall (plants). • Raptors are stable (peregrine falcons, eagles). • Fish stocked upstream and downstream of park. • Unintentional spread of invasive species could occur due to changes in visitation patterns, especially by visitors who have not received education on the negative effects of invasive species. • Hanging garden habitat is stable. • Sensitive species populations are stable except that Gunnison Sage-grouse (North Rim) are in decline and proposed to be listed as federal endangered. • Grazing impacts continue, but are trending down with management actions. • During the 20th century, mean annual temperature increased significantly (1.6°F/0.9°C, 1901–2002) while precipitation showed high interannual variability and no directional trend, according to a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez. • Peak spring streamflow shifted earlier by two weeks in Colorado between 1978 and 2004 (WWA 2008).

Fundamental Resource or Value: Native Plant and Wildlife Communities

Threats and Opportunities

Threats

- Poaching occurs (plant and animal).
- Threats to old growth pinyon pine due to climate change.
- There are high selenium and *E. coli* levels in Red Rock Canyon Creek from adjacent activities. Selenium requirements differ by plant species, and selenium salts are toxic in large amounts for many plant species. Human activities that affect the biological availability of selenium can increase the potential for adverse effects on wildlife. *E. coli* levels can also affect natural processes for plants and animals.
- Increased development means increased pressure on native species and increased pathways for noxious weeds.
- Multiple ecological effects of warming, drought, and greater frequency and magnitude of extreme weather or flow events attributable to anthropogenic climate change.
- Effects of climate change on resilience of natural systems to other stressors.
- Low-elevation snowpack (below 8200 feet) is projected to decline 30–40% by 2100 (baseline: 1950–1999 mean) in Colorado (WWA 2008).
- Drought and climate change may increase cheatgrass establishment, threatening Gunnison Sage-grouse populations.
- Encroaching juniper and overabundant mountain shrub in sagebrush habitat, limiting Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat.

Opportunities

- Reduction of grazing impacts.
- Educate the public about not transporting nonnative aquatic species on boots, waders, floats, and other fishing gear.
- North Rim landscape strategy enhances opportunities to work with adjacent federal and private landowners, including Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation actions.
- Educate the public about the spread of noxious weeds.
- Gunnison Climate Working Group collaboration may help provide adaptation strategies to help manage plant and wildlife communities in the face of climate change.

Fundamental Resource or Value: Native Plant and Wildlife Communities

Existing Information and Plans

- Weed surveys.
- Restoration plans and monitoring.
- Peregrine/raptor monitoring.
- Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat monitoring.
- Crawford population Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation plan.
- Gunnison Sage-grouse rangewide conservation plan.
- Current and historic landbird monitoring.
- Fire management plan.
- Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan.
- Adjacent federal agency management plans.
- Local government plans and zoning.
- 1997 general management plan.
- 1993 resource management plan.
- North Rim landscape strategy document.
- Northern Colorado Plateau Network inventory and monitoring data:
 - integrated upland monitoring.
 - vegetation map.
 - invasive exotic plant monitoring.
 - regional landbird monitoring.
 - annotated checklist of vascular flora.
- Big rivers monitoring.
- *Climate Change Trends for Planning at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado*, a 2012 NPS study prepared by Patrick Gonzalez.



Fundamental Resource or Value: Native Plant and Wildlife Communities	
<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV, and Existing Park Guidance</p>	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal reserved water right for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (2008) • Wilderness Act 1964 • Clean Air Act of 1963 (Class I airshed designation) • NPS General Authorities Act 1970: all water resources of the park are protected by the federal government. Only an act of Congress can change this fundamental responsibility of the National Park Service. • National Invasive Species Act 1996 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • Endangered Species Act 1973 • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.4.2.3) also calls for the agency to survey, protect, and strive to recover all species native to park units that are listed under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the National Park Service is directed to inventory, monitor, and manage state listed species in a manner similar to the treatment of federally listed species, to the greatest extent possible. • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2): parks containing significant natural resources will gather and maintain baseline climatological data for reference. • Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 16 U.S.C. 703-712 • Colorado statute for aquatic invasive species (Title 33. Parks and Wildlife Parks Article 10.5. Aquatic Nuisance Species) • Eagle Protection Act; 16 U.S.C. 668 • The National Environmental Policy Act of 1970; 42 U.S.C. 4321 <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing memorandum of understanding between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management
<p>Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change research to identify resource impacts and mitigation strategies. • Stonefly population patterns. • Insect study. • Study the effects of grazing/browsing: livestock and wildlife. • Large mammal population surveys (elk, bighorn sheep, bear, and large predator population and range) baseline, including recently completed USGS elk seasonal movement study. • Reptile and amphibian baseline population data. • Seeps and springs locations/baseline and monitoring on the North Rim and update of South Rim data to include information on relation to hanging gardens and data on other plants and aquatic insects. • Gunnison Sage-grouse location data from ongoing Colorado Parks and Wildlife and USGS research.

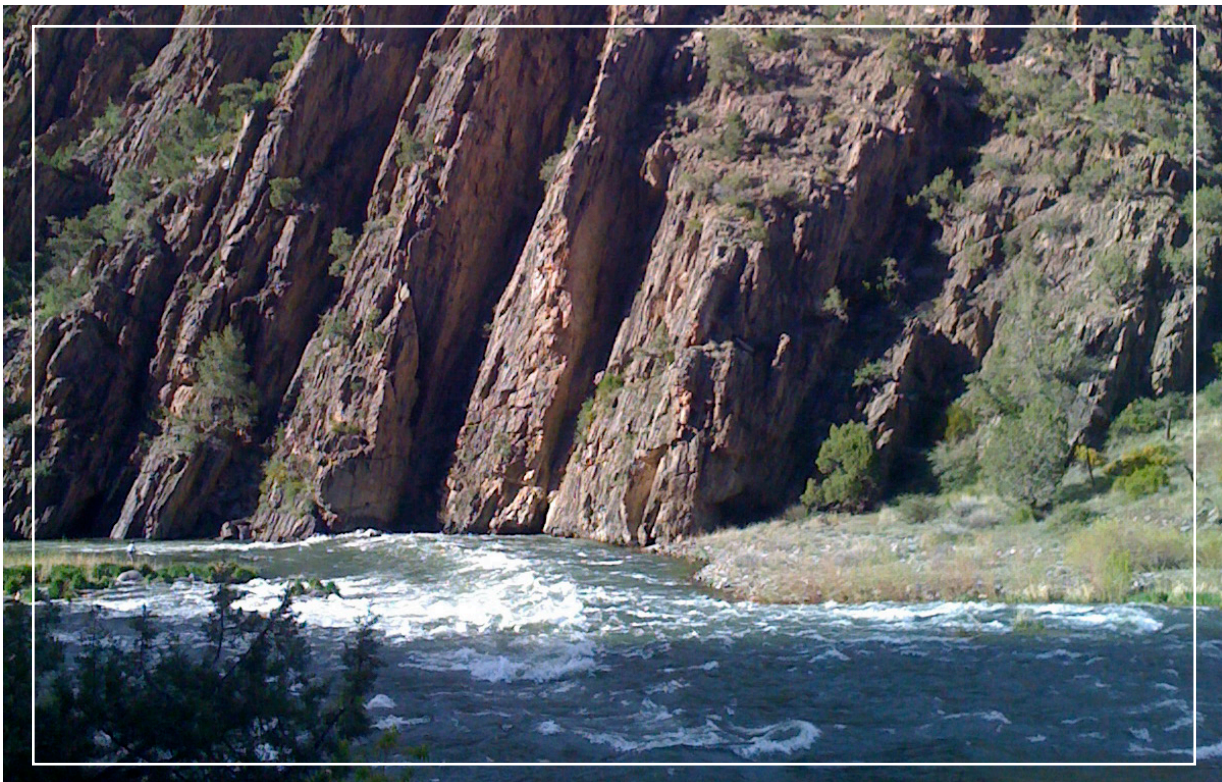
Fundamental Resource or Value: Native Plant and Wildlife Communities	
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated pest management plan.• Vegetation management plan.• Resource stewardship strategy.• Wildlife management plan.• Climate change adaptation strategy.• Climate change scenario plan.• Update fire management plan.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Montrose and Delta counties• Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service• Local tourism associations• Commercial operators• Black Canyon Land Trust• Trout Unlimited• Western National Parks Association• Adjacent land owners• Uncompahgre Plateau Partnership



Fundamental Resource or Value: Spectacular Views	
Short Description of Importance	The approach to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park provides broad views of the surrounding landscape, including the dramatic backdrop of the San Juan and West Elk mountains and the Uncompaghre Valley. There is little in this expansive backdrop to prepare the uninitiated for the sudden appearance of a deep, narrow gash in the terrain that appears before them upon reaching the canyon rims. Once on the rim, the views turn downward and inward, providing an intimate connection with the dark depths.
Related Significance Statements	The narrow, vertical nature and sheer walls of Black Canyon, in contrast to the surrounding uplands, provide for unexpected and intimate views of one of the world's premier wild canyons. Black Canyon, carved by the power of the Gunnison River and born from multiple episodes of uplift and erosion, is one of the steepest, deepest, and narrowest canyons in North America, and reveals 2,000 feet of Precambrian basement rock.
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural viewsheds are slightly altered by park structures and adjacent structures that are visible from inside park boundaries. • Changing due to development of private properties in the viewshed. • The viewshed is inconsistently protected. Some areas have conservation easements and protection and some areas do not. • Class I airsheds create enhanced opportunities for viewing the canyon and landscapes in and around the park.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonnative species are a threat to the viewshed (e.g., hillside of cheatgrass). • Changes in weather patterns due to climate change. • Noise due to aircraft (commercial and military). • Lighting from nearby homes and communities has an impact on night skies. • Difficulties with proper implementation of grazing management practices. • Development on lands surrounding the park could impact the park's spectacular views. Change in congressional priorities; natural resource development and extraction; push in the western United States to open up federal lands or sell surrounding federal lands (surrounding Bureau of Land Management). • Air quality may become an issue as surrounding communities grow. • Human developments have the potential to impact the viewshed. • Aridification due to climate change could lead to increased fire frequency and increased dust emissions. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to protect the landscape. • Engage with federal and state partners when extractive activities are proposed within the viewshed. • Keep the viewshed in mind when the National Park Service is planning for development or infrastructure; set a good example. • Use of conservation easements or fee simple land acquisition for surrounding lands. • Provide consultation to park neighbors about aesthetically and ecologically sensitive construction.

Fundamental Resource or Value: Spectacular Views	
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire management plan. • 1997 general management plan. • 1993 Resource management plan. • Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Adjacent federal agency management plans. • Local government plans and zoning. • Social science surveys (2010 Visitor Services Project from University of Idaho).
Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Federal reserved water right for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (2008) • NPS Organic Act 1916 • The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7) and NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> provide further direction on the protection of air quality and related values for park units • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (1.4, 1.6, 3.1) call for the National Park Service to conserve and protect scenery and scenic vistas • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.10) provides guidance on lightscape management • National Invasive Species Act 1996 • Federal Noxious Weed Act 1974, as amended • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I airshed designation for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (Clean Air Act of 1963)
Identified Data Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued collection of visitation data for better understanding of visitor use trends and visitor values (e.g., understanding visitor appreciation for scenic views and other elements of the natural environment). • Current list of all adjacent land owners (this will indicate who to speak with when conducting land protection plan). • GIS layers for overlooks to understand hotspots for interruption of viewsheds (viewshed study / management plan). • Air quality and visibility data (currently use the monitoring station out of Red Mountain Pass, which is 100 miles away); a station in closer proximity is needed. • Continued night sky monitoring. • Commercial services strategy.

Fundamental Resource or Value: Spectacular Views	
Identified Planning Needs to Protect FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range interpretive plan. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Climate change adaptation strategy. • Climate change scenario plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Vegetation management plan. • Land protection plan. • Trail management plan.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montrose, Delta, and Gunnison counties • Adjacent federal and state agencies • Local tourism associations • Commercial use authorization holders • Western National Parks Association • Adjacent land owners • All neighbors • Black Canyon Land Trust • Black Canyon Astronomical Society • Uncompahgre Partnership • Public Lands Partnership • The Conservation Fund



Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value: Archeology	
Short Description of Importance	The known sites at Black Canyon of the Gunnison suggest human use for the last 9,000 years. The area served as a meeting place for cultures from the Four Corners and the Rocky Mountains.
Related Significance Statements	The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 10–15% of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park has been surveyed to an acceptable level. • No archeological excavations have been conducted in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park during the history of the park. • The NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) has most of the data and artifacts from previous archeological surveys. • The NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) may have additional records and materials.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sites throughout the park are at risk due to human disturbance, theft, erosion, fire, etc. • Climate change leading to increased drought and erosion could increase site exposure. • Conflicting national statutes may inhibit preservation of some cultural resources. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued discovery of unknown archeological sites. • Collaboration with BLM cultural resource managers.
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological survey reports. • National register properties. • List of Classified Structures database. • Archeological Sites Management Information System database. • National catalog of museum objects.

Other Important Resource or Value: Archeology	
Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Programmatic agreement among the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800) • Director's Order 28, <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A, <i>Archeology</i>, 4A(3) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.2) requires the preservation of the physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses of cultural landscapes that contribute to historical significance • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified
Identified Data Needs to Protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of unsurveyed portions of the park (about 85% of park), selective excavations of sites, as appropriate to determine national register eligibility, recover data from threatened sites, or gain new information. • National Register of Historic Places nominations. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Archeological overview and assessment.
Identified Planning Needs to Protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local historical society • Local and state universities (Colorado State, University of Colorado-Denver, and Western State Colorado University have all done projects in the park) • Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation • Montrose County • Colorado Archaeological Society • Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists • Traditionally associated tribes • Bureau of Land Management

Other Important Resource or Value: Paleontology	
Short Description of Importance	The Mesozoic rock that caps the canyon rim provides a glimpse of the paleoenvironment of the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods.
Related Significance Statements	Black Canyon, carved by the power of the Gunnison River and born from multiple episodes of uplift and erosion, is one of the steepest, deepest, and narrowest canyons in North America, and reveals 2,000 feet of Precambrian basement rock.
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing survey activities record new and unusual paleontology discoveries. • Fossils found at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park have contributed to the understanding of Cretaceous plant development. • About 50% of the Mesozoic outcrops remain to be surveyed.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change leading to increased drought and erosion could increase fossil exposure. • Theft and damage of paleontological resources. • Intentional or unintentional disturbance to paleontological resources due to visitor use in sensitive areas of the backcountry. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase staff awareness of paleontological resources. • Additional research opportunities for academic institutions. • Collaboration with BLM geologists.
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. • Academic research reports and/or papers. • NPS Geological Resources Division summaries and park inventory reports. • Paleontological locality and condition documentation.
Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.8) provides general direction on the protection of geologic and soil resources • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act • 1976 Mining in the Parks Act • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • 2009 Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (Senate Bill S.263), USC Title 9, Chapter 79, 5937 • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.5) states that the National Park Service “will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences” <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified
Identified Data Needs to protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued inventory of Mesozoic outcrops for paleontological resources. • Construct Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park / Curecanti National Recreation Area GIS database.
Identified Planning Needs to protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource stewardship strategy. • Update fire management plan.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other adjacent federal agencies • Visitors • Permit holders (livestock grazing) • Academic community (research) • Educators (organized curriculum-based education groups) • Museum of Western Colorado

Other Important Resource or Value: Cultural Landscapes	
Short Description of Importance	The North Rim Scenic Drive, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, demonstrates the ingenuity the Civilian Conservation Corps had at constructing the road and overlooks in harmony with the landscape. The construction of the North Rim Scenic Drive provided employment opportunities for the local community. The East Portal road and town site provide discovery into the struggles and engineering success realized during the construction of the Gunnison Tunnel (a civil engineering landmark in the National Register of Historic Places), the most daring of the first projects built by the Bureau of Reclamation. The South Rim scenic drive is also a CCC construction project, and a proposed cultural landscape.
Related Significance Statements	The steeply descending Gunnison River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, shapes the complex natural and human histories of the park and surrounding region.
Current Conditions and Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Rim spike camp is known by few people outside the park. • The town site of East Portal (population 200–250 people for 10 years) is immediately adjacent to the East Portal Campground. • The East Portal foundations may hold a remarkable amount of information about the construction of the Gunnison Tunnel and the lives of those involved in the work. • Visitor and community interest is high in the known stories associated with the town of East Portal. Interpretive programs at East Portal often reach capacity.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The foundations and cultural remains at East Portal are periodically subject to vandalism, theft, and flash flood damage. • Historic sites throughout the park are at risk due to human disturbance, theft, erosion, fire, etc. • Noxious weeds are a threat to cultural landscapes. • Human disturbance is episodic at the North Rim spike camp site. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnants of the North Rim spike camp may hold information relevant to the building of the scenic drive, as well as other information important to the founding and early development of the park. • Collaboration with BLM cultural resource managers. • Stabilization of foundations and road remnants at East Portal.
Existing Information and Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of historic structure reports. • National register properties. • List of Classified Structures databases. • Museum collection database and archival collections. • Facility Management Software System asset database.

Other Important Resource or Value: Cultural Landscapes	
Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV, and Existing Park Guidance	<p>Laws and Policies That Apply to this OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act • 36 CFR 79 – Curation of Archaeological Collections • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • 2008 programmatic agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.5) states that the National Park Service "will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) requires preservation of the physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses of cultural landscapes that contribute to historical significance • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> (1998) • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> (2004) • 36 CFR 800 – Protection of Historic Properties • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • American Indian Religious Freedom Act <p>Existing Park Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified
Identified Data Needs to protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective excavations as appropriate. • Data to understand stabilization needs for foundations and road remnants at East Portal. • Cultural landscape inventory. • Cultural landscape report of two scenic drives and a CCC 'spike' camp. • Historic investigation: CCC camp and East Portal. Excavation needs at both sites could be determined after that. Information gained from East Portal could be shared with the public through interpretive efforts.
Identified Planning Needs to protect OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessment to determine feasibility of interpretive trail through the East Portal town site.
Stakeholders Interested in this Resource or Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area historical societies and museums • Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association • Western State Colorado University, Colorado Mesa University • State historic preservation office • Montrose and Delta counties • State archeological society • Traditionally associated tribes

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management, and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance, and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance but that still indirectly affect them. Usually a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Development and Uses Adjacent to the Park.** The park is bordered by a mix of federal, state, and private lands that are used for a variety of purposes including livestock grazing, ranching, recreation, private residences, etc. Key issues include potential energy development, diminished quality of night skies and soundscapes due to increasing regional development and urbanization, increased pressure on native species and increased pathways for noxious weeds, and diminished park viewsheds with development of adjacent private properties. Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park has an opportunity to build positive relationships with its neighbors through participation in formalized interagency landscape working groups. Planning needs for this issue include a land protection plan, resource stewardship strategy, vegetation management plan, integrated pest management plan, completion of the draft wilderness and backcountry management plan, a wilderness suitability study, and completion of the long range interpretive plan. Data needs for this issue include the 2013 revised wilderness character assessment, GIS viewshed layers, air quality and visibility study, and an updated list of current land owners for outreach and communication opportunities.
- **Water Availability and Climate Change.** Water availability is a far-reaching and long-term issue that will affect all aspects of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The Colorado River Basin is a critical landscape element and driving force in Colorado Plateau ecosystems. Big rivers on the Colorado Plateau are fed by snowmelt from the surrounding mountains. They flow through arid lands and are biodiversity hotspots, making them excellent indicators of climate change at a broad ecosystem level. Large percentages of park fauna depend on these rivers for at least some portion of their life cycle, as riparian vegetation supports up to 80% of species diversity in desert ecosystems. Climate-related changes in snowpack amount and snowmelt timing will also have major effects on big rivers, as water availability and flow variability have the potential to greatly alter the structure and function of riparian ecosystems and their sensitivity to other anthropogenic stressors. Climate change has both immediate and long-term implications, including impacts to natural and cultural resources, infrastructure, visitor experience and safety, and increased maintenance costs. Through various initiatives and operational changes at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, vehicle emissions have reduced from where they were three years ago. The park is using green chemicals, ENERGY STAR™ appliances, improving potable water systems, recycling, and performing a yearly exercise on “balancing water.” Additionally the park has been involved in various programs outside of its boundaries including advocating for water rights, staff involvement in the Gunnison Climate Working Group, as well as participating in other statewide green initiatives. Planning needs for this key parkwide issue include a climate change adaptation strategy. Baseline data are needed to address climate change in regard to vegetative communities, water quality, etc. Baseline data are needed prior to a climate change adaptation strategy. Data collection would include seep and spring locations / baseline and monitoring on the North Rim and update of South Rim data to include information in relation to hanging gardens and data on other plants and aquatic insects.

- **Spread of Invasive Species.** Invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial (New Zealand mudsnails, *Dydimosphenia geminata*, aquatic plants, and terrestrial plants [weeds]) threaten the river and riparian system, inner canyon, and uplands of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Climatic changes could also contribute to this spread of invasive species providing nonnative plant species with new opportunities for invasion. Because invasive species fragment native ecosystems, displace native plants and animals, and alter ecosystem function, invasive nonnatives represent one of the most serious threats to natural ecosystem integrity. The river's channel and bordering geomorphic features are vegetated in some places with reed canary grass and other invasive species. Ideally, flows produced for the water right should create desired results of channel maintenance including vegetation scour and sediment movement. Additionally, colonization by invasive plants creates the potential for stabilization of channel bank sediments resulting in a loss of riverine values. Invasive nonnative plants also threaten wilderness character that can be protected and improved through programs such as invasive plant removal. Unintentional spread of invasive species could occur due to changes in visitation patterns, especially by visitors who have not received education on the negative effects of invasive species. Planning needs for this issue include a resource stewardship strategy, vegetation management plan, climate change adaptation strategy, and completion of the draft wilderness and backcountry management plan. Data needs for this issue include the 2013 revised wilderness character assessment and a study of the effects of grazing/browsing on the landscape.

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation, and to the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management's efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Draft wilderness and backcountry management plan/environmental assessment	H	This planning effort is ongoing and is awaiting final finding of no significant impact, which is needed to resolve issues regarding climbing and backcountry use. It is related to the following FRVs: wilderness, recreation, and the canyon itself.
FRV	Long-range interpretive plan	H	This ongoing planning effort is related to the following FRV: recreation. It also addresses interpretation of all resource values.
FRV OIRV	Resource stewardship strategy	H	This planning need is related to the following FRVs: native plant and wildlife communities, and wilderness. It is related to the following OIRVs: paleontology and archeology.
FRV OIRV	Update fire management plan	H	This action is necessary to meet new fire planning requirements and is related to the following FRVs and OIRVs: wilderness, native plant and wildlife communities, and archeology.
FRV OIRV	Climate change scenario plan	H	This planning need is related to the following FRVs and OIRV: native plant and wildlife communities, the Gunnison River and its roar, wilderness, and spectacular views.
FRV	Wildlife management plan	H	This planning need is related to the following FRV: native plant and wildlife communities.
FRV	Integrated pest management plan	M	This planning need is related to the following FRVs: spectacular views and native plant and wildlife communities.
FRV	Climate change adaptation strategy	M	This planning need is related to the following FRVs: wilderness, native plant and wildlife communities, the Gunnison River and its roar, and spectacular views.
FRV	Vegetation management plan	M	This plan would establish parameters for control of nonnative plant species and restoration of native plant communities. This planning need is related to the following FRVs: native plant and wildlife communities and spectacular views.
FRV	Water resource management plan (update)	M	This planning need is related to the following FRV: The Gunnison River and its roar.
FRV	Land protection plan	M	This planning need is related to the following FRV: spectacular views.
FRV	Trail management plan	M	This planning need is related to the following FRV: spectacular views.
OIRV	Environmental assessment to determine feasibility of interpretive trail through the East Portal town site.	L	This planning need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes.
FRV	Wilderness suitability study (for adding lands, and eligibility)	L	This planning need is related to the following FRV: wilderness.
OIRV	Cultural landscape report of two scenic drives and a CCC 'spike' camp.	L	This planning need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Cooperative study of flood-proofing with recommendations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and the City of Delta	H	This ongoing data collection effort is related to the following FRVs: the canyon itself and the Gunnison River and its roar.
OIRV	Historic site investigation: CCC camp and East Portal	H	This data need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes. Excavation needs at both sites could be determined after that. Information gained from East Portal could be shared with the public through interpretive efforts.
FRV	Detailed monitoring of hydrological effects (quantification)	H	This ongoing data collection effort is related to the following FRVs: native plant and wildlife communities, the canyon itself, and the Gunnison River and its roar.
FRV	2013 revised wilderness character assessment to measure trends	H	This ongoing monitoring effort is on a five-year cycle with updates required by fall 2013, and is related to the following FRVs: wilderness, recreation, spectacular views, the canyon itself.
FRV	Climate change research to support adaptation strategy	H	Baseline data are needed to address climate change in regard to fisheries, water quality, etc. This data collection effort is related to the following FRVs: the Gunnison River and its roar, and native plant and wildlife communities.
FRV	Springs/seeps data on flow volume, water quality, and species	H	Baseline data are needed prior to a climate change strategy. This data collection effort is related to the following FRVs: the Gunnison River and its roar, and native plant and wildlife communities. Data collection would include seep and spring locations / baseline and monitoring on the North Rim and update of South Rim data to include information in relation to hanging gardens and data on other plants and aquatic insects.
FRV	Continue to monitor wilderness and backcountry campsites	H	This data need is related to the following FRV: recreation.
FRV	Grazing/browsing impacts study	M	This data need is related to the following FRVs: native plant and wildlife communities and scenic views. This study would look at the impacts of grazing / browsing on livestock and wildlife.
FRV	GIS viewshed layers	M	The data need is related to the following FRV: spectacular views. These data are needed in order to understand hotspots for interruption of viewsheds.
FRV	Visitor use data	M	This data need is related to the following FRVs: recreation and wilderness. The data need includes determining a more statistically sound method for collection of visitor use data and refinement of existing data. Data on wilderness trends are also necessary to understand possible establishment of incompatible uses and entrenched harmful practices, which in turn could impact natural resources, the quality of visitor opportunities, and wilderness and backcountry character.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Economics data on recreational water value for visitors	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: recreation. The data request is in the Project Management Information System.
FRV	Air quality and visibility data	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: spectacular views. An opportunity may exist to use monitoring station out of Red Mountain Pass if it is close enough (which is 100 miles away). A station in closer proximity may be needed.
FRV	Invertebrate study	M	This data need is related to the following FRVs: native plant and wildlife communities. There is a need to understand existing insect species as a baseline for future monitoring.
FRV	Commercial services strategy	M	This data need is related to the following FRVs: recreation and spectacular views.
FRV	Social sciences studies relating to self-reliance and accessibility	M	This data need is related to the following FRVs: recreation and wilderness. This information would continue to inform the wilderness character assessment.
OIRV	Ethnographic overview and assessment; ethnographic survey	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: archeology
FRV	Herpetological survey	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: native plant and wildlife communities. This data would include reptile and amphibian baseline population data.
FRV	Large mammal population estimates	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: native plant and wildlife communities. Data would include large mammal population surveys (elk, bighorn sheep, bear, and large predator population and range) baseline, including recently completed USGS elk seasonal movement study.
FRV	Acquire Gunnison Sage-grouse movement and seasonal use data	M	This ongoing and continued need for data collection by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Geological Survey is related to the following FRV: native plant and wildlife communities.
FRV	Geologic hazards inventory, map, and monitoring	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: the canyon itself.
FRV	Accessibility assessment	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: recreation. Inaccessible operations and facilities are a threat to recreational opportunities when lack of accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act accessibility standards) prevents visitors from reaching desired destinations.
FRV	Continued night sky monitoring	M	This data need is related to the following FRV: spectacular views. The data would contribute to baseline data on dark night skies and impacts to the spectacular views of the park.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
OIRV	Archeological inventory of unsurveyed portions of the park	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: archeology. About 85% of the park has not been surveyed. The park would need to survey selective excavations of sites, as appropriate to determine national register eligibility, recover data from threatened sites, or gain new information.
OIRV	National Register of Historic Places nominations	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: archeology.
OIRV	Archeological overview and assessment	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: archeology.
OIRV	Continued inventory of Mesozoic outcrops for paleontological resources	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: paleontology.
OIRV	Construct Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park / Curecanti National Recreation Area GIS database	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: paleontology.
OIRV	Data to understand stabilization needs for foundations and road remnants at East Portal	M	This data need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes.
FRV	Stonefly population monitoring	L	This data need is related to the following FRV: native plant and animal communities.
OIRV	Selective excavations as appropriate	L	This data need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes.
OIRV	Cultural landscape inventory	L	This data need is related to the following OIRV: cultural landscapes.

Part 3: Preparers, Consultants, and Meeting Attendees

Preparers

Morgan Elmer, Project Manager, Denver Service Center – Planning

Tamara Delaplaine, Project Specialist, Denver Service Center – Planning

Ericka Pilcher, Project Specialist, Denver Service Center – Planning

Michael Pisano, Project Specialist, Denver Service Center – Planning

Consultants

Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies

Pam Holtman, Quality Assurance Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies

Mary Beth Homiack, Contract Librarian, NPS Denver Service Center – Planning

Meeting Attendees

Skip Meehan, Community Planner, NPS Intermountain Regional Office

Connie Rudd, Superintendent, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Ken Stahlnecker, Chief of Resource Stewardship and Science

Cody Waggener, Chief of Facilities

Jeannine McElveen, Chief of Administration

Marc Yeston, Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection

Sandra Snell-Dobert, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Technology

Gregg S. Smith, Zone Safety Officer

Danguole Bockus, Ecologist

Michael Dale, Hydrologist

Matt Malick, Aquatic Ecologist

Theresa Childers, Wildlife Biologist

Forest Frost, Archaeologist

Ed Herrera, Roads and Trails Foreman

Jeff Weak, Buildings and Utilities Foreman

Ryan Thrush, Black Canyon Protection Ranger

John Patmore, Curecanti District Ranger

Steve Winslow, Black Canyon District Ranger

Paul Zaenger, Black Canyon District Interpreter

Brant Porter, Curecanti District Interpreter

Ellen Petrick, Education Specialist

Carol Dominguez, Manager, Western National Parks Association

Deana Dupre, Fee Collection Supervisor, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Alison Robb, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Murray Shoemaker, Park Ranger

Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Public Law 106–76
106th Congress

An Act

Oct. 21, 1999
[S. 323]

To redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument was established for the preservation of its spectacular gorges and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest;

(2) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent upland include a variety of unique ecological, geological, scenic, historical, and wildlife components enhanced by the serenity and rural western setting of the area;

(3) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent land provide extensive opportunities for educational and recreational activities, and are publicly used for hiking, camping, and fishing, and for wilderness value, including solitude;

(4) adjacent public land downstream of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources;

(5) public land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument contributes to the protection of the wildlife, viewshed, and scenic qualities of the Black Canyon;

(6) some private land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has exceptional natural and scenic value that would be threatened by future development pressures;

(7) the benefits of designating public and private land surrounding the national monument as a national park include greater long-term protection of the resources and expanded visitor use opportunities; and

(8) land in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Gorge is—

(A) recognized for offering exceptional multiple use opportunities;

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999. Colorado. 16 USC 410fff note. 16 USC 410fff.

(B) recognized for offering natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources; and

(C) worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area, and with respect to the Gunnison Gorge itself, as a component of the national wilderness system.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

16 USC 410fff-1.

In this Act:

(1) **CONSERVATION AREA.**—The term “Conservation Area” means the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres surrounding the Gunnison Gorge as depicted on the Map.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA—1/22/99”. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Department of the Interior.

(3) **PARK.**—The term “Park” means the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park established under section 4 and depicted on the Map.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK.

16 USC 410fff-2.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in the State of Colorado as generally depicted on the map identified in section 3. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument is hereby abolished as such, the lands and interests therein are incorporated within and made part of the new Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary shall transfer the lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management which are identified on the map for inclusion in the park to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), and the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(c) **MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and a legal description of the park with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. Such maps and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and maps. The maps and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the park are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from

location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

(e) **GRAZING.**—(1)(A) Consistent with the requirements of this subsection, including the limitation in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall allow the grazing of livestock within the park to continue where authorized under permits or leases in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act. Grazing shall be at no more than the current level, and subject to applicable laws and National Park Service regulations.

(B) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as extending grazing privileges for any party or their assignee in any area of the park where, prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, such use was scheduled to expire according to the terms of a settlement by the United States Claims Court affecting property incorporated into the boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Secretary from accepting the voluntary termination of leases or permits for grazing within the park.

(2) Within areas of the park designated as wilderness, the grazing of livestock, where authorized under permits in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary deems necessary, consistent with this Act, the Wilderness Act, and other applicable laws and National Park Service regulations.

(3) With respect to the grazing permits and leases referenced in this subsection, the Secretary shall allow grazing to continue, subject to periodic renewal—

(A) with respect to a permit or lease issued to an individual, for the lifetime of the individual who was the holder of the permit or lease on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) with respect to a permit or lease issued to a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, for a period which shall terminate on the same date that the last permit or lease held under subparagraph (A) terminates, unless the partnership, corporation, or legal entity dissolves or terminates before such time, in which case the permit or lease shall terminate with the partnership, corporation, or legal entity.

16 USC 410fff-3. **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.**

(a) **ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land depicted on the Map as proposed additions.

(2) **METHOD OF ACQUISITION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Land or interests in land may be acquired by—

(i) donation;

(ii) transfer;

(iii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds;

or

(iv) exchange.

(B) **CONSENT.**—No land or interest in land may be acquired without the consent of the owner of the land.

(b) BOUNDARY REVISION.—After acquiring land for the Park, the Secretary shall—

- (1) revise the boundary of the Park to include newly-acquired land within the boundary; and
- (2) administer newly-acquired land subject to applicable laws (including regulations).

(c) BOUNDARY SURVEY.—As soon as practicable and subject to the availability of funds the Secretary shall complete an official boundary survey of the Park.

(d) HUNTING ON PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may permit hunting on privately owned land added to the Park under this Act, subject to limitations, conditions, or regulations that may be prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—On the date that the Secretary acquires fee ownership of any privately owned land added to the Park under this Act, the authority under paragraph (1) shall terminate with respect to the privately owned land acquired.

SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON WILDERNESS.

16 USC 410fff-4, 1132 note.

(a) EXPANSION OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON WILDERNESS.—The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness, as established by subsection (b) of the first section of Public Law 94-567 (90 Stat. 2692), is expanded to include the parcel of land depicted on the Map as “Tract A” and consisting of approximately 4,419 acres.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness shall be administered as a component of the Park.

SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

16 USC 410fff-5.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres as generally depicted on the Map.

(b) MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the Conservation Area to protect the resources of the Conservation Area in accordance with—

- (1) this Act;
- (2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and
- (3) other applicable provisions of law.

(c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the Conservation Area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

(d) HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall permit hunting, trapping, and fishing within the Conservation Area in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations) of the United States and the State of Colorado.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, may issue regulations designating

113 STAT. 1130

PUBLIC LAW 106-76—OCT. 21, 1999

zones where and establishing periods when no hunting or trapping shall be permitted for reasons concerning—

- (A) public safety;
- (B) administration; or
- (C) public use and enjoyment.

(e) **USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—In addition to the use of motorized vehicles on established roadways, the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area shall be allowed to the extent the use is compatible with off-highway vehicle designations as described in the management plan in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

Deadline.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

- (A) develop a comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Conservation Area; and
- (B) transmit the plan to—
 - (i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and
 - (ii) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CONTENTS OF PLAN.**—The plan—

- (A) shall describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area in accordance with this Act;
- (B) may incorporate appropriate decisions contained in any management or activity plan for the area completed prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;
- (C) may incorporate appropriate wildlife habitat management plans or other plans prepared for the land within or adjacent to the Conservation Area prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;
- (D) shall be prepared in close consultation with appropriate Federal, State, county, and local agencies; and
- (E) may use information developed prior to the date of the enactment of this Act in studies of the land within or adjacent to the Conservation Area.

(g) **BOUNDARY REVISIONS.**—The Secretary may make revisions to the boundary of the Conservation Area following acquisition of land necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the Conservation Area was designated.

16 USC 410fff-6,
1132 note.

SEC. 8. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS WITHIN THE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) **GUNNISON GORGE WILDERNESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Within the Conservation Area, there is designated as wilderness, and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, consisting of approximately 17,700 acres, as generally depicted on the Map.

(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **WILDERNESS STUDY AREA EXEMPTION.**—The approximately 300-acre portion of the wilderness study area depicted on the Map for release from section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of that Act.

(B) INCORPORATION INTO NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.—The portion of the wilderness study area described in subparagraph (A) shall be incorporated into the Conservation Area.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, the wilderness areas designated under this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) STATE RESPONSIBILITY.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act or in the Wilderness Act shall affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in that State.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and a legal description of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. This map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act. The Secretary of the Interior may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description. The map and legal description shall be on file and available in the office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

SEC. 9. WITHDRAWAL.

16 USC 410fff-7.

Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands identified on the Map as “BLM Withdrawal (Tract B)” (comprising approximately 1,154 acres) are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

SEC. 10. WATER RIGHTS.

16 USC 410fff-8.

(a) EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) constitute an express or implied reservation of water for any purpose; or

(2) affect any water rights in existence prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States.

(b) ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS.—Any new water right that the Secretary determines is necessary for the purposes of this Act shall be established in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the laws of the State of Colorado.

SEC. 11. STUDY OF LANDS WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

16 USC 410fff-9.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall conduct a study concerning land protection and open space within and adjacent to the area administered as the Curecanti National Recreation Area.

Deadline.

113 STAT. 1132

PUBLIC LAW 106-76—OCT. 21, 1999

(b) **PURPOSE OF STUDY.**—The study required to be completed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess the natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resource value and character of the land within and surrounding the Curecanti National Recreation Area (including open vistas, wildlife habitat, and other public benefits);

(2) identify practicable alternatives that protect the resource value and character of the land within and surrounding the Curecanti National Recreation Area;

(3) recommend a variety of economically feasible and viable tools to achieve the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) estimate the costs of implementing the approaches recommended by the study.

Deadline.

(c) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) contains the findings of the study required by subsection (a);

(2) makes recommendations to Congress with respect to the findings of the study required by subsection (a); and

(3) makes recommendations to Congress regarding action that may be taken with respect to the land described in the report.

(d) **ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Prior to the completion of the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary may acquire certain private land or interests in land as depicted on the Map entitled “Proposed Additions to the Curecanti National Recreation Area”, dated 01/25/99, totaling approximately 1,065 acres and entitled “Hall and Fitti properties”.

(2) **METHOD OF ACQUISITION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Land or an interest in land under paragraph (1) may be acquired by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds;

or

(iii) exchange.

(B) **CONSENT.**—No land or interest in land may be acquired without the consent of the owner of the land.

(C) **BOUNDARY REVISIONS FOLLOWING ACQUISITION.**—Following the acquisition of land under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) revise the boundary of the Curecanti National Recreation Area to include newly-acquired land; and

(ii) administer newly-acquired land according to applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved October 21, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 323:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106-307 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-69 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):

July 1, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 27, considered and passed House, amended.

Oct. 1, Senate concurred in House amendment.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 35 (1999):

Oct. 21, Presidential statement.

○

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PROCLAMATIONS, 1933.

Establishment of, within Coronado National Forest, Ariz. Vol. 34, p. 225. U. S. C., p. 416.

Selections by State, for University.

Description.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HERBERT HOOVER, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section 2 of the act of Congress approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), entitled "AN ACT For the preservation of American antiquities," do proclaim that there are hereby reserved from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, subject to all valid existing rights, and the right of the State of Arizona to select for the use of the University of Arizona all or any portions of secs. 11, 14, 22, 28, and E. ½ 21, T. 14 S., R. 16 E. of the Gila and Salt River meridian, and set apart as a national monument, the following-described tracts of lands in the State of Arizona:

GILA AND SALT RIVER MERIDIAN

T. 14 S., R. 16 E., secs. 8 to 17 inclusive, secs. 20 to 29 inclusive, and secs. 32 to 36 inclusive.

T. 14 S., R. 17 E., secs. 7 to 36 inclusive.

T. 14 S., R. 18 E., secs. 7, 8, 9, secs. 16 to 21 inclusive, and secs. 28 to 33 inclusive.

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., secs. 1 to 5 inclusive.

T. 15 S., R. 17 E., secs. 1 to 6 inclusive and secs. 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24.

T. 15 S., R. 18 E., secs. 4 to 9 inclusive and secs. 16 to 21 inclusive.

Use of Coronado National Forest not affected.

The reservation made by this proclamation is not intended to prevent the use of the lands now within the Coronado National Forest for national-forest purposes under the proclamation establishing the Coronado National Forest, and the two reservations shall both be effective on the land withdrawn; but the national monument hereby established shall be the dominant reservation, and any use of the land which interferes with the preservation or protection as a national monument is hereby forbidden.

Reserved from settlement, etc.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, deface, remove, or destroy any feature of this national monument, or to locate or settle on any of the lands reserved by this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 1 day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-three, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-seventh.

HERBERT HOOVER

By the President:
HENRY L STIMSON
Secretary of State.

[No. 2032]

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT—
COLORADO

March 2, 1933.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, Colo. Preamble.

WHEREAS it appears that the public interest would be promoted by including the lands hereinafter described within a national monument for the preservation of the spectacular gorges and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest;

PROCLAMATIONS, 1933.

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Now, THEREFORE, I, HERBERT HOOVER, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section 2 of the act of Congress entitled "AN ACT For the preservation of American antiquities," approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), do proclaim and establish the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument and that, subject to all valid existing rights, the following-described lands in Colorado be, and the same are hereby, included within the said national monument:

Establishment pro-
claimed.
Vol. 34, p. 225.
U. S. C., p. 416.

Description.

NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

- T. 49 N., R. 7 W., sec. 3, lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 12, and S. $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 4, all;
sec. 5, lots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, NE. $\frac{1}{4}$ SW.
 $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 8, N. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 9, E. $\frac{1}{2}$, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 10, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, and N. $\frac{1}{2}$
NW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 11, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 50 N., R. 7 W., sec. 19, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, and lots 3
and 4;
sec. 29, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 30, E. $\frac{1}{2}$, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, and lots 1,
2, and 3;
sec. 31, NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, and E. $\frac{1}{2}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 32, all;
sec. 33, S. $\frac{1}{2}$ SW. $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 50 N., R. 8 W., sec. 16, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, and SW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 17, SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$, and S. $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 20, all;
sec. 21, all;
sec. 22, S. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$, and S. $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 23, NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, and S. $\frac{1}{2}$;
sec. 24, all;
sec. 25, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, NE. $\frac{1}{4}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$,
and W, $\frac{1}{2}$ NW. $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 26, all;
sec. 27, all;
sec. 28, all;
sec. 29, all.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of this monument as provided in the act of Congress entitled "AN ACT To establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535-536), and acts additional thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Reserved from settle-
ment, etc.

Supervision.
Vol. 39, p. 535.
U. S. C., p. 389.

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PROCLAMATIONS, 1933.

DONE at the City of Washington this 2^d day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-three, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-seventh.

HERBERT HOOVER

By the President:
HENRY L STIMSON
Secretary of State.

[No. 2033]

DECREASING RATES OF DUTY ON SPERM OIL, CRUDE, AND SPERMACETI WAX

March 2, 1933.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Tariff on sperm oil, crude and spermaceti wax. Preamble. Vol. 46, p. 701.

WHEREAS under and by virtue of section 336 of Title III, Part II, of the act of Congress approved June 17, 1930 (46 Stat. 590, 701), entitled "AN ACT To provide revenue, to regulate commerce with foreign countries, to encourage the industries of the United States, to protect American labor, and for other purposes," the United States Tariff Commission has investigated the differences in costs of production of, and all other facts and conditions enumerated in said section with respect to, sperm oil, crude, sperm oil, refined or otherwise processed, and spermaceti wax, being wholly or in part the growth or product of the United States and of and with respect to like or similar articles wholly or in part the growth or product of the principal competing countries;

WHEREAS in the course of said investigation a hearing was held, of which reasonable public notice was given and at which parties interested were given reasonable opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard;

WHEREAS the commission has reported to the President the results of said investigation and its findings with respect to such differences in costs of production;

WHEREAS the commission has found it shown by said investigation that the principal competing country for sperm oil, crude, is Canada, and that the principal competing country for spermaceti wax is the United Kingdom, and that the duties expressly fixed by statute do not equalize the differences in the costs of production of the domestic articles and the like or similar foreign articles when produced in said principal competing countries, and has specified in its report the decreases in the rates of duty expressly fixed by statute found by the commission to be shown by said investigation to be necessary to equalize such differences; and

WHEREAS in the judgment of the President such rates of duty are shown by such investigation of the Tariff Commission to be necessary to equalize such differences in costs of production;

Changes in rates to equalize differences in costs of production.

Now, THEREFORE, I, HERBERT HOOVER, President of the United States of America, do hereby approve and proclaim the following rates of duty found to be shown by said investigation to be necessary to equalize such differences in costs of production:

Vol. 46, p. 597.

A decrease (within the limit of total decrease provided for in said act) in the rate of duty expressly fixed in paragraph 52 of Title I of said act on sperm oil, crude, from 10 cents per gallon to 5 cents per gallon; and

Appendix B: Wilderness Stewardship

Background Wilderness Information

On October 21, 1999, Black Canyon of the Gunnison was given national park status as legislated in Public Law 106-76, “Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge Conservation Area Act of 1999.” As cited in this act:

“land in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Gorge is—recognized for offering natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources; and worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area, with respect to the Gunnison Gorge itself, as a component of the national wilderness system.”

As per Section 6. Expansion of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness

“(a)Expansion of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness: the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness, as established by subsection (b) of the first section of Public Law 94-567 (90 Stat. 2692), is expanded to include the parcel of land depicted on the Map as ‘Tract A’ and consisting of approximately 4,419 acres.

(b) Administration.—The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness shall be administered as a component of the Park.”

Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness and Backcountry Narrative

The following backcountry/wilderness discussion is taken from the Draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan / Environmental Assessment:

Wilderness character is described as four necessary and interrelated qualities: untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Together, the four qualities comprise the integrated ecological and social system of wilderness. For backcountry, the qualities are natural, undeveloped, and solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Current baseline conditions under the no-action alternative are described below for each of these qualities for Black Canyon wilderness and backcountry.

Untrammeled Quality of Wilderness

Within the untrammeled quality, wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from human control or manipulation. Indicators of the untrammeled quality of wilderness include actions authorized by the federal land manager that manipulate the biophysical environment, and similar actions not authorized by the federal land manager. The overall untrammeled quality of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness is exceptional. Natural processes predominate, and there are not many actions that control or manipulate the earth and its community within wilderness. There are some actions taken by the National Park Service to improve the natural condition, and such actions slightly diminish the untrammeled quality.

In the inner canyon there are some invasive plants, but their pathways are limited to the river bottoms and along hiking routes, and fires are less likely to occur than on the uplands. Terrain of the inner canyon also confines management actions to access corridors and the river bottom. Thus, the inner canyon requires fewer park management actions and is a little more wild (less trammed) than the uplands. Wildlife in the inner canyon may be affected by the activities of visitors.

Most park management actions that diminish the untrammeled quality of wilderness take place in the uplands, where grazing is authorized, more possible fire starts, more invasive plants, elk (collaring), and the terrain permits more management actions. The uplands also have more unauthorized actions such as trespass livestock and stock pond improvements. Actions include radio collaring of elk and control of nonnative plants. In accordance with the fire management plan, the park staff responds to natural fires with suppression or using wildland fire to meet resource objectives, but in some years, there are no natural fires.

Pressures of invasive nonnative plants are expected to stay the same or increase over time, which would result in a similar or increased number of management actions to control or reduce them. Ongoing law enforcement and public awareness is likely to lead to fewer unauthorized actions such as trespass grazing. The overall trend for this quality would be toward less wild or more trammled due to human actions to control and manipulate the ecological processes.

Natural Quality of Wilderness and Backcountry

Within the natural quality, wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. Indicators of the natural quality include plant and animal species and communities, physical resources, and biophysical processes. The overall natural quality of Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness is exceptional.

The majority of sensitive species are found in the inner canyon. Peregrine falcons are monitored, and visitor closures occur during sensitive times. Terrain of the inner canyon has limited the incursion of most nonnative species and allowed more natural fire regimes to occur. There is, however, tamarisk and reed canary grass in the river bottom. There is some erosion on hiking routes, and there are nonnative fish in the river. Natural stream flow is extremely important in the inner canyon, and connectivity of the river is important for aquatic life. One of the human influences on the natural system is the controlled flow of the Gunnison River by the Aspinall Unit. The pre-impoundment river system scoured the riverbed and eroded the canyon walls. Historically, the upstream impoundments have altered the natural movement of rock and sediment and altered the riparian system. The 2008 NPS water right decree allows for the delivery of peak and shoulder flows based on annual upper basin snowpack. The National Park Service works with the Bureau of Reclamation for more natural water flows.

The uplands area experiences authorized grazing and more soil disturbance and widespread invasive nonnative species. Connectivity in the uplands to adjacent undeveloped land, both public and private, is important for elk, deer, grouse, and many other species. The natural quality of the inner canyon is higher than the uplands.

Peregrine falcons would continue to be pressured by climbing activities, but seasonal closures would protect the falcons. Nonnative invasive plants would continue to spread, but monitoring, active weed management, and a comprehensive tamarisk control program would counteract that trend. Air and water quality are good. Some trends would be pushing the wilderness to a less natural condition. Most of the indicators for the natural quality of wilderness have trends pushing in both directions, resulting in an offset that would be relatively stable.

Undeveloped Quality of Wilderness and Backcountry

Within the undeveloped quality, wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation. Indicators of the undeveloped quality include nonrecreational structures, installations, and developments; inholdings; use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport; and loss of statutorily protected cultural resources.

Black Canyon wilderness is overall relatively undeveloped. The uplands have fencing, stock ponds, a radio repeater, abandoned roads (mostly unpaved two-tracks), an irrigation ditch, and other structures related to grazing. The uplands have had some authorized and unauthorized use of motorized transport and equipment in wilderness.

While the park strives to apply the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide process to actions, there is occasional use of chainsaws and motorized vehicles in the uplands for resources management, and helicopters in the rugged terrain of the inner canyon for emergencies and resource management. The rugged terrain of the inner canyon has precluded past and current nonrecreational developments. Cultural resources within the wilderness are primarily archeological sites, and are scattered in the uplands, and routes and campsites in the inner canyon have been utilized by humans for thousands of years. These cultural resources are an integral part of the wilderness character and are protected by statute. The uplands are more developed than the inner canyon.

Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation Quality of Wilderness and Backcountry

Wilderness provides opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Indicators of this quality include remoteness from the sights and sounds of people inside the wilderness, remoteness from occupied and modified areas outside the wilderness, facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation, and management restrictions on visitor behavior.

Gold medal trout waters attract fishermen down into the rugged canyon in June. Most of the hiking routes into the canyon are constrained by steep terrain; they are mostly rocky, have little erosion and are not maintained. There are few signs. There is currently a permit system with a fixed number of permits available for entering the inner canyon. With the exception of the Red Rock Canyon access, most visitors are accommodated. Within the canyon, people can select their own camping location. No fires are permitted, but there are illegal fire rings left behind. People also leave caches of gear, and create ad-hoc furniture. There are two composting toilets at the bottom of popular hiking routes, although there are still problems with human waste. Guided camping is not currently allowed but illegal guiding activity occurs.

Climbing is the other major popular activity in the inner canyon, with a number of well-used common climbing routes. The Interim Climbing Management Plan allows existing hardware to remain and limits use of new hardware. There is a system that allows replacement of existing hardware or hardware on new routes. The climbing permit system is managed by a climbing ranger. There are seasonal closures of specific areas to protect peregrine falcons. Guiding climbing is currently allowed.

The inner canyon is also used by hikers and adventurous kayakers. The soundscape is dominated by the roar of the Gunnison River through the gorge. The park is closed to B.A.S.E. jumping, i.e., parachuting from a fixed object.

The permit systems for access into the inner canyon accommodate most existing demand. Some visitors would be turned away during the peak of fishing, but most of the year there would be surplus capacity. There would probably be more total users over time, and more associated impacts of users, such as fire rings, ad-hoc furniture, caches, human waste, and vegetation impacts. Most of the routes into the canyon are rocky and some have erosion problems, and there would be some trail braiding and erosion on the Red Rock Canyon route. There would be interest in providing commercially guided hiking and fishing. The interest in climbing would continue primarily on established routes, but there would probably be interest in new routes and new technology. The soundscape of the inner canyon would be stable.

The uplands wilderness has light day-use for hiking and occasional horseback riding. There is no permit system. People could camp, but do so rarely. There are few trails, minimal signs, and no commercial services. There is some cross-country skiing in the winter. The landscape is open and the soundscape is more sensitive to external sounds than the inner canyon. The night sky is more visible. The overall opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation is greater in the uplands than the inner canyon.

The uplands would probably remain at a low level of use, although some visitors may seek more hiking opportunities that are not vertical. Decisions about winter road grooming in the frontcountry may create more demand for access for cross-country skiing in the upland wilderness. Dark night sky and soundscapes would probably be diminished over time from the increasing urbanization of the area.

Issues for Wilderness Planning

The Draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan / Environmental Assessment is currently in the comment period. The plan is awaiting resolution of issues relating to commercial uses, predominantly climbing, within the gorge.

The primary issue for wilderness here is to obtain an approved decision document for the Draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan / Environmental Assessment. Provisions of the plan include:

- Evaluate and possibly modify the current permit system for the inner canyon.
- Evaluate options for managing campsites and adjust management of overnight use in the inner canyon—designation, hardening, accommodation of groups, continue to allow choice.
- Evaluate options for human waste management in the inner canyon—more toilets, remove toilets, move toward pack-it-in / pack-it-out (in combination with increased ranger contact and patrol), and increased education requirements with permit.
- Evaluate, adjust, and adopt the interim climbing management plan—hardware, safety, number of people, camping at base of popular routes, education and orientation required with permit, incorporate plan for backcountry.
- Evaluate and possibly modify opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the uplands.
- Explore opportunities for additional recreational activities and trails.
- Evaluate allowing campfires in the inner canyon.
- Define the role of commercial services in wilderness and backcountry.
- Restore vegetation and soil from unauthorized disturbances including trespass motorcycle trails and grazing (includes finding alternative routes outside the wilderness boundary).
- Continue to implement nonnative species control and restore native vegetation.
- Continue to use natural and prescribed fire as a management tool.
- Evaluate options for route realignment or hardening to decrease erosion on access routes into the inner canyon.
- Restore Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat.
- Evaluate and remove unnecessary structures, e.g., toilets, stock ponds, fencing, roads.
- Monitor rare plant communities and pursue interagency consultation and cooperation.
- Identify and monitor cultural resource sites.

Intermountain Region Foundation Document Recommendation Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

October 2013

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Intermountain Regional Director.

Constance A. Rudd

Nov. 7, 2013

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Date

[Signature]

11/21/13

APPROVED

Regional Director, Intermountain Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Foundation Document • Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

