



## BLM UFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) Recreation Fact Sheet

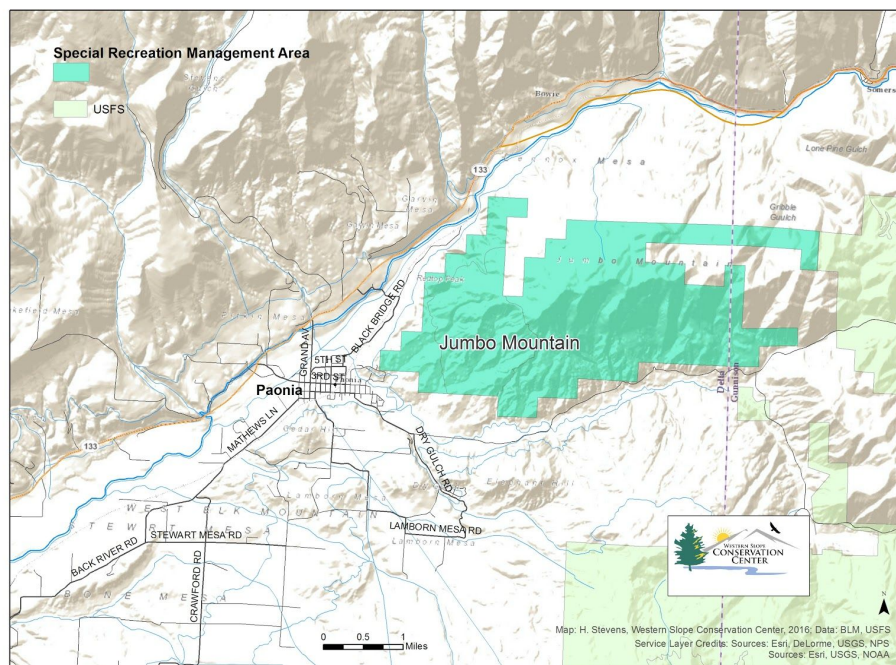
### ***Protect Jumbo Mountain for the next 30 years!***

The Jumbo singletrack trail network has been developed over the last few decades by local recreationists in the North Fork community. This trail system **on public land managed by the BLM** is located directly east and adjacent to the Town of Paonia, bounded almost exclusively by private land to the west, north, and south. Even though the trail network is used by a wide array of recreation users including mountain bikers, trail runners, ebike enthusiasts, the trail network has not yet been formally acknowledged by the BLM. While the UFO RMP will not designate specific routes, **it could protect the area as Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).**



Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Alternative B

The North Fork Valley



### ***What's at stake?***

The current draft of the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan (UFO RMP) includes several alternatives which offer a wide range of management options for prime recreational lands in the North Fork Valley. In Alternative B, the **Jumbo** area is designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and off limits to surface activity from oil and gas drilling. This designation would mean that for the next several decades, the BLM would manage these lands for the quality of the recreation *experience*. On the other hand, in Alternative D, **the agency's preferred alternative**, the lands closest to town are protected as an SRMA with No Surface Occupancy, but the rest of Jumbo is not protected.



**What to include in your comments:**

Tell the BLM that in the final Resource Management Plan that they MUST:

- Designate all BLM lands on and surrounding Jumbo Mountain as a **Special Recreation Management Area** due to the unique value, importance, and distinctiveness of the recreational resource. Give details of the recreation you know to take place.
- Protect the landscape-level recreational opportunities in the North Fork beyond Jumbo Mountain, including Elephant Hill, Lone Cabin Rd, McDonald Creek, and “C” Hill, by designating these areas as **Special Recreation Management Areas**.
- **Remove oil & gas leasing** from all BLM lands on and surrounding Jumbo Mountain and all other recreation areas in the North Fork due to the negative effects on recreation, air quality, viewshed, access, traffic, water quality, habitat impacts, and any other concerns.
  - Industrial development is **not** compatible with recreational use. **Oil and gas drilling activities impair the viewshed and may have a negative impact on air quality.** The Jumbo area needs to remain undeveloped to support community health and wellness - specifically the quality of life benefits of being able to use trails on a daily basis. It’s important for our community to be able to get exercise outdoors in a natural, unaltered environment within walking distance of town.
  - Industrial development of fossil fuels is **not** consistent with **sustainable economic development** - specifically based on a trail-centered tourism economy. Trails attract tourists interested in outdoor recreation, who spend money and support local businesses -- on lodging, restaurants, gas, and bike repair. As of 2012, outdoor recreationists spent \$646 billion in the US.<sup>1</sup> Back in 2006, the bikers contributed \$6.2 billion to the Mountain West economy.<sup>2</sup>
- Designate all BLM lands on and surrounding Jumbo Mountain as an **Ecological Emphasis Area** due to essential winter habitat it provides for wildlife. These areas are home to mule deer, which are dropping in population in many areas of the West, as well as elk, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear and coyotes.
- Manage Jumbo Mountain and other recreation areas in the North Fork for **multiple uses with emphasis on improving safety for all users**. Encourage the BLM to perform future travel management planning that includes designated routes and areas for motorized and non-motorized uses.

For each of these requests, **give specific reasons why** you believe these actions will improve the outcome for these specific lands. **Please use your own words as much as possible - the BLM pays more attention to comments that reflect personal knowledge.** Be sure to include your own experiences as well as any other documentation, facts and statistics.

**Tell BLM what you think by November 1st and why you think it!**

**Email comments to:** uformp@blm.gov

**Please cc:** info@theconservationcenter.org

**Mail comments to:**

UFO Draft RMP /Uncompahgre Field Office 2465 Townsend Ave. Montrose, Colorado 81401

1. Outdoor Industry Association, “The Outdoor Recreation Economy,” 2012.

2. Outdoor Industry Foundation, “The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy,” 2006.