



# DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN & FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



## ❖ RECREATION ❖

### **What are SRMAs and ERMAs?**

The BLM manages recreation based on management objectives. In areas not designated as recreation management areas, recreation is managed to meet other resource use objectives. In recreation management areas, Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs), recreation opportunities are protected and where consistent with other resource objectives, enhanced.

In ERMAs, specific recreation activities and associated settings are protected. In these areas, visitors are assured access to participate in defined recreational activities. In ERMAs, the type of experiences visitors have is not used to measure success. Success is measure by whether the opportunity to participate in defined activities exists.

In SRMAs, specific recreational activities, settings, and experiences are protected. In these areas, BLM and partners work to maintain specific high-quality experiences. Success is measured by not only the opportunity to participate in activities, but also on the quality and type of visitor experiences. SRMAs are priority areas for the recreation and visitor services program.

### **How would the Proposed Plan Alternative manage recreation?**

The Proposed Plan Alternative would designate 4 areas, Hunting grounds, Ninemile Hill, East Creek, and Sawmill Mesa/Wagon Park as ERMAs, for a total of 94,072 acres. This constitutes 45% of the total planning area. These ERMAs would be managed to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, including foot, mechanized, and motorized travel.

Three areas would be designated as SRMAs, totaling 34,032 acres or 16% of the NCA. Gunnison River SRMA would be designated with the recreation setting aimed at providing quality experiences for non-motorized float boating and camping. Cactus Park SRMA would target motorized trail use and dispersed camping. Escalante Canyon SRMA would have management objectives which provide opportunities for tourism and enjoyment of ecological, cultural, and historic resources.

In response to public comments, a few important changes have been made to the Proposed Plan Alternative. The Cottonwood/Dry Fork SRMA would not be managed as an SRMA. Instead, it would be managed for wilderness characteristics. The Ninemile Hill ERMA boundary was modified slightly, to increase the size of Cactus Park SRMA, which allows for more motorized access to exceptional vistas and recreational settings, and maintains connectivity to the Tabeguache Trail.

**Where in the PRMP/FEIS should I look if I'm interested in RMAs?**

Information on ERMAs and SRMAs can be found starting on line 347 of the Alternatives Matrix in Chapter 2, Volume 1. Maps depicting RMAs in the Proposed Plan Alternative can be found in Appendix R.