

**For Immediate Release: April 30, 2007**  
**Contact: Robyn Morris,**  
**Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist, 970-826-5095**

Teacher workshop offers hands-on archaeology experience

CRAIG, Colo. – Educators throughout the region have a unique opportunity this summer to experience classroom-based archaeology.

The national Project Archaeology program, based at Montana State University, is hosting a teacher workshop for upper elementary teachers June 14 and 15 at the Bureau of Land Management's Little Snake Field Office in Craig, Colo.

“Through this workshop teachers will explore the archaeology of their own region. With the Project Archaeology curriculum they can bring the past to life for their students,” said Crystal Alegria, Project Archaeology Project Coordinator. “Understanding the human past is essential for understanding the present and shaping the future.”

Workshop participants will learn the basics of archaeology and investigate data from a rock shelter site. They will have the chance to explore the ethics of archaeological research, as well as engage in dialogue using the information gained through authentic inquiry.

“Northwestern Colorado has a rich cultural history dating back at least 10,000 years,” said BLM Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist Robyn Morris. “This is a great location to give educators an up-close and personal look at archaeology science at work.”

Project Archaeology is a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers nationwide through high-quality educational materials and professional development. This not-for-profit educational organization is dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources.

This community outreach program is possible through funding from Kinder-Morgan Company and El Paso Corporation, as part of the Rockies Express Pipeline and the Wyoming Interstate Company Piceance Basin Expansion Pipeline project. The teacher training is being conducted as a partnership among the Bureau of Land Management, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants of Eagle, Colo., and Alpine Archaeological Consultants of Montrose, Colo.

The workshop will be based out of the Little Snake Field Office in Craig and run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. There is no charge for the workshop, although one college credit is available through Utah State University for \$30. For registration information contact Crystal Alegria at [calegria@montana.edu](mailto:calegria@montana.edu) or (406) 994-6925. For more information on Project Archaeology, log on to <http://www.projectarchaeology.org>. Teachers who attend this workshop will be eligible to apply for a special field school in August.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: April 25, 2007**

**Contact: Victoria Atkins 970-882-5610  
or Denise Adamic 303-239-3671**

### Volunteers Needed for Anasazi Heritage Center

The Anasazi Heritage Center is looking for motivated people to provide visitor information and help maintain the museum's grounds. Volunteers serving as Front Desk Hosts orient visitors to exhibits, the ½ mile trail to Escalante Pueblo, and give information about Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Maintenance volunteers help with various tasks outside including weed management, watering, and other duties associated with maintaining the property. Volunteers usually work one 4 hour shift a week either in the morning or afternoon.

Benefits include attending field trips, meeting new people, attending special programs, events, and workshops. If you are interested or would like to learn more please contact Victoria Atkins at 882-5610.

The Anasazi Heritage Center, located 3 miles west of Dolores, is a museum for interpreting the history and culture of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Trail of the Ancients, and the Four Corners region. The Center's films, exhibits, and educational programs explore archaeology, local history, and Native American lifeways. The museum houses over three-million artifacts and includes a hands-on Discovery Area, permanent exhibits, and numerous changing special exhibits. A \$3 admission fee is charged for adults, 17 and under and Golden Pass holders are free. Special events are made possible through visitor donations and entry fees under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. For more information, call the Center at (970) 882-5600.

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: April 24, 2007**  
**Contact: Denise Adamic, Public Affairs, (303) 239-3671**  
**Kent Walter, White River Field Manager, (970) 878-3800**

BLM approves Piceance Development Project near Meeker  
Meeker, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management today approved the ExxonMobil Piceance Development Project near Meeker, Colo.

The project includes ExxonMobil's natural gas drilling activities and related infrastructure in the 29,680-acre Piceance Development Project Area, 15 miles west of Meeker. Much of the proposed development will occur in existing gas fields in this area which have been in continuous operation since the 1950s. The approval includes up to 20 new multi-well pads with as many as nine wells per pad, a new gas processing plant, new pipelines and other associated infrastructure.

Environmental impacts will be reduced by not allowing construction of 1.6 miles of new access road to the gas processing plant nor the use of large-scale evaporation ponds for produced water, as originally proposed. The decision also includes nearly 130 required mitigation measures.

“We believe this decision strikes the best balance between allowing ExxonMobil to continue oil and gas development in this area while protecting the environment,” said BLM White River Field Manager Kent Walter, who approved the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact document for the project.

BLM released the Environmental Assessment on the Piceance Development Project for public review in October 2006. The EA analyzed the cumulative impacts over the next 30 years of 120 new multi-well pads in the project area. The decision follows Alternative B in the EA, the environmentally preferred alternative.

Required mitigation measures include a number of measures to reduce impacts including: pre-construction surveys for sensitive wildlife and cultural resources, timing limitations and extensive reclamation requirements.

ExxonMobil has also agreed to voluntarily compensate for the loss of approximately 608 acres of important mule deer winter range through off-site mitigation. For every acre disturbed, ExxonMobil will provide a comparable off-site habitat improvement in consultation with BLM and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

To receive a copy of the EA and Decision Record visit the White River Field Office web site [www.co.blm.gov/wrra](http://www.co.blm.gov/wrra) or contact Carol Hollowed, BLM White River Field Office, at 970-878-3836.

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**For Immediate Release: April 11, 2007**

**Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681**

### BLM Policy Encourages Solar Energy Development on Public Lands

As part of the effort to diversify the nation's energy supply and develop renewable energy resources, the Bureau of Land Management today issued updated policy guidance for processing applications for solar energy projects on public lands.

"As technology improves and the cost of producing solar energy declines, we need to be prepared for a greater interest in locating solar energy projects on public lands," said Deputy BLM Director Henri Bisson. "The BLM is eager to facilitate environmentally responsible solar energy development as part of our multiple-use mission."

The BLM also continues to evaluate the feasibility of installing photovoltaic (PV) systems on administrative facilities, as well as on range improvements and resource monitoring, public safety, and recreation projects on public lands. Some 600 PV systems generating 135 kilowatts are currently installed in BLM-owned facilities, supplying nearly 200 megawatt-hours of power annually. The second phase of a contract will be awarded soon to install additional renewable energy technologies, including solar energy systems at the BLM Field Office in Medford, Oregon, and the Anasazi Heritage Center at the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado.

Applications for commercial solar energy facilities on public lands are processed as right-of-way (ROW) authorizations under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The latest policy guidance directs BLM Field Offices to provide adequate resources to review and process ROW applications for solar energy projects in a timely manner. The guidance also requires the BLM to address solar development when revising or updating land use plans for areas shown to have potential

for commercial solar energy development.

The policy requires appropriate stipulations in ROW authorizations to mitigate environmental impacts of projects, as well as bonding to ensure compliance and site reclamation. The guidance also describes the level of environmental review required before an authorization can be issued, and states that commercial solar energy projects will meet BLM requirements for recovery of costs associated with application processing.

Solar energy has significant potential in the Western states, where approximately 370 megawatts (MW) of solar power are currently installed. Authorizing solar energy projects on public lands is part of the BLM's effort to meet the goal Congress set in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 – seeking by 2015 to approve non-hydropower renewable energy projects on Federal lands that generate at least 10,000 MW of electricity. The BLM manages 258 million surface acres – more land than any other Federal agency – located mostly in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

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**For Immediate Release: April 10, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

#### EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Flume Canyon Trail Maintenance

Grand Junction, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management-McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (NCA), the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC), and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado are looking for volunteers to perform much-needed work on the Flume Canyon Trail on Saturday, April 21, in celebration of Earth Day, and then again on Saturday, May 19, 2007.

"Commemorating Earth Day by improving upon the NCA's family-friendly trail system is a great opportunity for families to spend the day together," said NCA Manager Paul Peck. "We couldn't accomplish this trail maintenance without the help of volunteers and CMC's energy. We need more folks like them taking an active role in public lands stewardship." The BLM frequently partners with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to recruit volunteers for its projects on surrounding public lands.

"CMC members are glad to help the BLM restore and protect some of the trails we enjoy hiking on," said John Gribben, trail stewardship coordinator for the CMC. "The Grand Valley is lucky to have access to beautiful country on public lands."

Flume Canyon, a favorite with local hikers and horseback riders, is located in the Front Country of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. Minutes from Grand Junction, the designated trail system is part of a network of popular trails that includes Devil's Canyon, Pollock Bench and the Fruita Paleontological Area.

The 123, 430-acre McInnis Canyons NCA and 75,550-acre Wilderness are managed under BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The NLCS is composed of special public lands, many of which have received special recognition and protection through congressional or presidential conservation designations. For more information on the NLCS, go to [www.blm.gov/nlcs](http://www.blm.gov/nlcs). For additional information on this project, contact Park Ranger Troy Schnurr at 970-244-3032 or John Gribben, Colorado Mountain Club, at 970-257-9708. Volunteers may sign up online for either day at [www.voutdoors.org](http://www.voutdoors.org), then search for "Flume."

-BLM-

**For Immediate Release: April 4, 2007**  
**Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097**

### BLM making progress on Bangs Canyon plan

Grand Junction, Colo. — Construction of the first phase of the Bangs Canyon Implementation Plan began last fall, and the Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office anticipates a busy field season ahead continuing that effort. The implementation plan focuses on sustainable shared-use trails and urban interface management, while providing a wide array of multiple-use recreation opportunities in a high-desert setting.

Major improvements scheduled this spring for the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), located just south of downtown Grand Junction, include the construction of a route for free-ride bicycle enthusiasts, who are newcomers to the Western Slope adventure sports scene. Much of the work in the area, known as the Lunch Loop to locals, will be funded by a grant from outdoor gear retailer, REI.

“One of the implementation actions the public will see is the closure of a short section of the Tabeguache Trail between Monument and Little Park Roads to motor vehicles,” Associate Field Manager Raul Morales said. “The 2006 Environmental Assessment addressed this closure, and monitoring has shown that it’s time.” The closure will be accomplished through the installation of gates and signs in the coming days.

Across Little Park Road at the Little Park Trailhead, motorized access will be limited, and new signs and a gate installed. Hike and bike access to the Gunny Loop Trail will continue through the trailhead until the new section of trail is built, which is scheduled for 2008. Further up Little Park Road, parking has been redirected from Third Flats to the Bangs Canyon Trailhead using signs and barriers. Other plans for this season include constructing a system of shared-use trails for motorized and non-motorized visitors near Billings Canyon.

“Sections of the Second Flats Road will be decommissioned and recontoured,” Outdoor Recreation Planner Ken Straley said. “Additional hiking trails in the Rough Canyon and First Flats area are also scheduled for construction in following years.” These new facilities are intended to provide a close-to-town outdoor experience for local residents.

Signing and visitor maps will be updated to reflect the changes. The Bangs Canyon SRMA is located in Mesa County, Colorado, 5 miles south of Grand Junction. The area is bounded by the Gunnison River on the northeast, Colorado National Monument on the northwest, East Creek (Hwy. 141) to the southeast, and Glade Park (Pinyon Mesa) to the southwest. For further information, contact Ken Straley at (970) 244-3031 or Jim Cooper at (970) 244-3047.

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Editor's Note: Map available upon request.

**For Immediate Release: April 2, 2007**  
**Contact: Dan Huisjen, 970-240-5339;**  
**Steve Ellis, 970-240-5353;**

**or Mel Lloyd, 970-244-3097**

Prescribed burns scheduled for region

MONTROSE, Colo. – Crews from the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests will be conducting several prescribed burns in west-central Colorado throughout the coming weeks. Burning could begin as soon as April 9 and will continue as long as weather permits. The ten areas slated for treatment are:

Norwood/Nucla Area

Basin: 100 acres, project area located 20 miles north of Norwood

Hanks Valley: 150 acres, project area located 16 miles northeast of Norwood and 8 miles northwest of Sanborn Park

Mailbox Park: 200 acres, project area located 9 miles northwest of Norwood and 8 miles east of Naturita

Coal Canyon: 200 acres, project area located 6 miles northwest of Naturita

Uncompahgre-North Fork Valleys

Dave Wood: 400 acres, project area located 12 miles southwest of Montrose

Escalante: 500 acres, project area located 18 miles southwest of Delta

Sand Mountain: 900 acres, project area located 3 miles east of Crawford

Paxton: 900 acres, project area located 9 miles west-southwest of Montrose

Roubideau: 100 acres, project area located 14 miles west of Montrose and 17 miles southwest of Delta

Log Hill: 150 acres, project area located 8 miles north of Ridgway

Fuels being treated in these areas range from pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations to ponderosa pine with a mountain shrub understory at higher elevations. The main objective of these prescribed fires is to reduce dense vegetation to lessen the chance for catastrophic wildfires. These burns will also improve wildlife habitat, regenerate new growth and discourage pine beetle reinfestation in affected areas.

Weather conditions will be closely monitored, and burns will only be initiated if conditions are within established parameters for safe and effective fires. Each prescribed burn conducted by the agencies has gone through an environmental analysis and has a detailed fire plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies.

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