



Forest Service News Release

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GMUG Seeks Input on Proposed Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan

Montrose, Colorado, April 13, 2022 — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District invites your input for a proposed plan for the Blue Lakes area, located in the Mt. Sneffels Wilderness. The primary purpose of the plan is to provide comprehensive management of visitors in the Blues Lakes area and to reduce visitor impacts. The plan seeks to balance the preservation of natural conditions by addressing biophysical/social impacts resulting from visitor use, while continuing to provide quality opportunities for recreation.

Increased visitation in recent years have caused multiple management challenges including safety issues related to illegal parking, user created campsites, visitor frustration and environmental degradation. "The community has already been very engaged on this project," said Dana Gardunio, Ouray District Ranger. "I look forward to more public engagement."

For detailed information on the proposed action visit the [project website](#).

Comments must be received or postmarked no later than 30 days after the publication of the legal notice in the Montrose Daily Press or Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, whichever publishes later.

Comments may be submitted via:

- Online: [Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan Comment Tool](#)
- Mail or hand delivery: Ouray Ranger District Attn: Dana Gardunio, 2505 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

For additional questions, please contact Julie Jackson, Natural Resource Specialist, at (970) 240-5429.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities on the GMUG visit the [forest website](#), [GMUG Fire Info](#) page or www.westslopefireinformation.com. Connect with us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests manage approximately 3 million acres of land in Southwest Colorado within Delta, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel counties.

