



North Rim Landscape Strategy Workgroup

Collaboration in western Colorado



Our Vision:

To work collaboratively at a landscape scale to build a shared science and knowledge base to inform decision-making across jurisdictional boundaries and to develop strategies for land use management.

Who We Are:

- Black Canyon Audubon Society
- Black Canyon Land Trust
- Bureau of Land Management –Uncompahgre Field Office and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Crawford Gunnison Sage-Grouse Working Group
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture –Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Paonia Ranger District
- Grazing Permittees
- Local Private Landowners
- National Park Service –Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Delta Conservation District
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Western Area Power Administration
- Interested Members of the Public
- Uncompahgre Plateau Project

North Rim Landscape

The NRLS area, located near the north rim on the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, includes 220,000 acres of land divided among three counties: Delta, Montrose, and Gunnison. The landscape provides valuable natural resources and opportunities such as premier sightseeing, outstanding recreation, open space, and habitat for important wildlife species, including the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

Current Uses

The North Rim landscape, like many areas in the western United States, is feeling the strain of sustaining varied multiple uses. The area contains vital habitat for active Gunnison sage-grouse populations, abundant elk herds, and numerous other wildlife. Public lands are used for cattle grazing, hunting and recreation.

Contact us at:

www.northrimlandscapestrategy.org

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Goals:

The NRLS workgroup seeks to move beyond project-by-project and agency-by-agency management of the landscape and develop a collaborative landscape level strategy. The workgroup's main goals are:

1. Influence land use decisions and patterns in ways that promote ecosystem health, emphasize connectivity of wildlife habitat and maintain the rural and agricultural character of the region.
2. Support the survival of the Gunnison sage-grouse in the NRLS area through improving habitat, protecting birds, reducing stressors and establishing linkages between populations to promote genetic diversity.
3. Provide an environment that promotes natural fire while protecting life and property.
4. Manage human uses on the landscape in ways that benefit the health of the land and native species.
5. Manage habitat for the benefit of wildlife species in ways that promote a

Issues and Trends:

The North Rim Landscape Strategy (NRLS) workgroup developed as a result of growing recognition of several significant issues and trends impacting the North Rim landscape.

The main concerns identified by the workgroup included perceived changes in the landscape due to population growth increases and its associated effect on agricultural areas and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI); potential changes to the ecosystem due to climate change; recreational impacts to wildlife populations during sensitive times; continued concerns about the survival of local Gunnison sage-grouse populations and management of Rocky Mountain Elk populations. After many meetings and discussions about the area, the group developed this strategy document with the goal of moving forward with concrete landscape-level approaches.

Strategy Document

The NRLS workgroup has collaboratively developed a strategy document with the purpose of making broad recommendations for the management of the area while operating under an adaptive management strategy that allows for revisions based on new information. To download a copy of the document, visit: <http://www.northrimlandscapestrategy.org/document.htm>

