



# Field Manager Report

March 2025

## Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO) Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM)

**Note:** Topics below are labeled either “**Status Update**” or “**New Update**” to help identify items that have changed from the previous report.

### ***Fuels and Timber***

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#### **West Rim Timber Sale - Status Update**

The BLM completed 110 acres of skidding on previously thinned areas in North Pines. These logs have since been harvested by firewood collectors.

#### **Dawson – Status Update**

Dawson Research project was designed by Colorado State University, the University of Reno Nevada, and the University of California Berkeley in conjunction with the BLM. The overarching goal is to create more research and literature on the pinyon and juniper vegetation types. Mechanical treatment was completed in the Fall of 2023. The BLM burned 220 acres of piles this winter and plans to burn the rest in winter of 2025-26. All areas where piles were burned will be seeded.

#### **Dawson Draw Prescribed Fire - Status Update**

New Dawson units have been developed in the project area. The prep and burning of 990 acres could begin next year.

#### **Yellow Jacket Noxious Tree/Brush Removal - Status Update**

The piles created from a previously completed cut, pile, and spray of 125 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive along Yellow Jacket Creek were burned by the BLM and the pile areas were seeded this winter. The BLM also sprayed 180 acres of previously cut Russian olive and tamarisk in the Yellow Jacket area in FY24.

#### **West Rim Prescribed Fire - Status Update**

The BLM accomplished 1,648 acres with help from cooperators this past year. We plan to burn up to another 977 acres this spring and up to 1443 acres in total in FY25.

#### **Durango Area Hazardous Fuels Projects (signed January 2021)**

This project reduces hazards associated with vegetation near and around the Durango area. It addresses a long-term need to manage vegetation adjacent to critical infrastructure, which includes reducing tree and shrub densities and fuel loads and protecting ecosystem heterogeneity. The BLM implements various treatments, including prescribed fire, manual tree removal/felling, pile burning, understory burning, and vegetative mastication. Project are occurring this year on the Chelsea

and Skyline parcels for 130 acres.

### **Grassy Mountain Project - New Update**

In Durango, most of our efforts will focus on the Grassy Mountain Project, which involves 411 acres of BLM land. This Shared Stewardship Project with the National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado State Forest Service involves thinning stands and minimizing ladder fuels to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, which in turn reduces potential harm to watersheds and protects recreational opportunities. The contract for Grassy Mountain was awarded and work will begin in April.

### **Rabbit Mountain EA**

Work may begin on Rabbit Mountain this fall. The BLM plans to prep and burn previously burnt units from 2016-2019, up to 760 acres.

## ***Wildlife***

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### **Gunnison Sage Grouse – New Update**

The GUSG RMP Amendment Record of Decision was signed in October 2024. The TRFO has started implementing the GuSG Amendments, coordinating with CPW, the FWS, and San Miguel County on MA-SSS-014 “In OHMA and UHMA, and in coordination with the appropriate State, Federal, and local government agency, apply seasonal restrictions, as appropriate, during the period specified below to manage and reduce discretionary discrete anthropogenic disturbances...”

### **Summit Point Habitat Restoration Project – Status Update**

The TRFO Wildlife Program has coordinated with CPW on a 1,200-acre habitat improvement project for pinyon jays and big game. The project aims to improve habitat for pinyon jays, using various treatment methods for thinning pinyon and juniper to provide multiple age classes. The EA was signed and posted on July 15, 2024. The TRFO continues to monitor the area for Pinyon Jays. No Pinyon Jays have been identified in the project area for the third year of monitoring.

### **Zeedyke Structures, Dry Creek Basin – Status Update**

To improve wildlife habitat in Dry Creek Basin, in June 2024 the TRFO wildlife staff coordinated a Colorado Youth Corps Association crew to install ten “rock dam” features (Zeedykes) with the aim of

improving water infiltration and habitat quality for local wildlife. These features were put to the test almost immediately with a series of high energy storms which have been increasingly common the last several years. The structures functioned exactly as planned and facilitated the “healing” of head cuts. Similar structures are being employed by volunteers in the Aqueduct trail system to address erosion and trail loss in the severely erodible Mancos Shale.



***Zeedyke features constructed to improve wildlife habitat in Dry Creek Basin.***

### **Pinyon Jay – Status Update**

In 2023 the TRFO inventoried over 30,000 acres for Pinyon Jays and found multiple new colonies. In 2024 the TRFO is monitoring new colonies and conducting new inventories. The TRFO is also starting the Dawson Pinyon Jay inventory and habitat assessment project. Working with IMBCR, field crews are inventorying 9 grids for Pinyon Jay presence. Crews are also collecting habitat data to determine pinyon and juniper density (trees per acre), basal area, and species composition. This data will be used to quantify habitat components in the TRFO where Pinyon Jays occur and determine what habitat components may be associated with species absence. The goal is to inform management for fuels reduction projects and improve survey efficiency.

### **Canyons of the Ancients NM Big Game Habitat Management**

In 2019, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) updated big game critical winter range mapping, adding over 100,000 acres of critical winter range to CANM. The BLM is still working to determine how to adapt management in these areas.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>FY 19 Acres</b>	<b>CPW Update Acres</b>	<b>Increase in Acres</b>
TRFO	181,984	230,985	49,001
CANM	0	100,846	100,846

## ***Range and Weeds Management***

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### **General Permit Administration**

At present, the TRFO/CANM Range program is fully-staffed and we are completing trainings and familiarizing our relatively green specialists with the operators, landscapes, processes and systems necessary to efficiently and effectively administer our range programs.

### **Weeds**

The local BLM weeds crew was not funded this year and as such our range technician will be accomplishing as much as she can on her own within the confines of current purchasing authority. In a typical year we treat approximately 300 acres of BLM-managed lands in TRFO and CANM. These acres are treated strategically to benefit functioning ecosystems and prevent new outbreaks from spreading, particularly in critical and potential habitat for Gunnison sage- grouse.

### Spring Creek Basin Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA)

The current wild horse population is 68, which is within the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the HMA. In 2024, PZP (porcine zona pellucida vaccine) contraceptive efforts focused on retreating 19 mares that were not vaccinated last season. One new foal joined the herd in 2024 and we are anticipating another successful PZP campaign in April 2025 as well as the installation of a new visitor information kiosk.



### Gypsum Valley Grazing Decision

The final grazing decision was signed in August 2021 and appealed shortly thereafter by Western Watersheds Project. A petition to stay the decision was denied and the new permit was issued. The appeal is presently before the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

## **Recreation**

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### **Dolores River**

No boatable spill anticipated for 2025...fingers crossed for 2026!

### **Erosion**

An uptick in erosion has been occurring on roads and trails across the board, due to an increase in high energy storms over the last several years. For example, the Dolores River Road was closed due to a land slide last spring and quickly reopened using BLM funds. Another land slide closed the road within approximately six weeks, and it remains impassable due to funding availability. Repairing and maintaining roads and trails is an increasing workload that is met largely by a volunteer workforce (trails) and an annual roads maintenance budget of \$15k for approximately 1,800 miles of road.

### **Road 41 Parking**

Implementation of the TAPI decision to develop a parking area providing cross country non-mechanized access to both Weber and Menefee Wilderness Study Areas is complete. This parking area south of Mancos on Road 41 provides three pull-through trailer parking spots and six passenger vehicle parking spots.

### **Mud Springs**

Approximately \$34k was spent contracting improvements at Mud Springs, south of Cortez, authorized under the TAPI decision. Fencing installed under this contract now delineates a new OHV play area as well as mitigate motorized cross country damage to cultural resources. Significant effort has been made to revamp trail signs, construct and improve newly authorized trails, reseed disturbed areas and remove significant amounts of trash from the old gravel pit area as well as the canyon rim to the north.

### **Aqueduct**

2024 saw the finishing touches on the main Aqueduct parking area, northwest of Mancos. This work was implemented under the TAPI decision authority. A new shade shelter was purchased and installed by our partners, the Mancos Trails Group, with support from the LOR Foundation. A local welder also created a custom “rustic” bike rack. The BLM contributed a picnic table, the material and labor to build an adjacent changing room, and funding to locate a port-o-let at the trail head seasonally. Aqueduct usership continues to grow and we anticipate another year of growth in visitation.

### **Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative**

As part of the State of Colorado’s (CPW) Outdoor Partnership planning effort, approximately 21 county-based collaboratives have been formed across the state. The TRFO is involved with two such efforts – the Montelores Coalition in Dolores and Montezuma Counties as well as the Southwest Colorado Conservation & Outdoor Recreation Roundtable in La Plata County. While the two groups are distinct, both drawn on expertise from Federal, State and local land management and government agencies as well as members of the public from a variety of sectors including recreation, conservation and economic development. The groups’ non-binding recommendations are an opportunity for BLM to enhance stakeholder engagement, increase public awareness and drive recreation development responsibly and in keeping with local values and priorities.

## ***Planning***

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### **Transportation and Access Plan (TAP2) - Status Update**

The second TAP addresses BLM lands in Dolores, San Miguel, and Montrose counties. A resource management plan maintenance map, which established all inventoried routes for the TAP2 planning area, was published on December 5, 2023. Using this inventory as a baseline for designations, the BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) continues an internal route-by-route review and the development of tentative alternatives.

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## ***Cultural Resources***

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### **Uravan Mineral Belt Interpretation Loop**

The TRFO archaeologist is working on route designation of an existing driving loop, accompanied by interpretive materials at select locations, that would be known as the Yellowcake Trail. The intent of the historic interpretive loop would be to preserve and share the history of uranium mining around Radium and Wedding Bell Mountains.

### **National Register Nominations**

The Burro Mine, nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, is anticipated to be officially listed by summer 2025.

### **Travel Planning and Implementation PA**

In this BLM multi-office agreement, TRFO will continue to systematically complete cultural resource inventory of travel routes in the TAP2 planning area, and work towards revisitation of 183 historic properties with travel routes in their boundary and assess those sites for travel-related effects.

## ***Minerals (Fluid)***

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### **American Helium, Former Paradox Resources Assets- Status Update**

BLM TRFO has been working with the new operator, American Helium on compliance issues related to bonding, production, and surface enforcement concerns. American Helium produces 5 federal Units on public lands, these units contain roughly 130 wells, of which half are shut-in due to economic and wellbore integrity issues. TRFO has issued plug or produce letters for all shut-in locations, and is currently waiting for plans from the Operator to either bring the wells back into production, or to plug them proactively. Additionally, surface compliance issues have been identified at many locations, the TRFO is working in conjunction with the Colorado State Office, ECMC, State Land Board, and BLM Utah to bring this operator back into good standing.

In December of 2024, staffing issues related to AH necessitated the BLM take direct and immediate action to help safeguard public health and safety; subsequent to BLM enforcement and direct shut-in operations, AH has been re-capitalized and is working through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party agent to address identified surface, downhole, and reporting issues. This is an ongoing project for the TRFO, with more status updates to come.

### **Southern Ute Developments- Mancos Shale MOU**

The BLM in conjunction with the BIA and Southern Ute Indian Tribe is initiating a planning effort to develop the Mancos Shale resource located on approximately 57,000 acres of Tribal surface and approximately 57,000 acres of

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Tribal subsurface mineral estate. The proposed agency actions related to the Mancos Shale development would include the approvals needed to: drill approximately 400 wells on approximately 50 pads, utilizing existing pads for a majority of the locations; authorize the completion and production of those wells; authorize the construction and installation of associated gathering pipelines, access roads, compression facilities/equipment, and related facilities and activities.

The BLM’s role in addressing the proposed development of tribal minerals is derived, in part, from the Onshore Energy and Mineral Lease Management Interagency Standard Operating Procedures. The purpose of these Standard Operating Procedures is to establish common standards and methods for creating efficient and effective working relationships to achieve the Departmental goal of accurate energy and minerals accountability for onshore Federal and Indian leases.

**RWPC Plugging and Abandonment Program**

Historically, Red Willow has averaged a rate of 5.5 P&A wells per year. In 2020, Red Willow initiated a programmatic approach to P&As to address a growing backlog of long-term shut-in wells. 10 wells were plugged under the 2020 program with the count increasing to a 15 well goal for the 2021 and 2022 programs. In 2023, this increased to 20 wells. During fiscal year 2024 we plugged and abandoned 16 wells. The 2025 program has a combined total of 21 wells, this includes:

- 6 Fee surface wells with one well added and plugged winter 24/25 with uncontrollable well head leak.
- 15 Tribal surface locations•5 completed (plugged, abandoned and reclaimed) fall/winter

In addition to the increased number in wells, RWPC has worked to dewater, cap and abandon approximately 17.5 miles of produced water pipelines over the last 5 years.

**Ute Mountain Ute Developments-  
IMDA Review**

TRFO has completed a review of a proposed Indian Minerals Development Agreement (IMDA), covering portions of the UMU reservation. This agreement could bring more development from a new operator to sections of the UMU reservations that have oil and gas infrastructure (pipelines, roads, pads, facilities) but have been without active production for many years. This is a positive development and may bring more economic activity to the UMU reservation.

**Oil and Gas Development Projects - Status Update**

Fluid mineral development recently has focused on tribal interests, with current activity within the TRFO primarily taking place on Southern Ute Indian Reservation surface in the northern portion of the San Juan Basin, targeting primarily Mancos Shale methane gas and Fruitland Coal Bed Methane.

Simcoe, who holds leases located on the San Juan National Forest has also submitted and recently had approved multiple APDs that have been in development for many years. The BLM is charged with minerals management and aids the Forest Service by processing the downhole actions, while the Forest Service, as the Surface Managing Entity (SME) continues to have responsibility for NEPA and surface development.

**Summary of March 2024-March 2025 Approvals – New Notice**

Operator Name	Well Name	Well Number	APD Decision	Approval Date
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KINDER MORGAN C02 COMPANY LLC	DOE CANYON	DW-1	Approved	7/15/2024
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 26	2-1	Approved	3/11/2025
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 35	3-1	Approved	3/11/2025
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 35	3-2	Approved	3/11/2025
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 35	4-1	Approved	3/11/2025
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 35	4-2	Approved	3/11/2025
SIMCOE LLC	EAST SAULS CREEK 26	2-2	Approved	3/11/2025
LOGOS OPERATING LLC	IGNACIO 33-7 29P	1H	Approved	2/24/2025
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL HS 32-6	#2-3	Approved	12/19/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE 32-9	#23-7H	Approved	12/19/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL HS 32-6	#2-2	Approved	9/28/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL HS 32-6	2-1	Approved	12/18/2024
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE	704H	Approved	9/12/2024
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE	706H	Approved	11/14/2024
HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE	707H	Approved	11/14/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	OSPREY 32-5	5-1	Approved	8/15/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	OSPREY 32-5	5-2	Approved	8/15/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	OSPREY 32-5	5-3	Approved	8/15/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL BB 33-6	27-2	Approved	7/8/2024
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL BB 33-6	27-3	Approved	7/8/2024
LOGOS OPERATING LLC	IGNACIO 33-7 29P	2H	Approved	1/6/2025
LOGOS OPERATING LLC	IGNACIO 33-7 29P	3H	Approved	1/6/2025
RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	REDTAIL HS 32-6	2-4	Approved	1/14/2025

RED WILLOW PRODUCTION COMPANY	SOUTHERN UTE 32-9	23-6HR	Approved	12/19/2024
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**Inspection and Enforcement**

***Projected Targets for FY 25***

**PET Workload:**

Indian Production/Drilling Inspections: 398

Federal Production/Drilling Inspections: 87

**NRS Surface Workload:**

Indian Surface Inspections: 95

Federal Surface Inspections 69

**Coordination – Re-occurring Notice**

TRFO continues to hold quarterly meetings with the Southern Ute Tribe, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, to ensure our relationships and communication pathways remain open and collaborative.

**NSJB Stakeholder Meetings**

TRFO is once again participating in the Northern San Juan Basin Stakeholder meetings organized by the San Juan National Forest (SJNF). These meetings serve as coordination on fluid mineral issues between the BLM, Columbine Ranger District of the SJNF, ECMC, and LaPlata and Archuleta counties, as well as representatives from local industry groups.

**Minerals (Solid)**

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**Locatable Minerals Projects**

**43 CFR 3809 Claims Under General Mining Law**

**Summary:** TRFO has active uranium/vanadium and copper notices, we have rumor of some upcoming plans of operation, but nothing has been submitted yet.

**Approved Plans - 3809**

Project	Operator	COC	Accepted	Acreage	Inspection
Sunday	Piñon Ridge	CO106029180	1981	57.6	4/10/2024
West Sunday	Piñon Ridge	CO105952325	1981	12.3	4/10/2024

**Active Notices-3809**

Project	Operator	COC	Accepted	Acreage
Topaz	Piñon Ridge	COC70791	6/28/1905	10.9
Blue Streak	Nuvmco	CO101365983	3/28/2023	4.98
Stateline	Alianza	CO105257399	5/2/2022	1.79
Klondike	Alianza	COC80738	6/1/2022	3.13
Radium Hill	Thor	COC40448	2/15/2024	1.74
Sec 23	Thor	CO106332707	7/13/2023	0.94
Groundhog	Thor	CO106342023	7/13/2023	0.7

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Rimrock	Thor	CO106342021	7/13/2023	0.88
Slick Rock	Highbury	CO106332662	1/17/2024	0.46

**43 CFR 3600 Mineral Materials**

**Summary:** Multiple active Free Use Permits (FUPs) as well as three competitive (COMP) pits.

**Active Free Use Permits (FUP)**

Project	Operator	Lease	Accepted	Acreage	Cubic Yards	Expire Date
Tozer	Montezuma Co.	CO105877629	9/27/2021	31	350,000	9/27/2031
Disappointment	Dolores Co.	CO105849458	1/1/2021	5	50,000	1/1/2031
Black Snag	Dolores Co.	CO106189023	11/21/2017	8	80,000	11/21/2027
Klondike	San Miguel Co.	CO105845398	9/10/2020	15	150,000	9/8/2030

**Competitive Permits (COMP) – 3600**

Project	Operator	COC	Accepted	Acreage	Tons or CY/ yr	Expiry
Dry Creek	TJH Stone	CO105883751	6/12/2023	32	51	2028
Montoya	C&J	CO105856886	11/22/2021	95.48	571471	2028
Pictured Rocks	Robert Dougherty					2028

**43 CFR 3500 Solid Leasable Materials**

**Summary:** Recent submission of potash project identical to one previously analyzed (10 years ago), currently under analysis and review at the Colorado State Office BLM.

**Prospecting Permits - 3500**

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
Ranahan	CO106326175	Received	Authorized
Ranahan	CO106326177	Received	Authorized
Ranahan	CO106326178	Received	Authorized
Ranahan	CO106326179	Received	Authorized
Ranahan	CO106326181	Received	Authorized

**43 CFR 3400 Coal Management****Exploration Permits - 3400**

Operator	Project	Disposition	Status
GCC	CO106100173	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106052020	Approved	Active
GCC	CO106093503	Approved	Active

**43 CFR 3601 Mineral Materials Disposal Discussion****Montoya Pit**

TRFO conducts regular inspections of the pit, located just south of Durango. Current estimates of the reserve material show that 1.5 years of production remains within the boundaries of the pit itself. Discussions with the operator have been slow, there are multiple resource concerns in every direction the pit may expand to, including active fluid mineral development, cultural resources, wildlife concerns, and a highway. If an expansion is

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proposed, an EA at a minimum will be required, with opportunities for public input. No such plans have been submitted to the TRFO yet.

**Coordination**

**Western Small Miners Association**

TRFO participated in regular meetings that most recently met in August 2024. The purpose of the meetings is round table discussion with regulators, industry representatives, and interested public related to federal and state permitting processes as well as the future of mining on the western slope of Colorado. Field and District office staff will attend the next regular meeting of this association in Spring/Summer of 2025.

**San Miguel County Planning /Board of County Commissioner Meetings**

TRFO has been in discussions with San Miguel County Planning Department regarding their proposed and updated county mining regulations. Multiple meetings and comments have been submitted by both TRFO and Colorado State Office regarding concerns related to regulatory and delegated authorities. A working session was held in early March, TRFO participated virtually with representatives also attending in person. This is an ongoing discussion with version 2 of the regulations still including language that is of concern to the BLM. A finalized version of the regulations is forthcoming.

**Abandoned Mine Lands**

<b>ULP</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Inspection</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
JD9	DOE		10/03/2024	38°12'26.67"N, 108°47'18.80"W	
SR11	DOE		3/6/2024 10/03/2024	37°59'24.23"N, 108°59'46.97"W	
SR13	DOE		10/03/2024		
Radium Hill 10	DOE				
<b>AML (Freeport)</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>Adits</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Anticipated Closure</b>	<b>Inspection</b>
Little Gyp	17	26	0.552	2023	07/03/2024 08/12/2024
Spud Patch					
<b>AML (DRUM)</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>Adits</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Closure</b>	<b>Inspection</b>
Bull Canyon					
Spud Patch					
<b>Mexico Group/ Gyp Gap</b>	16	29	8.874	2025	7/3/2024 09/24/2024 10/09/2024
Bachelor Camp	1				5/29/2024
Sun Cup	1				1/23/2024

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Centennial	I				1/23/2024
Radium Hill 10		I			
<b>AML (V&amp;V)</b>					
<b>Mine</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Closure</b>
Roberta Jean	37.566187	-108.974118	5/9/2024	Adit	2025

**TRFO AML Program Update**

TRFO has been auditing past closures, confirming previously permitted work, by assessing success or failure through active field inspections. Specifically looking at bat gates, locking bars or removable gates, required as wildlife mitigation. Working with COSO lead on audit findings. Mexico group is moving forward, waiting for updated proposal prior to moving forward with remainder of work (some sites have been updated in their closure method). TRFO is also in discussions with DRMS regarding work at the Mainstreet mine where some new erosional issues have cropped up.

**DOE-DRUM - Status Update**

TRFO has been participant in Verification and Validation of mine existence and features, DOE then has been recording it and mapping the features from the V&V work.

**Freeport McMoRan - Status Update**

Freeport work has been put on pause until further discussions regarding the success of closure methods can be resolved at the COSO level.

**Hazmat**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Reporting Party</b>	<b>Reporting Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Burro 5					
<b>Bear Placer</b>	37.999047	108.838142	L. Hartman	4/30/2021	Active
Randolph ESA	38.03564	-108.88674	TRFO	8/10/2022	
Slick Rock					
Rincon Valley Rd 4701	37.282023	109.004042	M. Abraham	12/8/2022	Active
<b>Monogram Mesa Asbestos Camper</b>	38.185488	108.738582	T. Fouss	9/4/2022	Active
Small Trash Dump Phil's World	37.359659	108.495931	T. Fouss	3/24/2024	
Slick Rock Hill Tire Dump	38.017627	108.921906	T. Fouss	1/9/2024	Active
Martinez Canyon Parcel Dump	37.2489	107.114813	T. Fouss	7/31/2023	Active

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CANM Hovenweep Dumpsite					Active

***Lands and Reality***

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**Program Update**

TRFO has been actively working to hire a new Realty Specialist to help move projects along, create bills, and to inspect active permits. Until the position is filled, the TRFO is utilizing adjacent field offices and current staff to move forward with projects that are deemed crucial or time sensitive in nature. Other discretionary projects, permits, and bills have been put on hold and will be worked on once more staff is available to the TRFO.

## **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Visitor Center and Museum**

### **Status Update**

The Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum is open for normal summer scheduled days and hours from 9 to 5, Tuesday through Saturday.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Indigenous Art Market. June 28th
- Monthly lectures and indigenous art demonstrations.

### **Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park Grazing Allotments - Status Update**

CANM initiated Section 106 consultation for a proposal to reissue permits for livestock grazing on the vacant Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park allotments. Staff have developed a programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to identify potential adverse effects to cultural resources and associated mitigations. The final document has been signed. The next step is a NEPA process, with input from tribes and other interested parties to analyze other potential impacts from the proposal.

### **Trespass Horses**

Trespass horses, primarily coming from adjoining tribal reservations, have been an issue on the monument for decades. For a variety of reasons, including the vacant Yellow Jacket and Flodine Park grazing allotments, the issue has increased in recent years leading to concerns with potential damage to cultural and natural resources. Censuses completed by staff over the last three years have led to an estimate of 200 horses currently on monument lands.

Monument and field office staff are seeking solutions to the problem.

### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)**

NAGPRA was signed into law in 1990. Due to concerns that museums, universities, and other institutions were not fulfilling their responsibilities under the law, new regulations were promulgated by the Department of Interior in the spring of 2024. The emphasis of the new regulations is to empower tribal governments to make claims on individuals and grave objects in more timely and reasonable manner.

CANM staff have held multiple meetings with tribal representatives over the last couple of months to provide summaries of the monument's collections and encourage them to move forward in the claim process. Those meetings will continue.