

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BLM DAILY

BLM and partners restore Dutch Gulch Meadow

202

1

by [Black, Meredith C](#) on 10/24/2018 5:00 AM
 Category: [Colorado](#)

Story and photos by Andrew Breibart, Hydrologist

In August, the BLM Gunnison Field Office worked with the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District and Western Colorado Conservation Corps to treat ten acres of degraded meadow in Dutch Gulch, located ten miles southeast of Gunnison. These organizations are members of the Gunnison Climate Working Group, a collaborative local, federal, and state partnership that aims to restore hundreds of acres of mesic meadows using techniques developed by wetland restoration expert Bill Zeedyk.



Justin Stone (USFS), Hanna Wigginton (BLM), and Western Colorado Conservation Corps members stand on a filter dam, constructed to catch runoff from a gully and reconnect a meadow system.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps constructed 17 rock structures, while a local contractor constructed a plug-and-spread and two contour swales. The structures will reconnect the mesic meadows in Dutch Gulch by restoring the water table and reducing accelerated erosion.

When functioning properly, meadows act like sponges. The meadows capture precipitation and allow it to slowly infiltrate, where it is stored as groundwater and slowly released to maintain base flow and peak flow conditions.



BLM Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife construct a low water crossing used to maintain the water table in the meadow.

In the Gunnison Basin, historic wagon roads, primitive roads, road crossings, mining, livestock and wildlife trailing have caused gully erosion, headcuts and incision that altered the hydrological function of these systems by disrupting the natural surface runoff and infiltration processes.

Functional meadows provide habitat for the federally-threatened Gunnison sage-grouse, elk, amphibians, neo-tropical migratory birds, and forage for domestic livestock.

|| 1 Comment(s)

Comments

Re: BLM and partners restore Dutch Gulch Meadow

Outstanding Andrew! Way to keep building partnerships and those simple but useful structures.

Long, Darren D on 10/24/2018 8:16 AM

Add Comment

Title
Body *

Submit Comment

1

Questions? Feedback?
Please Contact NewMedia@BLM.gov

This is a U.S. Government Computer System. Before continuing, please read this [disclaimer](#), [privacy statement](#), and [accessibility statement](#).

To report broken links or any other technical problems with this website please [submit a help desk ticket](#) or call 1-800-BLM-HELP

* Plugins Required: ActiveX. Only Microsoft Internet Explorer 32bit is fully supported. If you are having issues, please contact the BLM IT Department.