



Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area

PROPOSED WILDERNESS AND BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT ZONING

The National Park Service determined that Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area require updated management zoning and descriptions of desired conditions. Desired conditions are defined as statements of aspiration that describe resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services that an agency strives to achieve and maintain in a particular area.

Management zones provide predictable expectations how different areas of the wilderness and backcountry could be managed to support desired conditions related to visitor experience, wilderness character, and backcountry resources.

Five updated management zones have been proposed: three for Black Canyon wilderness and backcountry areas and two for Curecanti backcountry. In addition, subzones have been identified to effectively address Black Canyon wilderness areas (four subzones) and backcountry (one subzone). Desired conditions for these proposed management zones and subzones are summarized on the reverse.

Table 1. Proposed Wilderness and Backcountry Management Zones

National Park System Unit	Zones	Subzones
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	Inner Canyon (IC) Wilderness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IC Primitive Wilderness • IC Pristine Wilderness
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	Uplands (UP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UP Backcountry • UP Primitive Wilderness • UP Pristine Wilderness
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	Gunnison Gorge Interface Wilderness	
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	East Portal-Morrow Point Backcountry*	
Curecanti National Recreation Area	East Portal-Morrow Point Backcountry*	
Curecanti National Recreation Area	Blue Mesa Backcountry	

*The East Portal-Morrow Point Zone would be predominantly within Curecanti National Recreation Area with the exception of the easternmost portion of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.



Desired Conditions for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Proposed Wilderness and Backcountry Zones and Subzones

Proposed Inner Canyon (IC) Wilderness Zone: Wild, natural, and rugged.

- *IC Primitive Wilderness Subzone:* Unspoiled and uncrowded. There are opportunities for solitude and reduced recreational facilities to improve primitive and unconfined recreation, self-reliance, and natural qualities.
- *IC Pristine Wilderness Subzone:* Untamed, isolated, pure, and free. Visitors would need to be independent and skilled to safely access the subzone, and the area would foster people's connection to wild places.

Proposed Uplands (UP) Zone: Wild, natural, expansive, peaceful, and adventuresome; the experience would be of solitude. Objectives for wilderness quality would be to accept "trammeling" for the long-term benefits to the natural quality, such as controlling invasive species. Three subzones have been developed to efficiently manage the uplands zone.

- *UP Primitive Wilderness Subzone:* Remote yet approachable. There are opportunities for solitude, maintained expansive natural views, and reduced impacts of invasive plants and livestock grazing.
- *UP Pristine Wilderness Subzone:* Untamed, isolated, and free. Visitors would need to be independent and skilled to safely access the subzone and the area would foster people's connection to wild places.
- *UP Backcountry Subzone:* Untamed and isolated; visitors would need to be skilled to safely access the subzone and the area would foster people's connection to wild places. The subzone would be managed similarly to the uplands wilderness subzone without the legal and policy requirements of Wilderness.

Proposed Gunnison Gorge Interface Wilderness Zone: Wild, natural, rugged, remote, challenging, unspoiled, and uncrowded. The visitor experience would be challenging, adventurous, and provide for a variety of opportunities that may involve self-reliance and use of wilderness skills. The National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management would continue to coordinate activities to meet these desired conditions.

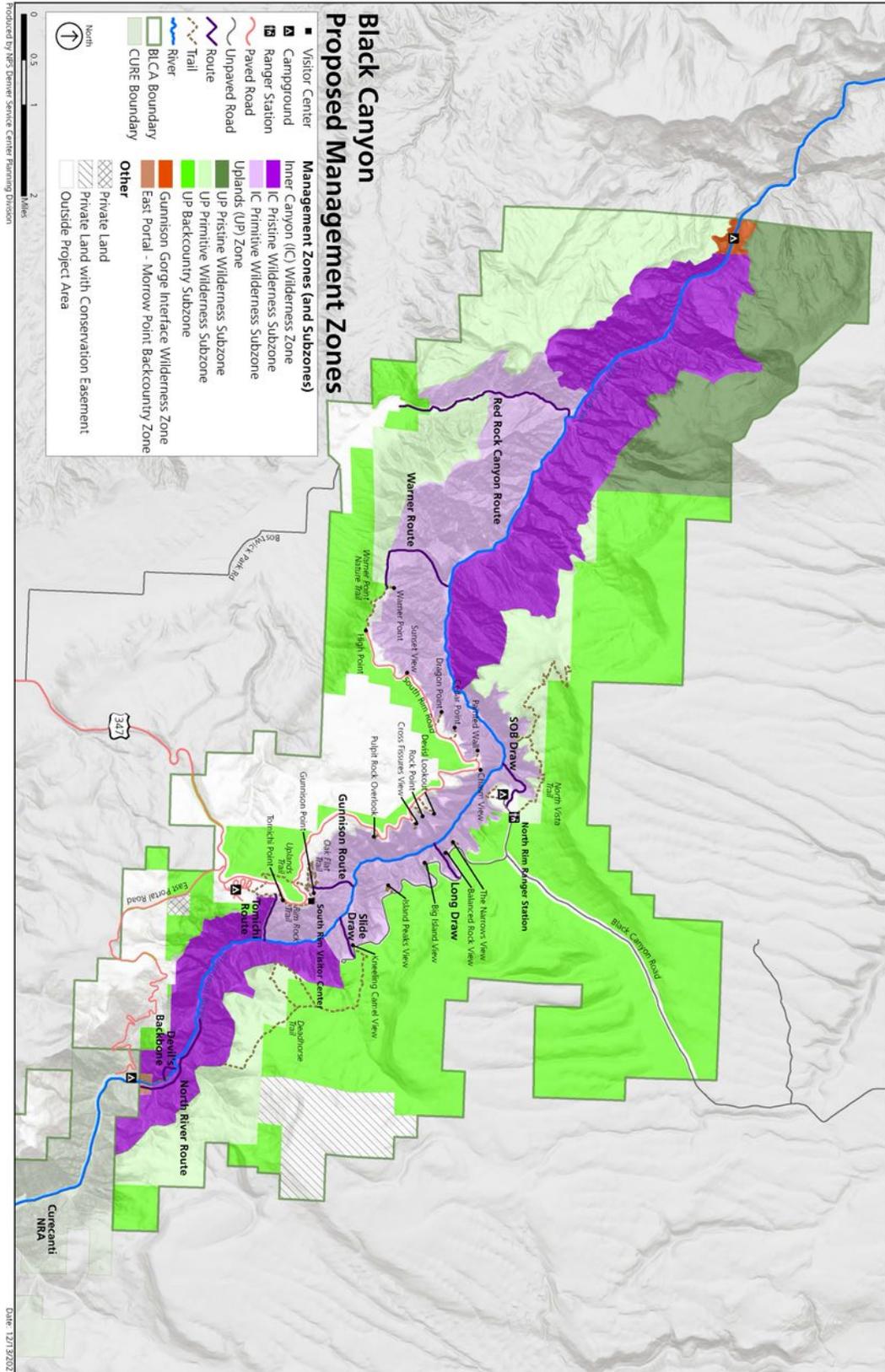
Desired Conditions for Curecanti National Recreation Area Proposed Backcountry Zones

Proposed East Portal-Morrow Point Backcountry Zone: Remote, uncrowded, natural, scenic, peaceful, relaxing, rugged, and secluded. Backcountry qualities are maintained and improved, including the natural qualities, keeping nonrecreational development to a minimum and recognizing and enhancing unique and remote backcountry experiences while protecting solitude.

Proposed Blue Mesa Backcountry Zone: Remote, uncrowded, natural, expansive, open, and rural. Backcountry qualities are protected and improved, including the natural qualities, keeping nonrecreational development to a minimum and enhancing land-based recreational opportunities.



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