



WILDERNESS AND BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

COMPONENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN A PLANNING DOCUMENT

When complete, the wilderness and backcountry management plan for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreational Area will provide guidance for NPS managers, including the following:

1. **General management direction:** Updated management zoning and descriptions of desired conditions are needed. The 1997 general management plan for Black Canyon and Curecanti provides high-level management guidance. The plan will expand on the general management plan regarding visitor use management and resource protection in wilderness and backcountry lands.
2. **Climbing management plan:** A clearly defined set of information and guidelines for climbers and NPS managers is needed to protect resources while providing for recreational climbing activities at both units. The plan will include updated guidelines for installing fixed equipment, climber education, and seasonal resource protection closures, among other topics.
3. **Monitoring strategy:** The plan will identify measures, standards, and appropriate management strategies for monitoring the wilderness character in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and for monitoring the resource and experiential conditions of backcountry areas within Curecanti National Recreation Area.
4. **Visitor capacity identification:** An analysis that identifies the maximum amounts and types of use that all visitor use areas within the wilderness and backcountry can accommodate while achieving and maintaining the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences legally required under the 1978 National Parks and Recreation Act.
5. **Commercial service analysis:** Per NPS policy, an analysis and determination is needed regarding the types of commercial visitor services that are necessary and/or appropriate for public use and enjoyment, consistent with the preservation of resources and values, in the backcountry and extent they should be provided in wilderness.