

FEBRUARY 28, 2002  
UNCOMPAHGRE WORKING GROUP  
PUBLIC MEETING (KICKOFF),  
MONTROSE PAVILION  
1800 PAVILION DR., MONTROSE, CO,  
6:30–9:30 PM, CO-HOSTED BY GMUG AND UP

Shared History Timelines. The current conditions on the Uncompahgre Plateau landscape are a result of past activities. The perceptions of conditions and the values different people place on the Uncompahgre Plateau landscape are similarly the result of different perspectives. There is no single history of the Uncompahgre Plateau nor is there a single perspective on how to view this landscape. We asked the working group to give us information about historical events that influenced resource conditions on the Plateau and about their personal connections to this area. The intent was to develop a much richer picture of the historical context surrounding the Uncompahgre Plateau and a better understanding of why this area is special to so many people. The following timelines were transcribed from the personal recollections and thoughts of meeting participants as posted on 6 large posters during the meeting.

Jurassic Period, 208–144 million years ago

- The extirpation of species that inhabited the Plateau prior to European occupation; DOB 1930; moved to Plateau 1983
- 14MM years ago LAST ICE AGE +500 year The beginning of the successional evaluation of the ecotype that is now the Unc Plateau
- Loss of Mammoth & its effect on ecosystem from Human Predation
- geology dinosaur period Jurassic–Cretaceous
- geology of Roubidoux Canyon
- Uncompahgre Uplift – sandstone layers broke + crystalline under layers exposed – Tabeguache Date?
- Colorado River pirates stream north of U. Plat. – current course of Colorado river vs. historic path thru Tabeguache Canyon.

Dominguez/ Escalante Expedition, 1765

- 1600s interregional trail system of Utes discovered by Spanish explorers Dominguez and Escalante
- Period of exploration
- Spanish interactions.
- Native uses, population numbers uses

Utes removed to reservations, 1881

- Expulsion of Utes
- History--the towns Ute, Pinon, Uncompahgre, Mt. View, etc. What did the people do or try to do that made a difference, and what happened to them? My GGfather lived in Pinon and Paradox. 1944 Return
- I was born here. My granddad came here in the early 1880s
- Calhoun shipping supplies to keep miners supplied in 1880s
- White people replacing Native people- extractive mentality replaces living harmoniously with landscape
- My family came here in 1892 + have been in cattle since but it is getting more difficult to maintain a cattle operation.
- 1880- 1900 severe overgrazing on much of the Plateau.
- Historic grazing.
- 1871 Mining Law passed
- 1882 Utes removed
- 1881 Ute Relocation
- Removal of the Utes 1881
- Archeological preservation. 1881 Utes move out.
- Family showed up in the early 1880s.
- 1881 Ute Indians removed from area. 2000s new Indians are slowly being removed by Environ. groups.
- Ute Indian camps Picture Rock.
- Ute Indians removed in 1881
- "Discovering" petroglyphs in Escalante Canyon
- Ute Indians set fire to the Plateau every year during their stay on it.
- Family 1880
- Grandpa came in 1883 to look after open range cattle.
- Set fire to the whole U.P. Utes burned every year.
- Archeology richness and artifacts.
- Great-great Grandfather came her in 1880s. I was born here.

Dave Wood opens road between Montrose and Telluride, 1885/1887

- Enjoy the views of the top of the Plateau from the Divide Road. Good access to the Uncompahgre Plateau.
- Western development.
- Grandfather homesteaded 80 acres where Dave Wood Road and Ridge Rd. intersect. Down canyon 2 miles in 1897
- U3O8 [uranium oxide] discovered + identified in west end.
- Dave Wood road closure.
- Grazing cattle driver 1880s - 1900s
- Narrow gauge railroad over Dallas Divide.
- 1890s logging to supply buildings in Delta + Montrose.
- 1880 - 1900 Grandfather lived with family on homestead land.
- Livestock grazing.

Uncompahgre Forest Reserve established, 1905

- Calhoun, moved and purchased Clubb Outfit in early 1900s w. Uncompahgre.
- View from Windy Point.
- Hydrology issues + management.
- 100 yrs. ago get back to letting fires burn.
- When the Ute left – human fires left. 1900s.
- Homesteading.
- Interview some old timers for histories.
- Logging – I notice many large Ponderosa stumps – when logged – How old were they when harvested.
- Old guys have told me – the early 1900 we did not have a lot of timber on the Uncompahgre.
- Fire Sanburg Park area.
- Farming ranching cattle.
- Family moved here 1921. Personally moved here 1996. Born 1978.
- Chipeta burial in 1923 Archeological concerns
- 1916 Teddy Roosevelt + re-plantation of pine; without this you would not have pine on the Plateau.
- The Curries used U238 for their experiments on radiation from the Plateau 1920s
- Sustainability of the ecosystem – which combines timbering, reduction of extractive mining, wildlife habitat, agriculture, cattle mgmt, recreation.
- Outlaw Mesa was named for my Uncle (Pegleg) John Foster. Perhaps late 1910s or 20s. Born 1940.
- Logging

Great Depression, 1930s

- Taylor Grazing Act 1930s
- Family came here in 1933 from the Dust Bowl.
- My Dad tells of moving cattle to Hanks Valley in the early 1920s and wolves were trailing them as they moved the cattle.
- Change of management of livestock from single herd constantly moving to isolated herd with long grazing periods resulting in overrest (sic) & overgrazing
- Own land on Transfer Rd. Mother + father homesteaded Oak Hill many years ago. Dad hauled logs for Darling Sawmill. Built cabin on 5 acres approx. 1980. Husband now deceased. Plan to keep it + I cannot see making it recreational.
- Highway 90 established between Montrose and Nucla.
- My brother Caleb Coselier wrote "Twenty Sleeps West" + "Yucca Seed." A lot of history in it.

- Children hunt deer each year . Hunted a lot of arrow heads in the past. There's a lot of history up there. Let's keep it like it is.
- Born 5/11/23 in GJ 72 years + 7 years Roger's Mesa fruit products. Recreation as a youth '30s to '41. Sustainability. Eliminate extractive processes – encourage renewability.
- Resident uses vs. non resident particularly on hunting issues. This relates to the economics as tied to the local communities. It is public land!
- 1930s 40s? Smokey Bear

#### [1940s]

- 1948 Colo. Fish & Game Dept. initiated the first 2–deer season on the Plateau. That year I became old enough to officially hunt deer-- and I did.
- History of Recreations uses – 1940 2x some Jeep, 1950 2x some 4x4, 1960 2x campers, 1970 2x4, 1980 4x4s picnic, 1990 ATVs cross co ski more uses bikes, 2000 ATV bikes.
- I can remember a friend about late 1940s shot 5 bucks without moving!
- 1940s moved to valley with parents.
- 1947 + earlier I remember the flood that started on the Plateau and flooded the Shavano Valley. My family came here in the 1906–08 period.
- My favorite place would be the Iron Spring area where summer picnics and other activities were popular in the 1940s and later.
- 1940s – 1950s Father worked on cattle ranching operations.

#### [1950s]

- 1957 moved to Ouray. Hunted deer on Plateau 1958
- 1953 Summer employee. Pine beetle infestation. DDT in diesel fuel.
- to see big bucks like I did in the 1950s and 60s
- Grandfather mined in the towns of Gateway and Uravan 1950s.
- 1945 no Tamarisk in West end.
- 1950 beginning of weeds in country side. Russian knapweed, Spotted knapweed, Canadian thistle, must thistle
- Introduction of clear cut logging in spruce fir forests on the Plateau. Approx. mid 1950s.
- Bark beetles What are we going to Do.
- Migration or Introduction of Elk 50s
- 1957 to 1975 approx. We lost management of our forests.
- ~1954 USFS gained control to set dates for grazing.
- Large numbers of hunters coming to deer hunt before the Plateau became infested with elk. This was in the 50s and early 60s. After the DOW planted the elk the deer population has steadily declined. They don't necessarily compete for habitat but the deer are unable to compete for territory.

- 1949 – 1962 Small logging operation – Haul off UP to sawmills in Delta & Cedaredge.
- Mid-early 1950–1957 uranium exploration and production.
- Uranium mining during 50s – 60s. Worked there 66–72. Lived in Gateway.
- Uranium mined above Paradox – LP1 – Long Pack above Uravan. Worked at Rajah –30 mine on Bever Mesa above Gateway. Buick + Black Mamma on Calamity.
- Insect control project Dunton Norwood area 1954–1955

[1960s]

- Chaining, livestock, hunting 60s
- 1966 High School kids helped the Forest Service clear dead + down trees and replant new ones.
- 1960 Need to get back to local control of our forest.
- Decline of the deer herd 1960s to 1990s.
- The elk migration to the Plateau during the 1960s and early 1970s.
- Our kids went to school at Bever Mesa school above Gateway 68–70.
- Logged 1965 Divide Road Highway 90.
- 1960s As young child visited log mill and played on saw dust heap.
- early 1960s Reforestation above Federal Grade along Delta/Nucla Road.
- 1961 spring flood.
- 1960s – 1970s Many family picnics & fishing trips.

NEPA/ First Man on the Moon, 1969

- 1970s /5/ View of exotic species (I/P) planted on Plateau – re veg
- 1979 1980 summers timber marker/ forestry aid for USFS. Lived on Plateau 7 summers (Tabeguache, Ute other Norwood district areas) before there were more people than wild animals
- Recreation, hunting, deer, elk, bear
- Deer winter habitat condition.
- Deer & elk hunting. Lived in Montrose since 1997. Lived in Colorado since 1965.
- Since 1968 spring and fall when grazing cattle on Iron Springs Mesa.
- 1970s Importance of grazing permits to local economy (ranching industry).
- 1970s to 2002 Importance of the Cold Spring Admin. sites to the FS to work from and integrate with the ranching industry.
- 1970s Great area to visit in shoulder season (spring + fall)
- Decline in mule deer populations 1975
- Seeing the Elk in the fall.
- I remember when we had good, common sense multiple use.
- 1972 Opening of Dry Mesa Dinosaur Quarry.

- Phasing out of clear cut logging in spruce fir in Uncompahgre ca 1970.
- Wildlife management.
- Historic road closures(Dave Wood etc) Paradox Rd.
- First hunt on plateau 10/74
- Dwelling at Silesca Ranger Station burned down 1976 (loss of historic landmark)Realize someone has to coordinate effort. If you have a better process please bring it on!
- Ponderosa pine plantation planted.
- Vegetation changes.
- Tabeguache Basin anytime.
- 1976 hunting. Too old to travel by foot. Use ATVs.
- Forest permit in Hanks Valley from 1975 – 1998.

Reagan Elected President, 1980

- 1985 as members of Lariat Saddle Club helped FS plant tree on Tabeguache area.
- 1982 Joined the Ouray County EMTs. 1987 My first horse– back ride on the Plateau. 1988 Bought an original homestead in Ouray County.
- Endangered Species Act.
- Favorite area...many memories along the Houser Road for me during the 70s, 80s, & 90s. Too bad the Forest Service closing roads that have been open for years.
- Wild turkey hunting 2 times 1 try died from disease 2nd working well.
- Some results gained from meeting – be constructive – & be positive – compromise? be factual.
- 1978– 1979 First drove south of Montrose, always curious about the Plateau area but mostly driving by to Ridgway Ouray.
- Recreation activities in past 20 years: snowmobiling, jeeping, ATVs
- Fishing on the San Miguel River near Norwood.
- Labor Day motorcycle ride 1985 – today.
- Moved here from Seattle in 1981. Family lived here 1940 – 1960.
- I like camping + hunting. Born 5/31/20. Came to CO 5/76. Have been ATVing.
- 1986 – 1993 Pine beetles destroyed many trees in Hanks Valley – so much dead timber on Divide.
- 1989 hunted on the Plateau for the 1st time.
- Joined Loghill Mesa volunteer fire department
- born here 1986
- I moved to the area (Paonia) in 1978. Over the years I have spent time in Dominguez and Escalante Canyons.
- 1978 – present. Sadness and concern about the displacement of the native Ute peoples.

- 1987 Drove on Dave Wood Road. Met another vehicle west of Sanborn Park. Other driver was college friend from 15 years prior.
- Livestock grazing has developed the Plateau to what it is today – an area for all to enjoy.
- 1985 when Montrose started to grow.
- 1989 fought several forest fires on 16 Plateau.
- Getting old enough to move cattle through public land grazing areas and becoming aware of the diversity of the plant community 1980. Born in 1969. (Family came to Crested Butte in 1889).
- Arch concerns loss of historical places due to people moving into areas.
- 1981 family ATV and OHV trail riding.
- Motorcycle use since 1985. Racing Dry Creek Enduro.
- 1984 – On. Fishing + hunting access with OHUS.
- Important Event: married on the Plateau 1989 and live there every day.

#### Clinton Elected President, 1992

- Seeing deer, elk, turkeys on Hwy 90 is great! I want their habitat improved.
- Can pressure (education) be put on private landholders to fix overgrazing? Improve habitat? Mules ears is pretty but is sign of overgrazing
- Cut down Christmas tree 1998
- Roads & trails need maintenance. Any way to "un-goo" 90 when its wet?
- 1999 Floyd Reed tour of Plateau and the story of range mgt. wars on the NF
- Cross- Country skiing 1997
- Hiking in the Area 1997– 2001
- 1999 moved to area, Joined Loghill Fire Dept
- Target shooting 1998
- 1996 sledding
- I moved here 1996
- 1998 began wildfire mitigation by cleaning off dead + down slash
- 1992 moved to Montrose. 1994 Broken ankle sledding. 1996 helped Centennial J.H. students build nature trail.
- First Big snow fall 1994
- May 1995 bought land on Loghill Mesa (lost financial security)
- 1995 Hunt, fish, hike, camp, livestock
- 1995 snowmobile trip on Dave Wood Road & Divide Road area in snowstorm.
- I moved here in 1994
- Dry Creek Enduro (motorcycle).
- Mushroom hunting.
- 1996 Tabeguache Trail.

- 1997 Telephone Draw fire.
- Forest health decline.
- First time personal cattle grazed May 1996
- Influx of people, houses, cabins, etc. has limited the use of fire – caused fire control – has caused loss of wildlife feed/habitat (one factor) – overgrowth of P/J.
- Elk bugling at Hank's Valley overlook.
- 1998 Forest Service did "controlled burns" in oak brush country and burned up very many young pine trees. Did the burning in July when it was hot. Wrong!!
- Bought farms in valley 1996.
- Bought current cattle permit in 1997.
- Uncompahgre Bike Trails.
- All uses need to be assessed and placed in the balancing act! Who does this.
- To find the project you need to write the history + publish a book.
- Economy of Montrose.
- Increasing development of urban/forest interface.
- 1990 – 1995 Picnicking. "Sunday" drives. Four Wheeling. Family outings.
- Invasion of 1990s second home owners on south end.
- Soccer Tournament 1997
- 1993 – present yearly ride we do over Labor Day weekend. Moved here in Montrose in 1993 from N. Calif.
- 1988 – 1990 surveyed FS boundary on Plateau.
- 1992 family car camping.
- Hunting since 1992 age 21.
- 1992 Last year I hunted with my father-in-law.
- Have 40 ac. + cabin on Uncompahgre finished cabin in 1989. Off Dave Wood Road on Spring Creek Rim.
- Kayaking Escalante Creek. 1996.
- Weeds
- Insect fauna: role of pollinators, relationship with loss and/or gain in populations of forbs.
- Aging vegetation in general. Decline in veg. diversity. PJ encroaching into sage areas.
- Riding 4-wheeler since 1996 Northern half of Plat.
- Vista, Open, accessible land for the general public, lack of high concentrations of people.
- Hunting in the areas. Fishing in the areas. Indian history in the area pertaining to what happen at a certain place in the areas. Snow stories in the areas when the mountains had a lot of snow at times. Water

management of our mountain snow. Outside people coming to settle in the mountains.

- Turkey hunting in the 90s.
- Oct. 1999 Full moon camp on Campbell Point – elk bugling.
- Concerned over motorized use particularly ATVs
- Concern Clinton's Roadless Proposal
- Dog attack, afterwards I went to the hospital with a head injury 1994
- 1997 built our home on Government Springs Road.
- Land owners on UP since 1999.

2000

- 2001 Labor Day motor cycle ride, 2002 fishing & hunting access
- 2001 Fire mitigation Ouray County
- 2001 Dry Creek Enduro
- 2001 Fishing & hunting access on motorized vehicles
- 2002 hiking in the area, camping
- 2001 Did a research project for NSIP on selenium effects on Uncompahgre Plateau
- G.P.S. Day 2001
- 2001 Commissioners put in crazy speed bumps!
- Am especially concerned about non-fire-safe construction. Do Realtors pass on education?
- GPS Day 2001
- I am not anti-ATV & trucks but they shouldn't be everywhere. I'd like to see quiet zones and ATV zones
- Driving the Divide Road end to end.
- 2001 April moved to Ouray County via Gout Springs Road.
- 2000 I learned that the Uncompahgre had tall grasses, less pinon and juniper and sage. Curiosity about the ecological changes.
- 1995 – present growing concern about the type of growth occurring in Montrose area.
- since 1996, my family hikes in Dominguez Canyon at least annually.
- The elk herds have increased to a point they are hard on ranch operations. Also we have too many deer on our private land in Colona area.
- 1998 1st visited the land I now live on off Gout Springs Road and recognized the vulnerability of the whole area to fire.
- 2000 Grace's Warbler seen in SW corner of Plateau.
- Recent: Seeing wild turkey in significant numbers.
- First fat Fred Trail Ride 2001.
- As this is public land we need to be aware that others throughout the nation may have input. It is their land too.

- May June 2000 We went up to check out a murder scene after attending a trial at Brushy Ridge.
- I took a light plane flight over the Plateau last August. I found it striking what a patchwork of vegetation and uses was down there-- uses past and present. There was no uniform habitat, no resemblance to a stable ecosystem.
- 2001 Discovered recently sawed down Ponderosa Pine that was a nesting habitat for Williamson's sapsucker, Pygmy Nuthatches & Flickers.
- January 2002 A brief sighting of what may be a Lynx on our property.
- Turkey hunting up Indian Cr.
- OHV
- Camping.
- hunting and fishing.
- 2001 Found puppy.
- 2001 Returned to Colorado + the UP; first time since 1993. Found a stray puppy.

[On one of the six posters, Tony Cheng, facilitator, had written some of the significant themes for various time periods: 1905 to 1960 hunting, grazing, subsistence use, natural resource use, logging/sawmills. 1960 to ~ before the 1980s FS multiple use, free time + money. Around the 1992 column: recreation use. Organized (industrialized) recreation.]