

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Special Designations</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Provide special management attention to those areas where special management is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources and values.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Manage WSAs to protect wilderness characteristics until designated or released by Congress.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Identify and evaluate all river and stream segments and determine eligibility and suitability for wild and scenic river designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Review current ACECs and analyze proposed areas to determine relevance and importance criteria and determine if current management is adequate.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Complete motorized route designations for special areas that are not closed to motorized vehicle use.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>			
<p>A. The following sites, totaling 22,530 acres, are designated to protect enhance the values noted</p> <p>B. Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA (1,350 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p> <p>C. Irish Canyon ACEC, including the Ink Springs area (11,680 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, geologic values, cultural resources, scenic quality).</p> <p>D. Lookout Mountain ACEC (6,500</p>	<p>Designate existing and new ACECs through evaluation based on the meeting relevance, importance, threats, and special management required.</p> <p>Establish minimum required prescriptions and use additional management as needed to determine whether uses need to be further limited in some way or excluded entirely.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B, except restrict uses in all ACECs (OHV, O &amp; G, locatables, etc).</p>

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>acres; Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p> <p>E. Cross Mountain ACEC (3,000 acres; threatened and endangered species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p>			
<p>F. Management plans will be written for each designated site. Each site will also be monitored.</p>	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
<p>G. Remnant plant associations will be protected through avoidance stipulations in Ace in the Hole, Hells Canyon, G Gap, Vermillion Creek, Vermillion Bluffs, and Horse Draw (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>	Carry forward?		
<p>H. Memoranda of understanding or agreement will be developed with the Colorado Natural Areas Program, the Nature Conservancy, and other interested agencies or groups to provide recommendations on protecting, managing and studying the unique resource values found in the designated areas and elsewhere in the RMPPA. BLM would retain sole management responsibility. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>	Carry forward?		

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>I. No Surface Occupancy stipulations will be used to protect Cross Mountain and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas; Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks; coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction; grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests; and special status plant species.</p> <p>J. Controlled Surface Use stipulations will be used to protect coal mines where the mining method or location is such that location of subsequent wells can avoid significant conflicts, fragile soil areas, steep slopes, riparian/wetland vegetation, and Irish Canyon, and Lookout Mountain ACECs (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>
<p><b>Wilderness Study Areas</b></p>			
<p>If WSAs are released by Congress, develop management at the time of release in a separate document (???BLM handbook p. C27 says to include as part of the RMP???—this needs more discussion with FO and SO).</p>			

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>Adopt management for WSAs to conform to management prescribed in other resource management areas (i.e., OHV, O&amp;G, VRM, etc.). Later compile the management actions here and determine if any additional management is needed.</p>			
<p>K. The Diamond Breaks WSA will be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation (RMP/ROD page 22). If Congress does not designate Diamond Breaks as wilderness, the Colorado portion of the WSA (31,480 acres) would be managed as a recreation management unit; the Utah portion (3,900 acres) would be managed by the Vernal District according to existing management framework plans (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>L. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>	<p>If released by Congress, all WSAs would be managed under multiple use principles.</p>	<p><u>If released by Congress, WSAs would be managed as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cross Mountain (recommended) – managed as SRMA</li> <li>2. Diamond Breaks (recommended) – managed for recreation opportunities, i.e. backcountry</li> <li>3. West Cold Springs – managed as semi-primitive non-motorized</li> <li>4. Ant Hills – managed as semi-primitive motorized</li> <li>5. Chew Winter Camp - managed as semi-primitive motorized</li> <li>6. Peterson Draw - managed as semi-primitive motorized</li> <li>7. Vale of Tears - managed as semi-primitive non-motorized</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>
<p>M. The Cross Mountain WSA (including the proposed Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) will be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness</p>	<p>See above.</p>		

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>designation. BLM will recommend that the proposed Cross Mountain wilderness remain open to oil and gas leasing with no-surface-occupancy stipulations. If Congress does not designate Cross Mountain as wilderness, the area would be managed as a special recreation management area (13,000 acres), including the Cross Mountain ACEC (3,000 acres) (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>N. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>			
<p>O. The West Cold Spring WSA will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation. If Congress does not designate the area as wilderness, the Colorado portion of West Cold Spring would be managed as the Cold Spring and Little Snake River management units (total of</p>	<p>See above.</p>		

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>14,482 acres). The Utah portion of the WSA would be managed under the Brown’s Park Management Framework Plan (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>P. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>			
<p>Q. Four WSAs evaluated under Section 202 of FLPMA – Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears – will be recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation but would be recommended to the Secretary for forwarding to Congress for the final decision. If Congress does not designate these areas as wilderness, they would be managed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The northwest corner of Ant Hills would be managed as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit and the</li> </ol>	<p>See above.</p>		

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>remainder as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chew Winter Camp would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.</li> <li>3. The north third of Peterson Draw would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit and the remainder as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit.</li> <li>4. Most of the Vale of Tears would be managed as the Little Snake River Management Unit and the other portions in the northwest corner would be managed as the Douglas Mountain and Scattered Sands Management Units (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</li> <li>5. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</li> </ol>			

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
R. Tepee Draw, the fifth WSA evaluated under Section 202 of FLPMA, is dropped from further consideration and will be managed as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))	See above.		
S. Except for the Tepee Draw WSA, WSAs would continue to be managed in compliance with BLM's Interim Management Policy until they were reviewed and acted upon by Congress (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))  T. The Cross Mountain, Diamond Breaks, West Cold Spring, Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears Wilderness Study Areas will not be leased. This is 35,280 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))	See above.		
U. Public land designated as wilderness will be managed in compliance with BLM's Wilderness Management Policy and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Site-specific wilderness management plans will be	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
developed for areas designated by Congress as wilderness (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))			
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>			
V. No similar action	No recommendations as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.	Same as Alternative B	Manage all eligible segments and tentative classifications (listed below) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beaver Creek Segment 1 (wild)</li> <li>2. Vermillion Creek Segment 1 (Lower Vermillion Creek, scenic)</li> <li>3. Yampa Segment 1 (Williams Fork to Milk Creek, recreational)</li> <li>4. Yampa Segment 2 (Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel, scenic)</li> <li>5. Yampa Segment 3 (Cross Mountain Canyon, wild)</li> </ol>

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Visual Resource Management (VRM)</b>			
<b>Goals:</b> Recognize and manage visual resources for overall multiple use and quality of life for local communities and visitors to public lands.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Maintain VRM characteristics/values as designated by management classes.</i></li> <li>2. Based on BLM guidance, land management projects will meet the VRM objectives for those areas.</li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. VRM Class I: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSAs (manage in accordance with IM)</li> </ol>	VRM Class I: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSAs</li> </ol>	VRM Class I: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSAs</li> <li>2. Selected ACECs (closed OHV areas?)</li> </ol>	VRM Class I: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSAs</li> <li>2. Backcountry SRMAs</li> <li>3. ACECs</li> <li>4. WSR (wild and scenic tentative classifications)</li> </ol>
B. VRM Class II: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to VRI</li> </ol>	VRM Class II: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSR</li> <li>2. ACECs</li> </ol>	VRM Class II: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSR</li> <li>2. SRMAs (except OHV play areas)</li> <li>3. ACECs (remaining)</li> </ol>	VRM Class II: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WSR (recreation tentative classifications)</li> <li>2. Cold Springs Mountain and Dinosaur North</li> </ol>
C. VRM Class III: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to VRI</li> </ol>	VRM Class III: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SRMAs</li> </ol>	VRM Class III: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. South Sand Wash (play area)</li> </ol>	VRM Class III: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All remaining</li> </ol>
D. VRM Class IV: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to VRI</li> </ol>	VRM Class IV: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All remaining</li> </ol>	VRM Class IV: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All remaining</li> </ol>	VRM Class IV: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None</li> </ol>

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Cultural Resources</b>			
<b>Cultural Resources Program Goals</b>			
<p>A. Develop an in-depth understanding of archeological and historical resources in accordance with NHPA Section 110.</p> <p>B. Determine cultural use allocations and desired outcomes for all cultural properties in the RMP area. Cultural use allocations include scientific use, conservation for future use, traditional use, public use, experimental use, or discharge from management.</p>			
<b>Support Services Goals</b>			
<p>A. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict by other program uses (modified on 5/18/05).</p> <p>B. Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.</p>			
<b>Cultural Resource Program Objectives</b>			
<p>1. Increase the understanding of past human occupation by studying the physical presence of cultural resources in the planning area. Identify cultural study needs based upon sound archeological methods and practices.</p> <p>2. Publish findings of cultural studies and improve legal enforcement.</p> <p>3. Expand regional interpretation activities through the recreation program and local partners.</p>			
<b>Support Services Objectives</b>			
<b>Goal A</b>			
<p>1. Pursue ethnographic studies for the field office to facilitate tribal consultation requirements.</p> <p>2. Pursue programmatic agreements with tribal governments to streamline consultation procedures.</p> <p>3. Assign use allocations for all cultural properties.</p>			
<b>Goal B</b>			
<p>1. Identify priority areas for new field surveys, based upon a probability for consumptive use conflicts on significant resources.</p> <p>2. Improve legal enforcement.</p>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Cultural Resource Surveys</b>			
A. Evaluate all proposed surface-disturbing actions to determine inventory needs and sites	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
potentially impacted by such activities.			
B. Ensure that all sites that are listed on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places are identified and assessed through the Section 106 consultation process before any surface-disturbing action is permitted.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
C. Class 3 cultural surveys will be conducted on the specific sites where surface disturbance will occur. If necessary, the surface disturbing activity will be relocated to a site in which surveys reveal no significant cultural/paleontological resources.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, prioritize non-project driven Class 3 surveys in the Sand Wash area and Vermillion Basin.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
D. An overall cultural resource management plan as well as a paleontological management plan will be developed that addresses the prehistoric and historic cultural presence as well as the fossil presence in the RMPPA. Separate plans, on a smaller scale, would be developed to include site specific or region specific areas of the RMPPA. These developed plans would address the existing data gaps and	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.

Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>research questions that have been developed in the Little Snake RMPPA Class I Overview (La Point 1987) and the Paleontological Overview (Armstrong n.d.). These future plans will be the data orientation and collection designs needed to develop the basic knowledge of these resources that has been lacking in the past.</p>			
<b>Interpretive Sites</b>			
<p>E. Maintain Irish Canyon interpretive site.</p>	<p>Emphasize development of interpretive program (could include Sand Wash, Medicine Wheel, buffalo jump on Vermillion Ridge).</p> <p>Upon aquisition/exchange of Vermillion Canyon and Thornburg Battle Site, include in interpretive program.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Emphasize conservation and scientific study of cultural resources.</p>
<b>Cultural Site Use Allocation</b>			
<p>F. No similar action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Criteria for site reallocation?</li> <li>2. Allocate fewer sites to conservation use.</li> <li>3. Allocate most sites to scientific use.</li> <li>4. Allocate more sites to public use</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allocate fewer sites to public use (interpretation, etc.).</li> <li>2. Allocate more properties to conservation use.</li> <li>3. Future research needs (inventories, excavations, etc.) developed to support</li> </ol>

Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	<p>to support larger interpretive program.</p> <p>5. Focus research needs on developing information to support public use sites and areas of potential development.</p> <p>6. Identify sites/areas for traditional uses (or criteria for designating as such).</p> <p>7. Limited restrictions to protect cultural resources, relying heavily on regulatory compliance to reduce impacts to sites.</p>		<p>areas of limited knowledge lesser known areas.</p> <p>4. Identify sites/areas for traditional uses (or criteria for designating as such).</p> <p>5. More restrictions to protect cultural resources, including proactive management to reduce deterioration to sites.</p>

**Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Paleontological Resources</b>			
<b>Paleontological Resources Program Goals</b>			
A. To identify and protect the paleontological resources within the Little Snake Field Office.			
<b>Paleontological Resource Program Objectives</b>			
1. <i>Expand paleontological support activity, such as data gathering, GIS integration, and Class I surveys.</i>			
2. <i>Provide educational and interpretation opportunities for paleontological resources.</i>			
3. <i>Improve legal enforcement.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Evaluate all proposed surface-disturbing actions to determine inventory needs and sites potentially impacted by such activities.  B. Surface-disturbing activities in Class I and II Paleontological Areas will have an inventory performed by an accredited paleontologist approved by the Authorized Officer.  C. Mitigative measures for specific locations identified on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, if something is found as a result of inventory, avoid resource site. If resource is unavoidable, collect information from site.
D. An overall paleontological management plan will be developed that addresses the fossil presence in the RMPPA. Separate plans, on a smaller scale, would be developed to include site-specific or region-specific areas of the RMPPA.	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.

Areas of Special Designation and Wild Lands, Visual Resource Management, and Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>These developed plans would address the existing data gaps and research questions that have been developed in the Little Snake Resource Area Paleontological Overview (Armstrong n.d.). These future plans will be the data orientation and collection designs needed to develop the basic knowledge of these resources that has been lacking in the past.</p>			
<p>E. NEED USE ALLOCATIONS?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify areas/localities where paleontological resources would be used for recreation or educational uses.</li> <li>2. Identify areas where the priority paleontological use would be for scientific use.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify fewer areas/localities where paleontological resources would be used for recreation or educational uses.</li> <li>2. Identify more areas where the priority paleontological use would be for scientific use.</li> <li>3. Increase restrictions for uses in areas of known paleontological resources.</li> <li>4. Identify priority areas for future paleontological research.</li> </ol>

Yellow highlighting indicates revisions/questions not yet discussed with BLM.

Blue highlighting indicates items discusses with BLM but that require further information or discussion.

**Transportation and Recreation**

<p><b>Resource/Resource Use: Transportation and Access &amp; Travel Management</b></p> <p><b>Transportation and Access (Modified on 5/18/05)</b></p> <p><b>Goal A:</b> Provide a transportation system that is manageable and maintainable, meets land management needs, and minimizes impacts to resources and habitats.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilize transportation planning to identify and designate transportation routes and minimize the amount of road construction and habitat fragmentation.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Transportation planning will be done cooperatively with counties and affected interests.</li> <li>b) The transportation plan will identify road construction, and maintenance standards needed to protect resources and accommodate anticipated traffic types and levels of use.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Goal B:</b> Provide a mix of motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized legal public access to public lands.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to initiating a travel management plan, an access plan will be developed that identifies additional legal public access needs to public lands.</li> <li>2. Priority of access needs will be driven by public recreation and other user-based demand.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Travel Management (Modified on 5/18/05)</b></p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Provide for types or modes of access and travel that will balance resource protection with recreation opportunity and reduce user conflicts.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate all public lands as open, limited, and closed to motorized travel activities.</li> <li>2. Develop criteria that will be used to guide travel management implementation actions.</li> <li>3. Identify a managed road, route and trail system within the planning area.</li> <li>4. Reduce amount of unmanaged roads and trails.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative B</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative C</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative D</b></p>
<p>A. An access/ transportation plan will be prepared that lists areas needing attention, types of access to be acquired,</p>	<p>Transportation planning will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Develop an access/ transportation plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables access where needed</li> <li>• Limits points of access in order</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>preferred and alternate routes, roads and trails to be closed or constructed, survey and support needs, and construction or maintenance guidelines. This will be based on other resource program needs to meet their program objectives (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>		<p>to reduce the amount of redundant roads and trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reroutes, rehabilitates, or eliminates existing roads and trails causing resource damage</li> <li>• Restricts access to meet resource objectives (seasonal road closures, gating, etc.)</li> <li>• Concentrates stream and riparian crossings</li> </ul>	
<p>B. Access to public lands will be acquired as funding and time permit in the areas identified (RMP/ROD pages 20-21 and 26) (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>	<p>Pursue access on a case-by-case basis. (See also Lands and Realty section)</p>	<p>Actively pursue access to specific parcels to improve access to public lands for land management purposes. (See also Lands and Realty section)</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>
<p>C. Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use (RMP/ROD page 28). The Little Snake RMP map shows the areas listed in the table. A vehicle use implementation plan will be completed within one year of the RMP approval. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p> <p>D. The geographic management areas (GMA) listed below are based on OHV designation areas, not Land Health Assessment boundaries)</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>1. Open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold Springs GMA</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (outside WSA)</li> <li>• Powderwash GMA (everything outside ACECs)</li> <li>• Sandwash GMA (except ACECs)</li> <li>• Douglas Mountain GMA (except WSAs)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (except WSA, and limited areas)</li> <li>• Greater Godiva GMA (except NW corner)</li> <li>• Great Divide GMA (except NW portion, portion of Cedar Mountain)</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA (some areas)</li> <li>• Slater GMA (except Long Mountain/Fly Creek)</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA (except small amts limited to existing and designated and temp closures)</li> <li>• 20 mile GMA</li> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA (except border and SRMA)</li> </ul>		<p>Open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Wash (play area south edge)</li> <li>• **Consider additional open areas. (i.e. Fragmented LU and other BLM land north of Craig, CO within the Great Divide GMA.</li> </ul>	<p>Open: N/A</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>2. Limited to Existing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold Springs GMA (inc. WSA)</li> <li>• Powderwash GMA (Fragile soil areas)</li> <li>• Sandwash GMA (Fragile soil areas)</li> <li>• Douglas Mountain GMA (WSAs)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (Adjacent to WSA)</li> <li>• Greater Godiva GMA (NW corner)</li> <li>• Great Divide GMA (NW portion)</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA (except Serviceberry)</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA (Willow Creek)</li> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA (border area)</li> </ul> <p>Limited to Designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powderwash GMA (Irish Canyon ACEC)</li> <li>• Sandwash GMA (Lookout Mountain ACEC)</li> <li>• Great Divide GMA (portion of Cedar Mountain)</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA (Cottonwood Creek)</li> </ul>		<p>Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold Springs GMA</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (except WSA)</li> <li>• Powder Wash GMA (except Limestone ACEC)</li> <li>• Sand Wash GMA (except open play area south edge)</li> <li>• Douglas Mountain GMA</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (except WSA)</li> <li>• Greater Godiva GMA</li> <li>• Great Divide GMA (except open area)</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA</li> <li>• Slater GMA</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA</li> <li>• 20 mile GMA</li> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA</li> </ul>	<p>Limited to Designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold Springs GMA (except WSA and CWP)</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (except WSA)</li> <li>• Powder Wash GMA (except ACEC)</li> <li>• Sand Wash GMA (inc Lookout Mtn ACEC, except Irish Canyon ACEC, CWPs)</li> <li>• Douglas Mountain GMA (except WSA)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (except WSA, CWP)</li> <li>• Greater Godiva GMA</li> <li>• Great Divide GMA</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA (except Serviceberry)</li> <li>• Slater GMA (except Long Mtn/Fly Creek)</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA (except Willow Creek and Cottonwood Creek)</li> <li>• 20 mile GMA</li> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA (except CWP)</li> </ul>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA (Little Yampa Canyon SRMA)</li> </ul> <p>3 Closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Powderwash GMA (Limestone ACEC)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA (Serviceberry)</li> <li>• Slater GMA (Long Mountain/Fly Creek)</li> </ul>		<p>Closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Powder Wash GMA (Limestone ACEC)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild horse actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold Springs GMA (WSA and CWP)</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Powder Wash GMA (ACEC)</li> <li>• Sand Wash GMA (Irish Canyon ACEC, CWPs)</li> <li>• Douglas Mountain GMA (WSA)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain GMA (WSA, CWP)</li> <li>• Pole Gulch GMA (Serviceberry)</li> <li>• Slater GMA (Long Mtn/Fly Creek)</li> <li>• Wolf Mountain GMA (Willow Creek and Cottonwood Creek)</li> <li>• Yampa/Danforth GMA (CWP)</li> <li>• Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild horse actions.</li> <li>• Areas ¼ (1/2?) mile surrounding critical Wild Horse water sources during drought years consistent with wild horse actions.</li> </ul>
E. No similar action	No similar action	1. Set criteria to determine priorities for area transportation planning:	Use criteria in Alternative C to prioritize transportation planning.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User and resource conflicts</li> <li>• Complaints</li> <li>• Wildlife/wild horse populations</li> <li>• Visible trailing</li> <li>• Road density</li> <li>• Cultural</li> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Water quality standards</li> <li>• Visible impacts</li> <li>• Loss of trail integrity</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation and damage</li> <li>• Sensitive plants</li> <li>• User experiences</li> </ul> <p>2. Identify collaborative process for area transportation planning (including coordination with Counties, stakeholders, etc; triggers/thresholds for planning; data collection/monitoring; accessibility and manageability)</p> <p>3. Restrictions in limited categories can include: number of vehicles, types of vehicles, time or season of vehicle use, permitted or license use only, use on existing roads and trails, use on designated roads and</p>	

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		trails, etc.	
F. OHV use will be closed within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release cages or release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period. Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment (1995)	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
G. All area within the Field Office, except for Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain WSAs, would be open to over-the-snow vehicles.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	All WSAs; and critical winter range and other sensitive habitat areas that are closed to winter oil and gas activities would also be closed to over-the-snow vehicles.
H. No similar action	No similar action	Consider seasonal OHV closures based on site specific transportation planning results (see above).	Big game critical winter range and production areas would be closed to OHV use during XX to XX (insert dates here, from wildlife stips)
I. No similar action	No similar action	Consider seasonal OHV closures based on site specific transportation planning results (see above).	Wild horse foaling areas would be closed to OHV use during XX to XX (insert dates here, from wildlife stips)
J. No similar action	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest.	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest.	No similar action

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<p><b>Resource/Resource Use: Recreation (Modified on 5/18/05)</b></p>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> Provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities, activities, and experiences for various user groups.</p>			
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase managed motorized and non-motorized use trails, focusing non-motorized/non-mechanized trails in WSAs and backcountry areas .</li> <li>2. Provide adequate access opportunities for recreational uses, including hunting and fishing.</li> <li>3. Manage for high quality special recreation permit services.</li> <li>4. Identify strategies and decisions that may be applied to protect or preserve primitive and semi-primitive areas to provide solitude and back country opportunities.</li> <li>5. Manage motorized recreation to facilitate big game hunt quality and harvest success on BLM lands.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> Provide high quality visitor services including interpretive information.</p>			
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide developed facilities in heavy use areas where use is impacting resources and experiences.</li> <li>2. Provide and maintain boundary signing and information to enhance hunting and other recreational experiences.</li> <li>3. Continue coordination with organized interpretive associations.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> Support local tourism efforts for local economic diversification associated with public land resources.</p>			
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks for management of the Yampa River.</li> <li>2. Continue coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations such as Moffat County Chamber of Commerce and the Yampa Valley Alliance.</li> <li>3. Pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and governments, such as Dinosaur National Monument, as opportunities arise.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative B</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative C</b></p>	<p><b>Alternative D</b></p>
<p>A. Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use (RMP/ROD page 28). The Little Snake RMP map shows the areas listed in the table. A vehicle use implementation plan will be</p>	<p>See Travel Management designations under Transportation, Access, and Travel Management section.</p>	<p>See Travel Management designations under Transportation, Access, and Travel Management section.</p>	<p>See Travel Management designations under Transportation, Access, and Travel Management section.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>completed within one year of the RMP approval (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>			
<p>B. No Surface Occupancy stipulations will be used to protect Cross Mountain and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas; Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks; coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction; grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests; and special status plant species. (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>	<p>See Energy and Minerals section.</p>
<p>C. A temporary closure to leghold and snare trapping will be required within a one mile radius of black-footed ferret cage groups or release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period. In all prairie dog towns within the Little Snake black-footed Ferret</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>Management Area, tension adjustments will be required on leghold traps and stops will be required on snare traps until it is determined that trapping is no longer a threat to ferret survival.</p> <p>D. Target shooting, plinking, or any type of sport hunting will be prohibited within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release cages or release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period.( Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment (1995))</p>			
<p>E. The Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon area (19,840 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide unrestricted flatwater river floatboating in the region.</p>	<p>No SRMAs would be designated.</p>	<p>1. Administer the following as SRMAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Mountain (urban interface?)</li> <li>• South Sand Wash (OHV, wild horse viewing?)</li> <li>• Serviceberry (backcountry hunting?)</li> <li>• Add specific CWPs (such as Vermillion) that wish to preserve “recreation experience”?</li> </ul> <p>2. The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded to <b>XX</b>.</p>	<p>Administer the following as SRMAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Mountain</li> <li>• South Sand Wash, Serviceberry</li> <li>• CWPs (backcountry?)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain Canyon (backcountry?)</li> <li>• Add specific ERMAs mentioned in 1989 RMP (Cold Spring MU; Wild Mountain)?</li> </ul> <p>The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded to <b>XX</b>.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
F. See below for management considerations	No specific management considerations.	Consider for each SRMA: facilities and services; degree of access; motorized vs. nonmotorized; degree of leasing, grazing, ROW, other uses; VRM designation; SRP criteria	Consider for each SRMA: facilities and services; degree of access; motorized vs. nonmotorized; degree of leasing, grazing, ROW, other uses; VRM designation; SRP criteria
G. The Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon area (19,840 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide unrestricted flatwater river floatboating in the region. The area is divided into upper (4,480 acres) and lower (15,360 acres) units. Periodic use supervision will be provided. Access will be negotiated for parking areas at put-in and take-out points. Other facilities will be constructed as needed for public sanitation and safety. A map/brochure will be developed to promote visitor health and safety, provide resource protection, and inform the public of available opportunities. Limited signs will be provided for information, direction, and interpretation. A Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan will be developed. (Little	No similar action	Expand Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon to <b>XX</b> .	Same as Alternative C?

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))			
H. BLM-administered lands within Cedar Mountain (880 acres) will be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area for environmental education, hiking, and viewing. Trails and signs will be provided for information and interpretation. Leasing of the shooting range site will continue with stipulations for sanitation, visual design, and safety; more public use will be allowed. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
I. BLM-administered lands within Cold Spring Management Unit (approximately 54,000 acres) will be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area, primarily for hunting. The area will be managed under visual resource management (VRM) class II objectives to maintain scenic	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
quality. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))			
J. BLM-administered lands around Wild Mountain (approximately 21,000 acres) will be managed as part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area, primarily for hunting. The area will be managed under VRM class II objectives to maintain scenic quality.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
K. The remainder of the RMPPA will receive limited management as an Extensive Recreation Management Area where recreation use is dispersed and requires only minimal management. BLM will provide basic information on public safety and recreation opportunities within the RMPPA, and provide access and minimal facilities as demand warrants. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
L. No similar action	Consider: trail systems; interpretive sites; degree of access; viewing areas/pullouts (wildlife, wild horses, scenic areas)	Consider: trail systems; interpretive sites; degree of access; viewing areas/pullouts (wildlife, wild horses, scenic areas)	Consider: trail systems; interpretive sites; degree of access; viewing areas/pullouts (wildlife, wild horses, scenic areas)
M. Boat Ramp (Yampa) N. Campground at Irish Canyon and Rocky Reservoir	Provide no developed recreation sites	Same as Alternative A	Provide developed recreation sites in association with SRMAs (campgrounds, boat launch, picnic

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
O. Picnic Sites at Irish Canyon and Cedar Mtn			sites)
P. Consider case-by-case depending on applications received Q. SRPs are only required for for these categories: 1. Commercial 2. Competitive 3. Vending	Same as Alternative A	Consider setting criteria for these categories: • Commercial • Competitive • Vending • Organized Group  Including number of participants, type and number of vehicles, acreage impacted, type of area affected, etc.	Consider setting more restrictive criteria for these categories: • Commercial • Competitive • Vending • Organized Group  Including number of participants, type and number of vehicles, acreage impacted, type of area affected, etc.
R. Cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks for management of the Yampa River. S. Coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations such as Moffat County Chamber of Commerce and the Yampa Valley Alliance.	Same as Alternative A, in addition: Work proactively with local communities and governments to identify opportunities for: • Heritage tourism (scenic backcountry byways: i.e., Godiva Rim and Lookout Mountain) • Watchable wildlife sites • Cultural • Tours • Hunt Clubs	•	•
T. No similar action	No similar action	Wilderness character to manage?	Wilderness character to manage?

Yellow highlighting indicates revisions/questions not yet discussed with BLM.

Blue highlighting indicates items discusses with BLM but that require further information or discussion.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Oil and Gas</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Allow for the availability of the federal oil and gas estate (to include Coalbed Natural Gas) for exploration and development.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and make available the federal oil and gas estate (to include Coalbed Natural Gas) for exploration and development in potentially productive areas to increase energy supplies.</li> <li>2. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources (to include Coalbed Natural Gas).</li> <li>3. Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.</li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>A. Lease with standard lease stipulations plus specified stipulations (1991 Oil and Gas Amendment)</p> <p>The RMPPA is available for oil and gas leasing. Areas have been designated for leasing with standard stipulations, seasonal restrictions, avoidance stipulations, performance objectives, or no-surface-occupancy stipulations; areas where no new leasing is allowed have also been identified (RMP/ROD page 9). (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>1,878,000 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Little Snake RMPPA are open to oil and gas leasing and development, subject to the lease</p>	<p>Lease with standard lease stipulations</p> <p>Closed: WSAs</p> <p><b>NSO: PULL FROM OTHER RESOURCES (E.G. WILDLIFE, SOILS, WATER, ETC)</b></p> <p><b>CSU: SAME AS ABOVE</b></p> <p><b>Seasonal: SAME AS ABOVE</b></p> <p>Open: all remaining subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p> <p>Produced Water Disposal: Identify all methods of disposal, including surface discharge on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Outcome based: Full stipulations applied to range of leases; exception criteria (process); waiver and modification; monitoring/science requirements (roles of government and industry).</p> <p>Closed: WSAs</p> <p>NSO: Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, Little Yampa Canyon SRMA; WSR (wild and scenic tentative classifications)</p> <p>CSU: Lookout Mountain ACEC; WSR (recreation tentative classifications)</p> <p><b>Seasonal: PULL FROM OTHER RESOURCES (E.G. WILDLIFE, SOILS, WATER, ETC)</b></p>	<p>Lease with standard lease stipulations plus specified stipulations, no exceptions, modifications, or waivers</p> <p>Closed: WSAs, Vermillion Basin, Cold Springs Mountain, Dinosaur North, all SRMAs</p> <p>NSO: ACECs; WSR</p> <p><b>CSU: PULL FROM OTHER RESOURCES (E.G. WILDLIFE, SOILS, WATER, ETC)</b></p> <p><b>Seasonal: SAME AS ABOVE</b></p> <p>Open: all remaining subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>terms and (as applicable) lease stipulations noted in Appendix A of the Amendment. (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p> <p><b>No Action</b> – open subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law; WSAs closed; NSO – Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, Little Yampa Canyon SRMA; CSU – Lookout Mountain ACEC; wildlife habitat – mix of stipulations; Vermillion Basin – open.</p> <p><b>**Add species specific stipulations based on Oil and Gas Amendment.</b></p>		<p>Open: all remaining subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p> <p>For unleased areas, if leased as part of RMP consider restrictions on lease development.</p> <p>Standard Stipulations – look to broaden to provide more flexibility ** Potential to apply adaptive management principles.</p> <p>Produced Water Disposal: Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>For unleased areas, if leased as part of RMP, and potential re-leased areas consider restrictions on lease development.</p> <p>Produced Water Disposal: Same as Alternative B</p>
<p>B. Stipulations or restrictions may be waived or reduced if resource conditions change and the protection is no longer necessary or if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Develop exception (case-by-case temporary), waiver (permanent exemption), and modification (change stip) criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population levels/status</li> <li>• Drought</li> <li>• Weather severity</li> <li>• Breeding site/area</li> <li>• Animal condition</li> <li>• Presence/absence</li> <li>• Intensity and severity of surface disturbance</li> <li>• Habitat condition and availability (forage, water, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>No similar action</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site location</li> <li>Timing</li> </ul>	
<p>C. Conditions of Approval will be applied to operational approvals as determined necessary by the Authorized Officer to protect other resources and values within the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the lease contract. (Oil and Gas Amendment (1991))</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>
<p>D. <b>Vermillion Basin</b> – open to leasing subject to standard terms and conditions.</p>	<p>Open to leasing subject to stringent stipulations (without exception, modification, or waiver) such as limit surface disturbance; multi-well pads; road grades/location; well density – cluster activity</p> <p>Consider timing of lease development starting from the northern portion moving south provided the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of proven reserves on adjacent lease parcels (is this a proprietary issue for BLM/industry?)</li> <li>• Amount of producing wells on adjacent lease parcels</li> <li>• Etc.?</li> </ul>	<p><b>IS THERE AN ANOTHER OPTION TO ZONES BASED ON OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL?</b></p> <p>Two leasing zones:</p> <p>Zone 1 – Northern portion within high oil and gas potential area; limit surface disturbance; multi-well pads; road grades/location; well density – cluster activity</p> <p>Zone 2 – Southern portion outside high oil and gas interest area; closed to leasing</p> <p>Outcome based: Full stipulations applied to range of leases; exception criteria (process); waiver and modification; monitoring/science requirements (roles of government and industry).</p>	<p>Closed to leasing</p>
<p>E. When considering leasing and development of federal minerals where the surface is privately</p>	<p>Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>owned, efforts will be made to identify environmental concerns and work with the private surface owners regarding potential impacts to their surface. Private surface owners are encouraged to become involved in the activity planning process. Whenever possible, BLM's actions will be consistent with the wishes of the surface owner; however, impacts to federal lands or resources, threatened or endangered species, or other resource values protected by nondiscretionary statute will be mitigated to an acceptable level. (Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989))</p> <p>Surface use agreement must be in place prior to approval of the APD.</p>			
<p>F. Compensation plans and plans of operation will be developed for oil and gas field development in the Little Snake Black-Footed Ferret Management Area. BLM would develop off-site mitigation plans for replacement of lost habitat, if necessary. (Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment (1995))</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials, and Non-Energy Leasable Minerals, Others</b>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> Allow for the availability of federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others for exploration and development consistent with national policy.</p>			
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Identify and make available federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others for exploration and development in potentially productive areas.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Provide mineral materials needed for community and economic purposes.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Minimize and eliminate fraudulent claims.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>A. All public land is open to mineral entry and development under the General Mining Law of 1872 unless administratively withdrawn or proposed for withdrawal (proposed wilderness designation). Locatable mineral exploration and development on public land would be regulated under 43 CFR 3800. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p> <p>No Action – all areas open except WSAs</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>WSAs, WSR segments, and selected ACECs and SRMAs would be withdrawn from mineral location.</p>	<p>WSAs, WSR segments, Cold Springs Mountain, Dinosaur North, Vermillion Basin, and selected ACECs and SRMAs would be withdrawn from mineral location.</p>
<p>B. Applications for removing common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be processed as they are received. Interdisciplinary</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>WSAs, WSR segments, and selected ACECs and SRMAs would be closed to mineral material sales.</p>	<p>WSAs, WSR segments, Cold Springs Mountain, Dinosaur North, Vermillion Basin, and selected ACECs and SRMAs would be closed to mineral</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>review of each proposal will determine stipulations to protect important surface values. Mineral material sales will not be allowed in Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, and the Cedar Mountain Recreation management unit. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p> <p>No Action – all areas open except WSAs</p>			<p>material sales.</p>
<p>C. BLM will consider leasing geothermal energy resources or other leasable minerals as each application is received. Minerals that are leasable only on lands acquired under the Bankhead Jones Act will be treated as other leasable minerals. In Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, and the Cedar Mountain recreation management unit, leasing of other minerals for underground mining will be allowed with no-surface-occupancy stipulations. Leasing for surface mining will not be allowed in these four areas. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p>	<p>Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).</p>	<p>Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).</p>	<p>Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Existing decisions apply. Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).			
D. New leases and mineral material sales within fragile soil and water areas such as the Vermillion Management Unit will be subject to the performance objectives described under Soil Resources. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
E. The recommended Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain wilderness study areas (including Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry, leasing and development of other minerals, and mineral material sales if designated as wilderness by Congress. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
F. New mineral material sales (sand and gravel) proposed in prairie dog towns within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release sites may be required to delay or suspend operations for 3 to 4 months during the release period. Mineral material sales operations existing at the time of release site	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
selection will not be restricted. Sales within the common use areas within ¼ mile of release sites will also be suspended during the 3-4 month release period. Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment (1995)			

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Coal and Oil Shale</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Allow for the availability of the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Identify and make available the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development consistent with appropriate suitability studies to increase energy supplies.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of federal coal and oil shale estate.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Coal</b>			
<p>A. Approximately 638,800 acres (containing an estimated 5.8 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for federal coal leasing. Of this total, approximately 457,089 acres (an estimated 4.2 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for surface or underground development. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p>	<p>TBD - BLM is in the process of reviewing and, if necessary, updating suitability/unsuitability determinations made in the 1989 RMP. Alternatives will be developed as necessary.</p> <p>WILL BE DECIDING NSO FOR ACECs, SRMAs, ETC. DURING COAL SUITABILITY/UNSUITABILITY REVIEW.</p>	TBD	TBD
<p>B. Approximately 181,669 acres (an estimated 1.3 billion tons of coal) are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for underground development only (RMP/ROD pages 7-8). Approximately 266 million tons of coal throughout the region are not available for surface mining. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)</p>	See above.		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
C. Site-specific activity planning, including additional environmental analysis, is needed before a decision to lease specific tracts can be made. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
D. Exploratory drilling will be allowed in order to obtain sufficient data for resource management decisions and fair market value determinations. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
E. Other data gathering efforts will be scheduled when needed to ensure data adequacy standards will be met for activity planning within the coal planning area. Little Snake Resource Management Plan (1989)	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.
F. No Surface Occupancy stipulations will be used to protect Cross Mountain and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas; Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks; coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction; grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican	Same as Alternative A. In addition, Stagecoach State Park would also be designated NSO.  <b>CHECK SARVIS CREEK PLAN FOR PROTECTION STATUS.</b>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests; and special status plant species. Oil and Gas Amendment (1991)			
G. Controlled Surface Use stipulations will be used to protect coal mines from oil and gas development where the mining method or location is such that location of subsequent wells can avoid significant conflicts, fragile soil areas, steep slopes, riparian/wetland vegetation, and Irish Canyon, and Lookout Mountain ACECs. Oil and Gas Amendment (1991)	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Oil Shale</b>			
H. No similar action	Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only). See <b>Whiteriver RMP.</b>	Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).	Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Soil Resources</b>			
<b>Goal A:</b> Maintain or restore soil conditions.			
<b>Goal A Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Mitigate negative impacts to soil productivity from accelerated erosion, physical, or chemical degradation.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Stabilize and rehabilitate areas where accelerated erosion, runoff, and physical or chemical degradation have resulted in unacceptable resource conditions.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Prevent disturbance to fragile soil areas where resulting erosion could not be controlled.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Fragile Soils</b>			
<p>A. Permit surface occupancy on federal surface only where adherence to performance objectives for surface-disturbing activities within fragile-soil areas is assured. Performance objectives for fragile soils are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain the soil productivity by reducing soil loss from erosion and through proper handling of the soil material.</li> <li>2. Reduce impact to off-site areas by controlling erosion and/or overland flow from these areas.</li> <li>3. Protect water quality and quantity of adjacent surface and groundwater sources.</li> <li>4. Reduce accelerated erosion caused by surface-disturbing activities.</li> <li>5. Select best possible site for development to reduce the</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, except no ground disturbance and no surface occupancy (oil and gas) within areas verified to meet fragile soil criteria.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
impacts to the soil and water resources.			
<p>B. Allow surface-disturbing activities on isolated sites that meet fragile soil criteria only where performance standards and objectives can be met. Fragile soil criteria areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are rated as highly or severely erodible by wind or water, as described by the Soil Conservation Service in the Area Soil Survey Report or as described by on-site inspection.</li> <li>2. Have slopes greater than or equal to 35%, if they also have one of the following soil characteristics:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Surface texture that is sand, loamy sand, very fine sandy loam, silty clay or clay.</li> <li>b) A depth to bedrock less than 20 inches.</li> <li>c) Erosion condition rated as 'poor'.</li> <li>d) K factor greater than 0.32.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	No ground disturbance and no surface occupancy (oil and gas) within areas verified to meet fragile soil criteria.
C. Develop and implement range and water projects to encourage livestock to relocate from within fragile soil and water areas, using fencing and alternate water	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
sources as necessary.			
<b>Surface Use</b>			
D. On private surface with federal mineral ownership, develop an acceptable surface-use program where federal mineral development may impact off-lease lands or resources.	Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.	Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.	Management action reflects current policy. This is not a land use plan decision.
E. For new oil and gas leases and all surface-disturbing activities permitted under the 1989 RMP <sup>1</sup> , ensure that applicants demonstrate compliance with performance objectives through a plan of development, using alternative measures, or use of the following mitigative measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain all sediments generated from the surface-disturbing activity on site.</li> <li>2. Do not allow construction or other surface-disturbing activities when the soils are saturated to a depth of more than 3 inches.</li> <li>3. Limit vehicle use to existing roads and trails.</li> <li>4. Build all new permanent roads to meet BLM primary</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

<sup>1</sup> These requirements do not supersede valid existing rights on approved applications for permits to drill, developing leases or entry under the general mining laws; rights-of-way construction will be allowed along Moffat County roads 4, 67 and 126 on a case-by-case basis. BLM will work with operators/permittees/county engineers to develop appropriate compliance measures.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>road standards in locations approved by the authorized officer (for oil and gas purposes, permanent roads are those used for production).</p> <p>5. Conduct all geophysical and geochemical exploration by helicopter, horseback, on foot or from existing roads.</p> <p>6. Design any sediment-control structures, reserve pits or disposal pits to contain a 100 year, 6 hour storm event and provide storage volumes within these structures that have a design life of 25 years.</p> <p>7. Before reserve, production or emergency pits are reclaimed remove all residue and truck it off site to an approved disposal site.</p> <p>8. Initiate reclamation of disturbed surfaces before November 1 each year.</p> <p>9. Approve all reclamation plans by the authorized officer in advance and require a bond if necessary, if one has not been previously posted.</p>			
<p>F. Ensure that unstable areas are avoided, accelerated erosion is</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision—addressed under standard</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision—addressed under standard authority.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision—addressed under standard</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
prevented and detailed soil information is available by conducting detailed soil surveys on Diamond Peak/Middle Mountain and Douglas Mountain timber harvesting areas.	authority.		authority.
G. Close and rehabilitate BLM roads and trails on public lands if they have high erosion rates that cannot be corrected.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
H. Adhere to Standards 1 and 2 regarding indicators for healthy upland soils and riparian systems.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
I. Use Controlled Surface Use stipulations to protect coal mines where the mining method or location is such that location of subsequent wells can avoid significant conflicts, fragile soil areas, steep slopes, riparian/wetland vegetation, and Irish Canyon, and Lookout Mountain ACECs. [This O&G statement isn't clear]	Discussed in Energy and Minerals	Discussed in Energy and Minerals	Discussed in Energy and Minerals

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Water Resources</b>			
<b>Goal A:</b> Protect and maintain present groundwater quality.			
<b>Goal B:</b> Maintain or improve the surface water quality and the integrity of streams and their associated riparian values on public lands.			
<b>Goal A Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Ensure actions that could potentially affect groundwater quality are conducted using best management practices.</i>			
<b>Goal B Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Use best management practices to limit disturbance in and near streams or riparian/wetland systems.</i>			
2. <i>Maintain watershed integrity and functioning hydrology.</i>			
3. <i>Achieve proper functioning condition in existing riparian/wetland systems that do not meet land health and water quality standards.</i>			
4. <i>Identify and if possible remove existing sources of degradation.</i>			
5. <i>Prevent, where possible, accelerated erosion, physical, or chemical degradation in upland areas.</i>			
6. <i>Ensure that land uses employ best management practices to protect surface water resources.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. See also decisions for Soil Resources.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
B. Develop and implement range and water projects to encourage livestock to relocate from within fragile soil and water areas, using fencing and alternate water sources as necessary.	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.	Covered under resource objectives. Not a land use plan decision.
C. Establish no-surface occupancy stipulations from within 500 feet to ¼ mile of perennial water sources, depending on type and use of source, soil type and slope steepness.	Same as Alternative A. <b>ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER USES.</b>	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
D. Allow construction within or near intermittent drainages and their floodplains only after completing a case-by-case analysis of soil type	Policy. Not a land use plan decision.		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
and slope steepness and compliance with E.O. 119882.			
E. Complete the remaining water quality and quantity inventory of the RMPPA springs and seeps.	Not a land use plan decision.		
F. Inventory groundwater quality and aquifers within selected areas of the RMPPA.	Not a land use plan decision.		
G. Develop water quality and watershed activity plans in areas with potential for water quality improvements.	No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.
H. Analyze the potential for salinity control projects on BLM-administered public lands in the Milk Creek, Vermillion Creek and Little Snake River watersheds.	Not a land use plan decision.		
I. Require that management actions for nonpoint sources of pollution be coordinated with federal, state and local agencies.	Not a land use plan decision.		
J. Seek appropriative water rights for domestic, livestock, wildlife and recreation uses.	Not a land use plan decision.		
K. Adhere to Standard 2 regarding indicators for healthy riparian systems	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
L. Adhere to Standard 5 regarding indicators to achieve or exceed State water quality standards.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
M. Adhere to Best Management	Covered under objectives. Not	Covered under objectives. Not a	Covered under objectives. Not a

<sup>2</sup> Road crossings built to BLM specifications are not precluded.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Practices (Appendix X) that retain or enhance surface and ground water quality	a land use plan decision.	land use plan decision.	land use plan decision.

**Habitat Management**

**Resource/Resource Use: Vegetation—Overall**

**Overall Goal:** Provide an array of habitats, well distributed across the landscape, that support biodiversity and viable populations of native plant and animal species.

**Sagebrush Goal A:** Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.

**Sagebrush Goal B:** Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat, while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and seral stages.

**Forest & Woodland Goal:** Manage for healthy forest and woodland communities.

**Riparian & Wetlands Goal A:** Maintain the integrity of streams and their associated riparian values on public lands that meet land health and water quality standards

**Riparian & Wetlands Goal B:** Achieve proper functioning condition in existing riparian/wetland systems that do not meet land health and water quality standards

**Weeds Goal A:** Reduce the occurrence of noxious and undesirable plant species.

**Weeds Goal B:** Integrate weed management across landscape and ownership boundaries.

**Overall Objectives:**

1. *Collaborate with stakeholders and resource users to identify the desired future condition of the vegetation in key ecosystem types.*
2. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within plant communities.*
3. *Maintain connections between a variety of plant communities on a landscape scale.*
4. *Maintain juniper and other woody species within their historic range of natural variability.*
5. *Restore natural disturbance regimes such as fire, and use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments in accomplishing biodiversity objectives.*

**Sagebrush Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.*
2. *Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats on a landscape scale.*

**Sagebrush Goal B Objectives:**

1. *Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.*
2. *Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.*
3. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.*
4. *Restore the quantity, species composition, and species diversity of sagebrush understories.*

**Forest & Woodland Goal Objectives:**

1. *Increase the species diversity and distribution of age classes within the forest and woodland ecosystems.*
2. *Recognize and manage aspen as a unique and limited high value vegetation type for other resources.*

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

**Riparian & Wetlands Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Manage human-caused disturbance in and near riparian/wetland systems within acceptable parameters.*
2. *Maintain or improve watershed integrity and functioning hydrology.*
3. *Recognize and manage riparian/wetland communities as a limited high value vegetation type.*

**Riparian & Wetlands Goal B Objectives:**

1. *Identify and if possible remove existing sources of degradation.*
2. *Protect riparian/wetland systems from new sources of degradation.*
3. *Identify ways to work with resource users to improve riparian areas and minimize degradation from existing uses.*

**Weeds Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Ensure all land use actions that could potentially increase the occurrence of noxious weeds are conducted using best management practices.*
2. *Apply principles of integrated pest management.*

**Weeds Goal B Objectives:**

1. *Pursue wherever possible the use of cooperative agreements to coordinate weed management actions.*
2. *Identify ways of partnering with resource users and other stakeholders to reduce the occurrence of noxious weeds.*

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. For vegetation resources overall, adhere to Standard 3 for healthy plant and animal communities.	Same as Alternative A.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In addition to implementing standards and guidelines, improve riparian health above and beyond standard and guideline requirements by 10 percent per annum, especially in priority areas (as identified in land health assessments and where there are opportunities for cooperative partnerships.).</li> <li>2. Maintain functional connectivity between/within vegetation communities through transportation planning, vegetation management, etc.</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative C.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Vegetation Treatments</b>			
B. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use fire and mechanical treatments on <b>XX acres</b> to restore diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate, within plant communities.</li> <li>2. Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of <b>XX acres</b> of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush.</li> <li>3. Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of <b>XX acres</b> per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt County.</li> <li>4. Use fire and mechanical treatments on an average of <b>XX acres</b> per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</li> <li>5. Where Land Health Standards are not being met for reasons other than livestock, improve</li> </ol>	<p>Use fire and mechanical treatments on <b>XX acres (greater than Alt. C)</b> to restore diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate, within plant communities.</p> <p>Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of <b>XX acres (greater than Alt. C)</b> of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush.</p> <p>Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of <b>XX acres (greater than Alt. C)</b> per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt County.</p> <p>Use fire and mechanical treatments on an average of <b>XX acres (greater than Alt. C.)</b> per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>conditions on 50 percent of sites during the life of the plan.</p> <p>6. Restore an average of XX acres per year of bitterbrush and other important winter forage species in the Sand Hills and Spring Creek LHAs.</p> <p>7. Restore an average of XX acres per year of Nuttall’s saltbush and other important winter forage species in the Dry Creek, Sand Wash, and Cold Springs LHAs.</p>	<p>Restore an average of XX acres (greater than Alt. C) per year of bitterbrush and other important winter forage species in all LHAs, starting with the Sand Hills and Spring Creek LHAs.</p> <p>Restore an average of XX acres (greater than Alt. C) of per year Nuttall’s saltbush and other important winter forage species in all LHAs, starting with the Dry Creek, Sand Wash, and Cold Springs LHAs.</p>
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>			
<p>C. Identify and eliminate noxious weeds on a case-by-case basis consistent with current policy.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>1. Prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Eliminate invasive species focusing on areas of new infestations, and where possible, extirpate existing populations, especially in Axial, Powder Wash, Douglas Mountain, Sand Hills, and Williams Fork LHAs, and in selected and Routt and Moffat County parcels.</p> <p>2. Partner with resource users and other stakeholders to reduce the occurrence of noxious weeds. Maximize utilization of cooperative agreements for</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		control of invasive species.	
D. Adhere to Standard 2 (1996 Standards and Guidelines Amendment) for healthy riparian systems associated with running and standing water and with native and desirable introduced species.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.

**Habitat Management**

**Resource/Resource Use: Fish and Wildlife Habitat (5/9/05 Version for this Resource)**

**Goal A:** Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.

**Goal B:** Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat, while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and seral stages.

**Goal C:** Manage habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species endemic to key vegetation types by maintaining adequate habitat quantity, quality, and continuity.

**Goal D:** Cooperate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

**Goal E:** Reduce manageable forms of wildlife disturbance.

**Goal F:** Provide an array of aquatic habitats that support biodiversity and viable populations of species.

**Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.*
2. *Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats on a landscape scale.*

**Goal B Objectives:**

1. *Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.*
2. *Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.*
3. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.*
4. *Restore the quantity, species composition, and species diversity of sagebrush understories.*

**Goal C Objectives:**

1. *Improve and/or maintain those areas that are key wildlife habitats and/or at their desired plant communities.*
2. *Maintain or restore connectivity between habitat use areas.*
3. *Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of migratory bird species (i.e., neotropicals, waterfowl, raptors, etc.).*
4. *Maintain and promote high quality habitat for big game populations in recognition to their economic value to the region.*
5. *Provide habitat to support sufficient raptor prey populations.*
6. *Provide sufficient nesting and fledging habitat to ensure sustainable raptor populations.*

**Goal D Objectives:**

1. *Provide input to CDOW on establishing fish and wildlife populations that can be sustained by available habitat.*
2. *Seek input from CDOW on managing fish and wildlife habitat on public lands.*

**Goal E Objectives:**

1. *Restrict access to seasonal use areas during crucial timeframes.*
2. *Control access in crucial habitats.*

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<p><b>Goal F Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Promote improvement and recovery of current, historic, and potential habitats of aquatic species.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain or improve, to proper functioning condition, bank, channel and floodplain processes.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Encourage sport fisheries where they will not cause detriment to native fish populations.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
A. Provide forage on BLM managed land to maintain approximately 66,400 mule deer, 6,500 elk, 6,300 pronghorn and 70 bighorn sheep (total RMPPA big game populations are 110,660 mule deer, 21,700 elk, 8,350 pronghorn and 70 bighorn sheep) until further studies are completed and proper stocking rates are established.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
B. Immediately begin monitoring studies on M and I category allotments to yield information needed to make decisions on wildlife numbers.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
C. Implement wildlife-use adjustments through consultation and coordination with the CDOW if monitoring data indicate that adjustments are necessary.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
D. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat through mitigation or restrictions applied to all wildlife habitat-disturbing activities.			

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

Habitat Management

Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)	Alternative B (Facilitative)	Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)	Alternative D (Prescriptive)
<p>E. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by using seasonal restrictions on activities.</p> <p>F. <u>Big game winter range (elk, deer, pronghorn)</u> Dec 1-April 30, severe winter range closed to permitted surface disturbing activities with some flexibility during last 60 days of season.</p> <p>G. <u>Production/Birthing Areas:</u> Same strategy as winter range</p> <p>H. <u>Raptors</u> (February 1 through August 15)  Both NSO (1/8 or 1/4 mile) and timing stipulations (1/4 mile or 1 mile) depending on species status.</p> <p>I. <u>Migratory birds (passerines, sagebrush obligates)</u> —Protect habitat (especially riparian areas, aspen, and sagebrush) consistent with</p>	<p><u>Big game winter range (elk, deer, pronghorn)</u> Prescriptive decrease in timing or amount of protected winter range</p> <p><u>Production/Birthing Areas:</u> Same strategy as winter range</p> <p><u>Raptors</u> Decrease raptor NSO and timing radius</p> <p><u>Migratory birds (passerines, sagebrush obligates)</u> Protect habitat (especially riparian areas, aspen, and sagebrush) consistent with vegetation and water</p>	<p><u>Big game winter range (elk, deer, pronghorn)</u> Keep dates static (Dec 1-April 30), vary amount of area chosen to protect through applying criteria developed during discussions with CDOW and included in the RMP; adaptive on a case-by-case basis based on timing or % of winter range for each species, need to determine triggers (pop size, snow depth, etc.), consult with CDOW annually.</p> <p><u>Production/Birthing Areas:</u> <u>Adaptive approach to specifications??</u></p> <p><u>Raptors</u> <u>Adaptive approach to specifications??</u></p> <p><u>Migratory birds (passerines, sagebrush obligates)</u> Protect habitat (especially riparian areas, aspen, and sagebrush) consistent with vegetation and water</p>	<p><u>Big game winter range (elk, deer, pronghorn)</u> <u>Question: could go with a CSU in winter range, necessary?</u></p> <p><u>Production/Birthing Areas:</u> Same strategy as winter range</p> <p><u>Raptors</u> Increase raptor NSO and timing radius</p> <p><u>Migratory birds (passerines, sagebrush obligates)</u> Protect habitat (especially riparian areas, aspen, and sagebrush) consistent with vegetation and</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
<p>vegetation and water management</p> <p>J. <u>Water Birds and Shorebirds (very few areas where this applies in FO)</u></p> <p>K. NSO on significant water birds or shorebird production areas, restrictions March 16-Sept 30 for white pelican habitat management areas</p> <p>L. <u>Grouse Species</u></p> <p>M. ¼ mile NSO for lek sites, timing restrictions for nesting habitat March 1- June 30 (no radius defined, but use 2 mile radius from leks), crucial grouse winter habitat restriction Dec 16 – March 15</p>	<p>management</p> <p><u>Water Birds and Shorebirds (very few areas where this applies in FO)</u> Timing stipulations on significant water birds or shorebird production areas</p> <p><u>Grouse species</u> Increase the NSO to ½ mile, increase nesting timing restrictions (March 1- June 30) to 4 mile radius from lek site (but identify criteria for nesting habitat) under same time window, decrease area of crucial grouse winter habitat protected</p>	<p>management</p> <p><u>Water Birds and Shorebirds (very few areas where this applies in FO)</u> <b>Adaptive approach to specifications??</b></p> <p><u>Grouse species</u> <b>Adaptive approach to specifications??</b></p>	<p>water management</p> <p><u>Water Birds and Shorebirds (very few areas where this applies in FO)</u> NSO on significant water birds or shorebird production areas</p> <p><u>Grouse species</u> 1/2 mile NSO for lek sites, CSU in nesting habitat irrespective of time (FO needs to identify habitat based on established criteria), increase area of crucial grouse winter habitat protected</p>
<p>N. Apply no-surface-occupancy stipulations to new oil and gas leases in wildlife habitat for raptors and the greater sandhill crane, as well as wildlife watering areas, beaver colonies, greater sage-grouse strutting grounds and potential black footed ferret habitat (some prairie dog towns). Apply such stipulations to areas of currently identified habitat (which vary in size between 10 and 110 acres and</p>	<p><b>Move to Energy and Minerals?</b></p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
are scattered throughout the RMPPA) and to similar habitat identified on future surveys.			
O. Cooperate with CDOW in monitoring the habitat and populations of bighorn sheep on Cross Mountain and in the Cold Spring Mountain area.	Carry forward?		
P. Coordinate with CDOW for joint funding of wildlife projects.	Carry forward?		
Q. Prepare and implement wildlife habitat management plans, emphasizing aquatic/riparian habitats for the Little Snake River, Yampa River, Vermillion Creek, Beaver Creek, Canyon Creek, Shell Creek Morgan Gulch, Milk Creek, Fortification Creek, West Timberlake Creek, Willow Creek and Fourmile Creek.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
R. Complete aquatic surveys on 3,000 acres of riparian and 400 acres of known wetland wildlife habitat.	Carry forward?		
S. Conduct inventories to determine if other riparian or wetland habitats occur in the RMPPA and to determine their value as wildlife habitat.	Carry forward?		
T. Install wildlife watering guzzlers on Godiva Rim, Sand	No similar action	Adaptive approach to habitat improvements?	Same as Alternative A, in addition???

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
Wash Basin, Cross Mountain and Dry Mountain, and complete additional environmental analyses and required design specifications before any wildlife habitat improvement project is implemented.			
U. Improve sage-grouse and elk habitat on West Cold Spring Mountain by roller chopping or burning irregular shaped areas of sagebrush.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
V. Improve elk habitat in Bald Mountain Basin and Great Divide by conducting prescribed burns.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
W. Improve antelope distribution in Sand Wash, Powder Wash and Great Divide by constructing 25 antelope passes, installing 2 miles of lay down panels, and constructing fence modifications.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
X. Improve elk habitat on Dry Mountain by chaining or burning irregular shaped plots of juniper.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
Y. Protect an undetermined number of springs and seeps, and associated wetlands and riparian areas by fencing or other means that will improve the riparian habitat, and	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

Habitat Management

Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)	Alternative B (Facilitative)	Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)	Alternative D (Prescriptive)
transport water outside the fenced area for other uses.			
<p>Z. Per the 1991 Oil and Gas Amendment, use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No-surface-occupancy stipulations to protect Cross Mountain and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas; Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks; coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction; grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests; and special status plant species.</li> <li>2. Lease Notices to alert lessees to special requirements for paleontological areas, sage grouse nests, sensitive species, sheep lambing grounds, and prairie dog complexes.</li> <li>3. Timing Limitation stipulations to protect</li> </ul>	<p>Move to Energy and Minerals?</p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
crucial habitat, birthing, fledgling, and nesting areas.			
AA. Per the 1995 Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment 1995, require deterrent devices designed to prevent raptors from perching on power line structures on all new construction to discourage predation on ferrets.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
BB. For fish and wildlife overall, adhere to Standard 3 for healthy plant and animal communities	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Special Status Species (5/9/05 Version for this Resource)</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Preserve and protect special status species.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain the populations of candidate, state-listed, BLM, and other sensitive species at a level that will avoid the need to list these species.</li> <li>2. Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of special status species, including designated critical habitats for listed species.</li> <li>3. Maintain or restore the populations of special status species to the extent possible.</li> <li>4. Prioritize inventories, monitoring, and other scientific studies to better understand the ecology of special status species in order to improve their management.</li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. <u>All T&amp;E and some sensitive species management alternatives will be dictated by the USFWS statewide biological opinion. LSFO will incorporate conservation measures into the RMP.</u>			
B. Do not permit activities or projects in threatened, endangered and sensitive species' habitat that would jeopardize their continued existence	Black-footed Ferret: Same as No Action Alternative (RMP amendment actions – <u>Where do we represent in document? Common to All?</u> )  <u>Prairie dog protections (ACEC evaluation, etc.)?</u>	Black-footed Ferret: Same as No Action Alternative (RMP amendment actions)	Black-footed Ferret: Same as No Action Alternative (RMP amendment actions)
C. Consult with the CDOW and USFWS according to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act before activities or projects are implemented to identify those that might affect threatened and endangered species' habitat.	Necessary if utilize USFWS statewide biological opinion?		
D. Survey proposed project locations likely to harbor threatened/endangered,	Necessary if utilize USFWS statewide biological opinion?		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>candidate and Colorado BLM sensitive plants before project development. and implement consultation procedures under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act when the survey results in a ‘may affect’ determination for listed threatened and endangered species.</p>			
<p>E. Protect any identified, threatened, endangered and candidate species through no-surface-occupancy stipulations.</p>	<p>Necessary if utilize USFWS statewide biological opinion?</p>		
<p>F. Protect the locations where Colorado BLM sensitive plant populations and remnant vegetation associations have been identified (and any adjacent critical sites that affect their habitat) from human-induced activities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>  <u>3.1.</u> Avoidance stipulations that do not unduly hinder or preclude the exercise of valid existing rights.</li> <li>  <u>4.2.</u> Designation of Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA, Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, and Lookout Mountain ACEC.</li> </ul>	<p>Carry forward?</p>		
<p>G. Protect the federally-endangered American peregrine falcon, Colorado</p>	<p>See Special Designations section.</p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>Squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail chub and the state protected razorback sucker by designation of Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC.</p>			
<p>H. Do not use Surface Occupancy stipulations to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cross Mountain and Limestone Ridge Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)</li> <li>2. Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon, Cedar Mountain Special Recreation Management Areas</li> <li>3. Steamboat Lake and Pearl Lake State Parks</li> <li>4. Coal mines where development would be incompatible with the planned coal extraction</li> <li>5. Grouse, raptor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, waterfowl and shorebird nests</li> <li>6. Special status plant species.</li> </ul> <p>I. Use Lease Notices to alert lessees to special requirements for paleontological areas, sage grouse nests, sensitive species, sheep lambing grounds, and prairie dog complexes.</p>	<p>Carry forward? See Energy and Minerals section.</p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
J. Timing Limitation stipulations will be used to protect crucial habitat, birthing, fledgling, and nesting areas.			
K. Adhere to Standard 4, which maintains and enhances special status, threatened and endangered plant and animal species (both federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM and their habitats.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Wild Horses (Goals and Objectives new as of 5/18/05)</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Manage the Sand Wash wild horse herd and their habitat in a manner that encourages herd health while maintaining a thriving, natural ecological balance of rangeland resources.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Manage wild horses within the Sand Wash Herd Management Area (HMA) at an appropriate management level as an integral part of the public lands ecosystem. Periodically re-evaluate the existing AML to assure herd size remains compatible with the other resources.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Recognize and proactively respond to potential conflicts between wild horses and other resources as conflicts occur.</i></li> <li>3. <del>3.</del> <i>Remove wild horses that relocate outside of HMAs as soon as practical.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Manage habitat condition in Sand Wash Basin HMA to maintain a herd range of 163 to 362 wild horses on a four year schedule with an appropriate management level of 362.	Same as Alternative A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain current Herd Management Area status. Manage at an appropriate management level (AML), currently identified as a range of <b>XX to XX wild horses</b>. The AML is a dynamic number that would be adjusted as range conditions warrant.</li> <li>2. Guidelines and criteria for adjusting AML include the following:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Current monitoring data</li> <li>b) Rate of herd increase</li> <li>c) Competing uses</li> <li>d) Frequency of gather cycle</li> <li>e) Other herd management options</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Same as Alternative C
B. Use the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area Plan to guide the management of wild	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Sand Wash HMA as the Sand Wash Wild Horse Range.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
horses in this area.			
C. Use an annual census to monitor the growth of the horse herd.	-Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
D. Remove surplus wild horses once herds reach 362 head. The exception to this may be when unforeseeable situations, such as drought or fire, threaten the horses with water or forage shortages.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.
E. Establish a monitoring program to determine annual utilization of key forage plants and vegetation trends within the Sand Wash Basin.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Fire (5/9/05 Version for this Resource)</b>			
<p><b>Goal A:</b> Give first priority to protection of life or property  <b>Goal B:</b> Create an integrated approach to fire and resource management to meet land health standards.  <b>Goal C:</b> Integrate fire and fuels management across the landscape, agency and government boundaries.</p>			
<p><b>Goal A Objectives:</b>  1. <i>Identify and reduce hazardous fuels, with emphasis in urban interface areas.</i></p> <p><b>Goal B Objectives:</b>  1. <i>Reduce fire hazards in ecosystems and restore ecological community functions.</i>  2. <i>Use and allow fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources.</i>  3. <i>Use and allow fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate for the site and situation.</i>  4. <i>Use mechanical or other vegetative treatments to reduce fire hazards when appropriate.</i></p> <p><b>Goal C Objectives:</b>  1. <i>Maximize use of Utilize cooperative agreements to coordinate fire and fuels management action.</i></p>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Use maximum suppression on areas with high resource values, structures, commercial forest, oil and gas developments, cultural values, improvements, and to prevent fire from spreading to adjacent private property/structures, etc. and provide full protection to buffer areas near or adjacent to critical management areas for threatened, endangered and candidate species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, and research natural areas (RNA's).	Review National Fire Plan, Northwest Colorado Fire Plan, and Moffat County Fire Plan for specific objectives and options for management to carry forward.		
B. Use conditional fire suppression in areas with resources of low value or that do not warrant full suppression			

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
actions and/or high suppression costs, including fires in the Douglas Mountain area (the five WSA's adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, Diamond Breaks WSA, West Cold Spring WSA, and Cross Mountain WSA).			
C. Use both planned and unplanned prescribed fire to improve resource habitat, condition, etc.			

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Livestock Grazing Management</b>			
<b>Goal A:</b> Manage livestock grazing to sustain resources, maintain stable watersheds, and continue production of forage.			
<b>Goal B:</b> Provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.			
<b>Goal C:</b> To the extent possible, maintain the stability and sustainability of the livestock industry.			
<b>Goal A Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Maintain and improve forage species diversity and abundance by managing to meet plant reproductive and physiological needs.</i>			
2. <i>Minimize conflicts between livestock and other grazing animals in areas of increased pressure on forage and riparian zones.</i>			
3. <i>Manage plant utilization by all foraging species at a level that maintains plant health and protects watersheds.</i>			
<b>Goal B Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Allow the opportunity to create common reserve allotments when lands or permits become available.</i>			
2. <i>Identify lands not available for livestock grazing.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Allow livestock grazing utilizing federal preference (166,895 AUMs) until monitoring studies are completed.	Manage livestock grazing adaptively utilizing Standards and Guides process while working closely with permittees to develop sustainable ranching operations.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
B. Monitor rangelands on M and I category allotments to yield information needed to make decisions on livestock stocking rates, proceeding as funding and staff allow from worst to better forage conditions as established by 1981-1983 surveys and including 13 conflict allotments (numbers 4203, 4206, 4207, 4209, 4210, 4219, 4225, 4302, 4431, 4332, 4520, 4521, 4522).	Work closely with CDOW to reduce livestock/big game conflicts that would improve vegetative and forage conditions.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.
C. Use surveys that estimated forage available at a grazing level of 148,821 AUMs (done	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.	Not a land use plan decision.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>during 1981-1983 for 73% of the area and earlier for the remainder of the area) as baseline inventory data.</p>			
<p>D. Implement livestock use adjustments in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-3 and according to the following prescriptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After acquiring a minimum of 2 years of rangeland monitoring data</li> <li>2. In combination with baseline data.</li> <li>3. As soon as data are available to support that change.</li> <li>4. Based on no more than 5 years of rangeland monitoring data</li> <li>5. In consultation/coordination with affected livestock operators.</li> </ol>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>
<p>E. Issue decisions or enter into agreements within 5 years of publication of a rangeland program summary (RPS), following completion of a Grazing EIS/RMP, and according to the following prescriptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issue an RPS within 5 months after the RMP is</li> </ol>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>signed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Use a five year implementation period</li> <li>3. Issue decisions in the third and fifth years to modify the adjustments as necessary to reach estimated grazing capacity and document these decisions in RPS updates.</li> <li>4. Enter into mutual agreements at any time during the five year period and document these agreements in RPS updates.</li> </ol>			
<p>F. Temporarily suspend grazing in areas where key forage plants have been critically overutilized.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>
<p>G. Implement vegetation land treatments on 68 allotments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use such treatments as interseeding, burning and reseeding, spraying, and plowing and reseeding</li> <li>2. Adhere to established procedures and design specifications to protect all resource uses and values</li> <li>3. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any treatments are implemented.</li> </ol>	<p>See Vegetation section.</p>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>H. Construct range improvement projects on 69 allotments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use improvements that will control livestock use, improve distribution, and improve riparian/wetland habitat</li> <li>2. Complete a benefit/cost analysis and environmental analysis before any projects are implemented.</li> </ol>	<p>Consider range improvement developments for the purpose of increasing livestock forage where they are economically feasible and consistent with other resources.</p>	<p>Consider range improvement developments for the purpose of improving rangeland diversity, condition, and sustainability, by such actions as control of pinyon-juniper encroachment and decadent sagebrush, etc.</p>	<p>Range improvements would be allowed only to maintain sustainable natural diversity of plant communities.</p>
<p>I. Update management categorization (M, I, or C) for when rangeland conditions change or data that support changes become available through the monitoring program.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>
<p>J. Develop management plans for all allotments within the Little Snake RMPPA, basing the level of detail for each plan on the management category (M, I, or C) for that allotment.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>
<p>K. Do not allow rangeland improvement projects (fences, water developments, etc.) within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release cages or release sites to prevent disturbance or damage during the 3 to 4 month release period.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>
<p>L. Adhere to Guidelines for Grazing Management</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>	<p>Not a land use plan decision.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
M. No similar action	Established common reserve allotments and allow use within those allotments when the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for replacement forage due to wildfire or vegetation treatment</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Forest Products (5/9/05 Version for this Resource)</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Management for healthy forest and woodland communities.			
<b>Objectives:</b> 1. <i>Provide forest and woodland products on a sustainable basis.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
A. Manage 6,330 acres of commercial forest lands to produce a variety of forest products on a sustained yield basis and manage the remaining commercial forest lands using such limited techniques as natural revegetation and minimal cultural treatments.	<b>Need to establish acreage amount to target for treatment (vary by alternative).</b>  Establish priority criteria for treatment areas? Are there specific areas where treatment needed?		Manage forest and woodland communities for forest health using non-commercial treatments and allowing personal use product sales along existing roads.
B. Periodically recalculate annual harvest levels allowable under a sustained yield based on updated inventories and adjust the board feet (bf) allowable per year (currently 300,000 bf) as needed.	<b>Carry forward?</b>		
C. Manage approximately 37,600 acres of woodland to produce a variety of woodland products on a sustained-yield basis and apply limited management to the remaining woodland acreage.	See above...established acreages.		
D. Periodically recalculate annual woodland harvest levels allowable under a sustained yield based on updated inventories and adjust the board feet allowable per year (currently 1.25 million bf or	<b>Carry forward?</b>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/18/05)  
**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative – Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B (Facilitative)</b>	<b>Alternative C (Adaptive/Outcome Based)</b>	<b>Alternative D (Prescriptive)</b>
2,500 cords) as needed.			
E. Acquire access for future timber sales.	Carry forward?		
F. Open public harvest areas to meet local demand.	Carry forward?		

Yellow highlighting indicates revisions/questions not yet discussed with BLM.

Blue highlighting indicates items discussed with BLM but that require further information or discussion.

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Lands and Realty</b>			
<b>Lands and Realty Program Goals</b>			
<p>A. Consolidate BLM’s land ownership pattern in all of Routt County and in Moffat County.</p> <p>B. Increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of public land management.</p> <p>C. Allow for appropriate right-of-way routes and development sites (e.g., renewable energy, communication, and other uses), while identifying areas that would not be compatible with such use.</p>			
<b>Lands and Realty Program Objectives</b>			
<b>Goal A</b>			
<p>1. <i>Identify all the lands for exchange, sale, or disposal in all of Routt County and in eastern Moffat County.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Through either exchange or sale look for opportunities for consolidation or acquiring lands. [NEW LANGUAGE AS OF 5/18/05; PREVIOUS OBJECTIVES INCORPORATED INTO ACQUISITION/EXCHANGE OR DISPOSAL CRITERIA]</i></p>			
<b>Goal B</b>			
<p>1. <i>Identify public land suitable for retention or disposal or lands needed for acquisition. [NEW LANGUAGE AS OF 5/18/05; PREVIOUS OBJECTIVES INCORPORATED INTO ACQUISITION/EXCHANGE OR DISPOSAL CRITERIA]</i></p>			
<b>Goal C</b>			
<p>1. <i>Provide access for the development of renewable energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Provide access for the development of transportation routes, utilities, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses in an environmentally responsible manner.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Provide access for the development of oil and gas pipeline routes and other uses associated with oil and gas development, in an environmentally responsible manner.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Identify and establish major utility and transportation corridors within the planning area.</i></p>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Land Tenure Adjustments</b>			

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Lands and Realty**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>A. The BLM-administered lands in the RMPPA have been divided into general retention and disposal areas (RMP/ROD pages 30-31).</p> <p>The retention area is the existing land base to be managed under multiple use concepts. All land tenure adjustment actions (including recreation and public purposes [R&amp;PP] actions and exchanges), except sales under Section 203 of FLPMA, will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if the public interest would be served. Section 302 leases and permits will be allowed. Conveyance actions will be precluded in wilderness and other special management areas</p> <p>Disposal land tenure adjustment actions will be allowed on approximately 6,670 acres of public land that meet the criteria for disposal under applicable authority. This acreage includes land tenure adjustment actions for existing BLM authorized sanitary landfill sites near Oak Creek and Maybell located within the retention area. Section 302 leases and permits would also be allowed.</p>	<p><b>Identify disposal areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of lands</li> <li>• FLPMA test</li> </ul> <p>Those areas not identified for disposal would remain open to acquisition/exchange.</p> <p>Identify criteria for disposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lands suitable for public purposes adjacent to or of special importance to local communities for purposes including, but not limited to, community expansion, extended community services, or economic development.</i></li> <li>• <i>Parcels which are difficult or costly to administer and/or access</i></li> <li>• <i>Parcels more suitable for management by another Federal or State agency</i></li> <li>• <i>BLM subsurface mineral estate in split-estate situations, specifically with the State Land Board.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>
<p>B. Acquisition of land will be</p>	<p>Identify criteria for</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>pursued based on identified resource values and needs (RMP/ROD pages 30-31).</p>	<p>acquisition/exchange:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proximity to population centers</i></li> <li>• <i>Important resource values (riparian areas and wetlands; special designations; special status species habitat)</i></li> <li>• <i>Improved access to larger blocks of public lands (public and/or administrative)</i></li> <li>• <i>WSA, ACEC, National Historic Trail, and/or Wild and Scenic River inholdings.</i></li> <li>• <i>BLM subsurface mineral estate in split-estate situations, specifically with the State Land Board.</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Rights-of-Way</b>			
<p>C. No rights-of-way corridors are formally designated.</p> <p>Specific areas unsuitable for major rights-of-way are shown on page 29 of the RMP/ROD.</p> <p>The existing and potential corridors identified as suitable on page 29 of the RMP/ROD and displayed on pages 32 and 33 of the RMP/ROD are considered open and are preferred routes.</p> <p>Specific areas that are sensitive for siting major rights-of-way are shown on page 35 of the</p>	<p><b>ROW:</b> Identify areas unsuitable for major rights-of-way without precluding valid existing rights (ROW exclusion or avoidance?).</p>	<p><b>ROW:</b> Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p><b>ROW:</b> Explore concept of formally designated corridors. Identify areas unsuitable for major rights-of-way without precluding valid existing rights (ROW exclusion or avoidance?).</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>RMP/ROD.</p> <p>Minor rights-of-way will be processed on a case-by-case basis, generally guided by the criteria identified for major rights-of-way.</p> <p>Rights-of-way will be allowed in all areas if needed to develop valid existing rights.</p> <p>Rights-of-way on public land that have the potential to disturb occupied black-footed ferret habitat will be rerouted to avoid those prairie dog towns (Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Amendment (1995)).</p>			
<b>Easements</b>			
<p>D. Pursue easements for access to public lands on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Actively pursue easements through specific parcels to improve access to public lands for recreation use, such as hunting and fishing areas.</p> <p>Actively pursue easements for access to develop identified transportation and utility corridors.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<b>Communication Sites</b>			
<p>E. Review communication site proposals on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Priority goes to use of existing sites to minimize number of total sites; match restrictions to Oil and Gas, other uses.</p> <p>Utilize, where possible, best available technologies to reduce migratory bird</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>All new sites would utilize existing sites; match restrictions to Oil and Gas, other uses.</p> <p>Require best available technologies to reduce migratory</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (5/19/05)

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	mortality (tower guy wires, etc) .		bird mortality(tower guy wires, etc)
<b>Renewable Energy</b>			
F. No similar action.	<u>Renewable Energy</u> : No access restrictions.	<u>Renewable Energy</u> : ID access restrictions, if applicable.	<u>Renewable Energy</u> : Same as Alternative C.