

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**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. 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 Natural Resources 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</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
as 'poor'. d) K factor greater than 0.32.			
B. 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: 1. Maintain the soil productivity by reducing soil loss from erosion and through proper handling of the soil material. 2. Reduce impact to off-site areas by controlling erosion and/or overland flow from these areas. 3. Protect water quality and quantity of adjacent surface and groundwater sources. 4. Reduce accelerated erosion caused by surface-disturbing activities. 5. Select best possible site for development to reduce the impacts to the soil and water resources.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A
<b>Surface Use</b>			
C. For new oil and gas leases and all	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>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:</p> <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 road standards in locations approved by the authorized officer (for oil and gas purposes, permanent roads are those used for production).</li> <li>5. Conduct all geophysical and geochemical exploration by helicopter, horseback, on</li> </ol>			

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<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.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>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>			

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<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. 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.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**Habitat Management**

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

**Overall Goal:** Collaborate with stakeholders and resource users in providing 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. *Manage for a diversity of seral stages within plant communities.*
2. *Manage for connections between a variety of plant communities on a landscape scale.*
3. *Manage for juniper and other woody species within their historic range of natural variability.*
4. *Restore natural disturbance regimes such as fire, and use vegetation treatments in accomplishing biodiversity objectives.*
5. *Allow non-native species, where appropriate on a case-by-case basis, while focusing management efforts on native communities and intact biosystems.*

**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, as allowed by range site condition.*

**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.*

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2. *Recognize and manage aspen as a unique and limited high value vegetation type for other resources.*

**Riparian & Wetlands Goal A Objectives:**

1. *Manage human-caused disturbance in and near riparian/wetland systems.*
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>
<b>Desired Plant Communities</b>			
A. No similar action	Upland and riparian vegetation would be managed to achieve desired plant community (DPC) objectives established for a localized area to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health and objectives for the planning area. DPC objectives will be determined through use of NRCS Range Site Guides and/or updated ecological site inventory data as it becomes available.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
<b>Vegetation Treatments</b>			
B. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	When consistent with healthy rangeland ecosystems, emphasize	1. Use vegetation treatments on an average of 3,000 acres per year	Use vegetation treatments on an average of 7,520 acres per year to

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	<p>vegetation treatments to increase forage production.</p>	<p>to restore diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of 530 acres of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush as sage grouse habitat.</li> <li>3. Use vegetation treatments on an average of 1,600 acres per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</li> <li>4. Use vegetation treatments where Land Health Standards are not being met for reasons other than livestock, improve conditions on 50 percent of sites during the life of the plan.</li> <li>5. Restore a total of 80 acres during the planning period of bitterbrush and other important winter forage species in the Sand Hills and Spring Creek LHAs.</li> <li>6. Restore an average of 100 acres per year of Mountain shrub.</li> </ol>	<p>restore diversity of seral stages and species, as appropriate.</p> <p>Work with the Northwest Colorado Sage-Grouse Working Group to identify, maintain, and restore an average of 2,000 acres of sagebrush per year. Emphasize creation of functional blocks of sagebrush.</p> <p>Use vegetation treatments on an average of 3,500 acres per year to reduce encroachment of juniper and woody species to mimic natural conditions.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p> <p>Restore an average of 50 acres 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 1,000 acres of per year Mountain shrub.</p>
<b>Forests and Woodlands</b>			
C. Conducted on case-by-case	Same as Alternative A.	Restore an average of 200 acres per	Restore an average of 400 acres

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basis as needed.		year of Ponderosa type, primarily in the Douglas Mountain area.	per year of Ponderosa Pine, primarily in the Douglas Mountain area.
D. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Treat an average of 20 acres per year of Lodgepole type, primarily in the Cold Springs LHA.	Treat an average of 50 acres per year of Lodgepole type, primarily in the Cold Springs LHA.
E. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of 50 acres per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt County.	Improve/maintain aspen community health on an average of 200 acres per year of the stands, especially in Cold Springs LHA and in Routt County.
F. Conducted on case-by-case basis as needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Restore an average of 500 acres per year of Pinyon/Juniper woodland.	Same as Alternative C.
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>			
G. Identify and eliminate noxious weeds on a case-by-case basis consistent with current policy.	Same as Alternative A.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Partner with resource users and other stakeholders to reduce the occurrence of noxious weeds. Maximize utilization of cooperative agreements for control of invasive species.</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative C.

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**Resource/Resource Use: Fish and Wildlife Habitat**

**Goal A:** Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species, consistent with local conservation plans.

**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:** Manage disturbance to wildlife populations.

**Goal E:** 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.  
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.*
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. *Manage access to seasonal use areas during crucial timeframes.*
2. *Manage access in crucial habitats.*

**Goal E Objectives:**

1. *Promote improvement and recovery of current, historic, and potential habitats of aquatic species.*
2. *Maintain or improve riparian condition to provide for forage, habitat, and biodiversity.*

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3. <i>Encourage sport fisheries where they will not cause detriment to native fish populations.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Raptors (golden eagle, osprey, all accipiters, falcons, except kestrel, butteos, and owls): NSO within 1/8 mile radius of nest site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the nest site or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the nest site.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
B. Peregrine Falcon: NSO within ¼ mile radius of cliff nesting complex. No exceptions.	No similar action.	NSO within ¼ mile radius of cliff nesting complex. In addition, NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the nesting complex or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening.	Same as Alternative C.
C. Waterfowl and Shorebird: NSO on significant production areas (Waterfowl Habitat Management Areas and rookeries). No exceptions.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the production areas or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening. Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
D. Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) crucial winter habitat – December 1 to April 30. Exceptions: under mild winter conditions, the last 60	No similar action.	Big game species (mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep) crucial winter habitat – December 1 to April 30, with the intent of this stipulation remaining consistent with big game hunting	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>days of the seasonal limitation period may be suspended. Severity of winter determined on basis of snow depth, snow crusting, daily mean temperatures, and concentration of animals on winter range during winter months.</p>		<p>season. In the case that hunting season would extend later, exceptions would be applied according to Appendix X.</p> <p>Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	
<p>E. Big game birthing areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elk calving – April 16 to June 30</li> <li>2. Pronghorn Antelope fawning – May 1 to July 15</li> <li>3. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep lambing – May 1 to July 15</li> <li>4. Desert Bighorn Sheep lambing – March 16 to May 30</li> </ol> <p>F. Exceptions: When it is determined through a site-specific environmental analysis that specific actions would not interfere with critical habitat function or</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Elk calving – April 16 to June 30</p> <p>Pronghorn Antelope fawning – May 1 to July 15</p> <p>Bighorn Sheep – no similar action</p> <p>Exceptions: granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>compromise animal conditions within the project vicinity, the restriction may be altered or removed.</p>			
<p>G. Greater Sandhill Crane nesting and staging habitat areas – March 1 to October 16. No exceptions.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>H. Raptor nesting and fledgling habitat (golden eagle and all accipiters, falcons, except the kestrel, all butteos, and owls) – February 1 to August 15. Applies to ¼ mile buffer zone around the nest site.</p> <p>I. Exceptions to raptor habitat. During years when a nest site is unoccupied or unoccupied by or after May 15, the seasonal limitation may be suspended. It may also be suspended once young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>J. Osprey nesting and fledgling habitat – April 1 to August 31. Applies to a ½ mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>K. Peregrine falcon cliff nesting complex – March 16 to July 31. Applies ½ mile buffer area around the nesting</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>complex to prevent abandonment and desertion of established territories. Exceptions: during years when a nest is unoccupied or unoccupied by or after May 15, the seasonal stipulation may be suspended. May also be suspended once the young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.</p>			
<p>L. Recommend wildlife use adjustments to CDOW if monitoring data indicate that adjustments are necessary.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Special Status Species</b>			
<p><b>Goal A:</b> Preserve and protect special status species.</p> <p><b>Goal B:</b> Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain viable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species, consistent with local conservation plans.</p> <p><b>Goal C:</b> Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat, while maintaining a mosaic of canopy cover and seral stages.</p>			
<p><b>Goal A Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Maintain the populations of candidate, state-listed, BLM, and other sensitive species at a level that will avoid the need to list these species.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of special status species, including designated critical habitats for listed species.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Maintain or restore the populations of special status species to the extent possible.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Prioritize inventories, monitoring, and other scientific studies to better understand the ecology of special status species in order to improve their management.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Goal B Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats on a landscape scale.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Goal C Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat consistent with the natural range of variability for sagebrush communities in northwest Colorado.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Restore the quantity, species composition, and species diversity of sagebrush understories.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
A. Colorado BLM sensitive species (plant and wildlife): Surveys would be conducted of potential habitat for Colorado BLM sensitive species before any surface disturbance. Should any such species be found, all disruptive activities would be halted until species-specific protective	Same as Alternative A.	In addition to Alternative A, BLM would survey for rare plant communities (as defined by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program Database) and if any such communities are found, all disruptive activities would be halted until specific protective measures were developed and implemented.	In addition to Alternative C, review Colorado Natural Heritage Database for sensitive plant species not listed on BLM sensitive species list and determine appropriate management for species on case-by-case basis.

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
measures were developed and implemented.			
B. Active white-tailed prairie dog colonies are avoidance areas for surface disturbing activities only within black-footed ferret reintroduction area. Oil and Gas Amendment. FIND REFERENCE.	Same as Alternative A (non-discretionary?).	Same as Alternative A.	See White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC management under Special Designations section.
C. White Pelican nesting and feeding habitat areas – March 16 to September 30. No exceptions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.	No similar action – protected under standard terms and conditions.
D. Ferruginous Hawk nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1 to August 15. Applies to 1-mile buffer zone to avoid nest abandonment.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
E. Grouse (sage, mountain sharp-tailed, lesser and greater prairie chickens): NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.	No similar action.	Columbian sharp-tailed grouse: NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.  In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Same as Alternative C.
F. Protect the federally-endangered American peregrine falcon, Colorado Squawfish, humpback chub,	See Special Designations section.		

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bonytail chub and the state protected razorback sucker by designation of Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC.			
<b>Greater Sage-Grouse</b>			
G. Grouse (sage, mountain sharp-tailed, lesser and greater prairie chickens): NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.	No similar action.	Greater Sage-Grouse: NSO within ¼ mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.  In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Greater Sage-Grouse: NSO within a 0.6 mile radius of a lek site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the lek or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to the lek site.  In addition, exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
H. Nesting habitat March 1- June 30.	No similar action	Greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat (as defined in Chapter 3) would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing and disruptive activities within a 4-mile radius of the perimeter of a lek.  The actual area to be avoided would be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on applicable scientific research and site-specific analysis and in coordination with commodity users	Greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat (as defined in Chapter 3) would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing and disruptive activities for the purposes of protecting nesting habitat used by greater than 75% of population.  The actual area to be avoided would be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on applicable scientific research and site-specific analysis and in coordination with commodity

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		and other appropriate entities.  Exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	users and other appropriate entities.  Exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
I. Crucial winter habitat closed– December 16 to March 15. No exceptions.	No similar action	Same as Alternative A. In addition, exceptions would be granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.	Greater sage-grouse winter habitat (Map X) would be controlled surface use for oil and gas exploration and development and avoidance areas for other surface disturbing and disruptive activities.  Exceptions granted according to criteria established in Appendix X.
<b>Black-footed Ferret</b>			
J. 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.	No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
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.	No Similar Action	Do not allow rangeland improvement projects (fences, water developments, etc.) within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release sites to prevent disturbance or damage during the 3 to 4 month release period.	Same as Alternative C

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
L. 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.	No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
M. 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 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.	No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
N. 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.	No Similar Action.	OHV use will be closed within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period.	Same as Alternative C
O. Target shooting, plinking, or any type of sport hunting will be prohibited within ¼ mile of	No Similar Action.	Target shooting, plinking, or any type of sport hunting will be prohibited within ¼ mile of black-footed ferret	Same as Alternative C.

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
black-footed ferret release cages or release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period.		release sites for 3 to 4 months during the release period.	
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.	No Similar Action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Colorado River Fishes</b>			
Q. No similar action	No Surface Occupancy NSO) within critical or occupied habitat of Colorado pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> ), razorback sucker ( <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> ), humpback chub ( <i>Gila cypha</i> ), and bonytail ( <i>Gila elegans</i> ). Exceptions that may cause adverse affect to listed fish (such as bridge abutments) will require site specific consultation with FWS.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
R. No similar action	All new pipelines and other controlled surface uses crossing any critical or occupied habitat of the Colorado River fishes will adhere to the following stipulations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pipelines shall not be constructed in known spawning sites or backwaters.</li> <li>2. No work in the active river channel will take place</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	<p>between July 1 and September 30. This will avoid adverse affects from sedimentation during spawning, and when larval fishes are drifting in the river channel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. After construction, the stream bed will be returned to pre-construction contours.</li> <li>4. Pipelines transporting substances other than water will have automatic shut off valves.</li> <li>5. Pipelines transporting substances other than water will be double-walled where they cross the river.</li> <li>6. A spill/leak contingency plan will be developed.</li> </ol>		
S. No similar action	Controlled surface uses other than pipelines crossing any critical or occupied habitat of the Colorado River fishes will require separate section 7 consultation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
T. No similar action	No similar action	Proposed pipelines that cross critical or occupied habitat should be evaluated for risks to the Colorado River fishes. Evaluation should include: contingency and/or emergency plans in place and their adequacy to reduce risks to these fishes, conditions of manual shut-off valves (if any), accessibility to	Existing and proposed pipelines that cross critical or occupied habitat should be evaluated for risks to the Colorado River fishes. Evaluation should include: contingency and/or emergency plans in place and their adequacy to reduce risks to these fishes, conditions of manual shut-off

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		manual shut-off valves, and relationship of pipeline location to spawning habitat. If the opportunity exists, BLM should use its discretion to modify pipelines determined to pose a potential adverse affect.	valves (if any), accessibility to manual shut-off valves, and relationship of pipeline location to spawning habitat. If the opportunity exists, BLM should use its discretion to modify pipelines determined to pose a potential adverse affect.
U. No similar action	Avoid aerial application of chemical fire retardant or foam – except where human safety is involved – and exclude surface disturbing activities (e.g. fire lines) within 300 feet of any body of water that may intercept critical or occupied habitat of the Colorado River fishes.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
V. No similar action	Minimize the impacts from herbicide applications by complying with label instructions when controlling tamarisk and/or Russian olive on critical and other occupied habitat of Colorado River fishes.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
W. No similar action	Minimize the impacts from erosion and habitat restoration associated with tamarisk and/or Russian olive control on critical and other occupied habitat of Colorado River fishes.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
X. No similar action	BLM shall coordinate with Recovery Implementation Program to identify potential problem areas and conservation measures to reduce the risk of bank destabilization or increased sedimentation resulting from any land use activity or natural	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	disturbance. For sites where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions should be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.		
Y. No similar action	Exclude suction dredging for gold from critical habitat of Colorado River fishes during the spawning and nursery period for each species – encompassing a time period of April through September.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
Z. No similar action	Where possible, implement measures to reduce selenium concentrations in the upper Colorado River basin. For example, decrease erosion in areas with selenium-rich soils (e.g., shale-derived soils), maintain adequate vegetation cover on the site, control ephemeral streamflow with water spreading structures, or apply NSO stipulations on steep slopes with selenium-rich soils.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
AA. No similar action	Do not authorize irrigation in areas with selenium-rich soils (e.g., shale-derived soils).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
BB.No similar action	No similar action	BLM should identify all water diversion structures on BLM lands that may pose a risk to the Colorado River fishes or their critical habitat. For those diversions that may pose a risk, BLM should coordinate with the Recovery Implementation Program to identify actions to eliminate or minimize the potential risk and	Same as Alternative C.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		recognize valid existing rights (e.g. minimize entrainment or impingement by using screens, baffles, etc.).	
<b>Mexican Spotted Owl</b>			
CC.No similar action	No similar action	Field surveys shall occur in areas where human activities may remove or modify MSO habitat or otherwise adversely affect the species. Follow current survey protocol. Existing protocols require four surveys be conducted each season for two consecutive seasons.	Same as Alternative C.
DD. Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat – February 1 to July 31. Applied to territories in which an owl(s) has been spotted, but no nests or roosts have been confirmed and in territory where there is confirmed nesting, feeding, and roosting activity. No exceptions.	No Surface Occupancy shall be applied to all protected activity centers (PACs). Other surface disturbing activities within protected or restricted habitats – such as prescribed fires and fuels reduction – may occur in specific cases, but will require separate Section 7 consultation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
EE. Mexican Spotted Owl: NSO within ¼ mile radius of confirmed roost site and nesting site. No exceptions.	Non-surface disturbing activities in PACs shall avoid the MSO breeding season (March 1 through August 31).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
FF. No similar action	Within MSO “steep slope” and “canyon” habitats (as defined in the recovery plan), trees greater than 9 inches dbh shall not be removed. Thinning of trees less than 9 inches dbh, fuels treatments, and prescribed fire are allowed on a case-by-case	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	basis to reduce fire hazard and improve habitat condition for owl prey. Habitat components that should be retained include snags, large logs ( $\geq 12$ inches dbh), grasses, forbs, and shrubs. No seasonal restrictions apply in this habitat type.		
GG. No similar action	No similar action	Within “restricted” habitats (as defined in the recovery plan), management priority should be placed on reducing risks to MSO habitat. Forest habitats should be managed on an uneven-aged system and the use of prescribed fire is encouraged to provide future suitable habitat.	Same as Alternative C.
HH. No similar action	Livestock grazing in protected and restricted MSO habitats shall meet BLM Colorado’s Standards for Public Land Health within key habitat areas (riparian areas, meadows, and oak types) to provide for adequate levels of plant cover and forage for owl prey species. Monitoring in such areas should occur to determine current level of use as well as detecting any change in the relative composition of herbaceous and woody plants.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
II. No similar action	No new recreation facilities or trails will be permitted within PACs. Maintenance and seasonal closure of existing facilities should be continued.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
JJ. No similar action	The presence and intensity of existing	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	recreational activities (as described in the recovery plan) within PACs should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Spatial and temporal restrictions will be required for all new activities, but specific dates and distances will be developed for each individual project through site specific consultation with FWS.		
KK. No similar action	No similar action	Special and/or temporal restrictions may be applied for recreational activities for protected and restricted MSO habitat other than protected or restricted habitats (PACs).	Same as Alternative C.
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>			
LL. No similar action	In order to evaluate both long- and short-term impacts and/or benefits continue to implement livestock management practices and operations Public Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing (1997) [emphasis on Standard #2]. Assess land health accordingly to establish baseline data and identify changes in YBC habitat suitability.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
MM. No similar action	Manage for regeneration and multiple age classes in cottonwood/willow vegetation in YBC habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
NN. No similar action	Construction of roads, pipelines, and powerlines through riparian habitat should be placed near the edge of current YBC habitat and should not	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	occur from June 1 through August 1. Roads, new trails, and rights-of-way should be combined where possible and stream crossings should be at right angles to YBC habitat to minimize impacts.		
OO. No similar action	Prohibit permanent surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of any suitable YBC habitat. Exceptions should be evaluated on a case by case basis to avoid adverse impact.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
PP. No similar action	To avoid direct impacts or changes in riparian habitat, do not modify stream channel morphology or annual stream flow regimes in suitable habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
QQ. No similar action	Prohibit non-surface disturbing activities within YBC habitat that will have adverse effects to the YBC or its habitat (e.g., boat and raft landings, outfitting camps, firewood collection) within ¼ mile of occupied habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
RR. No similar action	Chemical insecticides shall not be applied within ¼ mile of YBC occupied habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
SS. No similar action	Prohibit herbicide application for grasshopper control in YBC habitat within ¼ mile of any active nests.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
TT. No similar action	In YBC habitat, prescribed fire activities will only be used to maintain or enhance YBC habitat. Prescribed burning should not be conducted within ¼ mile of suitable YBC habitat during the breeding season (i.e. June 1 to September 15).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Mountain Plover</b>			
UU. No similar action	BLM Colorado has committed to using the Interagency Mountain Plover Project Screen.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
VV. No similar action	No similar action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surface use is prohibited from April 1 to July 15 within ¼ mile of occupied nesting habitat for mountain plovers. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities.</li> <li>2. <u>Exception:</u> An exception may be granted by the authorized officer if the operator submits a plan which demonstrates that the proposed action will not affect the mountain plover or its habitat. If the authorized officer determines that the action may or will have an adverse effect, the operator may submit a plan demonstrating that the impacts can be adequately mitigated.</li> <li>3. <u>Modification:</u> The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorized officer determines that portions of the area are not critical to the mountain plover.</li> <li>4. <u>Waiver:</u> The stipulation may be waived if the authorized officer</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative B

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>determines that the portion of the lease under the restriction no longer provides potential to be occupied by the species for nesting habitat.</p>	
<p>WW. No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surface occupancy and use is prohibited within 1/8 mile of occupied nesting habitat for mountain plovers.</li> <li>2. <u>Exception:</u> An exception may be granted by the authorized officer if the operator submits a plan which demonstrates that the proposed action will not affect the mountain plover nest site.</li> <li>3. <u>Modification:</u> The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorized officer determines that surface occupancy will not harm the integrity of the nest or nest location.</li> <li>4. <u>Waiver:</u> The stipulation may be waived if the authorized officer determines that the portion of the lease under the no surface occupancy restriction no longer provides potential to be used by the species for nesting.</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>
<p><b>Canada Lynx</b></p>			

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Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No similar action	Conservation measures outlined in the Canada Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (2000), the Southern Rockies Canada Lynx Amendment (2004), and <b>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</b> will be implemented, as necessary.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
<b>Native Cutthroat Trout</b>			
XX. No similar action	Monitor watershed conditions to detect changes every 2 years in watersheds containing core conservation populations (CCP's), every five years in watersheds containing conservation populations (CP's), and every 10 years in watersheds containing hybridized/unknown populations (HUP's). Watershed monitoring will be conducted as part of BLM's Land Health Assessment process. (CRCT only)	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
YY. No similar action	Monitor lake and stream habitat to detect changes every 2 years in lakes or streams containing CCP's, every five years in lakes or streams containing CP's, and every 10 years in lakes or streams containing HUP's. Lake and stream monitoring will be conducted as part of BLM's Land Health Assessment process. (CRCT only)	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
ZZ. No similar action	Improve or maintain watershed conditions and lake and stream habitat. Watershed conditions and	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	<p>stream and lake habitat will be maintained or improved for locations containing CCP's and CP's; and maintained for locations containing HUP's. Priority will be given to improving watershed conditions and stream or lake habitat for locations containing CCP's, where possible. Habitat improvement techniques will be used where appropriate to provide missing habitat components or improve existing ones. These techniques can include building instream structures to improve pool to riffle ratios, streambank stabilization, riparian management, instream cover, pool or spawning gravel enhancement, and provision of fish passageways. (GBCT, CRCT, RGCT)</p>		
<p>AAA. No similar action</p>	<p>Where possible, BLM will acquire adequate instream flows and lake levels, and meet water quality standards for CCP's and CP's. BLM will utilize all legal avenues for maintaining adequate flows, pools and water quality, including the purchase of private water rights and negotiations on timing, duration and volume of flows and drawdowns. (GBCT, CRCT, RGCT)</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>
<p>BBB. No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<p>BLM will coordinate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) to describe existing cutthroat trout populations and their</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		instream/riparian habitats. Riparian PFC assessments will be conducted every 2 years for lakes or streams containing CCP's, every five years for lakes or streams containing CP's, and every 10 years for lakes or streams containing HUP's. Population distribution information will be collected by the CDOW, with assistance from BLM, on a schedule to be determined by the CDOW. (GBCT, CRCT, RGCT)	
CCC. No similar action	BLM will coordinate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to determine and update the genetic purity of cutthroat trout populations on BLM lands. The frequency of genetic testing will be determined by the CDOW. (GBCT, CRCT, RGCT)	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
DDD. No similar action	Land management decisions which are likely to affect CCP's or CP's should ensure that habitat elements for cutthroat trout are protected. Timber management, road construction, mineral development, and their associated impacts to CCP's or CP's should be analyzed and mitigated prior to project implementation. (GBCT, CRCT, RGCT)	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
EEE.No similar action	Livestock grazing impacts should be evaluated every 2 years for lakes or streams containing CCP's, every 5 years for lakes or streams containing	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	CP's, and every 10 years for lakes or streams containing HUP's. Impacts will be evaluated through the Land Health Assessment process with a specific focus on riparian areas. (CRCT only)		
<b>Federally Listed and Candidate Plants</b>			
FFF. No similar action	No similar action	All known locations of federally listed and candidate plants should be inventoried at least once every three years.	Same as Alternative C.
GGG. No similar action	Surface disturbing activities or land exchange in occupied or suitable habitat locations should be preceded by a current year survey and separate Section 7 Consultation.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
HHH. No similar action	BLM should avoid authorizing ground disturbing activities until Section 7 Interagency Consultation is completed.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
III. No similar action	All BLM issued minerals leases should include notification of all federally listed and candidate plant species occupied and suitable habitat. Where listed and candidate species are present, BLM may require lessee to avoid activities that will adversely affect listed species or contribute to the need to list candidate species. Additional conditions of approval beyond the 60 day notice and 200 meter limit may be required when listed or candidate species occur within the action area.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
JJJ. No similar action	The BLM should stipulate and implement fugitive dust control methods on permitted actions and activities occurring on public lands thru the NEPA process to prevent any adverse effects to federal listed or candidate plants.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
KKK. No similar action	‘Translocation’ will not be used as a rationale to defend a ‘not likely to adversely affect’ or a ‘no effect’ finding for any federally listed or candidate species.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
LLL.No similar action	All OHV use will be prohibited within <i>Eutrema penlandii</i> (Penland alpine fen mustard) habitat at all times. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) restrictions for federally listed or candidate plant species should be implemented according to current travel management guidelines to prevent adverse effects.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
MMM. No similar action	Travel management plans should include management direction to avoid adverse impacts to special status plant species.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
NNN. No similar action	<i>Phacelia submutica</i> (De Beque phacelia) will be assumed to occupy all locations within the distinctive clay formation habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
OOO. No similar action	Potential habitat for <i>Botrychium lineare</i> (slender moonwort) should be surveyed prior to the start of any projects that would remove the topsoil. It is not practical to conduct	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	surveys for disturbances that do not remove topsoil, such as grazing, mowing, or fire.		
PPP. No similar action	No similar action	Projects that remove topsoil in areas of suitable habitat for listed and candidate plants shall set aside and replace the topsoil when ground work is completed to preserve the seed bank and associated mycorrhizal species.	Same as Alternative C.
QQQ. No similar action	No similar action	When possible and appropriate, revegetation should be limited to native species that will not compete with the rare species at that site to avoid introducing competitive species. Revegetation projects shall require a site specific plan for areas with listed and candidate plant species, to be developed in consultation with the Service.	Same as Alternative C
RRR. No similar action	Protective stipulations for federally listed and candidate plants will also include appropriate measures to protect specific, pollinating species where known and identified by FWS.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
SSS. No similar action	No similar action	BLM will implement fire management practices and protection (plant locations will be made known to resource advisors of wildfires) to enhance the conservation of federally listed or candidate plant species (e.g., fire refueling or fire camps should not be established in listed or candidate plant habitat, to the extent this will	Same as Alternative C.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		not jeopardize firefighters or public safety).	
<b>Boreal Toad</b>			
TTT.No similar action	Assist with the Boreal Toad Recovery Team to identify boreal toad breeding sites. Coordinate with Boreal Toad Recovery Team to identify sites on BLM managed land.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
UUU. No similar action	Where possible, maintain standing water at boreal toad breeding sites until metamorphosis is complete.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
VVV. No similar action	BLM will not drain or fill wetlands at boreal toad breeding sites.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
WWW.No similar action	Minimize activities that may increase or cause sedimentation at boreal toad breeding sites.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
XXX. No similar action	Where BLM has discretionary authority, prevent the discharge of acid mine drainage into occupied boreal toad habitat.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
YYY. No similar action	Minimize the impact of acid mine drainage into suitable-unoccupied and potential toad habitat.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative B
ZZZ.No similar action	Identify and eliminate barriers to allow safe movement of toads between breeding sites, as well as between breeding sites and hibernacula.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
AAAA. No similar action	In occupied breeding sites, minimize concentration of livestock in breeding habitat from May 15 to September 15 to minimize the risk of trampling, and to maintain proper functioning condition of wetlands (see Bartelt	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	1998 for justification). When livestock are retained on breeding habitat, initiate monitoring studies to determine effects on toads. If monitoring studies indicate that toads or their habitat are being negatively impacted, fencing enclosures should be erected 300 feet from the delineated wetland boundary.		
BBBB. No similar action	Campsites within 300ft of occupied breeding habitat shall be closed seasonally using fencing and signs, if necessary, to protect breeding adults, egg masses, tadpoles and/or toadlets as desired.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
CCCC. No similar action	In suitable-unoccupied habitat, campsites should be located at least 100ft. from riparian areas.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
DDDD. No similar action	New trails should be at least 100 feet from boreal toad breeding sites.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
EEEE. No similar action	Do not use fish toxins in boreal toad breeding sites until metamorphosis is complete.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
FFFF. Bald Eagle: NSO within ¼ mile radius of roost or nest site. NSO area may be altered depending upon the active status of the roost or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening. No exceptions for nest sites.	Year round No Surface Occupancy within ¼ mile radius of both occupied and unoccupied nests. Definition of ‘occupied nest’ [from Northern States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan 1983, page D4].: a) young were observed, b) eggs were laid (eggs or eggshell fragments observed), c) one adult observed in incubating (“sitting low”) posture on the nest during the incubation period,	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	<p>d) two adults observed at an empty nest or within the breeding area, and                      e) one adult and one eagle in immature plumage at or near a nest, especially if mating or reproductive behavior (display flights, copulation, nest repair, etc.) was observed.</p>		
<p>GGGG. Bald eagle nesting habitat – December 15 to June 15. Applies ½ mile buffer zone around the nest site to prevent disruption of nesting. Exceptions: During years when a nest site is unoccupied by or after May 15, timing limitation may be suspended. May also be suspended once young have fledged and dispersed from nest.</p>	<p>No human activity or other permanent surface disturbance within ½ mile radius of occupied nests from November 15 through July 31.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>HHHH. No similar action</p>	<p>No Surface Occupancy within 100 meter radius of abandoned nests (unoccupied for 5 consecutive years, but with all or part of the nest remaining).</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>
<p>III. Bald eagle winter roost site – November 16 to April 15. Applies ½ mile buffer area around the roost site to avoid relocation to less suitable areas. Exceptions: If there is partial or complete visual screening of the area of activity, the primary zone around the roost site may be</p>	<p>Human activities within ¼ mile of known winter hunting perches and ½ mile of critical night roosts on BLM land should be restricted from November 15 to March 15. Buffers can be reduced to ¼ mile for night roosts and 1/8 mile for hunting perches if the activity is visually screened by vegetation or topography. Development may be permitted at</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

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<b>Alternative A (Existing Situation)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
reduced to ¼ mile.	other periods. If periodic visits (such as oil well maintenance work) are required within the buffer zone after development, activity should be restricted to the hours of 1000 and 1400 hours from November 15 to March 15 (new guidelines developed by CDOW based on current data). Exceptions will require consultation for each individual action.		
JJJJ. No similar action	Prohibit cutting down any native tree on BLM land that is 12 inches dbh or greater, and within 100 feet of a river bank or other foraging area. Exceptions will require consultation for each individual action.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
KKKK. No similar action	Prohibit any activity on BLM lands which has the potential to kill perch trees or impede utilization of foraging areas.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
LLLL. No similar action	Implement silvicultural practices as necessary on BLM lands to enhance perch site availability.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
MMMM. No similar action	The BLM will work with CDOW to identify locations for all known roost sites on or within ¼ mile of BLM lands.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
NNNN. No similar action	All surface disturbing activities (e.g., project construction) should be prohibited within ¼ mile of known roosts on BLM land, unless the activity will benefit wintering bald eagles or their habitat. Exceptions will require consultation for each	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

Alternative A (Existing Situation)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	individual action.		
OOOO. No similar action	New roads and bridges on BLM lands should be located at least ½ mile from critical night roosts. If BLM chooses to construct a road or bridge within ½ mile of critical night roosts, then the road must be closed to all use from November 15 to March 15. If topography or vegetation provide a visual screen, the buffer can be reduced to ¼ mile, but the seasonal closure would still be required.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
PPPP. No similar action	All new powerline construction should comply with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's publication: <u>Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1996</u> . Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Raptor Research Foundation, Carpenter Nature Center, 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings, Minnesota 55033.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Wild Horses</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 the Sand Wash wild horse herd (currently 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. <i>Remove wild horses that relocate outside of HMAs expeditiously.</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.	<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 163 to 362 wild horses. 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 population management options</li> <li>f) Herd genetics</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
A. Use the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area Plan to guide the management of wild horses in this area.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Sand Wash HMA as the Sand Wash Wild Horse Range.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Fire</b>			
<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.			
<b>Goal A Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Identify and reduce hazardous fuels, with emphasis in urban interface areas.</i>			
<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 vegetation treatments to reduce fire hazards when appropriate.</i>			
<b>Goal C Objectives:</b>			
1. <i>Utilize cooperative agreements to coordinate fire and fuels management action.</i>			
<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).	Use maximum fire suppression in areas where fire not desired at all or wildfire is not desired such as ecosystems where fire never played a significant positive role in it's function; areas where suppression is required to prevent direct threats to life or property; private lands and urban interfaces, important cultural resources, areas with unnatural fuel buildups, and areas where seed bank does not exist for natural reseeding.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
B. Use conditional fire suppression in areas with resources of low value or that do not warrant full suppression	Use conditional fire suppression in areas where fire is desired but where there may be social, political, or ecological constraints such as air	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**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).	quality considerations (proximity to Class I airsheds or non-attainment areas); threatened or endangered species or habitat considerations.		
C. No similar action	Use minimal to no fire suppression in areas where fire is desired.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
D. Use both planned and unplanned prescribed fire to improve resource habitat, condition, etc.	Use both prescribed fire and wildfire to improve resource habitat, condition, etc. where appropriate.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Livestock Grazing Management</b>			
<p><b>Goal A:</b> Manage resources, vegetation, and watersheds to sustain livestock grazing.  <b>Goal B:</b> Provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.  <b>Goal C:</b> Contribute to the stability and sustainability of the livestock industry.</p>			
<p><b>Goal A Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Maintain and improve forage species diversity and abundance by managing to meet plant reproductive and physiological needs.</i></li> <li><i>Minimize conflicts between livestock and other grazing animals in areas of increased pressure on forage and riparian zones.</i></li> <li><i>Manage plant utilization by all foraging species at a level that maintains plant health and protects watersheds.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Goal B Objective:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To sustain flexible and viable agriculture operations, allow the opportunity to create common reserve allotments, by partnering with state, federal, or private landowners when lands or permits become available without requiring involuntary AUM retirements or transfers.</i></li> </ol>			
<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. Implement vegetation land treatments on 68 allotments: 1. Use such treatments as	See Vegetation section.		

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>interseeding, burning and reseeded, spraying, and plowing and reseeded</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <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>D. 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>E. No similar action</p>	<p>Criteria in Appendix XX would be used to establish Reserve Conservation Allotments. Management plans will be developed for all allotments to be used as a Reserve Conservation Allotment.</p> <p>Criteria for Permittee/Lessee Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Priority will be given to those permittees/lessees whose</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>

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**Habitat Management**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	<p>customary allotments are under an approved rangeland restoration/recovery project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency conditions, such as wildfire</li> <li>▪ NOT to be used for drought or for overuse of customary allotment</li> </ul>		

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Habitat Management**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Forest Products</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.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage forest communities for forest health using fire and other treatments (see Vegetation section) and allowing product sales.	Same as Alternative C.
B. 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.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage woodland communities for woodland health using fire and other treatments (see Vegetation section) and allowing product sales.	Same as Alternative C.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Special Management Areas</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. Manage WSAs to protect wilderness characteristics until designated or released by Congress.</li> <li>2. Manage to protect the values of areas where special management prescriptions are identified.</li> <li>3. Complete motorized route designations for special management areas that are not closed to motorized vehicle use.</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>The following sites, totaling 22,530 acres, are designated to protect enhance the values noted:</p> <p>Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA (1,350 acres; remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p> <p>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>Lookout Mountain ACEC (6,500 acres; Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).</p> <p>Cross Mountain ACEC (3,000 acres;</p>	<p>Designate no additional ACECs, and remove ACEC designation from all existing ACECs. (Manage 0 acres as ACEC).</p>	<p>Retain designation of the Irish Canyon ACEC (11,680 acres).</p> <p>The following areas would not be retained as ACECs. Management of these areas would be as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limestone Ridge (1,350 acres)</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain (6,500 acres)</li> <li>• Cross Mountain (3,000 acres)</li> </ul>	<p>Retain Irish Canyon ACEC, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Lookout Mountain ACEC, and Cross Mountain ACEC.</p> <p>In addition, designate the White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC (289,438 acres), Cold Desert Shrublands ACEC (X acres), Gibben's Beardtongue ACEC (X acres), Bull Canyon ACEC (X acres), G Gap ACEC (X acres), Little Juniper Canyon ACEC (336 acres), Bassett Spring ACEC (80 acres), Browns Draw ACEC (467 acres), No Name Spring ACEC (112 acres), Pot Creek ACEC (62 acres), Whiskey Springs East ACEC (127 acres), Willow Spring @ Cold Spring Mountain ACEC (95 acres), and Zenobia Peak East ACEC (341</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
threatened and endangered species, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, scenic quality).			acres).
<b>Limestone Ridge</b>			
<p>Minerals and Energy:            No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Open            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development</p> <p>OHV: Open</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No restrictions</p>	<p>Drop ACEC designation.</p> <p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Management of the area would be the same as Alternative A, except closed to other minerals.</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas exploration and development            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>
<b>Irish Canyon</b>			
<p>Minerals and Energy:            Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations            Locatable - Open            Other Minerals - Open            Coal - Open</p>	<p>No similar action.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development</p> <p>OHV: Open</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, scenic, cultural, and geologic values.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A, except</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, scenic, cultural, and geologic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas exploration and development.</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>	<p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No restrictions</p>	<p>closed to oil and gas exploration and development.</p>	<p>Locatable - Closed</p> <p>Other Minerals - Closed</p> <p>Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>
<b>Lookout Mountain</b>			
<p>Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal – Open</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: Open to all exploration and development</p> <p>OHV: Open</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: No limitations</p>	<p>Drop ACEC designation.</p> <p>Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to designated</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – Renewal of existing and authorization of future ROWs will</p>	<p>Objective: Protect sensitive plant, remnant plant communities, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Communication Sites – Existing communication ROWs may be renewed at the end of their term in accordance with area objectives</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		be allowed upon approval of a site-specific development plan consistent with area resource objectives.	and current regulations. No new communication sites will be authorized.  ROW – Exclusion area
<b>Cross Mountain (Area is currently within Cross Mountain WSA)</b>			
Minerals and Energy: No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals- Open Coal – Closed  OHV: Closed  VRM: Class I  Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.	No ACEC designation but manage consistent with WSA requirements.	Same as Alternative B.	Objective: Protect sensitive plants, threatened and endangered species, and scenic values.  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals- Closed Coal – Closed  OHV: Closed  VRM: Class I  Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>White-Tailed Prairie Dog</b>			
No ACEC designated. Active white-tailed prairie dog colonies are avoidance areas for surface disturbing activities only within black-footed ferret reintroduction area.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	<p>Objective: Protect white-tailed prairie dog habitat.</p> <p>The following management applies only to areas within the designated polygon (Map X) containing active/inactive white-tailed prairie dog colonies:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:            No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas operations            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals- Closed            Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: No classification related to prairie dog colonies.</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Natural Systems ACECs</b>			
No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	<p>Designate the following ACECs</p> <p>Cold Desert Shrublands ACEC (X acres)</p> <p>Gibben's Beardtongue ACEC (X acres)</p> <p>Bull Canyon ACEC (X acres)</p> <p>G Gap ACEC (X acres)</p> <p>Little Juniper Canyon ACEC (336 acres)</p> <p>Bassett Spring ACEC (80 acres)</p> <p>Browns Draw ACEC (467 acres)</p> <p>No Name Spring ACEC (112 acres)</p> <p>Pot Creek ACEC (62 acres)</p> <p>Whiskey Springs East ACEC (127 acres)</p> <p>Willow Spring @ Cold Spring Mountain ACEC (95 acres)</p> <p>Zenobia Peak East ACEC (341 acres).</p> <p>The Objective of these ACECs is to protect sensitive plants and plant communities.</p> <p>The following management applies only to areas within the designated polygons (Map X):</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<p><b>Controlled Surface Use</b> for oil and gas operations                      Locatable - Closed                      Other Minerals- Closed                      Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: No classification related to ACECs.</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance</p>
<b>Wilderness Study Areas</b>			
<p>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</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as follows:</p> <p>OHV – Limited to designated</p> <p>Minerals –</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as follows:</p> <p>OHV – Closed</p> <p>Minerals –</p>

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<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>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable – closed</li> <li>• Other minerals – closed</li> <li>• Coal - closed</li> </ul> <p>VRM – Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW exclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable – closed</li> <li>• Other minerals – closed</li> <li>• Coal - closed</li> </ul> <p>VRM – Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>The Cross Mountain WSA (including the proposed Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC) will be recommended as preliminarily suitable for wilderness 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)</p>	<p>Cross Mountain WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Cross Mountain from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Cross Mountain WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Diamond Breaks from wilderness study, it would be managed as an ACEC as follows:</p> <p>Objective: Protect sensitive plants, threatened and endangered species, and scenic values.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		<p>Closed to oil and gas operations                      Locatable - closed                      Other Minerals- closed                      Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area unless associated with valid existing rights.</p>	
<p>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 14,482 acres). The Utah portion of the WSA would be managed under the Brown’s Park Management Framework Plan</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed the same as the adjacent wilderness character area:</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:                      Closed to oil and gas operations</p>	<p>West Cold Spring WSA would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases West Cold Springs from wilderness study, it would be managed the same as the adjacent SRMA:</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:                      Closed to oil and gas operations</p>

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**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		<p>Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited (apply adaptive criteria)</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; accept wind energy applications on case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class I</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<p>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 remainder as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.</li> <li>2. Chew Winter Camp would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit.</li> <li>3. The north third of Peterson</li> </ol>	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve their wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates them wilderness or releases them for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, it would be managed as multiple use consistent with resource goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, they would be managed the same as the adjacent wilderness character area:</p>	<p>Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears WSAs would be managed to preserve its wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and would continue to be managed in that manner until the Congress either designates it wilderness or releases it for other uses.</p> <p>If Congress releases Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, and Vale of Tears from wilderness study, they would be managed the same as the adjacent SRMA:</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>Draw would be managed as the Scattered Sands Management Unit and the remainder as the Douglas Mountain Management Unit.</p> <p>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))</p> <p>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</p>		<p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas exploration and development            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited (apply adaptive criteria)</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; no wind energy</p>	<p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas exploration and development            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated</p> <p>VRM: Class I</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</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</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Snake RMPPA.			
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.	If any or all the wilderness study areas are released by Congress, manage the released lands in accordance with multiple use direction and land allocations established in the RMP including special designations such as special recreation management areas, suitable wild and scenic rivers and areas of critical environmental concern. Review resource allocations restricted due to WSA management policies--such as oil and gas leasing, coal unsuitability, lands and realty actions and wood cutting—to determine if changes in management are needed. If so, initiate a revision of the resource management plan.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
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 developed for areas designated by Congress as wilderness	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>			
Existing land use plans contain no decisions regarding wild and scenic rivers.	No recommendations as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.	Determine and Manage Yampa Segments 1, 2 and 3 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild	Determine and manage all eligible segments and tentative classifications (listed below) as

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>As directed by BLM IM-2004-196, manage all of <i>eligible</i> river segments (XX miles) to protect their outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification, as follows:</p> <p>In keeping with BLM Manual 8351, .32C and .33 C, suitability determinations would not be made for any of the eligible river segments. They would remain eligible and would be managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification to the degree that BLM has authority (i.e., BLM lands within the corridor) and within the parameters of decisions made in the previous planning documents until such time as suitability determinations are made.</p>		and Scenic River System.	<p>suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System:</p> <p>Beaver Creek Segment 1 (wild)  Vermillion Creek Segment 1 (Lower Vermillion Creek, scenic)  Yampa Segment 1 (River Mile 126 to Milk Creek, recreational)  Yampa Segment 2 (Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel, scenic)  Yampa Segment 3 (Cross Mountain Canyon, wild)</p>
No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Beaver Creek Segment 1 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River</p>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<p>System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> </ul>
No similar action.	No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Vermillion Creek Segment 1 as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including cultural and geology. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> </ul>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> </ul>
No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 1 of the Yampa River (2.8 miles from River Mile #126 to Milk Creek area) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>recreational</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> </ul> <p>For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk,</p>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 1 of the Yampa River (2.8 miles from River Mile #126 to Milk Creek area) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>recreational</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> <li>• For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to</li> </ul>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.	ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.
No similar action.	No similar action.	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 2 of the Yampa River (13.9 miles from Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> <li>• For sites within the segment where habitat</li> </ul>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 2 of the Yampa River (13.9 miles from Milk Creek to Duffy Tunnel) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>scenic</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including recreation and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> <li>• For sites within the segment where habitat loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability</li> </ul>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>loss is a risk, remedial actions would be implemented to ensure that the suitability of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.</p>	<p>of the spawning habitat is maintained, or enhanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to livestock grazing during the months of June and July.</li> </ul>
<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 3 of the Yampa River (3.3 miles through Cross Mountain Canyon) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including scenic, recreation, geologic, and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>The following management actions would only apply to the portions of the river segments where the river corridor is managed by the BLM.</p> <p>Manage Segment 3 of the Yampa River (3.3 miles through Cross Mountain Canyon) as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System with the tentative classification of <i>wild</i>.</p> <p>Manage to protect the outstandingly remarkable values, including scenic, recreation, geologic, and fish. Specific management prescriptions within one-quarter mile of each side of the river include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to OHV</li> <li>• Close to oil and gas leasing.</li> <li>• Recommend withdrawing from mineral entry.</li> </ul>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Lands With Wilderness Character Outside Existing WSAs</b>			
<i>Vermillion Basin</i>			
<p>Minerals and Energy:  Open to new oil and gas leasing  Locatable - Open  Other Minerals - Open  Coal - Open</p> <p>OHV: Open, some Limited to Existing</p> <p>VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Objectives:  Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.  Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.  Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point  Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.  Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Consider phased leasing (leasing the northern section first, then moving south as development increases or information becomes available about the other regions) and/or development? (Disturbance thresholds or limits, such as 5%)</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:  Open to new oil and gas leasing</p>	<p>Zone 1 (Northern Zone of High and Medium potential):</p> <p>Objectives:  Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.  Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.  Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point  Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.  Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:  Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives above.</p>	<p>Objective: provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings</p> <p>Designate as a backcountry SRMA.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:  Closed to new oil and gas leasing  Locatable - Closed  Other Minerals - Closed  Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Exclusion area</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
	<p>with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives above.                      Locatable – Closed                      Other Minerals - Closed                      Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: Class III, Class II for Vermillion Bluffs area</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Case-by-case basis, avoidance for Vermillion Bluffs and fragile soil areas?</p>	<p>Locatable – Closed                      Other Minerals - Closed                      Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: Class III, Class II for Vermillion Bluffs area</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Case-by-case basis, avoidance for Vermillion Bluffs and fragile soil areas?</p> <p>Zone 2: (Southwest area of Low and No Known potential)                      Objectives: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:                      Closed to new oil and gas leasing                      Locatable – Closed                      Other Minerals - Closed                      Coal – Closed</p> <p>OHV:                      The portion of Vermillion Basin south and east of Ted’s Draw will</p>	

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		be Limited to Designated Routes The remaining portion of Zone 2 will be Closed to OHVs.  VRM: II  Lands and Realty: Exclusion/avoidance area	
<i>Dinosaur North (includes Dinosaur Adjacent CWPs and Happy Hollow)</i>			
Multiple use outside existing WSAs  Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal - Open  OHV: Open  VRM: Not applicable  Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis	Same as Alternative A.	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>WHEN CALCULATING AREA, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE WILD MOUNTAIN.</b></p> Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.  No designation with the following prescriptions:  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed  OHV: Limited to Designated Routes	<p style="background-color: yellow;"><b>WHEN CALCULATING AREA, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE WILD MOUNTAIN.</b></p> Objective: Provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings  Designate as a backcountry SRMA.  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed  OHV: Closed  VRM: Class II

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		VRM: Class II  Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; no wind energy	Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy
<i>Cold Springs Mountain</i>			
Multiple use outside existing WSAs  Minerals and Energy: Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas operations Locatable - Open Other Minerals - Open Coal - Open  OHV: Majority Limited to Existing, remainder is Open  VRM: Not applicable  Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis	Same as Alternative A.	Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.  No designation with the following prescriptions:  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed  OHV: Limited to designated routes  VRM: Class III  Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; accept wind energy applications on case-by-case basis.	Objective: Provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings  Designate as a backcountry SRMA.  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed  OHV: Closed  VRM: Class II  Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy
Lands with Backcountry Characteristics outside existing WSAs			
No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Cross Mountain Area XX acres adjacent to Cross

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<p>Mountain WSA. See <a href="#">Map X</a>.</p> <p>Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas operations            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion.</p>
No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	<p>Diamond Breaks Area <a href="#">XX acres</a> adjacent to Diamond Breaks WSA. See <a href="#">Map X</a>.</p> <p>Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:            Closed to oil and gas operations            Locatable - Closed            Other Minerals - Closed            Coal - Closed</p> <p>OHV: Closed</p>

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Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			VRM: Class II  Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion.
No Similar Action	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Pinyon Ridge Area <b>XX acres. See Map X.</b>  Objective: Provide backcountry recreation experience in predominantly natural settings  Minerals and Energy: Closed to oil and gas operations Locatable - Closed Other Minerals - Closed Coal - Closed  OHV: Closed  VRM: Class II  Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion.

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

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<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>			
1. <i>Maintain VRM characteristics/values as designated by management classes.</i>			
2. <i>Land management projects and uses will meet VRM objectives within the boundaries of the designated VRM management class.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
VRM Class I			
WSAs (manage in accordance with IM)	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	In addition to WSAs, Cross Mountain ACEC
VRM Class II			
No similar action	Same as Alternative A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable WSR corridors</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge area</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Zone 2 and Vermillion Bluffs areas of Vermillion Basin</li> <li>• Dinosaur North wilderness character area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable WSR corridors</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge area/ACEC</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC/area</li> <li>• Vermillion Basin SRMA</li> <li>• Dinosaur North SRMA</li> <li>• Cold Springs Mountain SRMA</li> <li>• Cross Mountain area outside WSA</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks area outside WSA</li> <li>• Pinyon Ridge area</li> </ul>
VRM Class III			
No similar action	Same as Alternative A	All remaining	All remaining
VRM Class IV			

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No similar action	All remaining	Hiawatha and Powder Wash areas, regions of Sand Wash Basin, areas suitable for coal mining	Open OHV area in South Sand Wash SRMA, Hiawatha and Powder Wash areas, areas suitable for coal mining
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<b>Resource/Resource Use: Cultural Resources</b>			
Cultural Resources Program Goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Develop an in-depth understanding of archeological and historical resources in accordance with NHPA Section 110.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>			
Support Services Goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict by other program uses.</li> <li>B. Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.</li> </ul>			
<b>Cultural Resource Program Objectives</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>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.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Publish findings of cultural studies and improve legal enforcement.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Expand regional interpretation activities through the recreation program and local partners.</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Support Services Objectives</b>			
<b>Goal A</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Pursue ethnographic studies for the field office to facilitate tribal consultation requirements.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Pursue programmatic agreements with tribal governments to streamline consultation procedures.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Assign use allocations for all cultural properties.</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Goal B</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Identify priority areas for new field surveys, based upon a probability for consumptive use conflicts on significant resources.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Improve legal enforcement.</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Cultural Resource Surveys</b>			
Evaluate all proposed surface-disturbing actions to determine inventory needs and sites	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
potentially impacted by such activities.			
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.
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.
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 research questions that have been developed in the Little Snake RMPPA Class I	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>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>Maintain Irish Canyon interpretive site.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emphasize development of interpretive program (could include Sand Wash, Medicine Wheel, buffalo jump on Vermillion Ridge).</li> <li>2. Upon acquisition/exchange of Vermillion Canyon and Thornburg Battle Site, include in interpretive program.</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Emphasize conservation and scientific study of cultural resources.</p>
<b>Cultural Site Use Allocation</b>			
<p>No similar action</p>	<p>Criteria for site reallocation?</p> <p>Allocate fewer sites to conservation use.</p> <p>Allocate most sites to scientific use.</p> <p>Allocate more sites to public use to support larger interpretive program.</p> <p>Focus research needs on developing information to support public use</p>		<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 areas of limited knowledge lesser known areas.</li> </ol>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	<p>sites and areas of potential development.</p> <p>Identify sites/areas for traditional uses (or criteria for designating as such).</p> <p>Limited restrictions to protect cultural resources, relying heavily on regulatory compliance to reduce impacts to sites.</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>

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Paleontological Resources</b>			
<b>Paleontological Resources Program Goal:</b> To identify and protect the paleontological resources within the Little Snake Field Office.			
<b>Paleontological Resource Program Objectives</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Expand paleontological support activity, such as data gathering, GIS integration, and Class I surveys.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Provide educational and interpretation opportunities for paleontological resources.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Improve legal enforcement.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>Evaluate all proposed surface-disturbing actions to determine inventory needs and sites potentially impacted by such activities.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing activities in Class I and II Paleontological Areas will have an inventory performed by an accredited paleontologist approved by the Authorized Officer.</p> <p>Mitigative measures for specific locations identified on a case-by-case basis.</p>	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.
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. These developed plans would address the existing data	No similar action.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>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>			

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Special Management Areas, VRM, Cultural and Paleontological Resources, and Socioeconomic**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Social and Economic Values</b>			
<b>Social and Economic Values Goal:</b> Manage public lands to provide social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.			
<b>Social and Economic Values Objectives</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Work cooperatively with private and community groups and local government to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local, regional, and national economies.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Maintain and promote the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the northwest Colorado area and beyond.</i></li> </ol>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
No similar action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide for predictable and sustainable levels of commodity outputs.</li> <li>2) Provide natural resource amenities on public lands that promote local communities as places to live, work, or visit.</li> <li>3) Protect natural and cultural values for the enjoyment of future generations.</li> <li>4) Target local economies for government business activities associated with public land management to the extent permitted by the existing authorities</li> </ol>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**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. <i>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.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources (to include Coalbed Natural Gas).</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>Leasing Decisions</b>			
<p>A. Lease with standard lease terms and conditions plus specified stipulations</p> <p>B. 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.</p> <p>C. 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 terms and</p>	<p>Lease with standard lease terms and conditions and non-discretionary stipulations.</p>	<p>Lease with standard lease terms and conditions plus specified stipulations.</p> <p>Exceptions, modifications, and waivers could be provided as detailed in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Lease with standard lease terms and conditions plus specified stipulations, no exceptions, modifications, or waivers</p>

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**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
(as applicable) lease stipulations noted in Appendix A of the Amendment.			
<b>Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing:</b>			
D. WSAs	WSAs	WSAs; Limestone Ridge, Dinosaur North, Cold Springs Area (outside WSA), Vermillion Basin (Zone 2), Irish Canyon ACEC; WSR Segments 1, 2, and 3.	WSAs, Vermillion Basin, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Cross Mountain ACEC, Irish Canyon ACEC, all suitable WSR segments; Cross Mountain backcountry area; Diamond Breaks backcountry area; Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Dinosaur North SRMA, Cold Springs Area SRMA,
<b>No Surface Occupancy Stipulations:</b>			
E. Leases within the area of federally leased coal lands where oil and gas development would likely be incompatible with coal extraction. Stipulation may be waived if lessee agrees to outlined conditions.	Same as Alternative A. [Assuming this is non-discretionary]	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
F. Special status plant species: NSO on habitat areas containing special status species (federally listed, proposed, and candidate). NSO may be altered after important factors are considered in the impact analysis such as the type and	See Special Status Species section.		

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**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
amount of surface disturbance, plant frequency and density, and the relocation of disturbances.			
G. NSO areas: Limestone Ridge ACEC; Cross Mountain Canyon ACEC; Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Steamboat Lake State Park; Pearl Lake State Park. No exceptions.	No similar action	Lookout Mountain, Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA, Cedar Mountain SRMA	Lookout Mountain ACEC, White-tailed prairie dog ACEC, Little Yampa SRMA,
<b>Controlled Surface Use Stipulations:</b>			
H. Attached to leases where operations proposed within the area of an approved surface or underground coal mine will be relocated outside the area to be mined or to accommodate room and pillar mining operations. Stipulations may be waived subject to outlined conditions.	Same as Alternative A. [Assuming this is non-discretionary]	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
I. Fragile Soil Areas – performance objectives must be met prior to surface disturbance.	No similar action	Fragile Soil Areas (see Soils section for performance objectives and fragile soil criteria)	Same as Alternative C
J. Prior to surface disturbance on slopes of, or greater than, 40 percent, an engineering/ reclamation plan must be approved by the Authorized Officer. Stipulations may be excepted subject to an on-site	No similar action	Prior to surface disturbance on slopes of, or greater than, 35 percent, an engineering/ reclamation plan must be approved by the Authorized Officer. Stipulations may be excepted subject to an on-site impact analysis. Stipulation not applied where the	Same as Alternative C

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>impact analysis. Stipulation not applied where the Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.</p>		<p>Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.</p>	
<p>K. Irish Canyon ACEC: Inventory for sensitive plant and remnant vegetation associations will be required. Sensitive plants and associations identified will be avoided. Known geologic values and cultural resources will be avoided. No exceptions.</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>
<p>L. Lookout Mountain ACEC: Inventory for sensitive plant and remnant vegetation associations will be required. Sensitive plants and associations identified will be avoided. No exceptions.</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>
<p>M. CSU areas: Cold Springs Area (outside WSA), <b>additional to those not already listed?</b></p>	<p>Vermillion Basin; Dinosaur North; Cold Springs Area (outside WSA)</p>	<p>Vermillion Basin (Zone 1)</p>	<p>Natural Systems ACECs</p>
<p><b>Timing Limitation Stipulations:</b></p>			
<p>N. No helicopter or motor vehicle use allowed in the wild horse herd management area during foaling season (March 2 to June 30). No exceptions.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>Consider seasonal closures in wild horse foaling areas on an as needed basis for all activities based on site specific transportation planning results, consistency with other resource restrictions, and resource</p>	<p>Wild horse foaling areas would be closed to helicopter and/or motor vehicle use during March 2 to June 30.</p>

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**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>O. No drilling or development operations permitted within 1-mile radius from March 1 to December 1 from Wild Horse Spring, Sheepherder Spring, Coffee Pot Spring, Two Bar Spring, and Dugout Draw Spring. Exceptions would include provision, by the operator, of an alternate dependable water source at a suitable location outside the mile radius of the spring prior to authorized activity.</p>	<p>No similar action.</p>	<p>conflicts. Consider seasonal closures around wild horse water sources on an as needed basis for all activities based on consistency with other resource restrictions and resource conflicts.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
<b>Open:</b>			
<p>P. All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p>	<p>All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p>	<p>All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p>	<p>All remaining areas subject to existing standard terms and conditions consistent with applicable law.</p>
<b>Best Management Practices for Development</b>			
<p>No Similar Action</p>	<p>Encourage the use of a variety of BMPs, as defined by “Best Management Practices For Oil and Gas Development on Public Lands,” <a href="http://www.blm.gov/bmp/">http://www.blm.gov/bmp/</a>.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>
<b>Exception, Waiver, and/or Modification</b>			
<p>Q. Stipulations or restrictions may be waived or reduced if resource conditions change and the protection is no longer necessary or if the lessee can</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Exception (case-by-case temporary), waiver (permanent exemption), and modification (change stip) criteria would be applied on a case-by-case basis consistent with the process</p>	<p>No similar action</p>

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**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts.		identified in Appendix X.	
R. 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.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
<b>Vermillion Basin</b>			
S. Open to leasing subject to standard terms and conditions and specific stipulations.	<p>Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.</li> <li>• Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.</li> <li>• Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point</li> <li>• Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation</li> </ul>	<p>Zone 1 (Northern Zone of High and Medium potential):</p> <p>Open to new oil and gas leasing with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. Stipulation language would reference Objectives below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development by utilizing state of the art technology, while protecting natural values.</li> <li>• Manage for minimal surface disturbance by focusing development near existing trails, ROWs, canyons and washes and clustering wells where feasible.</li> <li>• Manage to minimize visual intrusions, Lookout Mountain as observation point</li> </ul>	Closed to leasing.

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**Minerals and Energy**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	<p>planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells.</li> <li>• Consider phased leasing (leasing the northern section first, then moving south as development increases or information becomes available about the other regions) and/or development? (Disturbance thresholds or limits, such as 5%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control infrastructure by requiring pre-planning, including transportation planning.</li> <li>• Lease in larger leases (4 section blocks) in order to facilitate seismic exploration and allow operators to drill fewer wells</li> <li>• Other ideas not currently integrated:</li> <li>• Cap number of wells drilled per year?</li> <li>• Consider phased leasing, starting in NE corner?</li> </ul> <p>Zone 2: (Southwest area of Low and No Known potential)</p> <p>Closed to new oil and gas leasing</p>	

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

**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.</p> <p>B. No Action – all areas open except WSAs, Limestone Ridge ACEC</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except Limestone Ridge ACEC open to mineral location.</p> <p>Vermillion Basin would be withdrawn from mineral location.</p>	<p>WSAs, Lookout Mountain ACEC, Cross Mountain ACEC, WSR suitable segments 1, 2, and 3, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cold Springs Mountain; Cedar Mountain SRMA; South Sand Wash SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Flycreek SRMA; would be withdrawn from mineral location.</p>	<p>WSAs, all ACECs, all suitable WSR segments, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cross Mountain backcountry area, Diamond Breaks backcountry area, Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Snake/Juniper Canyon SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; South Sand Wash SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Flycreek SRMA; Cold Springs Mountain SRMA would be withdrawn from mineral location.</p>
<p>C. Applications for removing common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>WSAs, Limestone Ridge ACEC, Lookout Mountain ACEC, Cross Mountain ACEC, WSR suitable segments 1, 2, and 3, Vermillion</p>	<p>WSAs, all ACECs, all suitable WSR segments, Vermillion Basin, Dinosaur North, Cross Mountain backcountry area,</p>

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**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>processed as they are received. Interdisciplinary 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.</p> <p>D. No Action – all areas open except WSAs</p>		<p>Basin, Cedar Mountain SRMA would be closed to mineral material sales.</p>	<p>Diamond Breaks backcountry area, Pinyon Ridge backcountry area; Little Snake/Juniper Canyon SRMA; Cedar Mountain SRMA; Serviceberry SRMA; Cold Springs Mountain SRMA would be closed to mineral material sales.</p>
<p>E. 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</p>	<p>Lease specific areas consistent with oil and gas leasing categories above.</p>	<p>Lease specific areas consistent with oil and gas leasing categories above.</p>	<p>Lease specific areas consistent with oil and gas leasing categories above.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>stipulations. Leasing for surface mining will not be allowed in these four areas.</p> <p>F. Existing decisions apply. Specific areas to be consistent with oil and gas leasing categories by alternative (surface only).</p>			
<p>G. 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.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**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>			
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>			
2. <i>Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of federal coal and oil shale estate.</i>			
3. <i>Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.</i>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Coal</b>			
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.	Lands found acceptable in this resource management plan (RMP) will be available for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange. However, all lands determined to be suitable, unsuitable, or unacceptable for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange may be reviewed and suitability determinations modified based on new data during activity planning efforts.  The lands with coal resource development potential in the Little Snake coal planning area are located in the Yampa and Dansforth Hills Coal Fields. The coal planning includes federal coal within the following townships:  Sixth Principal Meridian T. 3 N., R. 85 W.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B, but only <b>XX</b> acres are suitable after application of unsuitability criteria (less land will be suitable due to withdrawal of Little Yampa Canyon SRMA).

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	<p>T. 3 N., R. 86 W.  T. 3 N., R. 90 W. - R. 95 W.  T. 4 N., R. 86 W. - R. 95 W.  T. 5 N., R. 85 W. - R. 93 W.  T. 6 N., R. 86 W. - R. 93 W.  T. 7 N., R. 87 W. - R. 94 W.  T. 8 N., R. 86 W. - R. 94 W.  T. 9 N., R. 86 W.</p> <p>Approximately 638,758 acres federal coal lands.</p> <p>Unsuitability Criteria were applied to these lands. Results are shown in <b>Appendix “Coal.”</b></p> <p>After applying unsuitability criteria, approximately <b>XXX acres</b> are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for surface or underground development.</p>		
<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.</p>	<p>Approximately <b>XX acres</b> are acceptable for further consideration for leasing for underground development only</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p><b>Same as Alternative B???</b></p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**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.	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.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
E. 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.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, Stagecoach State Park would also be designated NSO.  <b>[MAKE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER RESOURCE TABLES]</b>	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)  
**Minerals and Energy**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>F. 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.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p><b>[MAKE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER RESOURCE TABLES]</b></p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>
<b>Oil Shale</b>			
<p>G. BLM will consider leasing other leasable minerals as each application is received. (ROD p. 10)</p>	<p>BLM will consider leasing Oil Shale as each application is received. Lands available for leasing are consistent with lands available for oil and gas leasing or coal leasing, depending on the extraction method (i.e. in-situ or mined),</p> <p><b>[WAITING FOR HELP FROM JIM EDWARDS]</b></p>	<p>Same as Alternative B, recognizing different areas will be open to leasing because of consistency with oil and gas and coal decisions in this alternative.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B, recognizing different areas will be open to leasing because of consistency with oil and gas and coal decisions in this alternative.</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>			
<p>No Similar Action</p>	<p>Encourage the use of “flareless completions” or “green completions” as a Best Management Practice.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Resource/Resource Use: Transportation and Access &amp; Travel Management</b>			
<b>Transportation and Access</b>			
<b>Goal A:</b> Provide a transportation system that is manageable and maintainable, meets management needs, and minimizes impacts to resources and habitats.			
<b>Objectives A:</b>			
<i>Utilize a collaborative transportation planning to identify and designate transportation routes and manage the amount of road construction and habitat fragmentation.</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>County and local governments and affected interests will be invited to participate in transportation planning.</i></li> <li>b) <i>Identify criteria to determine when detailed transportation planning should occur.</i></li> <li>c) <i>The transportation plan will identify road construction, and maintenance standards needed to protect resources and accommodate anticipated traffic types and levels of use.</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Goal B:</b> Provide a mix of motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized legal public access to public lands.			
<b>Objectives B:</b>			
<i>Work with County and local governments and affected interests to identify priority access needs.</i>			
<b>Travel Management</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Provide for types or modes of access and travel that will balance resource protection with use.			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>County and local governments and affected interests will be invited to participate in travel management.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Designate all public lands as open, limited, and closed to motorized travel activities.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Develop criteria that will be used to guide travel management implementation actions.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Identify a managed road, route and trail system within the planning area.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Reduce amount of unmanaged roads and trails.</i></li> </ul>			
<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Transportation and Access</b>			
A. An access/ transportation plan will be prepared that lists areas needing attention, types	Transportation planning will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.	Develop an access/ transportation plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables access where needed</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative C

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
of access to be acquired, 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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limits points of access in order to reduce the amount of redundant roads and trails.</li> <li>• Reroutes, rehabilitates, or eliminates existing roads and trails causing resource damage</li> <li>• Reroutes roads and trails where landlocked by private parcels</li> <li>• Restricts access to meet resource objectives (seasonal road closures, gating, etc.)</li> <li>• Concentrates stream and riparian crossings</li> <li>• Reduces habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>	
B. Access to public lands will be acquired as funding and time permit in the areas identified	Pursue access on a case-by-case basis. (See also Lands and Realty section)	Actively pursue access to specific parcels to improve access to public lands for land management purposes. (See also Lands and Realty section)	Same as Alternative C
<b>Travel Management</b>			
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.	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).	Areas have been designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicle use as detailed below (Map X).
<i>Closed</i>			
D. The following area would be managed as closed to OHV	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use.	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use.	The following area would be managed as closed to OHV use:

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks WSA</li> <li>• Limestone ACEC</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• Serviceberry area</li> <li>• Fly Creek area</li> <li>• Maybell Uranium pit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks WSA</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• Maybell Uranium pit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks WSA</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA (Including Wild and Scenic River segment)</li> <li>• Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild horse actions.</li> <li>• Water impoundments (year-round) and within the high water mark when dry, except where a designated road crosses impoundment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All WSAs</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge ACEC</li> <li>• Serviceberry SRMA</li> <li>• Fly Creek SRMA</li> <li>• Maybell Uranium pit</li> <li>• Critical Wild Horse water source on the high water mark consistent with wild horse actions.</li> <li>• Water impoundments (year-round) and within the high water mark when dry, except where a designated road crosses impoundment.</li> </ul>
<i>Limited to Designated Roads and Trails</i>			
<p>E. The following areas would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Sections of Little Yampa Canyon SRMA</li> <li>• Cottonwood Creek area</li> <li>• Cedar Mountain</li> <li>• Browns Park cellular site</li> <li>• Wild Mountain area</li> <li>• Hoy Mountain area</li> </ul>	<p>No areas would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails.</p>	<p>Designate routes determined through adaptive management and travel management planning.</p> <p>The following areas would be managed as limited to designated routes for OHV use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Yampa Canyon SRMA</li> <li>• Cedar Mountain SRMA</li> <li>• Cottonwood Creek area</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC</li> </ul>	<p>All areas not managed as open or closed would be managed as limited to designated roads and trails.</p> <p>Criteria in Appendix XX would be used to prioritize areas for transportation planning.</p>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Browns Park cellular site</li> <li>• Wild Mountain area</li> <li>• Hoy Mountain area</li> <li>• Zones within South Sand Wash SRMA</li> </ul>	
<i>Limited to Existing Roads and Trails</i>			
<p>F. The following areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas that meet fragile soil criteria</li> <li>• WSAs: All except Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain</li> <li>• Lands adjacent to Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• Sections of Little Yampa Canyon SRMA</li> <li>• Pole Gulch area</li> <li>• Big Hole Gulch area</li> <li>• Cold Springs Mountain</li> <li>• Sections of Axial Basin</li> <li>• Willow Creek area</li> <li>• South Nipple area</li> </ul>	<p>The following areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails:</p> <p>WSAs: All except Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain</p> <p>Areas that meet fragile soil criteria</p> <p>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 Natural Resources 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</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>See adaptive OHV designation process explained below.</p>	<p>No areas would be managed as limited to existing roads and trails.</p>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	clay or clay. b) A depth to bedrock less than 20 inches. c) Erosion condition rated as 'poor'. d) K factor greater than 0.32.		
<i>Open</i>			
G. Approximately 71% of the Field Office would be managed as open to OHV use.	All areas of the Field Office that would not be managed as limited or closed to OHV use.	The following areas would be managed as open to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Sand Wash SRMA (play area south edge and Clay Buttes area)</li> <li>• Hiawatha open, except from April 15 to July 15 it would be limited to existing routes.</li> </ul>	The following areas would be managed as open to OHV use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Sand Wash SRMA (play area south edge, smaller area than Alternative C).</li> </ul>
<i>Adaptive OHV Designations</i>			
H. No similar action	No similar action	Transportation planning would be initiated on a case-by-case basis consistent with the process identified in Appendix XX.	No similar action
I. 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	Diamond Breaks and Cross Mountain WSAs and crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to over-the-snow vehicles unless exception through adaptive management criteria outlined in Appendix X.	All WSAs; and crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to over-the-snow vehicles.
J. No similar action	No similar action	Consider seasonal OHV closures based on site specific transportation	Big game crucial winter range and production areas would be closed

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
		planning results (see above).	to OHV use during December 1 to April 30
K. Wild horse foaling areas would be closed to motor vehicle use during March 2 to June 30	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 March 2 to June 30
L. No similar action	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest.	Consider temporarily opening closed areas to enhance big game harvest in coordination with CDOW.	No similar action

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

**Transportation and Recreation**

**Resource/Resource Use: Recreation**

**Goal A:** Provide a diversity of quality outdoor recreation opportunities, activities, and experiences for various user groups.

**Objectives A:**

1. *Increase managed motorized and non-motorized use trails*
2. *Focus development of non-motorized/non-mechanized trails in backcountry areas.*
3. *Provide legal public access opportunities for recreational uses.*
4. *Manage for quality Special Recreation Permit services.*
5. *Identify strategies and decisions that may be applied to protect or preserve primitive and semi-primitive areas to provide solitude and back country opportunities.*
6. *Manage motorized recreation to reduce impacts on big game hunt quality and harvest success on BLM lands.*

**Goal B:** Provide high quality visitor services including interpretive and educational information.

**Objectives B:**

1. *Provide developed facilities in heavy use areas where use is impacting resources and experiences.*
2. *Enhance recreational experiences by such actions as providing boundary signing and information and managing campsites and access.*
3. *Continue coordination with organized interpretive associations.*

**Goal C:** Support tourism efforts for local economic diversification associated with public land resources.

**Objectives C:**

1. *Maintain cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks, Moffat County, and Moffat County Sheriff for management of the Yampa River.*
2. *Continue coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations such as Chambers of Commerce and community organizations.*
3. *Pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and governments.*

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Transportation and Recreation

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Special Recreation Management Areas</b>			
<i>Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon</i>			
<p>A. 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>B. The area is divided into upper (4,480 acres) and lower (15,360 acres) units.</p> <p>C. Periodic use supervision will be provided.</p> <p>D. Access will be negotiated for parking areas at put-in and take-out points.</p> <p>E. Other facilities will be constructed as needed for public sanitation and safety.</p> <p>F. A map/brochure will be developed to promote visitor health and safety, provide resource protection, and inform the public of available opportunities.</p> <p>G. Limited signs will be provided for information, direction, and</p>	<p>The Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon would not be administered as an SRMA.</p>	<p>The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded by 10,092 acres (Map X) and administered to provide quality camping experiences related to motorized and non-motorized boating in the region and big game hunting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage river-related camp sites.</li> <li>2. Provide camping facilities in high impact areas related to hunting season uses.</li> <li>3. Increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</li> </ol> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Open</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal - Open</li> </ul> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>VRM: Class II from river</p>	<p>The existing Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA will be expanded by <b>XXX acres</b> (Map X) and administered to provide quality camping experiences related to motorized and non-motorized boating in the region and big game hunting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage river-related camp sites.</li> <li>2. Provide camping facilities in high impact areas related to hunting season uses.</li> <li>3. Increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</li> <li>4. Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Closed</li> <li>• Coal - <b>???</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>5. OHV: <b>XX acres</b> Closed; <b>XX acres</b> Limited to Designated Routes.</li> </ol>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>interpretation.</p> <p>H. A Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan will be developed.</p>		<p>bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas</p> <p>Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.</p>	<p>6. VRM: Class II from river bottom to ridgeline; Class III in all other areas.</p> <p>7. Lands and Realty: Determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.</p>
<i>Cedar Mountain</i>			
<p>I. No similar action</p>	<p>No similar action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Cedar Mountain area (904 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide opportunities in close proximity to the City of Craig for hiking, nature interpretation, and picnicking.</li> <li>2. Management: Prohibit overnight camping, target shooting and plinking</li> <li>3. Minerals and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Closed</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. OHV: Limited to designated routes</li> <li>5. VRM: Class III</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Alternative C. In addition, recreation use of the area would be restricted as a day use area (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and shooting firearms would be prohibited.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Closed</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> <p>OHV: Limited to Designated routes</p> <p>VRM: Class III</p>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		6. Lands and Realty: Require collocation of communication facilities.  7. Avoidance area for additional ROW	Lands and Realty: Require collocation of communication facilities.  Exclusion area for additional ROW
<i>South Sand Wash</i>			
J. Currently the South Sand Wash area is managed as an OHV open area for cross-country use within the ERMA.	Same as Alternative A	1. The South Sand Wash area (35,571 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide quality OHV experiences.  2. Developed camping, trail head parking, and interpretive facilities will be provided.  3. A system of trails would be identified to accommodate a wide range of vehicle types and difficulty of riding levels.  4. An open riding area (21,947 acres) will be retained.  5. OHV – Limited to designated routes  6. Coordinate with Moffat County and stakeholder groups to improve County Road access in South Sand Wash.	The South Sand Wash area (35,571 acres) will be administered as a special recreation management area to provide quality OHV experiences.  Developed camping, trail head parking, and interpretive facilities will be provided.  A system of trails would be identified to accommodate a wide range of vehicle types and difficulty of riding levels.  An open riding area (20,327 acres) will be retained.  OHV – Limited to designated routes  Coordinate with Moffat County and stakeholder groups to improve County Road access in South Sand Wash.

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>7. Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil and gas leasing- Open</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal – Closed</li> </ul> <p>8. Developed Recreation sites- closed to all mineral actions</p> <p>9. VRM: Open areas - Class IV; all remaining – Class III</p> <p>10. Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.</p> <p>11. Crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to surface disturbing activities unless exception through adaptive management criteria outlined in Appendix X.</p>	<p>Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil and gas leasing- Open</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal – Closed</li> </ul> <p>Developed Recreation sites- closed to all mineral actions</p> <p>VRM: Open areas - Class IV; all remaining – Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with SRMA objectives.</p> <p>Crucial winter range and other seasonally limited wildlife habitat areas would be closed to surface disturbing activities.</p>
<i>Serviceberry</i>			
<p>K. The Serviceberry area is open to OHV use under the current RMP; however, is temporarily closed to OHV use. This area is currently managed as part of the ERMA.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except temporary OHV closures would be removed and would be managed as open to OHV use.</p>	<p>1. The Serviceberry area (12,375 acres) will be administered as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide backcountry, non-motorized hunting experiences.</p> <p>2. Provide camping facilities in</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C, except closed to OHV use.</p>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>high impact areas related to hunting season uses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</li> <li>4. Develop a managed and maintained trail system within the area.</li> <li>5. OHV – closed except allow OHV access on designated trails during non-big game hunting seasons.</li> <li>6. Minerals – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable – closed</li> <li>• Other minerals – open</li> <li>• Coal - closed</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. VRM – Class III</li> <li>8. Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ol>	
<i>Flycreek</i>			
L. The Flycreek area is open to OHV use under the current RMP; however, is temporarily	Same as Alternative A, except temporary OHV closures would be removed and would be managed as	1. The Flycreek area (12,342 acres) will be administered as a backcountry, non-motorized	The Flycreek area (12,342 acres) will be administered as a Special Recreation Management Area

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>closed to OHV use. This area is currently managed as part of the ERMA.</p>	<p>open to OHV use.</p>	<p>hunting area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</li> <li>3. Develop a managed and maintained a non-motorized trail system within the area.</li> <li>4. OHV – closed</li> <li>5. Minerals – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable – closed</li> <li>• Other minerals – open</li> <li>• Coal - closed</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. VRM –Class III</li> <li>7. Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ol>	<p>(SRMA) to provide backcountry, non-motorized hunting experiences.</p> <p>Increase education and interpretation during hunting season to reduce resource impacts and conflicts.</p> <p>Develop a managed and maintained trail system within the area.</p> <p>OHV – closed</p> <p>Minerals – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable – closed</li> <li>• Other minerals – open</li> <li>• Coal – closed</li> </ul> </p> <p>VRM –Class III</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW would be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p><i>Dinosaur North Area (outside of WSA)</i></p>			
<p>M. Multiple use outside existing WSAs</p> <p>N. Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas exploration and</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No designation with the following prescriptions:</li> </ol>	<p>The Dinosaur North area (41,355 acres) will be administered as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings.</p>

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<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locatable - Open</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal - Open</li> </ul> <p>O. OHV: Open</p> <p>P. VRM: Not applicable</p> <p>Q. Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis</p>		<p>2. Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> <p>3. OHV: Limited to Designated Routes</p> <p>4. VRM: Class II</p> <p>5. Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; no wind energy</p>	<p>Trailhead parking facilities that include interpretation and information would be provided.</p> <p>Additional hiking trails would be developed.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Closed</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<i>Cold Springs Area (outside of WSA)</i>			
<p>R. Multiple use outside existing WSAs</p> <p>S. Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled Surface Use for oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Open</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Objective: Manage to protect naturalness, opportunities for semi-primitive recreation, and solitude.</p> <p>1. No designation with the following prescriptions:</p>	<p>The Cold Springs Mountain area (30,479 acres) will be administered as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide quality primitive recreational experiences in largely natural settings.</p> <p>Trailhead parking facilities that include interpretation and</p>

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**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>• Coal - Open</li> <li>T. OHV: Majority Limited to Existing, remainder is Open</li> <li>U. VRM: Not applicable</li> <li>V. Lands and Realty: No restrictions, case-by-case basis</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Minerals and Energy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Open</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. OHV: Limited to Designated routes</li> <li>4. VRM: Class III</li> <li>5. Lands and Realty: ROW – avoidance; accept wind energy applications on case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>	<p>information would be provided.</p> <p>Additional hiking trails would be developed.</p> <p>Minerals and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to oil and gas exploration and development</li> <li>• Locatable - Closed</li> <li>• Other Minerals - Closed</li> <li>• Coal - Closed</li> </ul> <p>OHV: Closed</p> <p>VRM: Class II</p> <p>Lands and Realty: ROW – exclusion; no wind energy</p>
<b>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</b>			
<p>W. 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</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A. In addition, provide generally unconstrained recreation use to allow for freedom of recreation choices.</p> <p>Provide directional signing at major road intersections to help inform visitors about key destinations.</p> <p>Focus public land boundary signing in fragmented lands to reduce trespass onto private lands.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
facilities as demand warrants.			
<b>Developed Recreation Sites</b>			
X. No similar action	No similar action.	Increase number of interpretive sites and viewing pullouts as need and opportunities arise.	Same as Alternative C.
Y. Boat Ramp (Yampa) Z. Campground at Irish Canyon and Rocky Reservoir AA. Picnic Sites at Irish Canyon and Cedar Mountain	No additional recreation sites would be developed and current sites would remain at the same service and use levels.	1. Provide developed recreation sites in association with SRMAs (campgrounds, boat launch, picnic sites).  2. Current sites would remain at the same service and use levels.	Same as Alternative C.
<b>Management of the Yampa River Corridor</b>			
BB.No similar action	No similar action	Within the Yampa River Corridor monitor the quality of the following indicators of recreation experience and regulate the use of sites and access points.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site disturbance</li> <li>• User conflict</li> <li>• Public health and safety</li> <li>• Other resource impacts</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative C
<b>Special Recreation Permits</b>			
CC.Consider Special Recreation Permits on a case-by-case depending on applications received	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
DD. Consider commercial outfitter camps on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Discourage commercial outfitter camps on BLM-administered land.

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**Transportation and Recreation**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>EE. Permit no competitive events in WSAs.</p> <p>FF. Authorize commercial use permits that provide recreational opportunities, enhance recreational experiences, and protect resources.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p>
<p>GG. Current plans provide no guidance on competitive events.</p>	<p>Authorize motorized and non-motorized competitive events consistent with OHV area and route designations.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>
<p>HH. Current plans provide no guidance on vending.</p>	<p>Authorize vending in conjunction with organized events or when the vending is necessary to support protection of resources or recreation use.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Do not allow vending in conjunction with organized events.</p>
<p>II. Cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks for management of the Yampa River.</p> <p>JJ. Coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations such as Moffat County Chamber of Commerce and the Yampa Valley Alliance.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, in addition:                      Work proactively with local communities and governments to identify opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage tourism (scenic backcountry byways: i.e., Godiva Rim and Lookout Mountain)</li> <li>• Watchable wildlife sites</li> <li>• Cultural Tours</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>

Blue highlighting indicates items 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 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. Identify all the lands for exchange, sale, or disposal within the LSFO by zone.</p> <p>2. Through either exchange or sale look for opportunities for consolidation of BLM lands and/or acquiring additional lands.</p>			
<b>Goal B</b>			
<p>1. Identify criteria for the disposal of public land through sale or exchange.</p> <p>2. Create a list of parcels for retention and for possible expansion by acquiring contiguous lands through exchange or sale.</p>			
<b>Goal C</b>			
<p>1. Provide access for the development of renewable energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner.</p> <p>2. Provide access for the development of transportation routes, utilities, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses in an environmentally responsible manner.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>4. Identify and establish major utility and transportation corridors within the planning area.</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>			
<p>The BLM-administered lands in the RMPPA have been divided into general retention and disposal areas.</p> <p>A. The retention area is the existing land base to be</p>	<p>Disposal land tenure adjustment actions (both exchanges and sales) will be allowed on lands that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lands suitable for public purposes</li> </ul>	<p>The BLM-administered lands in the RMPPA will be divided into three retention and disposal zones: the East, Central, and West Zones (Map X). Disposal and exchange criteria specific to each zone are the</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C</p>

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**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>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>B. 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>adjacent to or of special importance to local communities, and state and/or federal agencies for purposes including, but not limited to, community expansion, extended community services, or economic development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lands without public access.</li> <li>• Lands which are in trespass.</li> <li>• Lands that are isolated with public access by foot or horseback only.</li> <li>• Lands with irregular shapes, narrow parcels, small parcels or any configuration which makes the land difficult to manage and increases trespass situations.</li> <li>• Lands with public road access that are so small that they cannot be proactively managed for a variety of resource values.</li> <li>• Lands that would be better suited in private or other agency ownership.</li> </ul> <p>Acquisition land tenure adjustment actions will be allowed on lands that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lands that would help block up existing BLM land.</li> </ul>	<p>same as in Alternative B with the additional criteria for each zone described as follows:</p> <p><b>EAST ZONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively seek opportunities to exchange or sell lands (surface and/or mineral estate) in order to facilitate better management of BLM lands and to benefit the public. Exchanges should stay within the same county, Routt and Moffat Counties respectively whenever possible, and sales should be tied to identification of the purchase of new lands within the same county to take advantage of the Baca Rule.</li> <li>• Look to exchange lands with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies to facilitate one agency management in particular areas, to include but not limited to, Stagecoach State Park, Steamboat Lake Statement Park, Indian Run State Wildlife, Steamboat Springs Mountain Park, Jimmy Dun Gulch CDOW/SLB lease area and the Emerald Mountain<sup>1</sup> area.</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> The Emerald Mountain Land Exchange is currently in progress. It involves approximately 15,000 acres of BLM land scattered throughout Routt County in 131 parcels for one contiguous block of State land containing approximately 6,000. Emerald Mountain is located in the heart of Routt County south and west of Steamboat Springs. The exchange should be completed before the RMP Revision is finished and the Emerald Mountain parcel may become BLM land (both surface and mineral estate).

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**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>C. Acquisition of land will be pursued based on identified resource values and needs (RMP/ROD pages 30-31).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lands that would be better in public ownership.</li> <li>• Lands near communities that provide open space, preserve agriculture, protect wildlife, protect the environment, enhance recreational opportunities and generally serve the public good.</li> <li>• Lands that would provide public access to public lands or other public assets such as but not limited to river access.</li> </ul> <p>Retain lands that are blocked up, have public access, have significant public value, and are efficient to manage.</p> <p>Other land tenure adjustments will be processed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain and seek acquisition of addition lands within identified acquisition areas, to include but not limited to, Sleeping Giant, Emerald Mountain, West Gibraltar Peak, Copper Ridge, Pagoda/Hamilton, Dry Fork/Bull Gulch, Sage Creek, Bear Gulch, Little Middle Creek, Rattle Snake Butte (near Oak Creek), and Watson Creek (near Yampa) areas.</li> <li>• Seek exchange opportunities with the SLB to create some public lands in the vicinity of the town of Hayden.</li> <li>• Additional retention or acquisition areas can be identified during the life of the plan for the public good.</li> </ul> <p><b>CENTRAL ZONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the opportunity arise, exchange or sell lands (surface and/or mineral estate) in order to facilitate better management of BLM lands and to benefit the public. Exchanges should stay within Routt and Moffat Counties respectively whenever possible, and sales should be tied to</li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> The BLM cannot lease or sell land acquired through exchange or any other method under RMPP. Land acquired through the Land Conservation Fund has no legal prohibition for disposal, but there is a written policy that prohibits disposal of these lands. For lands acquired through exchanges there is no written policy or legal prohibition to dispose of it in the future, but it is very rare and hard to justify, since BLM land was disposed of to acquire this land (per John Beck, July 13th 2005).

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Lands and Realty**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		<p>identification of the purchase of new lands within the same county to take advantage of the Baca Rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LU lands<sup>2</sup> should be retained as much as possible, and acquisition of additional lands in the area should be actively sought to protect wildlife habitat, especially sage grouse.</li> <li>• Look to exchange lands with the appropriate state agencies to facilitate one agency management in particular areas, to include but not limited to the Little Snake State Wildlife area.</li> <li>• Retain and seek acquisition of addition lands within identified acquisition areas, to include but not limited to, Thornburg Mountain, Cedar Mountain, Yampa Canyon SRMA, Juniper Mountain SRMA and Serviceberry Mountain areas.</li> <li>• Additional retention or acquisition areas can be identified during the life of the plan for the public good.</li> </ul> <p>WEST ZONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In rare cases exchange or sell lands (surface and/or mineral estate) in order to facilitate better management of BLM lands and to benefit the public. Exchanges should stay within Moffat County and sales should be tied to</li> </ul>	

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Lands and Realty**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		identification of the purchase of new lands within the same county to take advantage of the Baca Rule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to exchange lands with the appropriate state agencies to facilitate one agency management in particular areas, to include but not limited to, the Sand Wash Basin and Vermillion Basin areas.</li> <li>• Additional retention or acquisition areas can be identified during the life of the plan for the public good.</li> </ul>	
<b>Rights-of-Way</b>			
<p>D. No rights-of-way corridors are formally designated.</p> <p>E. 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>F. 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>G. Rights-of-way will be allowed in all areas if needed to develop valid existing rights.</p>	<p>ROWs allowed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Encourage ROW in the following existing corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major roads including county roads (e.g., CR 20, 4, 7, 57)</li> <li>• Power transmission lines</li> <li>• Oil and gas pipelines</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage ROW in the following existing corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major roads including county roads (e.g., CR 20, 4, 7, 57)</li> <li>• Power transmission lines</li> <li>• Oil and gas pipelines</li> </ul>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<p>H. Specific areas unsuitable for major rights-of-way are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diamond Breaks WSA</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge ACEC/RNA</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA (lower unit)</li> </ul>	<p>ROW Exclusion: WSAs; VRM Class I</p>	<p>ROW Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM Class I areas</li> <li>• Diamond Breaks WSA</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• Portions of Vermillion Basin Zone 2</li> </ul>	<p>ROW Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM Class I and II</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC</li> <li>• Limestone Ridge ACEC</li> <li>• Irish Canyon ACEC</li> <li>• Cross Mountain ACEC</li> <li>• White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC</li> <li>• Cross Mountain WSA</li> <li>• West Cold Spring WSA</li> <li>• If released from Congress, WSAs recommended as non-suitable (Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, Vale of Tears)</li> <li>• Vermillion Basin</li> <li>• Dinosaur North</li> <li>• Cold Springs Mountain</li> <li>• Cedar Mountain SRMA</li> </ul>
<p>I. Specific areas that are sensitive for siting major rights-of-way are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Yampa/Juniper Canyon SRMA (upper unit)</li> <li>• Lookout Mountain ACEC</li> <li>• Horse Draw</li> <li>• Vermillion Creek</li> </ul>	<p>ROW Avoidance: VRM Class II</p>	<p>ROW Avoidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VRM II</li> <li>• West Cold Springs WSA</li> <li>• If released from Congress, WSAs recommended as non-suitable (Ant Hills, Chew Winter Camp, Peterson Draw, Vale of Tears)</li> <li>• Cold Springs Mountain</li> </ul>	<p>ROW Avoidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Systems ACECs</li> </ul>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Lands and Realty**

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ace-in-the-Hole</li> <li>• Vermillion Bluffs</li> <li>• G Gap</li> <li>• Hells Canyon</li> <li>• Portions of Vermillion Creek Drainage</li> <li>• Sand Wash Drainage</li> <li>• Buffalo Gulch/Twelvemile Mesa</li> <li>• Little Snake River</li> <li>• Sand Creek</li> <li>• Conway Draw</li> <li>• Deception Creek</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Mountain SRMA</li> <li>• Dinosaur North</li> <li>• Vermillion Bluffs in Vermillion Basin Zone 1</li> <li>• Portions of Vermillion Basin Zone 2</li> </ul>	
<b>Easements</b>			
<p>J. 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>K. 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 mortality (tower guy wires, etc) .</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 bird mortality(tower guy wires, etc)</p>

DRAFT BLM ALTERNATIVES (8/15/05)

**Lands and Realty**

<b>Alternative A (No Action Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Renewable Energy</b>			
<p>L. Wind energy development is processed on a case-by-case basis as a ROW action generally guided by the criteria identified for major rights-of-way.</p>	<p>No access restrictions.</p> <p>Encourage wind energy development in areas rated Excellent and above (Map X). Utilize, where possible, best available technologies to reduce migratory bird mortality.</p>	<p>See ROW actions.</p> <p>Encourage wind energy development in areas rated Excellent and above (Map X) as long as consistent with resource objectives. Utilize, where possible, best available technologies to reduce migratory bird mortality.</p>	<p>See ROW actions.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>
<p>M. Solar energy development is processed on a case-by-case basis as a ROW action generally guided by the criteria identified for major ROW.</p>	<p>No access restrictions.</p> <p>Encourage solar energy development in the RMPPA.</p>	<p>See ROW actions.</p> <p>Encourage solar energy development in the RMPPA as long as consistent with resource objectives.</p>	<p>See ROW actions.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

Blue highlighting indicates items that require further information or discussion.

## **APPENDIX X—PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR GRANTING EXCEPTION, MODIFICATION, OR WAIVER**

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*(Introduction to Appendix general concepts, etc.; reference to Oil and Gas processes appendix; describe as being science-based process)*

### Introduction:

- Creating process to be used to apply the most current science to exception, modification, and waiver criteria that allows additional flexibility in approving surface disturbing and disruptive activities.
- The following criteria are a starting point and may change depending on developing science.
- Intent is to, on at least an annual basis, consult with technically knowledgeable agencies for the purpose of providing overall guidance to BLM on how to approach the application of exceptions, modifications, and waivers.
- These criteria form the scientific basis for Conditions of Approval.

### **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION, MODIFICATION, OR WAIVER**

A request for exception, modification, or waiver must be initiated in writing by the proponent. When requested concurrently with an application (typical for situations involving lease stipulations), the exception, modification, or waiver is considered as part of the project proposal in RMP and NEPA compliance review. For separate requests, the request is considered as a unique action and is analyzed and documented individually for RMP and NEPA compliance.

Analyses of requests include review of potential mitigation measures and alternatives (e.g., traffic restrictions, alternative scheduling, staged activity, proposals for off-site mitigation, scientific studies, etc.) as they relate to exception, modification, waiver criteria. These procedures will be utilized for any request for exception, modification, or waiver for a surface disturbing or disruptive activity.

BLM will make the final determination for granting an exception, modification, or waiver to stipulations.

### **CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING EXCEPTIONS, MODIFICATION, OR WAIVERS**

The following criteria are a starting point and may change depending on developing science.

- Population levels/status/trend
- Drought
- Weather severity
- Breeding site/area
- Animal condition
- Presence/absence of animals and/or habitat
- Intensity and duration of surface disturbance
- Habitat condition and availability (e.g., forage, water, and competition)
- Site location including topography, proximity to existing disturbances, etc.
- Timing
- Cumulative effects
- Sensitivity of individual species to disturbance

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## **APPENDIX XX— CRITERIA FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITY PLANNING**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

As a result of management needs, Bureau direction, and input from the stakeholders involved in revision of the RMP, BLM created a process for applying the most current information that allows BLM to set priorities for flexible, proactive management of public lands. This appendix discusses how major issues within the RMPPA (oil and gas leasing, OHV designations, transportation planning, and protection of wildlife resources) and their interactions with other resources and resource uses will be addressed in subsequent activity planning with the intent to adaptively reduce resource impacts and user conflicts. Other issues have also been added to provide additional management flexibility, where possible.

The ability for the BLM to adapt to needs of oil and gas operators and impacts to resources that may result from energy development is achieved through application of exception, modification and waiver criteria detailed in Appendix X. The process for granting exceptions to leasing stipulations and the indicators for protection of wildlife resources are also provided in Appendix X. Adaptation to the needs of recreation users and the impacts resulting from recreation will be addressed through implementation-level planning triggered by indicators detailed in this appendix. Flexibility in management of livestock grazing, another major use in the area, is provided in the Standards of Guides process and current regulations. Additionally, other indicators listed in this appendix give the BLM the ability to proactively adjust management in response to changing management needs. These additional needs include changing the AML for wild horses and management of the Yampa River, and creating reserve common allotments. All indicators are a starting point and may change depending on developing information.

Monitoring will be conducted throughout the life of the plan. Data collected in the RMPPA will be used to support decision changes, evaluate the effectiveness of specific practices or policies, and measure progress toward the goals and objectives adopted for the RMPPA.

### **OIL AND GAS LEASING**

See Appendix X for procedures and criteria for granting exception, modification, and waiver to lease stipulations.

### **TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

#### **Process**

This process is designed to identify priority areas for detailed travel management planning. Areas designated in the RMP as “limited” will be managed as “limited to existing roads and trails” until the need to conduct travel management planning arises. Policy states that restrictions in “limited” categories can include: number of vehicles, types of vehicles, time or season of vehicle use, permitted or licensed use only, use on existing roads and trails, use on designated roads and trails, etc. The indicators listed below are examples of the representative types of information that will be used to determine when/where site-specific travel management planning will be initiated.

Site-specific travel management planning will be a collaborative process that will include Counties, permittees, stakeholders, agencies, and the general public. Route inventories would be conducted only to the extent necessary to solve identified travel management issues.

## Indicators

The following indicators are a starting point and may change depending on new information.

- Wildlife/wild horse population trends
- Evidence of trail/road proliferation
- Areas with high road/trail densities
- Impacts to cultural resources
- Unacceptable erosion
- Degradation of water quality
- Impacts to visual resources
- Loss of trail integrity
- Habitat fragmentation and damage
- Impacts to sensitive plants
- Need to provide for a variety of user experiences
- Presence of Special Management Areas
- Areas identified in the RMP as Limited to Designated Roads and Trails
- Areas that meet fragile soil criteria
- User and resource conflicts
- A pattern of user complaints

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### Process

BLM will utilize a collaborative transportation planning process that will include Counties, permittees, stakeholders, agencies, and the general public. BLM will develop a Transportation Plan(s) which meet the following criteria:

### Criteria

- Enables access where needed
- Reduces/eliminates redundant roads and trails.
- Reroutes, rehabilitates, or eliminates existing roads and trails causing resource damage
- Reroutes roads and trails where landlocked by private parcels
- Restricts access to meet resource objectives (seasonal road closures, gating, etc.)
- Concentrates stream and riparian crossings
- Reduces habitat fragmentation

## DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

Monitoring of the RMPPA is necessary for implementation. The constantly changing resource conditions create a challenge to management. Field data and observations will help make decisions better by—

1. Measuring factors that indicate the condition of the RMPPA.
2. Increasing understanding of impacts by direct observation.
3. Increasing the effectiveness of project analysis by employing actual data.
4. Evaluating the progress toward achieving management goals.
5. Helping develop effective and appropriate mitigation measures.

6. Providing information on the success of management practices and policies.

Baseline information for this planning process and the initiation of subsequent activity planning is presented in Chapter 3 of the draft EIS. Continuation of monitoring activities will occur throughout the life of the plan and are detailed in the Table AXX-1 below. In addition to yearly funding of monitoring activities by the BLM, every effort will be made to obtain funding through cooperative agreements with others who have interests in the RMPPA.

**Table AXX-1. Monitoring Detail**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of Information</b>	<b>Measurement Location</b>	<b>Methodology/ Data Source</b>	<b>Information Indicator Provides</b>
<b>Elk distribution<sup>1</sup></b>	BLM	RMPPA	GIS collar study; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of connectivity between important habitats)
<b>Elk herd health<sup>1</sup></b>	CDOW	Herd unit area	Post-season counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population trend, health, and security of herd
<b>Mule deer distribution<sup>1</sup></b>	CDOW	Herd unit area	Flight counts; other CDOW data; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of connectivity between important habitats)
<b>Mule deer herd health<sup>1</sup></b>	CDOW	Herd unit area	Post-season counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population trend, health, and security of herd
<b>Pronghorn distribution<sup>1</sup></b>	CDOW	RMPPA	Radio collar studies; field observations	Integrity of key habitats and migratory corridors (amount of connectivity between important habitats)
<b>Pronghorn herd health<sup>1</sup></b>	CDOW	RMPPA	Preseason counts; flight counts; other CDOW data	Population trend, health, and security of herd
<b>Sage-grouse lek use<sup>1</sup></b>	BLM; CDOW	RMPPA	Field observation; lek counts	Health and security of population; reproduction opportunities
<b>Sage-grouse population health<sup>1</sup></b>	BLM; CDOW	RMPPA	Preseason counts; field observation	Population trend
<b>Livestock AUMs</b>	BLM	RMPPA	Counts; actual use reports; grazing authorizations	Amount and trend of livestock use (+/-)
<b>Wild Horse Population</b>	BLM	Sand Wash Basin HMA	Counts	Population trend(+/- AML)
<b>Rangeland Health Standard #1</b>	BLM	Watersheds Grazing Allotments	Remote sensing <sup>3</sup> ; field visits	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
<b>Rangeland Health Standard #2</b>	BLM	Watersheds Grazing Allotments	Remote sensing <sup>3</sup> ; field visits; trend data collection	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)

Table AXX-1. Monitoring Detail Continued

Indicator	Source of Information	Measurement Location	Methodology/ Data Source	Information Indicator Provides
Rangeland Health Standard #3	BLM	Watersheds Grazing Allotments	Remote sensing <sup>3</sup> ; field visits; trend data collection	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Rangeland Health Standard #4	BLM	Watersheds Grazing Allotments	Field visits	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Rangeland Health Standard #5	BLM and State of Colorado	Watersheds Grazing Allotments	Monitoring station and visual monitoring data	Change in rangeland and watershed health (+/-)
Roads and trails creation	BLM; County	RMPPA and associated hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12 watersheds	Remote sensing <sup>2</sup> ; permits	Change watershed health (+/-), habitat fragmentation, migratory corridor integrity (amount of connectivity between important habitats)
Road density	BLM; County	RMPPA and associated HUC12	Remote sensing <sup>3</sup>	Change watershed health (+/-), habitat fragmentation, migratory corridor integrity (amount of connectivity between important habitats)
O/G leased	BLM	RMPPA	BLM records	Leasing activity; opportunity taken for development
O/G available for leasing	BLM	RMPPA	Management decisions; industry interest	Interest in leasing; opportunity for development
O/G production	BLM	RMPPA	Production reports, verification activities	Lease activity (+/-); resource potential
Locatable mineral activity	BLM	RMPPA	BLM Records	Opportunity for locatable mineral activity; interest in locatable minerals
Salable mineral activity	BLM	RMPPA	Permits issued;	Opportunity for salable mineral activity; interest in salable minerals

## OTHER RESOURCE ISSUES

### Wild Horse AML Adjustment

#### Process

The following criteria would be considered in adjusting the Sand Wash wild horse herd AML.

## Criteria

- Current monitoring data about habitat condition
- Population trend
- Competing uses
- Frequency of gather cycle
- Available population management options
- Herd genetics

## Yampa River Corridor

Within the Yampa River Corridor, monitor the following indicators of recreation experience and regulate the use of sites and access points. If the user experience deviates from the objectives developed in the RMP for the Yampa River area, subsequent activity planning would occur with the purpose of achieving the desired recreation experience.

- Site disturbance
- User conflict
- Public health and safety
- Other agency comments

## Reserve Conservation Allotments

The purpose of a Reserve Conservation Allotment (RCA) is to provide alternative forage for BLM permittees/lessees during the rest requirement while their customary allotment is undergoing an approved rangeland restoration/recovery project. Emergency conditions, such as wildfire, will also be considered for a condition of use of an RCA. Drought will not be considered as a need for use. Overuse of the customary allotment will not be considered as a need for use of an RCA.

These allotments will remain in long term agricultural production, while helping to maintain the stability of the livestock industry by easing the economic stress to, and providing incentive for, permittees to cooperate in range restoration projects.

These allotments may be returned to individual allotment if there is no longer a continued demand for their use (e.g. no applications for XX years). At that time, BLM will follow standard procedures for filling vacant allotments.

### Criteria for selection and use of an allotment as an RCA:

- The area must be meeting Rangeland Health Standards.
- Are there weed concerns?
- Are there adequate AUMS available?
- Are range improvements adequate for livestock management, and are they maintained to BLM standards?
- Is the area suitable to meet demands as far as season of use, reasonable access, vegetative type, etc?
- Are there other land use concerns, such as demands on forage from wild horses, wildlife, T&E species, etc?

### **Criteria for Permittee/Lessee Use**

- Priority will be given to those permittees/lessees whose customary allotments are under an approved rangeland restoration/recovery project
- Emergency conditions, such as wildfire
- Not to be used for drought or for overuse of customary allotment

## Appendix “Coal”

Lands found acceptable in this resource management plan (RMP) will be available for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange. However, all lands determined to be suitable, unsuitable, or unacceptable for further consideration for leasing and/or exchange may be reviewed and suitability determinations modified based on new data during activity planning efforts.

The lands with coal resource development potential in the Little Snake coal planning area are located in the Yampa and Dansforth Hills Coal Fields. The coal planning includes federal coal within the following townships:

### Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 3 N., R. 85 W.

T. 3 N., R. 86 W.

T. 3 N., R. 90 W. - R. 95 W.

T. 4 N., R. 86 W. - R. 95 W.

T. 5 N., R. 85 W. - R. 93 W.

T. 6 N., R. 86 W. - R. 93 W.

T. 7 N., R. 87 W. - R. 94 W.

T. 8 N., R. 86 W. - R. 94 W.

T. 9 N., R. 86 W.

Approximately 638,758 acres federal coal lands.

### Criterion 1 – Federal Lands Systems

All federal lands included in the following land systems or categories shall be considered unsuitable: National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Recreation Areas, lands acquired with money derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, national forests, and federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.

Analysis: The coal planning area does not contain the following land systems or categories: National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System [but there will be in alternatives C and D, but Yampa will be unsuitable because of Floodplains anyway], National Recreation Areas, lands acquired with money derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or National Forests. Therefore, these land systems or categories would not be affected.

Craig is the only incorporated city within the planning area which has federal coal lands within the city limits. Although Hayden is an incorporated town, no federal coal lands occur within the city limits. All other towns and villages within the planning area are not incorporated. Therefore, they are not considered under this criterion.

## **Criterion 2 – Rights-Of-Way and Easements**

Federal lands that are within rights-of-way or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial, or other public purposes, shall be considered unsuitable.

Exceptions:

A lease may be issued, and mining operations approved, in such areas if the surface management agency determines that:

1. All or certain types of coal development (e.g., underground mining) will not interfere with the purpose of the right-of-way or easement; or
2. The right-of-way or easement was granted for mining purposes; or
3. The right-of-way or easement was issued for a purpose for which it is not being used, or
4. The parties involved in the right-of-way or easement agree, in writing, to leasing; or
5. It is impractical to exclude such areas due to the location of coal and method of mining, and such areas or uses can be protected through appropriate stipulations.

Results:

Approximately **4753** acres of federal land within the coal planning area could fall under the unsuitability Criterion 2 due to these linear rights-of-way.

After application of exceptions 1, 4, and 5 to the linear rights-of-way, these areas are suitable with the following stipulation:

1. This lease is subject to all prior existing rights on these lands.
2. After application of exception 5 to the surface-type right-of-way and surface lease, these areas are suitable with the stipulation that this lease is subject to all prior existing rights on these lands.

## **Criterion 3 – Buffer Zones Along Rights-Of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings**

Federal lands affected by section 522(e) (4) and (5) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 shall be considered unsuitable. This includes lands within 100 feet of the outside line of the right-of-way of a public road or within 100 feet of a cemetery, or within 300 feet of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park or within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling.

Exceptions:

A lease may be issued for lands:

1. Used as mine access roads or haulage roads that join the right-of-way for a public road;
2. For which the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has issued a permit to have public roads relocated.
3. If, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing in the locality, a written finding is made by the authorized officer that the interests of the public and the landowners affected by mining within 100 feet of a public road will be protected.
4. For which owners of occupied dwellings have given written permission to mine within 300 feet of their buildings.

Results:

Because existing data are lacking and dwellings are continually being built, this criterion and its exceptions will be applied at the activity planning stage for coal leasing.

#### **Criterion 4 – Wilderness Study Areas**

Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas shall be considered unsuitable while under review by the Administration and the Congress for possible wilderness designation. For any Federal land which is to be leased or mined prior to completion of the wilderness inventory by the surface management agency, the environmental assessment or impact statement on the lease sale 'or mine plan shall consider whether the land possesses the characteristics of a wilderness study area. If the finding is affirmative, the land shall be considered unsuitable, unless issuance of noncompetitive coal leases and mining on leases is authorized under the Wilderness Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Results:

The coal planning area has no lands designated as wilderness study areas or wilderness areas.

#### **Criterion 5 – Scenic Areas**

Scenic Federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class 1 (an area of outstanding scenic quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on the National Register of Natural Landmarks shall be considered unsuitable. A lease may be issued if the surface management agency determines that surface coal mining operations will not significantly diminish or -adversely affect the scenic quality of the designated area.

Results:

The coal planning area has no lands designated as Class 1 visual resource management areas.

#### **Criterion 6 – Lands Used For Scientific Studies**

Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency, and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments shall be considered unsuitable for the duration of the study, demonstration or experiment, except where mining could be conducted in such a way as to enhance or not jeopardize the purposes of the study, as determined by the surface management agency, or where the principal scientific user or agency gives written concurrence to all or certain methods of mining.

Results:

No such lands exist within the coal planning area.

### **Criterion 7 – Historic Lands and Sites**

All publicly owned places on federal lands which are included in the National Register of Historic Places shall be considered unsuitable. This shall include any areas that the surface management agency determines, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer, are necessary to protect the inherent values of the property that made it eligible for listing in the National Register.

#### **Results:**

There are no publicly owned cultural or historical resources on the National Register of Historic Places within the coal planning area. Existing cultural resource surveys cover only a small portion of the federal lands involved.

### **Criterion 8 – Natural Areas**

Federal lands designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks shall be considered unsuitable.

#### **Results:**

No such lands exist within the coal planning area.

### **Criterion 9 – Federally Listed Endangered Species**

Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and habitat for federally threatened or endangered species which is determined by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the surface management agency to be of essential value and where the presence of threatened or endangered species has been scientifically documented, shall be considered unsuitable.

#### **Exception:**

A lease may be issued and mining operations approved if, after consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Service determines that the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species and/or its critical habitat.

#### **Results:**

A buffer zone 1/2 mile on either side of a section on the Yampa River within the coal planning area is unsuitable because of bald eagle and Colorado Pikeminnow habitats. Other data on occurrences of Federally listed threatened or endangered species are insufficient. Therefore, this criterion and its exceptions will be applied at the activity planning stage for coal leasing.

### **Criterion 10 – State Listed Endangered Species**

Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as endangered or threatened shall be considered unsuitable.

Results:

No lands are unsuitable under this criterion.

### **Criterion 11 – Raptors**

This criterion includes golden eagle nesting sites, roost and concentration areas, falcon cliff nesting sites, and migratory bird habitat.

Any golden eagle nest or site on Federal lands that is determined to be active and an appropriate buffer zone of land around the nest site shall be considered unsuitable. Consideration of availability of habitat for prey species and of terrain shall be included in the determination of buffer zones. Buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, golden eagle roost and concentration areas of federal lands used during migration and wintering shall be considered unsuitable.

Federal lands containing a falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting site with an active nest and a buffer zone of federal land around the nest site shall be considered unsuitable. Consideration of availability of habitat for prey species and of terrain shall be included in the determination of buffer zones. Buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high Federal interest on a regional or national basis, as determined jointly by the surface management agency and the Fish and Wildlife Service, shall be considered unsuitable. Ferruginous hawk is currently the only species in the area that is of Federal interest. A ½ mile buffer zone is generally needed to protect ferruginous hawk from harassment by human activity.

Exception:

A lease may be issued if:

1. It can be conditioned in such a way, either in manner or period of operation, that raptors will not be disturbed during breeding season; or
2. The surface management agency, with the concurrence of the Fish and Wildlife Service, determines that the nest(s) will be moved.
3. Buffer zones may be decreased if the surface management agency determines that the active raptor nests will not be adversely affected.

Results:

Areas of probable raptor occurrences are illustrated on [Map X](#). However, since data on all occurrences are lacking, this criterion and its exceptions will be applied at the activity planning stage for coal leasing.

## **Criterion 12 – State Resident Fish and Wildlife**

Federal lands which the surface management agency and the state jointly agree are fish and wildlife habitat for resident species of high interest to the state and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species shall be considered unsuitable. Examples of such lands which serve a critical function for the species involved include:

1. Active dancing and strutting grounds for sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and prairie chicken;
2. Winter ranges most critical for deer, antelope, and elk, and
3. Migration corridors for elk.

A lease may be issued if, after consultation with the state, the surface management agency determines that all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining will not have a significant long-term impact on the species being protected.

A large portion of the coal planning area is critical habitat for mule deer, elk, antelope, sage grouse, and sharp-tailed grouse. Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) provided maps showing these severe winter ranges, concentration areas, migration routes, and production areas. These areas are essential to the continued maintenance of these populations. Two townships, T. 8 N., R. 90 and 91 W., are particularly important to mule deer and elk. CDOW has commended that no more than 10 percent of these townships be leased at one time. Currently, 6,424 acres or 14 percent has been leased by the Colorado State Land Board. Therefore, no additions as federal leasing should occur and the remaining 37,960 acres of federal coal lands should be unsuitable.

All remaining adverse impacts to critical habitats for mule deer, elk, antelope, sage grouse, and sharp-tailed grouse can be mitigated by requiring that the “Wildlife Habitat Replacement Stipulation” (see below) be attached to any future leases.

### Wildlife Habitat Replacement Stipulations

The lessee shall be required to mitigate for mule deer, elk, antelope, and sage and sharp-tailed grouse habitat loss where applicable and the resultant loss of displacement of these species, as key indicator species, due to surface coal mining operations. Concurrently with the filing of its mine plan, the lessee shall submit for approval to the Bureau of Land Management, a habitat recovery and replacement plan for protection or enhancement of mule deer, elk, antelope and grouse populations affected by habitat loss or displacement from historical habitat.

The habitat recovery and replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, based on estimates of lost and disturbed habitat as described in the Green River-Hams Fork Coal Final Environmental Impact Statement. If the mine plan submitted by the lessee indicates figures different from those used in the environmental impact statement as to quality and quantity of habitat lost or disturbed, mitigative alternatives shall be recalculated, based on revised data contained in the mine plan.

The final habitat recovery and replacement plan shall indicate the methods to be employed by the lessee, which will ensure that the carrying capacity of the recovered or replaced land has the capacity to support applicable indicator species as agreed upon by the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Mitigative methods may require the lessee to employ techniques for wildlife range manipulation or intensive wildlife range management. Habitat recovery may not be completely feasible in the permit area; therefore, recovery or replacement may be accomplished on lands made available through the surface management agency, the state or the lessee 'outside the permit area in combination with recovery and replacement methods on suitable lands within the permit area.

The habitat recovery and replacement plan shall include the following:

1. A habitat analysis of the permit area which:
  - a. Identifies the above species that occupy the permit area, and
  - b. Includes an analysis of the quality carrying capacity of the habitat for those species.
2. A detailed description of the methods selected by the lessee to mitigate habitat loss, together with a comparative analysis of alternate methods that were considered and rejected by the lessee and the rationale for the decision to select the proposed methods. The methods utilized by the lessee for recovery and replacement may include, but are not limited to the following techniques:
  - a. Increasing the quantity and quality of forage available to wildlife.
  - b. The acquisition of critical wildlife habitats.
  - c. Mechanical manipulation of low-quality wildlife to increase its carrying capacity for selected wildlife species.
  - d. Recovery, replacement or protection of important wildlife habitat by selected fencing.
3. A timetable giving the periods of time that will be required to accomplish the habitat recovery or replacement plan and showing how this timetable relates to the overall mining plan.
4. An evaluation of the final plan by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The state shall comment on the methods selected and, the techniques to be employed by the lessee and may recommend alternate recovery or replacement methods. If the state has recommended an alternate method, the lessee shall consider the state's recommendation and, if the lessee rejects the state's plan, the lessee shall indicate its reasons are required by provision 2 above. If no state comment is included in the plan, the lessee shall verify its consultation with the state and, the plan may be considered without comment.

### **Criterion 13 – Floodplains**

Federal lands in riverine, coastal and special floodplains (100-year recurrence interval) on which the surface management agency determines that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property shall be considered unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining.

Results:

The 100-year floodplains and those areas encompassing 100 feet adjacent to each bank of the mainstream channels overlying federal coal between the beginning point and ending point of the lands shown in **Table X** have been identified as unsuitable.

Those areas inundated by the 100-year flood peak stage in and paralleling the mainstream bottoms, and those areas 100 feet adjacent to each bank of, the mainstream channels within the following lands, have been identified as unsuitable:

*Lay Creek*

T. 8 N., R. 93 W. 6th P.M.

Sec. 21: Lots 5, 6, 7, 8

Set 22: N1/2SE1/4SW1/4

Set 32: Lots 1, 4, 6, 10, 15

Those areas inundated by the 100-year flood peak stage in and paralleling the mainstream bottoms and those areas 300 feet adjacent to each bank of the mainstream channels within the following lands have been identified as unsuitable:

*Fish Creek*

T. 5 N., R. 87 W. 6th P.M.

Sec. 34: SE1/4

Sec. 36: NW1/4NW1/4NW1/4

**Table X**  
**Unsuitable Floodplains**

<b>Floodplain</b>	<b>Beginning Point</b>	<b>Ending Point</b>
Yampa	T. 6 N., R. 85 W. sec. 18, NW1/4NW1/4	T. 6 N., R. 94 W. sec. 19, NW1/4NW1/4
Williams Fork	T. 4 N., R. 88 W. sec. 8, SE1/4SE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 91 W. sec. 36, NE1/4NW1/4
Big Gulch	T. 8 N., R. 92 W. sec. 6, NE1/4SE 1/4	T. 7 N., R. 93 W. sec. 22, W1/2
Lay Creek	T. 7 N., R. 93 W sec. 5, NW1/4NW1/4 T. 8 N., R. 93 W. sec. 2, NW1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 95 W. sec. 31, NW1/4NW1/4 T. 8 N., R. 93 W. sec. 21, N1/2SE1/4
Good Springs Creek	T. 3 N., R. 93 W. sec. 33, SW1/4SE1/4	T. 4 N., R. 93 W. sec.26, NW1/4SE1/4
Milk Creek	T. 3 N., R. 92 W. sec. 29, SE1/4SE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 92 W. sec. 30, NW1/4NE1/4
Stinking Gulch	T. 4 N., R. 92 W. sec. 36, SW1/4SW1/4	T. 4 N., R. 92 W. sec. 26, SW1/4NE1/4
Sand Creek	T. 4 N., R. 89 W. sec. 36, SE1/4NE1/4	T. 4 N., R. 89 W. sec. 23, SW1/4NE1/4

Sand Spring Gulch,	T. 6 N., R. 92 W. sec. 8, SW1/4SW1/4	T. 6 N., R. 93 W. sec. 3, NE1/4SW1/4
North Fork Big Gulch	T. 8 N., R. 92 W. sec. 2, NW1/4NW1/4	T. 8 N., R. 92 W. sec. 21, SW1/4NW1/4
Hart Gulch	T. 4 N., R. 90 W. sec. 17, NE1/4SW1/4	T. 4 N., R. 91 W. sec. 25, NE1/4NE1/4
Waddle Creek	T. 3 N., R. 90 W. sec. 3, SE1/4SW1/4	T. 4 N., R. 90 W. sec. 20, SE1/4SW1/4
Deer Creek	T. 3 N., R. 91 W. sec. 12, SE1/4SE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 91 W. sec. 32, SW1/4NE1/4
Morapos Creek	T. 4 N., R. 91 W. sec. 32, SW1/4SE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 91 W. sec. 20, NW1/4SE1/4
Unnamed Creek	T. 5 N., R. 91 W. sec. 33, SE1/4NE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 91 W. sec. 28, NE1/4SE1/4
Pine Ridge Gulch	T. 7 N., R. 91 W. sec. 19, NE1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 91 W. sec. 33, SW1/4SE1/4
Cedar Mountain Gulch	T. 7 N., R. 91 W. sec. 9, SW1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 91 W. sec. 27, SW1/4SE1/4
South Fork Williams Fork	T. 4 N., R. 89 W. sec. 31, SE1/4SW1/4	T. 4 N., R. 89 W. sec. 19, SW1/4NW1/4
Deacon Gulch	T. 6 N., R. 90 W. sec. 33, SE1/4SE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 90 W. sec. 20, NE1/4SE1/4
Elkhead River	T. 8 N., R. 89 W. sec. 3, NE1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 89 W. sec. 30, SW1/4NE1/4
Berry Gulch	T. 5 N., R. 89 W. sec. 27, NW1/4NE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 89 W. sec. 30, SW1/4SE1/4
Dry Fork Little Bear Creek	T. 8 N., R. 89 W. sec. 2, NW1/4NW1/4	T. 8 N., R. 89 W. sec. 3, SW1/4NE1/4
Wadell Gulch	T. 8 N., R. 89 W. sec. 31, SW1/4SW1/4	T. 8 N., R. 89 W. sec. 33, SE1/4SE1/4
Willow Creek	T. 4 N., R. 88 W. sec. 13, SE1/4SE1/4	T. 4 N., R. 88 W. sec. 20, NW1/4NW1/4
East Fork Williams Fork	T. 4 N., R. 88 W. sec. 32, SE1/4SW1/4	T. 4 N., R. 88 W. sec. 20, NW1/4NW1/4
Dry Creek	T. 5 N., R. 88 W. sec. 20, NW1/4SE1/4	T. 5 N., R. 88 W. sec. 9, NE1/4SE1/4
Fortification Creek	T. 8 N., R. 90 W. sec. 23, SW1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 91 W. sec. 25, SE1/4NE1/4
Stokes Gulch	T. 5 N., R. 89 W. sec. 8, NW1/4SE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 89 W. sec. 25, SE1/4NE1/4
Dill Gulch	T. 5 N., R. 89 W. sec. 20, SE1/4NE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 88 W. sec. 31, NE1/4NE1/4
Rock Spring Gulch	T. 7 N., R. 89 W. sec. 24, SW1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 89 W. sec. 25, SE1/4SE1/4
Buck Gulch	T. 7 N., R. 88 W. sec. 20, SE 1/4NW1/4	T. 7 N., R. 88 W. sec. 27, NW1/4SW1/4

Morgan Creek	T. 7 N., R. 87 W. sec. 34, NW1/4SE1/4	T. 7 N., R. 88 W. sec. 13, NW1/4NE1/4
Meadow Gulch	T. 7 N., R. 87 W. sec. 25, SE1/4SW1/4	T. 6 N., R. 87 W. sec. 3, NE1/4NE1/4
Butchknife Gulch	T. 6 N., R. 87 W. sec. 1, NW1/4NE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 87 W. sec. 12, NW1/4NE1/4
Little Butchknife Gulch	T. 6 N., R. 86 W. sec. 6, SW1/4NE1/4	T. 6 N., R. 86 W. sec. 7, NW1/4SW1/4
McCrosky Gulch	T. 6 N., R. 86 W. sec. 4, SE1/4NW 1/4	T. 6 N., R. 86 W. sec. 9, NE1/4SE1/4
Fish Creek	T. 4 N., R. 87 W. sec. 34, SE1/4SW1/4 T. 5 N., R. 86 W. sec. 20, SW1/4NW1/4	T. 5 N., R. 86 W. sec. 1, NW1/4NE1/4 T. 5 N., R. 87 W. sec. 34, SW1/4SE1/4

#### **Criterion 14 – Municipal Watersheds**

Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.

**Exception:**

A lease may be issued where the surface management agency in consultation with the municipality (incorporated entity) or the responsible governmental unit determines, as a result of studies, that all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining will not adversely affect the watershed to any significant degree.

**Result:**

No lands have been committed by the surface management agency to be used as municipal watersheds within the planning area.

#### **Criterion 15 – National Resource Waters**

Federal lands with National Resource Waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and a buffer zone of federal lands 1/4 mile from the outer edge of the far banks of the water, shall be unsuitable.

**Exception:**

The buffer zone may be eliminated or reduced in size where the surface management agency determines that it is not necessary to protect the National Resource Waters.

**Results:**

There are no such lands within the planning area.

## Criterion 16 – Alluvial Valley Floors

Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state in which they are located, as alluvial valley floors according to the definition in 3400.0-5(a) of this title, the standards in 30 CFR Part 822, the final alluvial valley floor guidelines of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement when published, and approved state programs under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, where mining would interrupt, discontinue, or preclude farming, shall be considered unsuitable. Additionally, when mining Federal land outside an alluvial valley floor would materially damage the quantity or quality of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply alluvial valley floors, the land shall be considered unsuitable.

### Results:

The estimated elevations and locations of alluvial valley floors, which have been assessed as unsuitable, are described in [Table Y](#).

Those areas in and paralleling the mainstream bottoms and those areas encompassing 300 feet adjacent to each bank of the mainstream channels within the following lands are also unsuitable:

#### *Fish Creek*

T. 5 N., R. 87 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 34: SE1/4

Sec. 36: NW1/4NW1/4NW1/4

#### *Flume Gulch*

T. 6 N., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 19: E1/2

Sec. 20: SW1/4

Sec. 29

#### *Foidel Creek*

T. 5 N., R. 86 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 21: SE1/4

Sec. 28: E1/2NW1/4

#### *Wilson Creek*

T. 3 N., R. 93 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 7: SW1/4

T. 4 N., R 93 W., 6th P.M.

Sec. 21

Sec. 22

Sec. 28

Sec. 33: SW1/4NW1/4

### [Table Y](#)

## Locations and Estimated Elevations of Alluvial Valley Floors



T. 5 N., R. 86 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 1	6600
T. 6 N., R. 86 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 24, 25	6560
T. 4 N., R. 86 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 12	7080
Sec. 14	7240
Sec. 23	7320
Sec. 22	7400
Sec. 27	7440
Sec. 28	7520
Sec. 33	7580

*Good Spring Creek*

T. 4 N., R. 93 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 26	6440
Sec. 35	6520
T. 3 N., R. 93 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 11	6680
Sec. 14	6760

*Williams Fork River*

T. 5 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 6	6160
Sec. 7, 8, 17, 20	6240
Sec. 21, 22, 23, 26, 27	6380
Sec. 24	6320
T. 5 N., R. 90 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 26, 27	6440

*Yampa River*

T. 6 N., R. 94 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 15, 17, 18, 23, 27, 36	6000
T. 6 N., R. 93 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 21, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34	6040
Sec. 35	6160
T. 5 N., R. 93 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 2	6160
Sec. 1	6120
T. 6 N., R. 92 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 31	6120
Sec. 36	6160
T. 5 N., R. 92 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	6120
T. 6 N., R. 91 W., 6th P.M.	
Sec. 3, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 30	6200

T. 7 N., R. 89 W., 6th P.M. Sec. 31, 32	6320
T. 6 N., R. 89 W., 6th P.M. Sec. 10	6320
T. 6 N., R. 87 W., 6th P.M. Sec. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	6440
T. 6 N., R. 86 W., 6th P.M. Sec. 7, 8, 9,	6480
Sec. 10, 11	6520
Sec. 12, 13	6560

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Acres Before Exceptions</b>	<b>Acres After Exceptions</b>
1. Federal Lands Systems	322	322
2. Rights-of-way and Easements	4753	0
3. Buffer Zones along ROW and adjacent to communities and buildings	??Use old #?? Or say Not Det.	
4. Wilderness Study Areas	0	0
5. Scenic Areas	0	0
6. Lands used for scientific studies	0	0
7. Historic Lands and Sites	0	0
8. Natural Areas	0	0
9. Federally listed Endangered Species	X	X
10. State listed Endangered Species	0	0
11. Raptors	X	X
12. State Resident Fish and Wildlife	614,646	37,960
13. Floodplains	5,104	5,104
14. Municipal Watersheds	0	0
15. National Resource Waters	0	0
16. Alluvial Valley Floors	1,948	1,948
Total	X	X