

Response to NWCOS Scoping Comments as of January 19, 2005

From: Marianna Raftopoulos

Overarching Questions:

- Line #5 [Delete Ecosystem health throughout comments](#), replace with Resource Area Health or Resource Area.
Reasons: The definition of ecosystem is organisms living in a particular environment such as a forest or a coral reef and the physical parts of the environment that affect them. In the definition of ecosystem it does not include the human element or socio-economic factors which are very important to the NWCOS process.
- Line #6 Add: What indicators should be monitored using [best available science](#)
- Line #9 [Delete Ecosystems](#). What is the desired future condition of the range for key vegetation types (e.g., grasslands, sagebrush steppe, Douglas-fir forests, etc?)
- Line #11 Add: should be monitored [using best available science](#).
- Line #12 Change to-Which strategies, [including local plans for species management](#), will be, developed to recover special status species. Which strategies will be developed to manage game species, [including hunting and local Habitat Partnership Programs?](#)
- Line #14 Add: What indicators should be monitored [using best available science](#)
- Line #16 Cultural Resources: What are the desired cultural resources that should be protected in the Little Snake Area? Add—[we recognize and maintain custom and culture of Moffat County through the definitions of the approved Moffat County Land Use Plan](#).
- Line #18 Add: monitored [using best available science](#)

Uses & Issues of Special Concerns

- Line #20 Grazing-[Delete first sentence](#)-Which areas are appropriate, for grazing and under what conditions?
- Line #21 Add: [should be monitored using best available science and in partnership with permittees](#).
- Line #22 Minerals and Energy—[delete which areas are appropriate for oil, gas and coal leasing and under what conditions?](#)
- Line #23 Add-should be monitored [using best available science and in partnership with energy companies](#).

Why do we have a section of Special Designations and Wildlands Protection?

- Line #39-41 [Recommendation to delete the section on Wildlands Protection](#) and keep the Special Designations.
- Add category **Protection of multiple use of public lands.** Moffat County's position is to support multiple use concepts on federal and state lands in Moffat County. According to the Moffat County Land Use Plan there is a direct tie between multiple use and custom and culture in Moffat County. Multiple use concepts are an integral

part to custom and culture of Moffat County. Moffat County residents are directly dependant upon the county's public lands and natural resources for their live hood and recreation opportunities. (Moffat County Land Use Plan)

Line #43-47 Recommend change back to the original intent of NWCOS

[Recommend the following language:](#)

NWCOS is a pilot project supported by the Department of Interior as one of a small number of projects throughout the United States to foster a Nation of citizen stewards through Secretary Norton's 4C's-conservation through communication, consultation and cooperation. "Through cooperative conservation, we can achieve healthy lands, thriving communities and economies," U.S. Department of Interior Web site. NWCOS follows the 4 C's as a community based effort aimed at improving land use decision making in Northwest Colorado. This group includes over 100 individuals with a wide diversity of interests and concerns.

Continue with Line #47 beginning with NWCOS meets...

Line # 113 [Remove line 113.](#) NWCOS does have a special status as an approved pilot project with the DOI.