

Comments on Draft Goals and Objectives—Little Snake RMP
--Reed Morris, Colorado Wilderness Network

- **Vegetation**

A. *native plant and animal species*

A.3. *Maintain juniper and other woody species within their historic range of natural variability.*

A.4. *Restore natural disturbance regimes such as natural fire, and use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments as necessary to accomplish biodiversity objectives.*

Sagebrush Management

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

Weed Management

A3. NEW: *Disallow new land uses that will likely spread noxious weeds to uncontaminated areas.*

Forests/Woodlands

A.1. *Increase the species diversity and distribution of age classes within the forest and woodland ecosystems, while promoting and retaining rare element occurrences such as old growth stands.*

A.3. *Provide forest and woodland products on a sustainable basis, consistent with other multiple use goals.*

- **Cultural Resources**

B. *In high-value cultural areas, avoid land uses that are likely to compromise or degrade cultural resources.*

- **Visual Resources**

A.3. NEW: *Maintain pristine viewsheds/minimize degradation in high-use, scenic, or culturally important landscapes.*

- **Air**

A.3. NEW: *Ensure that new land use decisions to not degrade neighboring Class I airsheds.*

- **Minerals and Energy**

A. *Allow for the availability of the federal oil and gas estate (to include CBM) for exploration and development consistent with exiting law.*

A.1. *Identify and make available federal oil and gas estate (to include CBM) for exploration and development in potentially productive areas consistent with other multiple use.*

A.3. *Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.*

B. *Allow for the availability of federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others for exploration and development consistent with existing law.*

B.1. *Identify and make available[...]as consistent with other multiple use goals.*

B.5. *Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.*

C. ... *consistent with existing law.*

C.1. *Identify and make available [...] as consistent with other multiple use goals.*

C.3. *Promote the use of Best Management Practices, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.*

- **Transportation and Access**

A.1. *Within two years of the RMP revision complete a comprehensive transportation plan that identifies and designates major transportation routes needed for land management purposes, including county roads.*

B. *Provide a mix of motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized legal public access to public lands, as necessary and consistent with other multiple use goals.*

B.1. *Within two years of the completion of the RMP revision an access plan will be developed that identifies additional legal public access needs to public lands and redundant or damaging routes that should be closed and rehabilitated.*

B.2. Note: This objective should be dropped. Access should be determined by sound land management policy.

- **Travel Management**

A. *Provide for acceptable modes of access and travel that will protect resources, reduce conflicts, and provide a mix of motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized recreation.*

A.1. *Within two years of the completion of the RMP revision a road and trail system will be identified and designated throughout the resources area.*

A.2. *Assess whether the current trail system is adequate to meet recreation needs.*

A.3. *All roads and trails should be designated, numbered and signed on the ground. Signing will include allowed uses and activities.*

A.4. *Identify and designate a managed road, route and trail system within the planning area.*

- **Grazing**

A. *Manage livestock grazing to sustain resources, preserve biodiversity, maintain stable watersheds, and continue production of forage.*

A.3. *Manage plant utilization by all foraging species at a level that maintains plant health and protects watersheds, biodiversity and imperiled species.*

- **Lands and Realty**

A.1. *Identify all the lands for exchange, sale, or disposal in all of Routt County and in eastern Moffat County in a manner that benefits public land management and resource protection on behalf of the American public.*

A.2. Comment: Why wouldn't BLM want to acquire and consolidate lands in backcountry?

B.2. *Improve or create legal public access to public lands, including lands with no current access, as consistent with multiple use goals and sound management.*

B.6. NEW: *Look at exchange or acquisition of state and private land in-holdings in proposed wilderness areas and Wilderness Study Areas.*

C.1. *Provide access*

C.2. Provide access

C.3. *Identify and establish major utility and transportation corridors within the planning area as consistent with other multiple use goals.*

- **Fish and Wildlife Habitat**

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

C.7. New/Comment: missing prairie dogs and other sensitive or imperiled species.

E.2. *Control access and restrict land use disturbances in crucial habitats.*

F.3. Comment: not clear on what “encourage” means. Stocking? If so, we recommend striking the line.

- **Recreation**

A.1. *Provide adequate quality and quantity of managed motorized and non-motorized use trails.*

A.2. *Provide adequate....*

A.5. *Focus the non-motorized/non-mechanized trail system in WSAs and backcountry areas.*

- **Special Management Designations**

A.3. *Review current ACECs and analyze proposed areas to determine relevance and importance criteria and determine if current management is adequate and make agency proposals to address other important scenic, ecological, wilderness character lands, and cultural resources that are currently unprotected.*

A.5. NEW: *Research, analyze and make management determinations for proposed wilderness lands for which significant new information has been supplied.*

- **Water**

A.2. NEW: *Disallow new land uses that are likely to significantly degrade groundwater quality or quantity.*

B.6. NEW: *Ensure that new land uses employ Best Management Practices to ensure adequate protection of surface water resources.*

- **Fire**

B.1. *Reduce fire hazards in ecosystems as necessary to restore ecosystems to their historic range of natural variability and restore ecological community functions.*

B.4. *Use mechanical or other vegetative treatments to reduce fire hazards when appropriate and necessary.*

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