

OVERARCHING RMP GOALS/VISION

- ❑ Maintain the rural, open landscape.
- ❑ Maintain and restore healthy ecosystems.
- ❑ Provide better management direction to protect resources and reduce conflicts.
- ❑ Provide flexibility to benefit BLM and resource users while protecting natural and cultural resources.
- ❑ Provide diversity of uses and settings that support a variety of economic opportunities.
- ❑ Provide clear picture of impacts of decision on local economies.
- ❑ Recognize the value of commodity and non-commodity resources.
- ❑ Improve collaboration.
- ❑ Incorporate community/visitor education.

RMP RESOURCE GOALS

Vegetation

- A. Provide an array of habitats, well distributed across the landscape, that support biodiversity and viable populations of native plant species.
 1. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within plant communities.*
 2. *Maintain connections between a variety of plant communities.*
 3. *Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species.*
 4. *Allow natural fire, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments to be used in accomplishing biodiversity objectives.*

Sagebrush Management

- A. Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain sustainable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.
 1. *Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats.*
 2. *Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats.*

- B. Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat.
 - 1. *Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat.*
 - 2. *Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.*
 - 3. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.*

Riparian/Wetlands

- A. Maintain the integrity of streams and their associated riparian values on public lands that meet land health and water quality standards.
 - 1. *Minimize disturbance in and near riparian/wetland systems.*
 - 2. *Monitor and control invasive species.*
 - 3. *Maintain watershed hydrology.*
 - 4. *Recognize and manage riparian/wetland communities as a unique and limited high value vegetation type.*
- B. Achieve proper functioning condition in existing riparian/ wetland systems that do not meet land health and water quality standards.
 - 1. *Identify and if possible remove existing sources of degradation.*
 - 2. *Protect riparian/wetland systems from new sources of degradation.*

Weed Management

- A. Reduce the occurrence of noxious and undesirable plant species.
 - 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.*
- B. Integrate weed management across landscape and ownership boundaries.
 - 1. *Maximize use of cooperative agreements to coordinate weed management actions.*

Forests/Woodlands

- A. Manage for healthy forest and woodland communities.
 - 1. *Increase the species diversity and distribution of age classes within the forest and woodland ecosystems.*
 - 2. *Recognize and manage aspen as a unique and limited high value vegetation type for other resources.*
 - 3. *Provide forest and woodland products on a sustainable basis.*

Wild Horses

- A. Manage wild horses and their habitat to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance.
 - 1. *Manage wild horses within the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area (HMA) at the appropriate management level as an integral part of the public lands ecosystem. [DO WE WANT TO ADJUST EXISTING AML?]*
 - 2. *Reduce conflicts between wild horses and other uses/resources.*
 - 3. *Remove wild horses outside of the Sand Wash Basin HMA as soon as practical.*

Paleontological Resources

- A. To identify and protect the paleontological resources within the Little Snake Field Office.
 - 1. *Expand paleontological support activity, such as data gathering, GIS integration, and Class I surveys.*
 - 2. *Provide educational and interpretation opportunities for paleontological resources.*
 - 3. *Improve legal enforcement.*

Cultural Resources

- A. Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
 - 1. *Identify priority areas for new field surveys, based upon a probability for consumptive use conflicts or significant resources.*
 - 2. *Improve legal enforcement.*
- B. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the NHPA Section 106.
 - 1. *Pursue ethnographic studies for the field office to facilitate tribal consultation requirements.*
 - 2. *Pursue programmatic agreements with tribal governments to streamline consultation procedures.*
 - 3. *Assign use allocations for all cultural properties.*
- C. Develop the cultural resource program.
 - 1. *Increase understanding of human occupation and expand education interpretation opportunities.*
 - 2. *Publish findings of cultural studies.*

3. *Understand the physical presence of cultural resources in the field office by identifying cultural study needs.*

Visual Resources

- A. Recognize and manage visual resources for overall multiple use and quality of life for local communities and visitors to public lands.
 1. *Management actions will be consistent with visual resource management objectives.*
 2. *Based on BLM guidance, land management projects will meet the VRM objectives for those areas.*

Air

- A. Meet local, state and federal air quality standards, regulations, and requirements.
 1. *Ensure conformance with the State of Colorado State Implementation Plan (SIP).*
 2. *Provide for collaboration on regional issues with local, state, and federal agencies.*

Minerals and Energy

- A. Allow for the availability of the federal oil and gas estate (to include CBM) for exploration and development consistent with national policy.
 1. *Identify and maximize the availability of federal oil and gas estate (to include CBM) for exploration and development in potentially productive areas to increase energy supplies.*
 2. *Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources (to include CBM).*
- 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.
 1. *Identify and maximize the availability of federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others for exploration and development in potentially productive areas.*
 2. *Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of federal locatable minerals, mineral materials, non-energy leasable minerals, and others.*
 3. *Provide mineral materials needed for community and economic purposes.*
 4. *Minimize and eliminate fraudulent claims.*

- C. Allow for the availability of the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development consistent with national policy.
 - 1. *Identify and maximize the availability of federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development consistent with the suitability study for coal to increase energy supplies.*
 - 2. *Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of federal coal and oil shale estate.*

Transportation and Access

- A. Provide a transportation system that is manageable and maintainable, meets land management needs, and minimizes impacts to resources and habitats.
 - 1. *Within five years of the RMP revision complete a comprehensive transportation plan that identifies major transportation routes needed for land management purposes, including county roads.*
 - 2. *Transportation planning will include an interdisciplinary team that could include interested counties, federal agencies, and other transportation management agencies.*
 - 3. *The plan will identify road construction, re-construction, and maintenance standards needed to protect resources and accommodate anticipated traffic types and levels of use.*
- B. Provide a mix of motorized and non-motorized legal public access to public lands, including lands with no current access.
 - 1. *Within three years of the completion of the RMP revision an access plan will be developed that identifies additional legal public access needs to public lands.*
 - 2. *Priority of access needs will be driven by public recreation demand.*

Travel Management

- A. Provide for acceptable modes of access and travel that will protect resources, reduce conflicts, and provide a mix of motorized and non-motorized recreation.
 - 1. *Within five years of the completion of the RMP revision a road and trail system will be identified within areas of restricted travel management designations.*
 - 2. *Provide a trail system through areas that currently do not have managed trail system.*
 - 3. *Managed roads and trails should be numbered and signed on the ground. Signing will include allowed uses and activities.*
 - 4. *Identify a managed road, route and trail system within the planning area.*

Livestock Grazing

- A. Manage livestock grazing to sustain resources, maintain stable watersheds, and continue production of forage.
 - 1. *Maintain and improve forage species diversity and abundance by managing to meet plant reproductive and physiological needs.*
 - 2. *Minimize conflicts between livestock and other grazing animals in areas of increased pressure on forage and riparian zones.*
 - 3. *Manage plant utilization by all foraging species at a level that maintains plant health and protects watersheds.*
- B. Provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments
 - 1. *Allow the opportunity to create common reserve allotments when lands or permits become available.*
 - 2. *Identify lands not available for livestock grazing.*

Lands and Realty

- A. Consolidate BLM's land ownership pattern in all of Routt County and in eastern Moffat County.
 - 1. *Identify all the lands for exchange, sale, or disposal in all of Routt County and in eastern Moffat County.*
 - 2. *Through either exchange or sale look for opportunities for consolidation or acquiring lands preferably near population centers in order to provide open space and recreation opportunities.*
 - 3. *Either through exchange or acquisition look at acquiring important historic, cultural, and paleontological sites, including the Thornburg battle and Vermillion Creek rock art sites.*
- B. Increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of public land management.
 - 1. *Identify public land suitable for retention or disposal or lands needed for acquisition.*
 - 2. *Improve or create legal public access to public lands, including lands with no current access.*
 - 3. *Look at exchange or acquisition possibilities to facilitate better access to federal lands for a variety of purposes, with a focus hunting.*
 - 4. *Look at exchange or acquisition possibilities to facilitate better access to rivers for recreational purposes, with a focus on fishing.*
 - 5. *Look at exchange or acquisition of state and private inholdings in the Sand Wash wild horse management area.*

- C. Allow the most efficient 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.
 - 1. *Maximize access for the development of renewable energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner.*
 - 2. *Maximize access for the development of transportation routes, utilities, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses in an environmentally responsible manner.*
 - 3. *Identify and establish major utility and transportation corridors within the planning area.*

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- A. Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to maintain sustainable populations of greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species.
 - 1. *Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats.*
 - 2. *Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats.*
- B. Identify and initiate restoration and rehabilitation of sagebrush habitat.
 - 1. *Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat.*
 - 2. *Reduce encroachment of juniper and other woody species into sagebrush habitat.*
 - 3. *Restore a diversity of seral stages within sagebrush communities.*
- C. Provide an array of terrestrial habitats that support biodiversity and viable populations of animal species.
 - 1. *Improve and/or maintain those areas that are key wildlife habitats and/or at their desired plant communities.*
 - 2. *Maintain or restore connectivity between habitat use areas.*
 - 3. *Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of migratory bird species (i.e., neotropicals, waterfowl, raptors, etc.).*
 - 4. *Maintain and promote high quality habitat for big game populations in recognition to their economic value to the region.*
 - 5. *Provide habitat to support sufficient raptor prey populations.*
 - 6. *Provide sufficient nesting and fledging habitat to ensure sustainable raptor populations.*
- D. Cooperate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
 - 1. *Provide input to CDOW on establishing fish and wildlife populations that can be sustained by available habitat.*
 - 2. *Seek input from CDOW on managing fish and wildlife habitat on public lands.*
- E. Reduce manageable forms of wildlife disturbance.
 - 1. *Restrict access to seasonal use areas during crucial timeframes.*

2. *Control access in crucial habitats.*
- F. Provide an array of aquatic habitats that support biodiversity and viable populations of species.
 1. *Promote improvement and recovery of current, historic, and potential habitats of aquatic species.*
 2. *Maintain or improve, to proper functioning condition, bank, channel and floodplain processes.*
 3. *Encourage sport fisheries where they will not cause detriment to native fish populations.*

Special Status Species

- A. Preserve and protect special status species.
 1. *Maintain the populations of candidate, state-listed, BLM, and other sensitive species at a level that will avoid the need to list these species.*
 2. *Maintain, restore, or enhance the habitat of special status species, including designated critical habitats for listed species.*
 3. *Maintain or restore the populations of special status species to the extent possible.*
 4. *Continue inventories, monitoring, and other scientific studies to better understand the ecology of special status species in order to improve their management.*

Recreation

- A. Provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities, activities, and experiences for various user groups.
 1. *Increase the quality and quantity of managed motorized and non-motorized use trails.*
 2. *Increase access opportunities for recreational uses, including hunting and fishing.*
 3. *Manage for high quality special recreation permit services.*
 4. *Identify strategies and decisions that may be applied to protect or preserve primitive and semi-primitive areas to provide solitude and back country opportunities.*
 5. *Focus the non-motorized trail system in WSAs and backcountry areas.*
- B. Provide high quality visitor services including interpretive information.
 1. *Provide developed facilities in heavy use areas where use is impacting resources and experiences.*
 2. *Provide and maintain boundary signing and information to enhance hunting and other recreational experiences.*
 3. *Continue coordination with organized interpretive associations.*

- C. Support local tourism efforts for local economic diversification associated with public land resources.
 - 1. *Maintain cooperative agreements with Colorado State Parks for management of the Yampa River.*
 - 2. *Continue coordination with local and regional recreation economic development organizations such as Moffat County Chamber of Commerce and the Yampa Valley Alliance.*
 - 3. *Pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies and governments, such as Dinosaur National Monument, as opportunities arise.*

Special Management Designations

- A. 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.
 - 1. *Manage WSAs to protect wilderness characteristics until designated or released by Congress.*
 - 2. *Identify and evaluate all river and stream segments and determine eligibility and suitability for wild and scenic river designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.*
 - 3. *Review current ACECs and analyze proposed areas to determine relevance and importance criteria and determine if current management is adequate.*
 - 4. *Complete motorized route designations for special areas that are not closed to motorized vehicle use within five years of the completion of the RMP revision.*

Soils

- A. Maintain or restore soil conditions.
 - 1. *Prevent impairment of soil productivity due to accelerated erosion, physical, or chemical degradation.*
 - 2. *Stabilize and rehabilitate areas where accelerated erosion, runoff, and physical or chemical degradation have resulted in unacceptable resource conditions.*
 - 3. *Prevent disturbance to fragile soil areas where resulting erosion could not be controlled.*

Water

- A. Protect and maintain present groundwater quality.
 - 1. *Ensure actions that could potentially affect groundwater quality are conducted using Best Management Practices.*

- B. Maintain or improve the surface water quality and the integrity of streams and their associated riparian values on public lands.
 - 1. *Minimize disturbance in and near streams or riparian/wetland systems.*
 - 2. *Maintain watershed hydrology.*
 - 3. *Achieve proper functioning condition in existing riparian/wetland systems that do not meet land health and water quality standards.*
 - 4. *Identify and if possible remove existing sources of degradation.*
 - 5. *Prevent accelerated erosion, physical, or chemical degradation in upland areas.*

Fire

- A. Give first priority to protection of life or property.
 - 1. *Identify and reduce hazardous fuels, with emphasis in urban interface areas.*
- B. Create an integrated approach to fire and resource management to meet land health standards.
 - 1. *Reduce fire hazards in ecosystems and restore ecological community functions.*
 - 2. *Use and allow fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources.*
 - 3. *Use and allow fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate for the site and situation.*
 - 4. *Use mechanical or other vegetative treatments to reduce fire hazards when appropriate.*
- C. Integrate fire and fuels management across the landscape, agency and government boundaries.
 - 1. *Maximize use of cooperative agreements to coordinate fire and fuels management actions.*