Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RECORD OF DECISION

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area
Delta and Montrose Counties, Colorado

November 2004

Bureau of Land Management
Gunnison Gorge NCA Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Mission Statement

The BLM will manage the NCA to protect its resources in accordance with the designating legislation, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended, and other applicable provisions of law. The BLM will incorporate multiple uses to the extent that important resources are protected and the combination of uses takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. The purpose of the planning effort is to establish an integrated guiding plan for future site-specific analysis and decisions that maintains or improves existing conditions to meet or exceed Colorado BLM Land Health Standards."

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Uncompahgre Field Office
2505 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401

In Reply Refer to:
CO-154-1610

Dear Reader: November 12, 2004

Enclosed for your review are the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA), which contains the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. The Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (PRMP), published in January 2004, was a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) from the Draft RMP/EIS (DRMP) published in March 2003. The DRMP was available for a 90-day comment period between March and June 2003, and the PRMP was subject to protest during a 30-day period in January and February 2004, in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1610.5.2. In addition, the Governor of Colorado was provided a 60-day review period to determine that the proposed plan conformed to existing state policy and plans. The attached RMP is essentially the same as the PRMP.

Thirty-two protest letters were received on the PRMP. Twenty-nine of the protests were determined to represent valid protests. After consideration of all points raised in the 32 letters, the BLM Director concluded that the NCA planning team and decision-makers, including the Colorado State Director, followed all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and pertinent process and resource considerations in developing the proposed plan. All protesting parties and those submitting comments received a response from the BLM Director.

The RMP contains both proposed Land Use Planning decisions and Implementation decisions. Land Use Planning decisions were subject to protest during a 30-day period following publication of the PRMP (discussed above). No further administrative remedies are available for Land Use Planning decisions. The attached Record of Decision serves as the final decision for Land Use Planning decisions contained in the attached RMP and becomes effective the day the Notice of Availability of the RMP is published in the *Federal Register*. Please note that some Land Use Planning decisions will require the preparation of detailed, project-level National Environmental Policy Act analyses prior to on-the-ground implementation.

Table 2-2 of Chapter 2 of the RMP identifies both Land Use Planning and Implementation decisions. Implementation decisions are subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals during the 30-day period following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the RMP in the *Federal Register*, or until December 12, 2004. This appeal period also will be announced via local news releases, advertisements, newsletter mailings, and other means.

Any party adversely affected by an Implementation decision in Table 2-2 of the RMP may appeal within 30 days of the effective date of the Record of Decision or in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.4. The appeal must include a statement of reasons or the person(s) appealing must file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the appeal. The appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 and must be filed with the Field Manager at the following address: Gunnison Gorge NCA, C/o Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents must be sent to: Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, US Department of the Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

If the statement of reasons is filed separately, it must be sent to: Interior Board of Land Appeal, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22203.

It is suggested that any appeal be sent certified US mail, return receipt requested.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of these implementation decisions, you must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.

2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.

3) The likelihood of immediate or irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.

4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

The RMP, PRMP, and DRMP are available on the project Web site, www.gunnison-gorge-eis.com. A limited number of paper and CD-ROM copies of the documents are available from the Gunnison Gorge NCA, C/o Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; phone (970) 240-5337.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations/Confidentiality

Public comments submitted for this planning review, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Gunnison Gorge NCA, Uncompahgre Field Office, in Montrose, Colorado, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be retained on file in the same office as part of the public record for this planning effort. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public inspection or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

We greatly appreciate your valuable assistance, input, and help in this planning effort, and look forward to your continued participation as the plan is implemented. For additional information or clarification regarding the attached document or the planning process, please contact Bill Bottomly at (970) 240-5337 (email bill_bottomly@co.blm.gov) or Karen Tucker, NCA Manager, at (970) 240-5309 (email karen_tucker@co.blm.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Sharrow

Barbara Sharrow, Manager

Uncompahgre Field Office

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
2003 Act	Black Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-78, November 4, 2003)
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Act	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-76, October 21, 1999)
APD	application for permit to drill
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (US Department of Agriculture)
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CO-	Colorado Highway
COA	conditions of approval
CSUS	controlled surface use stipulation
DRMP	Gunnison Gorge NCA Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	environmental impact statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
Gorge	Gunnison Gorge
Gunnison Forks	confluence of the Gunnison River and North Fork of the Gunnison River
IBA	Important Bird Area
kV	kilovolt
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MU	management unit
National Park	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
NCA	National Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

LIST OF ACRONYMS *(continued)*

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
North Fork	North Fork of the Gunnison River
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSO	no surface occupancy
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
OHV	off-highway vehicle
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
Park Service	United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
PL	Public Law
planning area	Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area planning area
Pleasure Park	Gunnison River Pleasure Park (at Gunnison Forks)
PRMP	Gunnison Gorge NCA Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement
RAMP	Final Recreation Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado
RAMP Addition	Addition to the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado
RMP	resource management plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRUP	Special Recreation Use Permit
TLS	timing limitation stipulation
Tri-State	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
US	United States
US-	United States Highway
USC	United States Code
US Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
USFWS	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VRM	Visual Resource Management
Wilderness	Gunnison Gorge Wilderness
WSR Act	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

RECORD OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) planning area (planning area) totals about 196,000 acres in southwestern Colorado and is adjacent to the cities of Montrose and Olathe in Montrose County, and near the cities of Delta, Hotchkiss, and Crawford in Delta County (Figure 1-1). The planning area encompasses 95,781 acres of federal lands managed by the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 99,743 acres of private land, and 666 acres at Sweitzer Lake State Park. Within the planning area, the NCA encompasses 62,844 acres of BLM-managed lands and 2,225 acres of private lands. The interior 17,784 acres of the NCA, encompassing the Gunnison Gorge, is the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness (Wilderness). The Wilderness contains about 14 miles of the Gunnison River, and the NCA contains an additional eight miles of the Gunnison River downstream of the Wilderness boundary.

My decision is to approve the attached Gunnison Gorge NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP). This Record of Decision (ROD) will provide the overall resource management direction of BLM-administered lands in the planning area. The existing RMP for the Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM 1989) is hereby amended by this ROD to reflect and incorporate the decisions in this RMP for the affected lands. In addition to land use planning decisions, this ROD covers a variety of management actions that are considered implementation decisions. Therefore, this decision identifies which are land use planning decisions, which were protestable under the land use planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1610) and those actions that are implementation decisions and are currently appealable under the Department of the Interior's appeal regulations (43 CFR 4).

LAND USE PLAN DECISIONS

The attached Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP is hereby approved. The RMP was prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLMPA) (43 US Code 1701 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR 1600). An environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared for the RMP in accordance with

the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EIS assessed the possible environmental and social effects of implementing the RMP. The RMP is identical to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (PRMP) published in January 2004 (BLM 2004), which was a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) from the Draft RMP/EIS (DRMP) published in March 2003 (BLM 2003c). Specific management decisions for BLM-administered lands in the planning area are provided in the RMP attached to this document.

All decisions, including land use plan decisions, are identified in Chapter 2 of the attached RMP. Land use plan decisions include:

- Goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines that define desired outcomes or future conditions;
- Land use allocations such as withdrawals and special management area designations;
- Visual resource management (VRM) classifications;
- Land tenure; and
- Allowable uses and restrictions including specific off-highway vehicle (OHV) areas, mining restrictions, areas allotted to and excluded from livestock grazing, areas open or closed to firewood cutting or other vegetative product removal, and areas closed to commercial timber harvest or having no allowable sale quantity.

Land use planning decisions can be distinguished from implementation decisions in that, although land use plan decisions are themselves final and effective upon adoption, the decisions normally require additional decision steps (such as permit approvals) before management or other activities having on-the-ground impacts can be carried out.

A 30-day protest period was provided on the land use plan decisions in the PRMP in accordance with 43 CFR Part 1610.5-2. Thirty-two protest letters were received. All but three of the protests were determined to represent valid protests. These three letters were considered comments, not protests. After consideration of all points raised in these protests, the BLM Director concluded that the NCA planning team and decision-makers, including the Colorado State Director, followed all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and pertinent process and resource considerations in developing the proposed plan. The resolutions to the protests resulted in minor editing and clarification of the RMP/ROD, and did not result in the necessity for re-analysis or re-publication of the PRMP/FEIS for additional public review and protest. One clarification was made in Appendix E of the RMP to explain the nature of additional NEPA documentation that will be completed, if necessary, prior to excepting, waiving, or modifying oil and gas lease stipulations. A second clarification explained that BLM interim management requirements for suitable wild and scenic river segments will apply until Congress acts on the suitability findings in the ROD, rather than for three years only, as stated in the PRMP/FEIS. All protesting parties and those submitting comments received a response from the BLM Director. This ROD serves as the final decision for the land use plan decisions described

above and becomes effective on the date it is signed. No further administrative remedies are available for these land use plan decisions (see the attached RMP).

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are management actions to implement land use plans. Implementation decisions generally constitute BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. For the most part, unlike land use plan decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the planning regulations. Instead, implementation decisions are subject to various administrative remedies, primarily appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in the Office of Hearings and Appeals. These types of decisions are based on site-specific planning and NEPA analyses and are subject to the administrative remedies set forth in the regulations that apply to each resource management program of the BLM. Decisions to construct, build, or install site-specific projects are subject to administrative remedies at the time such decisions are made, primarily appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) in the Office of Hearings and Appeals. Over time and as funding and staff are available, the BLM intends to implement specific project-level decisions described in Chapter 2 of the attached RMP. These "implementation decisions" are different than the previously described land use planning decisions. Some implementation decisions in the RMP will require the preparation of appropriate, detailed, project plans and site-specific NEPA analyses prior to implementation, which will include the appropriate level of public involvement, public scoping, consultation and collaboration with other agencies and partners, friends groups, and complying with all applicable regulations, policies, guidance, and laws. Some implementation decisions do not require any additional environmental documentation, such as decisions to map, survey, inventory, monitor, collect information, conduct research, and prepare project specific or implementation level plans. These are typically administrative actions and not surface disturbing actions and are addressed to a sufficient level of detail in the RMP/EIS process to be implemented over time without further NEPA analysis. Other decisions have been addressed to a sufficient level of detail in the RMP/EIS process to be implemented over time without further NEPA analysis. Implementation decisions and Land Use Plan decisions are shown in Chapter 2 of the attached RMP. The opportunity to appeal Implementation decisions is being provided at this time, as described below.

Appeal Procedures for Implementation Decisions

Any party adversely affected by an implementation decision in Chapter 2 of the attached RMP may appeal within 30 days of receipt of this decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.4. The appeal must include a statement of reasons or the person(s) appealing must file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the appeal. The appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21 and must be filed with the Field Manager at the following address:

Gunnison Gorge NCA
C/o Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 S. Townsend Street
Montrose, CO 81401

A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents should be sent to:

Regional Solicitor
Rocky Mountain Region, US Department of the Interior
755 Parfet Street, Suite 151
Lakewood, CO 80215

If the statement of reasons is filed separately, it must be sent to:

Interior Board of Land Appeals
Office of Hearings and Appeals
4015 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22203

It is suggested that any appeal be sent certified US mail, return receipt requested.

Request for Stay

Should you wish to file a motion for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of these implementation decisions, you must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3) The likelihood of immediate or irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

OVERVIEW OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail

The BLM worked with citizens, government agencies, and organizations to discuss management alternatives. Four alternatives were dismissed because they do not meet the purpose and need for action:

Maximize Resource Protection by Eliminating All Human Use on Planning Area Public Lands

This alternative would have substantially restricted or eliminated all or most human use, including OHVs, rafting, livestock grazing, and hiking, within the NCA, Wilderness, and other planning area public lands. The FLPMA mandates that BLM lands provide multiple use opportunities. The *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999* (Public Law 106-76) (Act) requires that certain values, including exceptional multiple-use opportunities and recreational resources, must be protected by the management plan. Some alternatives considered in the DRMP, as well as the PRMP, restrict or eliminate some human uses in some planning area locations. This alternative, however, would substantially restrict or

eliminate all or most human use. The BLM does not believe this is feasible because the impact analysis does not compel the BLM to restrict or eliminate all or most human uses in certain locations. As such, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Remove NCA and Wilderness Designations

This alternative would have removed the NCA designation provided by the Act, and the area would have remained public lands with no national designation. This alternative is not feasible or prudent because the Congressional Act designating the NCA and Wilderness cannot be revoked unless by another act of Congress, which is not likely in the foreseeable future. As such, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Allow Unregulated Recreation

This alternative would have allowed unencumbered, unregulated recreation in the NCA, Wilderness, and remaining public lands in the planning area. The Act states that the NCA and Wilderness shall be managed to protect their natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources. Allowing unregulated recreation would mean that users could travel anywhere on planning area public lands via automobile, OHV, mountain bike, foot, or horseback. In addition, private and commercial users would be allowed unregulated access to and use of the Gunnison River in the Wilderness and downstream. Such use would lead to increased user days and more user conflicts throughout the NCA and Wilderness, which would lead to additional impacts on the natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources for which the NCA and Wilderness were designated. As such, these resources would not be protected as required by the Act. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

Partial Implementation of the RMP

A number of alternatives were developed that would only focuses on a few issues or otherwise result in partial implementation of the RMP. Preparation and full implementation of the RMP is a BLM requirement. As such, these alternatives were dismissed as infeasible, impracticable, or precluded by legal insufficiency.

Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

Four alternatives are analyzed in detail in the DRMP (BLM 2003c). General management themes for each alternative analyzed in detail are described below.

Alternative A

The objectives of Alternative A, continuation of current management (or "no action" alternative), was to continue implementing the direction and actions contained in existing guidance, laws, plans, and policies that are currently in effect, in compliance with the legislative Act designating the NCA and Wilderness (Appendix A), while meeting land health standards. Current levels of motorized and non-motorized uses and activities would have continued with some restrictions applied. More routes would have been designated for motorized and mechanized (e.g., mountain bicycle) use.

Noncommercial (private) and commercial recreation use on the Gunnison River would have continued, with no limitations on numbers of private boater launches. The Wilderness would have been managed for the same degree of solitude opportunities that are currently possible. Current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use resource management of planning area public lands would have continued. Existing guidance, laws, plans, policies, and management would have been amended only as necessary to comply with the Act.

Alternative B

The objectives of Alternative B were to resolve issues and concerns on planning area public lands with a focus on conserving natural values and improving and enhancing land health conditions where possible. Lands would have been managed overall for a primitive non-motorized and motorized setting. Human uses would have had greater restrictions and would have been managed for less-impacting results. Non-motorized opportunities would have been emphasized with more comprehensive restrictions and conditions on motorized activities. Open, cross-country, off-route motorized and mechanized (e.g., mountain bicycle) areas would have been more restricted and smaller. Group sizes for commercial Gunnison River activities in the Wilderness and beyond would have been reduced. Noncommercial (private) Gunnison River recreation would have been managed by implementing a limiting permit and allocation system. The Wilderness would have been managed to enhance and increase opportunities for solitude.

Alternative C

The objectives for Alternative C were to resolve issues and concerns on planning area public lands to provide a greater diversity of uses, additional developed facilities (such as roads and trails), and fewer restrictions outside the Wilderness, while meeting land health standards everywhere. Lands would have been managed for motorized and non-motorized settings. Economic return and community stability would have been an important consideration when actions are implemented. Overall, restrictions on people's activities would have been lessened. Open, cross-country, off-route motorized and mechanized (e.g., mountain bicycle) use opportunities would have been maximized with allocations of large open areas. Whitewater boating and Gold Medal trout fishing would have been emphasized in the Wilderness. Group sizes for commercial Gunnison River activities in the Wilderness would have been increased. The Wilderness would have been managed for maximum use, and commercial and private river recreation opportunities would have been limited only if necessary to maintain group encounter numbers.

Alternative D

Alternative D was and is the BLM's preferred alternative. Parts of some management units from Alternatives A, B, and C were incorporated into Alternative D. In some cases, management unit boundaries were modified to make management more effective. The objectives of Alternative D are to maximize diversity of multiple uses, including human activities and opportunities, while meeting or exceeding land health standards. Areas will be prioritized for land health standard improvement or enhancement. Lands will be managed for non-motorized and motorized activities in a variety of settings.

Areas for open, cross-country, off-route motorized and mechanized (e.g., mountain bicycle) activities will be allocated. A moderate amount of control will be exercised on motorized vehicular activities, and additional control will be exercised in some areas. Some human uses will be limited in some areas to recognize natural and other values. In the Wilderness and beyond, commercial and noncommercial (private) Gunnison River recreation will be analyzed to determine needed changes to meet Wilderness criteria and human satisfaction levels.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Environmental preference is judged using the criteria in the NEPA and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). The CEQ defines the environmentally preferred alternative as that which will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of the NEPA. This section lists six broad policy goals for all federal plans, programs, and policies:

1) Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2) Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
4) Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and variety of individual choice;
5) Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
6) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Based on these criteria, identifying the most environmentally preferable alternative involves balancing current and potential resource use with resource protection. Alternative B in the DRMP (BLM 2003c) was considered to be the environmentally preferred alternative based on these criteria, as well as the alternative's established objectives.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

The PRMP was developed based on environmental impacts of the alternatives analyzed in the DRMP (BLM 2003c); issues raised throughout the planning process; how each alternative resolves existing conflicts on planning area public lands; public input and scoping throughout the process; and laws, regulations, and BLM Manuals and other guidance. Aspects of DRMP Alternatives A, B, and C are included in Alternative D and the PRMP. The PRMP was developed by the Gunnison Gorge NCA staff and Manager, the Uncompahgre Field Office Manager, and interdisciplinary team members and represents the mix and variety of actions that, in the opinion of the preparers, best resolve the issues and management concerns that drove preparation of the RMP/EIS.

All actions in the attached RMP comply with current applicable state and federal regulations, standards, and policies. In certain instances, laws, regulations, or policies will require some management actions to receive overriding priority in conflict resolution, such as protection of threatened and endangered species or historical or archaeological resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The attached RMP decisions include any mitigation measures necessary to minimize impacts.

PLAN MONITORING

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-9) require monitoring of RMPs on a continual basis with formal evaluations conducted at periodic intervals. The attached RMP decisions incorporate monitoring measures for a variety of resources. Revisions or amendments to the RMP may be necessary to accommodate changes in resource needs, policies, or regulations. A detailed, decision-specific implementation and funding schedule will be completed following approval of the RMP. It will contain detailed implementation and monitoring plans, including all monitoring recommended in the attached RMP, and schedules necessary to implement RMP decisions. It is anticipated that several follow-on strategies or activity plans will be prepared during implementation of the RMP.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM implemented an extensive public collaboration program for this planning effort. The BLM distributed newsletters, hosted public open houses, and facilitated a public collaboration focus group. The BLM also collaborated with parties after the public comment period on the DRMP (BLM 2003c) to help resolve issues dealing with wild and scenic river recommendations, rights-of-way utility corridors, and OHV use.

Scoping

Public involvement is an integral component of BLM's resource management planning process. The planning process officially started on August 18, 2000, with the publication of a notice of intent in the *Federal Register*, which notified the public of the BLM's intent to develop a management plan. The notice of intent also formally initiated the scoping process, or solicitation of public comments. In November 2001, a project-specific Web site (www.gunnison-gorge-eis.com) was launched to serve as a clearinghouse of project information. The Web site provides background information about the project, a public meeting calendar, and copies of public information documents, and is updated regularly with current information. A link was also available for Web site visitors to submit comments. A directed mailing of the project newsletter and newspaper advertisements, a press release, and a television spot also were issued to notify the public of the project, to announce the three public open houses, to request public comments, and to provide contact information.

Open houses were held in three western Colorado locations in the vicinity of the project planning area during February 2002. They provided the public the opportunity to

receive information, ask questions, and provide input. In addition to BLM representatives, a total of 66 people attended the open houses. The close of the official scoping period was March 8, 2002. A total of 81 written submissions were received from different entities and affiliations. Many of the submissions contained multiple comments on different topics. A total of 1,243 individual comments were made in the 81 written submissions received. A scoping report was published in March 2002 and posted on the project Web site. Information received through written scoping comments was evaluated, verified, and incorporated into the RMP/EIS as appropriate.

Focus Group

A citizen/agency focus group was developed to assist BLM in the planning process. The BLM Southwest Resource Advisory Council officially sanctioned the focus group as is subcommittee. The focus group has provided extensive and important input to the RMP/EIS process. The focus group members provided data and information for those resources and uses that they represent, assisted in identifying issues to be addressed in the planning process, assisted in formulating alternatives, and reviewed and provided input on the preliminary draft alternatives. A total of 12 meetings were held with the focus group, and a total of 296 people attended the meetings. For each geographical visitor use zones in the NCA, three focus group meetings were held. During the first meeting, the focus group was presented an overview of the existing conditions and management in a particular geographic zone. The group then broke into smaller groups to voice issues and opportunities group members think are present in each zone. The second meeting consisted of an outdoor field trip to each zone. Maps were brought into the field, and the group discussed what was present on the ground. The third meeting consisted of meeting indoors again and collaboratively developing alternative management ideas for the RMP. In addition to the 12 focus group meetings, an additional four collaborative citizen/agency meetings were held.

All individuals who had attended any of the above 12 focus group meetings were provided an opportunity to comment on the preliminary draft alternatives in December 2002, which were posted on the project Web site and available for review at the BLM's Gunnison Gorge NCA Office. A total of 193 focus group members were contacted. A total of almost 50 written submissions were received on the preliminary draft alternatives, either in letter or electronic mail format, which helped BLM refine the alternatives before publishing the DRMP.

Newsletter

Five editions of the project newsletter, *News from the Gorge*, have been published to date:

1) The January 2002 issue kicked off public scoping; it was mailed to 650 contacts on the project distribution list.

2) The April 2002 issue provided public scoping results; it was mailed to over 1,000 contacts on the distribution list.

3) The January 2003 issue described the alternatives being analyzed in the DRMP; it was mailed to over 1,000 contacts on the distribution list.

4) The March 2003 issue announced the availability of the DRMP; it was mailed to over 1,000 contacts on the distribution list.

5) The January 2004 issue announced the availability of the PRMP and summarized comments submitted on the DRMP; it was mailed to over 1,500 contacts on the distribution list.

6) The November 2004 issue announced the availability of the RMP and ROD; it was mailed to over 1,500 contacts on the distribution list.

Public Review and Comment on the DRMP

The DRMP (BLM 2003c) was published on March 14, 2003. A notice of availability (NOA) was published in the *Federal Register* on that date, which notified the public of the availability of the DRMP. The NOA also solicited written public comments during the 90-calendar-day review period. The DRMP was available on the project Web site and at seven local public libraries. Three newspaper advertisements and a press release were issued to notify the public of the DRMP availability, to announce the three open houses, and to request public comments.

Copies of the DRMP were distributed to 266 parties, including elected officials, regulatory agencies, focus group members, and other members of the public. Approximately an additional 900 parties were notified of the availability of the DRMP via a directed mailing of the project newsletter. Eighty-nine additional parties received copies of the DRMP by request to the BLM. Most of these recipients were the same parties who had received a CD-ROM and were requesting a paper copy of the document. Therefore, in total, 282 parties received copies of the DRMP.

Open houses were held in the towns of Delta, Hotchkiss, and Montrose, Colorado, during the 90-day public review period of the DRMP. A total of 66 people attended the open houses.

The comment period closed on June 16, 2003. A total of 642 written submissions were received by the deadline. A total of 1,348 individual comments were made in the 642 submissions. All information received through these comments has been evaluated, verified, and incorporated into the PRMP, as appropriate.

About 23 percent of submissions (150 submissions) were unique in that they were not associated with a standardized form letter or postcard. A total of 492 (77 percent) of the 642 total submissions included two different "form" letters, which are letters identical or very similar in content. Some of these submissions included additional comments supplementing those in the standardized text.

Distribution and Availability of the PRMP

An NOA was published in the *Federal Register* to notify the public of the availability of the PRMP. Newspaper advertisements and a press release also were issued. The PRMP was available via the project Web site and at seven local public libraries. All recipients of the DRMP, and all parties who submitted written comments on the DRMP (some of

whom are the same parties), were mailed the project newsletter announcing the availability of the PRMP. The newsletter was mailed to approximately an additional 900 contacts on the distribution list. In total, approximately 1,700 parties received notification of the PRMP availability. All focus group members and all parties who submitted non-form letter written comments on the DRMP were mailed copies of the PRMP.

A 30-day protest period was provided on the PRMP in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2. See the "Land Use Plan Decisions" section above for information on these protests.

Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service

In conformance with the Interagency Programmatic Section 7 Consultation Memorandum of Agreement (October 2000), the BLM initiated consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in June 2001 to request a list of species either federally listed or proposed for listing that may occur in the planning area. The BLM received USFWS response in July 2001. The BLM updated this list with USFWS' concurrence in March 2002 and again in October/November 2002. Species known to occur in the planning area were addressed in the planning process. In compliance with Section 7 requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM prepared a biological assessment for the implementation of the RMP. It was submitted to USFWS in draft form in July 2003, USFWS comments were received in August 2003, and the revised and final biological assessment was submitted to USFWS in January 2004. The BLM received USFWS' concurrence with the biological assessment, which completes the informal Section 7 consultation process, on March 11, 2004.

Native American Tribal Coordination

Federal law and regulation require coordination with federally recognized Native American tribes that may be interested in the planning area. Uncompahgre Field Office staff have coordinated with three Native American tribes via meetings, phone calls, e-mail messages, letters, and directed mailings of two project newsletters. Uncompahgre Field Office staff also have made presentations to Tribal councils and have escorted Tribal officials on planning area field visits. Three Native American tribes were notified of the DRMP and PRMP availability. No comments were received from Tribal officials on the DRMP or PRMP.

Public Participation in RMP Implementation

The implementation and funding schedule to be completed following approval of the RMP will contain opportunities for public involvement in implementing RMP decisions.

MANAGERS' RECOMMENDATION

Having considered a full range of alternatives, associated impacts, and public impact, I recommend adoption of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan. The existing RMP for the Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM 1989) is hereby amended to reflect and incorporate the decisions in this RMP for the affected lands.

Barbara Sharrow 10/27/04

Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office
US Bureau of Land Management

Date

Karen D Tucker 10/27/04

Karen Tucker
Manager
Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area
US Bureau of Land Management

Date

STATE DIRECTOR APPROVAL

I approve the attached Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, as recommended. This document meets the requirements for a Record of decision provided in 40 CFR 1505.2 and for a resource management plan as described in 40 CFR 1610.0-5(k).

Ron Wenker 11/5/04

Ron Wenker
Director
Colorado State Office
US Bureau of Land Management

Date

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
2003 Act	Black Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-78, November 4, 2003)
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Act	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-76, October 21, 1999)
APD	application for permit to drill
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (US Department of Agriculture)
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CO-	Colorado Highway
COA	conditions of approval
CSUS	controlled surface use stipulation
DRMP	Gunnison Gorge NCA Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	environmental impact statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
Gorge	Gunnison Gorge
Gunnison Forks	confluence of the Gunnison River and North Fork of the Gunnison River
IBA	Important Bird Area
kV	kilovolt
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MU	management unit
National Park	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
NCA	National Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

LIST OF ACRONYMS *(continued)*

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
North Fork	North Fork of the Gunnison River
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSO	no surface occupancy
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
OHV	off-highway vehicle
ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
Park Service	United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
PL	Public Law
planning area	Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area planning area
Pleasure Park	Gunnison River Pleasure Park (at Gunnison Forks)
PRMP	Gunnison Gorge NCA Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement
RAMP	Final Recreation Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado
RAMP Addition	Addition to the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado
RMP	resource management plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRUP	Special Recreation Use Permit
TLS	timing limitation stipulation
Tri-State	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
US	United States
US-	United States Highway
USC	United States Code
US Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
USFWS	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VRM	Visual Resource Management
Wilderness	Gunnison Gorge Wilderness
WSR Act	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) was prepared using United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 US Code [USC] 1701 *et seq.*) (FLPMA).

1.1 LOCATION

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) planning area (planning area) considered in this document totals about 196,000 acres in southwestern Colorado and is adjacent to the cities of Montrose and Olathe in Montrose County, and near the cities of Delta, Hotchkiss, and Crawford in Delta County (Figure 1-1). The planning area encompasses 95,781 acres of federal BLM-managed land, 99,743 acres of private land, and 666 acres at Sweitzer Lake State Park. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (National Park) is adjacent to but not within the planning area. Within the planning area, the NCA encompasses 62,844 acres of BLM-managed lands and 2,225 acres of private lands. The interior 17,784 acres of the NCA, encompassing the Gunnison Gorge (Gorge), is the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness (Wilderness). The Wilderness contains about 14 miles of the Gunnison River downstream of the National Park, and the NCA contains an additional eight miles of the Gunnison River downstream of the Wilderness boundary.

The remaining BLM-managed lands are adjacent to and outside the boundary of the NCA and include public lands in the Peach Valley and Flat Top area on the NCA's west and south boarder, and public lands on the east side of the Gunnison River in the Red Canyon and Fruitland Mesa areas.

Management measures outlined in the RMP apply only to BLM-managed land and water in the planning area; no measures have been developed for private or state lands. Given that private and state lands are interspersed with the BLM-managed lands, they are included because they could influence or be affected by management actions in this RMP.

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

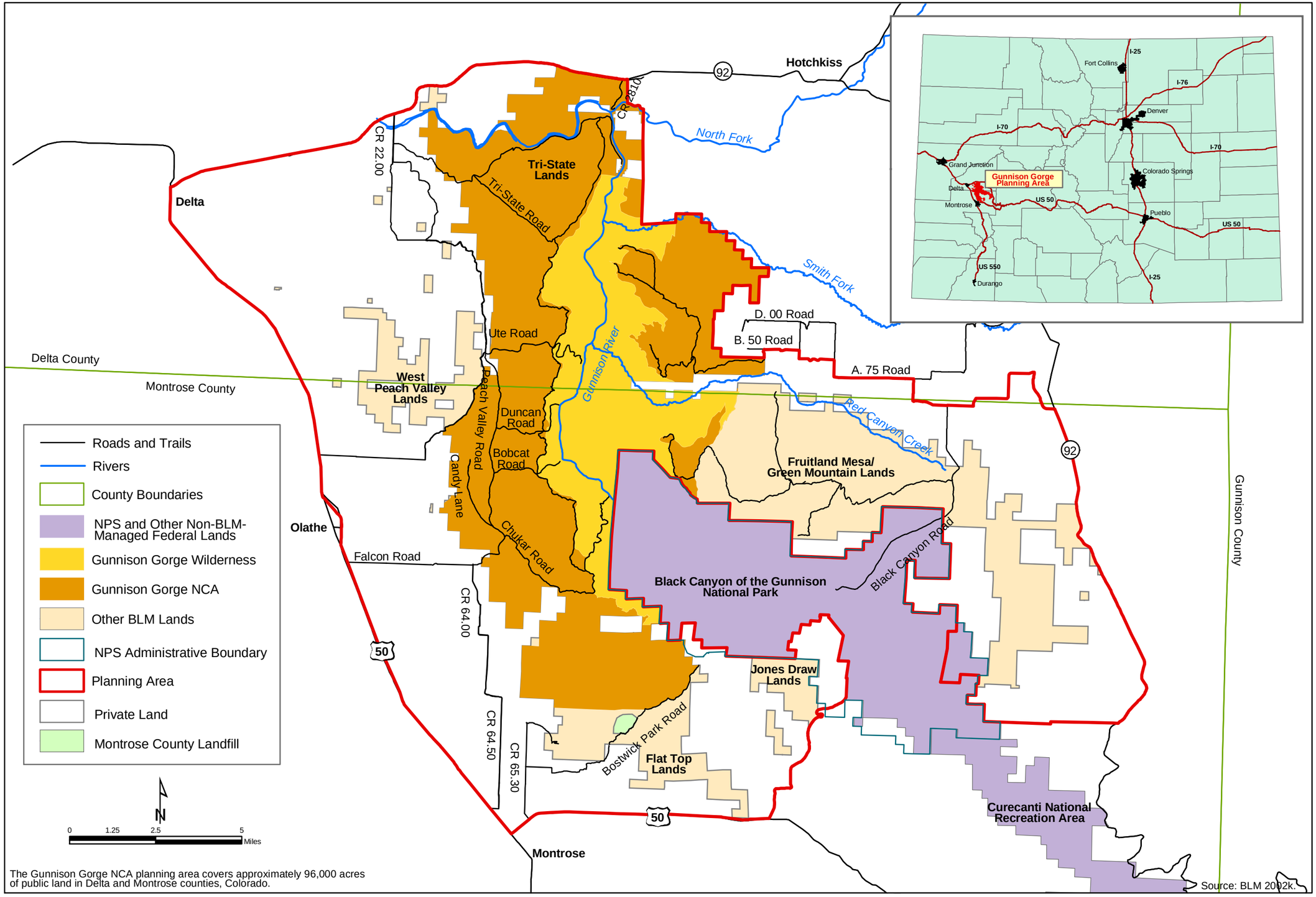
The RMP is being prepared to provide the BLM, Uncompahgre Field Office, with a comprehensive framework for managing the NCA, Wilderness, and other BLM-managed lands in the planning area. The purpose of the RMP is to develop a public, detailed document that defines management polices and actions on these lands. The RMP:

- Specifies where and under what circumstances particular activities will be allowed on public lands in the planning area;
- Updates the decisions and existing management policies for public lands in the NCA and the resource allocations affecting the NCA;
- Incorporates available new data;
- Resolves issues identified during public scoping;
- Integrates or modifies uses of public land that have occurred since the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area RMP (BLM 1989) and other associated management/activity plans were completed;
- Provides public land management measures in accordance with the FLPMA and BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1; and
- Analyzes stream segments in the NCA and planning area and considers their eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS), according to the US Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture *Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas* (Federal Register 1982), as amended, and current BLM guidelines and regulations.

The RMP is needed for the following two reasons:

(1) To comply with the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (Public Law [PL] 106-76, October 21, 1999) (Act) and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003 (PL 108-78, November 2003) (2003 Act) (Appendix A). The Act created the Gunnison Gorge NCA and Wilderness "to protect the resources within the Conservation Area" and requires that the BLM "develop a comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Conservation Area" within four years of designation. The 2003 Act expanded the boundary of the NCA to incorporate additional public lands.

(2) To comply with national and state BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) policy, all NCAs are required to have a stand-alone RMP that consolidates all land use plans and implementation or activity plans relevant to the planning area (BLM Instruction Bulletin No. 2001-022, February 22, 2002).



The Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area covers approximately 96,000 acres of public land in Delta and Montrose counties, Colorado.

Source: BLM 2002k.

Project Location
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 1-1

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The existing RMP for the Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM 1989) will be amended to reflect and incorporate the decisions in this RMP for the affected lands. This RMP is a stand-alone land use plan for all BLM-managed lands in the NCA, Wilderness, and planning area.

A Record of Decision (ROD) and this Approved RMP were published following a 30-day protest period for the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (PRMP) (BLM 2004) and after the Governor's consistency review. This final, approved RMP provides guidance for the BLM's land use planning and resource management actions in the planning area over the next 15 to 20 years.

1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM follows a nine-step planning process, which is provided in Table 1-1, including critical timeframes for this RMP.

1.3.1 Planning Themes and Issues

A planning issue is defined as a matter of controversy, dispute, or general concern over resource management activities, the environment, or land uses. While planning issues drove the RMP, many other basic environmental and management issues are also addressed to provide comprehensive management guidance for all resources and to satisfy legal requirements.

The following six issue themes and sub-categories were developed to help guide the planning process. Throughout the process, the planning team referred to the list below to help focus on the most important questions to resolve during the planning process, at meetings, and during alternative formulation internally and with the focus group that was formed. In essence, each alternative, and the RMP, was charged to resolve these issues and concerns.

1. Preservation of Natural and Wilderness Resources of NCA and Wilderness
    - General
    - Terrestrial Wildlife
    - Vegetation
    - Riparian and Water Resources
    - Cultural Resources
    - Woodland Resources
    - Fire Management

Table 1-1
BLM Planning Process

BLM Planning Process Step	Description	Timeframe
Step 1 – Planning Issues Identification	Issues and concerns are identified through a scoping process that includes the public, Indian tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments.	Completed March 2002 (see Section 1.3.1)
Step 2 – Planning Criteria Development	Planning criteria are created to ensure decisions are made to address the issues pertinent to the planning effort. Planning criteria are derived from a variety of sources including applicable laws and regulations, existing management plans, coordination of other agencies programs, and the results of public and agency scoping. The planning criteria may be updated and changed as planning proceeds.	Completed May 2002 (see Section 1.3.2)
Step 3 – Data and Information Collection	Data and information for the resources in the planning area are collected based on the planning criteria.	Completed September 2002
Step 4 – Management Situation Analysis	The current management of resources in the planning area is assessed.	Completed September 2002
Step 5 – Alternatives Formulation	A range of reasonable management alternatives that address issues identified during scoping is developed.	Completed December 2002
Step 6 – Alternatives Assessment	The effects of each alternative are estimated.	Completed January 2003
Step 7 – Preferred Alternative Selection	The alternative that best resolves planning issues is identified as the preferred alternative.	Completed January 2003
Step 8 – Resource Management Plan Selection	First, a Draft RMP/EIS (DRMP) is issued and is made available to the public for a review period of 90 calendar days. After comments to the draft document have been received and analyzed, it is modified as necessary, and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is published and made available for public review for 30 calendar days. A ROD is signed to approve the RMP.	DRMP: March to June 2003 PRMP: January 2004 ROD: November 2004
Step 9 – Implementation and Monitoring	Management measures outlined in the approved plan are implemented on the ground, and future monitoring is conducted to test their effectiveness. Changes are made as necessary to achieve desired results. See Chapter 3 for detail.	Ongoing

2. Management of People's Activities and Uses
    - Private and Commercial Recreation Use
    - Hunting
    - Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management
    - Motorized River Craft
    - Livestock Grazing Management
    - Mineral Management and Valid Existing Rights

- Fuel Wood and Post Cutting
- Utility Corridors, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals
- Land Tenure

3. Integration of NCA Management with Other Agency and Community Plans
   - Fisheries Management (Colorado Division of Wildlife [CDOW])
   - Gunnison River Water Issues
   - Emergency Services (Delta County Sheriff, Montrose County Sheriff, and US Department of the Interior, National Park Service [Park Service])
   - Tourism Management
4. Facilities and Infrastructure Needed to Provide Visitor Services and Administration
5. Management of Transportation and Access
6. Consideration of Private Property in the Planning Area

1.3.2 Planning Criteria

Planning criteria identify the legal, policy, and regulatory constraints that direct or limit BLM's ability to resolve issues. They also help guide the development of alternatives. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable law and regulations, agency guidance, analysis of information pertinent to the planning area, the result of coordination with the public, government agencies, and Native American tribes, and professional judgment.

Draft planning criteria were completed following the open houses held in February 2002. BLM solicited public comment on the draft criteria between April 19 and May 20, 2002. No comments were received, so the criteria became proposed criteria. They have since been finalized and are as follows:

- The RMP will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws. It will meet the requirements of the Act (PL 106-76), designating the NCA to protect the NCA's natural resources and outstanding recreation opportunities.
- The personnel involved with the RMP process will work cooperatively with the State of Colorado, tribal governments, county and municipal governments, other federal agencies, and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals. Public participation will be encouraged throughout the process.
- The RMP will establish the guidance that the BLM will rely on in managing the resources and values in the NCA and planning area.
- The planning process will include an EIS that will comply with standards of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

- The RMP will emphasize the protection and enhancement of the NCA's biodiversity while at the same time providing the public with opportunities for compatible recreation activities.
- The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness is a pilot site for the National Fee Pilot Demonstration Program. Since 1988, user fees have been charged for all commercial and private walk-in and boating use in the area. Fees will continue to be charged under the authority of the Fee Demo Program.
- Under the RMP, valid existing rights within the NCA will be recognized, and how valid existing rights are verified will be reviewed. The RMP will also include an outline of the process the BLM will use to address applications or notices filed on existing claims or other land use authorizations after the completion of the RMP.
- The lifestyles and concerns of area residents, including the activities of grazing and hunting, will be recognized in the RMP.
- The RMP will address boundary adjustments to the NCA. The NCA legislation states that the Secretary of the Department of the Interior may make revisions to the boundary of the NCA following acquisition of land necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the NCA was designated.
- Any lands within the NCA's administrative boundary that are acquired by the BLM to accomplish purposes for which the NCA was designated will be managed consistent with the RMP, subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
- The RMP will recognize the State of Colorado's responsibility to manage wildlife on BLM-managed lands in Colorado. BLM, in accordance with the NCA legislation, will consult with the CDOW before establishing no-hunting zones or periods to protect public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.
- The RMP will address transportation and access and will identify where better access is warranted, where access should remain as is, and where decreased access is appropriate to protect NCA resources and to manage visitation.
- The management of livestock grazing is regulated by laws and regulations other than the NCA legislation. The RMP will incorporate the Colorado Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for livestock grazing management. The RMP will outline a strategy for ensuring proper grazing practices are followed within the NCA.
- The RMP will incorporate the Colorado BLM Guidelines for Recreation Management. It will outline a strategy for ensuring that proper recreation management practices are followed within the NCA.
- The planning process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.

- Decisions in the RMP will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are in conformance with the NCA legislation, other laws and regulations, and applicable other legal or regulatory guidance.

1.4 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

The following mission statement was prepared early in the planning process by the citizen/agency focus group, in collaboration with the BLM, to provide an underlying vision for managing the NCA and associated planning area:

> "The BLM will manage the NCA to protect the resources in accordance with the designating legislation, FLPMA, the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended, and other applicable provisions of law. The BLM will incorporate multiple uses to the extent that important resources are protected and the combination of uses takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. The purpose of the planning effort is to establish an integrated guiding plan for future site-specific analysis and decisions that maintains or improves existing conditions to meet or exceed Colorado BLM Land Health Standards."

1.5 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Act provides overall guidance, management objectives, and legal mandates that must be incorporated into the RMP. Key provisions or objectives in the Act that are important to the general management of the NCA and Wilderness state the following:

- The NCA shall be managed by the BLM to protect the resources in accordance with the legislation, the FLPMA; and other applicable provisions of law. The Act specifically refers to the area's "exceptional multiple use opportunities" and "natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources" and mandates their protection.
- Subject to valid existing rights, all NCA lands are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.
- Hunting and fishing is permitted within the NCA in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, with the exception that the BLM, in conjunction with CDOW), may designate no hunting zones for reasons concerning public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.
- In addition to the use of motorized vehicles on established roadways, the use of motorized vehicles in the NCA shall be allowed to the extent that use is compatible with OHV designations as described in the management plan in effect on the date of the Act's enactment. (This refers to the OHV designation areas depicted in the 1985 Final Recreation Management Plan for the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Lands Colorado [RAMP] [BLM 1985], Addition to the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Gunnison

Gorge Recreation Lands, Colorado [RAMP Addition] [BLM 1988a], and Uncompahgre Basin RMP [BLM 1989a]. The Act recognizes that recreational and other uses of motorized vehicles are some of many multiple uses occurring on public lands in the NCA.)

- Boundary revisions may be made to the boundary of the NCA following acquisition of land necessary to accomplish the purpose for with the NCA was designated.

In regard to the RMP, the Act specifies that the management plan do the following:

- Describe the appropriate uses and management of the NCA in accordance with the Act.
- Incorporate appropriate decisions contained in any management plan or activity for the area completed prior to the enactment date.
- Incorporate appropriate wildlife habitat management plans or other plans prepared for lands within or adjacent to the NCA.
- Be prepared in close consultation with appropriate federal, state, county, and local agencies.
- May use information developed prior to the date of the enactment of this Act in studies of the land within or adjacent to the NCA.
- Be transmitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives not later than 4 years after the date of enactment (October 21, 2003).

In regard to the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness within the NCA, the Act states the following:

- Subject to valid existing rights, the Wilderness shall be administered by the BLM in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 USC 1131 *et seq.*).
- The jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with respect to wildlife and fish on the public lands within the Area will not be affected by the Act.
- No expressed or implied reservation of water for any purpose was created by the Act, and water rights in existence prior to the enactment date are not affected by the Act.
- Any new water right determined necessary for purposes of the Act must be established under the procedures and substantive requirements of Colorado law.
- The approximate 300-acre parcel in the southern portion of the former Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Study Area is released from section 603 of FLPMA and is no longer subject to management under "wilderness suitability" requirements set forth under section 603(c) of that Act. The

Act also incorporates this parcel into the non-wilderness portion of the NCA.

Additional management goals for the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness from the BLM Wilderness Policy are as follows:

- To provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of nondegradation. The area's natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value present will be managed so that they will remain unimpaired.
- To manage the area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resources will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of the wilderness character and visitor use.
- To manage the area using the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish the objectives. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently. Management will seek to preserve spontaneity of use and as much freedom from regulation as possible.
- To manage nonconforming but acceptable uses permitted by the Wilderness Act and subsequent laws in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the area's wilderness character. Nonconforming uses are the exception rather than the rule; therefore, emphasis is placed on wilderness character.

1.6 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY REPORT

The Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report for the planning area is included as Appendix I. The report makes final the BLM's examination of planning area river segments as they relate to Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSR Act) eligibility, classification, and suitability criteria for planning area river segments' potential inclusion in the NWSRS.

In reviewing planning area streams to determine which, if any, should be considered in the inventory processing accordance with the WSR Act, 26 river segments were initially considered. Of these, four river or stream segments were determined eligible and suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The 16-mile segment of the Gunnison River (including the entire portion of the river within the Wilderness and downstream to the transmission line located south of the North Fork of the Gunnison River [North Fork]) is suitable as a wild and scenic river under the Wild classification. Similarly, the 6-mile segment of the Gunnison River from the transmission line to the Relief Ditch diversion is suitable under the Recreational classification. The 4.2-mile segment of Red Canyon

and the 2-mile segment of Smith Fork Creek on BLM-managed lands are suitable under the Scenic classification.

Neither the end product of the BLM planning process nor the Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I) means that any stream segment studied is, or will be, automatically designated into the NWSRS. There are only two methods by which potential stream or river segments are included into the NWSRS: Congress can designate these segments into the NWSRS, or such designation can occur by a state Governor's recommendations that is confirmed by the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior. Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any of the segments in the PRMP and Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I) comes before them. Water-protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed.

CHAPTER 2
APPROVED DECISIONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the decisions approved by the ROD for the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP. This chapter consists of Land Use Planning decisions, Implementation decisions, and administrative actions that will be taken over the life of the RMP. See pages R-1 and R-2 in the ROD and Section 2.5 in this chapter for more information on Land Use Planning and Implementation decision types. Other than the format used, this chapter is nearly identical to the PRMP (BLM 2004), which was essentially the Agency Preferred Alternative, Alternative D, from the DRMP (BLM 2003c), with changes reflecting public comment, collaboration during the preparation of this RMP, and BLM's internal comments and analysis of the entire DRMP and PRMP.

The objective of the RMP decisions in Section 2.5 is to maximize diversity of multiple uses, including human activities and opportunities, while meeting or exceeding land health standards. Areas of public land in the planning area will be prioritized for land health standard improvement or enhancement. Lands will be managed for non-motorized and motorized activities in a variety of settings. Areas for open, cross-country, off-route motorized and mechanized (e.g., mountain bicycle) activities will be allocated. A moderate and adequate amount of control will be exercised on motorized vehicular activities, and additional control will be exercised in some areas. Some human uses will be limited in some areas to recognize natural and other values. In the Wilderness and beyond, commercial and noncommercial (private) Gunnison River recreation will be analyzed to determine needed changes to meet Wilderness criteria and human satisfaction levels.

2.2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE GUNNISON GORGE WILDERNESS

The RMP recommends that current management be continued in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, which is Management Unit 1, until completion of a collaborative process that will more-thoroughly resolves issues of commercial and noncommercial recreation use, primarily boating, in the Wilderness. Such a collaborative process will involve the pubic, including those individuals, agencies, groups, and organizations that participated

in the planning process. Based on the amount of information available and public comment received on the DRMP (BLM 2003c), the BLM believes this approach to be the best method of resolving issues discussed during the more than seven-month collaboration process in 2002 and 2003. This approach will permit the necessary extensive analysis of resource information, visitor use data on hand (and to be gathered), and visitor survey results. The approach will also permit the necessary depth of consideration that could be given to the questions of how, when, and where to manage future commercial and noncommercial uses in the Wilderness to determine if changes in current management will be truly necessary to maintain and enhance Wilderness values. As part of the future collaborative process, a monitoring system will be developed to measure indicators such as customer satisfaction, resource conditions, and campsite conditions, among others, in order to determine when additional changes will be needed to achieve Wilderness management objectives. This depth of analysis and these outputs and outcomes can best direct continual improvement in management. See the decisions in Tables 2-2.1 and 2-2.1a for more specific information.

2.3 BENEFITS-BASED RECREATION MANAGEMENT IN THE PLANNING AREA

Public lands in the planning area, NCA, Wilderness, and beyond encompass a wide variety of settings that provide a great diversity of benefits to users and inhabitants of the area. Users include recreationists and traditional users (such as ranchers). Users can derive monetary benefit from their activities and nonmonetary value, such as solitude, wildlife viewing, and resource protection. The benefits-based recreation component of this RMP goes beyond the traditional approach of managing each component of the ecosystem separately. It recognizes that each component of the ecosystem has some effect on human and nonhuman elements.

Benefits as defined in this RMP are changes that are viewed to be advantageous, or improvements in psychological or physiological condition of individuals, groups, society, or another entity such as an endangered species; the prevention of worse conditions; and realization of desired and satisfying on-site psychological experiences. The objectives of management unit prescriptions are thus designed to deliver benefits for the major components addressed in this RMP, including, but not limited to, the recreation experience, vegetation, soil, water, air, wildlife, and cultural resources.

Public lands in the planning area will be managed to deliver benefits by providing opportunities for visitors to engage in a variety of activities in a variety of physical, social, and managerial settings. A range of opportunities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes will be provided in their appropriate settings with the goal of optimizing net benefits to visitors and affected residents, their communities, and the environment. Recreation decisions in this RMP are more detailed and specific as a result of integrating the benefits-based process. Recreation decisions specific to each management unit are shown in a separate, different tabular format than other decisions, in order to display the recreation management actions the BLM will implement to achieve desired future conditions and provide targeted established benefits, values, settings, and experiences.

2.4 MANAGEMENT UNITS

The planning area has been divided into six management units based on a particular geographic area's public land resources, uses, and values and relative to the goals and objectives of the RMP (see Section 1.5). Management unit prescriptions are derived from the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) of the DRMP (BLM 2003c) and the PRMP (BLM 2004), with changes made as a result of public comment and internal review. The size, number, and configuration of the management units in this RMP are identical to those in the PRMP. Table 2-1 lists the acres in each management unit. Figure 2-1 depicts management unit boundaries, land ownership, and other features in the planning area.

Table 2-1
Management Unit Acres and Values

Management Unit	Acres of Public Land	Percentage of Planning Area[1]	Important Values, Resources, or Land Uses
1	17,784	19	Protect Wilderness (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness)
2	9,754	10	Enhance natural, scenic, and recreational values (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area)
3	13,502	14	Protect and enhance riparian and recreation resources (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers Special Recreation Management Area [SRMA])
4	22,200	23	Protect Gunnison sage-grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)*, elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) winter concentration (Gunnison Sage-Grouse Area of Critical Environmental Concern [ACEC]/Important Bird Area [IBA])
5	3,785	4	Protect native plants (Native Plant Community ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area [ONA])
6	28,755	30	Provide for multiple use under common management

[1] This value is the percentage of public land (surface estate) in the planning area that is located in each management unit.
Source: BLM 2002k.

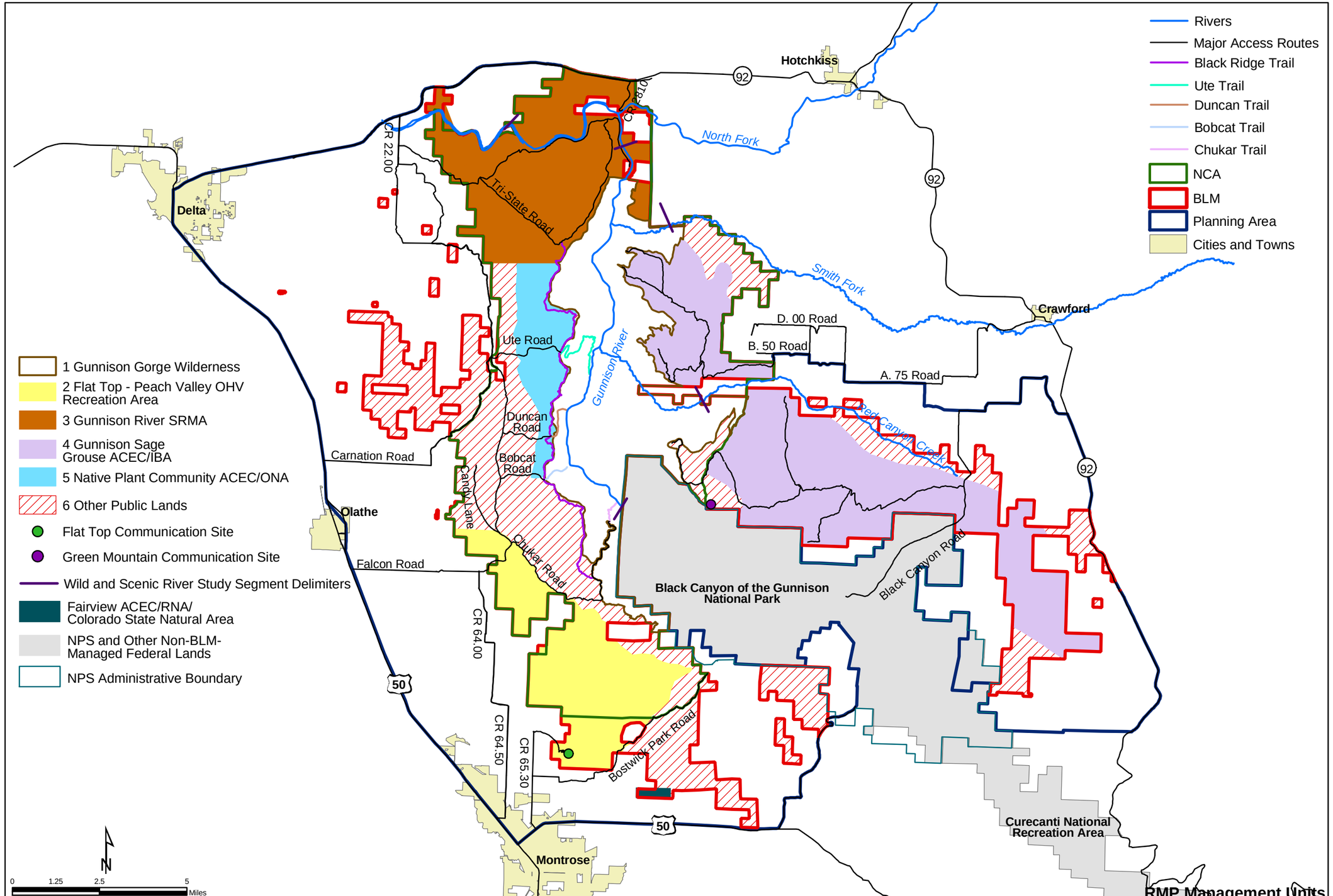
Although each management unit will be managed under the multiple-use concept, in some cases the most outstanding resources, resource uses, or values in a unit will be given significant consideration to protect those specific qualities. Thus, the decisions for management unit prescriptions may place constraints on some resources, uses, or values within a unit. In most cases, these other resources will be managed to the extent that such management will be compatible with the more significant resources, uses, or values in a unit. In addition, future proposals will be evaluated in the context of each management unit prescription. Planning area public lands where no particular resource, use, or value is outstanding comprise Management Unit 6. Any differences in acres in the RMP/ROD, the PRMP, and the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) in the DRMP are the result of the peculiarities of the Geographic Information System (GIS) system used.

2.5 APPROVED DECISIONS

Table 2-2 contains the decisions in this approved RMP and is comprised of the following sub-tables:

Table 2-2.0	Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands
Table 2-2.1	Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.1a	Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions
Table 2-2.2	Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.2a	Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions
Table 2-2.3	Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.3a	Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions
Table 2-2.4	Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.4a	Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions
Table 2-2.5	Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.5a	Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions
Table 2-2.6	Management Unit 6 Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit
Table 2-2.6a	Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions

All sub-tables associated with Table 2-2 consist of Land Use Planning decisions, Implementation decisions, and administrative actions that will be taken over the life of the RMP. The Land Use Planning and Implementation decision types are differentiated in Table 2-2 sub-tables to clearly identify the two decision types. These include decisions that were subject to protest (land use planning decisions) following publication of the PRMP, and decisions that are subject to possible appeal (implementation decisions) to the Interior Board of Land Appeals during the 30-day period following *Federal Register* publication of the Notice of Availability of this RMP/ROD. Refer to the ROD for more information regarding the protest and appeal processes.



The RMP designates different management units on public lands in the planning area.

RMP Management Units

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 2-1

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The decisions in the Table 2-2 sub-tables have been edited slightly since the PRMP (BLM 2004) to remove duplication and ambiguity and to place decisions in the proper management unit. Some decisions have been combined to clarify the full intent of the decision. No decisions in the PRMP have been changed regarding the end result of their implementation.

If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the specific management unit prescriptions in Table 2-2, resources/resource uses and programs on planning area public lands will be managed according to the decisions in Table 2-2.0 (Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands). However, decisions in the six management unit prescriptions do, in some instances, modify the Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands.

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs on public lands will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
General	**GEN-C-1**	Public lands will be managed in accordance with the *Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado* (BLM 1997d) (Appendix B). All areas not meeting land health standards will be improved and will be prioritized for improvement based on each area's improvement potential. Pilot restoration projects will be developed in areas where there is potential and it is feasible to protect them.	
	GEN-C-2	Using available research and resource information BLM, will identify areas suitable for restoration, set priorities for restoration efforts, and pursue funding to complete restoration projects. BLM will collaboratively partner with private landowners and others to accomplish the goals and objectives of this plan.	
	GEN-C-3	The BLM will continue to coordinate where appropriate and as needed with the Park Service, CDOW, and other agencies.	
	GEN-C-4	Where applicable, projects will incorporate accessibility, energy efficiency/conservation, security, and seismic design. Projects will utilize, wherever possible, construction, landscaping, and transportation products and other items that are made with recovered materials and designated in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline.	
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-C-1**	Lands will be acquired on an as-needed, willing-buyer/willing-seller basis to implement management objectives and will be done in accordance with FLMPA and BLM criteria. Nonfederal lands in the NCA and Fruitland Mesa area that are necessary to facilitate recreation, wildlife, and livestock values will be acquired. See Appendix C for a list of areas or tracts where acquisition of private lands will be a priority.	
	LAND-C-2	Per the Plan Amendments to the ROD and Uncompahgre Basin RMP (BLM 2002a), BLM will consider 14 tracts of public land (approximately 987 acres) for disposal through sale or exchange, not including lands in the NCA, Wilderness, and the Fairview ACEC/Research Natural Area (RNA). Lands being considered for disposal will be examined for the presence of new information, values, or features that would possibly render the disposal of specific tracts invalid. Prior to disposal, resources within identified tracts will be managed according to the management prescription for the management unit in which they are located. All laws will be complied with on these lands, including the Endangered Species Act and those applicable to cultural and historical resources. Minimal funds, if any, will be spent on improvements on these lands. Federal mineral estate will be conveyed with surface estate where it would be in the public interest.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-C-3**	BLM will retain in federal ownership the remaining public lands managed by BLM (Category II lands), but these lands will be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis through disposal means other than public sale, such as exchanges.	
	LAND-C-4	In the NCA and Wilderness, the following will be prohibited: all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws.	
	LAND-C-5	Public lands in the planning area will be available or unavailable for disposal per Appendix C. Special management areas will be unavailable for disposal.	
	LAND-C-6	Several right-of-way (ROW) corridors, generally one-half mile in width, will be designated on public lands in the planning area and NCA. Table 2-3 (see end of this chapter) describes these designated corridors, and Figure 2-2 (see end of this chapter) shows the general location of each. The BLM will encourage future applicants proposing new or upgraded linear utility and other projects to locate facilities within these ROW corridors. See the description of affected management units for additional information and management regarding these recommended corridors. BLM will encourage use of potential, recommended, or designated ROW corridors and ROW Use Areas to the extent possible. However, depending on site-specific needs, actual locations may vary. Use of these areas and variances to these locations will be considered, provided such locations and uses are consistent with the prescriptions for the affected management unit(s) and the objectives for ROW corridors and ROW Use Areas.	
	LAND-C-7	BLM will work with user groups and private landowners in the planning area to resolve vehicular and other trespass situations involving use and occupancy occurring on public lands.	
	LAND-C-8	Approximately five acres of public lands on Green Mountain and ten acres on Flat Top Mesa will be designated as low-power communication sites (Figures 2-1 and 2-2). A detailed site and landscaping plan will be developed before authorizing any additional uses at the Green Mountain and Flat Top Communication Sites, and visual impacts of existing uses will be mitigated where possible. Fencing will be required at all sites for security. Construction, materials, or structures on the sites will not create strong visual contrasts as seen from the National Park, NCA, or Wilderness areas. Future applicants will collaborate with BLM and Park Service to develop the proposed action during the application process and to mitigate the visual impacts. Each future additional application for use will be accompanied by a simulation visual analysis and visual impact determination as seen from to-be-selected critical viewing points, in order to assess the actual visual impacts of the proposal and alternatives. All future uses at the Green Mountain and Flat Top Communication Sites will not interfere with the uses currently authorized at the time new applications are received.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-C-9**	On public lands in the planning area outside the Wilderness, the BLM will cooperate with the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to acknowledge and document the agency's existing facilities and access needs for maintenance and operation of these facilities under the appropriate authority, e.g., withdrawals and ROWs. BLM will request adequate information to process for the appropriate documentation, analysis, and authorizations for the facilities. See decisions in Management Unit 6 regarding public lands withdrawn to BOR and OHV uses.	
	LAND-C-10	On public lands in the planning area outside the Wilderness, the BLM will acknowledge and document the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association and BOR's existing facilities and access needs for maintenance and operation of these facilities on public lands, under the appropriate authority, such as withdrawals and ROWs, when the BLM receives adequate mapping and other information to process the appropriate authorizations for the facilities. The BLM will recommend changes to the BOR in any existing withdrawals that are deemed not necessary for the purposes of the existing facilities.	
	LAND-C-11	The BOR has recommended the full revocation of its Fruitland Mesa Project Withdrawals; BLM action on that recommendation is pending. If the BOR withdrawal were revoked, the public lands will be managed according to the prescriptions in the management unit in which the withdrawal is located.	
	LAND-C-12	The BLM will recommend that the planning area be closed to development of water power and storage reservoir sites. The recommendation will not restrict any proposals from being considered on public lands for linear ROWs associated with water pipelines or other purposes, unless precluded by some other law, regulation, or policy.	
	LAND-C-13	On public lands withdrawn to the BOR, BLM will undertake no management activities that would preclude or adversely affect use of the land for BOR purposes (Sections 5A and 5B) (BLM and BOR 1983).	
	LAND-C-14	Newly acquired or administered lands or interests in lands will be managed for their highest potential or for the purposes for which they are acquired. For example, lands acquired within "Special Management Areas" with Congressional designations or RMP allocation/direction will be managed in conformance with guidelines for those areas. If lands with unique or fragile resource values are acquired, it may be appropriate to protect those values until the next plan revision.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-C-14** *(continued)*	Lands acquired with no identified special values or management goals will be managed in the same manner as surrounding or comparable BLM-administered lands. This implies recreation management, project applications and implementation, livestock grazing, fuelwood management, management of the mineral estate, standard operating procedures and pre-committed mitigation measures.	
Access and Transportation	**TRAN-C-1**	Road improvements such as culverts and bridges will be implemented as necessary to reduce erosion and proliferation of roads. Roads will be maintained as necessary to protect resources.	
	TRAN-C-2	Easements and necessary access will be secured on an as-needed, willing-buyer/willing-seller basis for improved administration, user access, and safety, and to implement management objectives. Roads managed by BLM will be closed seasonally or otherwise under the appropriate regulations or laws for protection of resources, for prevention of vandalism or trespass, or for other reasons that warrant such restrictions in order to better manage resources or values on public lands. These options will be implemented as a result of findings during monitoring of resources and programs as part of adaptive management.	
	TRAN-C-3	Access will be available for all land use authorization holders and those authorized to have vehicular access according to the conditions and terms of the applicable permit or authorization.	
	TRAN-C-4	Designated routes will be further refined with the assistance of a BLM/citizen work group	**TRAN-C-5** Unless otherwise noted in the RMP, motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel and use will be allowed only on the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). The routes shown are preliminary and may not be all-inclusive.
Geology, Soils, and Water Resources	**GEO-C-1**	US Geological Survey (USGS) research will be conducted in the Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area to determine the level of impacts from multiple uses in the area. The USGS and other research will concentrate on sediment, Selenium, and salinity production and off-site impacts on water quality. It will also address user impacts in relation to these and determine ways to manage or mitigate impacts. Adaptive management from research results will be applied.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Geology, Soils, and Water Resources *(continued)*	**GEO-C-2**	Areas of highly erosive or fragile soils, including biological soil crusts, will be protected. Soils will be managed to minimize accelerated erosion, salinity and selenium yields, compaction, and contamination. Actions will be employed to minimize soil erosion and water quality deterioration and will be required in all plans for surface-disturbing activities.	
	GEO-C-3	Soil and water resources will, in association with land health analyses, continue to be monitored to define problem areas, develop management strategies, and determine effectiveness of solutions. Vegetation treatments designed and managed to increase plant basal cover, thereby reducing erosion, could be implemented on soils that exhibit accelerated erosion rates.	
	GEO-C-4	In cooperation with the USGS and others, BLM will develop a list of best management practices that will, along with other guidelines, serve as tools for managing water and soil resources in the NCA and planning area. The following will be used as references and resources, at a minimum: "Best Management Practices for Agriculture and Silviculture" (November 1988), "Best Management Practices for Urban and Construction Runoff" (March 1993, Water Quality Control Division in coordination with the Colorado Nonpoint Source Task Force), and "Best Management Practices for Agriculture in the Uncompahgre Valley" (produced in July 1996 by the Uncompahgre Valley Best Management Practices Decision Committee, published by Shavano Soil Conservation District/Colorado State University Cooperative Extension).	
Minerals and Energy Resources	**MIN-C-1**	All federal mineral estate in the NCA and Wilderness will continue to be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws. In addition, certain lands outside the NCA boundary are likewise withdrawn and will not be available for these mineral activities.	
	MIN-C-2	Disposal of saleable mineral material on federal mineral estate will not be permitted in the NCA and Wilderness.	
	MIN-C-3	Disposal of mineral materials from specific areas outside the NCA and Wilderness will be permitted unless prohibited in a management unit prescription. Disposal of mineral materials where not prohibited will be discretionary with the authorizing official and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Disposal of mineral materials within power site reserves or within other agency withdrawn lands will require approval of the agency reserving the withdrawal.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Minerals and Energy Resources *(continued)*	**MIN-C-4**	Federal mineral estate in areas outside the NCA and Wilderness not under withdrawal will be open to entry and location under the general mining laws, including recreational panning.	
	MIN-C-5	Plans of operation will be required for proposed locatable mineral activity authorized by BLM's surface management regulations on the following lands: 1) lands closed to OHV travel and 2) lands within designated ACECs. BLM will conduct validity examinations on all mining claims located within the NCA or on any lands withdrawn from mineral entry.	
	MIN-C-6	Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate on both federal surface and split-estate lands outside the NCA and Wilderness boundaries will be open to leasing with standard lease terms, except as noted in management unit prescriptions. Split-estate lands are private or other non-federal surface estate overlying federal mineral estate. Other special stipulations and conditions for leasing of federal mineral estate, such as no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation and timing limitation stipulation (TLS), will be recommended in some management unit prescriptions; these special stipulations and conditions will also apply to federal surface and split-estate lands adjacent to the management unit in which the stipulations in Appendix E will apply. See Appendix E for the special stipulations that will be applied to oil and gas leases on federal mineral estate in the planning area for certain resources, features, or values that could be found on public lands during examinations or exploration of public land prior to leasing.	
	MIN-C-7	Additional conditions consistent with lease terms will be considered when BLM processes and develops mitigation for operational field applications. Operational field applications and activities include Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs), Sundry Notices, applications for ROWs, and Notices of Intent (NOIs) for geophysical operations. Additional environmental documentation will be required if a request for an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation is made by an oil and gas lessee, if the request has not been analyzed and addressed already, for example while processing an APD. See Appendix E for special stipulations and conditions for leasing on both federal surface and split-estate lands, and for an explanation of how stipulations assigned to split-estate lands will be applied, reviewed, waived, modified, or excepted, based on verification of surface and mineral estate resource information by BLM during review of APDs.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Minerals and Energy Resources *(continued)*	**MIN-C-7** *(continued)*	The most reasonable foreseeable level of oil, gas, and geothermal development in the planning area will involve a maximum of one to ten APDs during the life of the plan, with an estimated total of from 10 to 30 acres of surface disturbance. See Appendix E for a description of typical oil and gas development and operation standards and procedures.	
	MIN-C-8	If applications for coalbed methane development were received within the planning area, an analysis of potential impacts on Gunnison sage-grouse from West Nile Virus will be conducted.	
Water Resources	**WTR-C-1**	If the historical flow regime the Gunnison River through the Gorge changes significantly, BLM could amend the management measures outlined in this plan to accommodate different peak flows, shoulder flows, and base flows. (The BLM recognizes that the historical flow regime of the Gunnison River through the Gorge could change as a result of the water right application filed January 17, 2001, for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, located upstream of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness).	
	WTR-C-2	All areas not meeting land health standards, including areas in Elephant Skin Wash impacted by livestock grazing, OHV, and other surface-disturbing activities, will be reclaimed where necessary to meet land health standards.	
	WTR-C-3	Water source developments in fair, poor, or abandoned condition will be maintained, improved, or reclaimed. Stream improvements to benefit fisheries and other aquatic/riparian values will be allowed outside the Wilderness. Actions, including best management practices, will be employed to reduce soil erosion and water quality deterioration and will be required in all plans involving surface disturbance. A primary objective of studies and management will be to limit sediment, salinity, and selenium production related to user impacts, primarily targeted at improving off-site water quality.	
	WTR-C-4	BLM will inventory water sources that have not yet been adjudicated and will seek to acquire water rights for livestock use, wildlife watering, wildlife forage and cover, and recreation use on those sources under procedural and substantive provisions of Colorado water law. (The BLM currently holds state-based water rights on a majority of point water sources within the NCA and Wilderness, including springs, livestock tanks, and reservoirs).	
	WTR-C-5	Gunnison Forks Spring and Caliente Spring water sources within the planning area will be re-inventoried (flow rates in the original inventory were very low) to determine if they are suitable for water rights filing.	
	WTR-C-6	BLM will identify future water needs to accommodate landscape rehabilitation projects, including the need for water-supply wells and sanitation stations.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Water Resources *(continued)*	**WTR-C-7**	All livestock tanks on BLM's list of planning area water sources will be examined to ensure livestock tank permits have been filed on them.	
	WTR-C-8	The BLM will not recommend any river or stream segment for NWSRS designation in the RMP or the Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I). The BLM does not hold any water rights for flows in the Gunnison River or other streams in the NCA. The BLM does not believe that assertion of a federal water right is necessary to maintain the wild and scenic river values in and along any of the river and stream segments found eligible and suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS in the Draft, Final, and Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Reports (BLM 2003c, BLM 2004, and Appendix I, respectively). The BLM is neither requesting nor recommending such a right in the Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I).	
	WTR-C-9	Wild and scenic river values will be maintained by land use restrictions implemented through BLM land use designations and the existing 300-cubic feet per second (cfs) instream flow water right held by the Colorado Water Conservation Board as minimum flow.	
	WTR-C-10	In cooperation with the USGS and others, BLM will develop a list of best management practices that will, along with other guidelines, serve as tools for managing water and soil resources in the NCA.	
Climate and Air Quality	**AIR-C-1**	Activities and projects on BLM-managed lands will comply with applicable local, state, and federal air quality regulations, including National Ambient Air Quality Standards.	
	AIR-C-2	Mitigation to minimize air quality degradation will be incorporated into project proposals as appropriate.	
	AIR-C-3	Specific measures related to air quality management will be developed and implemented.	
	AIR-C-4	OHV and vehicular travel on dirt roads will be managed to minimize air pollution from dust and exhaust.	
	AIR-C-5	Fires, both controlled burns and fire use, will be managed to minimize smoke impacts.	
Vegetation	**VEG-C-1**	Public lands will be managed in accordance with Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (Pellant et al. 2000).	
	VEG-C-2	Current vegetation studies will be continued, and new studies will be initiated.	
	VEG-C-3	Monitoring and studies will be carried out to help achieve sustainable populations of native plant species, with healthy native plant communities dominating the landscape.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Vegetation *(continued)*	**VEG-C-4**	Vegetation will be managed to promote sustainable populations of native plant species, with healthy native plant communities dominating the landscape.	
	VEG-C-5	Activities that damage the vegetation resource will be managed to minimize and mitigate for vegetation destruction. BLM measures to minimize and mitigate could include changes in the season or duration of the activity, changes in the location of the activity, elimination of the activity from the problem area, etc.	
	VEG-C-6	Vegetation planting and weed control will take place on all areas identified in the Gunnison Gorge Land Health Assessment (BLM 2001a) as needing restoration, and restoration will occur until an acceptable native plant community occupies the site.	
	VEG-C-7	Weed-control measures will be implemented throughout the NCA to minimize infestation of noxious and undesirable nonnative species. Infestations of noxious weeds and other nonnative species will be controlled using direct control and preventative measures.	
	VEG-C-8	Plant community improvement projects will take place to restore native perennial grasses and forbs to communities where these have been depleted far below average levels.	
	VEG-C-9	Native plant communities will be restored on disturbed areas.	
	VEG-C-10	Closed roads, trails, areas subjected to surface-disturbing activities, and ways will be rehabilitated, reclaimed, or revegetated with genetically appropriate native species when feasible. In instances when native species are not available or not suitable to meet the immediate needs of the site, nonpersistent nonnative species may be used.	
	VEG-C-11	Management measures will be implemented to ensure riparian areas meet land health standards.	
	VEG-C-12	BLM will develop partnerships with the Park Service, Tamarisk Coalition, and other partners where possible.	
	VEG-C-13	Wilderness user fees will continue to be used to help fund saltcedar (tamarisk) *(Tamarix parviflora* and *Tamarix ramosissima)* control and other resource-protection projects in the Gunnison River corridor.	
	VEG-C-14	Only uses that are compatible with maintaining the desired plant communities will be allowed to occur within these areas.	
	VEG-C-15	The BLM will work with USGS, other federal and state agencies, universities, and others to identify, or develop, the best restoration techniques for damaged federal lands.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Vegetation *(continued)*	**VEG-C-16**	BLM will manage lands to ensure that viable populations of native plant species present and existing within the planning area are maintained. High priority will be placed on understanding plant species habitat requirements and their population status.	
	VEG-C-17	BLM will continue to manage habitat for special status species, including listed species, BLM sensitive species, rare endemic species, and other species of special concern.	
	VEG-C-18	Pursuant to BLM's Partners in Weeds strategy, BLM will conduct integrated weed management with counties, private landowners, and other agencies to meet land health standards.	
	VEG-C-19	All hay, processed grains, and pellets brought onto public lands by all livestock users, including equestrians, outfitters, and livestock operators and ranchers, will be required to be certified weed-free.	
	VEG-C-20	Severely degraded sites will be restored.	
	VEG-C-21	BLM will manage lands to ensure that viable populations of all plant species are maintained within the NCA.	
	VEG-C-22	User-related activities that negatively impact plant populations will be managed to minimize or mitigate these impacts.	
	VEG-C-23	Threats to native vegetation will be minimized, including those from weeds and activities that directly damage vegetation.	
	VEG-C-24	Weed-control measures will be implemented in the Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area.	**VEG-C-25** Vegetation treatments will be avoided.
	VEG-C-26	BLM will actively engage in scientific study to determine improved management techniques for native vegetation, for application in the NCA and beyond.	
	VEG-C-27	BLM will research the connection between river flows and riparian vegetation and weeds in the riparian zone.	
	VEG-C-28	Brushbeating will be excluded, except if it would be used for the purpose of restoring or rejuvenating the plant communities that have been damaged by past management.	
	VEG-C-29	Seeding mixes that will result in meeting the *Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado* (BLM 1997d) (Appendix B) will be followed.	
Forestry	**FOR-C-1**	All public lands in the planning area will be closed to commercial forestry activities.	
	FOR-C-2	Fuelwood collection or cutting will be allowed only if all other management unit objectives will continue to be met and, upon completion of fuelwood collection, existing ground conditions will not hinder proposed treatments.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Forestry *(continued)*	**FOR-C-3**	In areas on the east side of the Gorge that receive vegetation treatments, prescribed burns, or other techniques, fuelwood collection could be allowed as a means to accomplish a resource objective, priority, clean up, or to remove fuel from the ground and to facilitate the purposes of the treatment, if appropriate.	
Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Life	**WFA-C-1**	Public lands will be managed in accordance with existing guidance, laws, regulations, and policies, including the following: CDOW-BLM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Providing for Bighorn Sheep Management in Gunnison Gorge (BLM and CDOW 1985); national and state memorandums of agreement with US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and CDOW resources regarding animal damage control; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (MBTA) (16 USC 703-711); and the Gunnison Forks Habitat Management Plan (BLM 1981).	
	WFA-C-2	The Habitat Partnership Program between the CDOW, BLM, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (US Forest Service), and private grazing permittees/landowners will continue.	
	WFA-C-3	The BLM will address animal damage control per the MOU with the APHIS program. Areas where there are safety issues and areas where US Department of Agriculture should not be conducting animal damage control will be identified.	
	WFA-C-4	The BLM will investigate feasibility of reintroduction of native wildlife species and will work with CDOW to restore native species. Steps will be taken to collect data regarding reintroduction. The BLM will partner with agencies, academia, and others to study options. BLM will encourage CDOW to reintroduce species where data supports it. BLM will get involved in local plans where compatible with this objective. Habitat for all native species will be managed to help support viable populations of each species in the region.	
	WFA-C-5	The BLM will continue to work with CDOW to manage and maintain a bighorn sheep herd within the Gorge. In the event that the existing population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep *(Ovis canadensis canadensis)* is determined to be expired, BLM will work with CDOW to determine the feasibility of introducing desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis* spp.) (There are concerns within the planning area regarding potential disease transfer to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep that occupy the same, or immediately adjacent, lands. Current guidelines (BLM 1998f) for the management of bighorn sheep habitat suggest that at least nine miles of separation are needed between occupied bighorn sheep habitat and domestic sheep. Within the NCA, that situation is not attainable because of the presence of domestic sheep on private lands surrounding the NCA).	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Life *(continued)*	**WFA-C-6**	Wildlife forage allocations will remain at current levels until studies determine adjustments are needed to achieve management objectives.	
	WFA-C-7	Additional forage allocations will favor wildlife consumption over livestock grazing.	
	WFA-C-8	Existing wildlife facilities will be maintained, and vegetation management to improve habitat will continue where needed.	
	WFA-C-9	Riparian zones and aquatic habitats will be inventoried and monitored.	
	WFA-C-10	Wildlife habitat monitoring studies will be established and/or maintained on all crucial winter ranges.	
	WFA-C-11	A pending Draft MOU between BLM, US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the US Forest Service will further define agency responsibilities under the MBTA. The MOU will also place the highest priority on Birds of Conservation Concern published by USFWS in 2002. Table 2-4 (see end of this chapter) highlights those Birds of Conservation Concern that apply to the planning area. Currently there is little data available to BLM on the status of these species and other migratory bird species within the planning area. The BLM's responsibilities under the MBTA are to avoid actions that result in incidental take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap) of migratory species.	
	WFA-C-12	BLM, in partnership with the Colorado Bird Observatory, will continue to participate in monitoring efforts to obtain better data on the status of Birds of Conservation Concern.	
Special Status Species and Habitat	**SSS-C-1**	BLM will continue to manage special status species and habitat, including listed species, BLM sensitive species, rare endemic species, and other species of special concern.	
	SSS-C-2	Policy and guidance for the management of special status species on BLM Managed lands is provided through BLM Manual 6840 – Special Status Species Management.	
	SSS-C-3	BLM will consult with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, on all proposed activities that may affect federally listed or proposed threatened and endangered species.	
	SSS-C-4	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat areas in the planning area. See management unit decisions for more detail on species to include.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Special Status Species and Habitat *(continued)*	**SSS-C-5**	Supplemental releases and/or reintroduction of threatened or endangered species, candidate, or BLM sensitive species could be authorized following preparation of a release or reintroduction plan and environmental analysis, in addition to consultation with USFWS, CDOW, and other affected parties.	
	SSS-C-6	Threatened or endangered species will continue to be inventoried and monitored to provide information for future management.	
	SSS-C-7	A rare plant survey for the northern portion of the Mancos Shale area west of the Gorge will be completed, including information collection regarding conflicts with OHVs and other permitted surface uses.	
	SSS-C-8	The BLM will complete rare plant inventories for the marine shales within the planning area.	
	SSS-C-9	Priorities for monitoring special status species and habitat, will be established and, at a minimum, species with the highest priority will have active monitoring programs.	
	SSS-C-10	Heightened efforts to protect special status species will be undertaken in the planning area, including increased monitoring of populations and identification of opportunities to expand habitat and populations, accompanied by education and outreach.	
	SSS-C-11	At known populations of Clay-loving wild buckwheat *(Eriogonum pelinophilum)*, BLM will 1) monitor known population sites, 2) work with USFWS to complete genetic studies on the species, 3) conduct minimum viable population modeling, 4) study the feasibility of population augmentation, and 5) in concert with USFWS, investigate the potential to designate critical habitat for this species on high-quality public land sites (USFWS 1988).	
	SSS-C-12	BLM will consult and pursue a working partnership with USFWS and will encourage research on the habitat requirements of Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and, if feasible, propose a pilot restoration project for this species into suitable unoccupied habitat	
	SSS-C-13	BLM will evaluate non-vehicular activities on sandstone pediment areas (mesa tops), including within Peach Valley lands, to see if there are other human activities limiting the establishment of more viable populations of Uinta Basin hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* in the NCA.	
	SSS-C-14	In the Peach Valley Lands, motorized and non-motorized vehicle use will be confined to designated roads on the sandstone pediment areas (mesa tops).	
	SSS-C-15	The BLM will ensure that all existing recovery plans are utilized to develop measures designed to protect special status species and their habitat.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Special Status Species and Habitat *(continued)*	**SSS-C-16**	If large or particularly unique occurrences or populations of sensitive plants are found, the sites will be protected as needed and required through such actions as fencing or closure to OHV use, mineral entry, mineral material disposal, or other activities that are not compatible with maintenance of rare plant populations.	
	SSS-C-17	BLM will take special management actions to promote and protect special status species. Special status species include listed species, proposed species, candidate species, state listed species and sensitive species. Actions could include, but will not be limited to modification of existing uses or practices to eliminate or mitigate the negative impact, or closing areas to certain types of use.	
	SSS-C-18	BLM will remove OHV traffic, concentrated livestock use, such as domestic sheep bed grounds, or other impacting uses from known population sites of Clay-loving wild buckwheat or other special status species.	
	SSS-C-19	Measures to protect threatened or endangered species and associated habitat will be required in all plans for surface-disturbing activities.	
Rangeland	**RANG-C-1**	Forage for livestock will not be permanently allocated on newly acquired lands. Cattle will not be permitted to use forage on these newly acquired lands.	
	RANG-C-2	On newly acquired lands in the planning area BLM will prepare, with input from permittees, a grazing allotment and grazing strategy that will permit the lands to be used by any existing sheep grazing permittee when permittee's allotment(s) are not usable, such as if grazing is restricted on allotments because of drought/fire, a vegetation treatment (e.g., vegetation manipulation and follow-up seeding) is being conducted on an allotment that requires a deferment from grazing, or if their allotment requires a deferment from grazing to allow plants to recover from previous grazing (There are concerns within the planning area regarding potential disease transfer to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep that occupy the same, or immediately adjacent, lands. Not authorizing new permanent allocations of forage for domestic sheep grazing within occupied bighorn sheep habitat or associated nine mile buffer zones, will move bighorn sheep management in the NCA slightly closer to the guidelines contained in BLM's Revised Guidelines for Management of Domestic Sheep and Goats in Native Wild Sheep Habitats ([BLM 1998f]).	
	RANG-C-3	All grazing leases/permits will be reviewed. All leases/permits will be reissued/renewed after developing terms and conditions to meet land health standards where they are not met.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Rangeland *(continued)*	**RANG-C-4**	Grazing will be managed to meet land health standards. (Some management unit prescriptions modify current grazing to reduce conflicts among various resource management goals and soils, water, and riparian area management.)	
	RANG-C-5	Suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing use.	
	RANG-C-6	Livestock grazing will be authorized and managed with the goal of improving the conditions of forage and rangeland resources.	
	RANG-C-7	Livestock grazing will be managed at current forage allocation levels for the Uncompahgre Field Office until studies and/or monitoring indicates adjustments are needed.	
	RANG-C-8	Livestock grazing permits in Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area will be evaluated to ensure that compatible livestock management objectives, projects, and mitigating measures are incorporated before being implemented.	
	RANG-C-9	Opportunities will be sought to improve allotment configuration, infrastructure, and size for increased range management flexibility.	
	RANG-C-10	Grazing allotments that become unallocated will be considered for: 1) using occasionally as a grazing bank to alleviate grazing pressure on other allotments in the region; or 2) adding to an existing, contiguous allotment to increase grazing flexibility if vegetation in the allotment or the region is degraded, otherwise, they may become reallocated.	
Cultural Resources	**CUL-C-1**	Cultural resources will be managed according to existing legislation, regulations, executive orders, and BLM policy.	
	CUL-C-2	Measures to protect and manage cultural resources will be required in all land use activity plans, including those associated with recreation management and OHV activities. Measures will be designed in conjunction with appropriate consulting parties as defined by the National Programmatic Agreement, Colorado State Protocols, and the relevant sections of the BLM Manual (8100 series) addressing cultural resource management.	
	CUL-C-3	BLM will continue to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for all authorizations for land and resource use. Compliance inventories for Section 106 of the NHPA will be conducted prior to all surface-disturbing or other activities that could affect cultural resources. Proposed activities will not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented.	
	CUL-C-4	Class I inventory data will be consulted and Class III surveys will be conducted, if warranted.	
	CUL-C-5	Cultural resources identified or discovered will be evaluated according to the Secretary of the Interior's standards and the BLM 8100 Manual.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Cultural Resources *(continued)*	**CUL-C-6**	Impacts to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible cultural resources will be mitigated as they are identified. Preservation of resources in place will be the preferred management of cultural resources discovered during project implementation or construction.	
	CUL-C-7	Resource condition will be monitored during implementation of projects on the ground.	
	CUL-C-8	The discovery of NRHP-eligible cultural resources or areas of traditional importance to federally-recognized tribes during planning, inventory, or research for a project, or during implementation of surface disturbing activities will require appropriate consultation and mitigation in order to provide the proper level of management and protection for the cultural resources. Mitigation possibilities will include an array of options that could include, but will not be limited to, relocation of the project to another location, possible excavation of the resources following proper procedures and regulations, or in extenuating and unusual circumstances, preventing the installation of a project. Avoidance of impacts to eligible cultural resources through project redesign or relocation is often the preferred mitigation.	
	CUL-C-9	The following Section 110 preservation management measures will be implemented to identify high priority areas for cultural inventory and protect at-risk resources: • Inventories will be conducted to determine archaeological site density, diversity, and distribution; • Cultural resources will be inventoried, stabilized, and interpreted, where appropriate; • High-priority areas and cultural resources in the planning area may be identified later that will require Section 110 preservation management measures; and • Areas will be closed where necessary to protect cultural resources from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses.	
	CUL-C-10	All cultural properties in the planning area, including cultural landscapes, will be allocated to the following uses according to their nature and relative preservation value: a) Scientific use – preserved until research potential is realized; b) Conservation for future use – preserved until conditions for use are met; c) Traditional use – long-term preservation; d) Public use – long-term preservation, on-site interpretation; e) Experimental use – protected until used; or f) Discharged from management – no use after recordation; not preserved. The majority of the cultural properties in a given geographic area will fall into categories a and f. The less-common properties in categories b, c, d, and e are likely to be associated with particular settings that can be delineated geographically. Properties in categories b, c, and d will require the most attention to balance their proactive uses with other land and resource uses.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Paleontological Resources	**PAL-C-1**	Prior to any surface-disturbing activity, inventories will be completed in appropriate BLM Condition 1 areas, and, for larger projects, in some Condition 2 areas containing the potential for the occurrence of paleontological resources.	
	PAL-C-2	Measures to scientifically collect or other wise protect and interpret, where appropriate, known or discovered fossil values will be implemented.	
	PAL-C-3	Areas will be closed where necessary to protect paleontological resources.	
	PAL-C-4	No surface-disturbing activities will be allowed in any area where potential for paleontological values exists until inventories are conducted and appropriate measures developed to protect any significant fossils.	
	PAL-C-5	Paleontological resources will be managed in accordance with FLPMA and through policy outlined in BLM 8270 Manual and Handbook for the Management of Paleontological Resources.	
	PAL-C-6	Paleontological resources will be inventoried in potentially fossiliferous areas prior to surface-disturbing activities, and appropriate protective measures will be developed, if necessary.	
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.6a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.6a at the end of this chapter for Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones MU6-1 and MU6-2.	
	REC-C-1	Recreation will be managed for targeted recreational activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes and corresponding recreation settings within each management unit, as well as the management actions necessary to deliver those recreation opportunities within their prescribed settings. Benefits-based management will guide management measures such that implementing actions will strive to improve conditions to individuals, groups, society, and/or the environment. Public lands in the planning area will be managed to deliver benefits by providing opportunities for visitors to engage in a variety of activities in a variety of physical, social, and managerial settings. A range of opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes) will be provided in their appropriate settings with the goal of optimizing net benefit attainment.	
	REC-C-2	Competitive OHV events will not be authorized within the boundary of the NCA.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-C-3**	See Figure 2-3 (at the end of this chapter) for a map of all OHV designations in the planning area. The OHV designations in the planning area will include 2,579 acres in the open category, where cross-country, off-route motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel will be permitted; 51,727 acres of lands where motorized and non-motorized mechanized use will be limited to designated routes year round; 22,200 acres of public lands where motorized and non-motorized mechanized travel will generally be limited to designated routes from May 1 to November 14 annually, and for the remainder of the year, these lands will be closed to these uses; and 19,274 acres of public lands closed to motorized and mechanized use yearlong, including the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness.	**REC-C-4** Unless otherwise mentioned in management unit prescriptions, motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular traffic will be limited to the designated routes and trails on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). The designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 are preliminary and may not be all-inclusive.
			REC-C-5 Designated routes will be further fine-tuned and refined in a collaborative process with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. Until routes are refined, all motorized and mechanical travel in limited areas on public lands will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). Figure 2-4 depicts 246 miles of routes and trails that will be available for these uses in these "limited" areas.
	REC-C-6	In the Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area, signing or other means to direct traffic will be installed where needed to meet management goals.	
	REC-C-7	Throughout the Mancos shale area, motorized and non-motorized mechanical OHV use may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas as necessary to meet site-specific management objectives for improving users experiences, reducing conflicts, addressing safety concerns, conducting research and monitoring efforts, and/or providing resource protection in sensitive areas, as part of the adaptive management process.	
	REC-C-8	In the Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area, opportunities for non-motorized users will be provided and will be managed in a manner to reduce user conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-C-9**	BLM, with assistance and input from the public and other agencies, will manage levels of acceptable use in areas where cross-country, off-route motorized and non-motorized mechanical OHV use will be permitted, using indicators and parameters such as land health, noise, dust, user conflicts, and safety.	
	REC-C-10	At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the planning area only in those portions of Management Units 2, 4, and 6 located outside the NCA boundary. See the recreation-specific decisions for these management units below. Target shooting will not be authorized on public lands in the remainder of the planning area in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the planning area, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be complied with. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.	
	REC-C-11	BLM will work with user groups and private landowners in the planning area to resolve vehicular and other trespass situations involving use and occupancy occurring on public lands.	
	REC-C-12	Wilderness user fees will continue to be collected.	
Visual Resources	**VIS-C-1**	Visual resource management (VRM) objectives will be established for public lands in the planning area as shown on Figure 2-5 (see end of this chapter). All activities proposed on public lands will be planned and implemented to meet VRM objectives.	
	VIS-C-2	The BLM will recommend to Delta County that housing developments on private lands within view of the Gunnison River between the North Fork and Austin have visual setbacks or visual screening.	
Special Management Areas	**SMA-C-1**	The 161-acre existing Fairview ACEC/RNA/Colorado State Natural Area in Management Unit 6 will be retained and will be managed for the protection and management of Clay-loving wild buckwheat and Adobe penstemon.	
	SMA-C-2	The BLM will continue to work with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, users, and Montrose County to locate potential designated routes through the Fairview ACEC/RNA and to acknowledge and develop additional designated routes in the ACEC such that plant populations will not be impacted.	
	SMA-C-3	Public lands in Management Unit 4 (22,200 acres) will be designated and managed as the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA. Management and protection of the Gunnison sage-grouse and its habitat will be emphasized in this management unit.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Special Management Areas *(continued)*	**SMA-C-4**	This RMP adopts and incorporates the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado (Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership 1998), as part of the management objectives and direction for Management Unit 4.	
	SMA-C-5	Public lands in Management Unit 5 (3,785 acres) will be designated and managed as the Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA. Management and long-term preservation of the Winterfat Shrub Steppe, Juniper-Grass Savanna, and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland native communities will be emphasized in this management unit.	
Fire Management	**FIRE-C-1**	The current management direction, including that found in the Uncompahgre Field Office Fire Management Plan (BLM 2002m), which tiers from the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, August 1998 (Park Service et al. 1998), will continue to be implemented.	
	FIRE-C-2	Any fire that occurs in a fire use category area before a prescribed burn plan is approved, that is not within the limits of the prescription, or that threatens life or property will be suppressed as a conditional suppression area fire.	
	FIRE-C-3	BLM will coordinate with and participate in fire management planning with local landowners, other agencies, and governments.	
	FIRE-C-4	In all management units in the planning area, prescribed and planned ignitions will continue to be allowed as a management tool to meet management objectives, such as to increase forage for wildlife and livestock grazing. Prior to any ignitions, an environmental analysis, burn plan, and burning permit will be prepared or obtained.	
Hazardous Materials	**HAZ-C-1**	Hazardous materials contamination on public lands will be prevented, and risks associated with hazardous materials on public lands will be reduced.	
Law Enforcement, Patrols, and Public Safety	**LAW-C-1**	Law enforcement activities will be conducted by authorized personnel on a priority-order basis as needed.	
	LAW-C-2	The BLM will continue to implement current management direction, including conducting drug operations once annually, which consists of the BLM and Army National Guard flying over the NCA searching for drug crops and methamphetamine labs.	
	LAW-C-3	Information and education regarding BLM resource management and regulations will be disseminated during BLM rangers' contact with visitors.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Wild and Scenic River Study Segments	*see MU 1 and MU 3*	See the decisions in Management Units 1 and 3 below for wild and scenic river study segment decisions.	
Education and Interpretation	**EDU-C-1**	An aggressive interpretation/environmental education effort will be implemented to educate users about the natural values and the potential impacts on these values from inappropriate uses in the NCA. The two objectives of this program will be to protect NCA resources by educating users and to convey an appreciation of the specific environment within the NCA to users, as well as an understanding of broader environmental issues such as clean water, biodiversity, etc.	
	EDU-C-2	Educational tools will be implemented to educate users about shared recreational use to reduce user conflicts. BLM will educate users about responsible OHV play and travel on designated routes and regulations regarding resource damage.	
	EDU-C-3	Trail and road maps will be developed showing designated routes for motorized and mechanical vehicular travel.	
	EDU-C-4	The BLM will implement Colorado Interagency Sign Standards to provide clear direction to educate people about legitimate motorized and mechanical vehicular travel locations. Gunnison Gorge NCA signs and informational materials will include appropriate NLCS identity logos and messaging.	
	EDU-C-5	Education and research will be emphasized.	
	EDU-C-6	BLM will partner with schools to develop outdoor classrooms and curriculum packages for teachers, for example. Increased user education will be provided.	
	EDU-C-7	BLM will expand the public education program of "Leave No Trace," "Tread Lightly," and other recreation ethics and land stewardship.	
	EDU-C-8	BLM will partner with other agencies, such as the Park Service, to develop best management practices and education/interpretative materials.	
	EDU-C-9	BLM will develop ways to educate the public about what sensitive species are and how to avoid them.	

Table 2-2.0
Decisions and Management Objectives Common to All Planning Area Public Lands *(continued)*
(If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following management unit decisions, resources/resource uses and programs will be managed according to decisions in this section.)

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Education and Interpretation *(continued)*	**EDU-C-10**	BLM will encourage a volunteer "friends" group, patrols, and/or citizen work groups for the NCA and Wilderness. The mission will include but not be limited to working on trails and other facilities, monitoring and improving resource conditions, monitoring visitor satisfaction levels, educating users in pre-trip information and during trips, and providing feedback to BLM on general activities in the area. The friends groups will help volunteer patrol within areas where motorized or mechanical OHV use is concentrated.	
	EDU-C-11	The BLM will coordinate with local tourism providers regarding the accurate marketing of planning area public lands.	

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 1 Land Ownership: 17,784 acres of public surface; 19% of planning area public lands

In Management Unit 1, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, management and protection of the wilderness, scenic, cultural, and recreational values will be emphasized. . This unit contains 17,784 acres and is located in the approximate center of the NCA within the double canyon of the Gunnison Gorge. It includes 14 miles of the Gunnison River, extending from the northwestern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park north to a point approximately one mile downstream from the confluence of Smith Fork Creek and the main stem of the Gunnison River. The unit's values include scenic, geological, paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources. It also offers a wild and pristine backcountry experience. The Wilderness is managed according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended. Specific management measures will include the following:

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)	
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-1-1**	The Wilderness is a ROW exclusion area.
	LAND-1-2	The entire federal mineral estate in the unit is withdrawn from mineral entry, location, and patent under the mining laws, and the oil and gas estate is withdrawn from leasing.
	LAND-1-3	Mineral material disposal is not permitted, nor is disposal of federal surface estate under the public land laws.
Access and Transportation	**TRAN-1-1**	To reduce the chance of human-caused ignition in the relict tree stands on Buttermilk Ridge, continuing growth of the existing "stump road" will be discouraged.
	TRAN-1-2	The BLM will consider relocating the Ute Road completely on public lands to better manage the access.
	TRAN-1-3	BLM will coordinate and work with local OHV groups, Western Colorado Congress and other organizations and volunteers to survey roads and trails (using records and ground visits) to identify user-created routes.
Geology and Topography	**GEO-1-1**	The 1,300-acre Chukar Canyon abutting the National Park boundary will be managed as the Ute Indian Fault Zone and Geologic Area. The Chukar Trail will form the approximate center of the area, and the area's boundaries will extend to the Dakota sandstone rims of the canyon. Figure 2-6 (see end of this chapter) depicts the location and size of this area.
	GEO-1-2	The Wilderness boundary and the boundary of the Ute Indian Fault Zone and Geologic Area will be posted on the Chukar Trail and on the nearby OHV trail.
	GEO-1-3	Interpretation of the Ute Indian Fault Zone and Geologic Area will be provided at the Chukar Trailhead via bulletin board messages and brochures.
	GEO-1-4	Use of the nearby OHV trail will be monitored and the trail maintained and signed to prevent accidental or unintentional OHV use in the area and Wilderness.
Vegetation	**VEG-1-1**	Along the Gunnison River in the Gunnison Forks to Austin section, restoration projects will be implemented to protect aquatic areas and remove invasive weeds.
Wildlife, Fish, and Aquatic Life	**WFA-1-1**	BLM will enter into a MOU with the CDOW to continue the use of motorized equipment in the Wilderness by the CDOW for fisheries management. The MOU will specify how and when these actions will be authorized and will be based on a minimum-tool analysis that will limit motorized use to the minimum necessary.

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)
Wildlife, Fish, and Aquatic Life *(continued)*	**WFA-1-2**	BLM will continue to work with CDOW to manage the Gold Medal trout (brown trout *[Salmo trutta]* and rainbow trout *[Oncorhynchus mykiss])* fishery.
Special Status Species	**SSS-1-1**	BLM will continue to work with CDOW to manage river otter *(Lutra canadensis)* (state-listed endangered) and wintering bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* (federally listed threatened) concentrations in the inner Gorge.
	SSS-1-2	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, specifically for aquatic areas for the inner Gorge.
Rangeland	**RANG-1-1**	Livestock grazing in the Gunnison River riparian corridor will be managed to ensure healthy functioning riparian systems and few or no conflicts with recreationists, especially during recreation high-use period (May 15 through September 30). Techniques to accomplish this could include changes of season, fencing, livestock movement, or other methods. Livestock grazing in the Wilderness will be managed to protect wilderness values.
Cultural Resources	**CUL-1-1**	Normally, study or management must not include any excavation, stabilization, or interpretation activities.
	CUL-1-2	Salvage, rehabilitation, stabilization, reconstruction, and restoration work on archaeological and historic site; excavation; and intensive inventories will be permitted on a case-by-case basis where the project would not degrade the overall Wilderness character of the area and such activity is needed to preserve the particular resource. BLM State Director approval will be required for all such projects as part of this permitting process. In most instances, cultural resources would be subject to the forces of nature in the same manner as other Wilderness resources.
	CUL-1-3	The following Section 110 preservation management measures will be implemented in the unit to identify high-priority areas for cultural inventory and protect at-risk resources: • Howell village – appropriate protection measures including stabilization will be identified for the long-term preservation and management of the site; and • The Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails – appropriate protection measures will be identified for the long-term preservation and management of the trails in consultation with federally-recognized tribes and other interested parties.
	CUL-1-4	The Howell Village site, located approximately north of the Ute Trail's halfway point between its beginning and end in the west-central portion of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, will be recommended for listing on the NRHP to give site recognition and to make the site eligible for stabilization funding to reduce weathering and neglect effects. Figure 2-6 (see end of this chapter) depicts the location of the site.
	CUL-1-5	The Howell Village site will be stabilized and preserved, monitored annually, and interpreted. The recommendation will resolve the concerns of the threats of natural deterioration and vandalism. Natural deterioration is the result of weathering and long-term neglect.

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)	
Cultural Resources *(continued)*	**CUL-1-6**	Management and long-term preservation of the Howell Village historic site will be emphasized in this management unit. Increased use of the nearby Ute Trail results in increased risk of vandalism by way of artifacts that are destroyed or removed from the Howell Village site.
	CUL-1-7	Interpretation of the Howell Village site will be provided at the appropriate levels and locations, in compliance with Wilderness regulations, to help visitors better understand the history of the site and the Gunnison Gorge, and to recognize the importance of preserving the site.
	CUL-1-8	The Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails will be inventoried, field verified, and evaluated for listing on the NRHP.
	CUL-1-9	Five-hundred-foot buffers on both sides of the Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails will be recognized and delineated for management and long-term preservation of these prehistoric and historic trails. The Ute and Chukar Trails are located on the west side of the Gunnison River in the Wilderness and provide the major foot and horse access into the Wilderness. The actual location of the Red Canyon Trail is uncertain. Figure 2-6 (see end of this chapter) depicts the locations of these trails.
	CUL-1-10	Research will be conducted to determine the eligibility of the Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails for listing as a National Historic District. The cultural landscape will be evaluated as part of the trail research to determine the appropriate buffer needed to protect the trail from direct and indirect impacts. These recommendations will help resolve the concerns in this management unit of the increased trail use because of designation of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, which results in increased direct and indirect impacts on these sites. Also, natural erosion plays a role in ever-increasing loss of information that these sites could provide.
	CUL-1-11	Interpretation of the Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails be researched and designed by BLM in coordination with the local residents knowledgeable about the trails' history and with Native American groups.
	CUL-1-12	Interpretation of the Ute, Red Canyon, and Chukar Trails will be implemented in a manner compatible and appropriate for the settings and in compliance with Wilderness regulations.
Paleontological Resources	**PAL-1-1**	In the Wilderness, only limited collecting of highly scientific fossils and related specimens will be allowed.
	PAL-1-2	Overall, information will continue to be gathered on paleontological resources. This could include recordation of new localities, monitoring of some known localities, and continued permitting for scientific fossils and related specimens
	PAL-1-3	Study or management will not entail excavation, stabilization, or interpretation. Exceptions may be granted by the BLM State Director for significant paleontological or cultural resources where the project will not degrade the overall Wilderness character of the area and such activity is needed to preserve the particular resource. Paleontological resources will be subject to the forces of nature in the same manner as other Wilderness resources.
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.1a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.1a below for Management Unit 1. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones MU1-1 through MU1-4.

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-1-1**	As outlined in Table 2-2.1a, BLM's Wilderness recreation management objective, or desired future condition, will be to continue to provide challenging wilderness experiences in a primitive and uncrowded physical and managerial setting that preserves wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
	REC-1-2	Recreation use levels will be managed to protect the Wilderness and provide equal opportunity to all users to derive great satisfaction and benefits from their experience.
	REC-1-3	Overall social encounters in the Wilderness river corridor will be managed to remain very low during the off-season period (October through April) and low during the majority of the river season (May through September). There will be some periods, such as the June stone fly hatch, holidays, and busy summer weekends, when encounters with other groups (both floating and on-shore) will be more frequent and choices for camping, fishing spots, and the like will be limited because of higher demand. Visitors will be able to make informed decisions about which Wilderness recreation opportunities and use periods meet their desires and thus have their expectations met.
	REC-1-4	During the scoping period, BLM received numerous comments that favored continuation of Wilderness management under current management described in the 1985 RAMP (BLM 1985) and 1988 RAMP Addition (BLM 1988a). The RMP will continue the management actions and decisions from the two current plans that will best achieve the desired future condition stated above. As a starting point, BLM will continue to manage and regulate all recreation use under provisions in the existing RAMP and RAMP Addition. BLM will also collaboratively prepare and implement an activity-level Wilderness Recreation Strategy that will: 1) provide additional direction in areas where existing plans lack specific management direction to meet the desired future condition; and 2) make changes in management that address problems identified by BLM and the public. BLM will call upon the focus group consisting of individual who participate in providing input into this RMP to assist in preparing the strategy. A primary objective of the Wilderness Recreation Strategy will be to balance private and commercial numbers at levels that provide a higher level of satisfaction for users while ensuring preservation of Wilderness qualities and resource conditions. In the Wilderness Recreation Strategy, access to the Wilderness for recreation will be managed equitably using existing management methods, such as user fees charged for all users and a designated campsite system that provides a balance of boater and walk-in visitor campsites. New management actions, including changes in the existing commercial permit and allocation systems and new allocations for private uses, will be implemented when and where necessary. Specific indicators and/or triggers for implementation of these actions will be identified in the Wilderness Recreation Strategy, as will specific measures for monitoring those indicators. The collaboratively developed Wilderness Recreation Strategy will: 1) Analyze all commercial and private Wilderness use statistics and past and future user surveys, along with user input, to identify baselines, trends, and problems with specific uses and/or periods of use. 2) Develop long-term assessment and monitoring methods for visitor satisfaction levels and resources to provide adaptive management direction.

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-1-4** *(continued)*	3) Use existing and establish new resource indicators where necessary to determine when and where new visitor allocations are needed. Wilderness indicators include, but are not limited to: 1) resource damage (e.g., campsite proliferation; social trails proliferation; human waste problems; vandalism to historical, archaeological, paleontological sites; and destruction of biological soil crusts); 2) conflicts with threatened and endangered plant or animal species; 3) number of social encounters; and 4) visitor satisfaction levels as reported in regular visitor surveys and other public feedback methods. 4) Establish a public process for determining and implementing new use allocations where necessary. 5) Make the existing commercial allocation system more effective and efficient in meeting Wilderness management objectives by implementing changes in: a. Current season of permitted use; b. Methods for allocating existing launches, including those currently unallocated (pool launches), and the timely release of unused allocated launches so that other outfitters may use them; c. Maximum number of launches and training trips allocated to one-year and multi-year outfitters under the current system; and d. Compliance requirements and compliance-assessment methods. 6) Make existing commercial permit authorization more effective and efficient in meeting Wilderness management objectives by considering methods and developing criteria to: e. Make changes in existing permit operating plans and/or stipulations; f. Determine how many commercial permits are needed to provide Wilderness visitor services that meet desired resource conditions and visitor satisfaction levels, and make changes to number of permits as needed; g. Upgrade one-year permits to multi-year, transferable permits (criteria could include, but would not be limited to, safety records, business history, compliance with other state and/or federal permits and requirements, and past compliance with the RAMP's minimum-use requirements); h. Select new permittees (criteria could include, but will not be limited to, safety records, business history, compliance with other state and/or federal permits and requirements, ability to meet demand not presently being met by existing permittees, and ability to provide services outside of high-use periods); i. Transfer existing permits to existing or new outfitters; and j. Equitably and effectively deal with non-compliance issues. The Wilderness Recreation Strategy will provide a range of thresholds that, upon monitoring, could result in an increase or decrease in the level of noncommercial boating permitted within the Gorge, depending on the indicators monitored. Limits on launches per day, season of use, group size, and campsite availability could be tools for regulating use. The design will include method(s) of assessing and monitoring visitor satisfaction levels and resources over time. Implementation will provide adaptive management direction such that changes could be made so as to continue meeting wilderness values and management goals.

Table 2-2.1
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 1)	
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-1-5**	Until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is complete, all other noncommercial activities and uses in the Gorge will be managed according to current management.
	REC-1-6	Until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is complete, BLM will continue to manage all noncommercial recreation boating use in the Wilderness according to the applicable portions of the RAMP and RAMP Addition.
	REC-1-7	Until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is complete, all private users will be required to have a non-limiting, educational permit that informs them of the likelihood and nature of future use allocations that will affect them.
	REC-1-8	Private permits will not be required until the collaborative Wilderness Recreation Strategy is completed (see above). The strategy will indicate if, when, where, why, and to what extent permits may be needed.
	REC-1-9	BLM will consider a system to limit uses other than boating in the Gunnison Gorge if indicators show these other uses are a contributing factor to resource degradation.
Fire Management	**FIRE-1-1**	Fuels treatments, including mechanical treatment or prescribed fire, will be encouraged in younger vegetation near the relict tree stands on Buttermilk Ridge to protect the stands from catastrophic (crown) fire.
	FIRE-1-2	All fire will be suppressed in the relict tree stands on Buttermilk Ridge.
	FIRE-1-3	Fuels or other vegetative treatments will not be allowed within the relict tree stands on Buttermilk Ridge.
Law Enforcement, Patrols, and Public Safety	**LAW-1-1**	Law enforcement presence will be increased.
	LAW-1-2	In cooperation with user groups, friends groups, and other volunteers, BLM will conduct regular trail patrols, cleanups, and necessary maintenance.
Wild and Scenic River Study Segments	**WSR-1-1**	No segment or portion of any stream in the unit will be recommended for designation or inclusion into the NWSRS in this RMP or the Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I).
	WSR-1-2	Under WSR Act criteria, BLM has determined that the 16-mile segment of the Gunnison River (including the entire portion of the river within designated Wilderness and downstream to the transmission line located upstream and south of the North Fork of Gunnison River) in Management Unit 1 will be suitable under the Wild classification.
	WSR-1-3	BLM has determined that the 4.2-mile segment of Red Canyon and the 2.0-mile segment of Smith Fork Creek on BLM-managed lands will be suitable under the Scenic classification in Management Unit 1.
	WSR-1-4	Implementing interim management measures for suitable wild and scenic river segments will begin with implementing the RMP and ROD, and will continue for the life of this plan or until Congress takes action. See Table I-3-1 (Appendix I) for interim management of wild and scenic river values in these segments.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-1: Inner Gorge Inner river canyon extending downstream of Chukar boat launch area up to the northern Wilderness boundary (approximately 5,500 acres).** ***Does not include the Chukar Trail or boat launch, Smith Fork Day Use Area, or Ute Park.*** **Activities:** Day and multi-day Gold Medal trout walk-wade and float-boat fishing, whitewater rafting and kayaking, camping, hiking, picnicking, scenery and wildlife viewing.	***Physical Setting:*** Primitive, non-motorized and non-mechanized, remote, unmodified natural environment. ***Number Social Encounters:*** *Off Season (October – April):* Very little or no contact with other boaters or fishing groups; (0-3 groups per day) and no other groups visible from your campsite); average group size seen is 2-4 people. *Primary River Season (May-September):* Little contact with other boater or fishing groups (see 4-6 groups per day) during mid-week with no other groups visible from your campsite; low to contact (7-10 groups on weekends) with 1-2 groups visible from your campsite; average group size seen is 6-8 people. *Stone Fly Hatch, July 4, Memorial and Labor Day weekends:* Moderate contact with others boater and fisher groups on shore (see 11-15 groups per day); average group size seen is 5-7 people.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in day-use and overnight Gold Medal (i.e., restrictive) trout fishing, kayaking, rafting, camping, and scenery and wildlife viewing: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying risk-taking adventure. ▪ Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. ▪ Experiencing nature in a pristine setting. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Closer relationship with the natural world. ▪ Strengthened relationships with family and friends. ▪ Restored mind from unwanted stress. ▪ Greater appreciation of our parklands and their management challenges.	**Travel Management:** **REC-1-10** ✔ Public lands in this zone will be closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanized vehicular use. **Camping:** **REC-1-11** ✔ Will be allowed in campsites designated for hikers or boaters only. No dispersed camping will be allowed. **REC-1-12** ✔ Visitors will be required to sign-in at Ute, Duncan or Bobcat trailheads or Chukar River register and reserve a campsite. **REC-1-13** ✔ Human waste disposal systems (porta-potties, wag-bags, etc.) will be required for overnight boating, hiking, and equestrian groups. **REC-1-14** ✔ BLM will continue to require all users to pay Wilderness user fees for day use and camping. **Campfires:** **REC-1-15** ✔ No open fires. **REC-1-16** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal in fire pans only. **REC-1-17** ✔ No firewood collecting. **Maximum Group Size: REC-1-18** ✔ 12 people. **Allowed Number of Boat Launches Per Day:** **REC-1-19** ✔ ***Commercial:*** 2 per day **REC-1-20** ✔ ***Private:*** Target of 4 per day **Competitive Events: REC-1-21** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-1-22** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-1-23** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-1: Inner Gorge Inner river canyon extending downstream of Chukar boat launch area up to the northern Wilderness boundary.** ***(continued)***	***Managerial Setting***: 1-2 river patrols per week during primary season, increased patrols and visitor contacts during high use periods; a few subtle visitor controls in river corridor (designated campsite markers, 2-3 primitive toilets); no developed facilities. Small tamarisk/weed control areas are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape in most areas.	Household and Community: ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land-use decisions. ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. Economic: ▪ Local job opportunities. Environmental: ▪ Greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources. ▪ Reduced spread of invasive species such as plants, insects, and aquatic organisms. ▪ Conservation of inner gorge ecosystem. ▪ Greater protection of fish, wildlife, and plant habitat from impacts. ▪ Preservation of spectacular gorge scenery for future generations.	**Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-24** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 3 walk-wade fishing and 10 rafting/ float-fishing outfitters according to applicable sections of the RAMP until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is implemented. **REC-1-25** ✔ Continue to permit one additional walk-wade/float-fishing operator downstream of the Smith Fork confluence according to applicable sections of the RAMP until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is implemented. **REC-1-26** ✔ Changes to existing permits and allocation system will be developed and implemented according to the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. **REC-1-27** ✔ The existing SRUP for authorizing motorized boat use from Pleasure Park (at Gunnison Forks) to Smith Fork Creek on the Gunnison River in Delta County, Colorado, will be allowed to continue for the life tenure of the permittee, Mr. LeRoy Jagodinski, or until the permit is relinquished or terminated by BLM. The existing SRUP will be amended to incorporate stipulations permitting this subject motorized use only at certain times of the day, and to specify that only the current operator/permit holder, Mr. Jagodinski, and his employees, will be allowed to operate motorized boats within the Wilderness boundary under the permit. If the permit held by Mr. Jagodinski is transferred to another person, corporation, organization, or entity by BLM, the terms, stipulations, and conditions of operation for the new permittee will be determined at that time; however, motorized boat use will not be permitted to continue within the Wilderness. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-28** ✔ New Wilderness permits will be issued if the Wilderness Recreation Strategy indicates a need for additional commercial services to meet management objectives. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-1-29** ✔ BLM will continue to not require private boater or other recreation permits until a collaborative process for determining when, where, and to what extent permits are needed is developed and completed as part of the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. **REC-1-30** ✔ In the interim, BLM will require all private users to have a nonlimiting, educational permit that informs them of the likelihood and nature of future use allocations that will affect them.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-1: Inner Gorge Inner river canyon extending downstream of Chukar boat launch area up to the northern Wilderness boundary.** ***(continued)***			**Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-1-31** ✔ 17 primitive campsites. **REC-1-32** ✔ Designated campsite markers that delineate 5 hiker, 10 boater, and 2 overflow (hiker or boater) sites. **REC-1-33** ✔ Inner canyon segments of Duncan and Bobcat primitive access trails. **REC-1-34** ✔ 1 pit toilet (Duncan) for hiker use only. ***New:*** **REC-1-35** Relocation of pit toilets when needed; removal and rehabilitation of old site. **REC-1-36** Possible relocation and/or addition of a few (2-3) designated campsites if determined necessary to meet desired conditions. Sites could be relocated or added to accommodate use from areas closed temporarily or permanently for restoration and/or weed control measures. **Trail or Road Construction:** **REC-1-37** ✔ None **Trail or Road Maintenance:** **REC-1-38** Trail maintenance will be conducted as needed to protect resources. **REC-1-39** In addition to the continued use of chemicals and hand tools, chainsaws and other motorized equipment (minimum tool) will be used for removal of large stands of tamarisk in the area from Smith Fork Creek downstream to the Wilderness boundary. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-1-40** ✔ VRM Class I. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** **REC-1-41** ✔ ROS Unit I (primitive).

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-2: Smith Fork Day Use Area and Ute Park (Cowboy Camp to BLM backcountry ranger site) (approximately 100 acres).** **Activities:** Day and multi-day Gold Medal trout walk-wade and float-boat fishing, camping, hiking, scenery, wildlife, and cultural resource viewing, nature study, photography.	***Physical Setting:*** Backcountry; semi-primitive non-motorized; largely unmodified natural environment with evidence of man (past and present) subtly noticeable but not drawing attention when hiking or floating through the area with the exception of the seasonal BLM ranger station at Ute Park. *Off Season (October – April):* Little contact with other boater, hiker, or fishing groups (0-3 groups per day) and no other groups visible from your campsite); average group size seen is 2-4 people. *Primary River Season (May-September):* Little to low contact with other boater, hiker, or fisher groups (see 4-10) groups per day) during mid-week, and moderate contact (see 11-15 groups on weekends) with 2-3 groups visible from your campsite; average group size seen is 6-8 people. *Stone Fly Hatch, July 4, Memorial and Labor Day weekends:* Moderate to high contact with other boater, hiker, or fishing groups (see 15-20 groups per day); with 4-6 groups visible from your campsite; average group size seen is 5-7 people.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in picnicking, camping, Gold Medal (i.e., restrictive) trout fishing, kayaking, and rafting: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying the total aesthetic environment Relishing group affiliation and togetherness. ▪ Having others nearby who could help you if needed. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Strengthened relationships with family and friends. ▪ Greater access for people having different skills to enjoy the same place. ▪ Increased acceptance of others who are different. ▪ Increased appreciation of the area's cultural history.	**Travel Management: REC-1-42** ✔ Public lands in this zone will be closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanized use. **Camping:** **REC-1-43** ✔ No camping will be allowed at Smith Fork Day Use Area **REC-1-44** ✔ Will be allowed in Ute Park in campsites designated for hikers or boaters. No dispersed camping will be allowed. **REC-1-45** ✔ Human waste disposal systems (porta-potties, wag-bags, etc.) will be required for all camping parties. **REC-1-46** ✔ All users will be required to pay Wilderness user fees for day use and camping. **Stay Limit: REC-1-47** ✔ 3 days; **REC-1-48** ✔ Boaters will be allowed to spend only one night in designated boater sites; **REC-1-49** ✔ No layover night camping permitted. **REC-1-50** ✔ Hikers will be permitted to stay two nights at a designated hiker camp. **Campfires:** **REC-1-51** ✔ No open fires will be allowed. **REC-1-52** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal will be allowed in fire pans only. **REC-1-53** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size: REC-1-54** ✔ 12 people. **Competitive Events: REC-1-55** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-1-56** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-1-57** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-2: Smith Fork Day Use Area and Ute Park (Cowboy Camp to BLM backcountry ranger site)** ***(continued)***	***Managerial Setting***: 1-2 river patrols per week during primary season, increased patrols and visitor contacts in Ute Park campsites on weekends and during high use periods; a few visitor controls in river corridor (designated campsite markers, primitive toilet, BLM ranger station tepee and sign). Land management practices, including tamarisk/weed control areas are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape in most areas.	Household and Community: ▪ Greater interaction of visitors from different cultures. ▪ Improved group cooperation. Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue. Environmental: ▪ Greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features. ▪ Reduced spread of invasive species such as plants, insects, and aquatic organisms. ▪ Greater protection of fish, wildlife, and plant habitat from impacts. ▪ Greater protection of area historic structures and archeological sites.	**Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-58** ✔ The existing SRUP authorizing motorized boat use from Pleasure Park (at Gunnison Forks) to Smith Fork Creek on the Gunnison River in Delta County, Colorado, would be allowed to continue for the life tenure of the permittee, Mr. LeRoy Jagodinski, or until the permit is relinquished by Mr. Jagodinski or terminated by BLM. The existing SRUP would be amended to incorporate stipulations permitting this subject motorized boat use only at certain times of the day, and to specify that only the current operator/permit holder, Mr. Jagodinski, and his employees, would be allowed to operate motorized boats within the Wilderness boundary under the permit. If the permit held by Mr. Jagodinski is transferred to another person, corporation, organization, or entity by BLM, the terms, stipulations, and conditions of operation for the new permittee will be determined at that time, however, motorized boat use would not be permitted to continue within the Wilderness **REC-1-59** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 3 walk-wade fishing and 10 rafting/ float-fishing outfitters according to applicable sections of the RAMP until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is implemented. **REC-1-60** ✔ Changes to existing permits and allocation system will be developed and implemented according to the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-61** ✔ No additional permits will be issued for motorized use. **REC-1-62** ✔ New Wilderness permits will be issued if the Wilderness Recreation Strategy indicates a need for additional commercial services to meet management objectives. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-1-63** ✔ BLM will continue to not require private permits until a collaborative process for determining when, where, and to what extent permits are needed is developed and completed as part of the Wilderness Recreation Strategy and implement accordingly. **REC-1-64** ✔ n the interim, BLM will require all private users to have a nonlimiting, educational permit that informs them of the likelihood and nature of future use allocations that will affect them.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-2: Smith Fork Day Use Area and Ute Park (Cowboy Camp to BLM backcountry ranger site)** ***(continued)***			**Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-1-65** ✔ Smith Fork Day Use Area – primitive trail up to potholes. **REC-1-66** ✔ Ute Park – 6 primitive campsites (with designated campsite markers that delineate hiker and boater sites) and following facilities: • BLM seasonal ranger station (tepee and sign) set up from May – October. • 1 primitive toilet. • Inner canyon portion of Ute Trail. • Cultural resource protection signs. ***New:*** **REC-1-67** BLM will relocate and/or add a few designated campsites if determined necessary to meet desired conditions. **REC-1-68** Sites could be relocated or added to accommodate use from areas closed temporarily or permanently for restoration and/or weed control measures or to accommodate increased camping use during periods of high use (stone fly hatch, holiday weekends). **Trail or Road Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-1-69** Trail maintenance will be conducted as needed to protect resources. **REC-1-70** In addition to the continued use of chemicals and hand tools, chainsaws and other motorized equipment (minimum tool) will be used for removal of tamarisk or other noxious vegetation in this zone. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-1-71** ✔ VRM Class I. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-1-72** ✔ ROS Unit I (primitive).

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-3 Outer Wilderness Canyon Area - outer canyon above inner Gorge on east and west sides (approximately 11,000 acres).** ***Includes upper portions of Bobcat, Duncan, and Ute Trail and the Howell Village Trail on east side; Smith Fork Way on west side.*** **Activities:** Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and nature study.	***Physical Setting:*** Primitive, non-motorized, non-mechanized, unmodified natural environment. *Off Season (October – April):* extremely little or no contact with others; (0 - 1 groups per day); average group size seen is 1-3 people. *Primary Season (May-September):* Very little contact with other hiker or riding groups (see 0-3 groups per day) during mid-week; Little contact (see 4-6 groups) on weekends); average group size seen is 2-3 people. *Stone Fly Hatch, July 4, Memorial and Labor Day weekends:* Little contact with other hiker or riding groups (see 4-6 groups per day) ; average group size seen is 2-3 people. ***Managerial Setting:*** Few backcountry patrols; very subtle on-site visitor controls; no developed facilities. Land management practices are essentially invisible.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, and nature study. **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying going exploring on my own. ▪ Testing your endurance. ▪ Gaining a greater sense of self-confidence. ▪ Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. ▪ Experiencing nature in a pristine setting. ▪ Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Greater self-reliance. ▪ Closer relationship with the natural world. ▪ Improved physical health. ▪ Increased appreciation of the area's cultural history.	**Travel Management: REC-1-73** ✔ Public lands in this Recreation Management Zone will be closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanized vehicular use. **Camping:** **REC-1-74** ✔ Dispersed camping will be allowed (unless indicators exceed land health standards; if so, will restrict use to designated campsites) **REC-1-75** ✔ Human waste disposal systems (porta-potties, wag-bags, etc.) will be required for all camping parties. **REC-1-76** ✔ BLM will continue to require all users to pay Wilderness user fees for day use and camping. **Stay Limit: REC-1-77** ✔ 3 days **Campfires:** **REC-1-78** ✔ No open fires will be allowed. **REC-1-79** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal will be allowed in fire pans only. **REC-1-80** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size: REC-1-81** ✔ 12 **REC-1-82** ✔ BLM will consider exceptions, up to a maximum of 25 people, on a case-by-case basis to accommodate groups larger than 12 for special uses ("kids-at risk" groups, school groups, research groups, etc.) appropriate for the Recreation Management Zone. **REC-1-83** ✔ Groups with more than 12 people will require an organized group permit and will not be permitted to travel or camp outside of the Recreation Management Zone . **Competitive Events: REC-1-84** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-1-85** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-1-86** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-3: Outer Wilderness Canyon Area - outer canyon above inner Gorge on east and west sides.** ***(continued)***		Environmental: ▪ Conservation of inner gorge ecosystem. ▪ Preservation of spectacular gorge scenery for future generations.	**Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-87** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 1-2 big game outfitters according to applicable sections of the RAMP until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is implemented. **REC-1-88** ✔ Changes to existing permits and allocation system will be developed and implemented according to the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-89** ✔ New commercial permits in the Wilderness will be issued if the Wilderness Recreation Strategy indicates a need for additional commercial services to meet management objectives. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-1-90** ✔ BLM will issue organized group permits on a case-by-case basis for private groups over 12. **REC-1-91** ✔ BLM will develop criteria and special regulations for organized private group permits in the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. **REC-1-92** ✔ BLM will continue to not require individual private permits until a collaborative process for determining when, where, and to what extent permits are needed is developed and completed as part of the Wilderness Recreation Strategy and implement accordingly. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing Trails:*** **REC-1-93** ✔ Outer canyon segments of 2 primitive (Bobcat and Duncan) and one developed (Ute Trail) access trails on west side (Bobcat, Duncan, and Ute Trails) and Howell Village to T-Dyke Trail (primitive) **REC-1-94** ✔ Smith Fork Way Trail on west side (primitive road) **REC-1-95** ✔ Historic Sidewinder (or Stemwider) Trail – primitive trail located in Buttermilk/Red Canyon area on east side. ***New:*** **REC-1-96** Primitive trail and directional signs will be added where needed to keep users on route and away from sensitive areas.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-3: Outer Wilderness Canyon Area - outer canyon above inner Gorge on east and west sides.** ***(continued)***			**Trail or Road Maintenance/Construction:** **REC-1-97** BLM will convert primitive road sections of Smith Fork Way to hiking/horseback trail. **REC-1-98** BLM will construct primitive trail segments where needed to better define Sidewinder Trail and keep users on route. **REC-1-99** BLM will construct primitive trail segments where needed to connect East Side overlook(s) to Smith Fork Way Trail to reduce user-created routes on Wilderness rim. **Trail or Road Maintenance: REC-1-100** Trail maintenance will be conducted as needed to protect resources. In addition to the continued use of chemicals and hand tools, chainsaws and other motorized equipment (minimum tool), will be used for removal of large stands of tamarisk in side canyon drainages if needed. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management: REC-1-101** ✔ VRM Class I. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-1-102** ✔ ROS Unit II (semi-primitive non-motorized).
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-4: Chukar Recreation Site - Includes Chukar Trailhead Recreation Site, Chukar Trail , boat launch and designated river campsites including Margaritaville sites within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park that are managed jointly by BLM and Park Service (about 1,500 acres, including about 350 acres in the adjacent Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park).**	***Physical Setting:*** ▪ **Chukar Trailhead:** Middle country; semi-primitive motorized; modified natural environment with human use alterations dominant. ▪ **Chukar Trail:** Backcountry; semi-primitive non-motorized; largely unmodified natural environment with human use alterations noticeable on trail, at boat launch and campsite area. *Off Season (October – April):* Little contact with others; (see 0-6 groups per day) and no other groups visible from your campsite); average group size seen is 2-4 people.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in on-trail hiking, day-use and overnight Gold Medal (i.e., restrictive) trout fishing, and camping: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying having relatively easy access to pristine wilderness. ▪ Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise.	**Travel Management:** **REC-1-103** Chukar Trailhead Recreation Site - Travel by motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicles will be permitted on Chukar Road only and within trailhead use area in this zone. **REC-1-104** ✔ Chukar Trail, boat launch, river campsites – Will be closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanized vehicular use. **Camping:** **REC-1-105** ✔ No dispersed camping will be allowed in Recreation Management Zone . **REC-1-106** ✔ Vehicle camping will be permitted in developed campsites at Chukar Trailhead Recreation Site. **REC-1-107** ✔ Camping in river corridor will be allowed only in designated hiker or boater campsites at Chukar or Margaritaville areas. **REC-1-108** ✔ Toilets will be provided at trailhead and boat launch for hikers, campers and/or boater groups waiting to launch.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-4: Chukar Recreation Site** ***(continued)*** **Activities:** Day and overnight Gold Medal trout fishing, camping, on-trail hiking and scenery viewing.	*Primary River Season (May-September):* Low contact with others (see 7-10 groups per day) during mid-week, and moderate contact (see 11-15 groups on weekends); average group size seen is 6-8 people. *Stone Fly Hatch, July 4, Memorial and Labor Day weekends:* Moderate to high contact with others (see 15-20 groups per day); average group size seen is 4-6 people. ***Managerial Setting*:** Regular (almost daily) hike-in patrols during primary season, increased patrols and visitor contacts on weekends and during high use periods; visitor controls and facilities evident at developed trailhead and boat launch. Designated campsite markers at river campsites. Land management practices including tamarisk/weed control areas are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape in most areas.	**Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Greater cultivation of personal resource stewardship ethics. ▪ Enlarged sense of personal accountability for acting responsibly. Improved understanding of our community's dependence and impact on public lands. Household and Community: ▪ Greater awareness that this area is a special place. ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. ▪ Greater appreciation the challenge of sustaining environmental quality here. Economic: ▪ Improved local economic stability. ▪ Increased local tourism revenue.	**REC-1-109** ✔ All users will be required to pay Wilderness user fees for day use and camping . **REC-1-110** ✔ Dogs will be required to be leashed at all times within the National Park. **Stay Limit: REC-1-111** ✔ 3 days; Boating groups could spend only 1 night at Margaritaville boater campsite(s). **Campfires:** **REC-1-112** ✔ No open fires will be allowed. **REC-1-113** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal in grills will be allowed in developed trailhead campsites. **REC-1-114** ✔ Stoves will be allowed only in river campsites (Chukar and Margaritaville campsites) **REC-1-115** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size: REC-1-116** ✔ 12 **Competitive Events: REC-1-117** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-1-118** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-1-119** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **Allowed Number of Boat Launches Per Day:** **REC-1-120** ✔ ***Commercial***: 2 per day **REC-1-121** ✔ ***Private:*** Target of 4 per day **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-122** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 3 walk-wade fishing , 10 rafting/ float-fishing outfitters, and one commercial horse packer according to applicable sections of the RAMP until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is implemented.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-4: Chukar Recreation Site** ***(continued)***		Environmental: ▪ Reduced looting and vandalism of area facilities. ▪ Greater community stewardship of natural and man-made area features.	**REC-1-123** ✔ Changes to existing permits and allocation system will be developed and implemented according to the Wilderness Recreation Strategy. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-1-124** ✔ New Wilderness permits will be issued if the Wilderness Recreation Strategy indicates a need for additional commercial services to meet management objectives. The Wilderness Recreation Strategy will provide management direction for ensuring that horse-packing services will continue to be available to the public throughout the river season. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-1-125** ✔ BLM will continue to not require private permits until a collaborative process for determining when, where, and to what extent permits are needed is developed and completed as part of the Wilderness Recreation Strategy and implement accordingly. **REC-1-126** ✔ Until the Wilderness Recreation Strategy is developed, and implemented, BLM will require all private users (during stone fly hatch and/or other high use periods) to have a nonlimiting, educational permit in this zone that informs users of the likelihood and nature of future use allocations that will affect them. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-1-127** Chukar Trailhead Recreation Site – Wilderness and fee information kiosk, parking lot, composting toilet, 3 developed campsites with grills, and picnic tables. **REC-1-128** Chukar Horse-Staging Area – 4-5 hitching posts and unloading area currently used by one permitted outfitter that provides all horse packing services for Wilderness boaters. **REC-1-129** Chukar Trail – constructed trail with sections of gravel, wooden steps, and retaining walls. **REC-1-130** Chukar Boat Launch – river register, universal access toilet, **REC-1-131** Chukar and Margaritaville campsites - designated campsite markers that delineate hiker and boater sites.

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 1 (Wilderness) **Recreation Management Zone MU1-4: Chukar Recreation Site** ***(continued)***			***New:*** **REC-1-132** BLM will possibly relocate and/or add 1-2 designated campsites if determined necessary to meet desired conditions. Sites could be relocated or added to accommodate use from areas closed temporarily or permanently for restoration and/or weed control measures or accommodate increased camping use during high use periods. **REC-1-133** Upgrades to Chukar Trailhead Recreation site will be conducted as needed to meet desired conditions, visitor satisfaction levels, and BLM construction standards for developed recreation areas. Upgrades could include expansion of the existing 3-site campground and changes to the existing toilet structure to meet increased demand and/or visitor safety standards. **REC-1-134** BLM will potentially undertake new construction at horse-staging area if needed to provide continued horse-packing services for commercial and private Wilderness boaters. Construction could include corrals and/or other permanent structures for providing horse-packing services throughout the primary use season. **Trail or Road Construction: REC-1-135** ✔ None **Trail or Road Maintenance:** **REC-1-136** BLM will conduct regular trail maintenance to protect resources and maintain trail to horse and visitor use safety standards. This could include addition of gravel, wooden or stone steps, or other materials or rerouting of trail sections to improve conditions or address safety concerns. **REC-1-137** In addition to the continued use of chemicals and hand tools, chainsaws and other motorized equipment will be used (minimum tool), if needed, for removal of large stands of tamarisk. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management: REC-1-138** ✔ VRM Class I. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-1-139** ✔ ROS Unit I (primitive).

Table 2-2.1a
Management Unit 1 (Gunnison Gorge Wilderness) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 1:	**REC-1-140** ✔ Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions.		
	REC-1-141 ✔ Set carrying capacities for high use areas as needed based on resource protection needs and visitor satisfaction levels.		
	REC-1-142 ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate OHV "play" and travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Regulations will include temporary closures for periods when soils are too wet for travel.		
	REC-1-143 ✔ Educate users about responsible OHV play and regulations regarding resource damage.		
	REC-1-144 ✔ Implement low-impact use regulations for camping, campfires, sanitation, etc. as needed.		
	REC-1-145 ✔ Educate users about low impact camping, "Tread Lightly," and other land use ethics.		
	REC-1-146 ✔ Develop maximum group size and vehicle limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial, organized group, and competitive permits based on resource conditions, etc.		
	REC-1-147 ✔ Provide maps, brochures, and website information.		
	REC-1-148 ✔ Continue coordinating with the Park Service to provide and improve visitor information, signing, and compliance. and annually fund the joint Park Service/BLM Visitor Guide.		
	REC-1-149 ✔ Where feasible, BLM will coordinate joint funding with the Park Service for permanent and seasonal positions to increase ground presence and coordination between the agencies to improve customer service and user education.		
	REC-1-150 ✔ Analyze need for additional trails, recreation facilities, resource protection measures, etc. to enhance visitor safety, protect resources; and provide diversity of trail uses (single-track, all-terrain vehicle [ATV], mountain bike, dirt bike, etc.).		
	REC-1-151 ✔ BLM will assist in forming and administering a friends group to help BLM manage the Wilderness and Gunnison Gorge resources. The mission will include, but will not be limited to, working on trails and other facilities, monitoring and improving resource conditions, monitoring visitor satisfaction levels, educating users in pre-trip information and during trips, and providing feedback to BLM on general activities in the area.		
	REC-1-152 ✔ Develop (cooperatively with CDOW) criteria and process for establishing no-hunting areas where needed for visitor safety.		

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 2 Land Ownership: 9,754 acres of public surface; 10% of planning area public lands

This 9,754-acre management unit includes public and private lands inside and outside the NCA. The unit is located in the southwest portion of the NCA. See Figure 2-1 for the location of this unit. Flat Top, a prominent Mancos shale mesa, is a featured landmark in the southwestern-most portion of the unit. This unit contains Mancos shale soils and terrain. Providing a wide range of quality riding opportunities and benefits for motorized and non-motorized users will be the primary emphasis in this unit. About 1,600 acres of public land are outside the NCA boundary.

In addition to providing outstanding OHV opportunities, lands in the unit contain a number of values. The unit includes portions of Colorado Natural Heritage Program Potential Conservation Areas recognized for rare plants, as well as for good-condition examples of certain plant communities (cold desert shrublands: Atriplex confertifolia Leymus salina, Atriplex confertifolia/Hilaria jamesii*). The unit includes several rare plants unique to Mancos shale in this region, including Clay-loving wild buckwheat, Colorado desert parsley* (Lomatium concinnum)*, Montrose penstemon (Adobe beardtongue)* (Penstemon retrorsus)*, Rocky Mountain thistle* (Cirsium perplexans)*, Uinta Basin hookless cactus, and Good neighbor bladderpod* (Lesquerella vicina)*. The soils in the Mancos shale also support several species of biological soil crusts that provide several ecological functions to the area (e.g., soil stability, reduced erosion and sediment yield, nitrogen fixation). One species of soil lichen,* Aspicilia fruticulosa*, that was collected in Peach Valley during the fall of 2002 has been documented in only one other location in the state of Colorado in Grand County north of Kremmling (Rosentreter 2002) and in very few other locations in North America.*

The management unit supports wildlife species such as the kit fox (state-listed endangered) (Cervus elaphus)*, western burrowing owl* (Athene cunicularia)*, Gunnison's prairie dog* (Cynomys gunnisoni)*, chukar* (Alectoris chukar)*, coyote* (Canis latrans)*, red fox* (Vulpes vulpes)*, mule deer, elk, northern harrier* (Cirus cyaneus)*, wintering bald eagle (federally listed threatened), white tailed ground squirrel* (Ammospermophilus leucurus)*, mourning dove* (Zenaida macroura)*, horned lark* (Eremophila alpestris)*, and a variety of other species either seasonally or year round.*

In addition, the unit supports somewhat unique soils and geology, has scenic values, has the potential to support scientific research, has interpretive and educational values, and serves as a transition into the NCA and Wilderness.

Concerns in this management unit include: a potential increase in recreation use and users and associated effects of this increase both on-site and off-site, including safety. Additionally, users' access to limited areas via undesignated routes from private lands will be difficult to control.

This management unit will be managed as the Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV SRMA. Specific management measures will include the following:

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-2-1**	Approximately 10 acres of public lands on Flat Top Mesa will be designated as a low-power communication site (Figure 2-1).	

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-2-2**	A detailed site and landscaping plan will be developed for the entire Flat Top mesa, including the communication site, and lands not currently used for communication purposes, before authorizing any additional uses. The goal for the site will be to manage the lands for low-power uses and integrate recreation uses currently ongoing. At the site: 1. The existing high-power FM sites will be permitted to be authorized. 2. No additional high-power FM uses will be authorized. 3. When existing high-power FM authorizations are relinquished or terminated, the uses will not be reauthorized. 4. All future uses and applicants will not interfere with the uses currently authorized. 5. Interpretive signs will be designed and installed to communicate the multiple uses of this site and surrounding area(s) and to display the prominent features seen from the site. 6. Visual impacts of existing uses will be mitigated over time where possible. 7. Each future additional application for use will be accompanied by a simulation visual analysis and visual impact determination as seen from to-be-selected critical viewing points, in order to assess the actual visual impacts of the proposal and alternatives. 8. Fencing will be required for security at all sites. 9. The current uses on the site, including public access and motorized and non-motorized vehicular use, will be maintained and considered in the site plan. 10. Existing tire tracks will be smoothed over to reduce the existing visual impacts.	**LAND-2-3** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel and use, including mountain bikes, on the Flat Top Mesa and the slopes of the mesa will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). These routes could be refined during the site planning process for the mesa top.
	LAND-2-4	A ROW corridor 0.5-mile wide and approximately one-quarter mile wide will be designated on public lands at the northern end of Management Unit 2 along the western edge of NCA. The corridor will contain part of the existing Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. This corridor will extend north into adjacent Management Unit 6. See Figure 2-2 and Table 2-3 (see end of this chapter) for more detail on this ROW corridor. The BLM will encourage future applicants proposing new or upgraded linear utility and other projects to locate facilities within this ROW corridor.	
	LAND-2-5	The remainder of the unit will be open to ROWs on a case-by-case basis, but would avoid impacts on recreation facilities.	
	LAND-2-6	Mitigation will be required in all ROW applications to meet the objectives of this management unit.	
	LAND-2-7	ROWs across the existing and proposed Falcon Road entrance site or staging area will be allowed on a case-by-case basis but will avoid impacts on the recreation facilities.	

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Access and Transportation	**TRAN-2-1**	Road improvements such as culverts and bridges will be implemented as necessary to reduce erosion and proliferation of roads.	
	TRAN-2-2	Easements and necessary access will be secured for improved administration, user access, and safety.	
	TRAN-2-3	Roads managed by BLM will be closed seasonally or otherwise under the appropriate regulations or laws for protection of resources, for prevention of vandalism or trespass, or for other reasons that warrant such restrictions in order to better manage resources or values on public lands. These options will be implemented as a result of findings during monitoring of resources and programs as part of adaptive management.	
Geology, Soils, and Water Resources	**GEO-2-1**	USGS research will be conducted to determine the level of impacts from multiple uses in the area. USGS, BLM, and other research entities may be involved in research. Adaptive management from research results will be applied.	
	GEO-2-2	Using research from USGS and BLM, changes will be made where needed to meet BLM land health standards. Contributions to soil erosion, salt and selenium loading, sedimentation, and dust from OHV use, livestock grazing, mountain biking, and other surface-disturbing uses will be researched and proactively addressed. Contributing uses that can be mitigated successfully will be, and use will be avoided in areas where resource impacts far outweigh benefits of the use.	
	GEO-2-3	In Elephant Skin Wash (see Figure 3-4 in Chapter 3 of the DRMP [BLM 2003c]), all surface-disturbing uses (including but not limited to OHV, mountain biking, horseback riding, and livestock grazing) will be monitored.	
Minerals and Energy Resources	**MIN-2-1**	The entire federal oil and gas estate outside the NCA boundary in the unit will be available for leasing with an NSO stipulation in the event leasing occurs, in order to prevent safety hazards and to reduce conflict with high concentrations of OHV users and others on these important recreation lands (stipulation GGNCA-10).	
	MIN-2-2	Public lands in the unit outside the NCA will not be available for mineral material sales.	
Vegetation	**VEG-2-1**	Weed-control measures will be implemented.	
	VEG-2-2	Research and monitoring will be conducted to determine if uses allowed in the management unit are exacerbating the spread of undesirable plant species or causing excessive damage to native vegetation or biological soil crusts, and mitigation plans and rehabilitation projects will be implemented if needed to address these concerns.	
	VEG-2-3	On those areas degraded by historic use, a series of pilot restoration projects will be carried out to determine best practices for restoring native plant communities.	

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Vegetation *(continued)*	**VEG-2-4**	Successful practices will be implemented on a broader scale in other seriously degraded areas in the unit.	
	VEG-2-5	In areas in the unit with slightly degraded vegetation, measures to control the source of degradation will be taken and the vegetation will be monitored to determine if it will recover on its own.	
Wildlife; Public Safety	**WFA-2-1**	To prevent conflicts and/or safety problems with animal damage control efforts, the entire management unit will be closed to aerial gunning.	
Special Status Species	**SSS-2-1**	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, specifically within Mancos shale areas, for Gunnison's prairie dog, Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and kit fox, a state-listed endangered species.	
Rangeland	**RANG-2-1**	Livestock grazing permits will be evaluated to ensure that compatible livestock management objectives, projects, and mitigating measures are incorporated before being implemented.	
	RANG-2-2	All areas not meeting land health standards, including areas in Elephant Skin Wash impacted by livestock grazing, OHV, and other surface-disturbing activities, will be reclaimed where necessary to meet land health standards.	
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.2a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.2a below for Management Unit 2. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones MU2-1 through MU2-3.	
	REC-2-1	OHV designations are shown on Figure 2-3 (see end of this chapter). Approximately 2,579 acres of public land in the unit in three different locations will be open to off-route, off-trail, motorized or non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel.	**REC-2-2** Motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicular travel and use on public lands in the remainder of this unit will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). The routes shown are preliminary and may not be all-inclusive.

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*			**REC-2-3** Designated routes will be further refined with the assistance of a collaborative BLM/citizen work group. Until routes are refined, all motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter).
	REC-2-4	Lands designated as open to cross-country, off-route, motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicular travel and use, and lands where existing open designations will be changed, will be monitored for compliance.	
	REC-2-5	Approximately 1,606 acres of public lands outside the NCA in the southern-most part of the unit will be open to motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel and use near Flat Top Mesa. This area will be bounded on the north by the north rim of the east-west drainage following King Ditch and Upper King Ditch and the southern boundary of the NCA, on the west by BLM-managed lands and private land boundaries, and on the east by Bostwick Park Road.	
	REC-2-6	An existing, informal staging and unloading area within the unit near Flat Top Mesa will be re-designed, expanded, and constructed to facilitate use of the lands. Parking, access, sanitation, and informational signing will be elements of the design. Users and others will assist in the location and design of the site.	
	REC-2-7	Approximately 40 acres of public lands within the NCA boundary containing the "Lower Elephant Skin Pond Track" will also be open to cross-country, off-route, motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicular travel and use.	
	REC-2-8	Approximately 933 acres of public land in the unit inside the NCA boundary on the north and south sides of Falcon Road in the Peach Valley area will be open to motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel and use. This open area includes the proposed visitor entrance site at the existing Falcon Road OHV staging area, and the new OHV staging area to be relocated and constructed within this unit.	

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-2-9**	The existing OHV staging and unloading area on Falcon Road at the northwest corner of this unit will be relocated and constructed at a location near the existing water storage tank in this unit. The relocation and design of the new staging will be accomplished with the assistance of OHV users and others. At a minimum, the new staging area will provide parking, unloading/loading facilities, information, and sanitation facilities, and will be located near designated or existing routes or trails that could be used by motorized OHVs or non-motorized mechanical vehicles to access other lands for OHV activities. The staging area will be open to motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicular travel and use. The existing staging area will be converted into the Falcon Road Visitor Entrance Site.	
	REC-2-10	The boundaries of the Falcon Road open area will be adjusted, mapped, marked, and identified to prevent unintentional cross-country off-route travel by motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicles.	
			REC-2-11 Signing or other means to direct traffic will be installed where needed in the open and limited areas to communicate off-limit areas or areas where some measure of vehicular control is needed to meet management goals.
	REC-2-12	Throughout this unit, OHV use may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas as necessary to meet site-specific management objectives for improving users experiences, reducing conflicts, addressing safety concerns, conducting research and monitoring efforts, and/or providing resource protection in sensitive areas, as part of the adaptive management process. Restricting or prohibiting OHV use could include either temporary or permanent closure or relocation of certain routes if necessary. Valid rationale for these adjustments could include, but will not be limited to, that mentioned above and for such reasons as safety, omitting duplicative, adjacent routes, or for other reasons.	
	REC-2-13	Opportunities for non-motorized users will be provided in the unit and will be managed in a manner to reduce user conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.	
	REC-2-14	BLM, with assistance and input from the public and other agencies, will manage levels of acceptable use in open areas using parameters such as land health, noise, dust, user conflicts, and safety. Open areas will be monitored to determine when use has exceeded limits and OHV designations need to be changed.	

Table 2-2.2
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-2-15**	Grants and other appropriate non-governmental funding will continue to be sought for a variety of recreation and other purposes in this unit.	
	REC-2-16	Based on funding needs, the BLM could implement a day use fee for recreation activities within the OHV Recreation Area.	
	REC-2-17	At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the planning area only in those portions of Management Units 2, 4, and 6 located outside the NCA boundary. See the recreation-specific decisions for these management units below. Target shooting will not be authorized on public lands in the remainder of the planning area in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the planning area, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be followed. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.	
Law Enforcement, Patrols, and Public Safety	**LAW-2-1**	In cooperation with user groups and volunteers, BLM will conduct regular trail patrols, cleanups, and necessary maintenance. Law enforcement presence will be increased. BLM will work with the CDOW and users to determine need to establish a no-hunting zone and target shooting restrictions in the unit to ensure public safety. Restrictions could include a no-hunting zone and target shooting closure within the entire unit.	
	LAW-2-2	The BLM will collaborate with Montrose County to reduce the amount of windblown trash on public and other lands from the county landfill (Figure 1-1). Consideration will be given to cooperative cleanup programs or alternative fencing methods, and landfill operation procedures that result in the trash being blown off the landfill property.	
Education and Interpretation	**EDU-2-1**	At Flat Top and Falcon Road staging area, brochures, maps, and other instructional information will be developed for marketing and other purposes to accurately inform potential visitors of the opportunities, experiences, allowed uses, best times and locations for certain uses, regulations, and generally what to expect in the OHV Recreation Area. Information on low impact use and natural values will also be included. Such materials will indicate that motorized use will be managed in specific ways to meet BLM resource protection objectives and provide different types of experiences for a wide range of motorized and non-motorized users. Visitor information will be available at the low power communication site to be designed on Flat Top Mesa and will be distributed via local merchants, the Internet, and other means.	

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-1: Falcon Road OHV Play Area (933 acres).** ***Open OHV use area located within NCA's west boundary on Falcon Road near Olathe.*** **Activities:** Cross-country ATV, dirt bike riding and vehicle "play."	***Physical Setting:*** Front country adjacent to primary access road; and rural private lands; resource modification by OHV activities very evident; surrounded by natural-appearing environment. ***Number Social Encounters:*** moderate to high degree of contact with people on roads (see 30 or more groups per day near roads and 15 or more groups away from roads.) Average group size seen is 3-5 people. ***Managerial Setting:*** On-site management controls and regulations are numerous and easy to see; simple visitor information facilities are present. Increased vehicle patrols and visitor contacts. New facilities will include NCA entrance kiosk, OHV staging area, informational, regulatory, boundary, and directional signing, fences, barricades, etc. Facilities will be designed to be vandal-resistant, easy to maintain, and able to accommodate high degree of use. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in play area Dirt Bike and ATV riding: **Experiences:** ▪ Developing your skills and abilities. ▪ Enjoying risk-taking adventure. ▪ Enjoying being with friends and family. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Reduced stress. ▪ Increased sense of adventure. ▪ Greater family bonding. Household and Community: ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use issues. Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue	**Travel Management:** **REC-2-18** ✔ Public lands in Recreation Management Zone MU2-1 will be open to off-route, cross-country motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel. **REC-2-19** ✔ For safety reasons in this zone, off-route, cross-country motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel will be permitted only for ATVs, mountain bikes, and motorcycles. **REC-2-20** ✔ Passenger cars, trucks, jeeps, and other automobile use will be authorized in this zone only on Falcon Road, Chukar Road, designated parking lots, and access roads to designated parking lots. **REC-2-21** ✔ These vehicle types will be considered for use on certain other routes or areas on public lands in this zone during the collaborative route-refinement process to be conducted after ROD is effective (See Travel Management, Zone MU2-3). **REC-2-22** ✔ Based on resource protection needs, amount of use, overcrowding, safety, or other factors, certain areas or heavily used routes within this zone may be restricted to certain types of vehicles or use in order to meet land health standards, reduce safety hazards, or comply with other regulations. Use on these lands will be considered during the collaborative process for designated route refinement with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. **Camping:** **REC-2-23** ✔ In designated areas only. Camping could be eliminated or otherwise restricted if monitoring shows adverse impacts to soils, water, vegetation, or other values. Until areas are designated, these areas will be for day use only. **Stay Limit:** **REC-2-24** ✔ 7 days, once areas are designated. **Campfires:** **REC-2-25** ✔ No open fires will be allowed; **REC-2-26** ✔ stoves and/or charcoal in grills or fire pans will be allowed. **REC-2-27** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-1: Falcon Road OHV Play Area** ***(continued)***		Environmental: ▪ Improved respect for privately-owned lands. ▪ Greater community ownership in/stewardship of area.	**Maximum Group Size:** **REC-2-28** ✔ 25 people; **REC-2-29** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events**: **REC-2-30** ✔ Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will not be authorized in this recreation management zone (933 acres). **Target Shooting**: **REC-2-31** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting**: **REC-2-32** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. No-hunting zones will be established in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits***: **REC-2-33** ✔ None ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-2-34** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities would be appropriate to Recreation Management Zone . ***Private Permits***: **REC-2-35** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-2-36** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for private groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs**: **REC-2-37** BLM will construct a new OHV staging area/parking area west of existing Falcon Road water storage tank (NEPA completed 2004). **REC-2-38** BLM will construct a new NCA information kiosk and parking area at site of existing Falcon Road OHV staging/parking area. **REC-2-39** Boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; contain OHV play in open area; protect special status species, unique soils, etc; and allow success of restoration measures **Trail Construction**: **REC-2-40** ✔ Open area.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-1: Falcon Road OHV Play Area** ***(continued)***			**Trail Maintenance:** **REC-2-41** Will be conducted as needed. **REC-2-42** Areas impacted by unauthorized uses will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-2-43** ✔ VRM Class IV. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-2-44** ✔ ROS Unit II (semi-primitive motorized).
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-2: Chukar Road to Elephant Skin Wash (approximately 7,000 acres, about 99 percent of which are inside NCA).** *Limited OHV Area – Located within NCA west of Chukar Road and extending from Falcon Road OHV Play Area to Elephant Skin Wash.* **Activities:** ATV, dirt bike and mountain bike trail riding.	***Physical Setting:*** Middle Country with small sections of rural by private land and one primitive road, motorized, largely unmodified natural-appearing surrounding. ***Number Social Encounters:*** Low contact away from roads or main trails (see 6-15 groups per day); moderate to high degree of contact with others on main trails (see more than 15 groups.) Average group size seen is 2-4 people. ***Managerial Setting:*** Vehicle patrols and increased visitor contacts. Facilities include trailhead kiosks trails systems, and signs. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in Mountain Bike and Dirt Bike riding and ATV and four-wheel-drive driving on designated routes: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes. ▪ Developing your skills and abilities. ▪ Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Reduced stress. ▪ Increased sense of adventure.	**Travel Management:** **REC-2-45** ✔ Limited OHV area; **REC-2-46** Motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicle use on public lands in this zone will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4. This use will not be permitted off-route or cross-country. **Camping:** **REC-2-47** ✔ In designated areas only. **REC-2-48** ✔ Camping could be eliminated or otherwise restricted if monitoring shows adverse impacts to soils, water, vegetation, or other values. **REC-2-49** ✔ Until areas are designated, this zone will be for day-use only. **Stay Limit:** **REC-2-50** ✔ 7 days, once areas are designated. **Campfires:** **REC-2-51** ✔ No open fires will be allowed; **REC-2-52** ✔ stoves and/or charcoal in grills or fire pans will be allowed. **REC-2-53** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size:** **REC-2-54** ✔ 25 people; **REC-2-55** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events:** **REC-2-56** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-2: Chukar Road to Elephant Skin Wash** ***(continued)***		Household and Community: ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use issues. Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue. Environmental: ▪ Improved respect for privately-owned lands. ▪ Greater community ownership in/stewardship of area. ▪ Increased protection of natural landscapes.	**Target Shooting: REC-2-57** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-2-58** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **REC-2-59** ✔ No-hunting zones will be established in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits*: REC-2-60** ✔ None ***New Commercial Permits:* REC-2-61** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities appropriate to Recreation Management Zone. ***Private Permits*: REC-2-62** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-2-63** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for private groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:* REC-2-64** ✔ OHV designation signs. ***New:*** **REC-2-65** Trailhead kiosks for main travel routes between Falcon and Flat Top Open Areas such as Moonlight Mesa and Highway One. **REC-2-66** Boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. **REC-2-67** Trail signs to delineate single track, ATV, and 4-wheel drive routes. **REC-2-68** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; contain use within Recreation Management Zone ; protect special status species, unique soils, etc.; and allow for success of restoration measures. **Trail and Road Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-2-69** ✔ New construction will be allowed only if needed to resolve resource concerns or user conflicts. **REC-2-70** Regular maintenance of designated routes will be conducted.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-2: Chukar Road to Elephant Skin Wash** ***(continued)***			**REC-2-71** Areas impacted by unauthorized use will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. **REC-2-72** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management: REC-2-73** ✔ VRM Classes III and IV. Mancos shale soils that comprise the western edge and southern portions of the planning area will be managed per the objectives of VRM Class III. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-2-74** ✔ ROS Unit II (semi-primitive motorized).
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-3: Flat Top and Lower Elephant Skin OHV Play Area (1,646 acres total, including 40 acres inside NCA at Elephant Skin Wash).** ***OPEN OHV use area comprised of 1,606 acres outside NCA and 40 acres at Elephant Skin Wash inside NCA.*** **Activities:** Cross-country four-wheel driving, ATV and motorcycle "play."	***Physical Setting:*** Front country adjacent to primitive road and rural private lands; motorized; resource modification by OHV activities very evident; surrounded by natural-appearing environment. ***Number Social Encounters:*** moderate to high degree of contact with other individuals or small groups of people (see 20 or more groups per day at developed staging area; see 10-20 groups away from staging area. Average group size seen is 4-6 people. ***Managerial Setting:*** On-site management controls and regulations are numerous and easy to see; simple visitor information facilities are present. Increased vehicle patrols and visitor contacts.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in trails and play area OHV and mountain bike riding: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying natural environment. ▪ Releasing some built-up mental tensions. ▪ Enjoying being with friends. ▪ Enjoying having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities. ▪ Enlarged sense of personal accountability to act responsibly.	**Travel Management:** **REC-2-75** To protect scenic values, motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle use on public lands on Flat Top Mesa and on the slopes of Flat Top Mesa in Zone MU2-3 will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4. **REC-2-76** ✔ Designated routes will be further fine tuned and refined in a collaborative process with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. **REC-2-77** ✔ The designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 are preliminary and may not be all-inclusive. Until routes are refined, all motorized and mechanical travel in limited areas on public lands will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4. **REC-2-78** ✔ On the Remainder of public lands in Recreation Management Zone MU2-3: These lands will be open to off-route, cross-country motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel. Based on resource protection needs, amount of use, overcrowding, safety, or other factors, certain areas or heavily used routes within this zone may be restricted to certain types of vehicles or use in order to meet land health standards, reduce safety hazards, or comply with other regulations. Use on these lands will be considered during the collaborative process for designated route refinement with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. **Camping: REC-2-79** ✔ No camping in Lower Elephant Skin OHV open area. **REC-2-80** ✔ Camping in Flat Top open area outside NCA in designated areas only. Camping could be eliminated or otherwise restricted if monitoring shows adverse impacts to soils, water, vegetation, or other values.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-3: Flat Top and Lower Elephant Skin OHV Play Area** ***(continued)***	Facilities will include OHV staging area, trailheads, trail systems, informational, regulatory, boundary, and directional signing, fences, barricades, etc. Facilities will be designed to be vandal-resistant, easy to maintain, and able to accommodate high degree of use. Land uses such as grazing are obvious and will include measures to protect soil and vegetation from recreation use impacts.	**Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Reduced stress. ▪ Improved physical health. ▪ Increased sense of adventure. ▪ Strengthened personal relationships. Household and Community: ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use issues. Economic: ▪ Improve local economic stability. Environmental: ▪ Greater community ownership in/stewardship of area.	**REC-2-81** ✔ Until areas are designated, this zone will be for day-use only. **Stay Limit: REC-2-82** ✔ 7 days. **Campfires: REC-2-83** ✔ No open fires will be allowed; **REC-2-84** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal in grills or fire pans will be allowed. **REC-2-85** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size: REC-2-86** ✔ 35 people; **REC-2-87** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 35 people. **Competitive Events: REC-2-88** ✔ No competitive events will be allowed in the NCA. Outside the NCA, motorized and non-motorized competitive events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Maximum group size limits for participants and spectators, vehicle types and number limits, selection criteria, and special terms, conditions, and other stipulations for commercial, organized groups, and competitive permits will be developed based on individual proposals, safety, site capacity, resource conditions, user satisfaction levels, and other factors such as season and type of use. Permit issuance is discretionary with BLM and permit terms and conditions will be subject to management discretion and availability of BLM staff and other resources to administer, conduct compliance on, and monitor impacts of events. **Target Shooting: REC-2-89** ✔ No target shooting will be allowed in the NCA. **REC-2-90** ✔ Outside the NCA, at BLM's discretion, target shooting may be authorized only in those portions of Recreation Management Zone MU2-3, outside the NCA boundary, to provide a safe environment for all users and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be obeyed. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated. **Hunting: REC-2-91** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-3: Flat Top and Lower Elephant Skin OHV Play Area** ***(continued)***			**REC-2-92** ✔ No-hunting zones will be established in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits*:** **REC-2-93** ✔ None ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-2-94** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities appropriate to zone. ***Private Permits*:** **REC-2-95** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-2-96** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for private groups over 35 people. **Facilities and Signs:** **REC-2-97** Designated trail signs for Flat Top Mesa. **REC-2-98** ✔ Design, expand, and re-construct existing informal OHV staging area on large flat area at base of Flat Top Mesa. **REC-2-99** Boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional, signs. **REC-2-100** Trail signs for major trail systems. **REC-2-101** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; contain OHV play; protect special status species, unique soils, etc; and allow success of restoration measures. **Trail Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-2-102** ✔ Open area. **REC-2-103** Flat Top Mesa and Slopes Limited Area - no new trails will be allowed. **REC-2-104** Some routes on Flat Top will be closed and rehabilitated to protect scenic values. **REC-2-105** BLM will conduct regular maintenance of designated routes (Flat Top Mesa) and major trail systems in open area.

Table 2-2.2a
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 2 (Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area) **Recreation Management Zone MU2-3: Flat Top and Lower Elephant Skin OHV Play Area** ***(continued)***			**REC-2-106** Areas impacted by unauthorized use will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. **REC-2-107** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management**: **REC-2-108** ✔ VRM Class III (Flat Top Mesa) and IV. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-2-109** ✔ ROS Unit II (semi-primitive motorized).
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 2:	**REC-2-110** ✔ Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions. **REC-2-111** ✔ Set Recreation Management Zone carrying capacity based on desired resource condition and visitor satisfaction levels. **REC-2-112** ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate OHV "play" and travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Regulations will include temporary closures for periods when soils are too wet for travel. **REC-2-113** ✔ Develop maximum group size and vehicle limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial, organized group, and competitive permits based on carrying capacities, resource conditions, etc. **REC-2-114** ✔ Analyze need for additional trails, recreation facilities, resource protection measures, etc. to enhance visitor safety, protect resources; and provide diversity of trail uses (single-track, ATV, mountain bike, dirt bike, etc.) **REC-2-115** ✔ Develop (cooperatively with CDOW) criteria and process for establishing no-hunting areas within zones. **REC-2-116** ✔ Educate visitors and users about responsible OHV play and regulations regarding resource damage. Provide maps, brochures, and website information.		

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 3 Land Ownership: 13,502 acres of public surface; 14% of planning area public lands

Management and protection of native riparian values, balanced with recreation site development to maintain these riparian values, will be emphasized in this 13,502-acre management unit. This unit is comprised of the river and riparian portions of the Gunnison and the North Fork of the Gunnison Rivers outside the Wilderness, as well as the surrounding uplands north and south of these rivers, including the former Tri-State lands recently added to the NCA (see 2003 Act in Appendix A). Almost this entire unit is within the NCA. Specifically, this management unit is: 1) the river corridors of the North Fork of the Gunnison River from its confluence with the Gunnison River to the east boundary of the NCA; 2) the river corridor of the Gunnison River from its confluence with the North Fork south to the northern edge of the Wilderness; 3) the river corridor of the Gunnison River downstream from the confluence to the Austin bridge at the northwestern edge of the NCA; and 4) the uplands surrounding these river corridors. Figure 2-1 depicts this management unit. The width of the river corridors vary, and is the topographic high point adjacent to the rivers that includes all of the riparian vegetation along the rivers. The unit includes lands within the northernmost part of the NCA and is adjacent to the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness.

Values in the management unit values include riparian vegetation that contains remnants of the globally imperiled, Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii) *riparian forest with coyote willow* (Salix exigua) *and skunkbrush* (Rhus aromatica) *understory. Other values include water quality, water diversions and structures, private and commercial recreational boating, mountain biking, OHV use, universally-accessible recreation sites, environmental education opportunities, recreation site development potential, and the Gunnison Forks Wildlife Management Area that is cooperatively managed by CDOW and BLM. In addition, the management unit supports a rapidly developing stocked, catch-and-release sport fishery with the potential to be greatly improved with habitat management.*

The management unit supports Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, chukar, river otter, mule deer, coyote, red fox, waterfowl, bald eagle, northern leopard frog (Rana pipiens)*, and potential habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher* (Epidonax traillii extimus). *Sandhill crane* (Grus canadensis) *and yellow-billed cuckoo* (Coccyzus americanus) *are potential beneficiaries. Rare plants include Colorado desert parsley and Uinta Basin hookless cactus.*

This entire portion of this management unit north of the Gunnison River also includes 1,048 acres of Mancos shale soils and terrain.

Concerns within this unit include the current lack of official management direction for the uplands and riparian zone within the former Tri-State lands located on both sides of the Gunnison River, which were recently added to the NCA (see 2003 Act in Appendix A). The subdivision of private land near and to the northwest of the management unit is an additional concern. Disease transmission from domestic sheep to Rocky Mountain or other bighorn sheep is a concern in the unit. In addition, existing water diversions structures are damaging riparian values, weeds are invading riparian vegetation, and riparian zone livestock grazing is damaging riparian values and could cause conflicts with recreational use of the rivers. Motorized, non-motorized, and mechanical vehicular access to both sides of the Gunnison River corridor in the vicinity of the Gunnison Forks Wildlife Management Area is a concern because of the potential riparian values damage. Also, recreational use of both rivers is expected to increase, and human sanitation is a potential concern.

This management unit will be designated and managed as the Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA. Specific management measures will include the following.

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-3-1**	Private lands suitable for development of river-related recreation facilities near Austin will be purchased on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.	

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-3-2**	A utility ROW corridor 0.5-mile wide will be designated on public lands along the centerline of the existing 46kV surface transmission line on the south side of Colorado Highway (CO-) 92 for utility construction only. The corridor will extend 0.25-mile on either side of the line or as otherwise appropriate where the line is adjacent and parallel to CO-92. The 46kV line will be contained within the corridor and will be permitted to be upgraded. Upgraded structures will be located on the approximate centerline location of the existing poles, and upgraded structures and facilities will meet BLM VRM objectives. A utility ROW corridor approximately 0.5-mile wide will be designated on public lands along the west boundary of the unit beginning one-half mile from the south side of the Gunnison River and extending south to the south end of the unit (Figure 2-2 at the end of this chapter). The remainder of the management unit will be a ROW avoidance area; however, exceptions could be considered or allowed on a case-by-case basis.	
	LAND-3-3	The BLM will cooperate with Tri-State to match the terms and conditions of the existing 115 kV ROW C-1534, and those accompanying the easement, where possible, such that consistent operation, maintenance, and upgrading activities could be conducted on the line regardless of the location on public lands (The Tri-State 115 kV line within the unit is contained partly within BLM ROW C-1534 (100 feet wide and approximately 4.0 miles total distance), and partly within an easement (100 feet wide and approximately 1.85 miles total distance) that accompanied the BLM's acquisition of the former Tri-State lands).	
	LAND-3-4	The BLM will continue working with both the Delta-Montrose Electric Association and Tri-State to map, document, and authorize needed, access routes for vehicular access for maintenance, operation, and monitoring of electrical facilities, with consideration for recommended OHV designated routes.	
	LAND-3-5	Subject to valid existing rights, all federal lands within the unit between the NCA boundary and CO-92 will be recommended to be withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.	

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision		Implementation-level Decision
Access and Transportation	**TRAN-3-1**	Road H-75 Drive, a Delta county road, will continue to be maintained by the county. Existing primitive roads on both sides of the Gunnison River will continue to be minimally maintained. Motorized vehicular access to the edges of the river corridors will be permitted. Routes in the river corridor and elsewhere in the unit not selected for designated motorized or non-motorized mechanical vehicular use will be reclaimed if possible.	
	TRAN-3-2	Motorized vehicular access within the river corridor will be limited to certain designated routes and parking sites in order to protect riparian vegetation. Designated routes and sites will be determined in the management plan to be prepared for this SRMA.	
	TRAN-3-3	Acquisition of public access for motorized and non-motorized vehicles will be pursued with partners and agencies to lands along the Gunnison River near Austin for fisher access and non-motorized boating.	
Geology and Soils	**GEO-3-1**	In the Mancos shale soils portion of this management unit (the area north of the Gunnison River), USGS research will be conducted to determine the level of impacts from multiple uses, and adaptive management from research results will be applied.	
Minerals and Energy Resources	**MIN-3-1**	Also refer to the Lands, Rights-of-way, and Withdrawals section. Subject to valid existing rights, the public lands in this unit will not be available for mineral material disposal, except on split estate lands. Split estate lands occur when the federal government owns and manages the mineral estate and another party owns the surface lands. All mineral material disposals on split estate lands in this area will be subject to all BLM and other applicable rules, laws, regulations, and policy. Until the withdrawal recommendation is implemented, the federal oil and gas estate on public lands in the unit outside the boundary of the NCA, between the NCA boundary and CO-92, oil and gas leases will contain seasonal stipulations on seismic and drilling activities from December 1 through April 30 on lands containing bald eagle winter concentration areas (stipulation UB-3), from March 15 through June 30 on lands containing waterfowl nesting and breeding areas (stipulation UB-6), and from March 1 through May 31 on public lands with Mancos shale soils (highly erodible soil areas) where low soil productivity will prolong or disallow revegetation (stipulation UB-1) (see Appendix E).	
	MIN-3-2	Carbon dioxide wells will continue to be capped/reclaimed.	

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision		Implementation-level Decision
Water Resources	**WTR-3-1**	Steps will be taken to develop permanent solutions for in-channel activities that degrade riparian values. These activities include annual maintenance of diversion structures via dredging in the channel and via reinforcement of rock and rip-rap structures.	
	WTR-3-2	BLM will collaborate with the Relief Ditch Company to facilitate the design and implementation of a permanent structure or other permanent solutions at the site of the Relief Ditch Company's diversion.	
Vegetation	**VEG-3-1**	Weed-control measures will be implemented. Along the Gunnison River, in the Gunnison Forks to Austin section, restoration projects will be implemented to protect aquatic areas and remove invasive weeds. BLM will develop partnerships with the Park Service, Tamarisk Coalition, and other partners where possible.	.
	VEG-3-2	Severely degraded sites will be restored.	
	VEG-3-3	Slightly degraded areas will be managed to control the source of degradation, thereby allowing the vegetation community to improve on its own.	
Special Status Species	**SSS-3-1**	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, specifically for the upland and aquatic areas for the Gunnison River above and below the Gunnison Forks.	
	SSS-3-2	BLM will complete a thorough inventory of the former Tri-State lands in Management Unit 3 to determine if there is a population of Uinta Basin hookless cactus present.	
Rangeland	**RANG-3-1**	Livestock grazing in the Gunnison River riparian corridor will be managed to ensure healthy functioning riparian systems and few or no conflicts with recreationists, especially during recreation high-use period (May 15 through September 30). Techniques to accomplish this could include changes of season, fencing, livestock movement, or other methods.	
	RANG-3-2	Forage will not be allocated on newly acquired lands for cattle grazing.	

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision		Implementation-level Decision
Rangeland *(continued)*	**RANG-3-3**	Forage for livestock will not be permanently allocated on newly acquired lands. On these lands, including the former Tri-State lands in the NCA in Management Unit 3, BLM will prepare, with input from permittees, a grazing strategy that will permit the lands to be used by any existing sheep grazing permittee when permittee's allotment(s) are not usable, such as if grazing is restricted on allotments because of drought/fire, a vegetation treatment (e.g., vegetation manipulation and follow-up seeding) is being conducted on an allotment that requires a deferment from grazing, or if their allotment requires a deferment from grazing to allow plants to recover from previous grazing. (There are concerns within the planning area regarding potential disease transfer to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep that occupy the same, or immediately adjacent, lands. Not authorizing new permanent allocations of forage for domestic sheep grazing, within occupied bighorn sheep habitat or associated nine-mile buffer zones, will move bighorn sheep management in the NCA slightly closer to the guidelines contained in BLM's Revised Guidelines for Management of Domestic Sheep and Goats in Native Wild Sheep Habitats [BLM 1998f]).	
Recreation	**REC-3-1**	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.3a below for Management Unit 3. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones MU3-1 through MU3-3.	
	REC-3-2	Wilderness user fees will continue to be used to help fund tamarisk-control and other resource-protection projects in the Gunnison River corridor	**REC-3-3** The informal overlook on the hill above the Gunnison Forks will be designed and constructed for visitor enjoyment, and informational signing will be installed.
			REC-3-4 A visitor entrance site will be designed and constructed on the Smith Mountain Road near its intersection with Tri-State Road, just east of the western boundary of the NCA. Changes to the existing landscape will be implemented as necessary to improve aesthetics at the site. Parking, informational signs, and sanitation facilities will be provided. Safe egress and ingress and ease of access will be factors to consider when locating and designing the station.

Table 2-2.3
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision		Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*			**REC-3-5** A visitor overlook will be designed and constructed at the point on Smith Mountain in the extreme northwestern part of the NCA. Parking and signing will be installed for visitor interpretation, enjoyment, and safety.
			REC-3-6 A visitor overlook will be designed and constructed at the intersection of the Smith Mountain access road and the Black Ridge Trail adjacent to the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Parking, informational signs, and sanitation facilities will be provided. Safe egress and ingress and ease of access will be factors to consider when locating and designing the overlook. Access to the Gunnison River on the west side across from Gunnison Forks will be blocked and a parking lot constructed. Walk-in day and overnight camping use will be emphasized, and camping will be limited to designated sites.
	REC-3-7	Public lands on both sides of the Gunnison River upstream and south of the North Fork will be closed to motorized and mechanical vehicular use and travel within the river corridor.	**REC-3-8** Motorized and mechanical vehicular travel and use on public lands in the remainder of this unit will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter). The routes shown are preliminary and may not be all-inclusive. Designated routes will be further refined with the assistance of a BLM/citizen work group. Until routes are refined, all motorized and mechanical travel will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4.
Wild and Scenic River Study Segments	**WSR-3-1**	No segment or portion of any stream in the planning area will be recommended for designation or inclusion in the NWSRS in this RMP or the Revised Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (Appendix I).	
	WSR-3-2	Under WSR Act criteria, BLM has determined that the 6-mile segment of the Gunnison River from the transmission line to the Relief Ditch diversion is suitable under the Recreational classification.	
	WSR-3-3	Implementing interim management measures for suitable wild and scenic river segments will begin with implementing the RMP and ROD, and will continue for the life of this plan or until Congress takes action. See Table I-3-1 (Appendix I) for interim management of wild and scenic river values.	

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-1: Main Gunnison River Corridor – river corridor and uplands located within outer canyon rim from northern Gunnison Gorge Wilderness boundary to North Fork confluence (approximately 1,500 acres).** **Activities:** Gold Medal trout fishing, flat-water boating, and wildlife viewing.	***Physical Setting:*** Backcountry, semi-primitive non-motorized and non-mechanized, predominately unmodified natural-appearing environment ***Number Social Encounters:*** *Off Season (October – April):* Low contact with others; (see 6 -10 groups per day on weekends) and no other groups visible from your campsite); average group size seen is 2-4 people. *Primary River Season (May-September):* Low to moderate contact with others during midweek (see 8-12 groups per day; less than 3 groups visible from your campsite. Moderate to moderately high contact with others on weekends (see 15-18 groups). *Stone Fly Hatch, July 4, Memorial and Labor Day weekends:* Moderately high to very high contact with others boating and fishing groups on shore (18-25 groups per day); average group size seen is 5-7 people. ***Managerial Setting:*** Increased backcountry and river ranger patrols; a few subtle visitor controls (designated campsite signs), primitive trails, no developed facilities.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in day-use and overnight Gold Medal trout fishing, flat-water boating, and wildlife viewing: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying the total aesthetic environment. ▪ Enjoying going exploring on my/our own. ▪ Developing your own skills and abilities. ▪ Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Strengthened relationships with family and friends. ▪ Restored mind from unwanted stress. ▪ Greater access for people having different skills to enjoy the same place.	**Travel Management: REC-3-9** ✔ This zone will be closed to all motorized and non-motorized, mechanized uses, except for CDOW and existing jet boat permittee. **Camping:** **REC-3-10** ✔ Will be allowed in designated campsites only. **REC-3-11** ✔ Human waste disposal systems (porta-potties, wag-bags, etc.) will be required for all camping groups **Stay Limit: REC-3-12** ✔ 3 days **Campfires:** **REC-3-13** ✔ No open fires will be allowed. **REC-3-14** ✔ Stoves and/or charcoal will be allowed in fire pans only. **REC-3-15** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size: REC-3-16** ✔ 12 **Competitive Events: REC-3-17** ✔ Competitive events will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-3-18** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-3-19** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations.

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-1: Main Gunnison River Corridor – river corridor and uplands located within outer canyon rim from northern Gunnison Gorge Wilderness boundary to North Fork confluence.** ***(continued)***	Land management practices, such as tamarisk/weed control are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	Household and Community: ▪ Greater family bonding. ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands. Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue. ▪ Improved local and regional economic stability. ▪ Increased local job opportunities. Environmental: ▪ Reduced spread of invasive species such as plants, insects, and aquatic organisms. ▪ Increased protection of natural landscapes. ▪ Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails.	**Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-20** ✔ The existing SRUP authorizing motorized boat use from Pleasure Park (at Gunnison Forks) to Smith Fork Creek on the Gunnison River in Delta County, Colorado, would be allowed to continue for the life tenure of the permittee, Mr. LeRoy Jagodinski, or until the permit is relinquished by Mr. Jagodinski or terminated by BLM. The existing SRUP would be amended to incorporate stipulations permitting this subject motorized boat use only at certain times of the day, and to specify that only the current operator/permit holder, Mr. Jagodinski, and his employees, would be allowed to operate motorized boats within the Wilderness boundary under the permit. If the permit held by Mr. Jagodinski is transferred to another person, corporation, organization, or entity by BLM, the terms, stipulations, and conditions of operation for the new permittee will be determined at that time, however, motorized boat use would not be permitted to continue within the Wilderness. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-21** ✔ No additional permits will be issued for motorized use. New permits for non-motorized uses will be considered after a method and system for determining permit needs, allocating use, and selecting new outfitters is implemented. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-3-22** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-3-23** ✔ North Fork to Smith Fork Trail (east side). **REC-3-24** ✔ Unimproved Gunnison River access road/trail (west side). **REC-3-25** ✔ 2–3 primitive campsites ***New:*** **REC-3-26** Designated campsite markers **REC-3-27** 2-3 additional primitive campsites.

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-1: Main Gunnison River Corridor – river corridor and uplands located within outer canyon rim from northern Gunnison Gorge Wilderness boundary to North Fork confluence.** ***(continued)***			**Trail or Road Construction/Maintenance: REC-3-28** BLM will convert vehicle access routes to foot trails. **REC-3-29** Trail maintenance will be conducted as needed to protect resources. **REC-3-30** BLM will continue mechanized and chemical tamarisk and other weed control. **REC-3-31** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management: REC-3-32** ✔ VRM Class II. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-3-33** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized), except in the two-mile portion (of the greater 16-mile segment) of the Gunnison River segment preliminarily suitable for inclusion into the NWSRS, which will be ROS Unit II (semi-primitive non-motorized).
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-2: Lower Gunnison River Corridor - main river corridor upstream of Gunnison Forks Day Use Area downstream to west NCA boundary Austin (approximately 1,500 acres, about 80 percent of which are in NCA).**	***Physical Setting:*** Predominately unmodified natural-appearing environment with following areas**:** *Gunnison Forks:* Front country, roaded natural area. Motorized. *Lands adjacent to River:* Middle country and Rural (private agricultural lands), semi-primitive motorized. *River:* Middle country; semi-primitive non-motorized.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in day-use and overnight Fishing, Flat-Water Boating, Camping and Picnicking,:	**Travel Management:** **REC-3-34** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel will be permitted on the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 only. **REC-3-35** ✔ Designated routes will be further fine tuned and refined in a collaborative process with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. **REC-3-36** ✔ The Gunnison River will be closed to motorized river and water craft. **Camping:** **REC-3-37** ✔ Camping will be allowed in designated campsites or camping areas only. **REC-3-38** ✔ No camping or overnight parking will be allowed in Gunnison Forks Day Use Area. **REC-3-39** ✔ Porta-potties will be required for overnight boating groups in dispersed river sites. **Stay Limit: REC-3-40** ✔ 7 days

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-2: Lower Gunnison River Corridor - main river corridor upstream of Gunnison Forks Day Use Area downstream to west NCA boundary Austin.** ***(continued)*** **Activities:** Day and multi-day walk-wade and float-boat fishing, flat-water boating, camping, and picnicking,	***Number Social Encounters:*** Low (off-season) to moderate contact with others on river; (see 15 or more groups per day); moderate to high contact with others at Gunnison Forks (see 25 or more groups per day in high use periods). ***Managerial Setting:*** Visitor controls for group size and low impact use; increased back-county and river patrols. Facilities such as designated vehicle camping areas and river access sites will be restricted to existing impacted areas. Facility design will be harmonious w/ the land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Land management practices, such as grazing, tamarisk/weed control are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	**Experiences:** ▪ Relishing group affiliation and togetherness. ▪ Enjoying the total aesthetic environment. ▪ Developing your own boating and fishing skills. ▪ Enjoying having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities. ▪ Enjoying being able to frequently participate in desired activities and settings. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Improved relationship with nature. ▪ Strengthened relationships with family and friends. ▪ Greater sense of adventure. ▪ Restored mind from unwanted stress. ▪ Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Household and Community: ▪ Greater family bonding. ▪ Enlarged sense of community dependence on public lands.	**Campfires:** **REC-3-41** ✔ No open fires will be permitted. **REC-3-42** ✔ Campers will be required to use stoves and/or charcoal in fire pans. **REC-3-43** ✔ No firewood collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size:** **REC-3-44** ✔ 25 people; ✔ **REC-3-45** Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events:** **REC-3-46** ✔ Non-motorized competitive events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis in this zone on the Gunnison River. Maximum group size limits for participants and spectators, vehicle types and number limits, selection criteria, and special terms, conditions, and other stipulations for commercial, organized groups, and competitive permits will be developed based on individual proposals, safety, site capacity, resource conditions, user satisfaction levels, and other factors such as season and type of use. Permit issuance is discretionary with BLM and permit terms and conditions will be subject to management discretion and availability of BLM staff and other resources to administer, conduct compliance on, and monitor impacts of events. **Target Shooting:** **REC-3-47** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting:** **REC-3-48** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-49** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 5 walk-wade fishing outfitters; and 3 float-fishing outfitters. **REC-3-50** ✔ BLM will continue to allow rafting/float fishing use in Recreation Management Zone by four Wilderness outfitters. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-51** ✔ No permits will be issued for motorized use. **REC-3-52** ✔ New permits for non-motorized uses will be considered after a method and system for determining permit needs, allocating use, and selecting new outfitters is implemented.

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-2: Lower Gunnison River Corridor - main river corridor upstream of Gunnison Forks Day Use Area downstream to west NCA boundary Austin.** ***(continued)***		Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue. ▪ Increased local job opportunities.	***Private Permits:*** **REC-3-53** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-3-54** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-3-55** ✔ Gunnison Forks Day Use Area (toilets, picnic tables, signs, and unimproved boat launch area). ***New:*** **REC-3-56** Facilities will be located in heavily impacted areas (tamarisk, Russian knapweed, and placer mined areas) away from native riparian areas. **REC-3-57** Site design will include removal of tamarisk and reseeding and planting of native species. **REC-3-58** ✔ 1 river access/boat ramp site for non-motorized craft located in heavily impacted area on south side of river approximately halfway between Gunnison Forks and Austin. Site will include vault toilet and 4-6 vehicle campsites. **REC-3-59** ✔ 1 river access/boat ramp site at site to be determined near Austin. Depending on location and size, site could include toilet (vault or portable) and campsites, or be managed as a day use area. **REC-3-60** 3-5 designated, dispersed boater campsites along river corridor. **REC-3-61** NCA information and interpretive kiosks at Gunnison Forks. **REC-3-62** ✔ Modifications to Gunnison Forks boat ramp area as needed to increase protection of riparian area and improve public safety and river access for non-motorized activities. **REC-3-63** Fences, rock barricades, etc., where needed to: protect private lands; delineate campsites and parking areas, protect resources, and allow success of restoration measures. **REC-3-64** Boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. **REC-3-65** Designated campsite markers.

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-2: Lower Gunnison River Corridor - main river corridor upstream of Gunnison Forks Day Use Area downstream to west NCA boundary Austin.** ***(continued)***			**Trail or Road Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-3-66** ✔ BLM will conduct where needed to provide access to designated river access sites. **REC-3-67** BLM will provide regular maintenance of primary access roads. **REC-3-68** Trail maintenance will be conducted as needed to protect resources. **REC-3-69** BLM will continue mechanized and chemical tamarisk and other weed control. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-3-70** ✔ VRM Class II. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-3-71** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-3: Smith Mountain/Rogers Mesa Uplands - uplands extending north and south of Recreation Management Zone MU3-2. Zone MU3-3 consists of approximately 10,500 acres, about 97 percent of which are outside NCA).**	***Physical Setting:*** Predominately middle country with sections of front country near access roads, motorized, largely unmodified natural- appearing environment. ***Number Social Encounters:*** Low to moderate contact away from roads or developed sites (see 6-15 groups per day) ; moderate to high degree of contact with others on roads and in developed sites (see more than 15 groups per day). ***Managerial Setting:*** Visitor controls for low impact use; increased vehicle patrols and visitor contacts.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in on-route four-wheel-drive driving, horseback trail riding, dispersed and developed site camping: **Experiences:** ▪ Getting away from everyday responsibilities for awhile. ▪ Being able to enjoy nature without having to get out in it too much. ▪ Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes.	**Travel Management:** **REC-3-72** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel will be limited to designated routes only as shown on Figure 2-4. **REC-3-73** ✔ Designated routes will be further fine tuned and refined in a collaborative process with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group. **Camping:** **REC-3-74** ✔ Camping will be allowed in designated areas and/or campgrounds only. **Stay Limit:** **REC-3-75** ✔ 7 days. **Campfires:** **REC-3-76** ✔ No open fires; bonfires, etc. will be allowed. **REC-3-77** ✔ Campers will be required to use grills, stoves and/or charcoal. **REC-3-78** ✔ No firewood cutting or collecting will be allowed. **Maximum Group Size:** **REC-3-79** ✔ 25 people; **REC-3-80** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people.

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-3: Smith Mountain/Rogers Mesa Uplands - uplands extending north and south of Recreation Management Zone MU3- 2.** ***(continued)*** **Activities:** Four-wheel driving, horseback riding, and camping.	Design of facilities will be harmonious with land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Land management practices, such as grazing and weed control are somewhat evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	**Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Stronger ties with my family and friends. ▪ Enlarged sense of personal accountability to act responsibly. ▪ Greater sensitivity to the outdoors. Economic: ▪ Increased local tourism revenue. ▪ Increased local job opportunities. Environmental: ▪ Reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails. ▪ Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes.	**Competitive Events: REC-3-81** ✔ **N**on-motorized competitive events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis in this zone. Maximum group size limits for participants and spectators, vehicle types and number limits, selection criteria, and special terms, conditions, and other stipulations for commercial, organized groups, and competitive permits will be developed based on individual proposals, safety, site capacity, resource conditions, user satisfaction levels, and other factors such as season and type of use. Permit issuance is discretionary with BLM and permit terms and conditions will be subject to management discretion and availability of BLM staff and other resources to administer, conduct compliance on, and monitor impacts of events. **Target Shooting: REC-3-82** ✔ Will not be permitted in the zone or management unit. **Hunting: REC-3-83** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-84** ✔ BLM will continue to permit 1-2 big game outfitters. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-3-85** ✔ BLM will develop commercial use needs assessment for providing additional outfitted services, including but not limited to, jeep tours and horseback rides. BLM will authorize and allow new permits if proposals and activities are appropriate to Recreation Management Zone. ***Private Permits:*** **REC-3-86** ✔ Will not be required. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-3-87** ✔ OHV designation signs **REC-3-88** ✔ Black Ridge Trail System **REC-3-89** ✔ Smith Mountain Jeep Trail System

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU3-3: Smith Mountain/Rogers Mesa Uplands - uplands extending north and south of Recreation Management Zone MU3- 2.** ***(continued)***			***New*:** **REC-3-90** NCA entrance kiosk on county road near intersection of CO-92 and County Road 2810. **REC-3-91** Interpretive overlook site on hill overlooking Gunnison Forks. **REC-3-92** NCA entrance area at H-75 Road boundary will include information kiosk; vehicle parking, and horse and OHV staging area. **REC-3-93** Trailhead kiosks for**:** 1) Gunnison River access trail (trail is located in Recreation Management Zone 2- on west side of river south of Gunnison Forks; 2) Black Ridge Trail system; 3) Smith Mountain jeep trail system. **REC-3-94** ✔ Small vehicle campground (10-15 sites) if needed to reduce dispersed camping impacts. Site to be determined. **REC-3-95** Small interpretive overlook areas on Smith Mountain and near intersection of Smith Mountain Jeep Trail and Black Ridge Trail. **REC-3-96** Fences, rock barricades, etc., where needed to: protect private lands; delineate campsites and parking areas, protect resources, and allow success of restoration measures. **REC-3-97** Boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. **Trail or Road Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-3-98** ✔ Will be conducted where needed to provide access to designated river access sites, camping areas, etc. and/or resolve resource concerns or user conflicts. **REC-3-99** BLM will provide regular maintenance of primary access roads. **REC-3-100** BLM will conduct trail maintenance as needed to protect resources. **REC-3-101** BLM will continue mechanized and chemical tamarisk and other weed control. **REC-3-102** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management: REC-3-103** ✔ VRM Class II. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-3-104** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).

Table 2-2.3a
Management Unit 3 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 3:	**REC-3-105** ✔ Continue to manage recreation use in Recreation Management Zone 1 under applicable portions of RAMP and RAMP Addition. **REC-3-106** ✔ Continue to work with partners (Trout Unlimited, private landowners, etc.) to provide a public river access site in the Austin area. **REC-3-107** ✔ Set carrying capacity for NCA areas within Recreation Management Zones based on desired resource conditions and visitor satisfaction levels. Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions. **REC-3-108** ✔ If monitoring shows impacts from dispersed camping (Recreation Management Zone Mu3-3) exceed standards, restrict all camping to designated sites, areas, or, if determined necessary, a developed campground. **REC-3-109** ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. **REC-3-110** ✔ Educate users about responsible travel on designated routes and regulations regarding resource damage. Include temporary closures for periods when soils are too wet for travel. **REC-3-111** ✔ Educate users about low impact camping, "Tread Lightly," and other land use ethics. **REC-3-112** ✔ Analyze need for additional trails, recreation sites, resource protection measures, etc. and implement measures as needed to meet RMP objectives. **REC-3-113** ✔ Develop maximum group size, vehicle, stock (horses, llamas, etc) limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial and organized group permits where authorized based on carrying capacities, resource conditions, etc. **REC-3-114** ✔ Develop maps, brochures, and website info.		

Table 2-2.4
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 4 Land Ownership: 22,200 acres of public surface; 23% of planning area public lands

Management and protection of the Gunnison sage-grouse and its habitat in the NCA will be emphasized in this 22,200-acre management unit. This management unit includes Gunnison sage-grouse range on public lands within the NCA in the Black Ridge and Fruitland Mesa areas. Although active leks are not known to occur in this management unit, Gunnison sage-grouse is known to occur on Black Ridge in the western portion of the unit. This management unit contains a population of Gunnison sage-grouse that is being managed under the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado (Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership 1998). Gunnison sage-grouse was classified as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, on December 28, 2000. In 1995, to address rising concerns about the long-term status of the Gunnison sage-grouse in the Crawford area, the CDOW, the BLM, USFWS, local landowners, and interested individuals and groups formed the Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership to address declining trends of sage-grouse numbers. In 1998, the Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership completed a conservation plan that outlines a framework to guide a coordinated management effort to improve sage-grouse habitat and reverse the long-term downward trend (Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership 1998). Sage-grouse numbers appear to have increased slightly since 1994 (BLM 2001a) (Figure 3-9 of Chapter 3 of the DRMP [BLM 2003c]). Range wide, both the distribution and abundance of this species is on a long-term declining trend. The primary threat to Gunnison sage-grouse is loss of habitat, primarily sagebrush (Artemisa spp.) *in close proximity to other habitat needs. These losses are due to various types of development including buildings, roads, energy exploration, and conversion of habitats to agricultural uses. Inappropriate livestock management and wetland alterations are also contributing to losses. Other important resource values in the area include livestock grazing (cattle and sheep), recreation use, and habitat for a variety of other native wildlife. Plant communities consist primarily of sagebrush grass sites with some scattered occurrences of Utah serviceberry* (Amelanchier utahensis) *and Gambel oak* (Quercus gambelii).

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan was developed to help maintain the viability of the local population and to secure the species' long-term status. The Plan was developed with local stakeholders to set management guidance for Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in this area, primarily to help increase the quality of habitat and numbers of sage-grouse, in order to prevent the federal listing of the species as endangered. This RMP adopts and incorporates the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan as part of the management objectives and direction for this unit. Many of the plant communities in the management unit have become decadent over time, and appropriate actions are required to restore a complete compliment of seral stages and plant community composition. In addition, in December 2003, the Gunnison Sage-grouse Recovery Team plans to complete a range-wide conservation plan that will include recommendations and guidelines for activities within the sage-grouse habitat. The BLM will review this document and incorporate guidelines as appropriate. Until this document is made available, the BLM will continue to coordinate with the partners and CDOW for projects within Gunnison sage-grouse habitat that may affect the species.

Public lands in this management unit will be designated and managed as the Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA. Rationale for this unit is provided in Appendix E of the PRMP (BLM 2004). Specific management measures will include the following:

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-4-1**	Approximately one mile of the public lands in the management unit parallel to Red Canyon Creek will be located within a recommended ROW utility corridor for future growth in the North Fork Valley area. Part of this corridor is also located in Management Unit 6. See Figure 2-2 (at the end of this chapter) for the location and Table 2-3 (see end of this chapter) for information on all recommended corridors in the planning area. Measures to prevent damage and injury to sage-grouse during the crucial seasonal use periods (strutting, nesting, and potentially winter), such as raptor-proofing utility poles, placing power lines in a horizontal array, will be required.	
	LAND-4-2	Construction of all ROWs in the management unit will be restricted from November 15 through April 30 during crucial periods for wintering mule deer, elk, and Gunnison sage-grouse.	

Table 2-2.4
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-4-3**	Except as described below for the relict tree stand on Black Ridge, this management unit will be open to ROWs with appropriate conditions where the ROW will not adversely affect the values for which the management unit was designated. Mitigation will be required in all applications to meet the objectives of this management unit. Public lands in the relict tree stand on Black Ridge will not be available for surface linear ROWs of any kind, nor aerial ROWs or special use permits occupying more than 100 square feet and needing vehicular access constructed, or needing existing vehicular access maintained for distances greater than 200 feet. Buried ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis along previously disturbed areas along existing travel routes. Mitigation will be required in all applications to meet the objectives of this management unit. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis if the proposal supports meeting management unit objectives.	
Minerals and Energy Resources	**MIN-4-1**	Federal oil and gas estate in the unit will be available for leasing subject to the following stipulations. See Appendix E for more information, including exceptions that could be applied. 1. An NSO stipulation within a two-mile radius of Gunnison sage-grouse lek sites to prevent disturbance to leks and strutting/dancing grouse (stipulation GGNCA-1). 2. An NSO stipulation within riparian areas that contain Gunnison sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat to prevent disturbance and damage to this habitat (stipulation GGNCA-12). 3. A TLS within Gunnison sage-grouse winter range that will prohibit all oil and gas activities except those related to operation and maintenance of existing oil and gas production facilities, from November 15 through April 30, to prevent disturbance and stress to wintering Gunnison sage-grouse (stipulation GGNCA-8). 4. A TLS within crucial deer and elk winter range that will prohibit all oil and gas activities except those related to operation and maintenance of existing oil and gas production facilities, from November 15 through April 30, to prevent disturbance and stress to wintering big game and to help prevent big game from foraging on lower elevation private lands and crops (stipulation UB-4). 5. A controlled surface use stipulation restricting oil and gas exploration and development activities beyond 500 feet of riparian vegetation zones that contain perennial water sources and streams, sage-grouse brood rearing habitat, fisheries, and other water and vegetation quality values (stipulation GGNCA-14). 6. A lease notice could be imposed on federal oil and gas leases containing Gunnison sage-grouse nest sites that will prohibit surface-disturbing activities or require other special mitigation on leases from March 1 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to nesting sage-grouse (stipulation GGNCA-15). A plan of operation will be required in this ACEC, for locatable mineral activities that will result in surface disturbance.	

Table 2-2.4
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Vegetation	**VEG-4-1**	In the Black Ridge area of the unit, the size, number, and types of vegetation (see Figure 3-8 in Chapter 3 of the DRMP [BLM 2003c]) will be tailored first to Gunnison sage-grouse needs, and second to big game winter range needs.	
	VEG-4-2	Vegetation treatments will be managed to ensure that appropriate plant communities are present for all life functions for the Gunnison sage-grouse.	
	VEG-4-3	Slightly degraded vegetation will be managed to minimize the source of degradation so that the vegetation community may recover on its own.	
	VEG-4-4	In areas of severely degraded vegetation, restoration treatments will be undertaken.	
Forestry	**FOR-4-1**	In areas that receive vegetation treatments, prescribed burns, or other techniques, fuelwood collection could be allowed as a means to accomplish a resource objective, priority, clean up, or to remove fuel from the ground and to facilitate the purposes of the treatment, if appropriate. Fuelwood collection or cutting, where authorized, will be allowed only if all other management unit objectives will continue to be met and, upon completion of fuelwood collection, existing ground conditions will not hinder proposed treatments.	
Wildlife, Fish, and Aquatic Life	**WFA-4-1**	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for wildlife species and habitat in the unit, specifically for mule deer, elk, and other species.	
Special Status Species and Habitat	**SSS-4-1**	This unit will be managed for enhancement of the Gunnison sage-grouse population.	
	SSS-4-2	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, specifically for the Fruitland Mesa area, including Gunnison sage-grouse and other species.	
	SSS-4-3	These lands will be closed to motorized and non-motorized mechanical vehicular travel the remainder of the year to prevent disturbance to breeding sage-grouse and wintering big game. See the Recreation" section below.	**SSS-4-4** Motorized and mechanical vehicular travel on public lands containing leks or potential leks will be limited seasonally to designated routes and trails. See the Recreation section below.
	SSS-4-5	Livestock management, road and trails management, recreation activity management, and vegetation management will be conducted to maintain and restore Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in this area.	

Table 2-2.4
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Special Status Species and Habitat *(continued)*	**SSS-4-6**	Surface-disturbing activities will be restricted in special status species occupied locations and their potential habitat for their protection.	
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.4a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.4a below for Management Unit 4. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones.	
	REC-4-1	The East Side Scenic Overlook in Section 30, Township 15 South, Range 93 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Delta County, will be designed and developed to provide opportunities to view the outstanding vistas of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, including views of the Gunnison River at Ute Park. (Other views include the west rim of the Gorge to the west, the Gunnison River north of the Wilderness, the San Juan Mountains to the south, the West Elk Mountains to the east, and the greater Uncompahgre Valley to the west. The site is located on a cliff on the east side of the Gunnison Gorge immediately east of and outside the Wilderness. The unit is approximately one mile south of the junction of the Gunnison River and Smith Fork Creek. It is accessible by four-wheel-drive roads). The development will be unintrusive and semi-primitive in nature. Natural materials will be used at the site to mark and denote parking, and barriers such as rocks, dead trees, and limbs will be placed to prevent motorized travel beyond confined parking at the termination of the existing access road uphill of the cliff overlook site. The concern at this site is the likely increased use of the overlook and potential proliferation of user-established off-road travel via motorized vehicles, and off-route travel by foot or horseback.	**REC-4-2** Motorized travel within the confines of the East Side Scenic Overlook will be limited to the parking space identified uphill form the overlook.
	REC-4-3	Interpretation of the vistas could be installed at the cliff in a manner keeping with preserving and considering Wilderness values.	
	REC-4-4	Seasonal vehicular closures will be imposed according to the objectives for the remainder of this management unit.	
	REC-4-5	To prevent disturbance to wintering big game and to reduce impacts on strutting Gunnison sage-grouse in the spring, public lands in the unit will be closed to motorized and mechanical vehicular use and travel from November 15 through April 30 annually. If these and related human uses are determined to cause disturbance to breeding sage-grouse or wintering big game during the periods when these uses will be permitted, BLM will extend the periods of vehicular closure where and when necessary to prevent disturbance to these species or habitat. The closure extension will be for up to 31 days, depending on the circumstances warranting the extension.	**REC-4-6** From May 1 to November 14, motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel and use on public lands in the unit will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter) to prevent disturbance to sage grouse leks or potential leks. The routes shown are preliminary and may not be all inclusive.

Table 2-2.4
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*			**REC-4-7** Designated routes will be further refined with the assistance of a BLM/citizen work group. Until routes are refined, all motorized and mechanical travel will be limited to the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4 (see end of this chapter) from May 1 to November 14. The seasonal limitation period could change if an extended closure period is necessary.
	REC-4-8	At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the planning area only in those portions of Management Units 2, 4, and 6 located outside the NCA boundary. See the recreation-specific decisions for these management units below. Target shooting will not be authorized on public lands in the remainder of the planning area in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the planning area, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization will occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be followed. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.	
Fire Management	**FIRE-4-1**	All fire will be suppressed in the relict tree stand on Black Ridge.	
	FIRE-4-2	Fuel treatments or reduction or other vegetative treatments will not be conducted within the stands.	
	FIRE-4-3	Fuels treatments, including mechanical treatment or prescribed fire, will be encouraged in younger vegetation near relict stands to protect the stands from catastrophic (crown) fire.	

Table 2-2.4a
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 4 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA). **Recreation Management Zone MU4: Areas in Black Ridge and Fruitland Mesa Lands on east side of planning area (22,200 acres, 5,670 acres of which are inside NCA).** **Activities:** Wildlife viewing, four-wheel driving, scenic driving, hunting.	***Physical Setting:*** Predominantly Middle country with some sections of backcountry in Black Ridge and Green Mountain areas of NCA; semi-primitive motorized, largely unmodified and natural-appearing; resource modifications evident but harmonious with surroundings. ***Number Social Encounters:*** **V**ery low contact (see 1-6 groups per day) except during big game hunting season when there is moderate to high degree of contact with others on roads and in dispersed campsites (see more than 15 groups.) ***Managerial Setting:*** Vehicle patrols and increased visitor contacts during hunting season. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments, and wildlife protection projects are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape. Recreation facility design will be harmonious with the land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Where needed, and to the extent possible, natural materials (rocks, dead trees, etc.) will be used to delineate parking areas, road closures, camping areas, etc.	**Management Objective:** Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in Wildlife viewing, four-wheel driving, scenic driving, hunting: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying nature. ▪ Learning more about unique species and places. ▪ Enjoying going exploring on my own. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. ▪ Greater appreciation for public land and how managers care for it.	**Travel Management:** **REC-4-9** ✔ Limited OHV area; **REC-4-10** ✔ The management unit will be closed to motorized and mechanical vehicular use and travel from November 15 through April 30 annually to prevent disturbance to wintering big game or breeding/strutting sage-grouse. Closure could be extended an additional 30-days if warranted by circumstances. **REC-4-11** Motorized and mechanical vehicle travel on public lands in this management unit will be limited to the designated routes as shown on Figure 2-4 from May 1 through November 14, unless necessary to extend closure another 30 days. **Camping: REC-4-12** ✔ Dispersed camping will be allowed. **Stay Limit: REC-4-13** ✔ 14 days will be allowed unless special regulations (such as seasonal closures, etc.) are in effect. **Campfires: REC-4-14** ✔ Campfires must be in fire pans. ✔ Portable stoves and grills will be permitted in dispersed camping areas. **Maximum Group Size: REC-4-15** ✔ 25 people; **REC-4-16** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events: REC-4-17** ✔ Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will not be permitted in the management unit or this zone. **Target Shooting: REC-4-18** ✔ Will not be permitted on public lands within the NCA boundary. At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the management unit outside the NCA boundary. Target shooting will not be authorized on public lands in the remainder of the planning area in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the planning area, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would will occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be complied with. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.

Table 2-2.4a
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 4 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU4** ***(continued)***		Household and Community: ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. ▪ Better understanding of wildlife's contribution to my own quality of life. ▪ Improved understanding of our community's dependency and impact on public lands. Economic: ▪ Positive contributions to local economic stability. ▪ Reduced impacts of big game on private land hay fields. Environmental: ▪ Greater protection of sage-grouse habitat and critical big game winter range. ▪ Reduced wildlife harassment by recreation users. ▪ Reduced spread of invasive species (i.e., pinyon-junipers). ▪ Great community ownership and stewardship of natural resources.	**Hunting: REC-4-19** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **REC-4-20** ✔ Continue coordination with CDOW to increase visitor contacts during hunting season. **REC-4-21** ✔ No-hunting zones will be established in NCA areas in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits*: REC-4-22** ✔ BLM will continue to manage 5-7 commercial permits for big game hunting in Recreation Management Zone. ***New Commercial Permits:* REC-4-23** ✔ BLM will develop commercial use needs assessment for providing additional outfitted services such as jeep tours, horseback rides, etc. **REC-4-24** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities appropriate to zone. ***Private Permits*: REC-4-25** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-4-26** Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing*: REC-4-27** BLM boundary and directional signs will be installed at major road intersections. ***New:*** **REC-4-28** East Side Scenic Overlook (on Wilderness rim near Smith Fork Creek in Section 30, Township 15 South, Range 93 West, 6 Principal Meridian, Delta County). **REC-4-29** NCA entrance signs and informational kiosks will be installed at major NCA access roads. **REC-4-30** Additional boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. **REC-4-31** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; contain use within Recreation Management Zone ; protect special status species, unique soils, etc.; and allow for success of restoration measures.

Table 2-2.4a
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 4 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 4 (Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA) **Recreation Management Zone MU4** ***(continued)***			**Trail and Road Construction/Maintenance:** **REC-4-32** ✔ BLM will allow new road construction only if needed to resolve resource concerns or user conflicts. **REC-4-33** BLM will continue to maintain designated roads at current maintenance levels and road standards. **REC-4-34** Areas impacted by unauthorized use will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. **REC-4-35** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-4-36** ✔ East Side Scenic Overlook – VRM Class I. Relict tree stand on Black Ridge – VRM II. Remaining areas – VRM Classes III and IV. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-4-37** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 4:	**REC-4-38** ✔ Set carrying capacity for NCA areas within zones based on desired resource conditions and visitor satisfaction levels. **REC-4-39** ✔ Implement additional management actions if needed to ensure recreation use, including motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular use, within Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA is consistent with ACEC objectives. Actions could include: special stipulations for commercial, competitive (outside NCA), and organized groups permits; seasonal restrictions on camping and/or other recreational activities in lek areas to protect strutting birds; and allow camping, firewood gathering, etc., only in designated areas in critical habitat areas. **REC-4-40** ✔ Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions. **REC-4-41** ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Educate users about responsible travel on designated routes and regulations regarding resource damage. **REC-4-42** ✔ Implement low-impact use regulations for camping, campfires, sanitation, etc. **REC-4-43** ✔ Educate users about low impact camping, "Tread Lightly," and other land use ethics. **REC-4-44** ✔ Develop maximum group size and vehicle limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial, organized group, and competitive permits based on carrying capacities, resource conditions, etc. **REC-4-45** ✔ Provide maps, brochures, and website information. **REC-4-46** ✔ Continue coordinating with the Park Service to provide and improve visitor information, signing, and compliance and annually fund the joint Park Service/BLM Visitor Guide. Where feasible, BLM will coordinate joint funding for permanent and seasonal positions to increase ground presence and coordination between the agencies to improve customer service and user education.		

Table 2-2.5
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 5 Land Ownership: 3,785 acres of public surface; 4% of planning area public lands

Management and long-term preservation of the Winterfat Shrub Steppe, Juniper-Grass Savanna, and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland native communities will be emphasized in this 3,785-acre management unit. This unit is located in the north-central portion of the planning area along the western boundary of the Wilderness. This area has been identified and mapped by The Nature Conservancy for long-term preservation of the Winterfat Shrub Steppe, Juniper-Grass Savanna, and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland within the Southern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem.

This management unit protects occurrences of the native plant communities listed above. These communities protect not only the major plant species that define them, but also provide habitat for numerous associated plant and animal species. When The Nature Conservancy's recommended conservation areas are taken together, they should ensure protection of the biodiversity within the Southern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem, with the least amount of land conserved. The area identified in this management unit helps to fulfill this planning area's contribution to maintaining the ecosystem's biodiversity.

Threats to this unit's values include vegetation treatments for fuels reduction or wildlife habitat improvement and weed invasions, especially annual weeds like cheatgrass (Anisantha tectorum) *that are already present and are exacerbated by livestock grazing. Open OHV designation is another threat.*

This management unit will be managed as the Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA. Rationale for this unit is provided in Appendix E of the PRMP (BLM 2004). Specific management measures will include the following:

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 5)	
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-5-1**	Public lands in the management unit will not be available for surface linear ROWs of any kind, nor aerial ROWs or special use permits occupying more than 100 square feet and needing vehicular access constructed, or needing existing vehicular access maintained for distances greater than 200 feet.
	LAND-5-2	Buried ROWs will be authorized on a case-by-case basis along previously disturbed areas along existing travel routes.
	LAND-5-3	Mitigation will be required in all ROW applications to meet the objectives of this management unit. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis if the proposal supports meeting management unit objectives.
Access and Transportation	**TRAN-5-1**	Additional road construction that will fragment the plant communities of concern will not be authorized or permitted in this unit.
Vegetation	**VEG-5-1**	Vegetation treatments will be avoided.
	VEG-5-2	Brushbeating treatments will be permitted only for the purpose of restoring or rejuvenating the plant communities that have been damaged by past management.
	VEG-5-3	Seeding mixes that abide by grazing management guidelines will be followed.
	VEG-5-4	BLM will use native seed unless a non-native plant species will be more capable of achieving and maintaining proper functioning condition without degrading the native plant community.
	VEG-5-5	Necessary field work will be conducted to better map where the native plant communities occur. Field mapping of specific communities of interest will be conducted.

Table 2-2.5
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use	Land Use Planning Decision (Note: There are no Implementation Decisions for any resources/resource uses, other than Recreation, in Management Unit 5)	
Forestry	**FOR-5-1**	This unit will be closed to fuelwood cutting except if treatment were used to restore or rejuvenate the plant communities that have been damaged by past management.
Special Status Species	**SSS-5-1**	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, including Mancos shale areas for Gunnison's prairie dog, Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and the kit fox, a state-listed endangered species.
	SSS-5-2	Field work will be conducted in the unit to better map where the native plant communities occur.
Rangeland	**RANG-5-1**	Livestock grazing will be monitored and managed to ensure concerned plant communities are not being damaged, either through consumption or through noxious weed invasions.
	RANG-5-2	In the area identified by The Nature Conservancy for native plant communities (in the vicinity of Duncan and Bobcat Roads), livestock grazing will be monitored and managed to ensure concerned plant communities are not being damaged, either through consumption or through noxious weed invasions.
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.5a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.5a below for Management Unit 5. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones.
Education and Interpretation	**EDU-5-1**	Interpretive actions will be used to inform the public about the importance of native plant communities in general, as well as these communities specifically.

Table 2-2.5a
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 5 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) (3,785 acres, all of which are in NCA). **Recreation Management Zone MU5:** **Activities:** On-route four-wheel driving, motorcycle and mountain bike trail riding, hiking and horseback riding.	***Physical Setting:*** Middle country adjacent to Wilderness rim on east side; largely unmodified and natural-appearing; resource modifications evident but harmonious with surroundings. ***Number Social Encounters:*** Low contact away from roads or developed sites (see 6-15 groups per day); moderate to high degree of contact with others on roads and in developed sites (see 15 –30 groups). ***Managerial Setting:*** Vehicle patrols and increased visitor contacts. Facility design will be harmonious with the land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in on-route four-wheel driving, single-track motorcycle and mountain bike riding, hiking and horseback riding to and along the Wilderness rim: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes and outstanding scenery. ▪ Enjoying having readily available access through this area. ▪ Being able to enjoy the Wilderness without being in it. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Improved wilderness awareness and appreciation for non-Wilderness users. ▪ Greater understanding of and commitment to sustaining the area's physical/managerial diversity. ▪ Increased sensitivity to and acceptance of different recreation users.	**Travel Management: REC-5-1** ✔ Limited OHV area; Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel will be permitted only on the designated routes shown on Figure 2-4. ***Black Ridge Trail (Wilderness rim):*** **REC-5-2** ✔ Motorized passenger vehicles (cars and trucks) and 4-wheel ATVs on Black Ridge Trail (Wilderness rim) will be restricted to double-track road sections of trail located north of Ute Trailhead. **REC-5-3** ✔ Motorcycles, horses, mountain bikes, and hikers will be allowed on both double-track road and single-track portions of Black Ridge Trail (Wilderness rim) trail through entire management unit. **Camping: REC-5-4** ✔ Camping will be allowed in developed sites at Ute, Duncan, and Bobcat Trailheads, and at dispersed sites. Camping could be eliminated or restricted to designated sites if monitoring shows adverse impacts to native plant communities. **Stay Limit: REC-5-5** ✔ 7 days **Campfires: REC-5-6** ✔ No open fires will be permitted, no bonfire parties, etc. **REC-5-7** ✔ Campers will be required to use grills provided at developed sites, stoves, and/or fire pans. **Maximum Group Size: REC-5-8** ✔ 25 people; **REC-5-9** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events: REC-5-10** ✔ Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will not be permitted in this management unit. **Target Shooting: REC-5-11** ✔ Will not be permitted in this management unit. **Hunting: REC-5-12** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **REC-5-13** ✔ BLM will continue coordination with CDOW to increase visitor contacts during hunting season.

Table 2-2.5a
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 5 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) **Recreation Management Zone MU5** ***(continued)***		Household and Community: ▪ Improved cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle. ▪ Greater understanding of the importance of recreation-tourism to our community. Economic: ▪ Ability to demonstrate the social value of multiple use recreation to the local economy. Environmental: ▪ Increased protection of natural landscapes ▪ Greater protection of area cultural resources. ▪ Simultaneously sustaining wilderness and motorized environments.	**REC-5-14** ✔ No-hunting zones will be established in NCA areas in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits*: REC-5-15** ✔ None ***New Commercial Permits:* REC-5-16** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities will be appropriate to zone. ***Private Permits*: REC-5-17** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-5-18** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-5-19** ✔ Chukar, Bobcat, Duncan, and Ute Wilderness access roads. **REC-5-20** ✔ Duncan Trailhead facilities**:** parking, fee and information kiosk, toilet, 1 picnic table, and visitor register. **REC-5-21** ✔ Ute Trailhead facilities**:** parking, fee and information kiosk, toilet, 2 picnic tables, and visitor register. **REC-5-22** ✔ Black Ridge Trail (multiple use trail with single track and four-wheel drive sections) ***New:*** **REC-5-23** Trailhead signs for Black Ridge Trail will be installed at major trail/road intersections. **REC-5-24** BLM will continue maintenance of trailhead facilities to meet visitor needs and safety needs. This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **REC-5-25** Boundary, information, regulatory, and directional signs will be installed where needed to provide direction, protect resources, and/or designate segments of trail systems for specific uses (i.e., multiple use, non-motorized, etc.). **REC-5-26** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; protect native communities, special status species, unique soils, cultural resources, etc; and allow success of restoration measures. **REC-5-27** BLM will continue to replace stolen and vandalized signs.

Table 2-2.5a
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 5 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 5 (Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA) **Recreation Management Zone MU5** ***(continued)***			**Trail and Road Construction and Maintenance:** **REC-5-28** BLM will conduct modifications (including rerouting, pullouts, etc.) of roads and/or trails where needed to reduce impacts to native plant communities. **REC-5-29** ✔ BLM will construct new roads as needed to reduce impacts to native plant communities. **REC-5-30** BLM will continue to maintain Bobcat, Duncan, Ute, four-wheel drive portions of Black Ridge Trail, and other designated routes at current levels and road standards. **REC-5-31** BLM will maintain single-track sections of trails to preserve riding experience and reduce off-road impacts to plant communities. **REC-5-32** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **REC-5-33** Areas impacted by unauthorized uses will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. **Visual Resource Management: REC-5-34** ✔ VRM Class III **REC-5-35** ✔ BLM will maintain visual setbacks (minimum 500 feet) adjacent to Bobcat, Duncan, and Ute access roads, trails, and developed recreation facilities. This will include relocating existing and restricting placement of new structures or facilities (stock tanks, bed grounds, reservoirs, etc. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: REC-5-36** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 5:	**REC-5-37** ✔ Set carrying capacity for NCA areas within zones based on desired resource conditions and visitor satisfaction levels. **REC-5-38** ✔ Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions. **REC-5-39** ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Educate users about responsible travel on designated routes and regulations regarding resource damage. **REC-5-40** ✔ Implement low-impact use regulations for camping, campfires, sanitation, etc. **REC-5-41** ✔ Educate users about low impact camping, "Tread Lightly," and other land use ethics. **REC-5-42** ✔ Develop maximum group size and vehicle limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial, organized group, and competitive permits based on carrying capacities, resource conditions, etc. **REC-5-43** ✔ Provide maps, brochures, and website information.		

Table 2-2.6
Management Unit 6 Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit

Management Unit 6 Land Ownership: 28,755 acres of public surface; 30% of planning area public lands
This 28,755-acre management unit is located throughout the planning area. Specific management measures will include the following:

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals	**LAND-6-1**	The 30 acres of BOR withdrawn lands within this management unit, north of Montrose, are technically closed to motorized and managed by the BOR in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 420.2 and a 1983 Interagency Agreement between the BLM and BOR. The lands are located within an area currently designated as open to motorized use. In this RMP, motorized and mechanical vehicular traffic on these lands will be limited to selected, designated routes. During the mapping and documentation process for water-related facilities and other agency withdrawn lands, BLM will pursue a supplemental agreement with BOR for management of the surface on these lands. In the interim, on public lands withdrawn for BOR project purposes, the BOR and the BLM will manage the lands in accordance with their 1983 Interagency Agreement.	
	LAND-6-2	The following 0.5-mile-wide ROW corridors are recommended to be located in various locations in this Unit. Refer to Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2 (see end of this chapter) for information and general locations. Mitigation will be required in all applications to meet the objectives of this management unit and other values that could be present. Map Key 1, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Along the western edge of the NCA and planning area, including all of West Peach Valley lands. The width of the corridor varies, and the corridor contains the West Peach Valley lands. The existing Tri-State 115 kV transmission line will be located in the southern portion of the corridor in this unit in the Candy Lane area on the western boundary of the NCA north of Falcon Road. This corridor extends into Management Units 2 and 3. Map Key 2, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Along the southernmost boundary of the planning area adjacent to and parallel to US Highway (US-) 50 east of Montrose. Map Key 3, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Parallel to CO-92, south of Crawford, along approximately two miles of public land.	

Table 2-2.6
Management Unit 6 Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Withdrawals *(continued)*	**LAND-6-2** *(continued)*	Map Key 4, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Along the south side of Red Canyon Creek. Measures to prevent damage and injury to sage-grouse during the crucial seasonal use periods (strutting, nesting, and potentially winter), such as raptor-proofing utility poles, or placing power lines in a horizontal array, will be required. Construction of ROWs in the Unit will be restricted during crucial periods for wintering deer and elk. Part of this corridor will be located in Management Unit 4. Map Key 5, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Along the northeast boundary of the planning area and NCA, and parallel to Smith Fork Creek and canyon. Measures to prevent damage and injury to sage-grouse during the crucial seasonal use periods (strutting, nesting, and potentially winter), such as raptor-proofing utility poles, placing power lines in a horizontal array, will be required. Construction of ROWs in the Unit will be restricted during crucial periods for wintering deer and elk. This corridor will be located adjacent to Unit 4. Map Key 7, Table 2-3 (at end of this chapter) Along public lands at "Jones Draw" switchbacks on CO-347.	
Minerals and Energy Resources	**MIN-6-1**	Federal oil and gas estate in the unit will be available for leasing subject to the following stipulations. See Appendix E for more information, including for exception that could be applied. 1) A TLS within crucial deer and elk winter range that will prohibit all oil and gas activities except those related to operation and maintenance of existing oil and gas production facilities, from November 15 through April 30, to prevent disturbance and stress to wintering big game and to help prevent big game from foraging on lower elevation private lands and crops (stipulation UB-4). 2) An NSO stipulation within a two-mile radius of Gunnison sage-grouse lek sites to prevent disturbance to leks and strutting/dancing grouse (stipulation GGNCA-1). 3) An NSO stipulation to protect threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plants and their potential habitat that may be discovered on public lands outside the NCA (stipulation GGNCA-11). 4) A TLS within sage-grouse winter range that will prohibit all oil and gas activities except those related to operation and maintenance of existing oil and gas production facilities from November 15 through April 30 to prevent disturbance and stress to wintering grouse (stipulation GGNCA-8).	

Table 2-2.6
Management Unit 6 Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Minerals and Energy Resources *(continued)*	**MIN-6-1** *(continued)*	5) An NSO stipulation in the existing 161-acre Fairview ACEC/RNA to protect known populations of and habitat for Clay-loving wild buckwheat and Adobe penstemon (stipulation UB-2). 6) An NSO stipulation within riparian areas that contain Gunnison sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat (stipulation GGNCA-12). 7) A TLS from March 1 through May 31 on public lands with Mancos shale soils (highly erodible soil areas) where low soil productivity will prolong or disallow revegetation (stipulation UB-1).	
Special Status Species	**SSS-6-1**	As appropriate to enhance management, and if information is available, habitat management objectives will be included in follow-on activity planning and management plans for special status species and habitat in the unit, specifically within Mancos shale areas for Gunnison's prairie dog, Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and kit fox, a state-listed endangered species.	**SSS-6-2** Populations of sensitive plant species either side of an existing irrigation canal and access road will be fenced to prevent damage or other impacts to plant specimens or habitat.
Recreation	*see Table 2-2.6a*	Recreation management decisions are shown in Table 2-2.6a below for Management Unit 6. See Figure 2-7 (at the end of this chapter) for a map showing recreation management zones MU6-1 and MU6-2.	
	REC-6-1	Other than on a single designated route, the remainder of the Fairview ACEC/RNA will remain closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle use.	**REC-6-2** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular travel in the existing Fairview ACEC/RNA in this unit will be limited to a single, designated route used for maintenance of an irrigation canal and facilities.

Table 2-2.6
Management Unit 6 Decisions Applicable to Entire Management Unit *(continued)*

Resource or Resource Use		Land Use Planning Decision	Implementation-level Decision
Recreation *(continued)*	**REC-6-3**	At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the planning area only in those portions of Management Units 2, 4, and 6 located outside the NCA boundary. See the recreation-specific decisions for these management units below. Target shooting will not be authorized on public lands in the remainder of the planning area in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the planning area, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization will occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be followed. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.	
Special Management Areas	**SMA-6-1**	The 161-acre existing Fairview ACEC/RNA/Colorado State Natural Area in this unit will be maintained for the protection and management of Clay-loving wild buckwheat and Adobe penstemon.	
Education and Interpretation	**EDU-6-1**	The BLM will collaborate with school district RE-1J to evaluate the Fairview ACEC/RNA for potential as an outdoor classroom. A collaborative strategy will be developed to cooperatively use lands for day-use educational and interpretive purposes.	

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-1: West Common Lands (approximately 16,000 acres).** ***Common Management lands in West Peach Valley Lands and on the West slope of NCA.*** **Activities:** Scenic driving, four-wheel driving, motorcycle and mountain bike trail riding, hiking and horseback riding.	***Physical Setting:*** Middle country with small sections of Rural next to private lands, motorized, largely unmodified and natural-appearing; resource modifications evident but harmonious with surroundings ***Number Social Encounters:*** Low contact away from roads or developed sites (see 6-10 groups per day); moderate degree of contact with others on roads and in developed sites (see 11-15 groups.) ***Managerial Setting:*** Vehicle patrols and increased visitor contacts. Facility design will be harmonious with the land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape.	Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in on-route four-wheel-drive driving, single-track motorcycle and mountain bike riding, hiking and horseback riding to and along the Wilderness rim: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying having easy access to natural landscapes and outstanding scenery. ▪ Enjoying having readily available access through this area. ▪ Being able to enjoy the Wilderness without being in it. **Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Improved wilderness awareness and appreciation for non-Wilderness users. ▪ Greater understanding of and commitment to sustaining the area's physical/managerial diversity. ▪ Increased sensitivity to and acceptance of different recreation users.	**Travel Management: REC-6-4** ✔ Limited OHV area; **REC-6-5** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel will be permitted on designated routes only as shown on Figure 2-4. **Camping: REC-6-6** No camping on west side of Peach Valley and Chukar Roads to reduce impacts to Mancos shale soils and special status species. Dispersed camping will be allowed east side of Peach Valley and Chukar Roads. **Stay Limit:** **REC-6-7** Dawn to Dusk (west side of Peach Valley Road) **REC-6-8** 7 days (East side of Peach Valley and Chukar Roads). **Campfires: REC-6-9** No open fires will be permitted, no bonfire parties, etc. **REC-6-10** Campers will be required to use grills provided at developed sites, stoves, and/or fire pans and charcoal fires. **Maximum Group Size: REC-6-11** 25 people; **REC-6-12** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events: REC-6-13** ✔ Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will not be permitted on public lands in the recreation management zone inside the boundary of the NCA. Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will be permitted outside the NCA on a case-by-case basis. Maximum group size limits for participants and spectators, vehicle types and number limits, selection criteria, special terms, conditions, and other stipulations for commercial, organized groups, and competitive permits will be developed based on individual proposals, safety, site capacity, resource conditions, user satisfaction levels, and other factors such as season and type of use. Permit issuance and permit terms and conditions will be subject to management discretion and availability of BLM staff and other resources to administer, conduct compliance on, and monitor impacts of events.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-1: West Common Lands** ***(continued)***		Household and Community: ▪ Improved cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle. ▪ Greater understanding of the importance of recreation-tourism to our community. Economic: ▪ Ability to demonstrate the social value of multiple use recreation to the local economy. Environmental: ▪ Increased awareness of the area's natural and scenic qualities. ▪ Greater protection of area's unique adobe badlands landscapes. ▪ Simultaneously sustaining wilderness and motorized environments. ▪ Greater protection of sensitive plant and animal communities.	**Target Shooting: REC-6-14** ✔ Will not be permitted in this recreation management zone inside the NCA boundary. At BLM's discretion, target shooting on public lands may be authorized on public lands in the planning area in this recreation management zone (MU6-1) located outside the NCA boundary in order to provide a safe environment for all users in the zone and management unit, and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be complied with. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated. **Hunting: REC-6-15** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. BLM will continue coordination with CDOW to increase visitor contacts during hunting season. No-hunting zones will be established in NCA areas in cooperation with CDOW if determined necessary for visitor protection. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits*: REC-6-16** None ***New Commercial Permits:* REC-6-17** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities appropriate to zone. ***Private Permits*: REC-6-18** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-6-19** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing:*** **REC-6-20** Lower portions of Bobcat, Duncan, and Ute Roads. **REC-6-21** Chukar Road – includes non-Wilderness and cherry-stemmed Wilderness segments. **REC-6-22** OHV designation signs. **REC-6-23** NCA portal signs on Carnation and North Peach Valley Roads. **REC-6-24** Other primitive motorized roads and trails (no facilities) including: Eagle Valley, southern portions of Black Ridge Trail (rim trail) Chukar Geologic Area (horse trail); Wave and Eagle Jeep Trails, Red Rocks Trail, Dinosaur Road, Backdown Road, and Candy Lane.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-1: West Common Lands** ***(continued)***			***New:*** **REC-6-25** NCA entrance kiosks at NCA boundaries on Carnation and North Peach Valley Roads. **REC-6-26** Horse trailer parking and staging area on Ute Road near Peach Valley turnoff. **REC-6-27** Trailheads (kiosks and small parking areas)**:** Eagle Valley, Black Ridge Trail (rim Trail) Chukar Geologic Area (Horse Trail); Wave and Eagle Jeep Trails, and Red Rocks Trail. **REC-6-28** Boundary, information, regulatory, and directional signs where needed to provide direction, protect resources, and/or designate segments of trail systems for specific uses (i.e., multiple use, non-motorized, etc.). **REC-6-29** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; protect special status species, unique soils, etc; and allow success of restoration measures. **REC-6-30** Informational signing will be provided on the Black Ridge Trail where it intersects access roads (Ute Road, Duncan Road, and Bobcat Road). **Trail or Road Construction:** **REC-6-31** BLM will relocate lower portion of Ute Road to reduce conflicts with private lands. **REC-6-32** BLM will relocate segment of Red Rocks trail to keep motorized use out of National Park Wilderness. **REC-6-33** BLM will make modifications to existing trail systems, resource protection measures, etc. where necessary to better meet NCA management objectives. **Trail and Road Maintenance:** **REC-6-34** BLM will continue to maintain Eagle Valley Trail, Black Ridge Trail, Red Rocks Trail, Chukar Geologic Area Trail (Horse Trail), at existing maintenance levels. **REC-6-35** BLM will continue to maintain Bobcat, Duncan, Ute, Chukar, Dinosaur, Backdown, Wave, Eagle, Candy Lane Roads and four-wheel drive portions of Black Ridge Trail at existing maintenance levels and road standards. **REC-6-36** BLM will continue to gravel first half of Chukar Road up to Wilderness boundary as needed to reduce rutting and erosion of Mancos shale soils. **REC-6-37** BLM will continue to maintain Wilderness cherry-stemmed portion of Chukar Road at current levels that protect resources and address visitor safety and access problems. **REC-6-38** Areas impacted by unauthorized uses will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-1: West Common Lands** ***(continued)***			**REC-6-39** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management:** **REC-6-40** ✔ Outside NCA – VRM Class III. **REC-6-41** ✔ Within NCA – VRM Class II. **REC-6-42** ✔ BLM will maintain visual setbacks (minimum 500 feet) adjacent to primary access roads, trails, and developed recreation facilities. This includes relocating existing and restricting placement of new structures or facilities (stock tanks, bed grounds, reservoirs, etc.). **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-6-43** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-2: East and Southwest Common Lands (approximately 13,000 acres).** ***Common Management lands located within the east side of the NCA, Fruitland Mesa, Jones Draw, and East Flat Top. Area (east of Landfill/Bostwick Park Road)*** **Activities:** Hunting , hiking and horseback riding.	***Physical Setting:*** Predominantly Middle country with some sections of backcountry in Black Ridge and Green Mountain areas of NCA; motorized, largely unmodified and natural-appearing; resource modifications evident but harmonious with surroundings. ***Number Social Encounters:*** Little contact (2-4 groups per day) except during big game hunting season when there is moderate to high degree of contact with others on roads and in dispersed campsites (see 15-20 groups.)	Management Objective: Provide 80% of participants moderate to high (3-4 on 4-point probability scale) attainment of the following outcomes while engaged in Hunting and on-route four-wheel driving: **Experiences:** ▪ Enjoying going exploring on my own. ▪ Developing your skills and abilities. ▪ Enjoying escape from crowds and people.	**Travel Management:** **REC-6-44** ✔ Limited OHV area; **REC-6-45** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel will be permitted on designated routes only as shown on Figure 2-4. ***East Flat Top Day Use Area:*** **REC-6-46** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular use will be permitted on designated access roads only as shown on Figure 2-4. ***Fairview ACEC/RNA (existing):*** **REC-6-47** Motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicle travel within existing Fairview ACEC/RNA will be permitted on a single, existing, designated route along a canal. The route will be posted for this use. **REC-6-48** ✔ Remainder of public lands in Fairview ACEC/RNA will be closed to motorized and non-motorized, mechanical vehicular use to prevent damage to special status plant species. **REC-6-49** ✔ Designated routes in this zone will be further fine tuned and refined in a collaborative process with the assistance and input of a BLM/citizen work group.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-2: East Common Lands** ***(continued)***	***Managerial Setting:*** Vehicle patrols and increased visitor contacts. Land management practices, such as grazing, vegetation treatments are evident but tend to fit in with natural landscape. Recreation facility design will be harmonious with the land and minimum necessary to meet management objectives and support managed activities. Where needed, and to the extent possible, natural materials (rocks, dead trees, etc.) will be used to delineate parking areas, road closures, camping areas, etc.	**Benefits:** Individual: ▪ Enjoying going exploring on my/our own. ▪ Improved understanding of our communities' dependency and impact on public lands. ▪ Greater appreciation for public land and how managers care for it. Household and Community: ▪ Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Economic: ▪ Positive contributions to local economic stability. Environmental: ▪ Greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features (i.e., relict trees, native plant communities, microbiotic crusts, etc.). ▪ Greater protection of critical big game winter range, sage-grouse, and kit fox habitat. ▪ Reduced wildlife harassment by recreation users. ▪ Reduced spread of invasive species (i.e., pinyon-junipers).	**Camping: REC-6-50** ✔ Dispersed camping will be allowed except in East Flat Top and Black Ridge relict tree day use areas. **Stay Limit:** **REC-6-51** ✔ Dawn to Dusk (East Flat Top Day Use Area, Black Ridge relict tree area) **REC-6-52** ✔ 14 days – other areas **Campfires: REC-6-53** Campers in NCA areas will be required to use grills, stoves, or charcoal in fire pans. No campfires or firewood gathering will be allowed in East Flat Top day use area or relict tree areas. **Maximum Group Size: REC-6-54** ✔ 25 people; **REC-6-55** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Competitive Events: REC-6-56** ✔ Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will not be permitted on public lands in this recreation management zone within the NCA. Motorized and non-motorized competitive events will be permitted in this zone outside the NCA on a case-by-case basis. Maximum group size limits for participants and spectators, vehicle types and number limits, selection criteria, special terms, conditions, and other stipulations for commercial, organized groups, and competitive permits will be developed based on individual proposals, safety, site capacity, resource conditions, user satisfaction levels, and other factors such as season and type of use. Permit issuance and permit terms and conditions will be subject to management discretion and availability of BLM staff and other resources to administer, conduct compliance on, and monitor impacts of events. **Target Shooting: REC-6-57** ✔ Will not be permitted on public lands within NCA boundary , or at Jones Draw, or East Flat Top Day Use Area. **REC-6-58** ✔ Outside the NCA, or at Jones Draw, or East Flat Top Day Use Area, at BLM's discretion, target shooting may be authorized to provide a safe environment for all users and to protect resources, health, and property. Authorization would occur according to BLM and other applicable regulations. Special operating procedures and local BLM regulations will be established and posted. Patrols by law enforcement personnel will be conducted to help ensure compliance with this decision. All BLM and other federal, state, and local regulations and best management practices will be obeyed. If monitoring results indicate resource or other problems are occurring, areas selected for this activity will be closed and rehabilitated.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-2: East Common Lands** ***(continued)***			**Hunting**: **REC-6-59** ✔ Will be allowed in accordance with state regulations. **REC-6-60** ✔ Continue coordination with CDOW to increase visitor contacts during hunting season. **Commercial and Private Permits:** ***Existing Commercial Permits***: **REC-6-61** ✔ BLM will continue to manage commercial permits for big game hunting in zone. ***New Commercial Permits:*** **REC-6-62** ✔ BLM will allow new permits if activities will be appropriate to zone. ***Private Permits***: **REC-6-63** ✔ Individual private permits will not be required. **REC-6-64** ✔ Organized group permits will be required for groups over 25 people. **Facilities and Signs:** ***Existing***: **REC-6-65** BLM boundary and directional at major road intersections. ***New:*** **REC-6-66** Jones Draw Recreation Site – BLM will improve existing pull-off and parking area, install new visitor information kiosk, and delineate 3 to 4 vehicle camping sites. **REC-6-67** NCA entrance signs and informational kiosks at major NCA access roads. **REC-6-68** Additional boundary, informational, regulatory, and directional signs. **REC-6-69** Fences, rock barricades, etc., to: protect private lands; contain use within Zone; protect special status species, unique soils, etc.; and allow for success of restoration measures. **REC-6-70** Trailhead kiosks and small parking area for new East Flat Top trails. **Trail and Road Construction/Maintenance**: **REC-6-71** ✔ BLM will continue coordination with Crawford State Park on development of non-motorized trail along Smith Fork Creek. BLM will allow construction of trail if determined to meet NCA management objectives. **REC-6-72** BLM will connect existing routes to provide loop trails and a diversity of experiences for non-motorized users in east Flat Top area.

Table 2-2.6a
Management Unit 6 Recreation Management Zone Decisions *(continued)*

Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-7)	Desired Future Conditions	Benefits and Values to be Maintained	Decisions and Management Actions ✔ denotes Land Use Planning Decisions; all others are Implementation Decisions
Management Unit 6 **Recreation Management Zone MU6-2: East Common Lands** ***(continued)***			**REC-6-73** ✔ BLM will develop one main access road into East Flat Top Day Use Area. BLM will close and reclaim unneeded roads and trail segments. **REC-6-74** ✔ BLM will allow new road construction only if needed to resolve resource concerns or user conflicts. **REC-6-75** BLM will continue to maintain designated roads at current maintenance levels and road standards. **REC-6-76** Areas impacted by unauthorized use will be closed, either temporarily or permanently as needed, and rehabilitated. **REC-6-77** This maintenance will be accomplished within funding capabilities and will be implemented where appropriate. **Visual Resource Management**: **REC-6-78** ✔ VRM Classes III and IV **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** **REC-6-79** ✔ ROS Unit III (semi-primitive motorized).
Administrative and Monitoring Actions for ALL Recreation Management Zones in Management Unit 6:	**REC-6-80** ✔ Set carrying capacity for NCA areas within zones based on desired resource conditions and visitor satisfaction levels. **REC-6-81** ✔ Develop and implement methods to assess and monitor visitor satisfaction levels and resource conditions. **REC-6-82** ✔ Set specific regulations for appropriate travel on designated routes to enhance visitor safety and protect resources. Educate users about responsible travel on designated routes and regulations regarding resource damage. **REC-6-83** ✔ Implement low-impact use regulations for camping, campfires, sanitation, etc. as needed. Educate users about low impact camping, "Tread Lightly," and other land use ethics. **REC-6-84** ✔ Develop maximum group size and vehicle limits, selection criteria, and special regulations for commercial, organized group, and competitive permits based on carrying capacities, resource conditions, etc. **REC-6-85** ✔ Provide maps, brochures, and website information. **REC-6-86** ✔ Continue coordinating with the Park Service to provide and improve visitor information, signing, and compliance and annually fund the joint Park Service/BLM Visitor Guide. Where feasible, BLM will coordinate joint funding for permanent and seasonal positions to increase ground presence and coordination between the agencies to improve customer service and user education.		

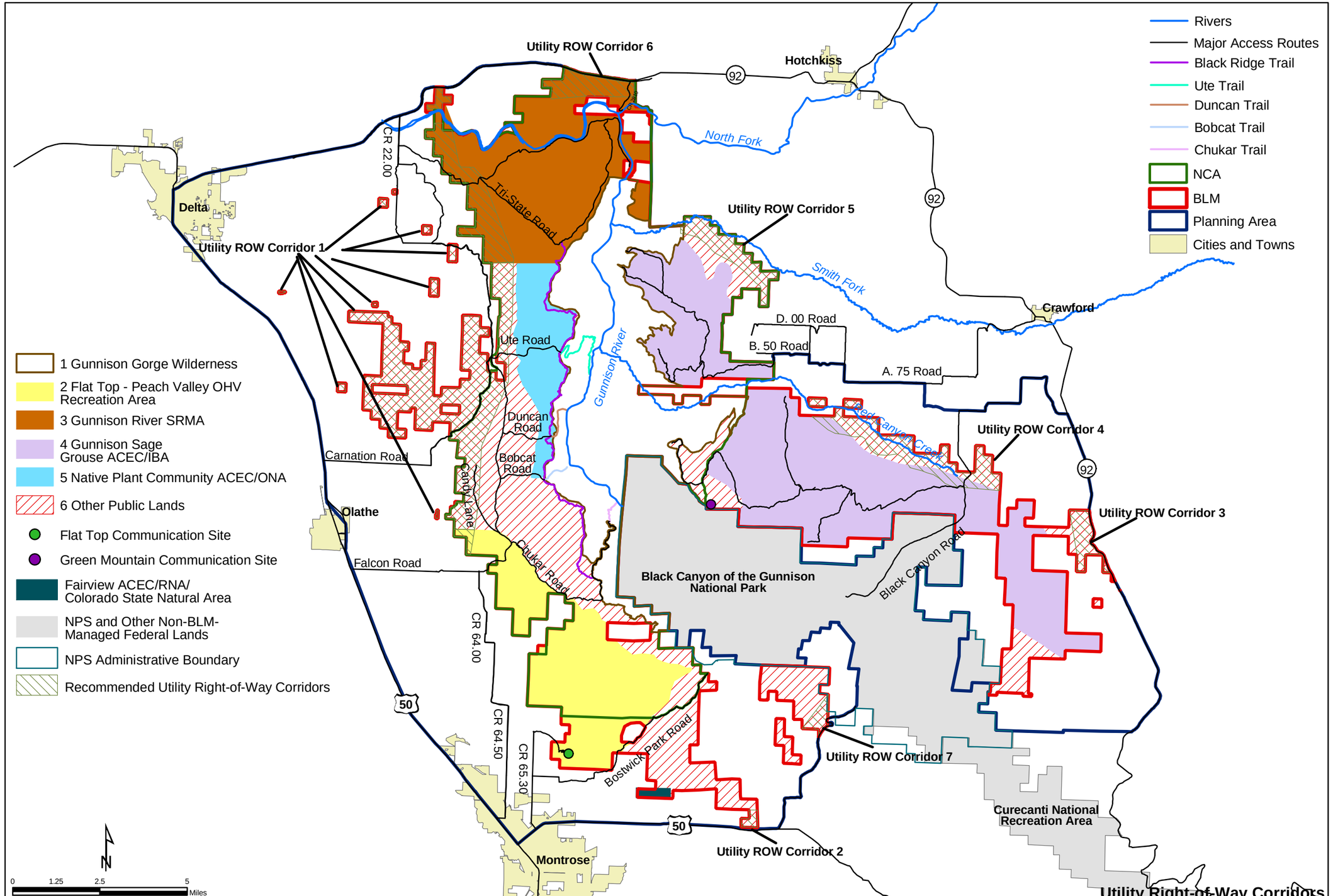
Table 2-3
Recommended Utility ROW Corridors on Public Lands

Figure 2-2 Key	Affected Management Units and General Location on Public Land	Width
1	Management Units 2, 3, and 6: Western edge of NCA and planning area, including all of West Peach Valley lands; contains part of existing Tri-State 115 kV transmission line.	Generally 0.5 mile
2	Management Unit 6: Southernmost boundary of planning area adjacent to and parallel to US-50 east of Montrose.	0.5 mile
3	Management Unit 6: Parallel to CO-92 south of Crawford.	0.5 mile
4	Management Units 4 and 6: Along northeast boundary of planning area and parallel to Red Canyon Creek.	Generally 0.5 mile
5	Management Unit 6: Along northeast boundary of planning area and NCA and parallel to Smith Fork Creek and canyon.	Generally 0.5 mile
6	Management Unit 3: Along the centerline of the existing Delta-Montrose Electric Association 46kV transmission line on the south side of CO-92; corridor would extend 0.25-mile either side of the line or as otherwise appropriate where the line is adjacent and parallel to CO-92.	Generally 0.5 mile

Table 2-4
Birds of Conservation Concern for the Southern Rockies and Colorado Plateau

Common Name	Scientific Name
Northern Harrier[1]	*Circus cyaneus*
Swainson's Hawk[1]	*Buteo swainsoni*
Ferruginous Hawk	*Buteo regalis*
Golden Eagle[1]	*Aquila chrysaetos*
Peregrine Falcon[1]	*Falco peregrinus*
Prairie Falcon[1]	*Falco mexicanus*
Gunnison Sage-Grouse[1,2]	*Centrocercus minimus*
Snowy Plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*
Mountain Plover	*Charadrius montanus*
Solitary Sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria*
Marbled Godwit	*Limosa fedoa*
Wilson's Phalarope[1]	*Phalaropus tricolor*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo[1]	*Coccyzus americanus*
Flammulated Owl	*Otus flammeolus*
Western Burrowing Owl[1]	*Athene cunicularia*
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*
Black Swift	*Cypseloides niger*
Lewis's Woodpecker[1]	*Melanerpes lewis*
Williamson's Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*
Gray Vireo[1]	*Vireo vicinior*
Pinyon Jay[1]	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*
Bendire's Thrasher	*Toxostoma bendirei*
Crissal Thrasher	*Toxostoma crissale*
Sprague's Pipit	*Anthus spragueii*
Virginia 's Warbler[1]	*Vermivora virginiae*
Black-throated Gray Warbler[1]	*Dendroica nigrescens*
Grace's Warbler	*Dendroica graciae*
Sage Sparrow[1]	*Amphispiza belli*
Chestnut-collared Longspur	*Calcarius ornatus*

Source: USFWS 2002b
[1] Species known to breed in the planning area or that have a high probability of occurrence in the habitats present in the planning area (Kingery 1998).
[2] Nonmigratory species



Utility Right-of-Way Corridors

Several right-of-way corridors, generally one-half mile in width, are designated on public lands in the planning area and NCA.

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

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Figure 2-2

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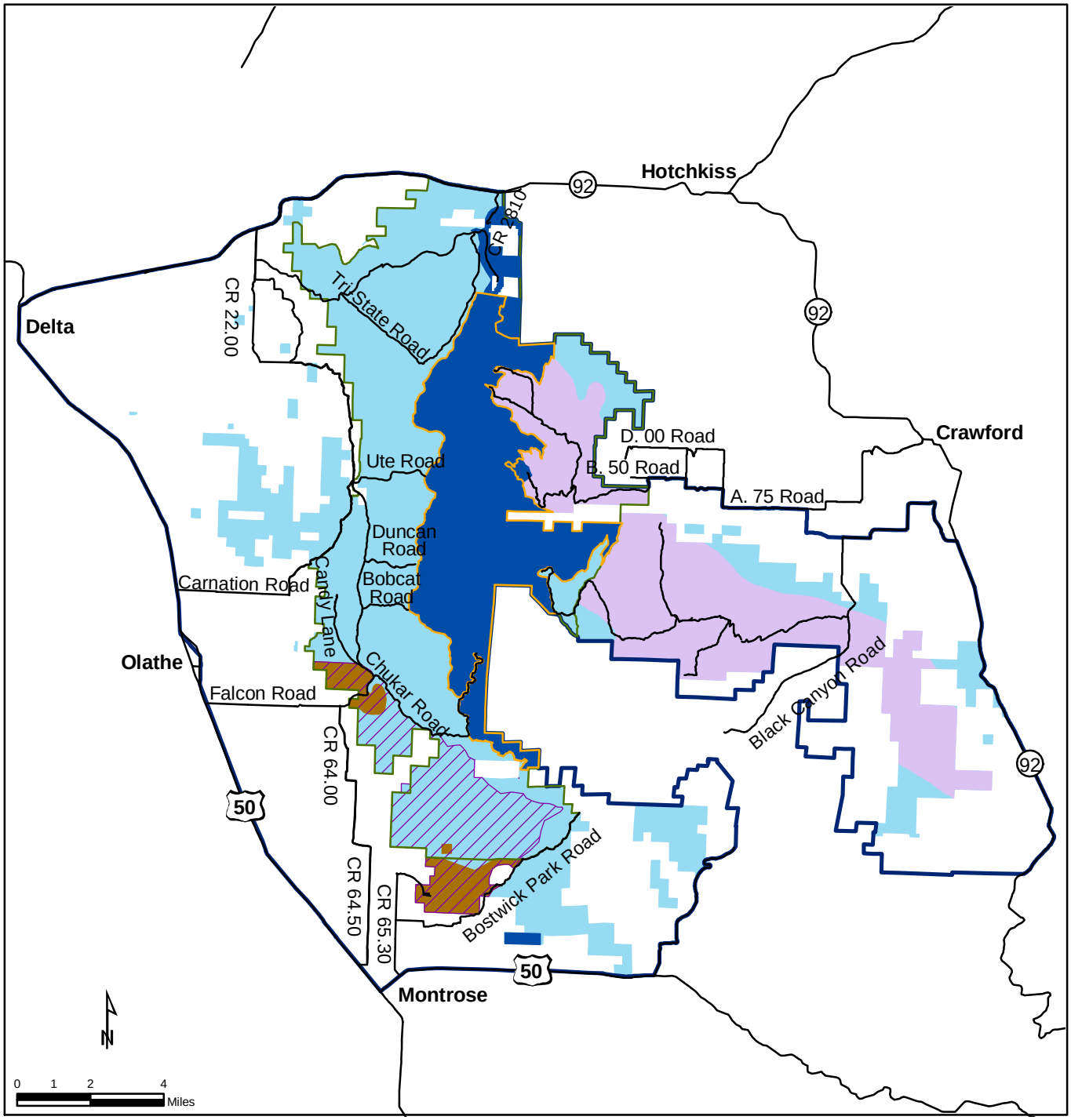

The RMP designates different types of allowed off-highway vehicle uses on public lands.

RMP OHV Use Designations
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Wilderness
- NCA
- Planning area
- Flat Top - Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area
- Major Access Routes
- Open OHV use
- Limited OHV use
- Closed from 11/15 to 4/30 annually; Limited to designated routes from 5/1 to 11/14 annually
- Closed to OHV use

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Figure 2-3

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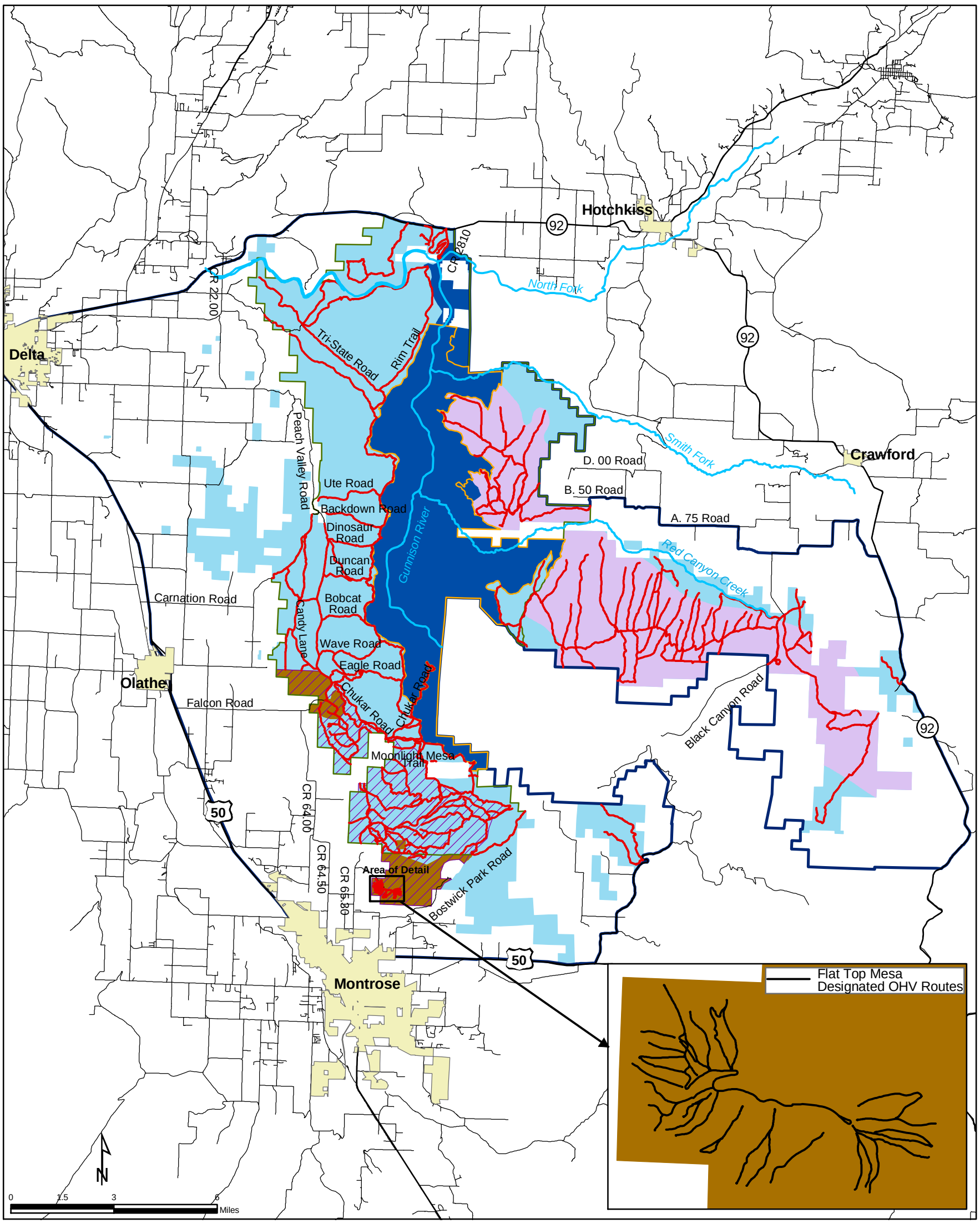

In limited areas, motorized and mechanized use are permitted only on the designated routes shown, which are preliminary and may not be all inclusive. Designated routes will be further refined with the assistance of a BLM/citizen work group. Until routes are refined, all motorized and mechanical travel are limited to the designated routes shown.

RMP Designated Routes in Limited Areas

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Major Access Routes
- Rivers
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Planning area
- Cities and towns
- Designated routes where motorized or mechanized use is allowed
- Open OHV use
- Limited OHV use
- Closed from 11/15 to 4/30 annually; Limited to designated routes from 5/1 to 11/14 annually
- Closed to OHV use
- Flat Top -Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area

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Figure 2-4

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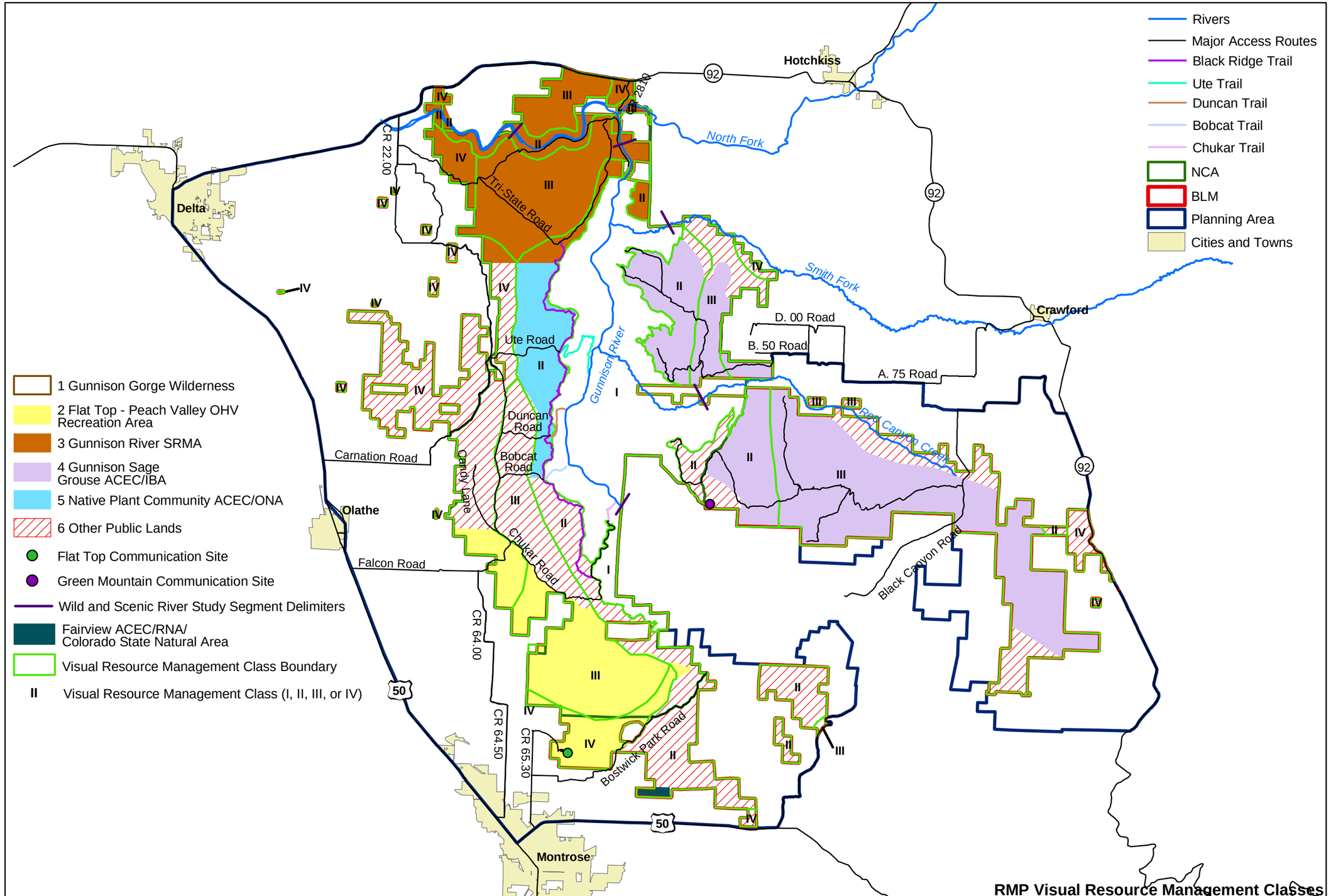

RMP Visual Resource Management Classes
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

The RMP manages visual resources on public lands according to the four classes in the BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) system.

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Figure 2-5

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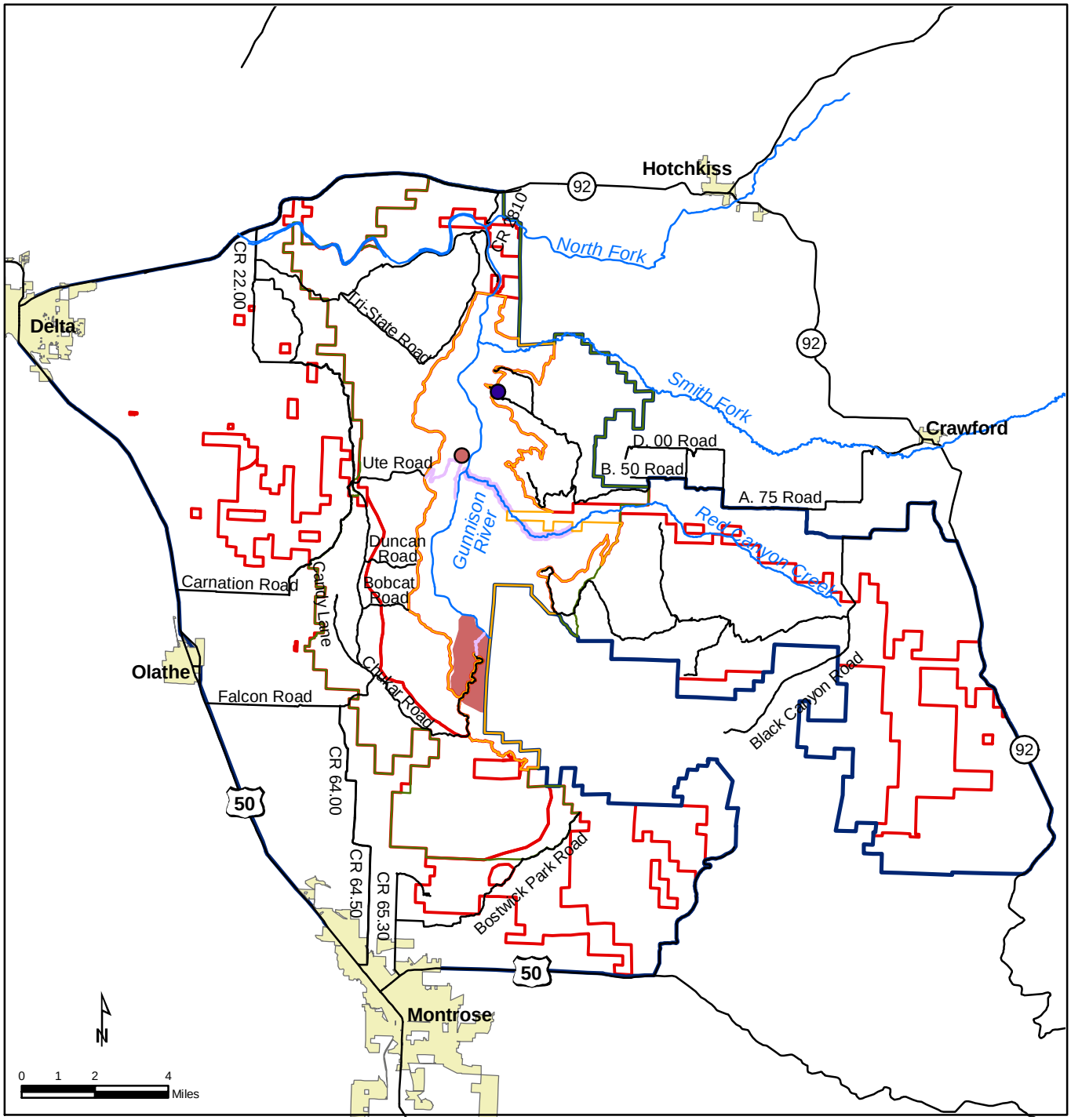

RMP Special Management Features
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- East Side Scenic Overlook
- Howell Village
- Ute, Red Canyon, Chukar Trails
- Ute, Red Canyon, Chukar Trails
- Ute Indian Fault Zone & Geologic Area
- Major Access Routes
- Major Rivers
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Planning Area
- BLM Lands
- Cities and Towns

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Figure 2-6

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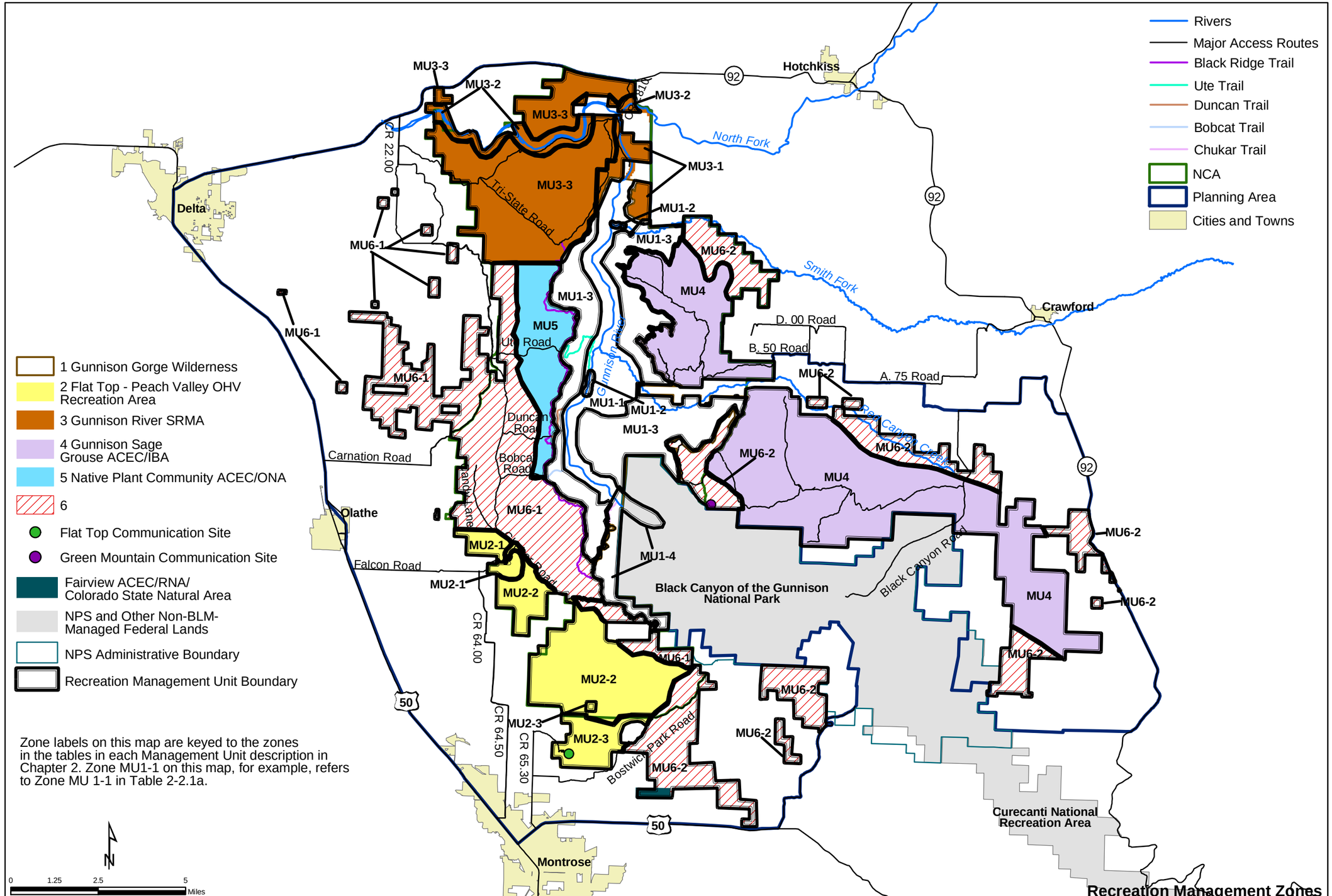

Smaller recreation management zones are established within each larger management unit. Each zone is managed per a management objective.

Recreation Management Zones

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure 2-7

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CHAPTER 3
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MODIFICATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Implementation of the RMP begins when the Colorado BLM State Director signs the ROD. Many land use planning decisions, such as land use allocation decisions and special designations (e.g., ACECs), are implemented or become effective upon approval of the RMP. Management actions that require additional site-specific project planning will require further environmental analysis and are discussed below in Section 3.2.

A detailed, decision-specific implementation and funding schedule will be completed following approval of the RMP. It will contain detailed implementation and monitoring plans and schedules necessary to implement all decisions in the RMP. It is anticipated that several follow-on activity plans would be prepared during implementation of the RMP.

3.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During implementation of the RMP, additional documentation to comply with NEPA could be required. Land use planning decisions that are implemented upon approval of the RMP do not require any further environmental analysis or documentation. Implementation decisions that require preparation of activity plans, such as interpretive plans, communication sites, or transportation plans, for example, would require additional environmental analysis or documentation. Individual management actions requiring additional site-specific planning as funding becomes available also would require further environmental analysis and documentation. These actions would be in accordance with the decisions established in the RMP. Environmental documentation can vary from a statement of conformance with the ROD to more-complex documents that analyze several alternatives. All such documents will be prepared with the appropriate level of public input.

3.3 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

This RMP was developed based on the ecosystem management approach. The ecosystem management approach focuses on the ecological system instead of a single species or single resource. Thus, a natural resource is not viewed as a thing or an object but as a function that a thing or an object may perform or as an operation in which it may take part within the system (Zimmerman 1951). The art of ecosystem management is managing the system to maximize the functions of resources for predetermined desired conditions. Before one can implement ecosystem management, two inherent rules must be understood. First, natural ecosystems are incredibly complex and our understanding of them is limited (Leslie et al. 1996). Second, unlike tangible objects (for example, trees), resources (for example, timber) change in response to ecological, social, and institutional events, including the following:

- Societal tastes and values;
- Knowledge;
- Technology;
- Laws and institutions; and
- The ecosystem (Salazar and Lee 1990).

Thus, the greatest hurdle to overcome in effective ecosystem management is uncertainty. To mitigate uncertainty, the BLM will use adaptive management.

Adaptive management recognizes that there is incomplete data when dealing with natural resources and that through continued research and monitoring of the effects of management practices, new information will be developed. This information can be reevaluated and incorporated into the management plan, and practices can be adjusted accordingly. Thus, adaptive management is the "process of implementing policy decisions as scientifically driven management experiments that test predictions and assumptions in management plans and that use the resulting information to improve plans" (Noss and Cooperider 1994). The adaptive management process is illustrated in Figure 3-1.

3.4 MONITORING

Monitoring is an essential component of the adaptive management strategy. Monitoring data is used to assess resource conditions, identify resource conflicts, determine if resource objectives are being met, and periodically refine and update desired conditions and management strategies. The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-9) require monitoring of RMPs on a continual basis with formal evaluations conducted at periodic intervals. The RMP decisions in Chapter 2 incorporate monitoring measures for a variety of resources. As discussed in Section 3.1, the implementation and funding schedule that will be completed following approval of the RMP will incorporate detailed monitoring plans and schedules necessary to implement RMP decisions.

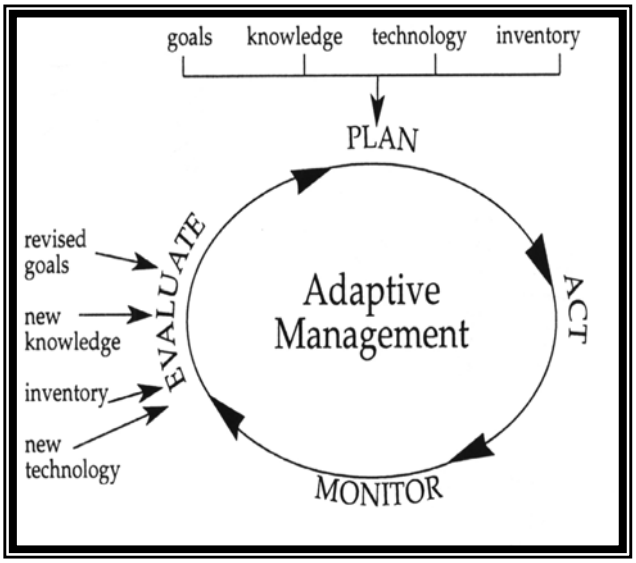

Figure 3-1: Adaptive Management Strategy

3.5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN MODIFICATION

The Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP will be kept up to date through approved plan modification procedures including plan maintenance, plan amendments, or plan revision. The appropriate type of plan modification will be determined by monitoring and comprehensive land use plan evaluation.

3.5.1 Plan Maintenance

RMP maintenance is the process of further refining or documenting a previously approved decision in an RMP (43 CFR 1610.5-4). The scope of resource uses or restrictions cannot be expanded, and the terms, conditions, or decisions of the approved RMP cannot be changed. Plan maintenance is a continual process to ensure the plan reflects the current status of decision implementation and knowledge of resource conditions.

3.5.2 Plan Amendments

RMP amendments are prepared to change one ore more of the terms, conditions, or decisions of the approved RMP (43 CFR 1610.5-5). An RMP may be amended to consider a new proposal or action that does not conform to the RMP; implement new or revised policy that changes land use planning decisions; respond to new, intensified, or changed uses on public lands; or consider new information from resource assessments, monitoring, or scientific studies that change land use planning decisions.

The RMP amendment process is essentially he same as the RMP development process. The primary difference is that the RMP amendment process may be completed through the NEPA environmental assessment process rather than through the EIS process, depending on the level of complexity.

3.5.3 Plan Revision

An RMP revision is the preparation of a new RMP to replace an existing one (43 CFR 1610.5-6). Revisions of the RMP may be necessary to accommodate changes in resource or user needs, policies, or regulations. RMP revisions are prepared using the same procedures and documentation as for new RMPs.

CHAPTER 4
LIST OF PREPARERS

This RMP/EIS has been prepared by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the BLM Gunnison Gorge NCA Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, Western Slope Center, and Colorado State Office. Tetra Tech, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Boulder, Colorado, assisted the BLM in the preparation of these documents and in the planning process. These preparers are listed in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1
RMP Preparers

Name	Role or Resource Area	Education	Years of Experience
BLM – Gunnison Gorge NCA Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, and Western Slope Center			
Bill Bottomly	Project Management, Public Outreach, Alternatives, QA/QC	B.L.A. Landscape Architecture	45
Amanda Clements	Vegetation, Wildlife, Water Quality, Riparian, Soils	M.S. Range Ecology	11
Julie Coleman	Archaeology, Geology	M.A. History B.A. Geology, emphasis Archaeology, Secondary Education	10
Jim Cunio	Fire Management	B.S. Forest Management	25
Steven D. Ellis	Fire Management	B.A. Biological Sciences	27
Jim Ferguson	Wildlife	B.S. Wildlife Management	26
Dan Huisjen	Fire Management, Forestry	B.S. Natural Resource Management Completed Technical Fire Management Program	17
Kurt Kubik	Rangeland	B.S. Rangeland Science Associates Degree, Agricultural Economics	11
Lynn Lewis	Geology, Minerals and Energy Resources	B.S. Geology	25

Table 4-1
RMP Preparers *(continued)*

Name	Role or Resource Area	Education	Years of Experience
BLM – Gunnison Gorge NCA Office, Uncompahgre Field Office, and Western Slope Center *(continued)*			
Dennis Murphy	Hydrology	B.S. Forestry/Watershed Science	25
Teresa Pfifer	Transportation and Access; Lands, ROWs, and Withdrawals		10
Jim Sazama	Rangeland, Wildlife	M.S. Range Science B.S. Wildlife Biology	27
Karen Tucker	NCA Manager, Public Outreach, Alternatives, Recreation, Education & Interpretation	B.S. Natural Resource Management	20
Robert Vlahos	GIS Specialist	B.S. Forest and Range Management	30
Bob Welch	Wildlife, Special Status Species	M.S. Wildlife Management B.S. Wildlife Biology	32
BLM – Colorado State Office			
Harley J. Armstrong	Paleontology, Archaeology, Geology	M.B.S. Museum Studies (vertebrate paleontology and archaeology) B.A. Anthropology	25
Roy Smith	Water Resources	M.S. Natural Resource Management B.S. Communication and Biology	11
Tetra Tech, Inc.			
Dean Amundson *(former employee)*	Visual Resources	M.S. Environmental Policy B.A. Environmental Studies	10
David Batts	Project Management, Public Outreach, Alternatives, QA/QC, Special Management Areas	M.S. Natural Resource Planning B.S. International Development	13
John Bock	Fire Management, Hazardous Materials	B.S. Environmental Toxicology	9
Amy Cordle	Climate & Air Quality, Noise	B.S. Civil Engineering	10
Kevin Doyle	Climate & Air Quality, Noise, Archaeological & Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Fire Management	B.A. Sociology	17
Genevieve Kaiser	GIS, Geology & Topography, Soils, Minerals & Energy Resources, Socioeconomics & Environmental Justice	M.S. Energy Management & Policy B.A. Economics GIS Certificate	9
Mike Manka	Vegetation; Forestry; Wildlife, Fish & Aquatic Life; Special Status Species; Rangeland; Wild & Scenic River Study	B.S. Biology, Ecology and Systematics	10
Craig Miller	Lands, ROWs & Withdrawals; Water Resources; Visual Resources; Fire Management	M.S. Wildlife Biology B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Biology	11

Table 4-1
RMP Preparers *(continued)*

Name	Role or Resource Area	Education	Years of Experience
Tetra Tech, Inc. *(continued)*			
Angie Nelson	Project Management, Public Outreach, Alternatives, Recreation, Access & Transportation, Law Enforcement & Public Safety, Education & Interpretation	B.A. Biology and English	8
Randy Varney	Technical Editor	B.A. Technical and Professional Writing	14
Tom Whitehead, RG	Geology & Topography, Soils, Water Resources	M.S. Hydrology B.S. Geology B.A. Anthropology	15

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GLOSSARY

ACTIVITY PLAN. A document that describes management objectives, actions, and projects to implement decisions of the RMP or other planning documents. Usually prepared for one or more resources in a specific area.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT. A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

AIR QUALITY CLASSES. Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act, which limits the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be insignificant.

ALLOTMENT. An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment.

ALLOTMENT CATEGORIZATION. As an aid in prioritizing grazing allotments for grazing management .system development, all allotments have been tentatively placed into one of three categories: (1) Maintain or "M"; (2) Improve or "I", and (3) Custodial or "C". Allotments within each category do not have to meet all the criteria to be managed according to the category objectives. Category criteria are:

- **"M" (Maintain) Category Criteria.** Present range condition is satisfactory; allotments have moderate or high resource production potential (or trend is moving in that direction); no serious resource-use conflicts/controversy exist; opportunities may exist for positive economic return from public investments; and present management appears satisfactory.

- **"I" (Improve) Category Criteria.** Present range condition is unsatisfactory; allotments have moderate to high resource production potential and are producing at low to moderate levels; serious resource-use conflicts/controversy exist; opportunities exist for positive economic return from public investments; and present management appears unsatisfactory.
- **"C" (Custodial) Category Criteria.** Present range condition is not a factor; allotment have low resource production potential and are producing near their potential, limited resource-use conflicts/controversy may exist; opportunities for positive economic return on public investments do not exist or are constrained by technological or economic factors; and present management appears satisfactory or is the only logical practice under existing resource conditions.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific, multiple-use management goals in a grazing allotment.

ALLOWABLE CUT. The amount of timber, which can be harvested on an annual or decadal basis consistent with the principle of sustained yield. The allowable cut includes all planned timber harvest volumes exclusive of such products as Christmas trees, branches, and cones.

ALLUVIAL SOIL. A soil developing from recently deposited alluvium and exhibiting essentially no horizon development or modification of the recently deposited materials.

ALLUVIUM. Clay, silt, sand, gravel, or other rock materials transported by moving water. Deposited in comparatively recent geologic time as sorted or semi-sorted sediment in rivers, floodplains, lakes, and shores, and in fans at the base of mountain slopes.

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY. The state of the atmosphere at ground level as defined by the range of measured and/or predicted ambient concentrations of all significant pollutants for all averaging periods of interest.

AMBIENT NOISE. The all-encompassing noise level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

AQUATIC. Living or growing in or on the water.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). An area established through the planning process as provided in FLPMA where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or

scenic values; or to fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and afford safety from natural hazards.

ATTAINMENT AREA. A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard for that specific pollutant.

ATTENUATION. The reduction of sound intensity and energy as a function of distance traveled.

BIG GAME. Larger species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

BIODIVERSITY (BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY). The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization. Conservation, protection, and restoration of biological species and genetic diversity are needed to sustain the health of existing biological systems. Federal resource management agencies must examine the implications of management actions and development decisions on regional and local biodiversity.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION. A document prepared by US Fish and Wildlife Service stating their opinion as to whether or not a federal action will likely jeopardize the continued existence or adversely modify the habitat of a listed threatened or endangered species.

CANDIDATE SPECIES. Any species not yet officially listed but which are undergoing a status review or are proposed for listing according to *Federal Register* notices published by the Secretary of the Interior of the Secretary of Commerce.

CATEGORY I TRACTS. Public land tracts that meet one or more of the disposal criteria through public sale as set forth in Section 203 of FLPMA.

CRITERIA POLLUTANT. US Environmental Protection Agency uses six "criteria pollutants" as indicators of air quality, and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The criteria pollutants are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and lead.

COMMON MANAGEMENT. Public lands within the planning area where no particular resource, use, or value is outstanding, and where multiple-use management would be minimal, which are considered a general resource management unit for a particular alternative.

CRUCIAL GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE WINTERING RANGE. "Crucial" pertains to important winter cover habitat as defined by Colorado Division of Wildlife based on habitat conditions and usage. "Crucial Gunnison sage-grouse wintering range" is delineated in Appendix E, Figure E-4.

CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE. A BLM definition that applies to elk and mule deer comprised of areas defined by Colorado Division of Wildlife as "winter concentration areas" and "severe winter range:"

- **Winter Concentration Area:** That part of winter range where densities are at least 200 percent greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten.
- **Severe Winter Range:** That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located when the annual snow pack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.

CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS). As a rate of stream flow, a cubic foot of water passing a referenced section in 1 second of time. One cfs flowing for 24 hours will yield 1.983 acre-feet of water.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY. An inventory to assess the potential presence of cultural resources. There are three classes of surveys:

- **Class I.** An existing data survey. This is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information, and (2) compile existing cultural resources site record data on which to base the development of the BLM's site record system.
- **Class II.** A sampling field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area so that an estimate can be made of the cultural resources for the entire area.
- **Class III.** An intensive field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites in an area. Upon its completion, no further cultural resources inventory work is normally needed.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS. The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative's incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

DIVERSITY. The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

EASEMENT. Right afforded 'a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENT. A section of a river that qualifies for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System through determination that it is free-flowing and with its adjacent land area possessing at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA). A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). A formal public document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action and released for comment and review. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the 'proposed project or action.

EXISTING ROUTES. The roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (jeeps, ATVs, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders) and are, to the best of BLM's knowledge, in existence at the time of RMP/EIS publication.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA). Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Establishes public land policy for management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. FLPMA specifies several 'key directions for the Bureau, 'notably (1) management be on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans be prepared to guide management actions, (3) public lands be managed for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources, (4) public lands be retained in federal ownership, and (5) public participation be utilized in reaching management decisions.

FORAGE. All browse-and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

GRAZING PREFERENCE. The total number of animal unit months of livestock use on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee. Some of the total grazing preference may have been suspended in past administrative actions. That portion of the grazing preference that is not suspended is the active grazing preference.

GRAZING SYSTEM. Scheduled grazing use and non-use of an allotment to reach identified goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of vegetation.

HABITAT. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP). A 'written and approved activity plan for a geographical area which identifies habitat management activities to be implemented in achieving specific objectives of planning decisions.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL. A substance, pollutant, or contaminant that, due to its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

IMPACT. The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

IMPAIRMENT. The degree to which a distance of clear visibility is degraded by man-made pollutants.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISION. Actions to implement land use plans. Implementation decisions are based on site-specific planning and NEPA analyses and are subject to the administrative remedies set forth in the regulations that apply to each resource management program of the BLM. These administrative remedies for final implementation decisions usually take the form of appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, though for certain proposed or non-final implementation decisions, including those affecting timber sales, oil and gas lease sales, land exchanges, and proposed grazing decisions, the regulations provide for an internal agency review (usually a protest to the Authorized Officer) that must be completed before the final implementation decision can be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals. This type of protest to the Authorized Officer should not be confused with the protest of land use planning decisions to the BLM Director.

INVERTEBRATE. An animal lacking a backbone or spinal column.

LAND TREATMENT. All methods of artificial range improvement arid soil stabilization such as reseeding, brush control (chemical and mechanical), pitting, furrowing, water spreading, etc.

LAND USE PLANNING DECISION. Consist of desired outcomes (goals, standards, and objectives) and the allowable uses (including allocations, levels of use, and restrictions on use) and management actions necessary to achieve those outcomes. Land use planning decisions provide management direction at a broad scale and guide future actions. When land use planning decisions are presented in the Proposed RMP, the public has an opportunity to protest those decisions to the BLM Director prior to their approval, as set forth in the planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2). The Office of Hearings and Appeals does not have jurisdiction to review land use planning decisions.

Thus, after the protests to land use planning decisions have been resolved, there are no further administrative remedies within the Department of Interior.

LEASEABLE MINERALS. Those minerals or materials designated as leaseable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also, leaseable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

LEK. Areas used by Gunnison sage grouse during the mating season where males display to attract receptive females. These sites are characterized by low vegetation with sparse shrubs often surrounded by big sagebrush communities. Strutting grounds or leks are considered to be the center of Gunnison sage grouse activities.

LENTIC. Pertaining to standing water such as lakes and ponds.

LITHIC SITE. An archaeological site containing debris left from the manufacture, use, or maintenance of flaked stone tools.

LOCATABLE MINERALS. Minerals or materials subject to claim and development under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver, and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestone, talc, some xeolites, etc.). Whether or not a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand, and marketability. *

LONG-TERM EFFECT. The effect could occur for an extended period after implementation of the alternative. The effect could last several years or more.

MANAGEMENT SITUATION ANALYSIS (MSA). An unpublished companion document to the RMP that provides the background documentation for the development of alternatives. The MSA consists of the Physical Profile, Existing Management Situation, and Capability Analysis. Data from the MSA for this RMP is summarized in the Affected Environment chapter and the No Action Alternative.

MECHANIZED USES. Equipment that is mechanized, including but not limited to mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, and game carts.

MINERAL ENTRY. Claiming public lands (administered by the BLM) under the Mining Law of 1872 for the purpose of exploiting minerals. May also refer to mineral exploration and development under the mineral leasing laws and the Material Sale Act of 1947.

MINERAL MATERIALS. Common varieties of sand, building stone, gravel, clay, moss rock, etc., obtainable under the Minerals Act of 1947, as amended.

MINING LAW OF 1872. Provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands. Also referred to as the "General Mining Laws" or "Mining Laws."

MITIGATION. Alleviation or lessening of possible adverse effects on a resource by applying appropriate protective measures or adequate scientific study. Mitigation may be achieved by avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction, and compensation.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES OR USES. Vehicles that are motorized, including but not limited to jeeps, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs, such as four-wheelers and three-wheelers), and trail motorcycles or dirt bikes.

MULTIPLE-USE. Management of the various surface and subsurface resources so that they are jointly utilized in the manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the public, without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or the quality of the environment.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA). Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP). A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of, 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

NATURALNESS. Refers to an area that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with, the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" (Set 2[c] of the Wilderness Act of 1964).

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV). A general term referring to any motorized vehicle capable of operating on roads, trails, or designed areas that are not maintained. These include motorcycles, ATVs, dune buggies, and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS. Public lands designated for off-highway vehicle use. Lands in the planning area are designated as open, limited, or closed for OHV use.

- **Open.** Designated areas and trails where off-road vehicles may be operated (subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manuals 8341 and 8343). For the purposes of the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/EIS, an "open area" is defined as an area where all types of motorized vehicles (jeeps, ATVs, motorized dirt bikes, etc.) and mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts) are allowed to travel freely at all times, anywhere in the area, on roads or cross country, subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR, subparts 8341 and 8342.
- **Limited.** Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are

signed for use. Combinations of restrictions, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year, are possible. For the purposes of the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/EIS, a "limited area" is an area where motorized and mechanized travel is restricted to designated routes, unless otherwise noted. Off-road, cross-country travel is prohibited in limited areas. Some existing routes may be closed in limited areas.

- **Closed.** Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed. For the purposes of the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/EIS, A "closed area" is where motorized and mechanized use is prohibited in all locations at all times.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA (ONA). An area established to preserve scenic values and natural wonders. The preservation of these resources in their natural condition is the primary management objective.

OVERSTORY. That portion of a plant community consisting of the taller plants on the site; the forest or woodland canopy.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. The physical remains or other physical evidence of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for correlating and dating rock strata and for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life

PASSENGER VEHICLE. Two-wheel-drive, low-clearance vehicles.

PATENT. A grant made to an individual or group conveying fee simple tide to selected public lands.

PATENTED CLAIM. A claim on which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the Mining Law of 1872.

PLANNING AREA. The geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

PRESCRIBED FIRE (PRESCRIBED BURNING). Application of fuel to natural fuels under specific conditions of weather, fuel moisture, soil moisture, smoke, and other conditions intended to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to accomplish certain objectives of wildlife habitat or livestock grazing management, and/or hazard reduction.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION. Non-motorized and undeveloped types of outdoor recreation.

PUBLIC LAND. Any land and interest in land (outside of Alaska) owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM.

RAPTOR. Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks, e.g. hawks, owls, vultures, eagles.

RECLAIM. To rescue from an undesirable state, or to make available for human use by changing natural conditions. Regarding vegetation, this could include chainings, roller chop, controlled burns, and other projects with the intent of converting existing plant communities to a different type to increase livestock forage, to control the spread of wildfire, or to reduce erosion.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS). A land delineation system commonly used by federal land management agencies to address the need for a range of recreational opportunities within the planning area.

REHABILITATE. To restore to a former condition.

RELINQUISHMENT. A voluntary request from an agency or department of the government to end or terminate an existing withdrawal of public lands to that agency. Relinquishment is accomplished through the revocation process.

REPORTABLE QUANTITY. The quantity of a hazardous material or substance that is considered reportable under CERCLA. Reportable quantities are 1 pound or greater, or an amount as established and listed at 40 CFR 302.4 or under section 111 of the Clean Water Act.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA). A land management status which reserves the area for uses that are compatible with the resource of interest and research for which the area was designated.

RESOURCE AREA. A geographic portion of a BLM District that is the smallest administrative subdivision in the BLM.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP). A land use plan that establishes land use allocations, multiple-use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area. The RMP planning system has been used by the BLM since about 1980.

RESTORE. To bring back to a former condition.

REVEGETATE. To provide barren or denuded land with vegetative cover.

REVOCATION. Generally, an action that cancels a previous official act; specifically, an action that cancels a withdrawal. Revocation is usually done in conjunction with restoration, which opens the public lands. It need not necessarily open the lands to application/entry.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the, water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

RIPARIAN/AQUATIC SYSTEM. Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations. Identified by a stream channel and distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water.

RIPARIAN ZONE. An area one-quarter mile wide encompassing riparian and adjacent vegetation.

ROADS. Vehicle routes that have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. (A way maintained strictly by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.)

ROADLESS. Refers to the absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use.

ROUTES. A combination of roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (jeeps, ATVs, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders).

RUTTING. The result on routes and trails that occurs when the ground is too soft to support the weight of a vehicle and rider. This usually occurs when the ground is wet and soft. Ruts collect rainwater and runoff, keeping the trail wet. Ruts channel water, leading to trail erosion.

SALINITY. Refers to the solids such as sodium chloride (table salt) and alkali metals that are dissolved in water.

SCOPING PROCESS. An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

SHORT-TERM EFFECT. The effect occurs only during or immediately after implementation of the alternative.

SOLITUDE. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely or secluded place. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude may include size, natural screening, topographic relief, vistas, physiographic variety, and the ability of the user to find a secluded spot.

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA). An area that possesses outstanding outdoor recreation resources or where recreation use causes significant user conflicts, visitor safety problems, or resource damage. SRMAs are established to direct recreation funding and personnel to lands where a commitment has been made to

provide a specific recreation activity or experience and public benefit opportunities. This includes a long-term commitment to managing the physical, social, and managerial settings to sustain these activities, experiences, and benefit opportunities.

SPLIT ESTATE. Split estate lands occur when the federal government owns and manages the mineral estate and another party owns the surface lands.

SUITABLE RIVER. A river segment found, through administrative study by an appropriate agency, to meet the criteria for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, specified in Section 4(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES. Resources associated with wilderness that contributes to the quality of wilderness areas.

SUSTAINED YIELD. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

SWITCHBACKS. Zig-zags on a trail up or down a hill that are designed to lessen the trail's slope and to minimize erosion.

TERRESTRIAL. Living or growing in or on the land

THREATENED SPECIES. Any species or significant population of that species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Usually includes only those species that have been recognized and listed as threatened by federal and state governments, but may include species categorized as rare, very rare, or depleted

TIMBER. Standing trees, downed trees, or logs which are capable of being measured in board feet.

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS). Salt, or an aggregate of carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, and nitrates of calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, potassium, and other cations that form salts.

TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES. A cultural property that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with a living community's cultural practices or beliefs that (a) are rooted in that community's history and (b) are important in maintaining the community's continuing cultural identity.

TRAIL BRAIDING. Several paths in close proximity that avoid the same obstacle.

TRESPASS. Any unauthorized use of public land.

UNDERSTORY. That portion of a plant community growing underneath the taller plants on the site.

UNIQUE PLANT ASSOCIATIONS. Plant communities which (1) occur only in Colorado, (2) are common elsewhere but are represented by only a few occurrences in Colorado, (3) could easily be eliminated from Colorado, or (4) are considered to be in their natural state.

UTILITY CORRIDOR. Tract of land varying in width forming passageway through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.

VALID EXISTING RIGHTS. Legal interests that attach to a land or mineral estate that cannot be divested from the estate until that interest expires or is relinquished.

VEGETATION MANIPULATION. Planned alteration of Vegetation communities through use of prescribed fire, plowing, herbicide spraying, or other means to gain desired changes in forage availability, wildlife cover, etc.

VEGETATION TYPE. A plant community with immediately distinguishable characteristics based upon and named after the apparent dominant plant species.

VERTEBRATE. An animal having a backbone or spinal column.

VISIT DAY. A visit day represents one person using the Wilderness for all or part of one day. For example, if one person spent one night camping on public lands, it is counted as two visit days.

VISUAL RESOURCES. The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structure-s, and other features) that comprise die scenery of the area.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM). The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values, and the management actions taken to achieve the visual resource management objectives.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES. VRM classes identify the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A classification is assigned to public lands based on the guidelines established for scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and visibility.

- **VRM Class I.** This classification preserves the existing characteristic landscape and allows for natural ecological changes only. Includes Congressionally authorized areas (wilderness) and areas approved through the RMP where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- **VRM Class II.** This classification retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities should be low and not evident.
- **VRM Class III.** This classification partially retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities may be moderate and -evident.
- **VRM Class IV.** This classification provides for major modifications of the characteristic landscape. The level of change in the basic landscape elements due to management activities can be high. Such activities may dominate the landscape and be the major focus of viewer attention.
- **VRM Class V.** This classification applies to areas where the characteristic landscape has been so disturbed that rehabilitation is needed. Generally considered an interim short-term classification until rehabilitation or enhancement is completed.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY. Visual sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality and existing or proposed visual change.

WALK-IN USE, WALK-IN ACCESS. Walk-in users include non-boaters such as anglers, hikers, and horseback riders, and access the Gunnison River in the Wilderness via the Chukar, Bobcat, Duncan, or Ute Trails.

WATER POWER AND STORAGE RESERVOIR SITES. Areas set aside for potential development of large reservoirs for power development or irrigation.

WATERSHED. Topographical region or area delineated by water draining to a particular watercourse or body of water.

WILDERNESS. An area formally designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS. Identified by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964, namely, size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features.

WINTER RANGE. A Colorado Division of Wildlife definition that applies to elk and mule deer. That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site-specific period of winter.

WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management of public lands to other federal agencies.

WILDFIRE. Any wildland fire that requires a suppression response. A prescribed burn may be declared a wildfire if part of it escapes from the control line or if weather conditions deteriorate and become unacceptable, as described in the burning plan.

WOODLANDS. Plant communities in which trees, often small and characteristically short-bowled relative to their depths of crown, are present but form only an open canopy, the intervening areas being occupied by lower vegetation, commonly grass. Woodland forests contain major and minor forest products (or any wood fiber) that have, or may have, merchantability.

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APPENDIX A
LEGISLATION

The following is the *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999* (Act) and the *Black Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003* (2003 Act). The Act designated the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and Wilderness, and the 2003 Act changed the boundary of the NCA and added 7,100 acres of public lands to the NCA.

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PUBLIC LAW 106–76—OCT. 21, 1999

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT OF 1999

Public Law 106–76
106th Congress

An Act

Oct. 21, 1999
[S. 323]

To redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999.
Colorado.
16 USC 410fff note.
16 USC 410fff.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument was established for the preservation of its spectacular gorges and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest;

(2) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent upland include a variety of unique ecological, geological, scenic, historical, and wildlife components enhanced by the serenity and rural western setting of the area;

(3) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent land provide extensive opportunities for educational and recreational activities, and are publicly used for hiking, camping, and fishing, and for wilderness value, including solitude;

(4) adjacent public land downstream of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources;

(5) public land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument contributes to the protection of the wildlife, viewshed, and scenic qualities of the Black Canyon;

(6) some private land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has exceptional natural and scenic value that would be threatened by future development pressures;

(7) the benefits of designating public and private land surrounding the national monument as a national park include greater long-term protection of the resources and expanded visitor use opportunities; and

(8) land in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Gorge is—

(A) recognized for offering exceptional multiple use opportunities;

(B) recognized for offering natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources; and

(C) worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area, and with respect to the Gunnison Gorge itself, as a component of the national wilderness system.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS. 16 USC 410fff–1.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres surrounding the Gunnison Gorge as depicted on the Map.

(2) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA—1/22/99". The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Department of the Interior.

(3) PARK.—The term "Park" means the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park established under section 4 and depicted on the Map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK. 16 USC 410fff–2.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in the State of Colorado as generally depicted on the map identified in section 3. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument is hereby abolished as such, the lands and interests therein are incorporated within and made part of the new Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary shall transfer the lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management which are identified on the map for inclusion in the park to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4), and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(c) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and a legal description of the park with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. Such maps and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and maps. The maps and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the park are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from

location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

(e) GRAZING.—(1)(A) Consistent with the requirements of this subsection, including the limitation in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall allow the grazing of livestock within the park to continue where authorized under permits or leases in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act. Grazing shall be at no more than the current level, and subject to applicable laws and National Park Service regulations.

(B) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as extending grazing privileges for any party or their assignee in any area of the park where, prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, such use was scheduled to expire according to the terms of a settlement by the United States Claims Court affecting property incorporated into the boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Secretary from accepting the voluntary termination of leases or permits for grazing within the park.

(2) Within areas of the park designated as wilderness, the grazing of livestock, where authorized under permits in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary deems necessary, consistent with this Act, the Wilderness Act, and other applicable laws and National Park Service regulations.

(3) With respect to the grazing permits and leases referenced in this subsection, the Secretary shall allow grazing to continue, subject to periodic renewal—

(A) with respect to a permit or lease issued to an individual, for the lifetime of the individual who was the holder of the permit or lease on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) with respect to a permit or lease issued to a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, for a period which shall terminate on the same date that the last permit or lease held under subparagraph (A) terminates, unless the partnership, corporation, or legal entity dissolves or terminates before such time, in which case the permit or lease shall terminate with the partnership, corporation, or legal entity.

16 USC 410fff–3.

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL ACQUISITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land depicted on the Map as proposed additions.

(2) METHOD OF ACQUISITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Land or interests in land may be acquired by—

(i) donation;

(ii) transfer;

(iii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds; or

(iv) exchange.

(B) CONSENT.—No land or interest in land may be acquired without the consent of the owner of the land.

(b) BOUNDARY REVISION.—After acquiring land for the Park, the Secretary shall—

(1) revise the boundary of the Park to include newly-acquired land within the boundary; and

(2) administer newly-acquired land subject to applicable laws (including regulations).

(c) BOUNDARY SURVEY.—As soon as practicable and subject to the availability of funds the Secretary shall complete an official boundary survey of the Park.

(d) HUNTING ON PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may permit hunting on privately owned land added to the Park under this Act, subject to limitations, conditions, or regulations that may be prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—On the date that the Secretary acquires fee ownership of any privately owned land added to the Park under this Act, the authority under paragraph (1) shall terminate with respect to the privately owned land acquired.

SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON WILDERNESS. 16 USC 410fff–4, 1132 note.

(a) EXPANSION OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON WILDERNESS.—The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness, as established by subsection (b) of the first section of Public Law 94–567 (90 Stat. 2692), is expanded to include the parcel of land depicted on the Map as "Tract A" and consisting of approximately 4,419 acres.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness shall be administered as a component of the Park.

SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. 16 USC 410fff–5.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres as generally depicted on the Map.

(b) MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the Conservation Area to protect the resources of the Conservation Area in accordance with—

(1) this Act;

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(3) other applicable provisions of law.

(c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the Conservation Area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

(d) HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall permit hunting, trapping, and fishing within the Conservation Area in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations) of the United States and the State of Colorado.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, may issue regulations designating

zones where and establishing periods when no hunting or trapping shall be permitted for reasons concerning—

(A) public safety;

(B) administration; or

(C) public use and enjoyment.

(e) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—In addition to the use of motorized vehicles on established roadways, the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area shall be allowed to the extent the use is compatible with off-highway vehicle designations as described in the management plan in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

Deadline.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a comprehensive plan for the long-range protection and management of the Conservation Area; and

(B) transmit the plan to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan—

(A) shall describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area in accordance with this Act;

(B) may incorporate appropriate decisions contained in any management or activity plan for the area completed prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;

(C) may incorporate appropriate wildlife habitat management plans or other plans prepared for the land within or adjacent to the Conservation Area prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;

(D) shall be prepared in close consultation with appropriate Federal, State, county, and local agencies; and

(E) may use information developed prior to the date of the enactment of this Act in studies of the land within or adjacent to the Conservation Area.

(g) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may make revisions to the boundary of the Conservation Area following acquisition of land necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the Conservation Area was designated.

16 USC 410fff–6, 1132 note.

SEC. 8. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS WITHIN THE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) GUNNISON GORGE WILDERNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Conservation Area, there is designated as wilderness, and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, consisting of approximately 17,700 acres, as generally depicted on the Map.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) WILDERNESS STUDY AREA EXEMPTION.—The approximately 300-acre portion of the wilderness study area depicted on the Map for release from section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of that Act.

(B) INCORPORATION INTO NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.—The portion of the wilderness study area described in subparagraph (A) shall be incorporated into the Conservation Area.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, the wilderness areas designated under this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) STATE RESPONSIBILITY.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act or in the Wilderness Act shall affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in that State.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and a legal description of the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. This map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act. The Secretary of the Interior may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description. The map and legal description shall be on file and available in the office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

SEC. 9. WITHDRAWAL. 16 USC 410fff–7.

Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands identified on the Map as "BLM Withdrawal (Tract B)" (comprising approximately 1,154 acres) are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

SEC. 10. WATER RIGHTS. 16 USC 410fff–8.

(a) EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) constitute an express or implied reservation of water for any purpose; or

(2) affect any water rights in existence prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States.

(b) ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS.—Any new water right that the Secretary determines is necessary for the purposes of this Act shall be established in accordance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the laws of the State of Colorado.

SEC. 11. STUDY OF LANDS WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. 16 USC 410fff–9.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall conduct a study concerning land protection and open space within and adjacent to the area administered as the Curecanti National Recreation Area. Deadline.

(b) PURPOSE OF STUDY.—The study required to be completed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess the natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resource value and character of the land within and surrounding the Curecanti National Recreation Area (including open vistas, wildlife habitat, and other public benefits);

(2) identify practicable alternatives that protect the resource value and character of the land within and surrounding the Curecanti National Recreation Area;

(3) recommend a variety of economically feasible and viable tools to achieve the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) estimate the costs of implementing the approaches recommended by the study.

Deadline.

(c) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 3 years from the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) contains the findings of the study required by subsection (a);

(2) makes recommendations to Congress with respect to the findings of the study required by subsection (a); and

(3) makes recommendations to Congress regarding action that may be taken with respect to the land described in the report.

(d) ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the completion of the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary may acquire certain private land or interests in land as depicted on the Map entitled "Proposed Additions to the Curecanti National Recreation Area", dated 01/25/99, totaling approximately 1,065 acres and entitled "Hall and Fitti properties".

(2) METHOD OF ACQUISITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Land or an interest in land under paragraph (1) may be acquired by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds; or

(iii) exchange.

(B) CONSENT.—No land or interest in land may be acquired without the consent of the owner of the land.

(C) BOUNDARY REVISIONS FOLLOWING ACQUISITION.—Following the acquisition of land under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) revise the boundary of the Curecanti National Recreation Area to include newly-acquired land; and

(ii) administer newly-acquired land according to applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 USC 410fff–10.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved October 21, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 323:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106–307 (Comm. on Resources).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 106–69 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):
July 1, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 27, considered and passed House, amended.
Oct. 1, Senate concurred in House amendment.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 35 (1999):
Oct. 21, Presidential statement.

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S. 677

One Hundred Eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January, two thousand and three

An Act

To revise the boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Black Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION.

(a) BOUNDARY REVISION.—Section 4(a) of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (16 U.S.C. 410fff–2(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "There" and inserting "(1) There"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) The boundary of the Park is revised to include the addition of approximately 2,530 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA Boundary Modifications' and dated April 2, 2003.".

(b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—On the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management identified as "Tract C" on the map described in subsection (a)(2) to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for inclusion in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(a)(1) of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (16 U.S.C. 410fff–3(a)(1)) is amended by striking "Map" and inserting "Map or the map described in section 4(a)(2)".

SEC. 3. GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY REVISION.

Section 7(a) of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (16 U.S.C. 410fff–5(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "There" and inserting "(1) There"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) The boundary of the Conservation Area is revised to include the addition of approximately 7,100 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA Boundary Modifications', and dated April 2, 2003.".

SEC. 4. GRAZING PRIVILEGES.

(a) TRANSFER OF PRIVILEGES.—Section 4(e)(1) of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Area Act of 1999 (16 U.S.C. 410fff–2(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) If land within the Park on which the grazing of livestock is authorized under permits or leases under subparagraph (A) is exchanged for private land under section 5(a), the Secretary shall transfer any grazing privileges to the land acquired in the exchange.".

(b) PRIVILEGES OF CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 4(e)(3) of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Area Act of 1999 (16 U.S.C. 410fff–2(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) with respect to the permit or lease issued to LeValley Ranch Ltd., for the lifetime of the last surviving limited partner as of October 21, 1999;

"(C) with respect to the permit or lease issued to Sanburg Herefords, L.L.P., for the lifetime of the last surviving general partner as of October 21, 1999; and"; and

(4) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking "partnership, corporation, or" each place it appears and inserting "corporation or"; and

(B) by striking "subparagraph (A)" and inserting "subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C)".

SEC. 5. ACCESS TO WATER DELIVERY FACILITIES.

The Commissioner of Reclamation shall retain administrative jurisdiction over the Crystal Dam Access Road and land, facilities, and roads of the Bureau of Reclamation in the East Portal area, including the Gunnison Tunnel, and the Crystal Dam area, as depicted on the map entitled "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA Boundary Modifications", and dated April 2, 2003, for the maintenance, repair, construction, replacement, and operation of any facilities relating to the delivery of water and power under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

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APPENDIX B
BLM *STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH AND GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO*

B.1 STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH

Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health, and relate to all uses of the public lands. Standards are applied on a landscape scale and relate to the potential of the landscape.

B.1.1 Standard 1

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, landform, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

Indicators

- Expression of rills, soil pedestals is minimal.
- Evidence of actively eroding gullies (incised channels) is minimal.
- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate.
- There is litter accumulating in place and is not sorted by normal overland water flow.
- There is appropriate organic matter in soil.
- There is diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths.
- Upland swales have vegetation cover or density greater than that of adjacent uplands.
- There are vigorous, desirable plants.

B.1.2 Standard 2

Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

Indicators

- Vegetation is dominated by an appropriate mix of native or desirable introduced species.
- Vigorous, desirable plants are present.
- There is vegetation with diverse age class structure, appropriate vertical structure, and adequate composition, cover, and density.
- Stream bank vegetation is present and is comprised of species and communities that have root systems capable of withstanding high stream flow events.
- Plant species present indicate maintenance of riparian moisture characteristics.
- Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (e.g., no headcutting, no excessive erosion or deposition).
- Vegetation and free water indicate high water tables.
- Vegetation colonizes point bars with a range of age classes and successional stages.
- An active floodplain is present.
- Residual floodplain vegetation is available to capture and retain sediment and dissipate flood energies.
- Stream channels with size and meander pattern appropriate for the stream's position in the landscape, and parent materials.
- Woody debris contributes to the character of the stream channel morphology.

B.1.3 Standard 3

Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.

Indicators

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.
- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.
- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

B.1.4 Standard 4

Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the United States (US) Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.

Indicators

- All the indicators associated with the plant and animal communities standard apply.
- There are stable and increasing populations of endemic and protected species in suitable habitat.
- Suitable habitat is available for recovery of endemic and protected species.

B.1.5 Standard 5

The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Indicators

- Appropriate populations of macroinvertebrates, vertebrates, and algae are present.
- Surface and ground waters only contain substances (e.g. sediment, scum, floating debris, odor, heavy metal precipitates on channel substrate) attributable to humans within the amounts, concentrations, or combinations as directed by the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado (5 CCR 1002-8).

B.2 GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Guidelines are the management tools, methods, strategies, and techniques (e.g., best management practices) designed to maintain or achieve healthy public lands as defined by the standards. Currently, the only guidelines for BLM Colorado that have been developed in concert with the Resource Advisory Councils are livestock grazing management guidelines.

1) Grazing management practices promote plant health by providing for one or more of the following:
   - periodic rest or deferment from grazing during critical growth periods;
   - adequate recovery and regrowth periods; and
   - opportunity for seed dissemination and seedling establishment.

2) Grazing management practices address the kind, numbers, and class of livestock, season, duration, distribution, frequency and intensity of grazing use and livestock health.

3) Grazing management practices maintain sufficient residual vegetation on both upland and riparian sites to protect the soil from wind and water erosion, to assist in maintaining appropriate soil infiltration and permeability, and to buffer temperature extremes. In riparian areas, vegetation dissipates energy, captures sediment, recharges ground water, and contributes to stream stability.

4) Native plant species and natural revegetation are emphasized in the support of sustaining ecological functions and site integrity. Where reseeding is required, on land treatment efforts, emphasis will be placed on using native plant species. Seeding of non-native plant species will be considered based on local goals, native seed availability and cost, persistence of non-native plants and annuals and noxious weeds on the site, and composition of non-natives in the seed mix.

5) Range improvement projects are designed consistent with overall ecological functions and processes with minimum adverse impacts on other resources or uses of riparian/wetland and upland sites.

6) Grazing management will occur in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds. In addition to mechanical, chemical, and biological methods of weed control, livestock may be used where feasible as a tool to inhibit or stop the spread of noxious weeds.

7) Natural occurrences such as fire, drought, flooding, and prescribed land treatments should be combined with livestock management practices to move toward the sustainability of biological diversity across the landscape, including the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of habitat to promote and assist the recovery and conservation of threatened, endangered, or other special status species, by helping to provide natural vegetation patterns, a mosaic of successional stages, and vegetation corridors, and thus minimizing habitat fragmentation.

8) Colorado Best Management Practices and other scientifically developed practices that enhance land and water quality should be used in the development of activity plans prepared for land use.

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APPENDIX C
PUBLIC LAND TRACTS AVAILABLE OR UNAVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL AND PRIVATE LAND TRACTS PRIORITIZED FOR ACQUISITION

C.1 LAND DISPOSAL

Category I tracts are tracts of public land that meet one or more of the disposal criteria through public sale as set forth in Section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Category I lands are primarily those lands currently identified as potential disposal tracts in the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1989a).

In the NCA (various management units) and Wilderness (Management Unit 1), the following will be prohibited: all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws. Fairview Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)/Research Natural Area (RNA) (within Management Unit 6) will continue to be unavailable for disposal under the public land laws.

C.1.1 Planning Area Public Land Tracts Not Available for Disposal

There are 509.74 acres of planning area public lands not available for disposal.

The tracts of public land described below are within the planning area and were identified as Category I disposal tracts in the Uncompahgre Basin RMP Land Disposal Plan Amendment (BLM 1994). The tracts will not be available for disposal for the reasons provided. The number preceding each tract's legal description is the same number for the tract that is identified in the Uncompahgre Basin RMP Land Disposal Plan Amendment (BLM 1994).

Tract Numbers 36 and 37 (229.74 acres)

These two tracts are 160 acres and 69.74 acres in size, respectively. The tracts will not be available for disposal under the RMP because disposal of the tracts could result in mixed

land uses and other management complexities. The tracts are located within the planning area near the confluence of the Gunnison River and the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The tracts are adjacent to the banks of the Gunnison River and are within the NCA boundary. At the time of the Uncompahgre Basin RMP Land Disposal Plan Amendment (BLM 1994), the NCA did not exist, and the tracts were surrounded by private lands. Most of the private lands surrounding these tracts are now public lands, and disposal will be counter to BLM management on these lands. The lands are being considered by Congress for addition to the NCA boundary.

Tract 36: Township 14 South, Range 94 West, Section 36: W½SW¼, NE¼SW¼, NW¼SE¼. 160-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 37: Township 15 South, Range 94 West, Section 1: Lots 22, 28, 29. 69.94-acre isolated parcel.

Tract Number 87 (280 acres)

The tract contains 280 acres with vegetation and slopes surrounded by private lands in the Bostwick Park area south of the National Park. The land contains mostly dense pinyon-juniper vegetation. The tract would provide a large enough area of wildlife cover within the private lands to serve as potentially crucial habitat for deer, elk, and other wildlife species. The tract would also serve as potential open space in the event of residential or other development in this area of Bostwick Park, which is undergoing gradual land use changes from agricultural open space to developed real estate.

Tract 87: Township 49 N., Range 8 West, Section 11: E½NW¼, NE¼SW¼, W½SE¼; Section 14: N½NE¼. 280-acre isolated parcel.

C.1.2 Public Land Tracts Not Available for Disposal outside Planning Area

There are 243.70 acres of public land tracts not available for disposal outside but near the NCA and planning area. The tracts were identified as Category I disposal tracts in the Uncompahgre Basin RMP Land Disposal Plan Amendment (BLM 1994). The tracts will not be available for disposal under the Approved RMP; rationale is provided below. The number preceding each tract's legal description is the same number for the tract that is identified in the 1994 Uncompahgre Basin RMP Amendment.

Tract Number 28 (37.33 acres)

Tract 28 is located adjacent to the NCA boundary and contains the confluence of Big Gulch with the North Fork of the Gunnison River. Important riparian and watershed values exist on the tract. The tract could be important to the management of watershed and downstream river resources within the NCA.

Tract 28: Township 14 South, Range 93 West, Section 31: Lot 8. 37.33-acre isolated parcel.

Tract Numbers 24 and 29 (206.37acres)

These are two isolated tracts outside the planning area along the south rim of Smith Fork Creek, an important tributary of the Gunnison River. The tracts provide riparian values and potential watershed protection for Smith Fork Creek and waters downstream. The tracts also offer opportunity for future trail planning for a possible link from the NCA to Crawford State Recreation Area. Tract 24 contains primarily sagebrush, grasses, and forbs. Tract 29 contains dense pinyon-juniper vegetation mixed with sagebrush and upland grasses and forbs. Both tracts also provide important wildlife cover. The tracts provide excellent viewing points for foreground, middle ground, and background views of the NCA and planning area lands.

Tract 24: Township 15 South, Range 92 West, Section 31: Lot 5. 41.82-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 29: Township 15 South, Range 93 West, Section 25: Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8. 164.55-acre isolated parcel.

Planning Area Public Land Tracts Available for Disposal outside NCA

There are 233.75 acres of public land in eight tracts inside the planning area but outside the NCA that are available for disposal. The eight tracts were identified as Category I tracts suitable and available for disposal in the Uncompahgre Basin RMP Land Disposal Plan Amendment (BLM 1994). These tracts will continue to be suitable and available for disposal under the RMP. Tracts 47 and 50 are isolated parcels of public land that are identified for disposal but are currently withdrawn to the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). These parcels may be disposed of if these withdrawals are revoked or they could be transferred to the BOR. However, the tracts are not available for disposal without concurrence of and coordination with the BOR.

Tract 38: Township 15 South, Range 94 West, Section 19: NE¼SE¼. 40-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 39: Township 15 South, Range 94 West, Section 32: W½NW¼. 80-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 47: Township 15 South, Range 95 West, Section 13: NE¼NE¼SE¼. 10-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 48: Township 15 South, Range 95 West, Section 13: SW¼SE¼. 40-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 49: Township 15 South, Range 95 West, Section 33: N½NW¼NE¼NE¼SE¼, N½NW¼NE¼SE¼. 6.25-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 50: Township 15 South, Range 95 West, Section 36: SE¼SE¼NE¼SW¼, NE¼NE¼SE¼SW¼, SW¼SW¼NW¼SE¼, NW¼NW¼SW¼SE¼. 10-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 64: Township 50 N., Range 6 West, Section 19: SE¼NE¼. 40-acre isolated parcel.

Tract 112: Township 50 N., Range 9 West, Section 7: E½E½NE¼SW¼NW¼, E½SE¼SW¼NW¼. 7.5-acre isolated parcel.

C.1.3 Remaining Public Lands

The remaining planning area public lands outside the NCA, excluding lands between the Gunnison River and Colorado Highway (CO-) 92, will continue to be classified as Category II lands. These lands do not meet FLPMA Section 203 sale criteria, and, as such, will not be considered for disposal by sale. These lands could, however, be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis through exchange, boundary adjustments, state indemnity selection, Recreation and Public Purposes Act (68 Statute 173; 43 US Code [USC] 869 *et. seq.*) applications, or other appropriate statute or authority, if the disposal would serve the public interest.

C.2 PRIORITY PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION TRACTS

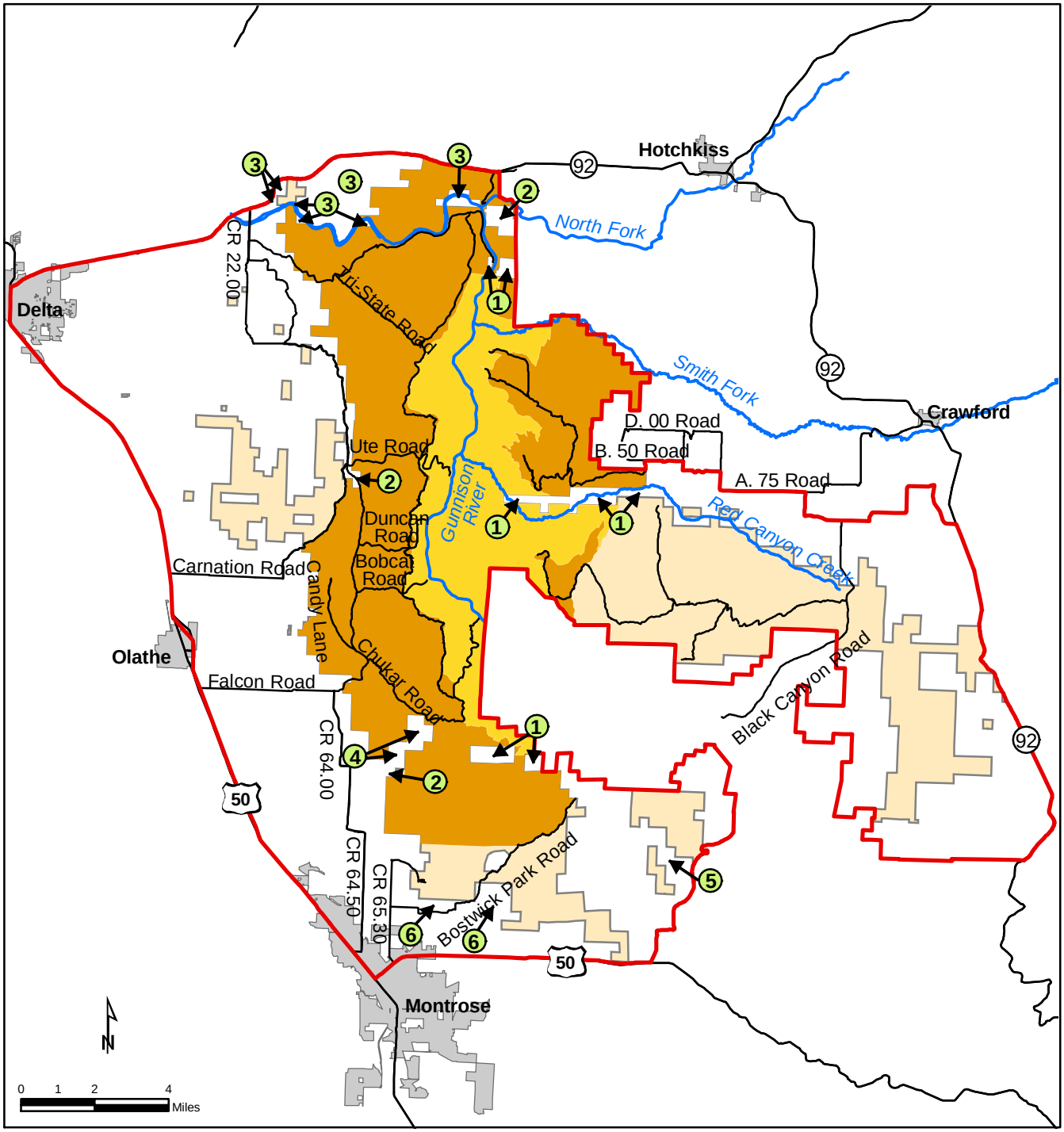
Areas within or adjacent to the planning area, NCA, or Wilderness that BLM will consider for private land tract acquisition under a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis, through a variety of means, are listed below. Figure C-1 depicts these tracts. These areas are listed in priority of importance for acquisition if opportunities are presented. The BLM will also consider opportunities for acquisition of private lands in areas not listed here.

1) Private lands adjacent to the Wilderness within the NCA, including Red Canyon area, lands adjacent to southernmost Wilderness boundary near the southwestern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (National Park), and lands adjacent to and downstream from the northernmost boundary of the Wilderness near the Gunnison River. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced Wilderness management and protection.

2) All other private lands within the NCA boundary, including lands between CO-92 and the Wilderness boundary, lands adjacent to the western NCA boundary along Peach Valley Road, and the tract adjacent to the western boundary of the NCA northeast of the intersection of Holly Road and Loutsenhizer Canal. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced management of NCA lands and riparian and watershed management and protection.

3) Private lands located between the existing NCA boundary and CO-92 that are also adjacent to or in close proximity to public lands. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced management of public lands, public recreation access to the Gunnison River or other areas, and watershed protection.

4) Private lands located outside the NCA boundary surrounded by public lands southwest of the Chukar Road. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced recreation, riparian, and watershed management.



BLM considers private land tracts for acquisition under a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis. These areas are listed in priority of importance for acquisition if opportunities are presented. The BLM also considers opportunities for acquisition of private lands in other areas not shown.

Private Land Acquisition Areas By Priority
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Priority of importance for private land acquisition
- Roads and trails
- Rivers
- Gunnison Gorge Wilderness
- Gunnison Gorge NCA
- Other BLM lands
- Planning area

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Figure C-1

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5) Private lands west of Jones Draw Lands that are adjacent to public lands. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced recreation management and public access.

6) Private lands either side of Landfill-Bostwick Road adjacent to public lands (excluding lands containing the Montrose County Landfill) and private lands located south of Flat Top and north of Lincoln Road that are adjacent to public lands. These lands are of interest to the BLM for enhanced public lands management and recreation management.

7) Private lands located adjacent to the NCA boundary, or within or adjacent to the planning area boundary, that will enhance public land resource management or provide better or necessary public access to other public lands. These lands will be considered for acquisition through a variety of means, including either purchase or exchange.

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APPENDIX D
AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN LOCATIONS

D.1 INTRODUCTION

ACECs are defined in FLPMA Sec. 103 (43 USC 1702[a]) and in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1601.0-5(a) as "areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards".

As part of the land use planning process for the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a BLM interdisciplinary team reviewed ten areas nominated by BLM, the public, and other agencies. The nominated areas were analyzed to determine if they contained values that met the relevance and importance criteria for consideration as potential ACECs. This analysis was documented in the Draft RMP (DRMP) (BLM 2003c) and Proposed RMP (PRMP) (BLM 2004) as Appendix E, *Importance and Relevancy Criteria and Findings for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Considerations*.

Six of the ten areas analyzed met the relevance and importance criteria: Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Fairview ACEC/RNA, Mancos Shale, Relict Tree, Gunnison and North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridors, and Native Plant Community. The following two areas, as well as one existing ACEC, were included in the Agency Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) in the DRMP (BLM 2003c) and were carried forward into the PRMP (BLM 2004) and this Approved RMP.

D.1.1 Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA

This ACEC/Important Bird Area (IBA) corresponds to Management Unit 4 (Figure 2-1 of the RMP). The 22,000-acre ACEC is located on the east side of the Gunnison River in uplands and extends from the Wilderness boundary on Black Ridge to Poison Springs Hill on Fruitland Mesa (Figure D-1). These lands contain a population of Gunnison

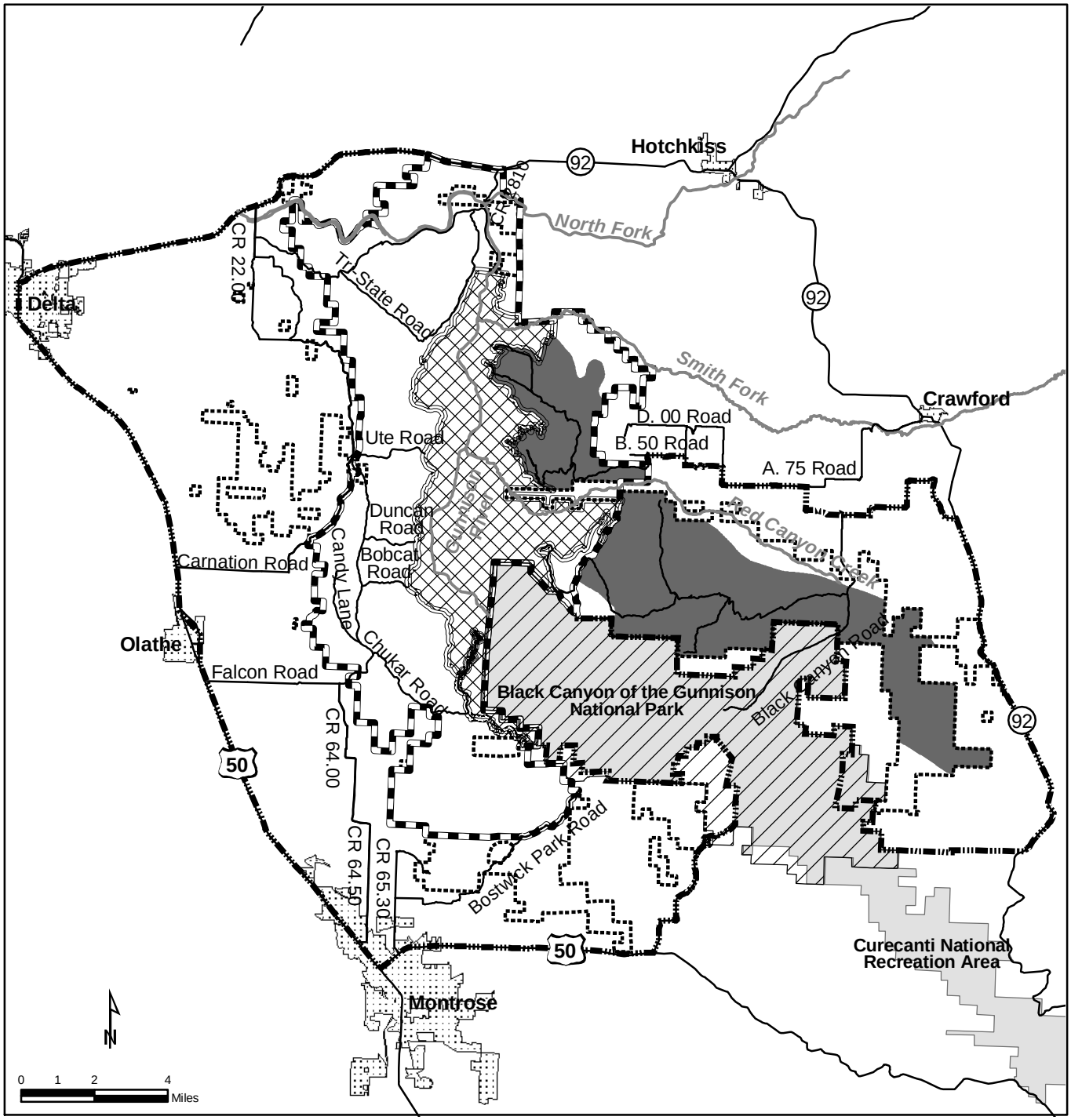
sage-grouse, a candidate species for potential federal listing, that is being managed under the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado (Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership 1998). The species has been declining throughout its range, and the conservation plan was designed in collaboration with partners in the North Fork Valley and local, state, and federal agency representatives to help assure the long-term viability of the species in this area. This area includes 100 percent of the occupied Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in the planning area. The area also includes a Colorado Natural Heritage Program potential conservation area that was designated primarily for Gunnison sage-grouse and spotted bat foraging habitat. The spotted bat is a BLM Colorado and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (US Forest Service) sensitive wildlife species.

D.1.2 Fairview ACEC/RNA (Existing Designation)

This ACEC/RNA is located within Management Unit 6 (Figure 2-1 of the RMP). The 161-acre area within the planning area boundary (Figure D-2) is one of two land areas contained in this existing designated ACEC/RNA. The lands are not within the NCA. This area inside the planning area is surrounded on most of three sides by private lands. The value for which the area was designated was populations of Clay-loving wild buckwheat and Montrose penstemon. The site also includes some saline wetlands and communities of mat saltbrush with black sagebrush fingers. Some research on Clay-loving wild buckwheat has been completed in this ACEC.

D.1.3 Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA

This ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) corresponds to Management Unit 5 (Figure 2-1 of the RMP). This relatively unfragmented area (4,577 acres) is located on the uplands in the NCA on the west side of the Gunnison Gorge (Figure D-3). The area has been identified and mapped by The Nature Conservancy for long-term protection of Winterfat Shrub Steppe, Juniper-Grass Savanna, and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland communities within the Southern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem. These communities protect not only the major plant species that define them, but also provide habitat for numerous associated plant and animal species. These areas help ensure protection of the biodiversity within the Southern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem, within a relatively small area. The area will help protect, manage, and contribute to maintaining the biodiversity of the region's ecosystems.



This 22,000-acre ACEC contains all of the occupied Gunnison sage-grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)* habitat in the planning area.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA
Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Gunnison Sage-Grouse ACEC/IBA
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Other BLM Lands in the Planning Area
- Planning Area
- NPS and Other Non-BLM-Managed Federal Lands
- NPS Administrative Boundary
- Cities and Towns

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Figure D-1

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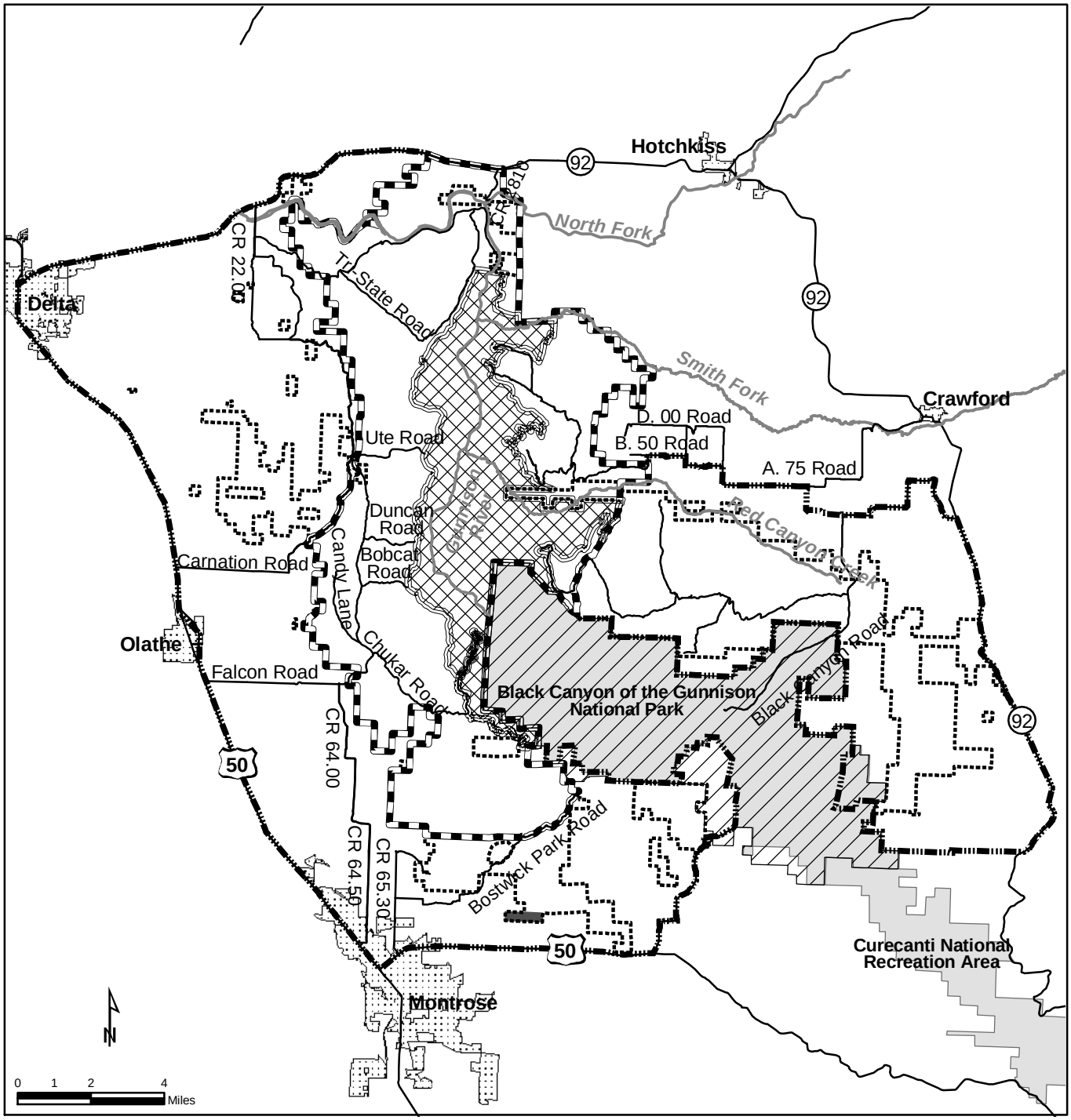

This existing 161-acre ACEC contains populations of Clay-loving wild buckwheat *(Eriogonum pelinophilum)* and Adobe penstemon (Montrose penstemon, Adobe beardtongue) *(Penstemon retrorus).*

Fairview ACEC/RNA

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Fairview ACEC/RNA
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Other BLM Lands in the Planning Area
- Planning Area
- NPS and Other Non-BLM-Managed Federal Lands
- NPS Administrative Boundary
- Cities and Towns

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Figure D-2

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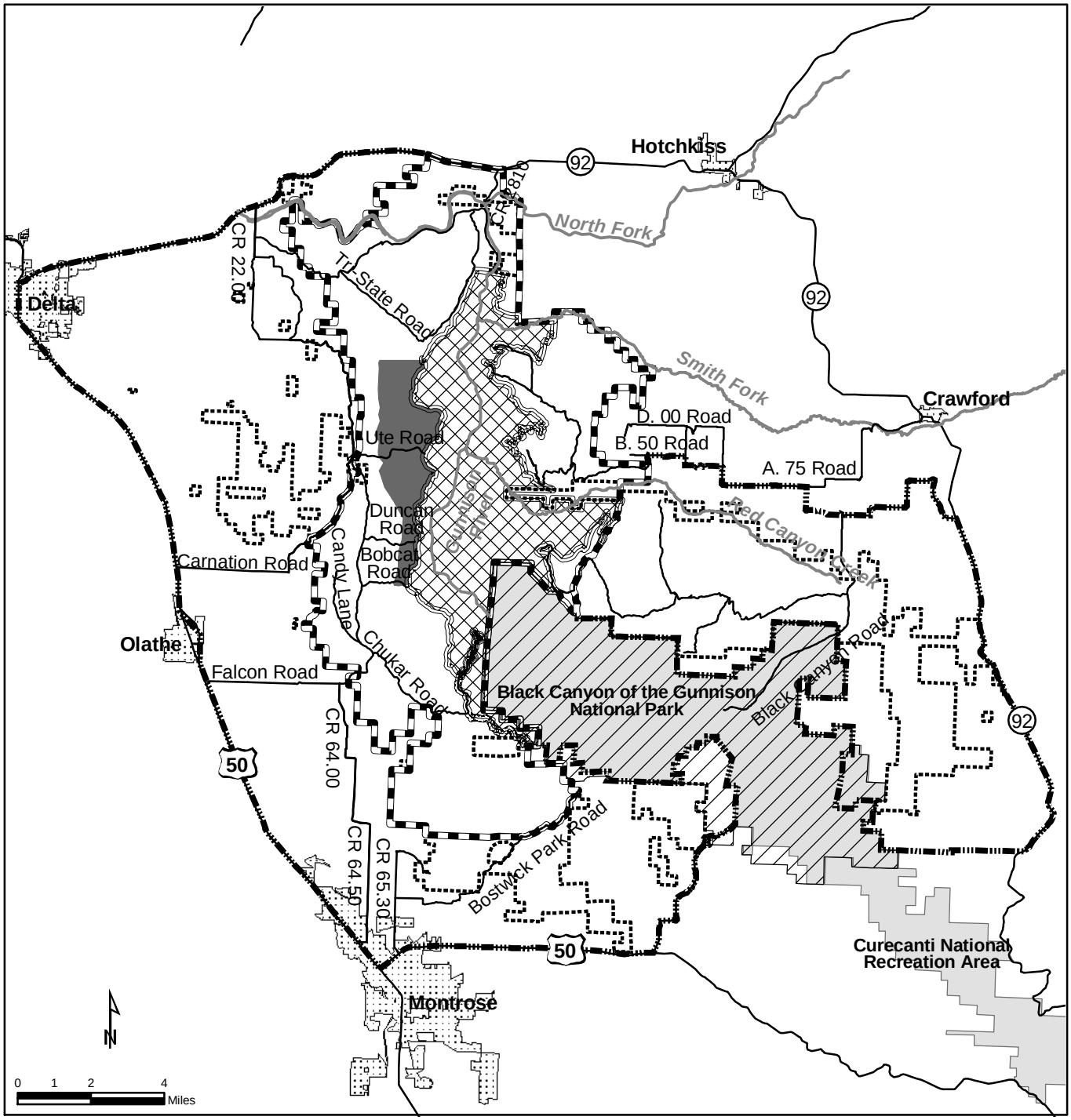

This 4,577-acre ACEC contains Winterfat Shrub Steppe, Juniper-Grass Savanna, and Pinyon-Juniper Woodland communities within the Southern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem

Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Other BLM Lands in the Planning Area
- Planning Area
- NPS and Other Non-BLM-Managed Federal Lands
- NPS Administrative Boundary
- Cities and Towns

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Figure D-3

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APPENDIX E
OIL AND GAS STIPULATIONS

E.1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix contains stipulations that will be added to future oil and gas leases on both federal surface and split-estate lands in the planning area. Table E-1 in this appendix lists, by Management Unit in the RMP, the stipulations that will be applied to lands available for leasing with three different stipulation types, and the conditions under which the stipulation could be exempted, modified, or waived. The DRMP (BLM 2003c) contained stipulations proposed for Alternatives B, C, and D, and this appendix contains the stipulations that will be applicable to this RMP.

The 1999 Act designating the NCA and Wilderness and the 2003 NCA boundary revision act (see Appendix A) withdrew all federal lands within the NCA and Wilderness from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing and all amendments thereto. This clause in the Act excluded future oil and gas and geothermal leasing within the boundary of the NCA and Wilderness. As a result, the stipulations in this appendix are applicable to federal oil and gas estate, including split estate, within the planning area outside the NCA boundary that will be available for oil and gas leasing under the RMP.

Precise wording of these stipulations could be adjusted at the time of any future leasing within the planning area to reflect future legislation, court decisions, or policy changes; however, the protection standards in these stipulations will be maintained. Any change to the protection content of the stipulation will require an amendment to the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP/Record of Decision (ROD).

E.2 OIL AND GAS LEASING PROCESS

The information below contains the typical oil and gas leasing process that will be applied if oil and gas leases were authorized.

As explained in Chapter 2 of the RMP, certain BLM lands in the planning area will be unavailable for leasing and development because of withdrawals. All the lands within

the boundary of the NCA, and approximately 1,154 acres outside the NCA adjacent to CO-347, are withdrawn from oil and gas leasing. The remaining lands in the planning area will be available for leasing subject to lease terms authorized by BLM Standard Lease Form 3100-11 and stipulations described in this appendix.

E.2.1 Standard Lease Terms

All oil and gas leases are issued on BLM Standard Lease Form 3100-11. This form contains standard lease terms that are applicable to all leases. This form gives the Field Manager authority to modify operations (exploration, development, production, and maintenance) at the time they are proposed. A modification of operations under standard lease terms is considered a mitigation measure rather than a stipulation.

The modification is developed after rather than before issuance of the lease. This mitigation is attached to operational approvals for Applications for Permits to Drill (APD) and sundry notices as conditions of approval (COA).

Under Section 6 of the standard lease terms, the Field Manager has authority to modify operations consistent with lease rights. This is done to minimize adverse impacts on other resource values, land uses, or land users. Under the standard lease terms, the BLM may require modification to the site design and location, and specify interim and final reclamation measures. The Field Manager also has the authority under Section 6 to deny operations that would adversely affect resources protected by law such as cultural resources or threatened and endangered plants and animal species.

To be consistent with lease rights under standard lease terms, operations may not be denied unless operations would adversely affect resources protected by law, i.e., cultural resources or threatened and endangered plant and animal species or habitat. In addition, the Field Manager cannot require operations to be: 1) moved off the leasehold; 2) moved by more than 200 meters; or 3) delayed for longer than 60 days in any lease year.

Operations proposed on lands with standard lease terms will be subject to the 200-meter/60-day thresholds, interim and final reclamation measures listed in this appendix, and applicable laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

E.2.2 Leasing with Surface Stipulations

The following information pertaining to lease stipulations is taken from the booklet, *Uniform Format for Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations*, prepared by the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee in March 1989. These guidelines were developed by the BLM and the US Forest Service.

Stipulations are conditions, promises, or demands that are to be made part of oil and gas leases when the environmental and planning record demonstrates the necessity for the stipulations. Stipulations, as such, are neither standard nor special, but rather a necessary modification of the terms of the lease. Lands that need protection above and beyond that authorized under standard lease terms are leased with surface stipulations. Lands

identified as available for leasing with surface stipulations are leased with the least restrictive surface stipulation needed to achieve other resource protection goals. In contrast to mitigation applied under standard lease terms, surface stipulations are placed on leases at the time they are issued. Surface stipulations may require operations to be: 1) moved off the leasehold; 2) moved farther than 200 meters; or 3) delayed longer than 60 days. Surface stipulations could result in denial of operations within the terms of the lease contract. Lands leased with surface stipulations are also subject to the mitigation authorized under Section 6 of BLM Standard Lease Form 3100-11. This includes applicable laws such as the Endangered Species Act. In order to accommodate the variety of resources encountered on federal lands, these stipulations are categorized as to how the stipulation modifies the lease rights, not by the resource(s) to be protected. What, why, and how this mitigation/protection is to be accomplished is determined by the land management agency through land management planning and analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Three types surface stipulations are applied to leases in the planning area: 1) No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations; 2) Timing Limitation Stipulations (TLS); and 3) Controlled Surface Use Stipulations (CSUS), or Limited Surface Use stipulations. Of these stipulations, the NSO stipulation is the most restrictive.

Resource information for split estate lands has not been verified by the BLM. Verification will occur during review of the APD. On-site inspection and consultation with the surface owner and operator may reveal that the impacts addressed by the stipulation will be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level or that the resources of concern are not present. Upon either of these determinations by the Authorized Office, the stipulations can be waived, modified, or excepted without public notice other than that provided for the APD. If, after on-site inspection and consultation with the private surface landowner, it were determined by the Authorized Officer that conditions necessary to avoid impacts on private resources will adversely impact the public resources addressed by these stipulations, the impacts will be assessed. If, based upon such assessment, the Authorized Officer makes a decision to substantially change or waive one or more stipulations, a 30-day public review period will be provided, in addition to the public notice period for receipt of the APD. (These two 30-day notice and review periods may overlap.)

Implementation

If, upon weighing the relative resource values, uses, and/or users, it is determined that conflict with oil and gas operations exist that cannot be adequately managed under the BLM Standard Lease Terms (SLTs), a lease stipulation is necessary. Land use/management plans serve as the primary vehicle for determining the necessity for lease stipulations (BLM Manual 1624). Documentation of the necessity for a stipulation is disclosed in planning documents or through site-specific analysis. Land management plans and/or NEPA documents also establish the guidelines by which future waivers, exceptions, or modifications may be granted. Substantial modification or waiver subsequent to lease issuance is subject to public review for at least a 30-day period in accordance with Section 5102.f of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. Stipulations may be necessary if the authority to control the activity on the

lease does not already exist under laws, regulations, or orders. The necessity for individual lease stipulations is documented in the lease-file record with reference to the appropriate land management plan or other leasing analysis document. The necessity for exceptions, waivers, or modifications also will be documented in the lease-file record through reference to the appropriate plan or other analysis. Additional environmental documentation will be required if a request for an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation is made by an oil and gas lessee, if the request has not been analyzed and addressed already, for example while processing an APD.

Definitions

Conditions of Approval (COA)

Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an APD or a sundry Notice is approved.

Controlled Surface Use (CSU) or Limited Surface Use (LSU)

Use and occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. This stipulation is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the NSO or timing stipulations. This stipulation could require special management practices to protect sensitive resources, such as prohibiting surface disturbance on steep slopes.

Exception

Case-by-case exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation continues to apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria apply.

Information Notice or Lease Notice

Provides more detailed information concerning limitations that already exist in law, lease terms, regulations, or operational orders. This notice also addresses special items the lessee should consider when planning operations, but does not impose new or additional restrictions. These notices may be attached to all leases regardless of the leasing subcategory. The leasing notice does not impose any restrictions other than those applicable under existing law, lease terms, regulations, or operational orders. These notices attached to leases should not be confused with Notices to Lessees (43 CFR 3160.0-5).

Modification

Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. Therefore, a modification may include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria apply.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO)

Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development is prohibited to protect identified resource values. The NSO stipulation includes

stipulations that may have been worded as "No Surface Use/Occupancy," "No Surface Disturbance," "Conditional NSO," and "Surface Disturbance or Surface Occupancy Restriction (by location)."

Notice to Lessees

The Notice to Lessees is a written notice issued by the BLM authorized officer. Notices to Lessees implement regulations and operating orders, and serve as instructions on specific item(s) of importance within a state, district, or area.

Stipulation

A provision that modifies standard lease rights and is attached to and made a part of the lease.

Timing Limitation (Seasonal Restriction)

Prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the findings of analysis demonstrate the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent, project-specific mitigation measures will be in sufficient.

Waiver

Permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

Stipulation Guidance

No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Stipulation Guidance

The NSO stipulation is intended for use only when other stipulations are determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest. An NSO stipulation prohibits the lessee from occupying all or a portion of the surface of the lease tract year-round. The NSO stipulation can require relocation of proposed operations by more than 200 meters. The land management plan/NEPA document prepared for leasing must show that less restrictive stipulations were considered and determined by the authorized officer to be insufficient (i.e., show why the NSO stipulation is needed). The planning/NEPA record must also show that consideration was given to a no-lease alternative when applying an NSO stipulation. An NSO stipulation is not needed if the desired protection will not require relocation of proposed operations by more than 200 meters (43 CFR 3101.1-2).

The Field Manager or authorized office can make exceptions, modifications, or waivers to the NSO stipulation under the conditions specified in the applicable NSO stipulation. Land management plans and/or NEPA documents should identify the specific conditions for providing waivers, exceptions, or modifications to lease stipulations. Requests for waivers, exceptions, or modifications to oil and gas lease stipulations must be supported by appropriate environmental analysis and documentation, and subject to the same test used to initially justify the imposition of this stipulation. Language may be added to the NSO stipulation form to provide the lessee with information or

circumstances under which waivers, exceptions, or modifications will be considered. A waiver, exception, or modification may be approved if the record shows that circumstances or relative resource values have changed or that the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, and that less restrictive stipulations will protect the public interest. Additional environmental documentation will be required if a request for an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation is made by an oil and gas lessee, if the request has not been analyzed and addressed already, for example while processing an APD. Waivers, exceptions or modifications can only be granted by the authorized officer. If the waiver, exception, or modification is inconsistent with the land management planning document, that document must be amended or the change disallowed. If the authorized officer determines, prior to lease issuance, that a stipulation involves an issue of major concern, modification or waiver of the stipulation will be subject to public review (43 CFR 3101.1-4).

Timing Limitation Stipulation (TLS) Guidance

The TLS (often called seasonal restrictions) prohibits fluid mineral exploration and development activities for time periods less than yearlong. When using this stipulation, assure that date(s) and location(s) are as specific as possible. A limitation involves the prohibition of activities described in the stipulation for periods of more than 60 days (43 CFR 3101.1-2). A TLS prohibits exploration and development activities during specified times of year on all or portions of the lease tract. The TLS can require the lessee to suspend operations for more than 60 days during one year.

The land management plan/NEPA document prepared for leasing must show that less restrictive stipulations were considered to be insufficient. The environmental effects of exploration, development, and production activities may differ markedly from each other in scope and intensity.

If the effects of reasonably foreseeable production activities necessitate timing limitation requirements, this need should be clearly documented in the record. The record also should show that less stringent, project-specific mitigation may be insufficient. In such cases the stipulation language should be modified on a case-by-case basis to clearly document that the timing limitation applies to all stages of activity.

Land management plans and/or NEPA documents should identify the specific conditions for providing waivers, exceptions, or modifications to lease stipulations. Requests for waivers, exceptions, or modifications of an oil and gas leasing stipulation, such as continuing drilling operations into a restricted time period, must be supported with appropriate environmental analysis and documentation, and will be subject to the same test used to initially justify the imposition of this stipulation. Language may be added to the stipulation form to provide the lessee with information or circumstances under which a waiver, exception, or modification will be considered. The need for one-time, case-by-case exceptions of a timing limitation stipulation may arise from complications or emergencies during the drilling program. The need for timely review and decision making is great in such cases. For this reason, it is desirable that land

management plans/NEPA documents clarify what review procedures and other requirements, if any, will apply in such cases.

A waiver, exception, or modification may be approved if the record shows that circumstances or relative resource values have changed or that the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, and that less restrictive stipulations will protect the public interest. Waivers, exceptions or modifications can only be granted by the authorized officer. Additional environmental documentation will be required if a request for an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation is made by an oil and gas lessee, if the request has not been analyzed and addressed already, for example while processing an APD. If the waiver, exception or modification is inconsistent with the land management planning document, and that document does not disclose the conditions under which such changes will be allowed, the plan or NEPA document must be amended as necessary, or the change disallowed. If the authorized officer determines, prior to lease issuance, that a stipulation involves an issue of major concern, modification or waiver of the stipulation will be subject to public review (e.g., 43 CFR 3101.1-4). The land management plan also may identify other cases when a public review is required for waiver, exception, or modification.

Controlled Surface Use Stipulation (CSUS) or Limited Surface Use Stipulation (LSUS) Guidance

This stipulation category places requirements on a lease that could include standards that exceed the mitigation available under the lease terms. These stipulations cannot result in restrictions such as would be applied with a NSO or timing stipulation. A CSUS can require special management practices to protect sensitive resources.

The Field Manager or authorized office can make exceptions, modifications, or waivers to the stipulations under the conditions specified in the applicable stipulation. Land management plans and/or NEPA documents should identify the specific conditions for providing waivers, exceptions, or modifications to these stipulations. Requests for waivers, exceptions, or modifications to oil and gas lease stipulations must be supported by appropriate environmental analysis and documentation, and subject to the same test used to initially justify the imposition of this stipulation. Language may be added to the stipulation form to provide the lessee with information or circumstances under which waivers, exceptions, or modifications will be considered. A waiver, exception, or modification may be approved if the record shows that circumstances or relative resource values have changed or that the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts, and that less restrictive stipulations will protect the public interest. Additional environmental documentation will be required if a request for an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation is made by an oil and gas lessee, if the request has not been analyzed and addressed already, for instance during the processing of an application for permission to drill. Waivers, exceptions or modifications can only be granted by the authorized officer. If the waiver, exception, or modification is inconsistent with the land management planning document, that document must be amended or the change disallowed. If the

authorized officer determines, prior to lease issuance, that a stipulation involves an issue of major concern, modification or waiver of the stipulation will be subject to public review (43 CFR 3101.1-4).

E.2.3 Application of Surface Stipulations

Stipulations are applied to oil and gas leases by legal description on the basis of standard quarter-quarter sections (40 acres) or lots. Any quarter-quarter section or lot needing protection on at least one half the subdivision has the appropriate stipulation appended to the lease document for the entire subdivision. A quarter-quarter section or lot needing protection on one half or less of the subdivision does not have a stipulation appended to the document for that subdivision. That small a parcel can be avoided through standard lease terms.

E.3 SUMMARY OF OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

Table E-1 summarizes the stipulations recommended in the RMP, and Figures E-1 through E-5 depict where the stipulations will be effective.

E.4 STIPULATIONS

Based on the analysis in the RMP, this appendix lists the stipulations that could be applied to surface disturbing activities or other oil and gas related activities associated with leasing federal oil and gas estate.

E.4.1 Uncompahgre Basin RMP #UB-1: Highly Erodible and/or Saline Soil Areas

Timing Limitation Stipulation: No surface use is allowed March 1 through May 30. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Stipulation

To protect watersheds from salinity infusions and to protect highly erodible soil areas where low soil productivity will prolong or disallow revegetation, all development activities (exploration, drilling, etc.) will be allowed only from June 1 through February 28. Exceptions to this limitation may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. The affected portions of this lease are (legal description to be appended to lease).

Reasons for Exceptions

This stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer. If the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on salinity and highly erodible soil areas. The stipulation will not be waived, excepted, or modified if it is determined that the activity would cause accelerated erosion that would result in excessive amounts of salinity being contributed to the Colorado River. Variances could be allowed if soils are not saturated during the typical high soil moisture period when these soils are most susceptible to damage (March 1 through May 31), or if impacts could be mitigated, or if site specific conditions do not warrant the stipulation (small amount of disturbance, short duration of operations, etc.).

Table E-1
Summary of Oil and Gas Stipulations Applicable to Federal Oil and Gas Estate[1]

Type of Stipulation[2]; Time Period	Stipulation Number	Description of Resource or Value that Stipulation is Intended to Protect	Surface Acres Potentially Affected	Management Unit Potentially Affected	Figure
TLS March 1 – May 31	UB-1	Mancos shale soils (highly erodible and/or saline soil areas)	90 8,162 237	Management Unit 3 Management Unit 6 Management Unit 4	Figure E-1 Figure E-1 Figure E-1
NSO Year-round	UB-2	Special status species plants within Fairview ACEC/RNA	161	Management Unit 6	Figure E-2
TLS December 1 – April 30	UB-3	Bald eagle winter concentration areas	166	Management Unit 3	Figure E-3
TLS November 15 – April 30	UB-4	Crucial deer and elk ranges	5,433 1,898	Management Unit 4 Management Unit 6	Figure E-3 Figure E-3
TLS March 5 – June 30	UB-6	Waterfowl breeding and nesting habitat	166	Management Unit 3	Not applicable
NSO Year-round	GGNCA-1	Gunnison sage-grouse leks and strutting/dancing sites	670	Management Unit 4	Figure E-2
TLS November 15 – April 30	GGNCA-8	Gunnison sage-grouse winter range	16,410 405	Management Unit 4 Management Unit 6	Figure E-4 Figure E-4
NSO Year-round	GGNCA-10	Recreation lands in Flat Top-Peach Valley OHV Recreation Area	1,778	Management Unit 2	Figure E-2
NSO Year-round	GGNCA-11	Threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive species, exclusive of Fairview ACEC/RNA	41 59	Management Unit 6 Management Unit 2	Figure E-2 Figure E-2
NSO Year-round	GGNCA -12	Gunnison sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat: riparian and water sources	16,529 2,155 94	Management Unit 4 Management Unit 6 Management Unit 3	Figure E-5 Figure E-5 Figure E-5
Controlled Surface Use	GGNCA-13	Mancos shale soils on slopes greater than 40 percent	90 8,162 237	Management Unit 3 Management Unit 6 Management Unit 4	Figure E-1 Figure E-1 Figure E-1

[1] Public lands in the NCA are closed to oil and gas leasing.
[2] TLS = Timing Limitation Stipulation; NSO = No Surface Occupancy

E.4.2 Uncompahgre Basin RMP #UB-2: Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive Plant Areas

NSO Stipulation.

Stipulation

To protect the threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plants and their potential habitat within the Fairview ACEC/RNA, NSO will be permitted in these areas. Exceptions to this restriction may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. The affected portions of this lease are (legal description to be appended to lease).

Reasons for Exceptions

This stipulation maybe waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plants and their potential habitats within these areas.

E.4.3 Uncompahgre Basin RMP #UB-3: Bald Eagle Winter Concentration Areas

TLS: No surface use is allowed December 1 through April 30. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Stipulation

To protect bald eagles from activities that would cause abandonment of winter concentration areas, all development activities (exploration, drilling, etc.) will only be allowed in these areas from May 1 through November 30. Exceptions to this limitation may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. The affected portions of this lease are (legal description to be appended to lease).

Reasons for Exceptions

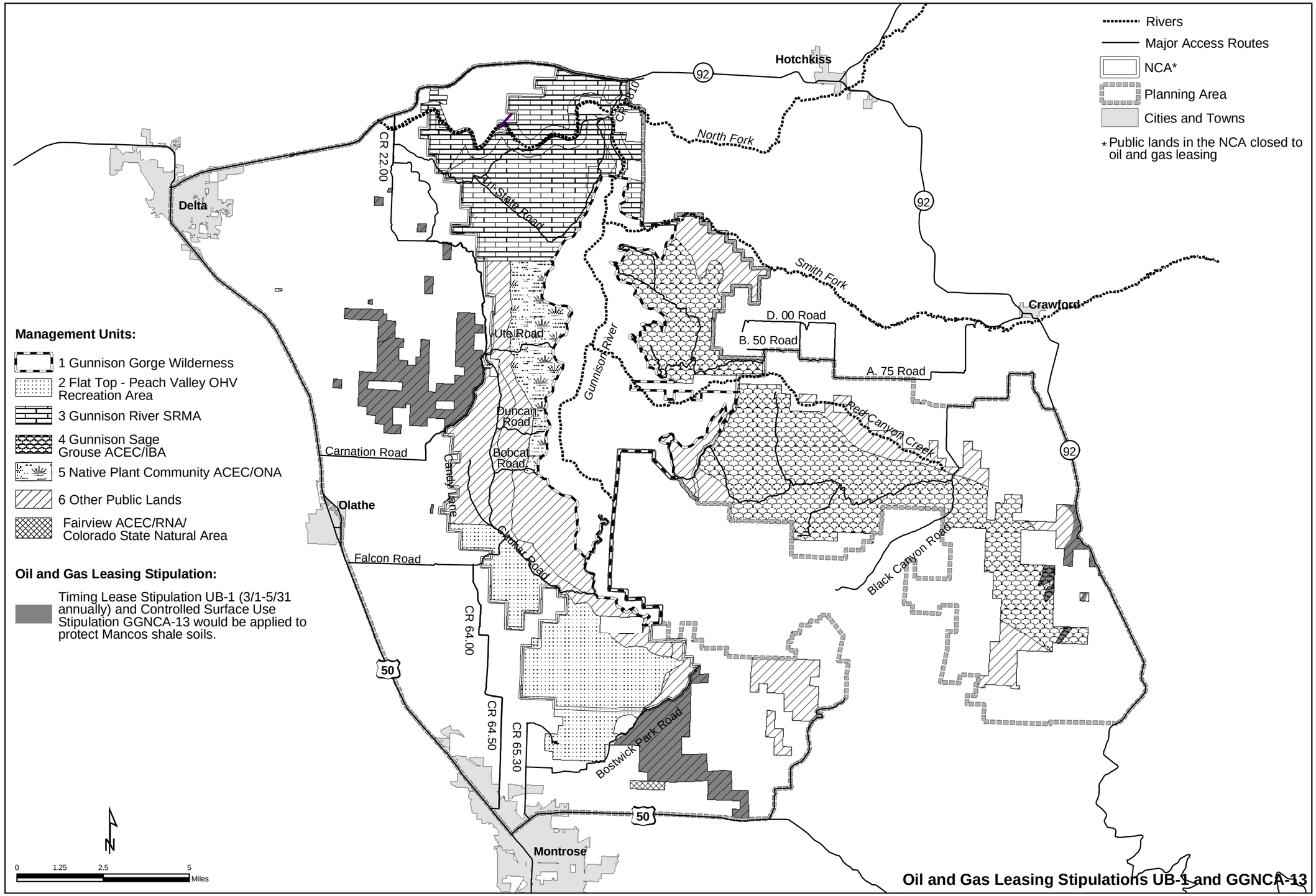
This stipulation maybe waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on wintering bald eagles.

E.4.4 Uncompahgre Basin RMP #UB-4: Crucial Deer and Elk Winter Ranges

TLS: No surface use is allowed November 15 through April 30. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Stipulation

To protect crucial deer and elk winter ranges from activities that would cause these species to abandon areas of crucial winter forage and cover for less suitable ranges, all development activities (exploration, drilling, etc.) will not be authorized from November 15 to April 30. Exceptions to this limitation may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. The affected portions of this lease are (legal description to be appended to lease).



Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations UB-1 and GGNCA-13

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure E-1

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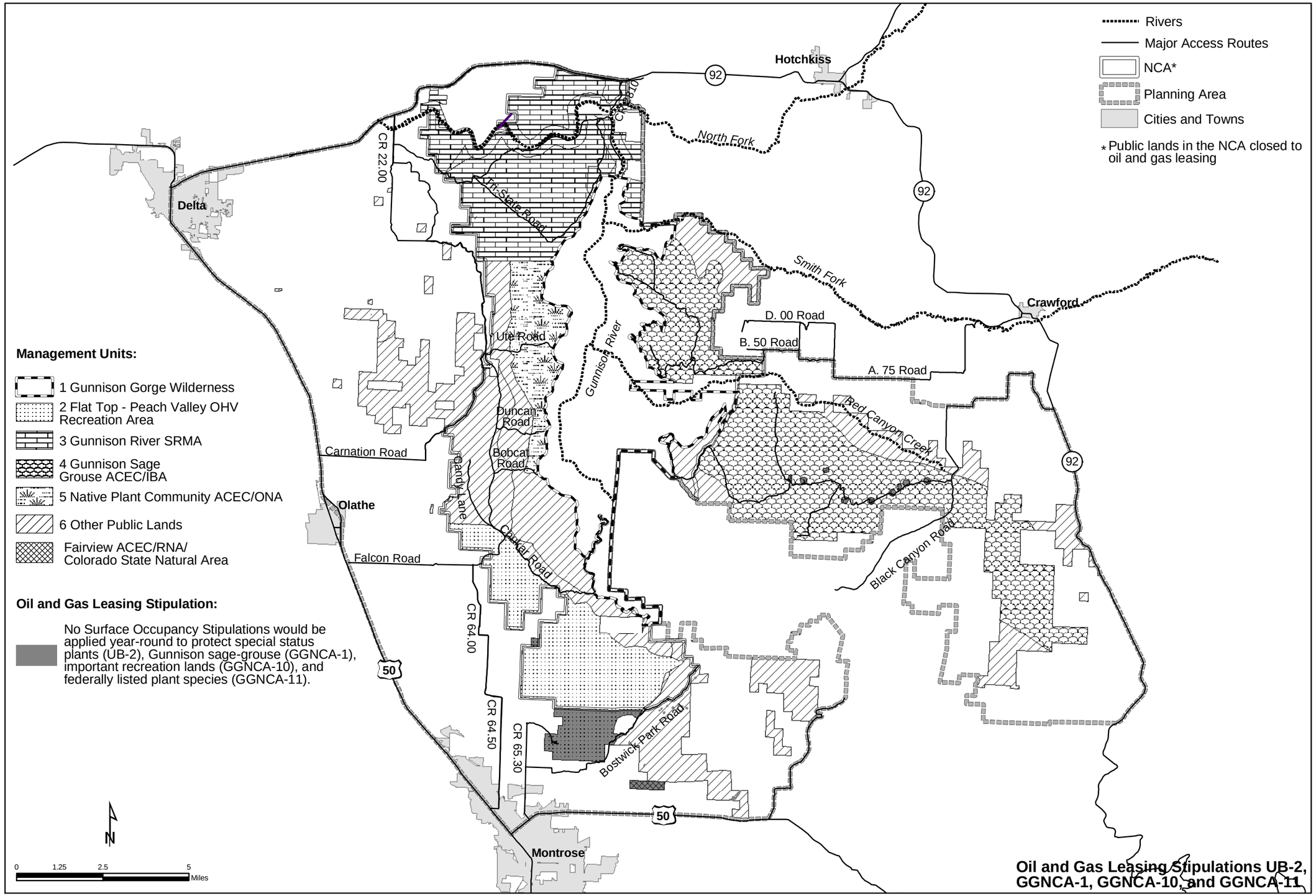

Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations UB-2, GGNCA-1, GGNCA-10, and GGNCA-11

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure E-2

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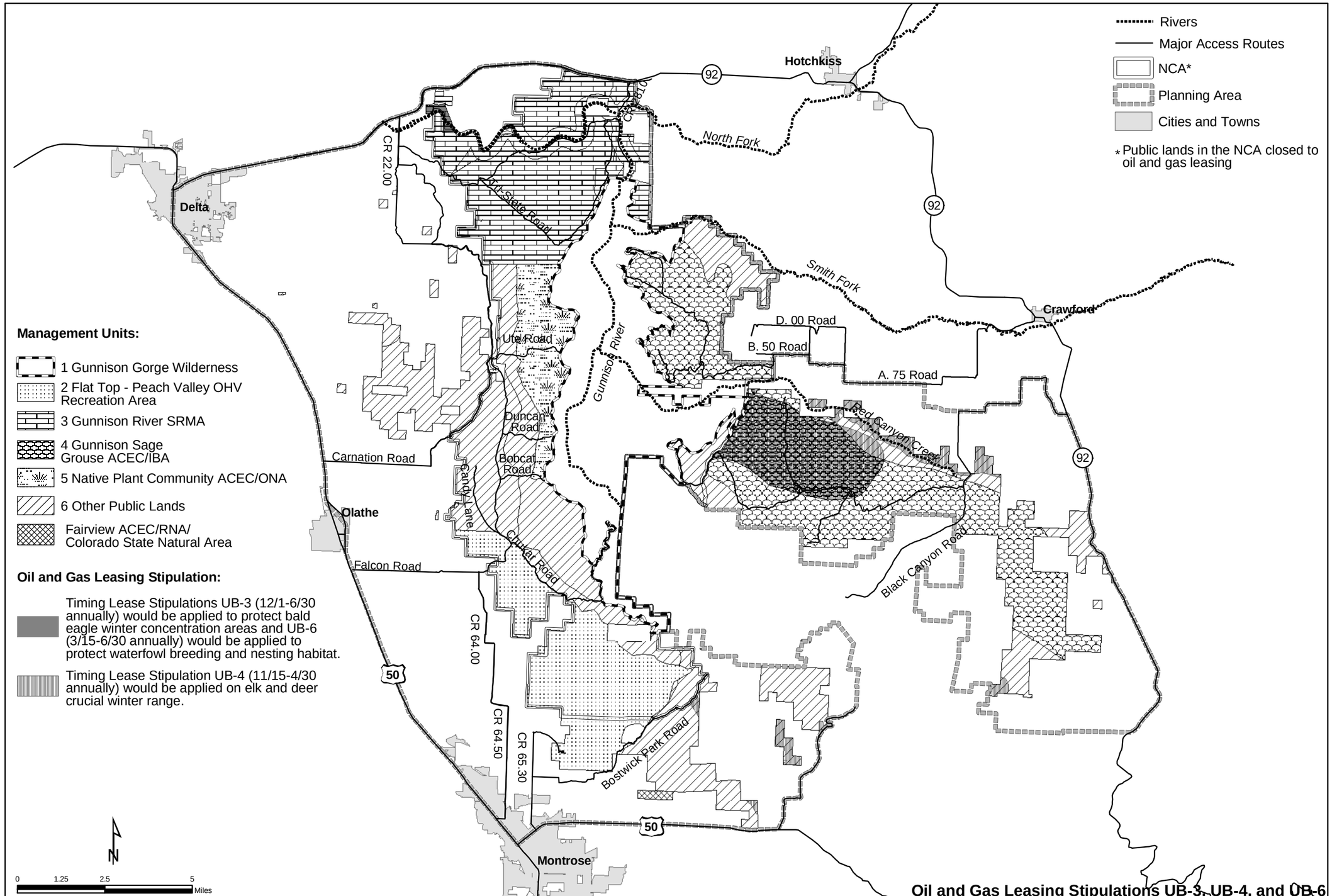

Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations UB-3, UB-4, and UB-6

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure E-3

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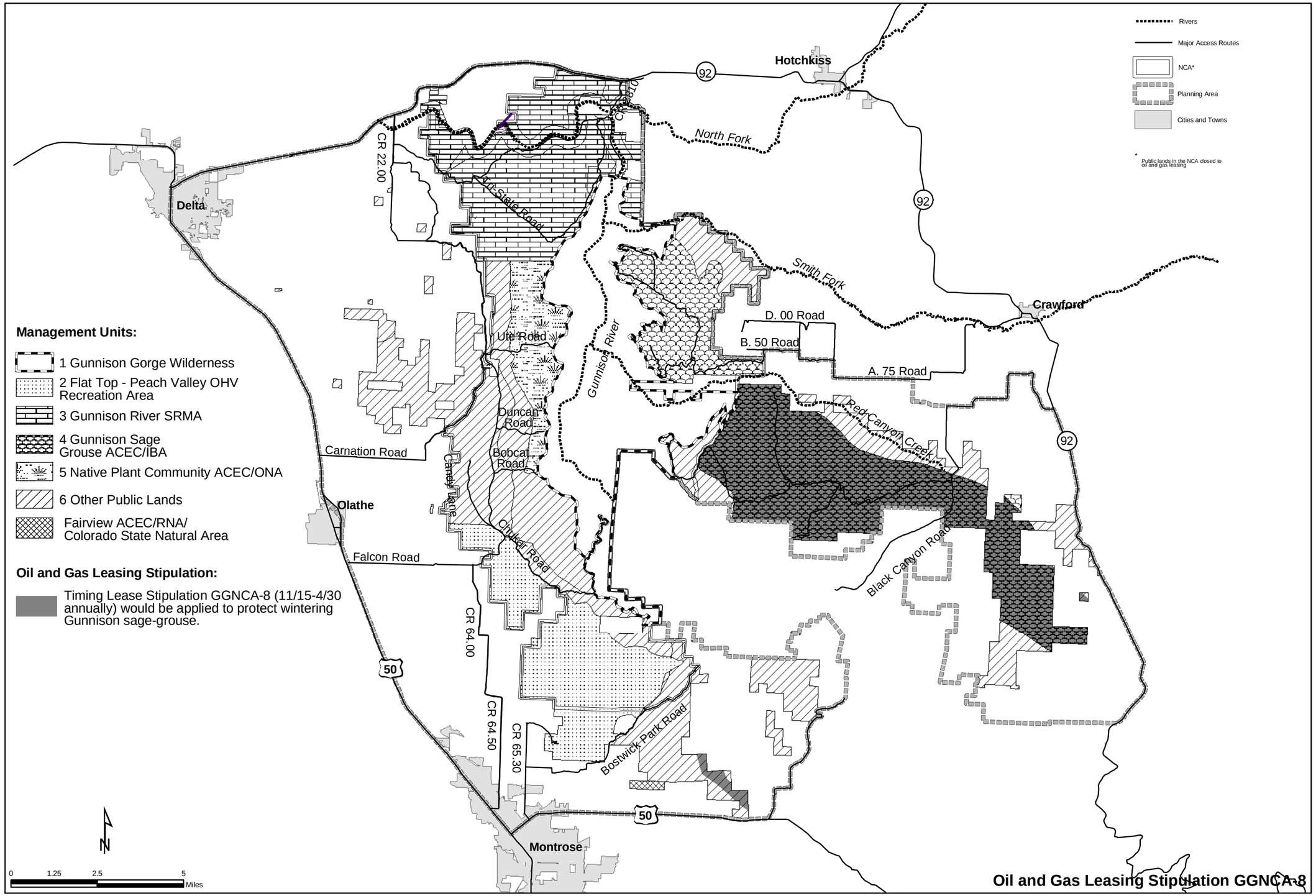

Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulation GGNCA-8

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure E-4

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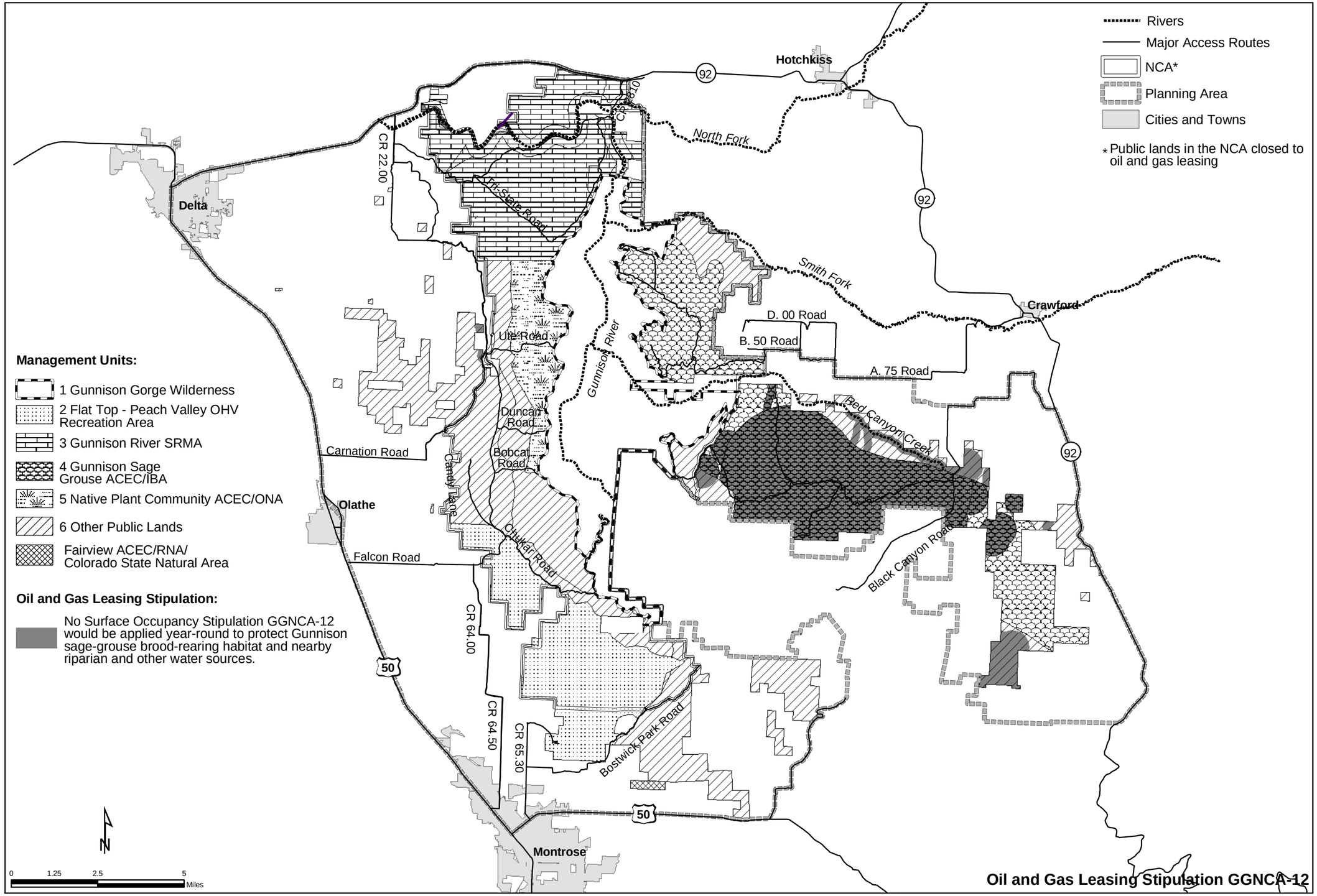

Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulation GGNCA-12

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure E-5

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Reasons for Exceptions

This stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on deer and elk utilization of crucial winter ranges. Variances could be allowed if these crucial ranges are not being utilized due to mild winter conditions or temporary changes in winter range utilization, or if impacts could be mitigated, or if site-specific conditions do not warrant the stipulation (small amount of disturbance, short duration of operations, etc.).

E.4.5 Uncompahgre Basin RMP #UB-6: Waterfowl Habitat

TLS: No surface use is allowed March 15 through June 30. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Stipulation

To protect waterfowl from activities that would alter breeding behavior, increase the incidence of nest abandonment, and decrease breeding success, all development activities (exploration, drilling, etc.) will only be allowed in waterfowl habitats from July 1 through March 14. Exceptions to this limitation may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. The affected portions of this lease are (legal description).

Reasons for Exceptions

This stipulation maybe waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer if the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on breeding and nesting waterfowl. Variances could be allowed if these breeding habitats are not being utilized, or if impacts could be mitigated, or if site-specific conditions do not warrant the stipulation (few individuals affected, short duration of operations, etc.).

E.4.6 GGNCA-1 (Colorado BLM Exhibit CO-02)

NSO stipulation.

Stipulation Purpose

To protect grouse strutting/dancing grounds (including sage and mountain sharp-tailed grouse and lesser and greater prairie chickens) within a two-mile (three-kilometer) radius from the site. Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

Reasons for Exceptions

An exception may be granted depending on current usage of the site or on the geographical relationship to topographic barriers and vegetation screening.

E.4.7 GGNCA-8

TLS: No surface use is allowed December 16 through March 15. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Stipulation Purpose

Protecting crucial Gunnison sage-grouse wintering range from activities that would cause these species to abandon areas of crucial winter cover habitat and forage for less suitable ranges.

Reasons for Exceptions

An exception to this stipulation may be approved if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer that the crucial winter range is: 1) not being utilized and is expected to remain in such a condition because of a temporary change in climate and/or habitat; or 2) impacts can be mitigated to avoid the abandonment of crucial winter cover and forage.

This stipulation may be waived by the Authorized Officer only upon a determination that crucial winter range does not exist within the lease. Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

E.4.8 GGNCA-10

NSO stipulation.

Stipulation Purpose

To prevent disturbance to important recreations lands outside the NCA and Wilderness from resource damage and to prevent safety hazards and associated risks to the public. Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes

Reasons for Exceptions

An exception may be granted depending on current usage.

E.4.9 GGNCA-11

NSO stipulation.

Stipulation Purpose

To protect the threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plants and their potential habitat that may be discovered on public lands outside the NCA, NSO will be permitted in these areas.

Reasons for Exceptions

Exceptions to this restriction may be authorized in writing by the BLM's Authorized Officer. This stipulation may be waived, excepted, or modified by the Authorized Officer is the lessee can demonstrate that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plants and their potential habitats within these areas.

E.4.10 GGNCA-12

NSO stipulation.

Stipulation Purpose

To protect Gunnison sage-grouse brood rearing habitat in certain riparian areas from activities that would remove this habitat and force Gunnison sage-grouse into less suitable areas.

Reasons for Exceptions

An exception to this stipulation may be approved if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Authorizing Officer that the Gunnison sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat is (1) not being utilized and is expected to remain in such a condition because of a temporary change in climate and/or habitat, and (2) operations can be conducted in such a manner as to avoid altering the vegetation, topography, and Gunnison sage-grouse escape cover.

This stipulation may be waived by the Authorized Officer only upon a determination that Gunnison sage-grouse no longer use these riparian zones as brood-rearing habitat.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

E.4.11 GGNCA-13 (Colorado BLM Exhibit CO-27)

LSUS or CSUS: Surface occupancy or use is subject to special operating constraints.

Stipulation Purpose

To protect soils on surfaces greater than 40 percent slope. Prior to surface disturbance of steep slopes (greater than 40 percent), an engineering/reclamation plan must be approved by the Authorized Officer. Such plans must demonstrate how the following will be accomplished:

a. Site productivity will be restored.

b. Surface runoff will be adequately controlled.

c. Off-site areas will be protected from accelerated erosion such as drilling, gullying, piping, and mass wasting.

d. Surface-disturbing activities will not be conducted during extended wet periods.

e. Construction will not be allowed when soils are frozen.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes.

E.4.12 GGNCA-14

CSUS: Activities associated with oil and gas exploration and development including roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, are restricted to an area beyond 500 feet of the riparian vegetation zone on the lands described below (for clarification, the 500-foot restriction starts at the point between riparian vegetation and upland vegetation).

Stipulation Purpose

To protect perennial water impoundments and streams, and/or riparian/wetland vegetation zone, important Gunnison sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat, and fish use, water quality, and other related resource values. This stipulation will not be applied when the Authorized Officer determines that relocation up to 200 meters can be applied to protect the riparian system during well siting.

Reasons for Exceptions

This stipulation may be excepted subject to an on-site impact analysis with consideration given to degree of slope, soils, importance to the amount and type of wildlife.

E.4.13 GGNCA-15 (Colorado BLM Exhibit CO-30)

Information Notice or Lease Notice: A potential closure period from March 1 through June 30, and special mitigation measures to protect nesting Gunnison sage-grouse from surface-disturbing activities.

Information Notice or Lease Notice: The lessee is hereby notified of potential closure period (March 1 through June 30) and special mitigation to protect nesting Gunnison sage-grouse from surface-disturbing activities. Gunnison sage-grouse nesting habitat is described as sagebrush stands with plants between 30 and 100 centimeters in height and 15 to 40 percent mean canopy cover.

APPENDIX F
DISTRIBUTION OF ROD/RMP

Table F-1 lists those parties who received copies of this ROD/RMP. In November 2004, paper or electronic (CD-ROM) copies of the ROD/RMP were distributed to a total of 321 parties, including elected officials, regulatory agencies, parties who protested the PRMP, focus group members, and other members of the public (Table F-1). Of this, the focus group distribution included mailing CD-ROMs of the ROD/RMP to all focus group members.

The same parties that were initially sent the DRMP (BLM 2003c), as well as those parties initially sent copies of the PRMP (BLM 2004), also were sent copies of the ROD/RMP. In addition, all 642 parties who submitted written comments on the DRMP (some of whom received PRMP and ROD/RMP copies), were sent notification of the availability of the ROD/RMP via a directed mailing of the project newsletter. In addition, approximately an additional 900 parties were notified of the availability of the ROD/RMP via a directed mailing of the project newsletter. In total, approximately 1,700 parties were mailed notification of the ROD/RMP availability.

Six local libraries also were provided paper copies of the RMP/ROD. This availability was announced in the newsletter.

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan

	Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Federal Agencies						
1.	Bureau of Land Management	Sering	John	Law Enforcement Ranger	Moab	UT
2.	Department of Commerce			Reviewer of Other Agency Resource Plans	Washington	DC
3.	Department of Energy			Reviewer of Other Agency Resource Plans	Washington	DC
4.	Department of Transportation	Hausler	Terry		Lakewood	CO
5.	National Park Service	Bockus	Dangoule	Ecologist	Montrose	CO
6.	National Park Service	Hoogland	Jake		Washington	DC
7.	National Park Service	Roehrs	Peter	Black Canyon District Ranger	Montrose	CO
8.	National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office	Heywood	Jeff		Denver	CO
9.	U.S. Department of the Interior			Director, Bureau of Land Management (WO-210)	Washington	DC
10.	U.S. Department of the Interior			Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Washington	DC
11.	U.S. Department of the Interior			Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Denver	CO
12.	US Army Corps of Engineers			Reviewer of Other Agency Resource Plans	Sacramento	CA
13.	US Bureau of Indian Affairs	Sutherland	Don		Washington	DC
14.	US Bureau of Land Management	MacDonald	Carol		Washington	DC
15.	US Bureau of Reclamation	Whittington	Brenda		Washington	DC
16.	US Environmental Protection Agency	Cody	Cynthia		Denver	CO
17.	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Peterson	Don		Arlington	VA
18.	US Geological Survey	Burton	Jim		Reston	VA
19.	US Geological Survey	Riley	Trish		Reston	VA
20.	USFWS	Young-Dubovsky	Connie	NEPA Coordinator, Region 6	Denver	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

	Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
State Agencies						
21.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Coven	Dale		Montrose	CO
22.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Hebein	Sherman		Montrose	CO
23.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Homan	Doug		Hotchkiss	CO
24.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Jones	Paul		Gunnison	CO
25.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Kuharich	Rod	Director	Denver	CO
26.	Colorado Natural Heritage Program	Lyon	Peggy		Ridgway	CO
27.	Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Durango Service Center	Spezze; Jones	Tom; Paul	Regional Manager	Durango	CO
28.	Western Area Power Administration, CRSP-MC Office	Collins	Shane	Ms. Mary Simbala	Salt Lake City	UT
29.	Bureau of Land Management, Anasazi Heritage Center	Kendall	Steve	Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Planner	Dolores	CO
30.	Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office	Schroeder	Alan	and Kathleen Ozga	Grand Junction	CO
Local Agencies and Elected Officials						
31.	C/o Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell	Aggelar	Katie		Durango	CO
32.	City of Montrose	Jensen	Kerwin		Montrose	CO
33.	Colorado Counties, Inc.			Director	Aurora	CO
34.	Colorado State Representative, District 58	Rose	Ray		Denver	CO
35.	Colorado State Senator, District 5	Entz	Lewis		Denver	CO
36.	Colorado State Senator, District 5	Entz	Lewis		Denver	CO
37.	Colorado State Senator, District 6	Isgar	Jim		Denver	CO
38.	Governor of Colorado	Owens	Bill	Governor of Colorado	Denver	CO
39.	Montrose County	Hale	Betsy	Chair, District One Commissioner	Montrose	CO
40.	Montrose County	Ubell	David	District Two Commissioner	Olathe	CO
41.	Olathe Town Government	Larum	Chris	Council Member	Olathe	CO
42.	Olathe Town Government	Novotny	George	Olathe Town Council Member Manager	Olathe	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

	Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Local Agencies and Elected Officials *(continued)*						
43.	Town of Olathe	Blair	Wayne	Mayor	Olathe	CO
44.	Town of Olathe	Sale	Bill	Director of Operations	Olathe	CO
45.		Henry	Shane	Assistant Director for Energy, Land, and Forestry	Denver	CO
46.		McInnis	Scott	Attn: Kelly Watson	Grand Junction	CO
47.		Rossman	George	C/o Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell	Grand Junction	CO
Colleges and Universities						
48.	Arizona State University	Knopf	Richard		Phoenix	AZ
49.	Colorado State University Cooperative Extension	LeValley	Robbie		Hotchkiss	CO
50.	Western State College	Young	Jessica	Associate Professor of Biology	Gunnison	CO
Organizations and Businesses						
51.	Adrift Adventures	Tierney	Pat		Jensen	UT
52.	Adventure Travel Business	Mallett	Jerry		Salida	CO
53.	ALS Inc. and Town of Olathe	Shriver	Al		Olathe	CO
54.	American White Water Association, River Runners for Wilderness	Johnson	Jo		Boulder	CO
55.	Arkansas River Tours/OLTS	Medrick and Bob Hamel	Rick		Cotopaxi	CO
56.	Bear Dance River Ranch	Wells	Thomas		Montrose	CO
57.	Black Canyon Anglers	Dudginski	Rick		Austin	CO
58.	Black Canyon Audobon Society	Day	Bill		Hotchkiss	CO
59.	Black Canyon Lease	Linman	William and Lila F.		Crawford	CO
60.	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	Roberts	Dave		Montrose	CO
61.	Black Canyon Ranch Properties, LLC	Kugler	Bruce		Denver	CO
62.	Carnivore Restoration Program	Edward	Rob	Director	Boulder	CO
63.	Center for Native Ecosystems	Smith	Jacob	Executive Director	Denver	CO
64.	Center for Native Ecosystems	Smith	Jacob	Executive Director	Paonia	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

	Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Organizations and Businesses *(continued)*						
65.	Colorado Mountain Club	Schmaltz	Charlie		Montrose	CO
66.	Colorado Mountain Club	Smith	Vera	Conservation Director	Golden	CO
67.	Colorado Mountain Club	White	Bob		Montrose	CO
68.	Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO)				Denver	CO
69.	Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition	Wight	D. Andrew	Attorney for the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition	Denver	CO
70.	Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA)	Files	Ralph		Montrose	CO
71.	Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA)	Harris	Bill		Grand Junction	CO
72.	Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA)	James	Leslie	Executive Director	Tempe	AZ
73.	Colorado River Water Conservation District	Kanzer, P.E.	David A.	Water Resources Engineer	Glenwood Springs	CO
74.	Delta County Independent	Borchardt	Bob		Delta	CO
75.	Davis Service Center - Motorcycle Shop	Nance	Jamie		Montrose	CO
76.	Delta-Montrose Electric Association	Davenport	Kent	Engineering Manager	Montrose	CO
77.	Denham Ranch	Denham	Larry		Olathe	CO
78.	Dragonfly Anglers	Cesario	Roger		Crested Butte	CO
79.	Dvorak Expeditions	Dvorak	Bill		Nathrop	CO
80.	Echo Canyon River Expeditions	Nienas	Andy		Canyon City	CO
81.	Forest Guardians	Oliva	Jon-Paul	Conservation Biologist	Santa Fe	CO
82.	Friends of the Earth	Sykes	Kristen	Interior Department Watchdog	Washington	DC
83.	G&C Agri. Services	Davis	Gary G.		Montrose	CO
84.	Grand Valley Anglers	Knackendoffel	Dick		Grand Junction	CO
85.	Grand Valley Anglers	Knapp	Cliff	President	Grand Junction	CO
86.	Gunnison Basin Selenium Task Force	See	Randy	Coordinator	Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Organizations and Businesses *(continued)*					
87. Gunnison River Expeditions	Hotze	Hank		Montrose	CO
88. Gunnison River Pleasure Park	Jagodinski	Leroy and Carline		Lazear	CO
89. Hargar Roofing	Hargar	Brian		Montrose	CO
90. High Country Citizens Alliance	Shea	Sandy		Crested Butte	CO
91. High Country Citizens' Alliance	McDermott	Wendy	Outreach Director	Crested Butte	CO
92. Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery			Manager/Superintendant	Hotchkiss	CO
93. Hotchkiss Public Library				Hotchkiss	CO
94. Hotchkiss Ranches	Farmer	Brian		Hotchkiss	CO
95. International Facilitation Group, Inc.	Mautner	Bill	President	Newburg	OR
96. J & Ray Outfitters	Franks	Larry, Erin & Ronald		Montrose	CO
97. Matt Owens Fly Company	Owens	Matt		Cedaredge	CO
98. Montrose Daily Press	Smyth, Eric Drummond & Mary Ann Lopez	Russell		Montrose	CO
99. Montrose Walkers	Schultz	Dick		Montrose	CO
100. MotoX	Curtis	Dan & DJ		Montrose	CO
101. National Trust for Historic Preservation	Smith	Michael	Public Lands Counsel	Washington	DC
102. National Wildlife Federation	Carlson	Cathy	and Marc Smith	Boulder	CO
103. North Fork River Improvement Association	Crane	Jeff	Director	Hotchkiss	CO
104. North Fork River Improvement Association (NFRIA)	Bounty	Shawn		Paonia	CO
105. Peregrine River Outfitters	Klema	Tom		Durango	CO
106. Private Boaters Coalition and Pikes Peak River Runners	King	Christina		Woodland Park	CO
107. Ridgway Independent Guide Service LLC	Patterson & Bill Sheppard	Tim		Ridgway	CO
108. River Rats	Harris & Mike Haas	Bob		Snowmass	CO
109. Rock Rods 4-WD Club	McPherson	Trevor		Montrose	CO
110. Rock'n Wheelers	Hatton	Mark		Delta	CO
111. Sanburg Herefords, LLP	Sanburg	Kurt & Elloise		Montrose	CO
112. Scenic Mesa Ranch	Miller	Terry		Hotchkiss	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Organizations and Businesses *(continued)*					
113. Scenic Mesa Ranch, LLC	Littlefield	Julia		Hotchkiss	CO
114. Sierra Club	Robison	Deb	and Melinda Pierce	Boulder	CO
115. Telluride Co	Bush	Mark		Telluride	CO
116. Telluride Real Estate Corporation	Hilbert	Steve	Managing Director	Telluride	CO
117. The Nature Conservancy	Gann	David		Montrose	CO
118. The Wilderness Society	Harmon	Tara	Public Lands Assistant	Denver	CO
119. The Wilderness Society	Hunt	Fran	Elano Richmond, Wendy Vanasselt	Washington	DC
120. The Wilderness Society	Jones	Suzanne	Assistant Regional Director	Denver	CO
121. To-Hell-U-Riders Cycles and Sleds, LLC	Schaeffer	Susan	and Paul Russell	Telluride	CO
122. Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.	Murray	Mark	Permitting and Land Rights Manager	Denver	CO
123. Trout Unlimited	Evans	Joel		Montrose	CO
124. Trout Unlimited	Oglesby	Pat & Carol		Grand Junction	CO
125. Trout Unlimited	Trammell	John		Grand Junction	CO
126. Trout Unlimited	Walker	Chuck		Grand Junction	CO
127. Uncompahgre Valley Association (WCC)	Hahn J & Christine L Jarus	Jeffery P		OLATHE	CO
128. Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders	Johnson	Roy		Montrose	CO
129. Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders	Morris	Robert & Claudia		Montrose	CO
130. Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association	Catlin	Marc	Manager	Montrose	CO
131. US Public Interest Research Group	Sittenfeld	Tiernan	Conservation Advocate	Washington	DC
132. UVA	Jentsch	Robert and Shirley		Montrose	CO
133. Western Colorado Congress	Baker	Susan	Director	Montrose	CO
134. Western Colorado Congress	Ballantyne	Marv		Montrose	CO
135. Western Colorado Congress	Patterson	Bill		Montrose	CO
136. Western Colorado Congress	Sura	Matt	Public Lands Organizer	Grand Junction	CO
137. Western Colorado Congress	Welch	Margie		Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Organizations and Businesses *(continued)*					
138. Western Slope 4 Wheelers	Faison	Scott	Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Montrose	CO
139. Western Slope Environmental Resource Council	Puckett	Jeremy	Assistant Director	Paonia	CO
140. Western Slope Environmental Resource Council	Robinsong	Andrea		Hotchkiss	CO
141. Wilderness Aware Rafting	Griener	Joe		Buena Vista	CO
142. Wildlife Management Institute	Carpenter	Len		Ft. Collins	CO
Individuals					
143.		Teri		Montrose	CO
144.	Allard	Wayne	Attn: Derek Wagner	Grand Junction	CO
145.	Allen	Larry		Hotchkiss	CO
146.	Allen	Paul		Hotchkiss	CO
147.	Allen	Ross		Hotchkiss	CO
148.	Anderson	Bryan		Eckert	CO
149.	Anderson	Chris & Jordan		Montrose	CO
150.	Anderson	Kevin		Montrose	CO
151.	Austin	Casey		Montrose	CO
152.	Ayer	James and Justin		Crawford	CO
153.	Baldus	John		Montrose	CO
154.	Bellgardt	Allen		Montrose	CO
155.	Bennett	Scott		Telluride	CO
156.	Bol	Alan			
157.	Boyle	Steve		Montrose	CO
158.	Brunton	Rick		Montrose	CO
159.	Brush	Carole		Boulder	CO
160.	Buchheim	Ernie		Cedaredge	CO
161.	Buhler	Tim		Golden	CO
162.	Bush	Terry		Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
163.	Campbell	Ben Nighthorse		Washington	DC
164.	Campbell	Bob		Glenwood Springs	CO
165.	Campbell	Craig and Brad		Montrose	CO
166.	Chandler-Reed	Susan		Montrose	CO
167.	Chase	Myron		Montrose	CO
168.	Christensen	Steve		Price	UT
169.	Clark	Jim		Montrose	CO
170.	Clark III	Ralph E.		Gunnison	CO
171.	Collins	Justin		Montrose	CO
172.	Colvin	Ted			
173.	Connelly	Brett		Montrose	CO
174.	Cook	Lillian		Montrose	CO
175.	Coolidge	Joanna			
176.	Costoyo	Mindy		Gunnison	CO
177.	Cotten	Larry L.	Ms. Faye Robinson	Monte Vista	CO
178.	Cotten	Shirley and Orval		Crawford	CO
179.	Cottone	Glenn		Breckenridge	CO
180.	Cussins	Michael		Lakewood	CO
181.	Darlington	Darryll		Dolores	CO
182.	Day	Cheryl		Hotchkiss	CO
183.	Deines	Rob		Montrose	CO
184.	DeShazer	Vincent C		Westminster	CO
185.	Dickerson	Jon & Emarae Garcia		Montrose	CO
186.	Discoe	Jimmy and Shonnie		Ridgway	CO
187.	Dodge	Bob		Olathe	CO
188.	Dourlet	John		Telluride	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
189.	Durall	Jeannie & Adrian Appelhans		Montrose	CO
190.	Edwards	Skip		Crawford	CO
191.	Etchart	Ernie		Montrose	CO
192.	Fakiri	Sue		Montrose	CO
193.	Felix	Deven		Montrose	CO
194.	Foltz	Tim		Delta	CO
195.	Furimsky	Ben		Crested Butte	CO
196.	Gallegos	Dave		Montrose	CO
197.	Gates	Bo		Monrtose	CO
198.	Goffin	Gene		Crawford	CO
199.	Green	Robert		Ridgway	CO
200.	Gumpper	Andy			
201.	Hamilton	Joey		Montrose	CO
202.	Harding	Richard		Olathe	CO
203.	Harper	Paula		Hotchkiss	CO
204.	Hasto	Craig		Montrose	CO
205.	Hawkins	Bud, Cindy & Clarance Jr.		Delta	CO
206.	Hawks	John		Olathe	CO
207.	Hawks	Randy		Olathe	CO
208.	Heneghan	Jim and Adele		Olathe	CO
209.	Henry	Gig, Annette, and Max		Ridgway	CO
210.	Hibbard	Heath, Cristal, and Sue		Montrose	CO
211.	Hines	Todd & Cynthia		Olathe	CO
212.	Horgan	Chris		Livingston	TX

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
213.	Jackson	Elliot		Paonia	CO
214.	Jensen	Elaine & Jon & Tyler		Montrose	CO
215.	Johnson	Chelsey		Ridgway	CO
216.	Johnson	Phil		Paonia	CO
217.	Johnson	Tom		Ridgway	CO
218.	Johnston	Scott		Montrose	CO
219.	Joss	Bruce			
220.	Jury	Darrel		Gunnison	CO
221.	Kauffman	Barbara		Mt. Crested Butte	CO
222.	Kenneth	Scott		Ridgway	CO
223.	Kinser	Jack and Mildred		Crawford	CO
224.	Kintz	Dan			
225.	Klaseen	Charles		Crawford	CO
226.	Krch	Eric		Montrose	CO
227.	Lannan	John and Kelly		Ridgway	CO
228.	Laursen	David K.		Montrose	CO
229.	Leach	Tom		Hotchkiss	CO
230.	Leonard	Ralph E.		Montrose	CO
231.	Leonard	Randy		Montrose	CO
232.	Loesch and Scott Hawkins	Sara		Montrose	CO
233.	MacNulty	Joy		Paonia	CO
234.	Mader	Thomas		Anchorage	AK
235.	Maness	Peter		Montrose	CO
236.	Marchbanks	Tim		Montrose	CO
237.	Marshall	Fred H		Montrose	CO
238.	Maskie	John		Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
239.	Maurus	John K.		Winnetka	IL
240.	McGowan	Jeff		Montrose	CO
241.	McInnis	Scott		Washington	DC
242.	McKinnon	Rodney		Montrose	CO
243.	McLeod	Tom		Delta	CO
244.	McPeak	Mike		Montrose	CO
245.	Meeks	Mary		Bailey	CO
246.	Miller	Gary		Colorado Springs	CO
247.	Miller	Steve		Santa Fe	NM
248.	Moore	Claire		Paonia	CO
249.	Moore	John		Crawford	CO
250.	Morrison	Robyn		Paonia	CO
251.	Mortimer	Chris		Ridgway	CO
252.	Nash	Rod		Crested Butte	CO
253.	Nichols	Shawn		Montrose	CO
254.	Nicholson	Bob		Montrose	CO
255.	Nicolas	August G. & Sherry Lynn	Claudette Nicolas	Montrose	CO
256.	Nicolas	Paul & Shane		Montrose	CO
257.	Noble	Homer		Denver	CO
258.	Nordlund	James M.		Stockton	KS
259.	Norton	Patrick		Montrose	CO
260.	Paigen	Mark		Paonia	CO
261.	Patterson	Steve		Telluride	CO
262.	Patterson III	James		Hotchkiss	CO
263.	Perpar	John		Montrose	CO
264.	Phillips	Jeff		Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
265.	Pipher	Luce		Crawford	CO
266.	Pipkin	Marilyn and Dave		Cedaridge	CO
267.	Pipkin	Patricia			
268.	Polson	Duane E. and Patricia		Crawford	CO
269.	Potter	Maurice		Montrose	CO
270.	Rajca	Jack		Ridgway	CO
271.	Rattan	Lanham		Montrose	CO
272.	Ray	Joan		Boulder	CO
273.	Rhoten	Troy & Bryan & Eric & Troy		Montrose	CO
274.	Rives	Jenny and David			
275.	Robey	Tom		Santa Fe	NM
276.	Rodenburg	Mark		Denver	CO
277.	Rotherham	Will		Montrose	CO
278.	Sanderson	Patrick		Albuqueque	NM
279.	Sanderson	Steven		Albuquerque	NM
280.	Scheid	Heide & Scott & Nancy		Montrose	CO
281.	Scherben	Joseph IV		Montrose	CO
282.	Scherben	Kalena & Joseph & Andrea		Montrose	CO
283.	Schiele	Adrienne			
284.	Schlosser	Mark		Montrose	CO
285.	Schmitt	Ed		Colorado Springs	CO
286.	Sexton	Rick		Granite	CO
287.	Sherratt	Heidi		Crested Butte	CO
288.	Simpson	Robert		Montrose	CO
289.	Souther	Sarah			

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
290.	Spaulding	Kim and Jake		Telluride	CO
291.	Spruill	John		Montrose	CO
292.	Staehle	Alan		Ouray	CO
293.	Starr	Frank		Ridgway	CO
294.	Stith	Greg		Montrose	CO
295.	Strickland	Rob	Guide	Gunnison	CO
296.	Summers	Steven		Montrose	CO
297.	Sutton II	William W.		Delta	CO
298.	Swancara	Frank & Barb		Montrose	CO
299.	Taylor	Shane		Montrose	CO
300.	Terry	Noalani		Montrose	CO
301.	Tickner	Paul		Montrose	CO
302.	Ulrich	Kurt		Crawford	CO
303.	Valentine	Sue		Cedaredge	CO
304.	Walker	Mitch and Kathy		Montrose	CO
305.	Waller	Clyde		Montrose	CO
306.	Walsh	Pete		Grand Junction	CO
307.	Walton	Ron		Montrose	CO
308.	Warren	Breton & Ivan & Robin		Montrose	CO
309.	Webb	Basil			
310.	Welby	Daniel		Montrose	CO
311.	White	Jake & Josh		Montrose	CO
312.	Wilkes	Debra		Montrose	CO
313.	Wilkes	Jesse		Montrose	CO
314.	Wilkes	Robert		Montrose	CO
315.	Williams	Joe and Ruby		Montrose	CO

Table F-1
Persons and Agencies Sent Copies of the Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan *(continued)*

Affiliation	Last Name	First Name(s)	Title	City	State
Individuals *(continued)*					
316.	Wise	Thomas & Connie		Montrose	CO
317.	Wooddell	Larry		Telluride	CO
318.	Yanda	James			
319.	Young	John		Paonia	CO
320.	Zaffos	Joshua		Paonia	CO
321.	Zeman	Howard & Mari		Montrose	CO

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APPENDIX G
GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION PLAN, CRAWFORD AREA, COLORADO – GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

As part of the RMP, and as stated in Chapter 2, management goals and objectives that will be adopted from the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado include: maintain or increase sage-grouse numbers and distribution in the Crawford area while maintaining current uses and a healthy landscape; maintain and/or improve the quality of sage-grouse habitat; reduce fragmentation by preventing, minimizing, and mitigating past, present, and future loss of sage-grouse habitat; and identify and manage physical disturbances to reduce adverse effects on sage-grouse (Crawford Sage-Grouse Partnership 1998). In addition, specific management actions outlined in the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan are adopted as part of this RMP.

Below is a reproduction of the management goals, objectives and specific management measures described in the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan, Crawford Area, Colorado.

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GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE

CONSERVATION PLAN

CRAWFORD AREA - COLORADO

July 22, 1998

V. CONSERVATION STRATEGY

A. CRAWFORD AREA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To more clearly guide management efforts of the Partnership in securing the long term status of the Gunnison sage grouse, and meeting the needs of the other resources and involved groups and individuals, the following goals and objectives were developed.

Overall Goal: Maintain or increase sage grouse numbers and distribution in the Crawford area while maintaining current uses and a healthy landscape.

Sage Grouse Population Goal: Maintain a sage grouse population size in the Crawford area that is in balance with the carrying capacity of the habitat, striving for a desired minimum of 225 birds and an optimum of at least 480 birds; increase the minimum number of birds over time to at least 225 ± in 2001 (3 years), 350 ± in 2005 (7 years), and 480 ± total birds in 2010 (12 years).

The present (1996-97) size of the breeding population of Gunnison sage grouse in the Crawford area is between 129 and 228 birds based on 41-45 males counted on 3 active leks. Thus, the minimum goal desired, 225 birds, may be higher than the present estimated population.

To obtain the minimum spring population goal of 225 birds, it would be necessary to have at least 4 active leks with an average of 14 males/lek (present numbers) for a total male population of 56 that is counted (4 x 14). If this number represents 75% of the cocks in the population and all active lek areas are known and counted, the male population should be 75 (56 ÷ 0.75) with 150 hens for a total population of 225 sage grouse (75 males + 150 hens). An optimal population would translate to 160 males (120 ÷ 75%) and 320 hens for a spring population size of about 480 sage grouse. With proper habitat management, this goal should be achievable. Three-year averages of counts of males on leks will be used to assess population trend (1994-95-96, 1995-96-97, 1996-97-98, etc.). Further, as new information is obtained, changes in these goals may be necessary.

Sage Grouse Habitat Goal: Maintain on suitable sites across the Crawford landscape relative large, contiguous stands of sagebrush with a variety of vegetative conditions interspersed throughout, in the desired arrangement with good connectivity to provide the quantity and quality of sage grouse habitat to support at least the desired optimum population level by 2010.

Populations are basically products of the environment, or habitat in which they are found. Thus, habitat quality is an indicator of how well habitat meets the needs of sage grouse. Also, the health of the natural system in which populations exist, and its ability to function in a dynamic manner through time largely determines its capability for long-term sustainability. Time, space, a focus on the natural processes and their ability to function, and the relationship with surrounding communities are of primary importance and concern in achieving the habitat goal of this plan.

B. GENERAL CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Using these goals as a target, the Crawford Partnership identified three dominant themes or categories; habitat quality, habitat loss/fragmentation, and physical disturbance to the population, for which general conservation objectives were developed. Specific objectives were developed for habitat quality. These objectives were developed largely based on the issues and/or factors identified as in some way contributing to the static or declining population size of sage grouse or affecting the quantity or quality of sage grouse habitat in the Crawford area.

The purpose of these objectives is to guide the selection of conservation actions. These objectives are also useful to explain the overall thrust of the conservation strategy. These objectives are:

Habitat Quality: Maintain and/or improve the quality of sage grouse habitat,

Description: Habitat quality is an indication of how well habitat meets the needs of sage grouse. Habitat in poor condition is of lower quality than habitat which is in good condition because higher quality habitat provides more of the essential components such as food, water, cover, etc. Generally, the group of factors that affect habitat quality and/or fragmentation (discussed in the following section) are considered to be the most important to sage grouse recovery.

Specific Objectives: (Habitat Vegetation)

Leks:

Habitat Function: Used for display and mating, require good acoustics and visibility for display activity, and for predator detection.

Location: Within at least 300 yards to 1/2 mile of nesting habitat. Within 200 yards of escape

cover (large expanses of sagebrush). Typically in broad valleys or benches, broad ridges or mesas. At least 200 yards from trees or other potential raptor perches.

Size: 1-5 acres.

Shape: Irregular, but usually circular or short and linear.

Time of use: Mid March to early June.

Composition: Perennial grass cover > 20%.
Total sage cover < 10%.
Total forb cover > 10%.

Structure: No trees or deciduous shrubs > 3 feet tall.
Grass and forb height 5-10 inches.
Sage up to 15 inches.

Near Lek Areas:

Habitat Function: Provides escape cover for displaying males, visiting females, resting birds.

Location: Within 200 yards of lek.

Size: > 1 acre up to 40-60 acres.

Shape: Irregular, if linear, then > 200 yards in width, if patches, then > 200 yards in diameter.

Composition: Perennial grass cover > 20%.
Total shrub cover (sage + mountain shrubs) 20-30%.
Total forb cover > 10%.

Structure: Sagebrush and other shrubs > 15 inches tall.
No potential raptor perches.

Nesting/Early Brood Rearing Areas:

Habitat Function: Provides good hiding and nesting cover and high levels of insects and succulent forbs to meet brood rearing nutritional requirements.

Location: Within 3 miles of a lek.

Size: Overall nesting area > 10 acres made up of 1/4-1 acre patches of sage ranging from dense to sparse.

Shape: Need high level of interspersion within heavier sagebrush areas.

Time of use: April through July.

Composition: Patchy: **foraging areas:**
Total sage cover < 20%.
Total forb cover > 15%.
Total grass cover > 25%.
hiding areas:
Total sage cover > 25%.
Total forb cover > 10%.
Total grass cover > 20%.

Structure: Sagebrush > 18 inches tall.
Abundant standing herbaceous material.
Herbaceous average height > 8 inches.

Late Brood Rearing Areas:

Habitat Function: Provides moisture and high levels of succulent forbs and insects, hiding cover. Typically edges of hay meadows, riparian areas, ponds, seeps, drainage bottoms.

Location: Near stands of live sagebrush or other deciduous shrubs close enough for escape. Less than 1/2 mile from early brood rearing areas, often north slopes.

Size: > 100 yards, usually around 200 yards wide.

Shape: Irregular, frequently linear, high interspersion of stand and cover types.

Composition: Sagebrush < 20%.

Total shrub cover < 25%.
Perennial Grass cover > 25%.
Perennial forb cover > 15%.

Structure: herbaceous vegetation >10 inches tall.

Fall and Winter Habitat:

Habitat Function: Provides thermal and hiding cover, abundant supply of taller sagebrush (15-25 inches).

Location: Usually broad basins, ridges, and north to northwest facing slopes.

Size: Extensive stands of sage, usually in patches larger than 100-2200 acres.

Shape: Interspersion of shorter stands of sage (ridges) with taller stands (swales, valley bottoms).

Composition: Total sage cover > 20% (25-30% preferable).
Total Forb Cover > 10%.
Perennial grass cover > 15%.

Structure: Tall sage 15-25 inches.
Shorter sage > 10 inches.

Habitat loss/fragmentation: Reduce fragmentation by preventing, minimizing, and mitigating past, present and future loss of sage grouse habitat,

Description: Loss of sage grouse habitat refers to areas that once provided habitat, but no longer does because that habitat no longer exists or is not available. It should be thought of as a permanent loss in the area. Another example of habitat loss occurs when a subdivision occupies an area that once was a sagebrush community.

Fragmentation refers to the distribution or location of habitat in terms of its physical position or connectiveness.

Physical disturbance to the population: Identify and manage physical disturbances to reduce adverse effects to sage grouse.

Description: This refers to the physical disturbance to sage grouse, the birds themselves. Physical disturbance can result in sage grouse death or exert stress particularly if disturbance occurs during biologically critical periods or times. Narratives of these issues can be found in Appendix A. (Issue Descriptions)

VI. CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The backbone of the Crawford sage grouse Conservation Plan is its goals and objectives which together establish a framework for developing conservation actions. Conservation Actions are designed to be consistent with the plan's goals and also to meet one or more of the objectives. These actions also address issues that affect sage grouse, and/or their habitat. Due to the interrelationship of the habitat components, resource values, and issues, many actions may apply to more than one objective. However, to avoid duplication, these actions have been listed in table 2 (page 12) where the link is most direct. Any additional actions identified at a later date will be analyzed by the Partnership for the application and design to ensure the appropriateness and compliance with the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

Plan implementation will be priority-based starting with those actions the Partnership believes to be most effective at accomplishing their goals. This group recognizes the need to be opportunistic in carrying out specific conservation actions as situations present themselves. For example, a particular conservation action might be implemented sooner than scheduled, if funding became available, or a group or individual came forward to help with completing a task.

Some actions have already begun, or are ongoing. Other actions would need to be done continually throughout the plan. These are normally a matter of policy or require small changes in the way resources are managed and land use activities take place. Sometimes a land use has to be proposed or initiated by a third party before the conservation action can be applied.

The adoption of these Conservation Actions will be the responsibility of the Partnership. Specific steps or tasks needed to carry out a conservation action will be developed as the implementation proceeds. Cost estimates, including those for monitoring and evaluation will be identified. Every effort to leverage money and resources will be made. Many actions, such as vegetation treatments are costly, and will be dependent upon seeking cooperative funding from many partners, and possibly outside sources, such as grants.

Because plan accomplishment will require a lengthy period to complete, it is important to track progress at meeting our goals. At least yearly, the Crawford Partnership will convene a meeting to examine accomplishments and keep the plan on track. As actions are completed they will become part of the yearly

progress report. Signatory parties to this Plan will provide reports of their accomplishments to BLM by January 15 of each year for inclusion in the Partnership's annual progress report. A consolidated report will then be prepared and disseminated to Partnership members prior to the yearly or spring planning meeting. The public will be invited to attend the annual meeting and copies of the progress report made available to those interested.

An important part of the yearly progress report and meeting will be to discuss and document any exceptions or deviations to planned accomplishments. Inadequate funding may preclude the completion of an action in a given period. In this instance, an adjustment to the implementation sequence would be needed. What is important is to show continual progress at accomplishing the goals in the plan.

Based on the data available the BLM and CDOW will schedule a public meeting each year, or as needed, to discuss progress and future planning, and to disseminate results of the previous year's efforts or to adjust the Conservation Plan as needed.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring data will be gathered and used to evaluate progress in meeting the goal and objectives of this plan. Monitoring will be coordinated to insure that data collected will provide the needed information to assess the on-the-ground management actions and to measure progress in resolving resource problems and conflicts. This coordination will include appropriate consultation and cooperation with rangeland users, general public, landowners, academia, private organizations and local, State, and Federal agencies. Direct involvement by interested parties in the collection of data and in the subsequent evaluations based on these data will add to the credibility of monitoring results.

It is important that all monitoring information be easily accessed by those interested. Monitoring the response of the Gunnison sage grouse population to conservation actions will be measured by total number of active leks, and the total number of males counted. The number of active leks and total males will reflect winter survival as well as chick production in the previous year. Changes in habitat quality which result from the implementation of planned actions will be monitored using techniques applicable to the specific project or action. Three year averages of lek counts will be used to assess sage grouse population trend (1994,95,96; 1995,96, 97; 1996,97,98, etc.).

Evaluations may be conducted anytime during the implementation of this plan. The goal of evaluation is to determine whether progress is occurring, and if progress is not occurring, to identify adjustments.

It is the intent of the Partnership to frequently communicate with other Gunnison Sage Grouse Work Groups to seek and exchange information as progress is made on implementing the Conservation Actions. Also, participation by private landowners in this Conservation Plan will be strictly on a volunteer basis.

Table 1. Crawford area Gunnison sage grouse Conservation Actions (listed in no particular order & with examples of how to accomplish), and Implementation Schedule (when & who).

CONSERVATION ACTIONS		IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	
Action	**Examples of How to Accomplish**	**When**	**Who**
A. Information & Education			
1. Provide to the public, landowners, and others information that describes sage grouse habitat needs and conditions, and identifies sage grouse population levels. Identify concerns and opportunities to improve conditions for sage grouse in this area.	a. Maps, newspaper articles, radio & TV spots, displays, etc. b. Public contacts (e.g., individuals, County Commissioners, local schools, Tri-River Conservency), meetings, field trips, & make available copies of Conservation Plan. **c. Videos (sage grouse & habitat, treatments, etc.) in Coop with other sage grouse groups.** d. Brochures (e.g., Living with sage grouse in your backyard - control of dogs, etc.). e. Coordination/communications with; the public, other sage grouse groups, HPP, Black Canyon Audubon, etc. f. Information sign at Black Canyon Road and C77 Road.	a. Ongoing opportunistically. b. Ongoing opportunistically. **c. 1998-99 (completed).** d. As planned and when funding is available . e. Ongoing opportunistically. f. 1999-2000.	a. The Partnership. b. The Partnership. c. DOW Lead, BLM, NRCS, Public. d. The Partnership. e. The Partnership. f. BLM/DOW/NRCS.
2. Work with interested parties, landowners and others to create a better understanding of sage grouse needs, including the value and importance of sage grouse and sage grouse habitat, and provide a basis for sharing of ideas and reaching agreement on ways to improve sage grouse habitat and increase populations.	a. Meetings with interested landowners, government/regulatory entities (e.g., Counties, and livestock Associations). b. Maintain a current mailing list of interested citizens, and State, Local, and Federal Agencies. c. Develop management plans, cooperative agreements, etc. d. Distribute information about importance of sage grouse; availability of incentive programs, Best Management Practices, effects of certain land uses on grouse. e. Coord. Management of sage grouse with other wildlife species and resource agencies. f. Continue to work with other groups, e.g., Habitat Partnership Program. g. Communicate with other sage grouse groups. h. provide monitoring information and training to landowners. i. Present programs at local schools.	a. Ongoing opportunistically. b. Ongoing. c. Ongoing opportunistically. d. Ongoing opportunistically . e. Ongoing opportunistically . f. Ongoing opportunistically . g. Ongoing, annually. h. Ongoing opportunistically. i. Ongoing opportunistically.	a. The Partnership. b. The Partnership. c. The Partnership. d. DOW, BLM, NRCS, FWS, landowners. e. The Partnership. f. The Partnership. g. The Partnership. h. The Partnership. i. The Partnership.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS		IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	
Action	**Examples of How to Accomplish**	**When**	**Who**
B. Monitoring			
1. Identify and evaluate sage grouse habitat, limiting factors and activities that have the potential to impact sage grouse or their habitat. Identify and evaluate critical sage grouse habitats.	a. Habitat mapping and condition monitoring. b. Assess and track land-use changes, e.g., developments, roads, etc. c. On-site visits with landowners, Holistic Resource Mgmt. groups, Livestock and Wool growers groups to discuss and assess habitat conditions and monitoring needs. d. Joint-interagency/landowner evaluation, information sharing. e. Provide monitoring training to landowners. f. Big game impact data.	a. Ongoing, annually. b. Update 3-5 years. c. As needed/requested/ opportunistically. d. As needed/requested/ opportunistically. e. As needed/requested/ opportunistically. f. Ongoing, annually.	a. BLM, DOW, NRCS, landowners, Extension. b. BLM, DOW, NRCS, FWS, County. c. The Partnership. d. The Partnership. e. BLM, DOW, NRCS, Extension. f. DOW, BLM.
2. Continue to gather or initiate the collection of basic resource data to better understand and document conditions for sage grouse, including response to applied conservation measures.	a. Sage grouse population monitoring/census, e.g. lek counts. b. Design and carry out monitoring for applied measures, e.g., treatments. c. Continue to identify changes in the sage grouse populations size (use 3 yr. average of lek counts).	a. Annually, March-May. b. Annually, as needed. c. Annually.	a. DOW, others, Black Canyon Audubon. b. BLM, NRCS, Extension, landowners. c. DOW.
C. Avoiding or mitigating permanent loss of habitat			
1. Develop and encourage incentives for landowners to avoid or mitigate loss of sage grouse habitat.	a. Land exchanges. b. Conservation Easements with 3-Rivers Trust, Valley Land Conservency, CCA, RMEF, etc. c. Transferrable development rights. d. Payment for non use of sage grouse habitat. e. Application of specific land use practices that benefit grouse, e.g., water development, grazing plans. f. Develop recommendations for managing sagebrush community as a whole, considering all uses.	a. Ongoing opportunistically. b. Ongoing opportunistically. c. Ongoing opportunistically . d. Ongoing opportunistically . e. Ongoing opportunistically . f. Ongoing opportunistically .	a. BLM/Private landowners. b. Private landowners. c. The Partnership, Counties, landowners, developers. d. DOW, NRCS (WIP, EQUIP), FWS. e. DOW, HPP, BLM, NRCS, Pvt., Extension. f. DOW, HPP, BLM, NRCS, Pvt., FWS, Extension.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS		IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	
Action	**Examples of How to Accomplish**	**When**	**Who**
2. Enhance existing and restore former sage grouse habitat to offset loss of habitat elsewhere.	a. Vegetation treatments, e.g., brush beat, burn, reclaim. seed. b. Mitigating effects of human population growth and development.	a. Ongoing opportunistically . b. Ongoing opportunistically .	a. BLM, DOW, NRCS, Extension, landowners. b. The Partnership, County Planners.
3. Prevent loss and fragmentation of habitat from construction of roads, utilities.	a. Relocate or modify new utility lines, roads, developments, etc. in key grouse habitat.	a. Ongoing opportunistically.	a. BLM, DOW, FWS, Counties, landowners.
D. Restoring or improving quality of grouse habitat and populations			
1. Enhance existing riparian areas, or create or enhance small wet areas to benefit sage grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat.	a. Design and implement livestock grazing management practices to benefit riparian areas. b. Modify or adapt pipelines/springs to create small wet areas. c. Enhance and protect existing natural wet areas.	a. Ongoing opportunistically . b. Ongoing opportunistically . c. Ongoing opportunistically.	a. BLM on Public lands, NRCS assist landowners on private lands. b. BLM on Public lands, NRCS assist landowners on private lands. c. BLM, FWS, landowners.
2. Eliminate or modify situations that cause predation.	a. Modify power lines and wood fence posts (to remove raptor perches) in critical sage grouse areas. b. Cut pinyon-juniper trees near leks and elsewhere within potential sage grouse habitat to remove raptor perches, and to maintain the sagebrush habitat. c. Sale of Christmas trees in key sage grouse areas.	a. Ongoing opportunistically . b. 1998, ongoing. c. 1998, ongoing.	a. DOW, BLM, Power Counties, pvt. landowners, FWS. b. BLM (contracts, Delta Honor Crew), landowners, NRCS,& DOW, & FWS (incentives to landowners). c. BLM, landowners.
3. Implement local guidelines and use Best Management Practices to guide land uses to increase sage grouse populations and improve sage grouse habitat quantity and quality.	a. Implement Livestock grazing practices that benefit sage grouse habitat quality, and avoid physical disturbance to grouse during critical times, i.e., breeding and nesting. b. Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas. c. Proper land treatment design and construction that reduce impacts to sage grouse (e.g., how and where to plan projects). d. Land development options. e. Construction standards (placement, timing, rehab.,techniques).	a. Ongoing opportunistically. b. Ongoing opportunistically. c. Ongoing opportunistically. d. Ongoing opportunistically. e. Ongoing opportunistically.	a. BLM-permittee's, NRCS/Ext.-landowners. b. BLM, FWS, landowners. c. The Partnership. d. The Partnership. e. The Partnership.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS		IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	
Action	**Examples of How to Accomplish**	**When**	**Who**
4. Improve sage grouse habitat quality, and improve vegetation cover, especially forbs and grasses in sage grouse areas.	a. Develop and use sound grazing management practices. b. Plant and/or re-seed with a high proportion of forbs. c. Design vegetation treatments in sage grouse areas to be compatible with sage grouse needs. d. Improve ground cover in sage grouse areas. e. Manage big game population and habitat to minimize or avoid conflicts on grouse habitats, and to encourage moving them off grouse habitat, i.e., to the extent possible develop the highest quality big game habitat outside the sage grouse prime habitat. f. Integrate weed management with grouse needs. g. Vegetation treatments to improve vegetative age class diversity, improve the grass and forb component (may or may not need to seed), and reclaim any disturbed areas. h. Road closures, e.g., C-77 road at second cattle guard after 3rd season, and at Black Canyon road Dec. 15.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. c. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. d. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. e. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. f. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. g. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. h. 1998, ongoing opportunistically.	a. BLM, Private. b. BLM, HPP, NRCS, DOW, FWS, Private. c. BLM, HPP, RMEF, NRCS, DOW, FWS, Private. d. BLM, HPP, RMEF, NRCS, DOW, FWS, Private. e. BLM, DOW, Private. f. BLM, County Weed Boards, Private. g. BLM, Private. h. BLM, Park Service, County Roads.
5. Increase opportunities for improving over-winter survival, escape cover near leks, nesting cover, and expanding the range or use areas of sage grouse, e.g. use of new lek sites and areas.	a. Improve quality of sagebrush dominated habitats by using grazing management and vegetation treatment, e.g., mechanical treatment, fertilization. b. Avoid treatment projects that remove large stands of sagebrush in critical areas. c. Attempt to expand existing sage grouse use areas/range by using calls to entice males during the breeding season to use new lek sites close to or adjacent to existing lek sites.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. Ongoing opportunistically. c. 1999 (start).	a. BLM, HPP, DOW, NRCS, FWS. b. BLM, HPP, FWS, Private. c. DOW.
E. Reducing Physical Disturbance to Sage Grouse			
1. Mitigate or reduce conflicts with sage grouse during critical biological periods and on critical habitats.	a. Noise or physical disturbance ordinances or restrictions during critical periods near leks, e.g. manage on-road travel and OHV use in key grouse areas to avoid disturbance during critical times. b. Delay or modify construction start up dates or hours. c. Control or limit pets. d. Coordinate grazing management to avoid conflicts on leks.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. c. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. d. 1998, ongoing opportunistically.	a. BLM, NPS, FWS, County. b. BLM, FWS, Counties, DOW. c. DOW, FWS, Counties. d. BLM, FWS, Private.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS		IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	
Action	**Examples of How to Accomplish**	**When**	**Who**
F. Improving community support and participation			
1. Incorporate economic, social and cultural values into conservation practices.	a. Seek understanding, information sharing and maintaining communication. b. Adopt principle of voluntary compliance and participation. c. Involve landowners and local communities in all aspects of sage grouse conservation.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. c. 1998, ongoing opportunistically.	a. The Partnership. b. The Partnership. c. The Partnership.
2. Maintain local control.	a. Maintain Sage Grouse Partnership (must include landowners, local residents) to serve as advisory body. b. Continually seek public input and involvement. c. Annual (or as needed) hold a Partnership meeting to discuss progress and future needs, and plan a yearly schedule of events and conservation action implementation.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. c. 1998, ongoing opportunistically.	a. The Partnership. b. The Partnership. c. The Partnership.
3. Develop, improve, and encourage credibility and success.	a. Seek outside scientific review of projects. b. Involve college and/or universities. c. Adapt and change as we go. d. Annually the Partnership will prepare and disseminate to the members and others a progress report.	a. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. b. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. c. 1998, ongoing opportunistically. d. 1998, Annually.	a. The Partnership. b. The Partnership. c. The Partnership. d. The Partnership.

APPENDIX H
DATA MANAGEMENT

Table H-1 lists the GIS files used in this planning effort. Some data were used to develop figures in the Draft, Proposed, and Approved RMP and associated EISs, while others were used to aid in alternative development or impact analyses. Data and metadata are available at the BLM's Gunnison Gorge NCA office in Montrose, Colorado.

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
WestSlope.shp	City of Delta boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
Pueblo.shp	City of Pueblo boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
MontroseOlathe.shp	Boundaries for the cities of Montrose and Olathe	1-1	1-1	1-1		
GrandJunction.shp	City of Grand Junction boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
FortCollins.shp	City of Fort Collins boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
Durango.shp	City of Durango boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
Denver.shp	City of Denver boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
CoSpgs.shp	City of Colorado Springs boundary	1-1	1-1	1-1		
BLMPlanArea.shp	BLM-owned lands within the Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-12, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	1-1, 4-1, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	1-1, 2-1, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7	Alternatives B, C, D	Impacts on all resources under all alternatives
MainRoutes1.shp	Major regional access roads to the Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area	1-1	1-1	1-1		
COcountiesUSGS.shp	Colorado county boundaries	1-1,	1-1,	1-1,		

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
plan_bdy.shp	Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area boundary	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, 3-18, B-2, B-3, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	1-1, 3-4, 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-6, B-2, B-3	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, I-2, I-3	Alternatives B, C, D	Impacts on all resources under all alternatives
tristate_rd.shp	Tri-State Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
Gorgeaccess.shp	Major access routes into the Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area from the surrounding cities and towns	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
rim_trail.shp	Rim Trail	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6, 2-8	1-1, 4-1	1-1, 2-1	Alternatives A, B, C, D	
gorge_trails.shp	Trails within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6, 2-8	1-1, 4-1	1-1, 2-1	Alternatives A, B, C, D	
OverlookAccessRds.shp	Access roads leading to the East Side overlook	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
CR6400CR6450.shp	County Roads 6400 and 6450	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
cr6400.shp	County Road 6400	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
CR6350FlatTopRd.shp	Flat Top Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
cr6200.shp	County Road 6200	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
CR2200.shp	County Road 2200	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
col_hwy arc	Major roads surrounding the Gunnison Gorge NCA planning area	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-7, 3-8, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, 3-18, B-2, B-3, B-5, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	1-1, 3-4, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6, B-2, B-3, B-5	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6, I-2, I-3, I-5		
CarnationRoad.shp	Carnation Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
CandyLane.shp	Candy Lane	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
BostwickParkRd2.shp	Bostwick Park Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
BlackCanyonRoad.shp	Black Canyon Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
BigTreesAccessRds.shp	Access roads to the Black Ridge and Buttermilk relict tree stands	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
BigTreesAccess.shp	Access roads to the Black Ridge and Buttermilk relict tree stands	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
A75Road.shp	A75 Road	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9	1-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-6		
RedCanyonCreek.shp	Red Canyon Creek	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1	1-1, 4-1, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-6	Alternatives B, C, D special management areas	Wild and scenic river recommendations
B-12.shp	Gunnison River segment in the planning area	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1	1-1, 4-1, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-6		Wild and scenic river recommendations
B-13.shp	Gunnison River segment in the planning area	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1	1-1, 4-1, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-6		Wild and scenic river recommendations
B-14.shp	Gunnison River segment in the planning area	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1	1-1, 4-1, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-6		Wild and scenic river recommendations
NorthFork.shp	North Fork Creek	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1	1-1, 4-1, 4-6	1-1, 2-1, 2-6		
Region10Counties.shp	Counties within Region 10	1-1	1-1	1-1		
gg_nps.shp	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park boundary	1-1, 3-12	1-1	1-1		
ggnca_wild.shp	Gunnison Gorge Wilderness boundary	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 3-1, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, 3-18, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	1-1, 3-4, 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-6, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	1-1, 2-1, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7		Impacts on all resources under all alternatives

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
blmnca.shp	BLM-owned lands within the Gunnison Gorge NCA boundary	1-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	1-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	1-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7		
UteTrailCorrect.shp	Updated location of the Ute Trail	2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6	4-6	2-6	Alternatives A, B, C	
mar_nca.shp	Gunnison Gorge NCA boundary outline	2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 3-1, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, 3-18, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	3-4, 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-6	2-1, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6		Impacts on all resources under all alternatives
blmoldrmpzones8.shp	Old RMP management zones on public lands within the planning area	2-1			Alternative A	
gg_towns.shp	Cities and towns surrounding the Gunnison River segment in the planning area	2-1, 2-3, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1, 3-4, 3-10, 3-12, B-2, B-3, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	3-4, 4-1, 4-4, B-2, B-3	2-1, 2-4, I-2, I-3		
FairviewRNA.shp	Fairview RNA	2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-1, 4-3, 4-4	2-1, 2-3, 2-4	Alternatives A, B, C, D	Impacts on all resources under Alternatives A, B, C, and D OHV designations
AltAOHVltdTrails.shp	Areas where OHV use currently (Alternative A) is limited to existing routes year round	2-2, D-1				Impacts on all resources under Alternative A OHV designations

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
Blmplanohvltd.shp	Areas where OHV use currently (Alternative A) is limited to designated routes and seasonal restrictions	2-2, D-1				Impacts on all resources under Alternative A OHV designations
CommonManagement.shp	BLM-owned lands outside the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness	2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-1, 4-3, 4-4	2-1, 2-3, 2-4	Alternatives B, C, D	
Communication.shp	Communications site locations	2-3, 2-6, 2-8	4-1	2-1		
FalconRdEntrance.shp	Falcon Road entrance to the NCA	2-3				
gunnisonnfkacec6.shp	Management Unit B-8, Gunnison and North Fork Rivers ACEC	2-3			Alternative B	Impacts on all resources under Alternatives B
gunnisonsrma8.shp	Management Unit B-9, Gunnison River SRMA	2-3			Alternative B	Impacts on all resources under Alternative B
blk rdge big trees2.shp	Management Unit B-7, Black Ridge Relict Tree ACEC/ONA	2-3, 2-4, 2-7, 2-9, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-3, 4-4	2-3, 2-4	Alternative B	Impacts on all resources under Alternatives B, C, and D OHV designations
bt_milk big trees2.shp	Management Unit B-7, Buttermilk Relict Tree ACEC/ONA	2-3, 2-4, 2-7, 2-9, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-3, 4-4	2-3, 2-4	Alternative B	Impacts on all resources under Alternatives B, C, and D OHV designations

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
ncasagegrouseacec5.shp	Management Unit B-1, D-4, Gunnison Sage Grouse ACEC/IBA	2-3, 2-4, 2-8, 2-9, D-2, D-4	4-1, 4-3, 4-4	2-1, 2-3, 2-4	Alternatives B, D	Impacts on all resources under Alternatives B and D OHV designations
mancosohvopen2.shp	Management Unit B-3, Flat Top SRMA	2-3			Alternative B	
Nativeplantonacalc.shp	Management Unit B-2, D-5, Native Plant Community ACEC/ONA	2-3, 2-8	4-1	2-1	Alternatives B, D	
mancosshalerna10.shp	Management Unit B-6, Mancos Shale ACEC/RNA	2-3			Alternative B	
BLMB-50Road.shp	B50 Road area closed to OHV use under Alternative B	2-4, D-2				Impacts on all resources under Alternative B OHV designations
bostwickohvclosed3.shp	Bostwick Park area closed to OHV use under Alternative B	2-4, D-2				Impacts on all resources under Alternative B OHV designations
mancosohvopen2.shp	Flat Top area open to OHV use under Alternative B	2-4, D-2				Impacts on all resources under Alternative B OHV designations
EastSideOverlook.shp	Location of East Side Overlook site	2-5, 2-6	4-6	2-6		

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
Allcamps.shp	Location of all designated camp sites within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness	2-6				
Gunnisonriversrma.shp	Management Unit C-1, Gunnison and North Fork Rivers SRMA	2-6			Alternative C	Impacts on all resources under Alternative C
flattopohvopen6.shp	Management Unit C-3, Flat Top OHV NRA	2-6, 2-7, D-3			Alternative C	Impacts on all resources under Alternative C OHV designations
ncasagegrouseacecd3.shp	Alternative C seasonally closed or limited OHV area	2-7, D-3				Impacts on all resources under Alternative C OHV designations
SCentralOHVopen.shp	Area open to OHV use under Alternative C	2-7, D-3				Impacts on all resources under Alternative C OHV designations
flattopohvnra14.shp	Management Unit D-2, Flat Top OHV NRA	2-8	4-1	2-1	Alternative D	Impacts on all resources under Alternative D
gunnisonriversrma2.shp	Management Unit D-3, Gunnison River SRMA	2-8	4-1	2-1	Alternative D	Impacts on all resources under Alternative D
gunnisonnfkclosedohv3.shp	Area around the junction of the Gunnison River and North Fork Creek closed to OHV use under Alternative D	2-9, D-4	4-3, 4-4	2-3, 2-4		Impacts on all resources under Alterative D OHV designations

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
planohvopend4.shp	Areas open to OHV use under Alternative D	2-9, D-4	4-3, 4-4	2-3, 2-4		Impacts on all resources under Alterative D OHV designations
HowellVillage.shp	Location of Howell Village	2-5	4-6	2-6		Cultural resources impacts
redcanyonckacec3.shp	Red Canyon (Alternatives B and D)	2-5	4-6	2-6	Alternatives B, D	
UteGeolArea.shp	BLM Lands Ute Indian Fault Zone & Geologic Area (Alternatives B, C, and D)	2-5	4-6	2-6	Alternatives B, C, D	Impacts on geology
ChukarTrail.shp	Chukar Trail	2-5	4-6	2-6	Alternatives B, D	
mtco_roads arc	Montrose County roads	3-1, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-4	2-4		
delco_roads arc	Delta County roads	3-1 D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4	4-4	2-4		
rds_gps.shp	GPS road locations within the planning area	3-1				
rds_digit2.shp	Road locations within the planning area, digitized from existing maps	3-1				
gg_fault.shp	Geologic faults	3-2				Impacts on geology
gg_fault500.shp	Geologic faults at 1:500,000	3-2				Impacts on geology
gg_fold.shp	Geologic folds	3-2				Impacts on geology
gg_fold500.shp	Geologic folds at 1:500,000	3-2				Impacts on geology

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
PlanGeol.shp	Geologic formations underlying the planning area	3-2				Impacts on geology
NorthFkPt.shp	Portion of North Fork Creek	3-3				Wild and scenic river recommendations
ggnca_gunnison_river.shp	Gunnison River, extending through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park to the north of State Route 92	3-3, 3-10, 3-12				
GorgeAllotment	Gunnison Gorge allotment from the Land Health Assessment (BLM 2001a)	3-3				
SoilStd1.shp	BLM lands within the planning area evaluated according to the Land Health Assessment's Soil Standard	3-3				Soils impacts
elephantskinwash2.shp	Elephant Skin Wash	3-4	3-4			
SpringGulch.shp	Spring Gulch	3-4	3-4			
SulphurGulch.shp	Sulphur Gulch	3-4	3-4			
JonesDraw.shp	Jones Draw	3-4	3-4			
WildScenicInv1.shp	Some of the streams in the Wild and Scenic River study	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river recommendations
Loutsenhizer.shp	Loutsenhizer Canal	3-4	3-4			
RedRockCanyon.shp	Red Rock Canyon	3-4	3-4			
PeachValleyCanal.shp	Peach Valley Canal	3-4	3-4			
IronCreek.shp	Iron Creek	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
GrizzlyGulch.shp	Grizzly Gulch	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
DryCurrantCreeks.shp	Dry Currant Creek	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
DiamondJoeGl2.shp	Portion of Diamond Joe Gulch	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
DiamondJoeGl1.shp	Portion of Diamond Joe Gulch	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
CedarRunCk.shp	Cedar Run Creek	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
CedarCreek.shp	Cedar Creek	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
BuckCanyon.shp	Buck Canyon Creek	3-4, B-2	3-4, B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
UncompahgreR.shp	Uncompahgre River	3-4	3-4			
SmithFork.shp	Smith Fork Creek	2-1, 2-3, 2-5, 2-6, 2-8, 3-1, 3-4, B-2	3-4, 4-1, 4-6, B-2	2-1, 2-6, I-2		Wild and scenic river recommendations
urveg	Infrared Landsat image of vegetation types within the western portion of the planning area	3-6				Impacts on vegetation
ugveg	Infrared Landsat image of vegetation types within the eastern portion of the planning area	3-6				Impacts on vegetation
Deltadeerwca.shp	Deer winter concentration areas in Delta County	3-7				Impacts on mule deer critical winter range
Montdeerwca.shp	Deer winter concentration areas in Montrose County	3-7				Impacts on mule deer critical winter range

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
Deltadeerswr.shp	Deer severe winter range in Delta County	3-7				Impacts on mule deer critical winter range
Montdeerswr.shp	Deer severe winter range in Montrose County	3-7				Impacts on mule deer critical winter range
deltaelkwca.shp	Elk winter concentration areas in Delta County	3-7				Impacts on elk critical winter range
Montelkwca.shp	Elk winter concentration areas in Montrose County	3-7				Impacts on elk critical winter range
Deltaelkswr,shp	Elk severe winter range in Delta County	3-7				Impacts on elk critical winter range
Montelkswr.shp	Elk severe winter range in Montrose County	3-7				Impacts on elk critical winter range
ufo_sglek.shp	Gunnison sage-grouse leks	3-8			Alternatives B, D	Impacts on threatened and endangered species
mar_sgna.shp	Gunnison sage-grouse nesting areas	3-8			Alternatives B, D	Impacts on threatened and endangered species
mar_sgov.shp	Gunnison sage-grouse range	3-8			Alternatives B, D	Impacts on threatened and endangered species

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
ggnca_other_rivers.shp	North Fork Creek, Smith Fork Creek, Red Canyon Creek, and other perennial streams within the planning area	3-10, 3-12				
PlanPCAS.shp	CNHP's Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) within the planning area boundary	3-10			Alternative B	
PlanAreaGraze	Grazing allotments within the planning area boundary	3-11				Impacts on ranchers and grazing
ROSdigitized	Recreation opportunity spectrum classifications, hand-digitized based on existing BLM mapping (BLM 1995a)	3-13				
BLMfireplanzones	Fire management zones within the planning area (BLM 2002k)	3-18				Impacts on fire management
PeachValleyPlan	Peach Valley Canal within the planning area	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
RedRockCanyonPlan	Red Rock Canyon Creek within the planning area	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
BuckCanyonPlan	Buck Canyon Creek within the planning area	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
GunnsionRWSinvPlan	Portion of the Gunnison River in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
RedCanyonCkWild	Red Canyon Creek in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory	B-2, B-3, B-7	B-2, B-3, B-7	I-2, I-3, I-7		Wild and scenic river study
SmithForkWild	Smith Fork Creek in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory	B-2, B-3, B-6	B-2, B-3, B-6	I-2, I-3, I-7		Wild and scenic river study
CedarCreekPlan	Portion of Cedar Creek within the planning area	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
GrizzGulchPlanArea	Portion of Grizzly Gulch within the planning area	B-2	B-2	I-2		Wild and scenic river study
GunnisonRScenic	Portion of the Gunnison River in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory considered eligible for further study	B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7	I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7		Wild and scenic river study
buffer1320gunnisonrscenic7	0.25- mile buffer around the wild and scenic eligible sections of the Gunnison River	B-4, B-5	B-4, B-5	I-4, I-5		Wild and scenic river study
buffer1320smithforkwild2	0.25- mile buffer around the wild and scenic eligible sections of Smith Fork Creek	B-6	B-6	I-6		Wild and scenic river study
redcanyonckwildpvt	0.25- mile buffer around the wild and scenic eligible sections of Red Canyon Creek	B-7	B-7	I-7		Wild and scenic river study
Altaexistinggps.shp	Existing OHV routes in limited areas, plotted from GPS	D-1				Impacts on recreation under Alternative A
Altaexistingdigit.shp	Existing OHV routes in limited areas, digitized from existing mapping	D-1				Impacts on recreation under Alternative A
Designatedaltb.shp	Designated routes where motorized or mechanized travel is allowed in areas of limited OHV use under Alternative B	D-2				Impacts on recreation under Alternative B
Designatedaltc2.shp	Designated routes where motorized or mechanized travel is allowed in areas of limited OHV use under Alternative C	D-3				Impacts on recreation under Alternative C
Designatedaltd3.shp	Designated routes where motorized or mechanized travel is allowed in areas of limited OHV use under Alternative D	D-4	4-4	2-4		Impacts on recreation under Alternative D

Table H-1
Integration of GIS Data *(continued)*

File Name	Description of Data	DRMP/EIS Figures Developed with Data	PRMP/FEIS Figures Developed with Data	Approved RMP Figures Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Alternatives Developed with Data	DRMP/EIS Impact Analysis Conducted with Data
blm_new_nca_bdynad27.shp	New NCA boundary		1-1, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, B-7, D-1, F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5	1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6, I-7, C-1, E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5		PRMP impacts on a variety of resources
MU1-1 through MU6-2	Recreation management zone boundaries		4-7	2-7		PRMP impacts on recreation resources
Vrm_classes_merge	VRM class boundaries		4-5	2-5		PRMP impacts on visual resources
Mancos_mu, og_bewco, of_crucial, og_sagegrouse, og_teo, og_wsi, og_str	Oil and gas leasing stipulations		F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5	E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5		PRMP impacts on a variety of resources
Row1aclip, row2, row3, row4, row5, row6, row7 (TT created)	Utility ROW corridors		4-2	2-2		PRMP impacts on a variety of resources
Bcbdy2	NPS Administrative Boundary		4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7	2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7		

APPENDIX I
REVISED FINAL WILD & SCENIC RIVERS STUDY REPORT

I.1 INTRODUCTION

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542, as amended; 16 US Code 1271-1287) to provide a national policy for preserving and protecting selected rivers and river segments in their free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSR Act) directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers in their land and water planning processes (*"In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas").* To fulfill this requirement, whenever the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) undertakes a land use planning effort (e.g., a resource management plan [RMP]), it conducts an analysis of river and stream segments that might be eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). The WSR Act provides criteria that must be considered during the analysis. The eligibility process is depicted in Figure I-1. The inventory is conducted during the data-gathering stage of RMP development, and the study phase is done during the formulation of the DRMP and PRMP.

This report is a record of the wild and scenic river study that is being conducted concurrently with the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report documents BLM's examination of the river segments as they relate to the WSR Act eligibility, classification, and suitability criteria. This report has been revised since the March 2003 Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report with changes reflecting public comment on the DRMP (BLM 2003c), collaboration during the preparation of the PRMP (BLM 2004), and BLM's internal comments and analysis of entire DRMP and PRMP. The environmental analysis of impacts from eligibility and suitability results for wild and scenic river designation or nondesignation within the BLM's preferred alternative are discussed in Chapter 5 of the PRMP (BLM 2004).

A previous wild and scenic river study was conducted for the Gunnison River from the upstream boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (National Park) downstream to the confluence with Smith Fork Creek. This study was completed in 1979 by the National Park Service (Park Service). The Park Service identified a 26-mile segment of the Gunnison River as eligible for designation as "Wild" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The proposed "Wild" segment identified is located on Park Service and BLM lands and runs from the upstream boundary of the National Park to approximately one mile downstream of the confluence with Smith Fork Creek. Congress took no action to designate this segment.

The Park Service conducted a *Resource/Boundary Evaluation for Lands Adjacent to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument* in 1990 that referred to the 1979 study. The 1990 evaluation reiterated the Wild recommendation for the Gunnison River from the northern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument (now National Park) to near the confluence with Smith Fork Creek (an approximately 13-mile stretch).

Legislation was introduced in 1986 and again in 1991 to designate a portion of the Gunnison River as Wild. Both legislation attempts failed in subcommittee.

I.2 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY PROCESS

The wild and scenic river study process is comprised of two main components: the inventory phase and the study phase. The inventory phase includes identifying eligible river and stream segments, assigning tentative classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational), and describing protective management for the eligible segments. The study phase includes determining the suitability of eligible segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) and describing interim management measures.

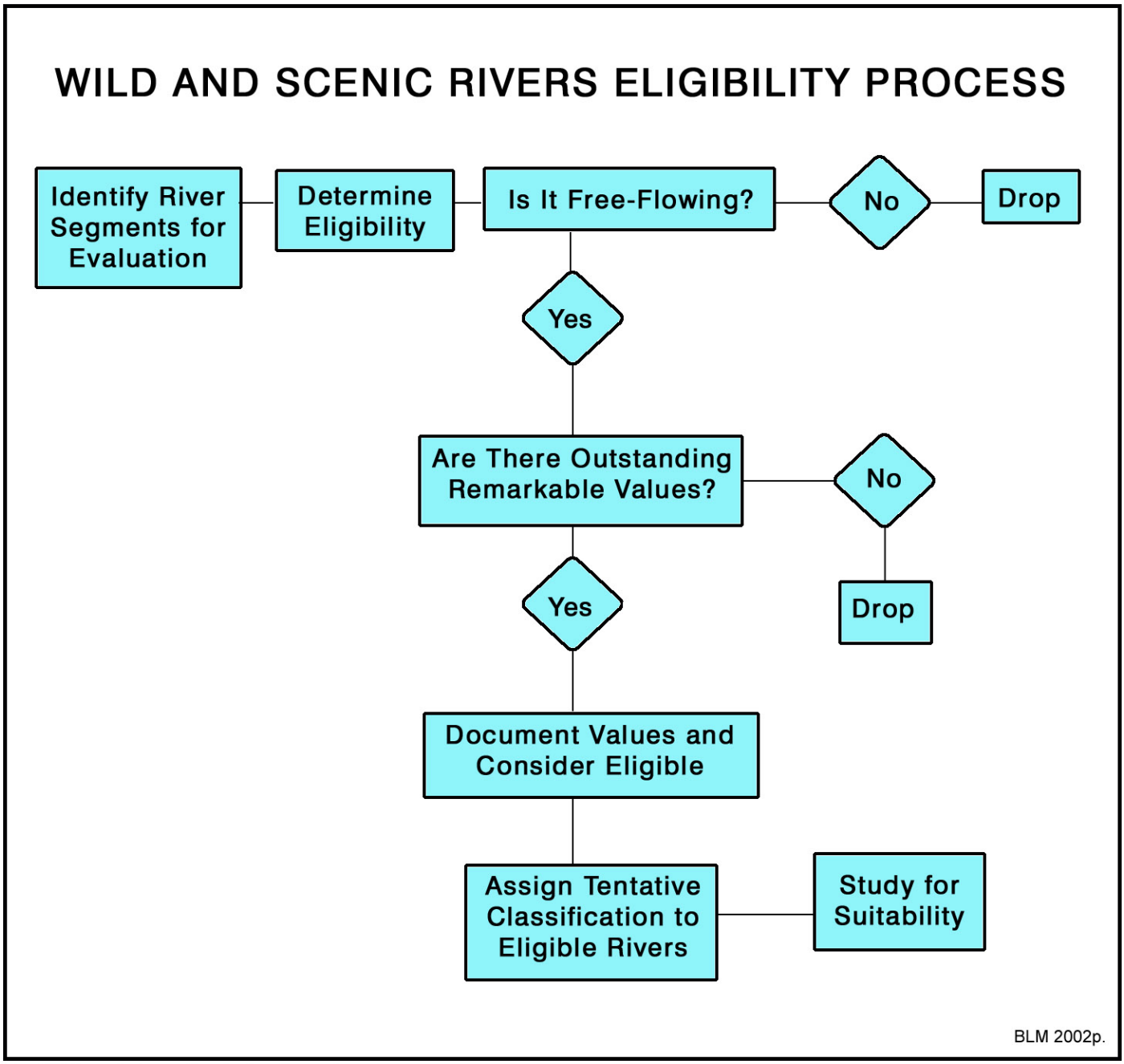
I.2.1 Inventory Phase

Identification of Eligible River Segments

The purpose of the inventory is to identify eligible rivers and river segments in the planning area and to assign them a tentative classification. The agency conducting the inventory is directed to consider a wide variety of internal and external sources to identify potentially eligible rivers. The goal is to avoid overlooking river segments that have potential for inclusion in the NWSRS.

Eligibility Determination

The BLM applies standard criteria to identified river segments to determine eligibility. To be eligible, a river segment must be free-flowing and possess at least one river-related value considered outstandingly remarkable. The specific criteria for free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable values are listed in Attachment I-1 to this appendix.



The BLM inventories and evaluates rivers when it develops a RMP. The inventory is conducted during the data gathering stage of RMP development, and the study phase is done during the formulation of the Draft and Proposed RMP.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Process Flow Chart

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Tentative Classification

Once rivers are considered eligible as a result of applying the free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable criteria, river segments are assigned a tentative classification. The criteria for classification are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSR Act. Classification categories are Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, and are based on the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the inventory.

The classification does not reflect the types of values present along a river segment. The specific classification criteria are described in Attachment I-2 to this appendix. The classification assigned during the inventory phase is tentative. Final classification is a Congressional legislative determination along with designation of a river segment as part of the NWSRS.

Protective Management of Eligible Rivers

Rivers or river segments determined eligible must be managed to protect the free flow, outstandingly remarkable values, and tentative classification. This protective management is in place until a river or river segment is determined suitable or unsuitable. Management guidelines to protect candidate are detailed in Attachment I-3 to this appendix, *Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers*.

During the interim phase, any proposed action that could adversely impact or be inconsistent with wild and scenic river values will require management decisions based on NEPA analysis and Section 202 of FLPMA, as follows:

- Any proposed action that may be inconsistent with or adversely impact identified wild and scenic river values will require a site-specific environmental assessment (EA), opportunity for public involvement, and at least a 30-day public comment period. The decision notice record for the EA (involving these types of actions) will be conducted and signed at the field office level. However, prior to signature a copy of supporting documentation will be forwarded to the applicable State Director for review and concurrence.
- If the EA determined that the proposal could have a major action significantly affecting the environment, a separate EIS apart from the BLM RMP/EIS will be required.
- Should the EA or EIS determine that the action as proposed, or with appropriate mitigation or an acceptable alternative, will not have irreversible or irretrievable adverse impacts and will maintain or enhance identified wild and scenic river values, such action may be approved.
- If the EA or EIS determines that the action as proposed will have irreversible or irretrievable adverse impacts to identified wild and scenic river values, the decision on the action will be held temporarily in suspension until wild and scenic river evaluations are address and resolved through the BLM planning process.

I.2.2 Suitability Study Phase

The purpose of the study phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or unsuitable for inclusion in the NWSRS per the criteria of the WSR Act. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation, but only a suitability determination for designation. BLM does not recommend any stream segments for designation into the NWSRS, and no stream segment studied is or will be automatically designated as part of the NWSRS. Only Congress can designate a wild and scenic river. In some instances, the Secretary of the Interior may designate a wild and scenic river when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any suitable segments are presented to them. Water-protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed. Rivers found unsuitable will be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives outlined in the RMP.

The suitability evaluation is completed as the DRMP is prepared. Impacts that would occur from designation and non-designation of the eligible river segments are then analyzed in the EIS associated with the RMP. Public review and comment on suitability determinations included in the DRMP is considered before the BLM makes final suitability determinations.

Suitability Determination

The following eight factors, identified in BLM Manual Section 8351 (BLM 2001l), are applied to each eligible river segment when completing the suitability study:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS;
2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses;
3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated;
4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designation or non-designation of the river;
5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated;
6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation;
7. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected with designation; and
8. Other.

Interim Management of Suitable Segments

BLM guidance requires that interim management be developed and followed to protect the free-flowing nature, outstandingly remarkable values, and recommended classification of suitable segments until Congressional action regarding designation is taken. Guidelines for management are included in the management unit prescriptions for Management Units 1 and 3 in the RMP and in Table I-3-1, Attachment I-3, Appendix I.

I.3 RELATIONSHIP OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO PRIVATE LANDS

The basic objective of wild and scenic river designation is to maintain the existing condition of the river. If a land use or development clearly threatens the outstandingly remarkable value that resulted in designation of the river, efforts would be made to remove the threat through local zoning, land exchanges, purchases from willing sellers, and other actions except condemnation. Agriculture and grazing activities occurring at the time of designation would generally not be affected.

Under the WSR Act, designation neither gives nor implies government control of private lands within the river corridor. Although Congress (or the Secretary of the Interior for 2(a)(ii) rivers) could include private lands (inholdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, management restrictions will apply only to public lands. The federal government has no authority to regulate or zone private lands under the Act; however, administering agencies may highlight the need for amendments to local zoning (where state and local zoning occurs). People living with a river corridor will be able to use their property as they had before designation.

Land use controls on private lands are a matter of state and local zoning. Although the WSR Act includes provisions encouraging protection of river values through state and federal land use planning, these provisions are not binding on local governments.

The federal government is responsible for ensuring that management of designated rivers meets the intent of the WSR Act. In the absence of local or state river protection provisions, the federal government could ensure protection through acquisition of private lands or interests in lands.

The WSR Act specifically prohibits federal use of condemnation in the fee title purchase of lands if 50 percent or more of the land within the boundary is already in public ownership. The BLM manages about 90 percent (6,966 acres) of the surface estate in the four river segments proposed. As a result, acquisition through federal use of condemnation is prohibited under the WSR Act for these segments. However, the WSR Act does provide the federal gvernment with authority to purchase scenic, conservation, or access easements through condemnation proceedings; this measure of last resort would be used only as necessary to remove a threat to the river.

I.4 RELATIONSHIP OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO WATER RIGHTS

The BLM does not hold any water rights for flows in the Gunnison River or other streams in the NCA. The BLM is not recommending any river or stream segment for

designation into the NWSRS. The BLM does not believe that assertion of a federal water right is necessary to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values in or along any of the river segments found eligible and suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS in this report. The BLM is neither requesting nor recommending such a right.

The US Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any segment found suitable in this report comes before them for possible designation. Because of the complexity of existing and pending water rights and other water agreements on the Gunnison River, the BLM cannot make a determination of future river flows in meeting the intent of the WSR Act for the Gunnison River. Additionally, water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed for designation of any suitable segment under the WSR Act. Therefore, BLM is not requesting a federal reserved water right to meet the requirements of the WSR Act. Congress has the authority through the WSR Act to designate a segment with specific language that instructs agencies to protect the outstandingly remarkable values with methods other than a federal reserved water right.

If Congress chooses to designate any suitable segment into the NWSRS, and if a federal reserved water right is included with the designation, it would only carry a priority date equal to that of the designation date and would be junior to all senior water rights located upstream. Private, senior water rights are located upstream of several of the stream segments analyzed in the planning area, specifically the Gunnison River, Smith Fork Creek, and Red Canyon Creek. If a federal reserved water right were included with designation of any stream segment into the system, any requested change in senior water rights located upstream would be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. Potential effects on water rights as a result of Congressional designation are discussed in the suitability determinations for each segment.

I.5 GUNNISON GORGE NCA WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY REPORT

Various resource personnel from the BLM's Uncompahgre Field Office and Gunnison Gorge NCA Office were consulted to conduct the wild and scenic rivers inventory in support of the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP currently underway. The team was comprised of BLM staff specialists in wildlife biology, outdoor recreation, rangeland management, archeology, fisheries, and geology. In addition to BLM specialists, wild and scenic river eligibility was discussed during several public focus group meetings.

I.5.1 Identification of Eligible Segments

The BLM resource team considered all river segments in the RMP's approximate 196,000-acre planning area that might meet the criteria of free flowing and exhibit the potential for any outstandingly remarkable values. This comprehensive approach was used to ensure all possible candidates were considered during the wild and scenic rivers review. As part of the initial screening process, the Gunnison River was divided into three segments to address the characteristic changes that occur within the planning area.

In order to avoid overlooking potentially eligible river segments, a combination of sources were used. These sources include the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and the BLM's existing Geographic Information System (GIS) rivers and streams layer. The existing GIS layer (BLM 2002k) was created by the BLM and is a comprehensive list of potentially free-flowing water bodies within the planning area.

Initial screening and identification efforts resulted in a list of 26 rivers for further consideration in the inventory process. These rivers or river segments include those listed below, which are depicted on Figure I-2:

1. Gunnison River (entire Wilderness to transmission line located south of North Fork);
2. Gunnison River (from transmission line located south of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company diversion);
3. Gunnison River (from Relief Ditch Company diversion to edge of planning area);
4. Smith Fork Creek;
5. North Fork of the Gunnison River;
6. Cedar Creek;
7. Grizzly Gulch;
8. Peach Valley Canal;
9. Sulphur Gulch;
10. Loutsenhizer Arroyo;
11. Iron Creek;
12. Long Gulch;
13. Lime Kiln Gulch;
14. Lawheed Gulch;
15. Currant Creek;
16. Dry Creek;
17. Red Rock Canyon;
18. Jones Draw;
19. Parvin Gulch;
20. Coal Bank Gulch;
21. Son-of-a-Gun Gulch;
22. Diamond Joe Gulch;
23. Buck Canyon;

24. Poison Spring Gulch;
25. Spring Gulch; and
26. Red Canyon.

Additional review focused on whether these 26 segments met free-flowing criteria and contained any outstandingly remarkable values as defined in the WSR Act. Members of the BLM resource team conducted this review for each of their areas of expertise, using their knowledge of the area and consulting available inventory information. This information was considered against the outstandingly remarkable values criteria provided in Attachment I-1. Details of their findings are provided in Attachment I-4.

I.5.2 Eligibility Determination and Tentative Classification

The BLM resource team prepared and reviewed documentation of the values considered outstandingly remarkable for each of the 26 river segments. As a result of this evaluation, four river segments are proposed as eligible for further study. These four river segments are depicted on Figure I-3. The following provides a description of outstandingly remarkable values for each candidate river segment, as well as the tentative classification. Scenic quality field inventory forms are included as Attachment I-5 to this appendix.

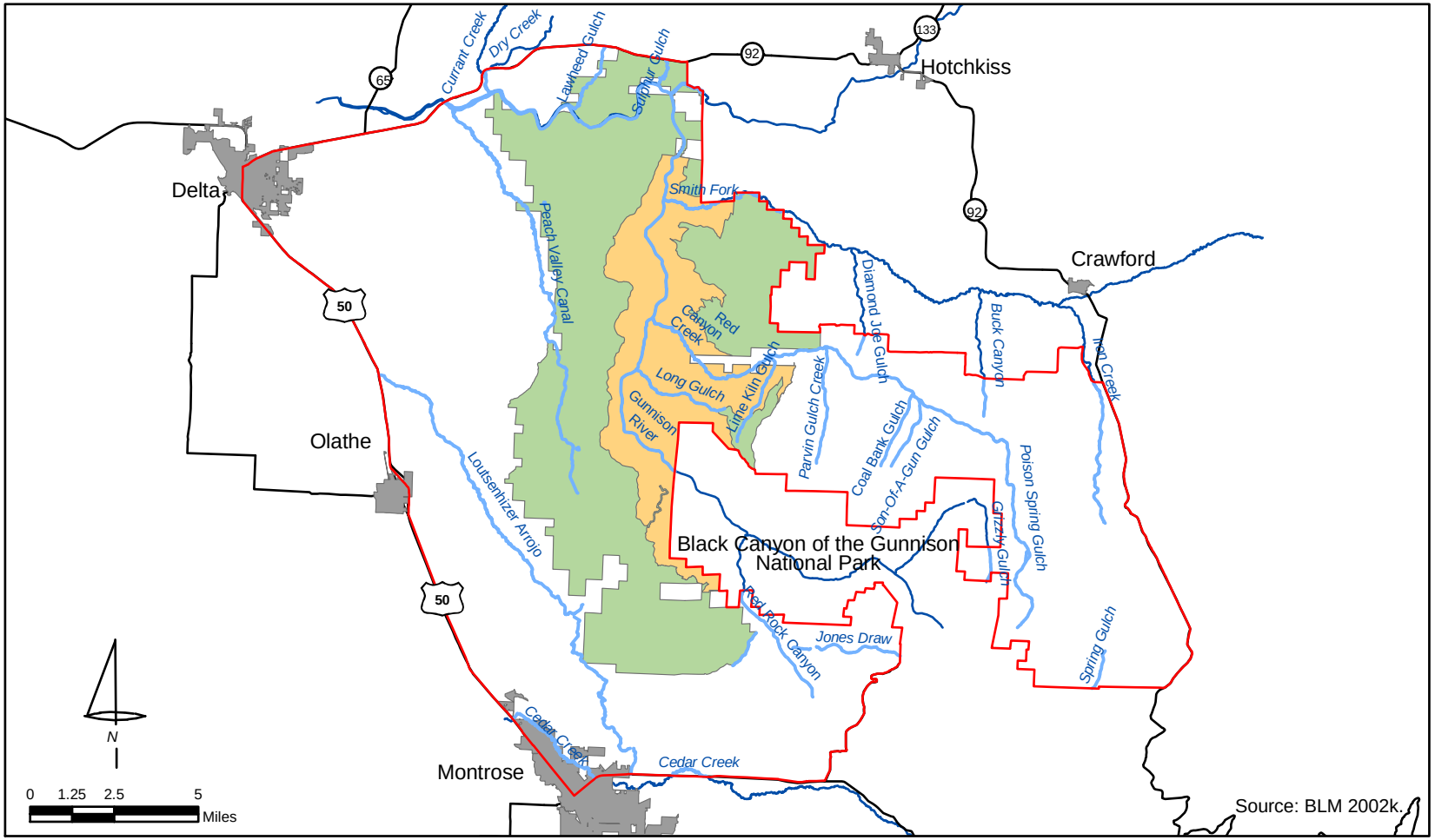
Segment 1: Gunnison River (Entire Wilderness to Transmission Line South of North Fork)

Length within Planning Area: 16.0 miles (see Figure I-4)

Tentative Classification: Wild

Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on of the river (Figure I-4)

The majority of this reach of the Gunnison River is located within the Gunnison Gorge. A short distance downstream from Smith Fork Creek, the scenery changes from the black rock canyon walls to a wider canyon lined with sandstone walls. The upstream extent of the reach is the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park boundary. The downstream extent of the reach is the transmission line that crosses the Gunnison River approximately one mile upstream of the confluence with the North Fork. Although the flows for this segment are controlled by impoundments upstream, this segment qualifies as free flowing. The boundary for this designation would likely be the lower canyon rim.



Initial screening and identification effors resulted in a list of 26 planning area streams for further consideration in the wild and scenic rivers inventory process.

Planning Area Streams Considered in Wild and Scenic Rivers Inventory Process

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Cities and towns
Wilderness
NCA
Planning area
Stream segments considered
Stream segments outside planning area
Major roads

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Figure I-2

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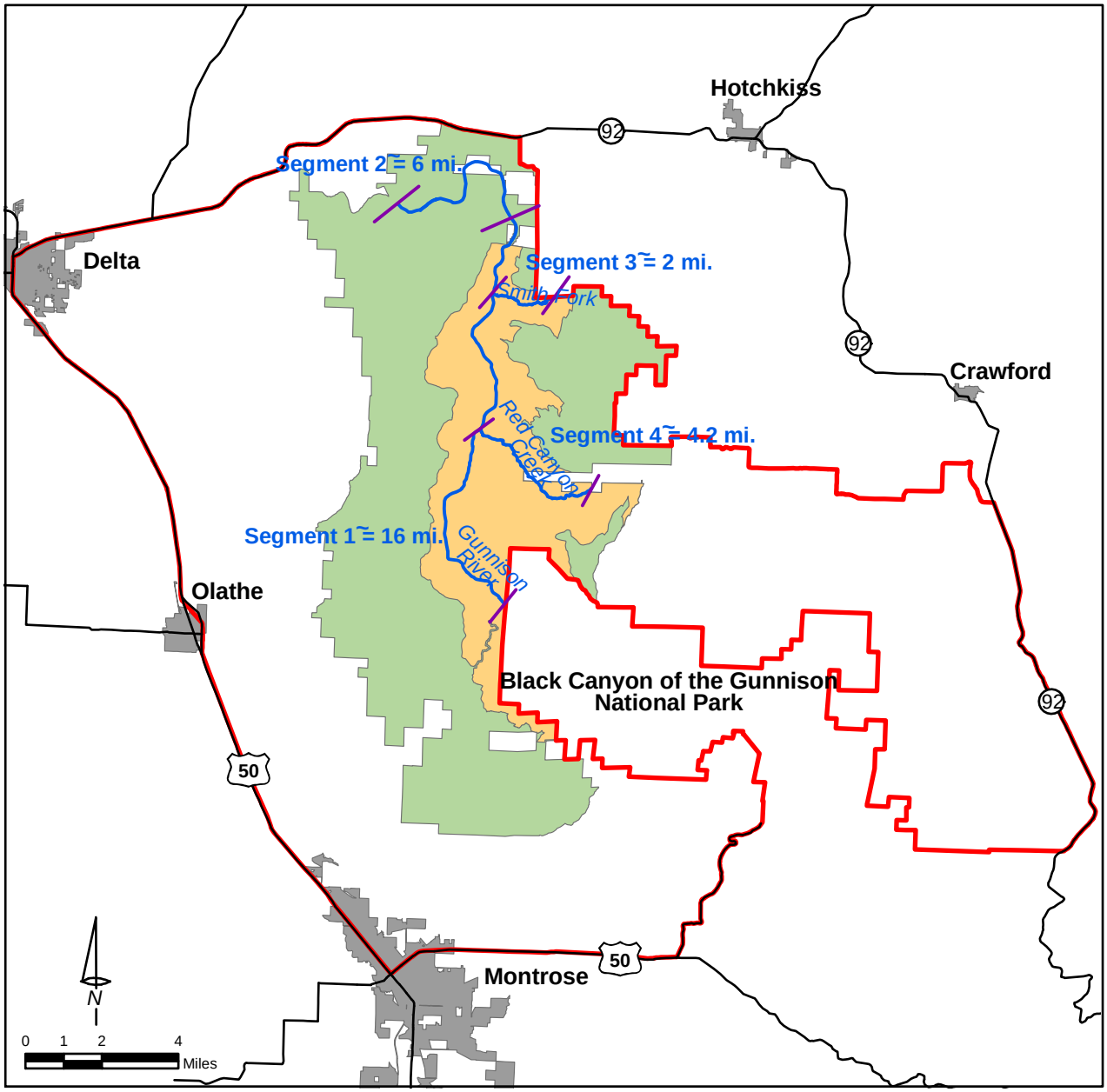

Values considered outstandingly remarkable for each of the 26 river segments considered were evaluated, and as a result, four river segments are proposed as eligible for further study.

Planning Area River Segments Proposed as Eligible for Further Study

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Wild and Scenic River eligible segments
- Segment delimiters
- Major roads
- Planning area
- Cities and towns
- Wilderness
- NCA

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Figure I-3

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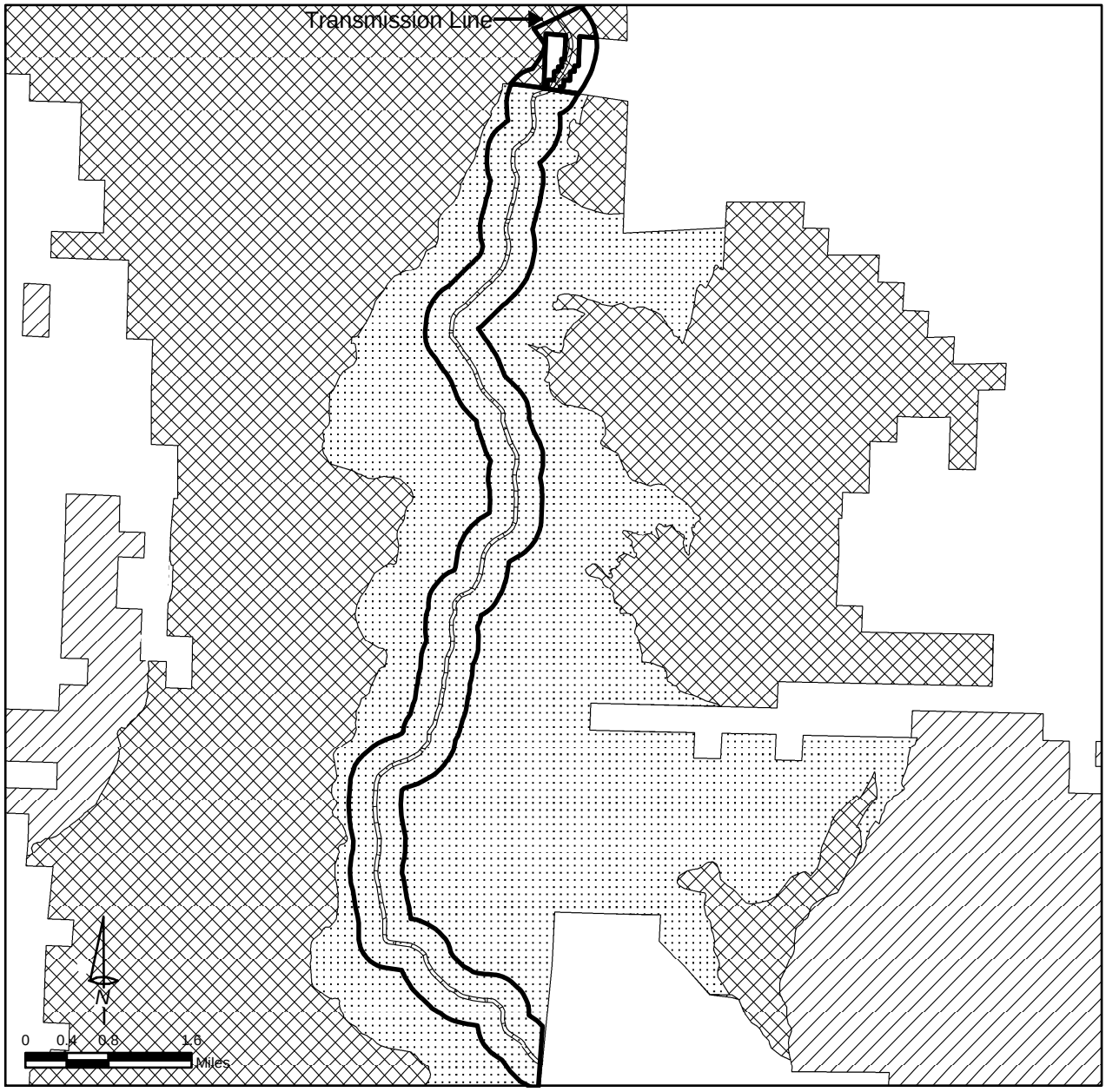

The suitable Wild and Scenic River designation boundary is an approximate 0.5-mile corridor, centered on the Gunnison River.

Segment 1: Gunnison River (Entire Wilderness to Transmission Line South of North Fork, 16 Miles)

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Gunnison River
- Wild and Scenic River Segment Boundary
- Private Land
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Other BLM Lands

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Figure I-4

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The outstandingly remarkable values for this segment are described as follows:

- **Cultural and Historic** – There are stone and timber remnants from a historic cabin located along the river in Ute Park. The exact origin of the cabin is unknown. The cabin and some mining and related sites meet the criteria of having exceptional human interest. These sites serve as illustrations of historic land use for mining, cattle driving, or early recreation. They represent a unique and hardy human spirit willing to "tough it out" in an isolated and difficult area. The Ute Trail meets the criteria of being rare and unusual and having exceptional human interest because it is the only crossing point of the Gunnison Gorge/Canyon. The trail has likely been used for hundreds of years by Native Americans and later by cattlemen. The trail demonstrates native people's mobility in their seasonal rounds, and how they were able to use a wide variety of habitats and resources. Wickiups identified in the vicinity of Red Canyon substantiate use of the area by the Ute Indians.
- **Ecological –** There is a population of Great Basin wild rye (*Elymus cinereus*) located at the upstream end of the Ute Park area. This population has been identified as an excellent isolated resource value of high significance. Although populations of Great Basin wild rye are fairly common in Rio Blanco County, Colorado, this is the only known occurrence within the one-million-acre Uncompahgre Field Office resource area. In addition, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) has identified the Ute Trail area as having high-quality vegetative communities and recommends the site to be designated as a CNHP conservation area. Species known to occur in the Ute Trail area include Wetherrill's milkvetch (*Astragalus wetherillii*) and large-flowered breadroot (*Pediomelum megalanthum*). The area's box elder (*Acer negundo*)/sandbar willows (*Salix exigua*) association is not described in any of the Natureserve literature; as such, its significance has not been determined.
- **Scenic –** Scenic values found in the gorge are inextricably interwoven with the geologic and physiographic features of the area (Park Service 1979). The river segment provides an excellent opportunity to observe the extremely scenic geologic transition from the towering black walls of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, to the beautiful and very colorful and dramatic double-canyon system found in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. The area is rated "A" for visual quality as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook, H-8410-1 (BLM 2002o). As the river winds through the canyon, the viewer is presented with a multitude of images and settings ranging from dark towering walls covered with spider webs and swallow nests that convey an atmosphere of grandeur and solemnity, to sweeping panoramas of colorful canyons against clear, vibrant blue skies that convey a spirit of wilderness as open and free.
- **Geological –** This river segment provides an excellent opportunity to observe the geologic transition area of the river corridor. According to

Wallace Hansen, noted geologist with the US Geological Survey, there is nowhere in the world where the Precambrian rock is better exposed for viewing than in the walls and canyon floor of the Gunnison Gorge. The Gorge contains outstanding examples of faulting, pegmatite dyke formations, and geologic "unconformities," as well as many other interesting geologic features. Its geology, a continuation of the National Park's geology, provides additional features not found in the National Park, including the outer canyon composed of sedimentary layers.

- **Recreational –** In addition to the excellent recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, and solitude provided by the river segment's designation as a Wilderness, the river provides outstanding opportunities for whitewater boaters, float anglers, and walk-in anglers, who can access the area via four wilderness trails. Visitors travel long distances and are willing to hike themselves and their boats and gear down into the canyon to the water's edge, as the area is accessible only by non-motorized, non-mechanized trail. The river corridor provides commercial usage for whitewater rafting companies and licensed fishing guides. The river contains a Gold Medal trout fishery. From a regional standpoint, the limited access and Wilderness designation provides a unique opportunity to visitors.
- **Wildlife –** There is significant habitat for regionally important populations of river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), wintering bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

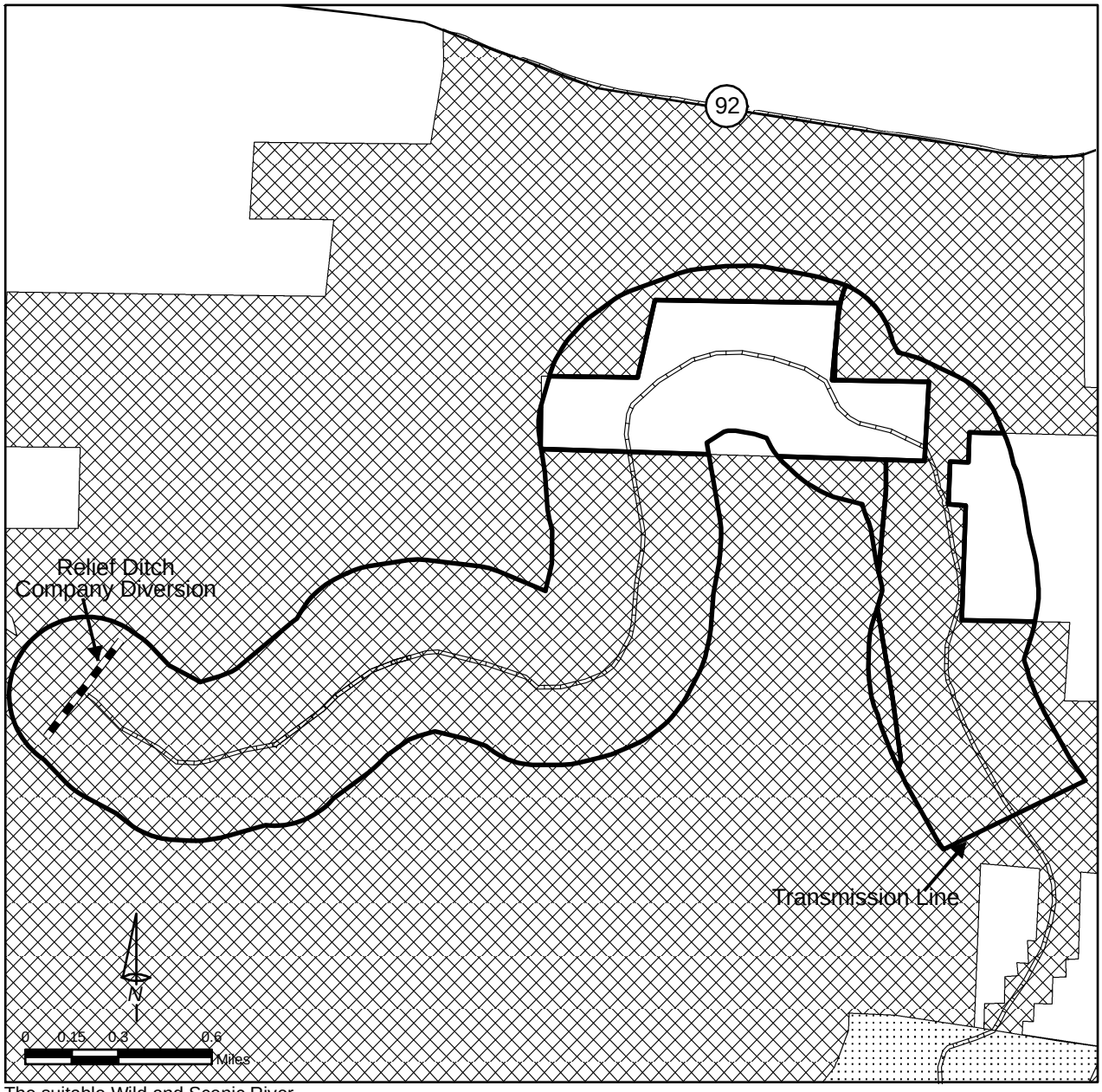
Segment 2: Gunnison River (From Transmission Line South of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company Diversion)

Length within Planning Area: 6.0 miles (see Figure I-5)

Tentative Classification: Recreational

Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on of the river (Figure I-5)

This segment is generally flat water bordered by red sandstone canyon walls. The width of the valley varies in this section. There is some shoreline development including the BLM's day-use area at the Gunnison Forks, the Gunnison River Pleasure Park, a small house and fenced area, and a dirt road that runs parallel to the river for the entire segment. There are also two features located downstream of the North Fork confluence. One is near the private property on river left (the south side) across from Sulphur Gulch and downstream of the Pleasure Park. The other is on river right (the north side) at Sulphur Gulch downstream of the Pleasure Park. These features, although small and practically unnoticeable, initially appear to be small diversions. However, further investigation showed these to be side channels, not diversions. Their presence does not affect any outstandingly remarkable values.



The suitable Wild and Scenic River designation boundary is an approximate 0.5-mile corridor, centered on the Gunnison River.

Segment 2: Gunnison River (From Transmission Line South of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company Diversion, 6 Miles)

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

- Gunnison River
- Wild and Scenic River Segment Boundary
- Private Land
- Wilderness
- NCA
- Other BLM Lands

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure I-5

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The outstandingly remarkable values for this segment are described as follows:

- **Scenic –** Interesting geology and outstanding vistas of the Uncompahgre Plateau, West Elk Wilderness, Grand Mesa, and the Ragged Mountains add interest and 360-degree viewing enjoyment. The area is rated "A" for visual quality as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook, H-8410-1 (BLM 2002o).
- **Recreational –** This segment provides an excellent opportunity for family boating. The relatively flat water allows for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting through a relatively secluded area. In addition, this segment is noted for its excellent year-round trout fishery that is supported by high-quality water. There is currently a road parallel to the river for the entire segment length. This road provides recreation for off-highway vehicle users and access for anglers and boaters. It is visible from the river corridor in many places and is located within the proposed 0.5-mile-wide segment boundary.

Segment 3: Smith Fork Creek

Length within Planning Area: 2.0 miles (see Figure I-6)

Tentative Classification: Scenic

Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on of the river (Figure I-6)

The segment of the Smith Fork Creek under consideration is from the confluence with the Gunnison River upstream to the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness boundary. Smith Fork Creek is deeply entrenched in a canyon. From the river itself, views are limited to the sharp canyon walls. There is a road along the rim on the shelf between the upper and lower canyon, but this road is not visible from the river.

The outstandingly remarkable values for this segment are described as follows:

Scenic – The twisted and jagged geology of the Smith Fork Canyon is outstanding and remarkably scenic. The intense, black rock of the river corridor, combined with extremely steep black canyon walls, evoke a sense of complete isolation and a sense of awe. As Smith Fork Creek twists its way through the gnarled canyon, it drops over huge jagged boulders and falls into myriads of cascading waterfalls into calmer pools of green water that reflect the overhanging walls. The area is rated "A" for visual quality as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook, H-8410-1 (BLM 2002o).

- **Recreational –** This area contains cascading waterfalls and pools that attract thousands of visitors that stop at Smith Fork Creek as part of Gunnison River rafting trips. This provides a unique opportunity for boaters to stop and enjoy the deep pools and warmer water of Smith Fork Creek.

Segment 4: Red Canyon

Length within Planning Area: 4.2 miles (see Figure I-7)

Tentative Classification: Scenic

Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on the river (Figure I-7)

The segment of the Red Canyon being evaluated includes three smaller segments. The first segment is approximately 1.5 miles stretching from the confluence with the Gunnison River to where Red Canyon enters private land. The segment along private land is approximately 0.25-mile in length. Red Canyon then returns to BLM land for approximately 1.5 miles.

The outstandingly remarkable values for this segment are described as follows:

- **Scenic –** The lower Red Canyon sections provide a narrow darkness and starkness made awe inspiring by the steep canyon walls and lack of vegetation. In addition, there is a dramatic waterfall at the confluence with the Gunnison River adding to its scenic value. The area is rated "A" for visual quality as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook, H-8410-1 (BLM 2002o).
- **Cultural –** The Ute trail continues from the west side of the Gunnison Gorge across the river and east through Red Canyon. As part of the Ute trail, it meets the criteria of being rare and unusual and having exceptional human interest because it is the only crossing point of the Gorge/Canyon. The trail has likely been used for hundreds of years by Native Americans and later by cattlemen. The trail demonstrates native people's mobility in their seasonal rounds, and how they were able to use a wide variety of habitats and resources. Wickiups identified in the vicinity of Red Canyon substantiate use of the area by the Ute Indians.

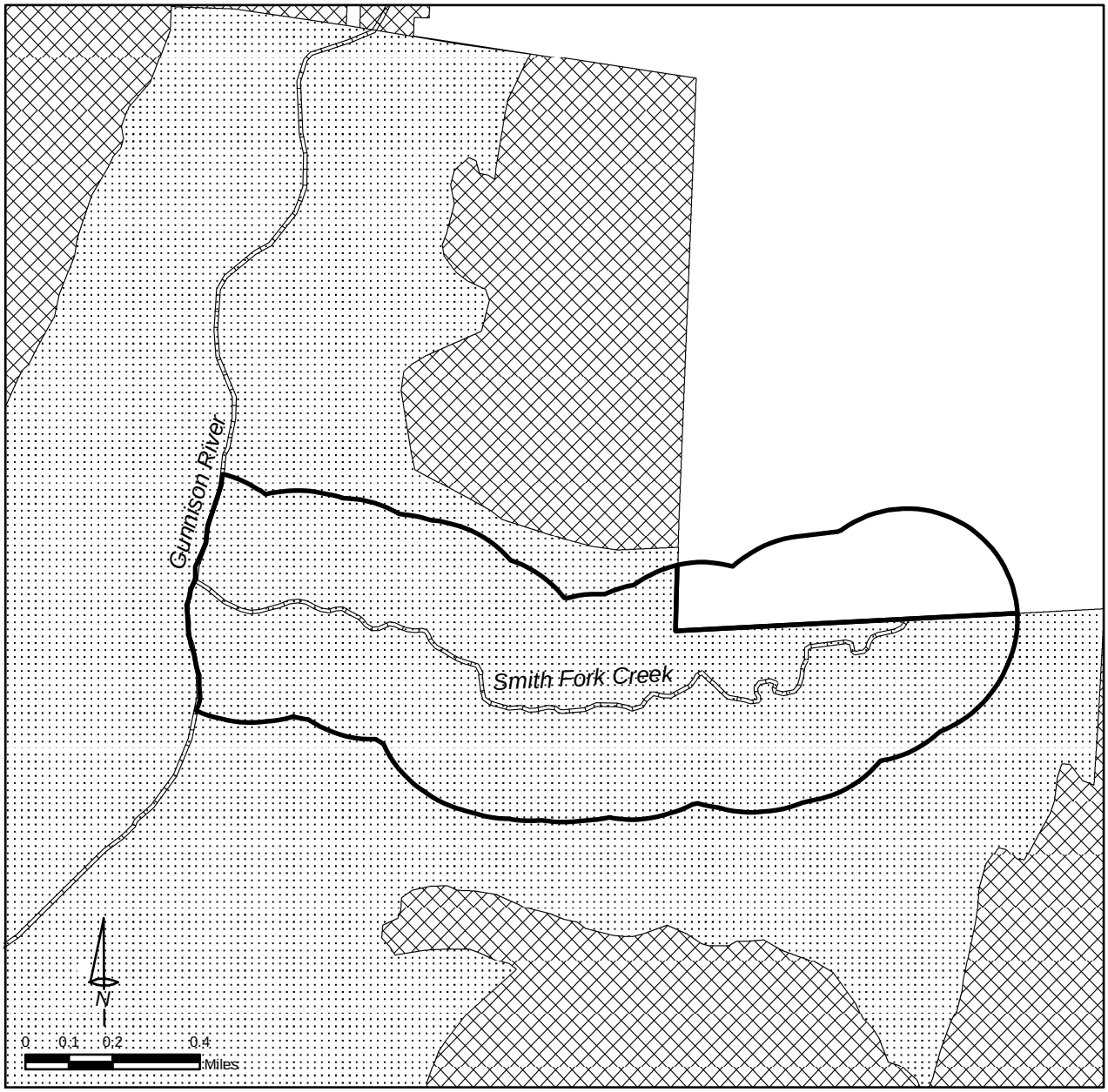
I.5.3 Suitability Determinations

This section contains a discussion of eight suitability factors in relationship to each of the four segments determined to be eligible. These factors were described in Section I.2.2, Suitability Determination.

Segment 1: Gunnison River (Entire Wilderness to Transmission Line South of North Fork)

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS:

   The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are cultural and historic, ecological, scenic, geological, recreational, and wildlife, as described in Section I.4.2. The free-flowing river is crucial to maintaining the recreational, wildlife, scenic, and ecological outstandingly remarkable values. The cultural and historic and geological outstandingly remarkable values are the result of the historic flows and uses of the river segment; interpretation of these values is dependent upon the river.



The suitable Wild and Scenic River designation boundary is an approximate 0.5-mile corridor, centered on Smith Fork Creek.

Segment 3: Smith Fork Creek (2 Miles)

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Rivers

Wild and Scenic River Segment Boundary

Private Land

Wilderness

NCA

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Figure I-6

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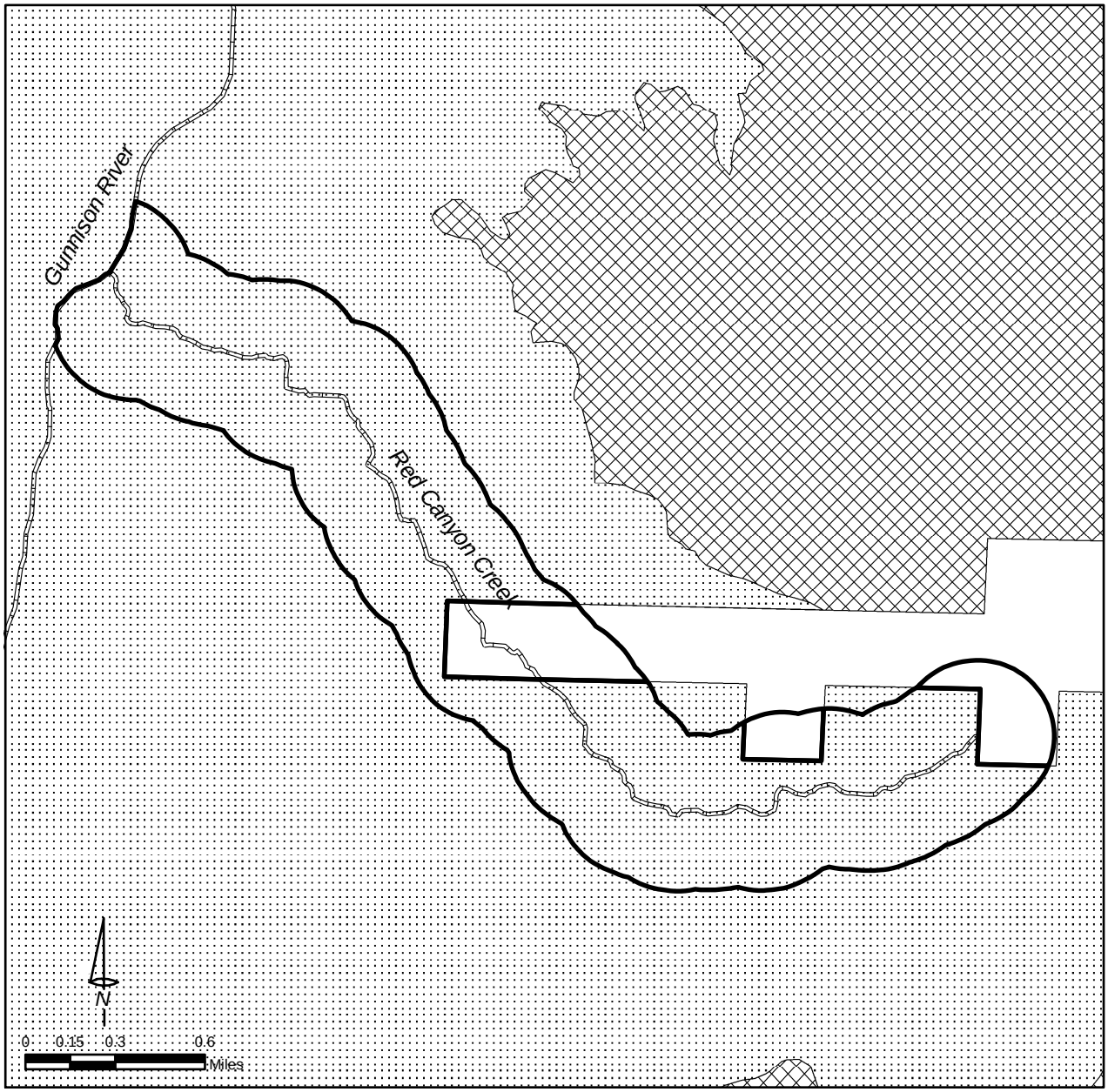

The suitable Wild and Scenic River designation boundary is an approximate 0.5-mile corridor, centered on Red Canyon Creek.

Segment 4: Red Canyon Creek (4.2 Miles)

Gunnison Gorge NCA Planning Area, Colorado

Rivers

Wild and Scenic River Segment Boundary

Private Land

Wilderness

NCA

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Figure I-7

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Classification criteria pertaining to shoreline development of a Wild river require essentially primitive shoreline development and little or no evidence of human activity (see Attachment I-2). Shoreline development in this segment includes 26 primitive campsite locations and three pit toilets. Use of the campsites is temporary and does not result in permanent developments along the river. Two of the permanent pit toilets are small, single-person toilets. One pit toilet is located at the bottom of the Chukar Trail and is completely enclosed. These three toilets are the only permanent developments along the river segment and serve to protect the scenic and ecological values of the river. Another shoreline development is a small diversion immediately upstream of the transmission line that directs water downstream to the Angel private property tract on river left (south side of river). The feature is nearly indistinguishable and does not affect any outstandingly remarkable values.

The flows in this segment are controlled by the dams located upstream of the National Park. Although this has the potential to interfere with the free-flowing nature of the river, the dams are currently operated in a manner generally such that adequate flows and the outstandingly remarkable values are maintained. Future water rights and agreements would have the potential to change the river flows.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

   This segment contains 3,901 acres, of which 3,795 is federal land managed by the BLM. A small portion of private land (106 acres) is located within the boundary outside of the river channel (Figure I-4). The majority of the federal land is located within the Wilderness (3,644 acres) and the remaining 151 acres is within the NCA. BLM management policies for the Wilderness protect the majority of the outstandingly remarkable values from impacts. Additionally, the small segment outside the Wilderness is within the NCA and is also managed for the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values. Overall, there are no incompatible land uses or mineral ownerships within this segment.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated:

   The Wilderness designation for the majority of the area and NCA management for the remainder of the area restricts potential uses that might impact a Wild river designation. The only potential use that would be curtailed as a result of designation would be an expansion of the existing transmission line right-of-way that marks the downstream end of the segment. Any expansion of this right-of-way would have to occur to the north outside of the designated segment. This would not result in any major impacts to transmission capabilities.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designation or non-designation of the river:

This segment's tentative classification is Wild. Designation of this segment, or any other segment, into the NWSRS as a Wild river would permanently prohibit the construction of water impoundment projects in this segment. However, Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any segment found suitable comes before them for possible designation. During the March 14 through June 16, 2003, public comment period on the DRMP and the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (BLM 2003c), 389 written comments were received supporting the wild and scenic river suitability findings and recommendations in the Agency Preferred Alternative, Alternative D. The Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Uncompahgre Valley Water User's Association submitted written objections to these determinations and recommendations in this segment because of the relationship between the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and a federal reserved water right or perceived implications to future water development. A summary analysis of the comments received is in Chapter 6 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). All comments received are reprinted and responded to in Chapter 6. Local public and governmental interest in designation or nondesignation of this segment has occurred on several occasions since the 1979 Park Service study report found most of this same segment suitable for designation. The Secretary of Interior recommended to Congress the upstream 14 miles of the segment for designation following the 1979 study report.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

   Designation as a Wild river segment would not require the acquisition of any property. All of the lands are federal lands managed by the BLM as a Wilderness and NCA. No additional costs are anticipated from the management of the area as a Wild river segment.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation:

   Because of the current designation of the majority of the area as Wilderness, it would be relatively simple for the BLM to incorporate considerations to maintain or protect values into current management. Within the Wilderness, management would not change, with the exception of reviewing future proposals for compliance with the WSR Act. In the small portion located outside the Wilderness, some additional attention would be needed to ensure protection of Wild river values. Overall, the BLM would be able to manage and protect the river area with minimal effort.

7. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected with designation:

   In this segment, the Colorado Water Conservation Board holds an instream flow right for 300 cubic feet per second (year-round) that was decreed in 1992. This water right would not be affected by NWSRS designation with a federal reserved right because it is a senior right. In addition, the Colorado Water Conservation

Board's water right would help maintain the segment's outstandingly remarkable values by maintaining the instream flow.

Also in Segment 1, the City of Delta, Colorado, has a conditional water right for the Smith Fork Hydroelectric Project. The location of the right is within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness at Smith Fork Creek. (See Chapter 1, Section 1.13, of the DRMP [BLM 2003c] for more information on this right.) The conditional right pre-dates the 1979 Park Service wild and scenic river study report that recommended the segment for inclusion in the NWSRS. This water right would be affected by designation. However, if the City ever chose to exercise the subject right, the construction of any project within the segment associated with the water right could be affected, depending on the designation language chosen by Congress.

Private, senior water rights are located upstream of this segment. If a federal reserved water right were included with designation of any stream segment in the NWSRS, any requested change in senior water rights located upstream would be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If Congress designates a segment with a federal reserved water right included, and if owners of these upstream senior water rights seek to change their water rights, then these proposed changes could be affected. The effect would depend on the actual change proposed, the language in the designation legislation, and the potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. The federal agency holding the reserved right may be able to object if the changes could potentially affect the outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. In addition, major reservoirs with federal government involvement and operations are located upstream of this segment. Proposals or changes involving the federal government that would result in potential effects on wild and scenic river values in any designated segment would also be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If determinations show an effect, the proposals could be objected, depending on the language in the designation act.

Congress is the only entity, in most cases, that designates river or stream segments as part of the NWSRS. Congress could designate a segment without a federal reserved water right. This report does not recommend segments for designation in the NWSRS. This report documents BLM determinations of eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS. BLM is not requesting a federal reserved water right in this report or the RMP, as water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will ultimately be the responsibility of Congress.

8. Other:

   No other major issues or concerns have been identified in the land use planning process regarding suitability of this segment.

Segment 2: Gunnison River (From Transmission Line South of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company Diversion)

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS:

   The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are scenic and recreational, as described in Section I.4.2. The free-flowing river is crucial to maintaining these values.

   Although the segment contains outstanding scenic values, there are a few intrusions visible from the river. The upstream end of the segment is bounded by a transmission line that crosses the river and is visible for approximately one mile downstream. A dirt road runs parallel to the river on the western shore (river right) for the entire length of the segment. The BLM would close this road if the segment were designated to protect the scenic values. Use of this road by existing private property owners would be allowed. Along this road there are several turnouts that have been used as campsites and river-access points. Additionally, there is an old water wheel in the river near the south bank just upstream of the Relief Ditch Company diversion dam that marks the downstream boundary of this river segment. The water wheel may be of historic interest; the diversion that once supplied water to the wheel is no longer maintained.

   There are two developments within the river corridor along this segment. The first is the Gunnison River Pleasure Park located at the confluence with the North Fork. The Gunnison River Pleasure Park contains several buildings, including a store and camping facilities, and is frequently used as a boat take-out point. The Gunnison River Pleasure Park is located on private land and is accessible by a paved road from Colorado Highway 92. Immediately upstream of and adjacent to the Gunnison River Pleasure Park is a BLM Day-Use Area along the Gunnison River and the North Fork River that is also visible from the river segment. Approximately 0.5-mile downstream of the confluence with the North Fork, there is a small house and fenced yard adjacent to the river on the southern shore (river left).

   There are three features located downstream of the North Fork confluence. One is near the private property on river left (the south side) across from Sulphur Gulch and downstream of the Pleasure Park. The other is on river right (the north side) at Sulphur Gulch downstream of the Pleasure Park. These features, although small and practically unnoticeable, initially appear to be small diversions. However, further investigation showed these to be side channels, not diversions. Their presence does not affect any outstandingly remarkable values. The third feature is a small diversion for the North Delta Ditch Company on river right (the north side) that appears to be a small side channel a short distance upstream from the Relief

Ditch Company diversion. The presence of the diversion does not affect any outstandingly remarkable values. The riparian vegetation along this segment is heavily infested with nonnative saltcedar (tamarisk) (*Tamarix parviflora* and *Tamarix ramosissima*). The scenic value of saltcedar is subjective based on the observer's knowledge and opinion of native riparian vegetation.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

   This segment contains 1,776 acres, of which 1,388 acres are federal land managed by the BLM. All the federal lands are included in the NCA (including the former Tri-State Lands that were acquired by the BLM in January 2000 and added to the NCA in November 2003).

   Mineral, oil, gas, and geothermal leasing activities are not allowed on lands within the NCA. As a result, none of land within the NCA would be affected by designation. The management of the remaining former Tri-State lands not within the NCA would be determined by the selected alternative in the RMP. Currently, however, there are no general management restrictions regarding mineral, oil, gas, and geothermal leasing in this area.

   Approximately 363 acres of land occur within two developed private land parcels. The Gunnison River Pleasure Park parcel is located at the confluence with the North Fork, and another private parcel is located on the south shore downstream of the confluence. The BLM has no plans to pursue acquisition of these properties and, as a result, would have no jurisdiction over management of these parcels. The BLM would consider acquisition under a willing seller/willing buyer basis if opportunities were presented. The BLM does not anticipate significant changes to the existing condition of these properties.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated:

   If designated, the BLM would limit the construction and maintenance of any proposed diversion structures. If designated, the BLM would not allow mineral, oil, gas, or geothermal leasing activities to occur within the segment's boundary. These actions may occur regardless of designation.

   The RMP would develop access, camping facilities, and a boat launch within this segment. The potential impacts from these actions on wild and scenic river values are evaluated in Chapter 5 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). Mitigation measures would be implemented to ensure the wild and scenic river values would not be adversely affected by proposed actions.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designation or non-designation of the river:

   This segment's tentative classification is Recreational. Designation of segment 2, or any other segment, into the NWSRS would permanently prohibit the construction of water impoundment projects in the segment. However, Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any segment found suitable comes before them for possible designation. During the March 14 through June 16, 2003, public comment period on the DRMP and Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (BLM 2003c), 389 written comments were received supporting the wild and scenic river suitability findings and recommendations in the Agency Preferred Alternative, Alternative D. The Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River Water Conservation District submitted written objections to these determinations and recommendations in this segment because of the relationship between the WSR Act and a federal reserved water right or perceived implications to future water development. A summary analysis of the comments received is in Chapter 6 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). All comments received are reprinted and responded to in Chapter 6. Designation would preserve the outstandingly remarkable values for public benefit, which are predominantly realized by recreational users of the segment. Designation would not affect the private landowners' ability to manage their property.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

   The BLM would not actively pursue the acquisition of private parcels within the designated boundary. The BLM would consider acquisition under a willing seller/willing buyer basis if opportunities were presented. The study segment could be managed without acquiring private lands. The cost of administering the area would be minimal because it is already predominantly BLM-managed lands. There may be a small increase in effort necessary for activities such as closure and restoration of the existing road and general clean up.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation:

   Because the majority of the property in this segment is federal land managed by BLM, it would not be difficult for BLM to manage this segment for the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values. In addition, the construction of additional facilities along this segment is being evaluated to determine potential impacts on the outstandingly remarkable values for this segment. Overall, the BLM could manage this segment for the protection of its values without designation; however, the management direction to do so is not currently in place. The RMP includes management for protection of these values.

7. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected with designation:

   There is a water right and structure at the downstream terminus of this segment held by the Relief Ditch Company for an existing cross-channel earthen and rock diversion. Historical or existing rights held or owned by the company and the structure would not be affected by the suitability finding or designation as part of the NWSRS. The actual impoundment or diversion structure would not be within the segment. The existing Relief Ditch Company diversion would continue to be operated at current levels. Land purchases, exchanges, or easement acquisitions within the segment would be carried out only with willing sellers.

   Private, senior water rights are located upstream of this segment. If a federal reserved water right were included with designation of any stream segment in the NWSRS, any requested change in senior water rights located upstream would be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If Congress designates a segment with a federal reserved water right included, and if owners of these upstream senior water rights seek to change their water rights, then these proposed changes could be affected. The effect would depend on the actual change proposed, the language in the designation legislation, and the potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. The federal agency holding the reserved right may be able to object if the changes could potentially affect the outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. In addition, major reservoirs with federal government involvement and operations are located upstream of this segment. Proposals or changes involving the federal government that would result in potential effects on wild and scenic river values in any designated segment would also be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If determinations show an effect, the proposals could be objected to, depending on the language in the designation act.

   Congress is the only entity, in most cases, that designates river or stream segments as part of the NWSRS. Congress could also designate a segment without a federal reserved water right. This report does not recommend segments for designation in the NWSRS. This report documents BLM determinations of eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS. BLM is not requesting a federal reserved water right in this report or RMP, as water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Rivers Act will ultimately be the responsibility of Congress.

8. Other:

   No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 3: Smith Fork Creek

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS:

   Smith Fork Creek contains scenic and recreational outstandingly remarkable values, as described in Section I.4.2, that make the segment a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The waterfalls and pools are an integral part of these values.

   Flows in Smith Fork Creek vary significantly throughout the year. During low-flow periods, the river segment contains very little flowing water, which diminishes the scenic and recreational values created by the waterfalls and deep pools.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

   The entire length of the Smith Fork Creek segment being considered is on BLM-managed federal land in the Wilderness. This provides significant protection for resource values within the area. The proposed 0.5-mile designation corridor extends beyond the river and onto privately owned land. As such, the proposed 0.5-mile corridor includes 564 acres of federal land and 98 acres of private property. Immediately upstream of the proposed segment, Smith Fork Creek flows through a privately owned valley. The valley contains several habitable structures and a large working ranch. The majority of the valley is irrigated with water from Smith Fork Creek. As a result, the water quality of Smith Fork Creek could be adversely affected by runoff and return flows from irrigation practices.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated:

   The Smith Fork Creek segment occurs in an isolated canyon accessible only by boat from the Gunnison River or through private property upstream of the segment. There are no roads extending into the proposed segment, and the canyon's topography is not conducive to development. As a result, there are no foreseeable potential uses of this segment that would be affected by designation.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designation or non-designation of the river:

   This segment's tentative classification is Scenic. Designation of segment 3, or any other segment, into the NWSRS would permanently prohibit the construction of water impoundment projects in the segment. However, Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any segment found suitable comes before them for possible designation. During the March 14 through June 16, 2003, public comment period on the DRMP and Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (BLM 2003c), 389 written comments were received supporting the wild and scenic river suitability findings and recommendations in the Agency Preferred Alternative, Alternative D. The Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River Water Conservation District submitted written objections to these determinations and

recommendations in this segment because of the relationship between the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and a federal reserved water right or perceived implications to future water development. A summary analysis of the comments received is in Chapter 6 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). All comments received are reprinted and responded to in Chapter 6.

5. Designation would preserve the outstandingly remarkable values for public benefit, which are predominantly realized by recreational users of the segment. Designation would not affect private landowners' ability to manage their property. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

   The BLM would not actively pursue the acquisition of the private lands within the proposed boundary. The BLM would consider acquisition under a willing seller/willing buyer basis if opportunities were presented. However, it may be easier to manage the segment for the protection of identified values if the proposed boundary were adjusted to exclude the private parcels. However, these private lands have been included to provide a buffer to the portion of the segment on federal lands.

   Administration of this segment would be relatively simple and would not require costs in addition to current Wilderness management costs. The amount of recreational use in this area is minimal and would not require active management.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation:

   The Smith Fork Creek segment is currently managed as Wilderness by the BLM. Designation as a Scenic river would not significantly change management of the area. As a result, the BLM would be able to maintain identified values through current management practices.

7. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected with designation:

   Upstream or downstream of this segment, administration and operation of water rights by private landowners would not be affected by the suitability findings in this report. Private, senior water rights are located upstream of this segment. If a federal reserved water right were included with designation of any stream segment in the NWSRS, any requested change in senior water rights located upstream would be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If Congress designates a segment with a federal reserved water right included, and if owners of these upstream senior water rights seek to change their water rights, then these proposed changes could be affected. The effect would depend on the actual change proposed, the language in the designation legislation, and the potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. The federal agency holding the reserved right may be able to object if the changes could potentially affect the outstandingly remarkable values in

the segment. Proposals or changes involving the federal government that would result in potential effects on wild and scenic river values in any designated segment would also be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If determinations show an effect, the proposals could be objected, depending on the language in the designation act.

8. Congress is the only entity, in most cases, that designates river or stream segments as part of the NWSRS. Congress could also designate a segment without a federal reserved water right. This report does not recommend segments for designation in the NWSRS. This report documents BLM determinations of eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS. BLM is not requesting a federal reserved water right in this report or the RMP, as water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will ultimately be the responsibility of Congress. Other:

   No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 4: Red Canyon

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS:

   The scenic and cultural outstandingly remarkable values described in Section I.4.2 make this segment a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The cultural outstandingly remarkable values are based on the Ute trail and are not river dependent, but rather are the result of topography. The outstandingly remarkable scenic values are a function of the river and, in particular, the dramatic waterfall at its confluence with the Gunnison River.

   The Red Canyon segment is an ephemeral segment with substantial flows during the spring, but generally it lacks water during the late summer and fall seasons.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

   The majority (3.8 miles) of the Red Canyon segment being considered (4.2 miles) is on BLM-managed federal land in the Wilderness. A portion of the proposed 0.5-mile designation corridor also extends beyond the river and onto privately owned land. The proposed boundary for the Red Canyon segment contains 1,367 acres, 1,194 acres (87 percent) of which occur on federal land. Private land accounts for 173 acres of the proposed designated area, most of which occurs in the middle of the 4.2-mile segment. Land use on the private segment is not managed by the BLM.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated:

There are no foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be affected by designation of the segment.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designation or non-designation of the river:

   This segment's tentative classification is Scenic. Designation of segment 4, or any other segment, into the NWSRS would permanently prohibit the construction of water impoundment projects in this segment. However, Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any segment found suitable comes before them for possible designation. During the March 14 through June 16, 2003, public comment period on the DRMP and Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report (BLM 2003c), 389 written comments were received supporting the wild and scenic river suitability findings and recommendations in the Agency Preferred Alternative, Alternative D. The Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River Water Conservation District submitted written objections to these determinations and recommendations in this segment because of the relationship between the WSR Act and a federal reserved water right or perceived implications to future water development. A summary analysis of the comments received is in Chapter 6 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). All comments received are reprinted and responded to in Chapter 6.

   The BLM has interest in enhancing and maintaining protection of the identified values in this segment. Existing uses on the 178 acres of private land in this segment would not be affected. Acquisition of any private land in this segment would occur only on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

   The BLM would not actively pursue or consider the acquisition of the private land parcel unless it became available from a willing seller. The BLM does not anticipate this happening in the foreseeable future.

   The federal land is currently managed as Wilderness by the BLM. As a result, administration of this segment as a Scenic river would be relatively simple. The majority of the protective measures required for administrating a Scenic river are already in place as a result of the Wilderness designation.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation.

   Because of the current designation as Wilderness, it would be relatively simple for the BLM to manage this segment as Scenic.

7. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected with designation:

   Existing private property rights would not be affected. Land purchases, exchanges, or easement acquisitions would be carried out only with willing sellers.

   Private, senior water rights are located upstream of this segment. If a federal reserved water right were included with designation of any stream segment in the NWSRS, any requested change in senior water rights located upstream would be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If Congress designates a segment with a federal reserved water right included, and if owners of these upstream senior water rights seek to change their water rights, then these proposed changes could be affected. The effect would depend on the actual change proposed, the language in the designation legislation, and the potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. The federal agency holding the reserved right may be able to object if the changes could potentially affect the outstandingly remarkable values in the segment. In addition, major reservoirs with federal government involvement and operations are located upstream of this segment. Proposals or changes involving the federal government that would result in potential effects on wild and scenic river values in any designated segment would also be analyzed to determine if the outstandingly remarkable values for which the stream was designated would be affected. If determinations show an effect, the proposals could be objected to, depending on the language in the designation act.

   Congress is the only entity, in most cases, that designates river or stream segments as part of the NWSRS. Congress could also designate a segment without a federal reserved water right. This report does not recommend segments for designation in the NWSRS. This report documents BLM determinations of eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS. BLM is not requesting a federal reserved water right in this report or RMP, as water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will ultimately be the responsibility of Congress.

8. Other:

   No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

I.5.4 Suitability Determination Summary

All four of the eligible segments were determined to be suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. Below is a brief summary for each of the four segments. The BLM does not

believe that assertion of a federal water right is necessary to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values in and along these river segments.

Segment 1: Gunnison River (Entire Wilderness to Transmission Line South of North Fork)

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable cultural and historical, ecological, scenic, geological, recreational, and wildlife values. Scenic values found in the Gorge are inextricably interwoven with the geologic and physiographic features of the area (Park Service 1979). The river segment provides an excellent opportunity to observe the extremely scenic geologic transition from the towering black walls of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, to the beautiful and very colorful and dramatic double-canyon system found in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. Although flows are controlled by dams upstream of the segment, the river maintains a free-flowing nature throughout the entire 16 miles. The segment meets classification criteria as Wild because the only access to the river is by trail, and there is minimal development along the shores, which maintains the primitive nature of this segment. The only development consists of three pit toilets that facilitate the recreational uses of this segment while minimizing environmental impacts. Designation of this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide an additional layer of protection for this river segment. As a result, this segment has been determined suitable for designation as a Wild river within the NWSRS.

Segment 2: Gunnison River (From Transmission Line South of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company Diversion)

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values. This segment is generally flat water bordered by red sandstone canyon walls. There is some shoreline development visible from the river channel including the BLM's day-use area at the Gunnison Forks, the Gunnison River Pleasure Park, a small house and fenced area, and a dirt road parallel to the river for the entire segment. These developments are considered minor and consistent with the segments classification as a Recreational river. Management my BLM would include measures such as closing the dirt road that runs parallel to the river to ensure protection of scenic values, although use of this road by existing private property owners would continue to be allowed. As a result, this segment is determined suitable for designation as a Recreational river in the NWSRS.

Segment 3: Smith Fork Creek

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values. Smith Fork Creek is deeply entrenched in a canyon. From the river itself, views are limited to the sharp canyon walls. The segment contains waterfalls and deep pools providing scenic and recreational opportunities for visitors. Although flow varies greatly in this segment and water quality and quantity may be the result of land use upstream on private parcels, the BLM does not consider these to adversely impact the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing nature of this segment. Management of this segment by the BLM would involve minimal effort, as many of the protective measures have been implemented as a result of the area's Wilderness designation. This segment is determined suitable for designation as a Scenic river in the NWSRS.

Segment 4: Red Canyon

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic and recreational values. The lower Red Canyon sections provide a narrow darkness and starkness made awe inspiring by the steep canyon walls and lack of vegetation. In addition, there is a dramatic waterfall at the confluence with the Gunnison River adding to its scenic value. Although this segment is ephemeral (i.e., it does not flow year-round), this is typical of many rivers and streams in the region and consistent with the natural function of this segment. Management of this segment by the BLM would involve minimal effort, as many of the protective measures have been implemented as a result of the area's Wilderness designation. This segment is determined suitable for designation as a Scenic river in the NWSRS.

I.5.5 Interim Management

Interim protection for suitable river segments is described in Table I-3-1 in Attachment I-3 of this appendix.

Segment 1: Gunnison River (Entire Wilderness to Transmission Line South of North Fork)

The majority of this segment (3,642 acres, or 97 percent) is located on federal land either within the Wilderness or the NCA. The 106 acres of private land within the segment comprise a small portion. Current BLM management of this area is sufficient to protect the free-flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable values that make this segment suitable for designation as a Wild river in the NWSRS.

Segment 2: Gunnison River (From Transmission Line south of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company Diversion)

The portions of this segment that occur on federal land within the NCA would be adequately protected under current NCA management policies. Potential impacts on wild and scenic river values associated with the proposed construction of a boat launch and camping facilities are addressed in Chapter 5 of the PRMP (BLM 2004). Interim management measures would ensure these proposed projects do not adversely affect the outstandingly remarkable values of this segment.

Segment 3: Smith Fork Creek

The majority of this segment is located on federal land inside the Wilderness. Current BLM management of the area would be sufficient to protect the free-flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable values that make this segment suitable for designation as a Scenic river in the NWSRS. BLM could provide limited assistance to encourage private landowner participation in the protection and management of river resources.

Segment 4: Red Canyon

The majority of this segment is located on federal land inside the Wilderness. Current BLM management of the area would be sufficient to protect the free-flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable values that make this segment suitable for designation as a Scenic river in the NWSRS. BLM could provide limited assistance to encourage private landowner participation in the protection and management of river resources.

I.6 NEXT STEPS

Congressional legislative action is required for actual designation and final classification of suitable river segments.

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ATTACHMENT I-1 (TO APPENDIX I) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

I-1.1 INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of classification, a river area may be divided into segments. For example, changes in river character such as the presence of dams and reservoirs, significant changes in types or amounts of development, significant changes in physiographic character, tributaries, or features, and/or significant changes in land status should be considered in identifying river segments for evaluation. Management strategies necessary to administer the entire river area should also be taken into account. As such, excessive segmentation should be avoided. Each segment, considered as a whole, needs to conform to either the "Wild," "Scenic," or "Recreational" classification. There are no specific requirements for segment length. Congress has designated a segment as short as four miles. A river segment is of sufficient length if a specific outstandingly remarkable value(s) can be protected (a factor in the suitability determination, not eligibility determination) should the segment be designated. An entire stream could be one segment.

Each identified river segment in the RMP planning area must be evaluated to determine whether or not it is eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. To be eligible, a river segment must be "free-flowing" and must possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable" value. Free-flowing means "existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the water." Please note:

- A river below a dam or impoundment can still be eligible;
- A river need not be navigable by water craft in order to be eligible; and
- There are no specific requirements concerning the flow of an eligible river segment. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the segment would be designated. As such, intermittent and ephemeral streams can be eligible.

I-1.2 OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

The determination of whether a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable" values is a professional judgement and needs to be documented in the study report. In order to be considered as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related. That is, they should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (for the purposes of this study, the preliminary boundary is 0.25-mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following are general guidelines for the outstandingly remarkable values for which river segments can be eligible. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

Scenic

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors – such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed – may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Recreational

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

Geological

The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Fish

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions:

a. *Populations*. The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks, or populations of State, federally listed, or candidate threatened and endangered species.

b. *Habitat*. The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for State, federally listed, or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Wildlife

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions:

a. *Populations*. The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species dependent on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered to be unique or populations of State, federally listed, or candidate threatened and endangered species.

b. *Habitat*. The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for State, federally listed, or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Cultural

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

Historic

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, or unusual in the region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases is 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places, may be of particular significance.

Other Similar Values

While no specific evaluation guidelines have been developed for the other similar values category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance, including, but not limited to, hydrologic, ecologic/biologic diversity, paleontologic, botanic, and scientific study opportunities.

ATTACHMENT I-2 (TO APPENDIX I) CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS

Table I-2-1
Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resources Development (impoundments, diversions, etc.)	Free of impoundment	Free of impoundment	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, rip-rap, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.

Table I-2-1
Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas *(continued)*

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, including fords, is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the US be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

Source: Federal Register. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.

ATTACHMENT I-3 (TO APPENDIX I)
INTERIM PROTECTION FOR CANDIDATE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

BLM guidance requires that interim management be developed and followed to protect the free-flowing nature, outstandingly remarkable values, and recommended classification of suitable segments until Congressional action regarding designation is taken. Table I-3-1 includes this interim protection.

Table I-3-1
Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers

	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1)[1]	
Issue/Action	**Eligible[2]**	**Suitable**
Study Boundary	Minimum of 0.25-mile from ordinary high-water mark Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values	Minimum of 0.25-mile from ordinary high-water mark Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values
Preliminary Classification	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, scenic, recreational defined by statute Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines Manage at preliminary classification	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, scenic, recreational defined by statute Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines Manage at preliminary classification
Study Report Review Procedures		Notice of study report/Draft EA[3] published in Federal Register Comments/response from federal, state, and local agencies, and the public included in the study report/Final EA[4] transmitted to the President and Congress

Table I-3-1
Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers *(continued)*

	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1)[1]	
Issue/Action	**Eligible[2]**	**Suitable**
Private Land * Administration *Acquisition	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners No regulatory authority No ability to acquire interest in land under the Act's authority prior to designation	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners No regulatory authority No ability to acquire interest in land under the Act's authority prior to designation Typically an evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and land use controls is a component of suitability determination5
Water Resources Project	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the Act	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the Act
Land Disposition	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership
Mining and Mineral Leasing	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities
Actions of Other Agencies	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership.
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	No regulatory authority conferred by the Act; agency protects through other authorities Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources[6]	No regulatory authority conferred by the Act; agency protects through other authorities Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources[6]

1 Agency-identified study rivers as directed by Section 5(d)(1) of the Act.
2 A number of sources are available for identifying rivers under Section 5(d)(1). Under a Presidential Directive issued in 1979, each federal agency, as part of its normal planning and environmental review processes, is required to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers in the National Rivers Inventory.
3 Draft Environmental Assessment
4 Final Environmental Assessment
5 For an agency-identified study river that includes private lands there is often the need to evaluate existing state and local land use controls and, if necessary, assess the willingness of state and local government to protect river values.
6 Section 11(b)1 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and secretary of Agriculture, or the head of any other federal agency, to provide for "limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources." This authority "applies within or outside a federally administered area and applies to rivers which are components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to other rivers." The recipients of federal assistance include states or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals. Some examples of assistance under this section include, but are not limited to, riparian restoration, riparian fencing to protect water quality and riparian vegetation, of vegetative screening to enhance scenery/recreation experience.

ATTACHMENT I-4 (TO APPENDIX I)
RIVER SEGMENTS FROM INITIAL IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

Table I-4-1 lists the planning area river and stream segments considered during initial identification efforts for the wild and scenic rivers study process.

Table I-4-1
River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts

River Name	River Type	Segment Length	Resource Team Comments	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Determination (Eligible or Not Eligible)
Gunnison River (entire Wilderness to transmission line south of North Fork)	Perennial	approx. 16.0 miles	The majority of this reach is located within the steep canyon walls. This section contains excellent scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values. The 1979 Wild and Scenic Study determined the majority of this segment to be eligible for Scenic designation.	Scenic, Recreational, Geology, Cultural	Eligible
Gunnison River (from transmission line south of North Fork to Relief Ditch Company diversion	Perennial	approx. 6.0 miles	This segment consists of relatively flat water bordered by red sandstone canyon walls. There are great vistas of the Grand Mesa, the West Elk Mountains, and rugged wilderness areas. The area also provides recreational opportunities such as family boating, and fishing. The area contains some development including the Pleasure Park and a ranch house located downstream of the North Fork. A gravel road runs parallel to the river this entire segment; however, BLM is considering closing it.	Scenic, Recreational	Eligible
Gunnison River (from Relief Ditch Company diversion to edge of planning area)	Perennial	approx. 3.2 miles	This segment consists of relatively flat water with colorful sandstone cliffs. Although this segment is beautiful, containing scenic and recreational values, there are a number of rip-rapped areas that compromise its free-flowing qualifications. Other detractions include an old carbon dioxide well, an irrigation ditch running parallel, and old road, several buildings and powerlines.	None	Not Eligible
Smith Fork Creek	Perennial	3.0 miles	The segment being considered is from the confluence with the Gunnison River upstream approximately 3 miles. However, the upstream 2 miles of this segment is located on private land. The private land contains a number of buildings, roads, and bridges and is actively farmed. The one mile long segment located within the Wilderness boundary is a deeply entrenched canyon containing outstanding scenic and recreational values. The lower portion of Smith Fork Creek currently has poor water quality with high temperatures and levels of dissolved solids presenting problems for aquatic life.	Scenic, Recreational	Eligible - only the one mile segment located within the Wilderness

Table I-4-1
River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts *(continued)*

River Name	River Type	Segment Length	Resource Team Comments	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Determination (Eligible or Not Eligible)
North Fork	Perennial	1.2 miles	This short segment contains a narrowleaf cottonwood, skunk bullrush, and Fremont's cottonwood riparian forest. The surrounding area contains several buildings (Pleasure Park), a picnic area, a paved road and barbed wire fence visible from the river. There are too many intrusions to consider the ecological values outstandingly remarkable.	None	Not Eligible
Cedar Creek	Perennial	6.3 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Grizzly Gulch	Intermittent	1.0 mile	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Peach Valley Canal	Intermittent	17.6 miles	Irrigation ditch - does not qualify as free-flowing	None	Not Eligible
Sulphur Gulch	Intermittent	1.1 miles	This is a relatively short segment that runs between Highway 92 and the Gunnison River. At Highway 92 it is little more than a shallow, wide depression. Only for the last 0.25-mile is it steeply incised. Segment contains a population of the federally listed Delta lomatium and Uinta Basin hookless cactus. Lack of water during summer. OHV trails and trash piles along upper canyon rim	Ecological	Not Eligible
Loutsenhizer Arroyo	Intermittent	16.8 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Iron Creek	Intermittent	4.7 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Long Gulch	Ephemeral	3.3 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Lime Kiln Gulch	Ephemeral	3.0 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Lawheed Gulch	Ephemeral	2.6 miles	A relatively short segment between Highway 92 and the Gunnison River. There is a gravel road that runs along side the gulch. Powerlines cross the actively grazed area. Much of this segment is ditch like with no outstandingly remarkable values. The area contains a cattail marsh, greasewood/sea blight community, and populations of federally listed endangered clay-loving wild buckwheat.	Ecological	Not Eligible

Table I-4-1
River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts *(continued)*

River Name	River Type	Segment Length	Resource Team Comments	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Determination (Eligible or Not Eligible)
Currant Creek	Ephemeral	0.8 mile	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Dry Creek	Ephemeral	0.4 mile	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Red Rock Canyon	Ephemeral	4.3 miles	Although this segment is within the planning area, none if it is managed by BLM. Approximately 2 miles is located within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the remainder is located within private land. The Park Service may consider this segment during their planning process.	Not assessed due to lack of BLM authority.	Not Eligible as part of the BLM planning process.
Jones Draw	Ephemeral	4.2 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Parvin Gulch	Ephemeral	4.3 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Coal Bank Gulch	Ephemeral	3.4 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Son-of-a-Gun Gulch	Ephemeral	4.1 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Diamond Joe Gulch	Ephemeral	0.7 mile	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Buck Canyon	Ephemeral	3.0 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Poison Spring Gulch	Ephemeral	6.5 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not Eligible
Spring Gulch	Ephemeral	1.3 miles	No outstandingly remarkable values	None	Not eligible
Red Canyon	Ephemeral	13.3 miles	Red Canyon includes a mix of private and BLM land. Over the course of the 13.3 miles the river transitions from a steep walled canyon near the confluence with the Gunnison River to a meandering stream in a wide bottomed valley.	Scenic, Cultural, and Geology	Eligible - only 3 miles from confluence with Gunnison River upstream.

ATTACHMENT I-5 (TO APPENDIX I)
BLM SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORMS

The following are the scenic quality field inventory forms completed by the BLM resource team for each of the four river segments proposed for further evaluation.

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Form 8400-1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date September 16, 2002

District Montrose Field Office

Resource Area Gunnison River NCA Planning Area

Scenic Quality rating unit Gunnison River upstream segment Park to transmission line

1. Evaluators (Names) Karen Tucker (NCA Manager), Jim Sazama (Grazing Specialist), Dennis Murphy (Water Resource Specialist), Mike Manka (Aquatic Ecologist)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Steep narrow inner canyon of dark rock, exposed faults, multi-layerd outer canyon. Meandering river with contoured flats of gravel and sand. Upland terraces above flat verticle walls.	Dramatic changes from areas of no vegetation to terraces, to upland meadows, and vegetated slopes	Double canyon with a meandering river.
LINE	Vertical walls (400-1000' high; 1/8 - 1/2 mile wide) jagged ridge lines, upward thrusting pegmatite dykes, folds and drapes. Horizontally oriented (1000 - 2000' high; 2 miles wide.	Sparse to no vegetation in some areas. Meandering and linear riparian areas. Upland twisted pinyon-juniper woodlands.	Sharply vertical inner canyon dramatically tiered outer canyon.
COLOR	Imposing dark inner canyon interspersed with contrasting brightly colored bands (dykes) of pink. Brightly colored outer canyon composed of tan, buff, salmon, red, grey, pink, and white sandstones.	Bright green riparian vegetation contrasted by muted green pinyon-juniper woodlands and green meadows. Oasis like.	Multi-colored and contrasting.
TEXTURE	Smooth inner canyon walls contrasted by jagged pegmatite dykes; Multi-textured coarse-featured outer canyon.	Smooth and flowing grasses contrasted by stark coarse-textured shrubs and trees.	Uneven with dramatic changes and contrasts.

3. Narrative

Scenic values found in the Gorge are inextricably interwoved with the geologic and physiographic features of the area (Gunnison River Final EIS WSR 1979). This river segment provides an excellent opportunity to opserve the extremely scenic geologic transition from the towering black walls of the Black Canyon National Park, to the beautiful and very colorful and dramatic double canyon system found in the Gorge Wilderness. The Gorge's geology, a continuation fo the Black Canyon National Park's, exhibits many of the outstanding scenic features found in the Park, including the towering and imposing dark narrow inner walls which are streaked and stained by the elements and intruded by brightly colored pink and white pegmatite dykes which thrust dramatically upward. According to Wallace Hansen, noted geologist with the USGS, there is no where in the world where the Precambrian rock is better exposed to viewing than in the walls and canyon floor of the Gunnison Gorge. The gorge however offers more in terms of its many and varied geologic formations and phenomena. According to a 2002 (continued on next page)

4. SCORE

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform	5			array of landscapes
b. Vegetation	4			Oasis-like appearance
c. Water	5			Exceptional color and clarity
d. Color	5			Excellent contrasts
e. Adjacent Scenery	5			Variety of views
f. Scarcity		3		(See Next Page)
g. Cultural Modification		0		Very few, mostly unnoticeable
TOTALS	24	3	0	= 27 total

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

_X__ A - 19 or more

___ B - 12-18

___ C - 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

Following are the instructions for completing the form. The numbers correspond with the item numbers on the form

1. Evaluators. List the names of the persons involved in the rating.
2. Landscape Character. Briefly describe the major features and elements in the landscape. Refer to illustrations 4, 5, 6, and 7 fo the BLM Handbook 1-8431-1 for guidelines on the terminology to be used to describe the elements.
3. Narrative. Briefly describe the general character of the landscape as it relates to the immediate surroundings and to similar landscape features within the physiographic province.
4. Scores. Rate the scenic qualtiy using the criteria and guidelines in the BLM Handbook 1-8410-1 Section 11. Record the scores by circling the appropriate numbers. If the rating more appropriately falls between the listed numbers, write in the desired number and circle it. For example, if the desired number for "color" falls between 3 and 5, write in the number and circle it. Explain any unusual factors affecting a rating under the "explanation and rationale" column. If more space is needed, continue the explanation on this page. After the ratings are completed total the scores and check the appropriate classification line.

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3. Narrative continued: USGS survey, the Gorge contains outstanding examples of faulting, colorful, pegmatite dyke formations, and geologic "unconformities, as well as many other interesting and scenic geologic features which can be easily viewed by visitors from the river. More importantly, the Gorge provides additional scenic features not found in the Park including the beautiful outer canyon composed of brightly colored, multi textured sedimentary layers of red, buff, salmon, pink, grey and white. This multi-colored formation offers the viewer a striking and visually pleasing contrast to the weathered dark surfaces of the precambrian rocks in the inner gorge. As the river winds through the canyon, the viewer is presented with a multitude of images and settings ranging from dark, towering walls covered with spider webs and swallow nests which convey an atmosphere of grandeur and solemnity to sweeping panoramas of colorful canyons against clear, vibrant blue skies that convey a spirit of wilderness as open and free.

The area is famous for its beautiful, free-flowing water in this segment. The waters are a clear green that allows visitors to see to the bottom of deep pools. A recently published Gorge guide book states: "There is an intrinsic beauty about the flow of the water in the Gunnison Gorge… that is hypnotizing… the river bends over a rock in midstream, goes white at the rapids, deepens to a color like night sky… Just for the sheer artistry of its water, there is no more beautiful river in the West than Colorado's Gunnison."

Riparian vegetation in the Gorge is typical of other rivers in the southwest, but it contrasts with the adjacent pinyon-juniper and exposed rock, creating an oasis-like appearance (Gunnison River Final EIS WAS 1979).

Score: f. Scarcity: There are between 2-5 other stretches similar in Colorado, but they are much shorter and less spectacular. Relatively unique double canyon system.

Form 8400-1
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date September 17, 2002

District Montrose Field Office

Resource Area Gunnison River NCA Planning Area

Scenic Quality rating unit Gunnison river from transmission line to Diversion

1. Evaluators (Names) Karen Tucker (NCA Manager), Jim Sazama (Grazing Specialist), Dennis Murphy (Water Resource Specialist), Mike Manka (Aquatic Ecologist)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Broad river valley transitions back into meandering	Simple forms and patterns	Oval, elongated and linear
	canyon		
LINE	Meandering river, vertical walls, sloping canyons	Irregular, indistinct	Rounded, horizontal
COLOR	Deep green, clear waters surrounded by colorful	Vibrant green in riparian areas,	Multi-colored layers
	walls of buff, red, greys, and pinks	yellows and muted greens in	
		uplands	
TEXTURE	Smooth walls to coarse outcrops	Smooth to uneven, random	Uneven

3. Narrative

The Gunnison River water in this stretch is remarkable fof its beautiful color and clarity allowing viewers to see down through deep pools to the bottom of the river. The river at times is impacted by lower quality water flowing from the North Fork, but the impact is generally short in duration and recovers quidkly back to its excellent condition. This stretch is noted for its excellent year-round trout fishery which is supported by high quality water.

Interesting geology and outstanding vistas of the Uncompagre Plateau, West Elk Wilderness, Grand Mesa, and the Ragged Mountains, add interest and 360 degree viewing enjoyment. Outstanding views of surrounding snow-capped peaks (fall, winter, spring) and fall colors on Grand Mesa.

There are minimal visual intrusions including a few buildings and a gravel road which is seen only intermittently. Non-native vegetation is visible but does not unduly detract.

This river stretch is augmented all sommer long from Gunnison Gorge flows and thus provides river environment in a desert area.

4. SCORE

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform		3		broad valley to canyon landscape
b. Vegetation			1	predominantly non-native
c. Water	5			Exceptional color and clarity
d. Color		3		(See next page)
e. Adjacent Scenery	5			Outstanding views
f. Scarcity	4			relatively rare in Colorado
g. Cultural Modification			(-2)	few buildings, road not significant
TOTALS	14 +	6 +	(-1)	= 19 Total

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

_X__ A - 19 or more

___ B - 12-18

___ C - 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

Following are the instructions for completing the form. The numbers correspond with the item numbers on the form

1. Evaluators. List the names of the persons involved in the rating.
2. Landscape Character. Briefly describe the major features and elements in the landscape. Refer to illustrations 4, 5, 6, and 7 fo the BLM Handbook 1-8431-1 for guidelines on the terminology to be used to describe the elements.
3. Narrative. Briefly describe the general character of the landscape as it relates to the immediate surroundings and to similar landscape features within the physiographic province.
4. Scores. Rate the scenic qualtiy using the criteria and guidelines in the BLM Handbook 1-8410-1 Section 11. Record the scores by circling the appropriate numbers. If the rating more appropriately falls between the listed numbers, write in the desired number and circle it. For example, if the desired number for "color" falls between 3 and 5, write in the number and circle it. Explain any unusual factors affecting a rating under the "explanation and rationale" column. If more space is needed, continue the explanation on this page. After the ratings are completed total the scores and check the appropriate classification line.

Score : d. Color - Sandstone walls streaked with reds, greys, whites, goot fall colors

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(September 1985)

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date September 17, 2002

District Montrose Field Office

Resource Area Gunnison River NCA Planning Area

Scenic Quality rating unit Smith Fork

1. Evaluators (Names) Karen Tucker (NCA Manager), Jim Sazama (Grazing Specialist), Dennis Murphy (Water Resource Specialist), Mike Manka (Aquatic Ecologist)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Deeply cut, entrenched, and incised narrow canyon	Dramatic changes from areas of	Mostly linear
		no vegetation to steep sparsely	
		vegetated slopes	
LINE	Very steep vertical walls, jagged ridge lines, twisting	(See next page)	Sharply vertical and twisting canyon
	canyon with abrupt drops and turns. Line broken by		
	walls and abrupt vertical drops of the river over		
	rocks and steeply dropping terrain		
COLOR	Imposing black and grey rocks in steep canyon with	Muted greens and yellows in	Dark grays, black
	impressive shadows and light effects.	upland areas. Little or no	
		vegetation in steep portions	
TEXTURE	Jagged and coarse	Sparse, uneven, random	Uneven

3. Narrative

The twisted and jagged geology of the Smith Fork canyon is outstanding and remarkably scenic. The intense twisting and jagged black rock of the river corridor combined with extremely steep black walls evoke a sense of complete isolation and a sense of awe The rugged course winds its way through the boulders and falls forming its channel. The steep adjacent canyon walls have a dramatic visual impact as does the view of the Gunnison Gorge. As the Smith Fork twists its way through the gnarled canyon, it drops over huge jagged boulders and falls into myriads of cascading waterfalls into calming pools of green water that reflect the overhanging walls. The canyon's orientation allows for wonderful shadow effects.

While it is difficult to see out from the steep canyon in many places, the viewer at times is treated to views of the adjacent Gunnison Gorge wilderness with its outstanding geology and beautiful green water. These views are exceptionsl the closer one gets to the Gunnison River confluence. Although there are some roads in the area, none are visible from this reach.

4. SCORE

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform	5			Outstanding geology, and canyon
b. Vegetation		3		Contrasts black rock
c. Water		3		(See next page)
d. Color		3		impressive black precambrian rock
e. Adjacent Scenery		3		colorful and impressive views
f. Scarcity		3		Unusual setting of pools in desert
g. Cultural Modification		0		very few, unnoticeable
TOTALS	5 +	15 +	0	= 20 total

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

_X__ A - 19 or more

___ B - 12-18

___ C - 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

Following are the instructions for completing the form. The numbers correspond with the item numbers on the form

1. Evaluators. List the names of the persons involved in the rating.
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2. Landscape

b. Vegetation - Line - Sparse to no vegetation in some places where walls drop directly into river. Sharp transition into upland with twisted pinyon-juniper woodlands dissected with low growing spiky shrubs.

4. Score

c. Water - Some water quality concerns, but segment meets State criteria. Water twisting through jagged rocks and dropping abruptly into cascading waterfalls into pools is extremely impressive and scenic.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY

Date September 17, 2002

District Montrose Field Office

Resource Area Gunnison River NCA Planning Area

Scenic Quality rating unit Red Canyon

1. Evaluators (Names) Karen Tucker (NCA Manager), Jim Sazama (Grazing Specialist), Dennis Murphy (Water Resource Specialist), Mike Manka (Aquatic Ecologist)

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER (Feature)

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE (General)
FORM	Open canyon transitions into deeply cut, entrenched	Dramatic changes from upland	Mostly linear
	and incised narrow canyon with dramatic waterfall	pinyon-juniper woodlands to steep	
	drop near Gunnison River confluence	canyon with little vegetation	
LINE	Very steep verticle walls, horizontal cliff formations	(See next page)	Sharply vertical and twisting
	around Ute Fault zone		canyon near confluence.
			Linear above.
COLOR	Imposing black and grey rocks intersected with	Muted greens and yellows in	Dark grays, black near confluence
	brightly colored pink/white pegmatite dykes. Upper	upland areas. Little or no	Reddish above.
	canyon multi-colored sandstones (tan, red, salmon	vegetation in steep portions.	
	and grey)		
TEXTURE	Jagged and coarse near confluence, smoother	Sparse, uneven, random	Uneven
	textures above in sandstone areas		

3. Narrative

The twisted and jagged geology of the lower Red Canyon segments which are carved through ancient Precambrian rock are in marked visual contrast to those of the upper segments which flow through sedimentary rocks of brightly colored red/salmon/tan/white sandstones. The picturesque quality of the brightly colored sandstone strata in the upper portions of this section is greatly enhanced by the colorful riparian and upland shrub and woodland vegetation, whereas the narrow darkness and starkness of the steep lower canyon is made even more awe-inspiring by its lack of vegetation. An extremely dramatic waterfall at the confluence adds significantly to the scenery.

4. SCORE

	High	Medium	Low	Explanation or Rationale
a. Landform	4			dramatic waterfall canyon
b. Vegetation		2		colorful upland, much contrast
c. Water		3		(See next page)
d. Color	4			(See next page)
e. Adjacent Scenery	5			Very impressive views
f. Scarcity		2		Unusual setting in desert environ.
g. Cultural Modification		0		Very few, unnoticeable
TOTALS	13 +	7 +	0	= 20 total

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

_X__ A - 19 or more

___ B - 12-18

___ C - 11 or less

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

Following are the instructions for completing the form. The numbers correspond with the item numbers on the form

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2. Landscape

b. Vegetation - Line - Sparse to no vegetation in some places where walls drop directly into river. Sharp transition into upland with twisted pinyon-juniper woodlands dissected with low growing spiky shrubs.

4. Score

c. Water - water twisting though jagged rocks and dropping abruptly in a waterfall at confluence is extremely impressive and scenic. Downside - waterflow is low due to upstream irrication uses in summer.

d. Color - Very impressive display of black Precambrian rock and brightly colored sedimentary layers. Reddish colors dominate upper sections (hence the name).