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Bureau of Land Management

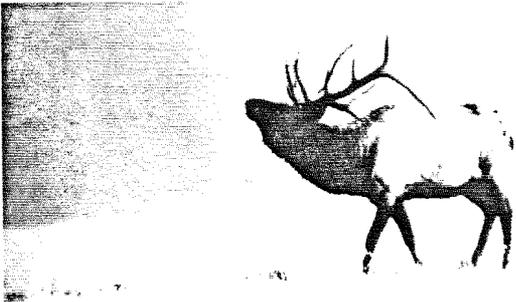
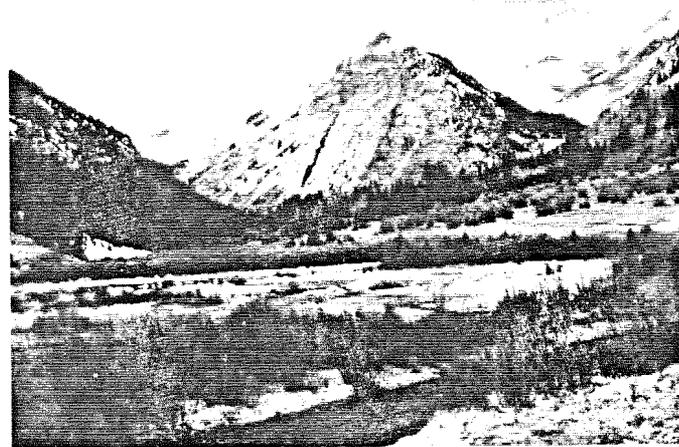
Montrose District  
Colorado

February 1993



# GUNNISON RESOURCE AREA

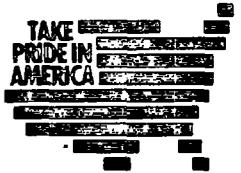
Record of Decision,  
Approved Resource Management Plan,  
and Rangeland Program Summary





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Montrose District Office  
2465 South Townsend  
Montrose, Colorado 81401



IN REPLY REFER TO

February, 1993

Dear Reader:

This document is a copy of the Record of Decision, the approved Resource Management Plan, and the Rangeland Program Summary for the Gunnison Resource Area. This Record of Decision approves the Bureau of Land Management decisions in the Resource Management Plan, Chapter Two of this document, for managing approximately 585,012 acres of BLM-administered surface acres and 726,918 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in the Gunnison Resource Area.

This Resource Management Plan has been approved in the Record of Decision as the land use plan for the Gunnison Resource Area for the next 10-12 years. The decisions in the plan will guide all future uses and activities within the Gunnison Resource Area.

The Rangeland Program Summary is included in this document in Chapter Three. The Rangeland Program Summary describes and summarizes the livestock grazing management and related decisions that are contained in the land use plan, the rangeland resource management objectives for the Gunnison Resource Area, and the actions intended to achieve those objectives.

This document has been sent to all recipients of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement published in April, 1992. Copies of this document are available by contacting the BLM at the Gunnison Resource Area, 216 North Colorado, Gunnison, Colorado 81230 (303)641-0471, the Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401 (303)249-7791, or the Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7076 (303)239-3670.

We appreciate the input, cooperation, and assistance from the public and land users during the planning process, and are pleased to provide this copy for your reference and use. Please contact BLM at the Gunnison office for further assistance or information regarding the plan.

Sincerely yours,

Alan L. Kesterke  
District Manager

**GUNNISON RESOURCE AREA  
RECORD OF DECISION,  
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND  
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY**

**FEBRUARY, 1993**

**Prepared by:  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
Montrose District  
Gunnison Resource Area**

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## **MAP LIST**

Proposed Resource Management Plan

# RECORD OF DECISION FOR THE GUNNISON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this Record of Decision document (ROD) is to approve the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decisions to manage the approximately 585,012 surface acres and 726,918 acres of mineral estate within the Gunnison Resource Area. These decisions, in Chapter Two of this document, will guide management for the next 10 to 12 years.

## DECISION

This ROD, which approves the resource management plan (RMP) for the Gunnison Resource Area, fulfills the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 CFR 1600). The Gunnison Draft RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP) was published in March, 1991, and the Gunnison Proposed RMP and Final EIS (PRMP) was published in April, 1992, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Chapter Two of this document contains the same decisions as the PRMP, with the changes noted on pages 1-5 and 1-6 in Chapter One, and other clarifying changes that have been made. The decisions in Chapter Two of this document will guide all future uses and activities within the resource area.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN THE DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Five land use management alternatives were considered and analyzed in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP) for the public lands in the Gunnison planning area: Alternatives A (Continuation of Current Management or no Action Alternative), B, C, D, and E (the Preferred Alternative).

**Alternative A, the Continuation of Current Management, or No Action Alternative,** was developed using available inventory data, existing activity or project plans for a variety of resource programs, existing planning documents, and established land use allocations. This alternative would have continued multiple use management in much the same manner as is now being

accomplished. The current rate of accomplishment of these activities and decisions would have continued. Alternative objectives for Alternative B, C, and D were developed by using the objectives that were developed for the Resource Capability Analysis (RCA) portion of the Management Situation Analysis (MSA). The information regarding each affected resource in the RCA was then used to rank BLM-managed resources/resource uses according to their ability to meet, or contribute to, the objectives for Alternatives B, C, and D. During the writing of these alternatives, the resource that was ranked highest generally took precedence over all other resources for management priority, the second-ranked resource took next precedence, and so on. Resource program functions which are of a support nature were considered in alternative formulation, but they did not effect resource ranking.

Under **Alternative B**, the BLM considered objectives to emphasize and/or be compatible with those resources which promote recreational opportunities and increase tourism as well as to promote economic stability and quality of life within the planning area. Under Alternative B, the BLM assumed that any resource use or activity would not be limited or restricted so long as it did not impair or diminish the recreational and/or tourism qualities. Modifications to existing management levels could have included increases or decreases, depending on the resource and its compatibility with this alternative objective.

Under **Alternative C**, the BLM considered objectives that called for a high degree of resource production and economic return. The natural environment would be maintained, protected, and/or enhanced at a level that is compatible with and not unreasonably restrictive of, the production, harvest, or extraction or use of renewable/non-renewable resources. Legislative mandates would be met.

Under **Alternative D**, the BLM considered objectives that called for a degree of resource management that would have provided a high degree of protection, enhancement, and maintenance for natural values, over and above that which is required by legislation, and the existing management situation. Under

## RECORD OF DECISION

Alternative D, the BLM assumed that renewable and non-renewable production levels would be sustained at a level appropriate to natural values management, but would not necessarily be limited or unreasonably restricted.

Alternative E, the Preferred Alternative, was developed based on an examination of the objectives and environmental impacts of the other alternatives, issues raised throughout the planning process, specific environmental values and resources/resource uses, conflict resolution, public input, and laws and regulations. This alternative was developed by the Area Manager and planning team members, and represented the mix and variety of actions that, in the opinion of the preparers, best resolved the issues and management concerns that drove the preparation of the RMP.

The management described in the proposed plan that was published in April, 1992, was essentially that contained in Alternative E, with modifications as a result of internal review and public input gathered during the comment period on the DRMP.

### RESOLUTION OF PROTESTS RECEIVED ON THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The BLM responded to three protest letters regarding the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP). Those protests are addressed in Chapter One of this document.

### IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING DECISIONS

Decisions in this plan will be implemented over a period of years and must be tied directly to the BLM budgeting process. A plan and schedule to implement the RMP will be developed and signed by the district manager within 90 days of the signing of this ROD. This plan and schedule will provide for

the systematic accomplishment of all decisions in the approved RMP. Decisions will be continuously monitored to ensure necessary tracking and subsequent integration into the budget system occur on a timely basis. All decisions will be reviewed periodically to ensure that decisions are being implemented and that monitoring is occurring in a timely fashion, and according to plan. The status of each decision will be documented during these reviews in order to communicate, among other information, important implementation data and reasons why scheduled decisions are not implemented. Periodical assessments of the decisions within this plan will be completed by the district manager and forwarded to the state office.

### MAINTAINING AND AMENDING DECISIONS

Decisions in this plan will be continually maintained to reflect minor changes in information. Maintenance is limited to refining or further clarifying a plan decision and cannot expand the scope of a decision nor change the terms or conditions of a decision. Maintenance will be documented in supporting records. Plan decision amendments may become necessary if major changes are needed or if a large number of maintenance refinements occur. Plan decision amendments are accomplished according to a defined process in the BLM planning regulations, which includes public input and an environmental analysis.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The views and concerns of the public were actively solicited throughout this planning process. Public participation is summarized in Chapter one of this document.

### CONSISTENCY

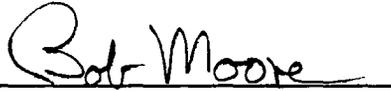
This plan is consistent with the plans, programs, and policies of other Federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as those of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**AVAILABILITY OF THIS DOCUMENT**

Copies of the Gunnison ROD/approved RMP are available from the Bureau of Land Management, c/o the Gunnison Resource Area, 216 North Colorado

Street, Gunnison, Colorado 81230 , c/o the Montrose District, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401, and c/o the Colorado State Office (CO-912), 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215.



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Colorado State Director  
Bureau of Land Management

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February 5, 1993

Date

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision (ROD), Approved Resource Management plan (RMP), and Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) document contains the land use decisions, generally expressed as actions, terms, or conditions, that will guide management of resources on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands within the Gunnison Resource Area (GRA). All future uses and activities within the GRA will conform to the decisions described in Chapter Two of this document. The RPS describes the livestock grazing management program that will be implemented in the planning area during the life of the plan.

This document has been prepared in accordance with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM planning regulations issued under the authority of FLPMA (43 CFR 1600), and other BLM guidance. The decisions in the RMP will replace all land use planning guidance in the Gunnison Basin and the American Flats/Silverton Management Framework Plans, or MFPs (and as amended in 1978 and 1979). The RMP will replace all other related documents that direct land and minerals management within the GRA.

### PLANNING AREA FOR THE RMP

The planning area for the RMP contains a total of 960,730 acres and is located within the BLM's Montrose District, in southwest Colorado. The planning area contains approximately 585,012 acres of BLM-administered lands and 726,918 acres of federal mineral estate within parts of Hinsdale, Gunnison, Saguache, Montrose, and Ouray counties. A folded map accompanying this RMP depicts the Gunnison planning area, the boundary of the GRA, Category I disposal tracts, boundaries and labels for Management Units 1-16, and other physical features.

### RELATIONSHIP TO THE BUREAU PLANNING SYSTEM

Development of this RMP document, and the previously prepared or published related documents, has occurred within the framework of the BLM planning system. Planning operations within the BLM is divided into three distinct tiers: policy planning, land use planning, and activity planning. The completion of this RMP document satisfies the requirements for the land use planning tier of the BLM planning system.

Refer to Appendix C for a consolidated listing of activity plans that would be updated or prepared during implementation of this RMP. Where appropriate, integrated, multi-resource activity level plans would be encouraged and prepared, in lieu of individual resource activity level plans.

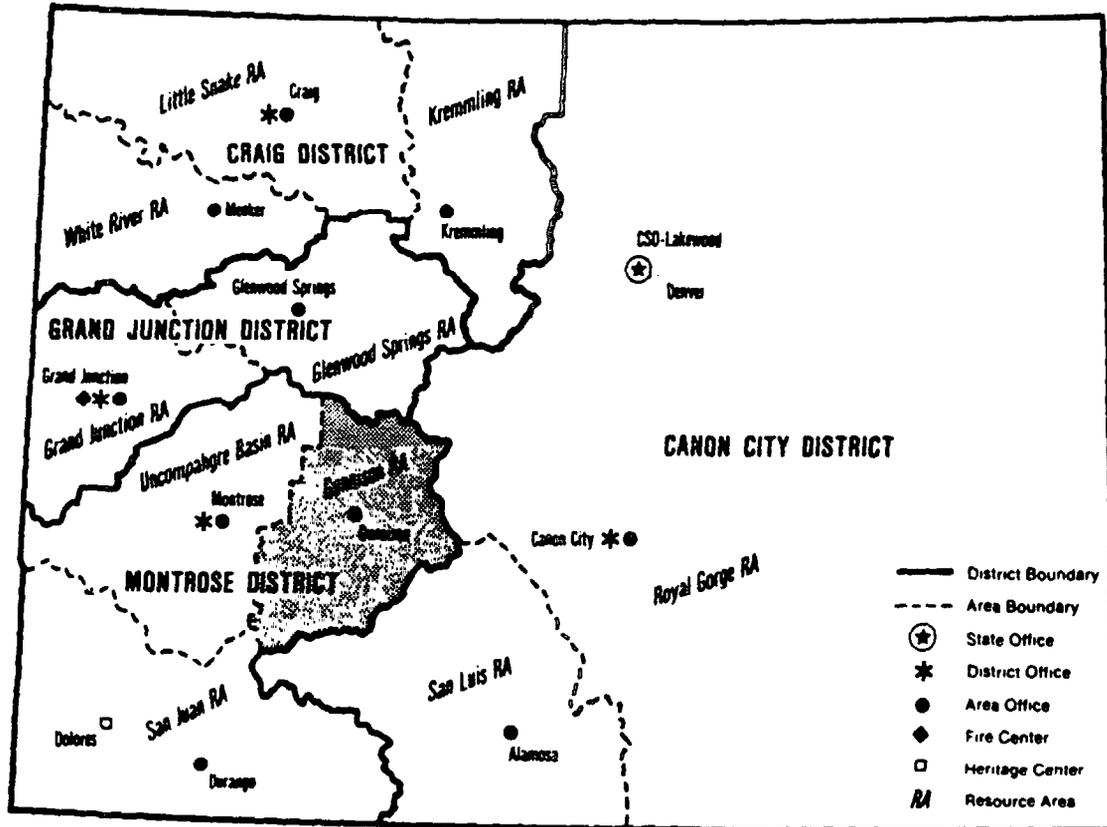
### DISTRIBUTION OF THE RMP

This RMP will be distributed to all addressees who have been involved in the land use planning process. The mailing list contains approximately 555 addressees. The mailing list is available for examination at the GRA or the Montrose District office by interested parties. Copies of this ROD and RMP are available at the BLM offices noted in the accompanying ROD.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION

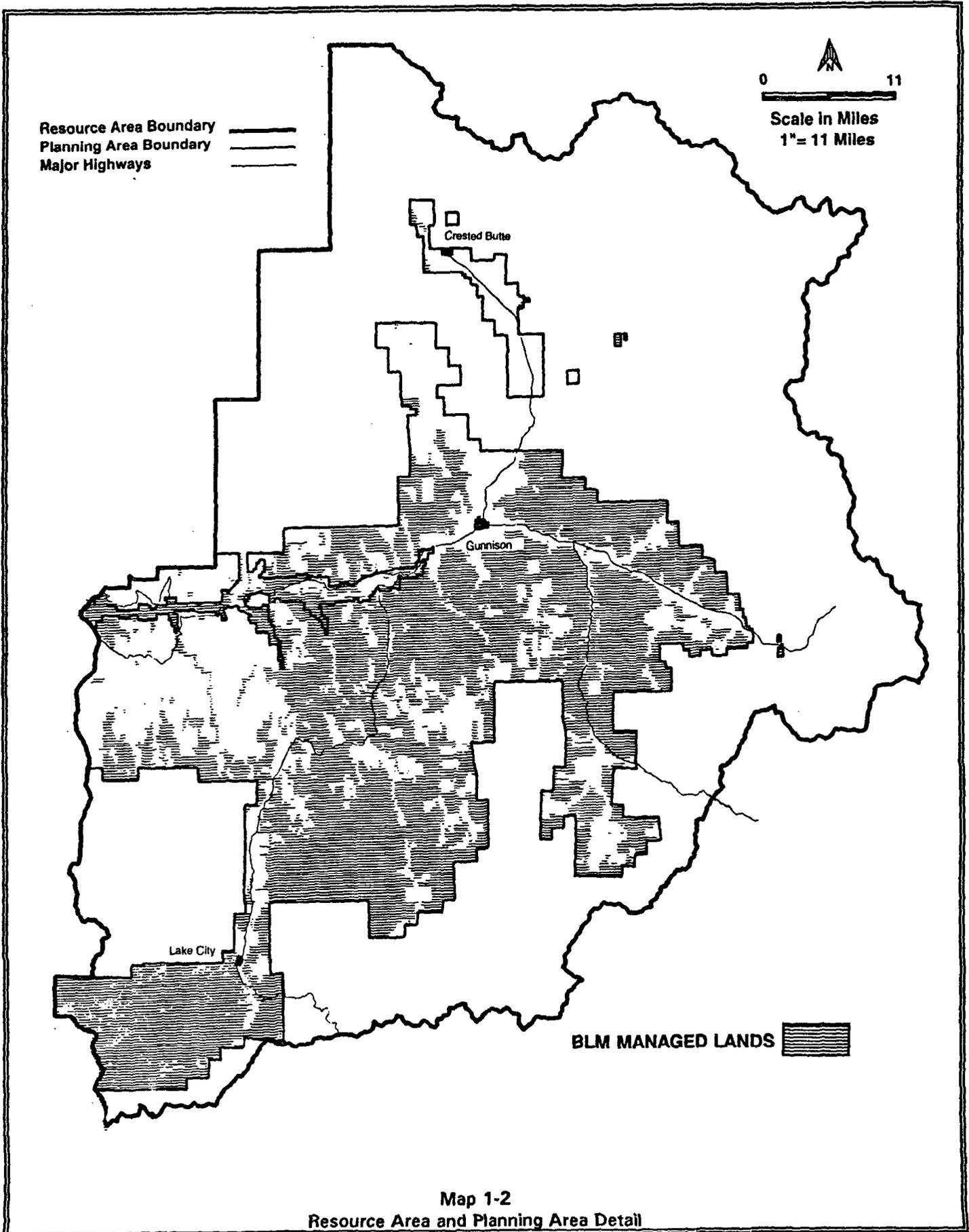
Throughout the preparation of this RMP concerns and interests of all publics were addressed in a variety of public participation activities. The area manager, team leader, and team members met with county commissioners, environmental and interest groups, the Montrose District Advisory Council, the Montrose District Grazing Advisory Board, and other concerned citizens.

COLORADO



General Location of the Gunnison Resource Area

Map 1-1  
General Location Map



Map 1-2  
Resource Area and Planning Area Detail

## CHAPTER ONE

The Montrose District Multiple Use Advisory Board and Grazing Advisory Board has been kept apprised of the RMP progress and their comments and recommendations have been solicited.

Coordination with other agencies and assurance that the RMP is consistent with other plans was accomplished through communication and cooperative efforts between the BLM and involved federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. Bureau of Land Management personnel have met with county planners and commissioners to promote greater understanding of goals, objectives, and resources of both the counties and the BLM.

On September 15, 1988, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register. This notice formally informed the public of the beginning of the planning process. At the same time, the first of two newsletters was sent to individuals, organizations, agencies, special interest groups, the media, business interests, and academic institutions inviting them to participate in the planning process. The general public was informed through news releases.

The contents of the first newsletter included an invitation for all publics to attend a series of afternoon and evening informal open houses held in Gunnison, Lake City, and Montrose, Colorado during October 1988. The purpose of the newsletter and the meetings was to explain the goals and objectives of this planning process and identify, discuss, and clarify issues and management concerns related to the plan. Issue statements and comments were accepted from the public by mail and at the open houses. Grazing, off-highway vehicle use, recreation and land use, and forestry issues received the most responses. The BLM requested, through this newsletter, that all interested parties return a self-addressed, stamped, questionnaire if they wanted to continue to receive information dealing with the Gunnison Resource Management Plan (RMP).

In November 1988, a second newsletter was published. This communique was a follow-up to the open houses, briefing the publics on changes resulting from their comments regarding issues and management concerns. A request for nominations or the identification of potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) was included in the newsletter.

During the month of January 1989, the public was again asked to comment on a list of potential ACECs through a mailing to interested parties. A follow-up to this mailing was an ACEC workshop held in Gunnison on the evening of February 14, 1989. Comments received assisted BLM in identifying more ACECs to be considered as potential ACECs. In July 1989, a letter was mailed to the interested parties informing them of potential ACECs that would be carried through the planning process.

Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP) for review and comment was announced in the *Federal Register* on February 28, 1991, and in a news release issued at the same time. The DRMP was published and distributed in March, 1991, to those on our mail list (over 700 copies) for a 90-day review period. The cover letter in the document announced dates and locations of public hearings that were held in April of 1991. Additional material was sent to several individuals and organizations upon request, including several documents and maps that were sent to the Gunnison County Stockgrower's Association in July of 1991.

The Colorado Governor's clearinghouse was supplied with numerous copies of the DRMP for review to ensure consistency with the state's ongoing plans.

A meeting with representatives of the Gunnison County Stockgrower's Association (GCSA) was held on July 10, 1991, to explain several recommendations in the DRMP, and to hear of their concerns. As a result, clarification of many recommendations in the Standard Management section for Livestock Grazing Management were included in the same section of the PRMP.

The BLM received a total of 88 letters or cards about the DRMP. A total of seven speakers gave recorded oral comments at the two public hearings held in Gunnison and Lake City. Each formal hearing was followed by an informal question and answer period.

Another meeting was held with the GCSA on December 18, 1991, to discuss livestock grazing management and other recommendations that would be contained in the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP).

Availability of the PRMP was announced in the *Federal Register* on April 3, 1992, and in a news release issued at the same time. The PRMP was published and distributed to the addressees on our updated mail list (690 copies to 555 addressees) in April, 1992, for a 30-day protest period which ended on May 4, 1992. After the protest period, the BLM responded to three protest letters in which the protesting parties expressed concerns about recommendations in the PRMP regarding forest management, easement access and road construction, livestock grazing management, riparian zone stubble heights, big game management, sage grouse management, bighorn-domestic sheep management, recreation management, special status plant and animal species and habitat, and off-highway vehicle designations. As a result, some language was added or modified in this RMP, but no recommendations in the PRMP were changed. See the section immediately below for a summary of changes to the text of the RMP as a result of the internal review and input received during the protest period.

## CHANGES TO THE TEXT OF THE RMP AND PRMP

As a result of internal review, protest letters received on the PRMP during the protest period, and the BLM Director's responses to the protesting parties, the following text changes have been incorporated into the RMP.

1. The paragraph immediately following, in bold text, has been inserted into the Livestock Grazing Management section of STANDARD MANAGEMENT in the RMP to help clarify concerns regarding minimum stubble heights for riparian areas. The riparian areas of concern are in category "I" Allotments and in Management Units 14 or 15. The language in bold text below has been inserted into the numbered section 4 (Riparian Area Management Specific To Units 14 and 15), and into the numbered section 6 (Management Common To All Riparian Zones in "I" Allotments), as item (c).

In the event that minimum stubble heights do not exist in a riparian area in allotments at the prescribed turnout date, allotments would be looked at on a case-by-case basis and turnout will

be either delayed, or livestock will be turned out on adjacent uplands and held there by salting, herding, hauling water, and/or other methods. These methods will be employed until riparian areas have received adequate growth.

2. The sentence immediately below in bold text has been inserted into the description of Management Unit 5 (Redcloud Peak ACEC), in place of a similar sentence that was published in the description in the PRMP, in order to further clarify the livestock grazing management situation in the unit.

**Domestic sheep grazing is authorized within the unit, except on lands within the Silver Creek Drainage.**

3. The following sentence in bold text has been added to the paragraph headed Livestock Grazing Management in the prescription for Management Unit 5, in order to help clarify and to provide rationale as to why certain lands will continue to be unavailable for domestic sheep grazing in the unit.

**Public lands in the Silver Creek drainage will continue to be unavailable for domestic sheep grazing in order to prevent destruction of Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly species or habitat.**

4. During the analysis of one party's concerns raised in a protest letter on the PRMP, the BLM discovered that BLM made an error in the PRMP in two responses to comment #13 made by the Gunnison County Stockgrower's Association (GCSA) in their letter on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP). The subject erroneous responses were published in the PRMP.

The first erroneous statement in the BLM response to the GCSA's subject comment #13 is found in the last sentence, 1st paragraph, page P-62, in the PRMP:

*"The number of elk at the end of the biological year are the population figures that are used by the CDOW and others to determine yearly population numbers."*

The above sentence in italics is substituted with the following language in bold text.

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"The big game yearly population levels are estimated by the CDOW using aerial data, usually gathered in December and January. The primary reason for gathering data in December and January is that animals are fairly well congregated, which facilitates data gathering and results in more accurate data."

The second erroneous statement, in italics below, is found in the next-to-last paragraph in the subject response, page P-62 (the entire paragraph is included below for convenience), in the PRMP.

"Column 4 is the estimated number of elk that survived the winter, and before new calves are born. *The number in this column represents the estimate of the population of elk for management purposes by BLM.*"

The sentence in italics immediately above is deleted. The BLM regrets the errors in the response we provided the GCSA in the PRMP, and the apparent confusion caused to readers. The notation of the errors above will serve as corrections to the subject responses.

5. Total, Active, and Suspended Preference, expressed in Animal Unit Months (AUMs), has been updated for publication in this RMP in order to more accurately portray this aspect of the current livestock grazing program. The Total Preference, 60,135 AUMs, and other livestock grazing management information, is displayed in this RMP in Table 3-1, page 3-18, Chapter Three, RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY. Some of the factors that have resulted in this change in Total, Active, and Suspended Preference include, but are not limited to, agreements or decisions made prior to the completion of this RMP, loss of federal ownership, allotments being combined or separated, and the transfer of administration of some allotments to the adjacent San Juan Resource Area. Total Preference is shown as 62,390 AUMs in Table B-5, Appendix B, in the DRMP, and 62,372 AUMs on page 4-6 in the PRMP.

6. The recommendation in the PRMP to acquire public access into the Rock Creek area for recreation has not been carried forward into the RMP, as a

result of the BLM having constructed access into the area during the planning process.

7. After internal review and analysis of one party's concerns raised in a protest letter on the PRMP, the BLM has changed the first sentence in the paragraph headed **Transportation and Access** in the prescription for Management Unit 1. The changed sentence is shown in bold text below.

**If needed, administrative access will be acquired into the east-central part of the unit that includes Yaeger Gulch and Skunk and Trout Creeks for commercial forest management.**

The change is made to clarify that the BLM would only acquire administrative access into the Yeager Gulch and Skunk and Trout Creek areas for forest management purposes if needed. Once merchantability inventories are completed, decisions will be made regarding access needs into these areas.

8. A grammatical change in the text was made on page 2-7, second column, first full paragraph, second sentence.

9. Appendix A, "Wildlife Management", Table A-1 was modified to include percentages of BLM-administered land in the Game Management Units.

## IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE RMP DECISIONS

Implementation of the RMP will begin when the Colorado BLM State Director signs the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RMP. Decisions in this plan will be implemented over a period of years, however, and will be tied directly to the BLM budgeting process. An implementation schedule will be developed, as described in BLM Handbook H-1617-1, and signed by the Montrose District Manager within 90 days of the signing of the ROD. This implementation schedule will provide for the systematic accomplishment of all decisions in the approved RMP.

The implementation of the RMP decisions will be monitored continually to ensure the necessary tracking and subsequent integration into the budget system occur on a timely basis. The implementation progress will also be evaluated periodically. Plan

## INTRODUCTION

amendments will be prepared if it is determined that a proposed management action is not consistent with the decisions prescribed in the RMP. Revisions or amendments to the RMP may be necessary to accommodate changes in resource or user needs, policies, or regulations. Other decisions will be issued in order to fully implement the RMP.

### **MAINTAINING AND AMENDING DECISIONS**

Plan decisions will be maintained continuously to reflect minor changes in information. Maintenance is limited to refining or further clarifying a plan decision and cannot expand the scope nor change the terms or conditions of resource uses. The GRA employees will maintain and monitor plan decisions and recommend plan amendments. Maintenance will be documented in supporting records as required by the "Colorado Plan Maintenance Guide". Plan decision amendments may become necessary if major changes are needed or if large quantities of minor changes occur. Amendments are prepared with public input and include environmental analyses.

### **ACTIVITY PLANS AND FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

Refer to Appendix C for a consolidated listing of activity plans that would be prepared, revised, or updated during implementation of this RMP. Where appropriate, integrated, multi-resource activity level plans, incorporating principles of ecosystem management, would be encouraged and prepared in lieu of individual resource activity level plans.

During implementation of the RMP, additional documentation required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) may be required, such as environmental assessments (EAs). An EA documents NEPA requirements for site-specific actions. This is usually accomplished in the process of preparing activity plans, or in order to issue follow-on decisions while implementing broader decisions in the RMP. Environmental documentation can vary from a simple statement of conformance to the ROD, to complex documents that analyze several alternatives. All such documents will be prepared with the appropriate level of public input.

## CHAPTER TWO

# DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### DEVELOPMENT AND OBJECTIVES

The Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) is essentially the same plan described in Chapter Four of the April, 1992, Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP), with changes reflecting BLM's internal analysis and letters received during the 30-day protest period for the PRMP. The RMP represents the mix and variety of actions that, in the judgement of the BLM, best resolves the issues and management concerns that drove the preparation of the plan. Under the RMP, resources and resource uses will be managed under the multiple use concept and according to the Standard Management section and the Management Unit prescriptions in this chapter.

Please refer to Table 2-1 for a list of Management Units and acres for the RMP. The Management Unit development for the RMP is explained in the section of this chapter titled MANAGEMENT UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (1-16).

This chapter contains two sections: Standard Management and Management Unit Prescriptions. The folded map showing Management Unit boundaries, land ownership, and other features is inserted into this document.

All actions proposed in this plan will comply with current applicable state and federal regulations, laws, 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.

### STANDARD MANAGEMENT FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Under the RMP, some resource management programs will be implemented according to standard management directions throughout the Planning Area. Management of resources identified as a result of future inventories or discoveries will generally be the same as for resources discussed and identified in this RMP/EIS. *Unless changes in or additions to*

*standard management directions are specifically addressed in the prescription for each Management Unit, these resources/resource uses, programs and activities will be managed as follows:*

**Air Quality.** Activities and projects on public land will comply with applicable local, state, and federal air quality regulations. Mitigation to minimize air quality degradation will be incorporated into project proposals as necessary. Additional air quality monitoring may be implemented by BLM when necessary.

**Locatable Minerals.** Federal mineral estate in areas not under withdrawal will be open to entry and location under the general mining laws. Plans of operation will be required for proposed locatable mineral activity on the following lands: 1) lands under wilderness review, 2) lands closed to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel, and, 3) lands within designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

**Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources.** Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate on both federal surface and split-estate lands, that is, private or other non-federal surface estate overlying federal mineral estate, will be open to leasing with standard lease terms. Other special stipulations and conditions for leasing such as no surface occupancy and seasonal restrictions are assigned or specified in each management unit prescription and as deemed necessary; these special stipulations and conditions will also apply to federal surface and split-estate lands. 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 rights-of-way, and Notices Of Intent (NOIs) for geophysical operations. See Appendix K 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

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surface and mineral estate resource information by BLM during review of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD). The most reasonable foreseeable level of oil, gas, and geothermal development in the planning area will involve a maximum of one or two APDs during the life of the plan, with an estimated total of ten acres of surface disturbance. Leasing of any federal minerals within existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be prohibited according to existing legislation until WSAs are released by Congress by non-designation or other Congressional action, or until leasing is no longer prohibited by legislation.

**Saleable Minerals.** Disposal of mineral material on federal mineral estate will be permitted. Disposal of mineral materials from specific areas is 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.

**Soils and Water Resources.** Soils and water resources will continue to be monitored to define problem areas, develop management strategies, and to determine effectiveness of solutions. Vegetation treatments on soils having a moderate to severe erosion potential, and lacking adequate plant basal cover will be designed and managed to increase plant basal cover, therefore reducing erosion. New forage created by wildlife or range improvements, treatments, or projects will be available for those programs after basal vegetation cover densities are achieved for watershed needs and protection, as defined in Table I-1 in Appendix I. Table I-1 in shows the target % basal cover to be achieved on various ecological (range) sites in the uplands before new forage will be allocated to wildlife or livestock grazing management. Table I-1 is derived from Appendix F of the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines, a document that provides techniques and a standardized approach for monitoring surface soil erosion in the Montrose District. Vegetation treatments will be designed and implemented in accordance with the Montrose District Rangeland Treatment Handbook. This handbook provides a standardized approach for planning and implementing vegetation manipulations

and treatments within the Montrose District. The sediment control plan for Long Gulch, and other plans will continue to be implemented.

Water rights will be applied for in the planning area where appropriate, including for instream flow on fishery streams identified in Table J-1, Appendix J, in the RMP, to ensure a sufficient amount of water for fisheries protection.

Best management practices will be employed to reduce soil erosion and water quality deterioration, and will be required in all plans involving surface disturbance. Roads and other developments will be maintained in good condition to minimize erosion.

**Vegetation.** Vegetation resources will be managed to maintain or achieve at least a late seral ecological status by maintaining or improving the vigor, production and diversity of desirable plants within alpine, sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub, and woodland types at a level to support a variety of resource uses, including, but not limited to livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Specific, desired plant communities will be identified in activity plans. Exceptions to a late seral ecological status needed to meet objectives will be identified in activity plans.

Resources and values in riparian areas will be maintained, restored, or improved, including the diversity, vigor, and quantity of herbaceous and woody plants necessary for the 1) proper hydrological functioning of riparian systems, 2) control of accelerated soil erosion, and 3) sustained high quality livestock forage and wildlife habitat.

**Riparian Zones.** Riparian areas will be managed to maintain, restore, or improve riparian conditions (hydrological, soil and vegetation), such that proper functioning conditions are achieved, and to enhance natural values. Riparian areas will be inventoried and prioritized where necessary to determine site-specific management strategies. Strategies, projects, or improvements will be included in activity plans and will be implemented by priority, as to be determined by the inventories. New water sources will be developed with concern for the protection of

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

riparian areas. Existing water source developments within riparian areas will be modified, or relocated, if inventories and studies indicate the hydrologic condition is being negatively impacted from use of the development. Water developments that are range improvements will be modified or relocated in

accordance with 43 CFR 4120. Existing riparian demonstration areas and improvements will be maintained. Road construction or similar projects could be authorized in riparian areas only when a feasible, alternative route cannot be found; roads or similar projects will cross riparian zones as

Table 2-1

### MANAGEMENT UNIT ACRES AND VALUES IN THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANAGEMENT UNIT	ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND	PERCENTAGE OF THE PLANNING AREA <sup>1</sup>	IMPORTANT VALUES RESOURCES OR LAND USES
1	95,827	15%	Recreation, wildlife, visual, historic, and locatable mineral resources
2	47,762	8%	Recreation and visual resources
3	2,710	Less than 1%	Recreation, visual and mineral resources
4	1,597	Less than 1%	Recreation, visual and mineral resources
5	5,960	1%	Special status species and mineral resources
6	1,405	Less than 1%	Geologic phenomena, interpretation, and locatable mineral resources
7	28,275	5%	Wildlife and livestock grazing
8	4,570	Less than 1%	Special status species
9	532	Less than 1%	Visual resources and recreation
10	15,112	3%	Wildlife
11	57,525	10%	Wildlife, soils and livestock grazing
12	91,547	16%	Wildlife, livestock grazing, and locatable mineral resources
13	188,030	30%	Livestock, grazing, recreation, wildlife habitat, forestry and locatable mineral resources
14	2,667	Less than 1%	Riparian, wildlife, fisheries and livestock grazing
15	4,725	Less than 1%	Riparian, wildlife, fisheries and livestock grazing
16	36,768	6%	General land uses, recreation and wildlife

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to whole numbers; this column shows the percentage of the public land (surface estate) in the Planning Area that is located in each Management Unit in the RMP.

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nearly perpendicular to the centerline of the riparian zone as is possible. Objectives are to limit road construction in riparian zones to an absolute minimum, in order to retain and protect as much riparian vegetation, soils, and water as is possible. Existing roads could be relocated or modified if degradation of the aquatic or riparian system is occurring. No commercial timber harvesting will occur in riparian areas, or in a 30-foot area either side of riparian areas, unless riparian or wildlife values will be improved. Logging decks or staging areas will not be permitted within riparian areas or in a 30-foot area either side of riparian areas. Trees cut adjacent to riparian areas will be felled in a direction away from the riparian area, or in such a manner as to minimize riparian area disturbance. Tracts of land which will enhance the recreational opportunity or ecological value of existing riparian areas will be identified for acquisition during the riparian inventory. Measures designed to minimize site-specific riparian deterioration will be required in all plans for surface-disturbing activities.

During the preparation of all plans for surface disturbing activities on public lands, affected wetlands will be inventoried, classified, and considered.

**Special Status Plant and Animal Species and Habitat.** Habitat supporting existing populations of United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed threatened and endangered species, and USFWS candidate, and BLM sensitive species, will be maintained and protected to ensure suitable habitat conditions and viable populations. These species will continue to be inventoried and monitored to provide information for future management. Measures to protect these species and associated habitat will be required in all plans for surface-disturbing activities. Supplemental releases and/or reintroduction of these species could be authorized following preparation of a release or reintroduction plan and environmental analysis, and consultation with the USFWS, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), and other affected parties. Section 7 consultations will be conducted with the USFWS regarding potential impacts to federally listed species. The Threatened and Endangered Species Act will provide full protection for USFWS listed species.

**Wildlife Habitat Management.** The Gunnison Basin Habitat Management Plan (HMP) will be revised and implemented to address more site-specific issues, consistent with BLM's Fish and Wildlife Plan for Colorado - Program for the Decade. The HMP revision will prescribe land use and species management guidance for the mutual benefit of wildlife, fish, special status plant and animal species and habitat, and other resources on public lands. Objectives of the revised HMP will include, but will not be limited to, methods to manage public lands to help meet, within carrying capacities of the habitat on public lands, CDOW long-range herd goals, maintain or improve vegetation communities to benefit both game and non-game wildlife, implement a program to increase the quantity and quality of crucial big game winter range, and implement cooperative plans and projects with CDOW and other organizations to maintain or enhance big game and/or upland game habitats. Recommended actions will be determined after considering and evaluating potential effects on other lands, resources, or uses.

The BLM will continue to participate in the Colorado Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) with private landowners and managers, and state and other federal land managing agencies. The HPP will, among other purposes, implement strategies to resolve concentrated big game forage utilization, and develop herd management objectives for the effected areas, whether on private, state, or federal lands. Public lands will play a vital role in these tasks, and revisions or amendments to the approved RMP could be necessary.

### *Terrestrial Wildlife and Habitat*

**Elk and Deer Habitat:** Measures to increase and improve important deer and elk winter forage shrub species on uplands and riparian areas within crucial winter ranges on public lands will be determined and implemented through activity plans in order to increase and improve habitat and forage conditions on winter and summer ranges, and to help achieve, within carrying capacities of the habitat, CDOW long-range herd goals (as established by CDOW in April, 1985) of 9,000 elk and 16,600 deer. Big game utilization will be managed so that proper use levels on key wildlife forage species will not be

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

exceeded. The CDOW and BLM will continue to coordinate herd management objectives and goals on public lands, and will consider and evaluate the potential effects on other resources, lands, and uses, and whether public land big game ranges could support increases in animals, in order to insure that sufficient forage is available.

Existing and future wildlife utilization monitoring results will be evaluated to determine areas where use of key wildlife plant species consistently exceeds moderate use (40-60%). Factors resulting in this level of big game use will be determined, and adjustments will be recommended and made in numbers or habitat to achieve better forage conditions and a proper use level. Temporary decreases in big game numbers will be recommended, if necessary, in order to achieve proper use levels on key wildlife plant species. These changes and adjustments will remain in effect until habitat conditions improve such that allocations could be increased to former numbers. New or additional forage made available as a result of wildlife projects or treatments will be used first to satisfy watershed objectives as defined in the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines. Forage that is excess to watershed needs, and made available as a result of wildlife projects or treatments, will be used to meet overall habitat objectives. See Table I-1, Appendix I in this document, for target basal cover densities that will be achieved on treated areas before forage will be allocated to wildlife management (Table I-1 is derived from Appendix F of the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines).

Crucial winter range and commercial forest lands will be inventoried for condition, and monitored for utilization and trend relative to big game habitat. Public lands will be inventoried to identify elk calving areas. Acquisition of non-federal lands to increase or enhance management of big game crucial winter range will be emphasized. Reductions in CDOW's elk and deer long-range herd goals relative to BLM-managed lands will be recommended to CDOW for an interim period in Game Management Unit (GMU) 54, and for deer only in GMUs 55, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 551 (as shown in Table A-4 in Appendix A), until the vigor and production of key wildlife forage species on crucial winter ranges

increases such that habitat will support long-range herd numbers.

The BLM will manage big game habitat on public lands to help achieve, within carrying capacities, the CDOW long-range elk and deer herd goals in Tables A-2 and A-3 in Appendix A in the RMP. Table A-5 shows the CDOW GMU numbers keyed to the Management Unit numbers in this RMP.

*Pronghorn Antelope and Bighorn Sheep Habitat:* Measures to improve habitat for pronghorn antelope or bighorn sheep will be permitted.

Inventories will be completed to identify bighorn sheep lambing areas and suitable winter ranges, and suitable areas in which to establish new populations of bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope. Supplemental releases and reintroduction could be authorized by the District Manager following environmental analysis. Pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep habitat on public lands will be managed for 500 animals of each species. Monitoring studies will be established within bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope ranges.

*Sage Grouse and Other Upland Game Bird Habitat:* Identified sage grouse brood-rearing habitat and nesting areas, and winter habitat will be maintained or improved, such that approximately 9,000 sage grouse could be supported on public lands. Sage grouse strutting grounds (leks) will be protected from destruction. No surface-disturbing activities will be permitted within 1/4 mile of all leks during the April 1 through May 31 strutting season to prevent disturbance to mating sage grouse. This period of time could be shortened or lengthened, depending on whether grouse are present and using the habitat. The guidelines for management of sage grouse habitat areas in Appendix A will be used whenever possible in the design and planning of land treatment projects to offset impacts from these projects to sage grouse and habitat.

Inventories will be conducted to identify suitable areas in which to establish populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) and Merriam's turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Releases of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (*Pedioecetes*

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*phasianellus*) and Merriam's turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) could be authorized by the District Manager following preparation of a release or reintroduction plan and environmental analysis and documentation.

*Non-game Wildlife Habitat:* The quality of endemic non-game animal species habitat will be enhanced by 1) improving and/or maintaining a variety of native plant species and vegetative structure in upland and riparian areas, 2) improving the ecological condition of sagebrush communities, and 3) improving or maintaining non-game habitat within forest lands. Raptor nesting inventories will be updated to identify nesting areas. Measures and stipulations in Table A-6, Appendix A, designed to prevent disturbance to raptors through their post-fledgling period, will be considered in all plans involving surface disturbance.

### *Fishery Resources (Aquatic Habitat)*

Fishery streams and associated riparian areas will be managed to improve or maintain the existing ecological status (hydrological, soil and vegetation). Streams and aquatic habitat will be inventoried and monitored where necessary to determine site-specific management strategies. Inventory information will be used to determine projects or improvements to be included in new or revised HMPs, CRMAs, AMPs and other activity plans. The objectives and goals contained within the *BLM and Forest Service Recreational Fisheries Policy, 1990*, or as amended, will be implemented in order to meet cooperative fishery management objectives. This document provides cooperative policy and goals for fishery-related recreation activities for the BLM and the Forest Service.

Instream flow appropriations will be pursued on fishery streams in Table J-1, APPENDIX J, to ensure a sufficient amount of water for fisheries protection.

Surface disturbing activities will be designed with measures to prevent or mitigate damage to or loss of fishery stream channels and associated riparian habitat.

## Livestock Grazing Management.

### *General Management*

Approximately 470,460 acres of suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing. Public lands unsuitable or unavailable for livestock grazing will continue to be excluded from livestock grazing unless monitoring or other sources of data indicate that the areas may be used for grazing. Total grazing preference in the Planning Area is approximately 60,135 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), of which approximately 45,539 AUMs will be authorized for active use, and the remainder will be suspended use. Allotment categorization will be re-examined as needed based upon a change in categorization factors identified from monitoring data or other management and resource information.

### *General Management Within "M" and "C" Allotments*

Existing allotment categorization and corresponding management levels, as defined in the 1987 Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), will be carried forward on all category "M" and "C" allotments.

### *Management Within "I" Allotments*

On category "I" allotments, existing management and/or forage allocation levels will be adjusted when supported by monitoring data or other management and resource information, in order to achieve or maintain a desired plant community.

On category "I" allotments, existing management and/or forage allocation levels will be adjusted when supported by monitoring data or other management and resource information, in order to meet the following resource needs.

#### *I. Within Uplands:*

Utilization of key forage species in uplands will be managed at levels that will allow for plant health or maintenance, watershed cover needs, and to provide quality forage and wildlife cover. On allotments without activity plans or grazing agreements prescribing grazing strategies

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

current years production by weight on key forage species during the period of use. This will allow for at least minimal management to begin on category "I" allotments until funding and personnel allow for activity planning and more intensive management.

### 2. Riparian Area Management Specific To Unit 14:

A 4-inch minimum stubble height will be maintained in Management Unit 14 (riparian areas that have been identified as important for sage grouse brood rearing) from June 15 through July 31, in order to provide for adequate brood rearing habitat. A 2½ inch stubble height will be required at all other times in Management Unit 14. It is expected that not only will sage grouse benefit, but in the mid to long-term, riparian areas will expand in size, resulting in more livestock forage.

### 3. Riparian Area Management Specific To Unit 15:

A 4-inch minimum stubble height will be maintained during the grazing period of use in Management Unit 15 (riparian areas that have been identified as important for fisheries management), in order to protect and maintain riparian and fishery values. These riparian areas will also be expected to improve in terms of fisheries, livestock forage production and other wildlife habitat needs.

### 4. Riparian Area Management Specific To Units 14 and 15:

In Management Units 14 or 15, the requirement to maintain a 4 inch stubble height will be flexible on allotments covered by activity plans or grazing agreements which prescribe other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian area management objectives. These site-specific riparian objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan for Management Units 14 and 15. The 4 inch stubble height requirement will be incorporated into all existing activity plans in these two management units, since existing plans do not adequately address riparian

concerns. When these activity plans are evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the management guidance described above.

The requirement to maintain a four inch stubble height in units 14 or 15 will become effective upon the signing of the ROD. In these units, the minimum 4 inch stubble height requirement may be delayed if vigor and production of herbaceous riparian plants is not sufficient to meet livestock and wildlife needs, and adequate residual cover is not present. Flexibility will be considered for other management strategies defined in an activity plan or grazing agreement which adequately addresses riparian concerns.

In riparian areas in Management Units 14 and 15 where a 4 inch stubble height for key species will clearly not be achieved immediately upon implementation of the approved RMP, and where the key species have low vigor, there will be a recovery period of approximately one or two years that will depend on moisture conditions and other factors (recovery or improvement in vigor will be accomplished by rest, deferment, or other grazing strategies). The recovery period will allow plant vigor to improve and also will allow time to generate sufficient forage production for livestock needs and residue needed to maintain the 4 inch minimum stubble height. Where these conditions exist on allotments in units 14 or 15, a 2 1/2 inch minimum stubble height will be required during the period of use in order to help improve vigor of riparian vegetation. Flexibility to this 2 1/2" stubble requirement will be considered for those allotments in units 14 and 15 with activity plans or grazing agreements which prescribe other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian area management objectives.

In the event that minimum stubble heights do not exist in a riparian area in allotments at the prescribed turnout date, allotments will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and turnout will be either delayed, or livestock will be turned out on adjacent uplands and held there by salting, herding, hauling water, and/or other methods.

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These methods will be employed until riparian areas have received adequate growth.

### 5. Riparian Area Management Within "I" Allotments Except Those in Units 14 and 15:

Utilization of key forage species within all other riparian zones will not exceed 40-60% of the current years production, with a 2½ inch minimum stubble height maintained throughout the period of use. Utilization levels lower than 40% may be prescribed in severely degraded riparian areas. The 2½ inch stubble will allow for at least minimal management to begin on category "I" allotments until funding and personnel allow for activity planning and more intensive management. Flexibility to this 2½ inch stubble will be considered on those allotments with new activity plans or grazing agreements that utilize other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian management objectives.

Site specific objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan, including the maintenance, restoration, or improvement of riparian conditions (hydrologic, soil, and vegetation) and natural values. The 2½ inch stubble height will be incorporated into all existing AMPs or other activity plans. When these activity plans are evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the management guidance described above.

### 6. Management Common To All Riparian Zones in "I" Allotments:

a) Residual cover, or stubble height, is needed to improve or maintain riparian areas to a condition to allow proper hydrologic functioning during peak flows, reduce soil erosion, increase plant vigor (and eventually livestock forage), and to improve wildlife habitat (Clary and Webster 1989, Holechek et al 1989, Kinch 1989, Myers 1989, Platts 1982, USDA 1985). A minimum stubble is necessary during critical periods, such as spring runoff and the July and August thunderstorm season. Critical periods vary from allotment to allotment due to elevation

and other factors. Livestock will generally be turned into areas after key species have made sufficient growth to maintain the required minimum stubble heights. This will be consistent with the existing range readiness criteria (Appendix B) and average turnout dates. On allotments with AMPs or other activity plans, objectives and actions from these plans will also be considered when determining turnout dates. This will provide flexibility for early turnout on areas where plant maintenance and riparian system needs have been met.

b) The key herbaceous riparian forage species managed to maintain either a 4" or a 2 1/2" minimum stubble height objective will be grasses such as, but not limited to, Kentucky bluegrass, brome grass, redtop, wheatgrass, Timothy, tufted hairgrass, sedges, and rushes.

c) In the event that minimum stubble heights do not exist in a riparian area in allotments at the prescribed turnout date, allotments will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and turnout will be either delayed, or livestock will be turned out on adjacent uplands and held there by salting, herding, hauling water, and/or other methods. These methods will be employed until riparian areas have received adequate growth.

Livestock will be moved out of riparian areas to other pastures or other areas in the same pasture with adequate forage when the prescribed stubble height objective has been met or when other management prescriptions defined in activity plans or grazing agreements are fulfilled. Determining when required minimum stubble heights for riparian areas have been reached will be when key species average the minimum stubble height over 80% of a riparian area in a pasture. Realizing there are areas where cattle congregate or are gathered, the remaining 20% of a riparian area in a pasture or allotment could be grazed more heavily than required minimum stubble heights. Determining when other grazing

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strategies, defined in activity plans or grazing agreements, have been fulfilled will be done by field compliance checks. Permittee participation in field compliance checks will be encouraged.

### *Grazing Administration*

Grazing administration under the RMP will be conducted in accordance with the following standard operating procedures as prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR 4100:

1. Grazing permits specifying the season of use, number, and kind of livestock will be issued to each operator for each allotment. Operators will have to obtain BLM approval before changing the grazing specifications outlined in their permits.
2. Livestock operators will be required to file actual-use reports showing how many and how long livestock grazed in each allotment and/or pasture. Use on the allotments will be supervised by BLM throughout the grazing year.
3. If necessary, actions resolving unauthorized use will be initiated as described in 43 CFR 4150. The unauthorized use will be eliminated and appropriate penalties assessed.
4. If it were determined, through monitoring, that adjustments in grazing preference or active use were necessary, implementation of changes in available forage will be done in compliance with 43 CFR 4110.3. Where possible, adjustments will be implemented by mutual agreement with the permittee. If agreements could not be negotiated, adjustments will be implemented by decision.

### *Range Improvements*

Structural and non-structural range improvements such as fences, water developments, burns, spray treatments, and others will continue to be identified and prescribed in activity plans or agreements. This will facilitate livestock management to achieve specific management and resource objectives defined

in activity plans or agreements. Range projects and improvements constructed since 1981, and the amount of BLM funds expended for these improvements, are shown in Table B-2, Appendix B. Table B-2 shows past trends regarding range improvements constructed in the Planning Area. Range improvements identified in the Gunnison Basin Management Framework Plan (MFP) Record of Decision (ROD) will not be incorporated into the RMP. However, any range improvements identified in the MFP ROD that were not implemented, and will enhance or facilitate resource management objectives will be considered for development. Existing range improvements will continue to be maintained as assigned in cooperative agreements and range improvement permits.

Cooperative agreements will be the preferred method to authorize range improvements. These agreements will be used to authorize all structural and non-structural, multiple-use range improvements (removable and non-removable). Range improvement permits will be used to authorize single use, removable range improvements required for livestock operations. These range improvements will be paid for and constructed by the permittee, or other non-federal entities. Maintenance will be assigned and contributions defined in both cooperative agreements and range improvement permits. All range improvement permits and cooperative agreements will comply with 43 CFR 4120.3-2.

BLM's range improvement funding varies from year to year, depending on grazing fee receipts. Expenditures of funds will be budgeted and prioritized as follows:

- 1) Projects or treatments in which the Bureau of Land Management has the responsibility for operation, maintenance, or reconstruction.
- 2) Projects that conform with and will complete partially implemented activity plans.
- 3) Improvements prescribed in new activity plans or agreements.

Exceptions to this prioritization will be considered to avoid, minimize, or rehabilitate the effects of emergencies. Consideration will also be given to

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removal, modifications, or additions to improvements prescribed in existing activity plans that will further enhance resource conditions or take advantage of contributed funds. Category "I" allotments will normally receive priority over category "M" and "C" allotments.

All cost share or BLM funded improvements will require site specific environmental analysis, economic analysis, and resource clearances (cultural, threatened and endangered species etc.) before being authorized. Rancher or user funded projects will also require environmental analysis and appropriate resource clearances before being approved. Cooperative agreements and range improvement permits will specify the standards, design, construction, maintenance, or special conditions for range improvements or treatments.

Any additional forage available for livestock as a result of range improvements, treatments, or grazing management procedures will be allocated in accordance with 43 CFR 4100, and after meeting basic soil and watershed needs defined in Table I-1, in Appendix I of this document (Table I-1, showing target basal cover densities that will be achieved on treated areas before forage will be allocated to livestock grazing management, is derived from Appendix F of the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines). Any additional forage available for livestock will be considered in reactivating suspended use or as a means to avoid suspending active use.

### *Fences*

Fences will be installed according to spacing, height, and other specifications described in the BLM Manual, Section 1740 and Handbook H-1741-1, for the control of livestock as well as the protection of wildlife. An example will be spacing the bottom wire of a 3-wire fence at 16 inches above the ground in pronghorn antelope ranges. Variances from these standards require approval of the authorized officer after consultation with affected parties.

### *Water Developments*

Federally funded livestock watering developments such as reservoirs (ponds), spring developments,

wells, water pipelines etc. will be developed and be safe for livestock and wildlife needs.

The appropriate State Engineer permits will be obtained for each project.

### *Weed and Pest Control*

A noxious weed program, and control of noxious weeds, will be initiated in cooperation with the local county weed district, county governments, and other affected interests.

### *Land Treatments*

Vegetation treatments will be done in accordance with approved BLM methods such as management application (grazing), burning, spraying, and chaining. Measures, such as (1) rest from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons, (2) fencing for protection of vegetation, and (3) establishing a grazing practice to ensure proper use, will be implemented on lands having recently been treated for vegetative manipulation purposes, in order to ensure the maximum opportunity for success of treatments. Land treatments will generally not be done on slopes greater than 25 percent depending on such factors as soils, type of treatment, and equipment limitations, in order to prevent soil erosion.

Reclamation of disturbed areas will involve seeding or planting a mixture of the major native species present within the range site/habitat type that are available commercially. If the erosion hazard is high, introduced species such as crested wheatgrass or annual rye may be used.

### *Activity Plans and Grazing Agreements*

Existing and future activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, will, based on staffing capabilities, be evaluated and either modified or revised as necessary, using a coordinated interdisciplinary approach. New activity plans will also be developed with interdisciplinary input and consultation with permittees and other affected interests. Activity plans will incorporate allotment specific objectives for maintaining or improving livestock forage, wildlife and fish habitat, and riparian areas. Activity plans

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will also prescribe appropriate management actions such as grazing practices, range improvements, or changes in season of use, to achieve allotment specific objectives. Innovative or non-traditional management strategies will also be considered.

Allotment specific objectives and management actions required to achieve those objectives will also be defined in grazing agreements, and management actions will be included in the terms and conditions of permits or leases in compliance with 43 CFR 4130.6-2. This will allow for intensive management to address resource concerns when inadequate funding or personnel exist to prepare activity plans.

### *Monitoring*

Monitoring data collected will include interdisciplinary coordination and be conducted in accordance with the following procedures.

1. Actual use data will be obtained by indirect methods (statements from permittees which includes livestock numbers and periods of use) for all grazing allotments. All livestock operators will be required as part of the permit to submit actual use by pasture within 15 days from the end of the grazing season. Direct methods (counting livestock) for obtaining actual livestock numbers will be used as needed.
2. Utilization data will be collected on scheduled allotments or areas of concern using procedures described in BLM Technical Reference 4400-3. Stubble height measurements will document forage which is present during and/or after use has occurred. Stubble height will be measured as an average of the key species for the area observed. Utilization data will be used for evaluating the effects of grazing on rangeland to determine appropriate management strategies.
3. Rangeland trend monitoring will be conducted using procedures described in BLM Technical Reference 4400-4. The selection of method(s) for data collection will consider management objectives, vegetation attributes (density, frequency, production, etc.) and actions for the allotment or area(s) of concern. Trend monitoring will be conducted as frequently as needed to satisfy data requirements for the allotment and/or other designated management area(s) evaluation.
4. Range readiness criteria, in Appendix B, for the Gunnison Resource Area considers both indicators of soil readiness and vegetative readiness. Plant species listed in Appendix B will be used, where applicable, as indicators of vegetative readiness. Key forage plant species will be considered as part of the overall range readiness evaluation for the specific allotment or area. Evaluation will be based on stage of development and/or size of plants. Ecological site, aspect, elevation and climate will be considered when evaluating development and/or size of plants.

Range readiness criteria will be considered when requests for livestock turn-out dates are earlier than dates specified on permits or when vegetation growing conditions are affected by drought or other natural or man-caused influences, such as, fire.

Range readiness will be incorporated into existing AMP's utilizing the criteria specified in Appendix B. However, the readiness criteria for allotments with AMP's or other activity plans will be specific to the allotment and/or areas within it. On allotments with AMPs or other activity plans, objectives and actions in these plans will also be considered when determining turnout dates. This will provide flexibility for early turnout on areas where plant maintenance and riparian system needs have been met. Range readiness criteria as documented in Appendix B will be used until allotment-specific criteria can be incorporated into each AMP or activity plan.
5. Use supervision on scheduled allotments or areas of concern will include counting livestock and observing distribution patterns; inspecting range improvements; observing apparent trend, utilization and growing conditions; and observing wildlife populations and movements, wildlife

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habitat, watershed and riparian conditions as needed. Documented observations made during use supervision field visits will identify where changes in grazing management are needed or those areas where more intensive monitoring is needed.

6. Precipitation data from rain gauges along with soil moisture monitoring and temperature data will be used to correlate vegetation production variations resulting from yearly variations in climate.
7. Soil erosion will be assessed in conjunction with rangeland trend and utilization monitoring.
8. Water quality and quantity will be monitored as necessary to determine the location of problem areas.
9. Ecological site inventories for uplands and riparian areas will be conducted in preparation for activity plans as needed on category "I" allotments. This will be done as part of the activity plan preparation process and as funding and personnel allow.

The types of data listed above will be used when evaluating stated objectives or actions on an allotment or specific area. The intensity of monitoring conducted for an allotment or specific area are determined, in part, by the Bureau's classification criteria for I, M, and C allotments. Other considerations for monitoring implementation include allotments with AMP's, allotments delineated as high priority for AMP or other activity plan development, and delineated areas of concern (i.e. riparian areas).

**Forest Management.** Suitable commercial forest lands and woodlands will be managed for sustained yield production within the allowable cut restrictions and guidelines determined by the Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC). Special emphasis will be placed on the harvest of over-mature and pest-killed trees.

Approximately 41,347 acres of suitable commercial forest lands, and 23,615 acres of suitable woodlands in several Management Units will be available for

harvest. Approximately 1,200 MBF of commercial timber, 490 cords of fuelwood, 400 wildings, and, on average, 300 Christmas trees could be considered for harvest annually on a sustained yield basis. Amounts of commercial timber or other forest products actually offered for disposal or sale annually will depend on staffing capabilities, management priorities, and other factors. Timber Production Capability Classification will be conducted on approximately 10,000 acres. Backlog reforestation will be conducted as funds become available. Site preparation will be completed as needed, with emphasis given to backlog site preparation. One Planning Area-wide FMP will be completed that will incorporate and update the two existing FMPs.

Harvest of commercial timber on slopes greater than 35% will be restricted to cable or helicopter methods only. Timber sales will be designed to allow sufficient elk hiding cover along logging roads and all clearcuts. Emphasis will be given to the maintenance and protection of watershed, soil, and vegetative resources in all timber sales and FMPs. Timber harvests will be designed and implemented to help improve or maintain non-game wildlife habitat. The conditions and standards in Appendix A will be incorporated into all plans for timber harvests in order to improve non-game habitat. Plans for aspen stand harvest will include design measures to increase the production and growth of young, vigorous aspen for big game forage. Sale area design and layout will include measures to blend harvest areas into the surrounding landscape and increase scenic variety. No commercial timber harvesting will occur in riparian areas, or in a 30-foot area either side of riparian areas, unless riparian or wildlife values will be improved. Logging decks or staging areas will not be permitted within riparian areas, or in a 30-foot area either side of riparian areas. Trees cut adjacent to riparian areas will be felled in a direction away from the riparian area, or in such a manner as to minimize riparian area disturbance.

No timber harvesting will be allowed from April 16 to June 30 in elk calving areas to prevent disturbance to calving elk. The harvesting of timber or timber products on lands within existing WSAs will not be permitted.

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**Recreation Management.** The public lands within the Planning Area will be managed consistent with BLM's *Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan* to ensure the continued availability and diversity of resource-dependent outdoor recreation opportunities. Management will focus on resource protection, visitor services and information, and the construction, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities. Emphasis will be placed on providing a variety of recreation opportunities and experiences through visitor awareness, information, interpretation, signing, and protection. Efforts will be made to expand and strengthen cooperative partnerships with Federal, State and local agencies, the private sector and volunteers to enhance recreation opportunities and tourism. Where appropriate, recreation opportunities will be enhanced through land ownership adjustments, improved access, easements, exchanges and other acquisitions. Tracts of land which will enhance the recreational opportunity or ecological value of existing riparian areas will be identified for acquisition during the riparian inventory.

The number of recreation visitors to the Planning Area is expected to increase by about 40% during the life of the plan.

The public lands in three locations, as shown on Map F-6 in Appendix F, will be designated and managed as the (1) Powderhorn Primitive Area Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), (2) Alpine Triangle SRMA, and (3) Cochetopa Canyon SRMA. These SRMAs will be managed for a variety of recreation, scenic, and historical opportunities and settings at developed and dispersed sites.

1. Public lands in the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, unit 2, will be managed for primitive and semi-primitive, non motorized ROS settings, and according to the prescription for Management Unit 2, in order to maintain and enhance scenic, recreation, and natural values. A RAMP will be prepared for the SRMA, incorporating the management actions in the prescription for Management Unit 2.

2. Resources in the Alpine triangle SRMA will be managed for the ROS settings in the existing Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the SRMA, the existing RAMP, and the appropriate management actions in the prescriptions for Management Units 1, 4, 5, 6, and 15. A CRMAP for the Alpine triangle SRMA will be prepared that incorporates appropriate actions contained in the existing RAMP and other activity plans, the to-be-completed Alpine Loop Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP), *Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan* goals, and the prescriptions for resources in Management Units 1, 4, 5, 6, and part of 15.
3. Resources in the Cochetopa Canyon SRMA will be managed for a roaded-natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) setting, and according to the prescription for Management Unit 3 and the existing activity plan for the SRMA.

Public lands not within a special recreation management area (SRMA), will make up the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), and will be managed for a diversity of recreation opportunities. Potential recreation projects will be considered at Hartman's Rocks, Slate River, and High Mesa, and if proposed for development, these projects will be addressed in Recreation Project Plans.

Periodic cleanup and patrols will be conducted throughout the planning area. Commercial recreation use permits will be issued on a case-by-case basis in the planning area.

Unless otherwise specified in management unit prescriptions, public lands in the planning area will be open to motorized vehicular travel. Maps in Appendix F display Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) designations for the RMP. Some roads will continue to be kept closed in the spring or other seasons until resource damage will likely not occur. Emergency road closures will occur if unacceptable resource damage occurs. The BLM will continue to recognize and respond to the need for seasonal closures in the planning area in order to prevent or mitigate potential

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resource damage by installing gates at key access points, for instance, to restrict spring access until roads have dried out.

**Wild and Scenic River Study Segment.** No portion of any stream in the Planning Area will be recommended as being suitable for designation and inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The 13.3 mile long Segment A of The Lake Fork of The Gunnison River, a segment BLM found eligible, but not suitable for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (System), is not recommended for designation or inclusion into the System, and will be managed according to Standard Management direction and the prescriptions for Management Units 1, 4, and 15 of this RMP.

**Visual Resource Management.** Public lands will be managed according to Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes and objectives contained in each Management Unit prescription.

Rehabilitation will be considered for VRM Class II R, III R, and IV R areas that contain existing man-made visual intrusions. Any public lands designated wilderness will be classified as VRM I lands.

**Wilderness Study Areas.** The six WSAs in the Planning Area will be managed according to BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress decides on designation regarding each area. Any part of any WSA acted on by Congress and not designated as wilderness will be managed according to the applicable management unit prescription(s) in the RMP. Wilderness Management Plans will be prepared for any part of any WSA designated and the area will be managed as wilderness.

**Archaeological and Historical Resources (Cultural Resources).** Protection of cultural resources will be considered in all activity plans. Class I inventory data will be consulted prior to surface disturbing

activities to determine the need for inventories. Prior to surface disturbing activities, Class III inventories will be conducted. Cultural resources identified or discovered will be evaluated using BLM's Cultural Resource Use Categories and/or will be mitigated as required by statute. Where appropriate, historic resources will be inventoried, stabilized, and interpreted to increase understanding and enjoyment for the recreating public, and to reduce safety hazards. Measures designed to protect, interpret, or otherwise enhance cultural resources will be included in all plans for surface disturbing activities. Avoidance will be the preferred method of protection.

The Alpine Loop Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) will be prepared and incorporated into the CRMAP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA, to direct the inventory, development, maintenance, stabilization, and interpretation of the appropriate historic resources in the unit for passive, non-consumptive recreation opportunities.

Inventories will also be conducted to determine archaeological site density, diversity, significance, and distribution in order to build a data base for management of archaeological resources. Cooperative and compatible management of historic sites with private landowners, and other federal agencies will continue.

**Paleontological Resources.** Inventories will be completed in areas containing potential for the occurrence of paleontological resources (Morrison, Dakota, Mancos, and Mesa Verde geologic formation) prior to any surface disturbing activity. Measures to protect known or discovered fossil values will be implemented.

**Transportation and Access.** In addition to the specific access needs identified in the management unit prescriptions and Appendix M, the access needs identified in the Gunnison Resource Area transportation plan will be acquired as opportunities arise. The transportation plan and map will be updated.

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**Disposal of Public Lands.** Public lands in the planning area will be classified into one of two categories for disposal and multiple use management purposes:

***Category I lands:*** The 43 tracts of public lands shown on the map of the RMP and in Appendix D of the RMP, totaling approximately 3,120 acres, will be Category I lands, and will be considered for disposal through public sale under criteria in Section 203 of FLPMA, or by means other than public sale. Federal mineral estate will be conveyed with surface estate where feasible and in the public interest. See Appendix D for descriptions of tracts and the sale criteria met. Disposal determination will be contingent on these lands meeting NEPA and other statutory requirements. A land sale/disposal activity plan will be prepared for these tracts indicating disposal techniques, priorities, and implementation timing.

***Category II lands:*** All public lands in the planning area exclusive of Category I lands will be Category II lands, will be managed by BLM for multiple use management purposes, and will be considered for disposal on a case-by-case basis through exchange, boundary adjustments, state indemnity selection, Recreation and Public Purpose Act applications, or other appropriate statute or authority, except through public sale, if disposal serves the public interest. These are public lands exclusive of public land in Category I. These lands will be available for consideration for disposal through exchange if the exchange will result in 1) consolidated land patterns, 2) improved manageability of lands and resources, or 3) if the exchange will otherwise be in the public interest, within the context of the provisions of Section 206 of FLPMA. Disposal will be contingent on actions meeting NEPA requirements.

**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands:** Non-federal lands surrounded by or adjacent to Category II lands or lands categorized as being unavailable for disposal, will be considered as being suitable for acquisition on a case-by-case, willing seller-willing buyer basis in order to enhance Bureau management. Acquisition will be contingent on these lands meeting 1) NEPA requirements and 2) one or more of the criteria for acquisition found in Appendix D. Specific tracts for acquisition are identified in management unit prescriptions.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands within the Planning Area will be open to the location of rights-of-way, subject to stipulations in Management Unit prescriptions and standard terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in records of decision issued for each application. Right-of-way avoidance areas (where future rights-of-way may be granted only when no feasible alternative route or designated right-of-way corridor is available) and right-of-way exclusion areas (where future rights-of-way may be granted only when mandated by law) are described in each management unit prescription, if applicable.

**Rights-of-Way Corridors.** Public lands within one-half mile on each side of the centerline of Western Area Power Administrations' (WAPA) Curecanti to Salida 230 Kv electrical transmission line, and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Blue Mesa to Lake City 115 Kv electrical transmission line will be designated as rights-of-way corridors. The WAPA line crosses Management Units 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16. A right-of-way window 1000 feet in width, or 500 feet either side of the centerline, will be designated where the WAPA line crosses Management Unit 8. The Tri-State corridor crosses Management Units 1, 13, and 16. See map in Appendix D for the general locations of these corridors.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 508,388 acres of public land will be suppressed according to a "conditional suppression" policy and about 76,624 acres of public land will be suppressed according to a "full suppression" policy. The choice of fire suppression methods and equipment to be used in each unit will be made with consideration given to protection of the values in the unit. Refer to Appendix G for maps showing these suppression areas within the planning area for Management Units in the RMP. Within conditional suppression areas there are isolated areas (i.e., public lands adjacent to private lands, or in recreation areas) where full suppression of wildfires will occur in order to protect valuable resources, investments, facilities, and property, life, and safety on federal and non-federal lands. Prescribed fires for resource enhancement or fuel hazard reduction could occur throughout the Planning Area in accordance with approved prescribed burn plans. A site-specific burn plan and Environmental Analysis (EA) will be prepared prior to authorizing any prescribed burns.

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**Withdrawals and Classifications.** Actions regarding public lands currently under a withdrawal, reserve, or classification will be implemented according to the recommendations below. If public lands under withdrawal to another agency are relinquished, these lands will be managed according to Standard Management and the management unit prescription in which the lands are located. Periodic review of existing withdrawals will continue in order to determine if the need for each continues to exist. Management activities on all withdrawn land will continue at current levels, and will be consistent with the purposes of withdrawals.

1. The withdrawals affecting lands in the following existing Bureau of Reclamation (BofRec) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) withdrawals, and Bureau of Land Management Power Site reserves (BLM PSRs) located in the Planning Area adjacent to, or in close proximity to, the proposed boundary line of the Curecanti National Recreation Area (NRA) will be continued, and will be reviewed when Congressional action is taken regarding the exact boundary line location of the NRA. At that time, those withdrawn lands will be reviewed, and if not needed for NRA, BofRec, or FERC purposes, will be recommended to be relinquished or revoked, and managed according to the applicable Management Unit prescriptions. The acres affected by these withdrawals in the RMP adjacent or in close proximity to the Curecanti NRA are approximately as follows:

*BofRec Colorado River Reclamation Storage Project*

C-014843 in Management Units 1, 7, 12, 13, and 16: 265 acres

C-021956 in Management Units 7, 9, 12, 13, and 16: 301 acres

C-0124366 in Management Unit 13: 42 acres

*BofRec Gunnison-Arkansas Reclamation Project*

C-28255 in Management Units 1 (175 acres), 7 (7 acres), 12 (573 acres), and 16 (277 acres): 1,032 acres

*BLM PSRs*

No. 27, C-28590 in Management Units 7, 12, 13, and 16: 220 acres

No. 50, C-28588 in Management Units 13 and 16: 45 acres

*FERC*

Order of 11/9/1928 in Management Unit 16: 8 acres

2. A 160-acre Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal between Haypress and Corral Creeks will be continued until the boundary for the Curecanti NRA is finalized.

3. The lands and approximate acres identified in the various withdrawals, classifications, or reserves below will be recommended to be continued, and will be periodically reviewed.

*BLM protective withdrawals*

C-17286, Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, in unit 2: 43,697 acres

C-0125423, "Loop Road" south and west of Lake City, in units 1, (675 acres), 4 (2 acres), and 15 (444 acres): 1,122 acres in order to protect scenery within the Alpine Triangle Back Country Byway from potential mining activities.

Public Land Order (PLO) 4408, pending legislation transferring the affected lands in unit 16 to the United States Forest Service (USFS): 400 acres

C-014711, on Cebolla Creek, in units 10 (269 acres) and 12 (164 acres): 433 acres, to protect riparian and recreation values from potential mining activities

*BLM Federal Water Reserves*

C-17807, C-19375, C-19376, C-19377, and C-28514, totalling approximately 25,900 acres, and located throughout all units except

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5, 6, and 9; these water reserves will also be quantified.

### *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

C-12613 (197 acres) and C-022844 (62 acres): 269 acres

### *USFS*

C-0123890, at Soap Creek, in unit 13: 65 acres

C-28325, at Old Agency, in unit 16: 40 acres

### *BLM Recreation and Public Purposes Classifications (R&PPs)*

C-15671, Lake City Ski Hill, Hinsdale County, in unit 1: 25 acres

4. The 330 acre Department of Energy (DOE) withdrawal application for the Gunnison Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Act (UMTRA) project disposal site in Management Unit 11 will be recommended to be terminated (approximately 115 acres within the area of the withdrawal application were transferred to DOE for construction of the disposal cell for the UMTRA project after publication of the Gunnison Proposed Resource Management Plan).

5. The following withdrawals or reserves will be recommended to be relinquished or revoked by the applicable agencies. Upon relinquishment, further action will be taken to terminate these withdrawals. Once terminated, the lands will then be managed according to the pertinent RMP Management Unit prescriptions and Standard Management.

### *BofRec Gunnison-Arkansas Reclamation Project C-28255*

In unit 1, T. 46 N., R. 3 W., paralleling the Lake Fork of The Gunnison River near The Gate Campground: approximately 1,040 acres, to insure that recreation improvements are not inundated

In Unit 12, T. 48 N., R. 6 W., paralleling the Little Cimarron River to insure no

inundation of crucial winter range: approximately 840 acres

In unit 16, T. 49 N., R. 34 W., Sec. 34: NE1/4: approximately 160 acres

### *BLM PSRs*

No. 50, C-28588, T. 50 N., R. 1 E., Sec. 4: N1/2SW1/4SE1/4SW1/4: approximately 17 acres (unit 12)

### *USFS*

C-010309, at Nine-Mile Hill, no longer needed, in unit 13: 10 acres

### *FERC*

C-0123435 in units 1 (630 acres) and 6 (95 acres), and C-0124134 in units 1 (290 acres) and 6 (5 acres), south of Lake City: 1,020 acres

6. The following BLM Recreation and Public Purpose (R & PP) classifications and a protective withdrawal will be recommended to be revoked or expanded in size:

The BLM Recreation and Public Purpose Classification C-083991, approximately 100 acres, at The Gate Campground, in unit 1, will be revoked, upon a recommended five-acre protective withdrawal taking effect at the recreation area.

The BLM Recreation and Public Purpose Classification C-021601, approximately 907 acres within unit 6 and a part of unit 1, at the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark ACEC, unit 6, will be revoked upon a recommended protective withdrawal totalling approximately 1,442 acre taking effect in unit 6.

The BLM protective withdrawal C-17286 at the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, Management Unit 2, will be expanded in size to include all public surface estate (approximately 47,762 acres) and the federal mineral estate (approximately 46,007 acres) in Management Unit 2 [an additional (approximately) 2,310 acres of federal mineral estate, and 4,065 BLM managed surface

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acres]. The lands in this unit will also be recommended to be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws, in order to retain the lands in public ownership.

7. The following new BLM protective withdrawals will be recommended in various Management Units. The federal mineral estate in these lands will be recommended to be withdrawn from mineral entry and location, in order to protect scenic and recreation values and improvements, or other values as noted from potential mining activities.

Unit 1: At the Mill Creek Campground, 20 acres

At the Red Bridge Campground, 5 acres

At The Gate Campground, 10 acres

The lands in the three areas above will also be recommended to be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws for protection of recreation resources and BLM investments.

Unit 4: In the American Basin ACEC: approximately 1,590 acres

Unit 6: In the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark ACEC, to protect the integrity of the earthflow: approximately 1,442 acres

Unit 9: In the Dillon Pinnacles ACEC: approximately 530 acres, to protect scenic values

8. Approximately 2,597 acres of federal mineral estate and 2,710 acres of BLM managed surface acres in the Cochetopa Canyon SRMA, unit 3, will be recommended to be withdrawn from mineral entry and location, and all forms of appropriation under the general land laws, in order to retain scenic, riparian, and recreation values, but the withdrawal will not effect the operation of the general land laws regarding discretionary leases, licenses, or permits.

**Waterpower and Storage Reservoir Sites.** Management Units 1, 3, 10, 14 and 15 will be recommended to be closed to the development of

water power and storage reservoir sites. Subject to limitations and considerations in the management unit prescriptions, the remainder of public lands in the planning area will be available for the development of water power and storage reservoir sites. The inventoried and potential sites will be managed to permit water and power site development unless another use is proposed for the site(s) in a Management Unit prescription. Before any uses occur or facilities are developed on lands withdrawn for water power purposes, that will preclude or conflict with waterpower or storage development, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be contacted regarding withdrawal status and need for the site.

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.** Public lands in six Management Units, 4 through 9, totalling approximately 42,339 acres, will be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

These six areas (American Basin, Redcloud Peak, Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark, West Antelope Creek, South Beaver Creek, and Dillon Pinnacles) will be managed according to their Management Unit prescriptions and any future management plans that will be prepared. Haystack Cave and Sapinero potential ACECs that were identified early in the planning process as potential ACECs, are contained within the West Antelope Creek ACEC. Values within the remaining eight potential ACECs that were not designated will be sufficiently protected and managed by the actions in applicable Management Unit prescriptions.

**Hazards Management.** Hazard sites or areas will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and remedied to the degree necessary to protect public safety and health. Activity plans will consider the remediation of known hazards. Management of other resources will involve reclamation/remediation of known hazard sites/areas as part of fulfilling objectives for management of that resource.

Coordination and cooperation with appropriate state or other agencies to remedy hazard sites will continue. Existing sites/areas from past mineral development, which are considered to be potentially hazardous because of high side walls, deep pits, etc., will very likely continue until the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Hazard abatement project is

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completed. The goal of this long-term project is to eliminate the hazards of these sites/areas.

**Hazardous Materials Management.** Locations on public lands showing evidence of hazardous materials will be inventoried and examined on a case-by-case basis, and remedied to the degree necessary to protect public health, safety, and public or private property. Coordination and cooperation with appropriate state or other agencies to properly manage hazardous materials will continue. Trespass dumping and littering on public lands will be controlled through public awareness, signing, and monitoring.

**Law Enforcement.** Bureau patrols and law enforcement activities by authorized personnel will be conducted on a priority or demand basis as needed. Information dissemination and education regarding BLM resource management and regulations will be carried out during visitor or public contacts by BLM rangers.

**Monitoring Plan.** The Gunnison Resource Area Monitoring Plan will be updated to incorporate monitoring necessary for implementation of the RMP.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (UNITS 1-16)

According to the BLM's basic legislation, any particular land area and its resources may have the potential for a variety of uses, some of them mutually exclusive. The BLM's major objective is to manage the public lands under a multiple-use philosophy and to provide maximum public benefits through the best combination of uses for which an area is capable.

Under the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP), the planning area has been divided into management units based on the resources, uses, and values of the public lands within a particular geographic area and relative to the goals and objectives of the RMP. Management Unit prescriptions for the RMP are derived from the PRMP, with changes made as a result of public comment and internal review during the protest period on the PRMP. Please refer to the section titled **CHANGES TO THE TEXT OF THE RMP AND PRMP** in Chapter One of this document for the significant changes that have been incorporated into the RMP. The size, number, and boundaries of the

Management Units in the RMP is identical to those in the PRMP. Table 2-1 lists the acres in each Management Unit in the RMP. The map that is inserted into this document displays the Management Units and general land status in the RMP.

Although each management unit will be managed under the multiple-use concept, its most outstanding resources, uses, or values will be given significant consideration to protect those specific qualities. In recognition of this potential for loss or impact, management unit prescriptions may place constraints on opposing/competing 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 the management prescriptions for units.

Public lands within the planning area where no particular resource, use, or value is outstanding, and where management will be minimal, are considered to be general resource management units (unit 16).

The following management unit prescriptions comprise The RMP. Acreage figures used are approximations. Table 2-1 and the RMP map identify the management units that were delineated for the RMP. *If not specifically mentioned, and unless modified within the following Management Unit prescriptions, resources/resource uses and programs on public lands in the RMP will be managed according to guidance in the Standard Management section above.* Please refer to the Standard Management section of this chapter for information on recommendations regarding water power and storage reservoir sites and withdrawals and classifications that will be implemented.

In this RMP, all Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the Planning Area will be managed under BLM's Wilderness Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP). If Congress designates public lands in any part of any WSA in the Planning Area as wilderness, those lands will be managed as wilderness and a wilderness management plan will be prepared for the area(s). If, during the life of this plan, Congress acts on and decides to not designate any part of any WSA in the Planning Area as wilderness (effectively removing it from WSA status), those public lands will be managed according

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to the actions in the following Management Unit prescriptions for the RMP.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 (Part of Alpine Triangle SRMA)

*Land ownership:* 95,827 acres of public surface; 15% of the Planning Area.

This management unit is currently managed as the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), and consists of the bulk of the SRMA. The unit extends south along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River (Lake Fork) from the Curecanti National Recreation Area (NRA) and includes lands south and west of Lake City. This unit surrounds three recommended ACECs (4, 5 and 6) and important fisheries and riparian zones (parts of 15).

The lands south and west of Lake City are characterized by 13,000-14,000 foot peaks, fragile high-country tundra, important mining-era historical resources, summer range for domestic sheep grazing, heavy recreation visitation, and high quality scenic values. This unit is the most popular and heavily visited area BLM manages in Colorado, and is among the most scenic areas in the nation. Features within or adjacent to the unit include structures associated with the historic mining period, an 8.9 mile-long portion of the Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a study segment eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, Mill Creek Campground, populations of the rare Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, the Alpine Loop National Back Country Byway, Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark, and bighorn sheep habitat.

The lands along the Lake Fork from Lake City downstream to the NRA boundary are characterized by a steep-walled, narrow canyon and a meandering river valley with a variety of vegetation types. Intermingled land ownership occurs in this part of the unit. Features in this part of the unit include high quality visual resources, nine recorded historic railroad construction camp sites (three of which have been developed and are managed cooperatively by the National Park Service), various other historic sites, the Gate and Red Bridge campgrounds, several BLM minor wayside and fishing access improvements; crucial big game winter range; bighorn sheep habitat

and a bighorn sheep herd; and a 69 Kv electrical transmission line.

Concerns include potential impacts on fragile tundra ecosystems receiving heavy recreation use, visitor safety concerning high altitudes and open mine shafts, degraded visual quality, incompatible recreation, mining, and livestock grazing land use mixes, motorized vehicle use, access and management, vandalism, survey and inventory/recordation deficiencies, and other concerns associated with fragile historic structures. Concerns also exist regarding potential disease transfer to bighorn sheep from grazing domestic sheep and a growing demand for public access to the Lake Fork.

The unit will continue to be managed as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation, while protecting important historic, scenic, and natural values will be emphasized within the unit. Motorized sightseeing, hiking, camping, winter recreation, hunting, fishing, floatboating, and other recreation opportunities will be emphasized. Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Plans for surface-disturbing activities, including recreation use and development, will contain measures designed to minimize negative effects to resources, especially those that could impact adjacent recreation or scenic resources and fisheries and riparian habitat. Public lands will be managed for a combination of Primitive, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Roaded Natural, and Rural ROS settings as shown in the existing RAMP for the SRMA.

Management actions proposed for the unit in the existing RAMP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA will be implemented (facility and trail development, improvement, and maintenance, expanded recreation area administration and visitor services, additions to and maintenance of OHV routes, signing, patrols, and commercial recreation use supervision). Trail access to the western portion of the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA will be located and constructed in the Devil's Creek Area. Construction of a joint BLM/USFS visitor and administrative center in Lake City will be pursued. Overnight camping and fires

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will be excluded within 50 feet of historic resources on public land. A follow-up visitor-use survey will be conducted in approximately 1994 to reassess the activities, settings, and experiences favored by the recreating public. If feasible, facilities at The Gate and Red Bridge Campgrounds will be upgraded and added such that entrance fees could be charged.

Historic sites will be inventoried, recorded, and evaluated within the unit, and determinations of eligibility prepared. Cadastral surveys will be conducted for historic sites with potential for stabilization or interpretation, if necessary, to determine public land locations.

Cooperative management with the NPS on lands along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River from Red Bridge to Blue Mesa Reservoir will be continued for recreation facility and road maintenance, and the interpretation and protection of three historic railroad camp/construction sites. If appropriate, cooperative management of other sites will be considered.

Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands within the unit south of the north line of Section 12, T. 45 N., R. 4W., N. M. P. M., will be limited to designated routes in order to prevent potential impacts from this type of use, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and in maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office. Snowmobile use will be permitted on snow anywhere in the unit, except in any lands designated as wilderness. When the CRMAP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA is prepared, a map will be included and areas defined on the ground delineating appropriate pull-off and parking areas adjacent to designated routes available for OHV use.

Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate totalling 675 acres within the existing protective withdrawal (C-0125423) along the Alpine Loop National Back Country Byway will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation in order to protect recreation facilities and visual resources from fluid minerals exploration and development. Mineral material disposal on federal mineral estate on these same lands will not be authorized for the same reasons.

**Wildlife Habitat Management.** Disposal of mineral materials on 10,620 acres of federal mineral estate within crucial big game winter range will not be

authorized from December 1 through April 30 to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Livestock grazing will continue to be authorized in the unit within the capabilities of the ecosystems involved. On public lands within the riparian area along Henson Creek, from the North fork of Henson Creek downstream to Lake City, livestock grazing in this important fishery will continue not be authorized in order to maintain stream and streamside conditions, including soils and vegetation.

**Wild and Scenic River Study Segment.** The 8.9 mile-long portion of Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a segment BLM found eligible, but not suitable, for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, will be managed according to this prescription and STANDARD MANAGEMENT for the RMP.

**Visual Resource Management.** Public lands in the unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (93,848 acres), VRM Class III (165 acres) and VRM Class IV (1,337 acres) objectives.

**Transportation and Access.** If needed, administrative access will be acquired into the east-central part of the unit that includes Yaeger Gulch and Skunk and Trout Creeks for commercial forest management. Public hiking and horse access will be acquired into the Alpine Gulch drainage for recreation and livestock grazing management. Public access will continue to be acquired, as opportunities arise, to BLM and USFS managed lands between Lake City and Red Bridge campground.

**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands.** If available, selected non-federal lands necessary for management, protection and/or enhancement of recreation and visual resources and wildlife habitat on public lands will be acquired. If available, selected non-federal lands containing representative examples of thematic historic period sites, structures, or resources will be acquired through exchange or purchase.

**Rights-of-Way.** About 3,840 acres in the rights-of-way corridor containing the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Blue Mesa to Lake City 115 Kv electrical transmission line will be open to development of all rights-of-way. With the exception of public lands in the rights-of-way corridor, the

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entire unit will be closed to the development of above-ground utilities (91,510 acres). Public lands north of the south line of Sections 16 and 17, T. 47 N., R. 3 W., N.M.P.M., approximately 2,560 acres, and about 76,880 acres south and west of Lake City will be classified an avoidance area for all other rights-of-way. The remainder of public lands in the unit, about 12,070 acres, will be open to all other rights-of-way. See Appendix D for a map showing these areas.

**Rights-of-Way Corridors.** Approximately 3,840 acres of public land along the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Blue Mesa to Lake City 115 Kv electrical transmission line (see map in Appendix C) will be designated a rights-of-way corridor (see Standard Management for more detail).

**Fire Management.** Full suppression of wildfires will occur on 9,577 acres of public land to protect private property, BLM recreation sites, and other facilities. Conditional suppression will occur on 85,773 acres.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 (Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA)

*Land Ownership:* 47,762 acres of Public Surface; 8% of the Planning Area.

This unit consists of lands managed for primitive, non-motorized recreational and natural values.

This management unit is managed as the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The entire existing Powderhorn Primitive Area is located within the unit. Few obvious human influences are apparent. The unit contains the popular Powderhorn Lakes and is characterized by a diversity of landscapes, high valued recreation resources, important fishery and riparian resources, and scenic and natural values. Livestock grazing occurs in part of the unit. Bighorn sheep habitat occurs within the unit. The BLM surface estate within the existing primitive area is withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws (C-17286) and from mineral entry and location under the general mining laws. A concern for resources within the unit is that concentrated recreation use occurring along existing

trails and at the lakes area could potentially result in unacceptable impacts to scenic and other resources. Another concern is the potential for diseases being transferred to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep. The need to protect both the high quality and diversity of scenic, recreation, and other natural values, while reducing effects of recreation use will be recognized as important during the formulation of management decisions affecting the area.

Public lands in Management Unit 2 will be designated as the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, and will be managed for recreation and scenic opportunities and for the maintenance and enhancement of natural values in Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS settings. The need to protect both the high quality and diversity of scenic, recreation, and other natural values, while reducing effects of recreation use will be recognized as important during the implementation of management decisions affecting the unit.

A Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) will be prepared for the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, unit 2, emphasizing the enhancement of natural values and primitive recreation opportunities.

The boundary of the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area will be modified and expanded to include the public lands in this unit.

Measures to prevent soil erosion and water quality deterioration processes will be allowed to occur and surface-disturbing activities will be minimized. Commercial recreation use will be permitted and use levels established, if necessary, to maintain natural values in the unit; and commercial permits will contain stipulations and mitigation for vegetation and surface disturbance. A permit system and recreation use levels for private, non-commercial recreation use will be established and implemented in the unit if necessary in order to mitigate adverse environmental impacts resulting from recreation activities. Maps and interpretive brochures will be distributed to help inform users of low-impact camping skills. Trail access in the unit from the Devil's Creek area will be located and constructed. Trails and other facilities will be maintained periodically.

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Public Lands in the unit will be closed to motorized vehicular traffic, unless otherwise authorized, to protect and maintain primitive recreation opportunities, as shown on a map in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office. The unit will also be closed to mountain bikes.

The federal oil and gas estate in the unit will be closed to future leasing in order to protect recreation and natural values. Disposal of mineral materials will not be authorized on federal mineral estate in the unit.

**Wildlife Habitat Management.** Fishery or other wildlife improvement projects or project maintenance, will be permitted only if compatible with the objectives of this unit. If the lands in the unit are acted upon by Congress for wilderness designation, and are not designated, lands in the unit could be evaluated and considered for moose introductions, which could be authorized by the District Manager following environmental analysis. The BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review and a national-level agreement involving BLM prevents the introduction of moose or other non-indigenous species into public lands in Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness areas.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Domestic sheep grazing in grazing allotment 6112 will not be authorized in the unit in order to help prevent the potential for diseases being transferred to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep. Cattle grazing will be authorized and administered in the unit such that recommended ROS settings will be maintained. Vegetation treatments or improvements and treatment maintenance will be authorized if compatible with the objectives of this unit.

Livestock grazing along 2.2 miles of Fourth of July Creek, 10.2 miles of the East Fork of Powderhorn Creek, 8.3 miles of the Middle Fork of Powderhorn Creek, and 8.7 miles of the West Fork of Powderhorn Creek will be managed to maintain a 4-inch minimum stubble height for key forage species, during the grazing period of use, in these riparian zones containing important fisheries in order to improve and maintain stream and streamside

conditions, including soils and vegetation. The minimum stubble height requirements along Fourth of July Creek, East Fork of Powderhorn Creek, Middle Fork of Powderhorn Creek, and West Fork of Powderhorn Creek will be implemented according to the STANDARD MANAGEMENT section of this chapter.

**Forest Management.** The unit will be closed to the sale or harvest of forest products in order to maintain scenic and recreation values.

**Visual Resource Management.** Public lands will be managed according to VRM Class I objectives in order to maintain the scenic quality of the unit.

**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands.** If available, 40 acres of private surface estate will be acquired. The acquisition of state-owned minerals in the unit will be pursued.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands in the unit will be classified an exclusion area for future rights-of-way.

**Fire Management.** Public lands in the unit will be managed under the conditional suppression category.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 (Cochetopa Canyon SRMA)

*Land Ownership:* 2,710 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area.

This unit consists of lands managed for day-use and overnight recreation along Cochetopa Creek.

Most of the public lands in this management unit are currently managed as the Cochetopa Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Resources and land uses are managed according to an existing activity plan for the unit. Colorado State Highway 114 traverses the unit, which is characterized by a steep, scenic canyon that restricts recreation use to the narrow riparian corridor along Cochetopa Creek. Day-use recreation such as sight-seeing, fishing, and picnicking, and overnight camping occur within the unit. Features within the unit include high-quality scenic resources, three semi-developed, and three undeveloped recreation sites. An elk calving area,

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Cochetopa Creek--an important fishery--and crucial big game winter range and bighorn sheep habitat occur within the unit. Concerns within the unit include a lack of recreation signing, general vandalism, and adverse impacts from recreation use to soils, vegetation and water quality, and deteriorating recreation facility conditions.

Public lands in Management Unit 3 will be designated the Cochetopa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), and will be managed according to the existing or updated RAMP for a variety of recreation, scenic, and other opportunities at developed and dispersed sites, and for a Roaded Natural ROS setting.

The RAMP will be updated to include the lands in this expanded SRMA and actions in the prescription for the unit in the RMP.

The management objectives for the unit will be to continue to provide and improve the existing diversity of recreation opportunities, with fishing and overnight camping adjacent to Highway 114 being emphasized. Recreation facilities at three semi-developed and three undeveloped recreation areas will be constructed and maintained to provide approximately 32 family campsites, 6 toilets, twenty parking spaces, and informational signing. Existing recreation facilities in the unit will be maintained. Periodic patrols will be conducted. Recreation use will be monitored and possibly restricted as necessary to protect natural features and recreation opportunities. Informational and interpretive signs will be installed. Public lands will be managed for a Roaded Natural ROS setting. The federal mineral estate within the unit, 2,592 acres, will be withdrawn from mineral entry and location under the general mining laws in order to provide protection for visual and recreation resources. This area has a low to moderate potential for the occurrence of mineral resources.

The entire Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate in the unit, 2,592 acres under federal surface, will remain open to leasing with a no-surface occupancy stipulation in order to protect scenic and recreation resources in the narrow canyon in this unit.

**Wildlife Habitat Management.** Disposal of mineral materials on 1,317 acres of federal mineral estate in the unit within elk-calving areas will not be authorized in order to prevent disturbance to calving elk from April 16 through June 30. Mineral material disposal will not be permitted on 2,302 acres of federal mineral estate from December 1 through April 30 within big game crucial winter range in order to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Livestock grazing and watering will not be permitted in the riparian area along Cochetopa Creek in order to maintain or improve riparian and/or fishery conditions. Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized throughout the unit to prevent disease transfer to bighorn sheep.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (2,220 acres) and VRM Class IV (487 acres) objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public land in the unit will be classified an exclusion area for above-ground utility rights-of-way. Underground utility rights-of-way and development will be limited to previously disturbed areas associated with existing roads.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires will be managed under the full suppression category.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 (American Basin ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 1,597 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

This management unit is located south and west of Lake City between the Continental Divide and Handies Peak, and is one of the most scenic basins in the San Juan Mountains because of its midsummer wildflowers and the high-quality visual resources. Sloan Lake and approximately two and one-half miles of the headwaters of Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a study segment eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, are located within the unit. The unit is also managed as part of the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

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Concerns within the unit are conflicts regarding recreation users and domestic sheep grazing and the potential for mining to occur (there is a high to moderate likelihood for the occurrence of locatable minerals on public lands in the unit).

The unit will be designated and managed as the American Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), including for the protection and enhancement of visual and other natural resources and existing related recreation opportunities in the unit.

The public lands in this ACEC will continue to be contained within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA (see Map F-4, Appendix F in the RMP, for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Activities resulting in surface disturbances or visual impacts will not be permitted in order to prevent deterioration of scenic values. Specific and detailed management for this ACEC will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

The entire federal oil and gas estate within the unit, totalling 1,590 acres, will be open to future mineral leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation in order to protect visual and recreation resources from deterioration as a result of possible oil and gas exploration or development. Disposal of mineral materials on federal mineral estate will not be permitted within the unit for the same reasons.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Domestic livestock grazing will be administered in such a manner as to avoid conflicts between recreation visitors and grazing livestock. Livestock

management objectives will be to maintain recreation and scenic values, especially during the wildflower display and peak visitation periods. Specific livestock grazing management for the unit will be incorporated into the overall activity plan for the Alpine Triangle SRMA, and could include season of use changes,

restrictions in areas that could be grazed, or possibly elimination of grazing in some areas.

**Recreation Management.** Motorized vehicular travel will be limited to designated routes within the unit in order to prevent destruction to wildflower concentrations and visual resources in general, as shown on a map and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office. Public lands will continue to be managed for Semi-Primitive Motorized and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS settings, according to the RAMP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA. The hiking trail to Handies Peak will be maintained. Interpretive signing will be installed at appropriate locations in American Basin and, in addition to other interpretation, will explain livestock management objectives in the unit.

**Wild and Scenic River Study Segment.** The 2.5 mile-long Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a segment BLM found eligible, but not suitable, for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, will be managed according to this prescription and STANDARD MANAGEMENT for the RMP.

**Visual Resources.** Public lands will be managed according to VRM Class I objectives in order to maintain the natural setting in the unit. Existing visual intrusions will be rehabilitated to the extent possible.

**Transportation and Access.** One of two parallel roads that resulted from a detour will be closed and rehabilitated; the best located road will be retained for recreation access and will be maintained periodically to prevent resource impacts.

**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands.** If available, approximately 40 acres of non-federal lands will be acquired in the unit in order to enhance and facilitate the management of visual and recreation resources.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands in the unit will be classified as an exclusion area for rights-of-way.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires in the unit will be managed under the conditional suppression category.

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### MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 (Redcloud Peak ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 5,960 acres of Public Surface; 1% of the Planning Area

This unit is located southwest of Lake City within the boundary of the Alpine Triangle SRMA. The unit contains one of two known viable breeding populations of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, an endangered species. A research effort by a national university is on-going regarding the butterfly. The 14,000 foot-plus Redcloud Peak is within this unit characterized by fragile high-country tundra. Other features within the unit are highly scenic visual resources and bighorn sheep habitat. Domestic sheep grazing is authorized within the unit, except on lands within the Silver Creek Drainage. The unit has a moderate to high potential for the occurrence of locatable materials. Concerns within the unit include fragile tundra that receives heavy recreation use and trampling of habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly by domestic sheep.

The unit will be designated and managed as the Redcloud Peak Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Protection and enhancement of habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly and the species in the unit will be emphasized.

This ACEC will continue to be located within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation, while protecting important historic, scenic, and natural values (see Map F-4 in Appendix F in the RMP for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAPP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

On-going efforts in research, monitoring, and inventory will continue and be expanded as needed. Surface disturbing activities will be restricted to protect the endangered species and existing and potential habitat of the species. Research or collecting will require authorization by BLM and the USF&WS.

The entire federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate in the unit, totalling 5,962 acres, will be open to leasing with a controlled surface use stipulation, and mineral material disposal will not be permitted in the unit in order to protect habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly and the species. Please refer to Appendix K for the controlled surface use stipulation requirements within this unit.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** On public lands within the unit, domestic sheep grazing will be controlled to prevent destruction of Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly habitat. Public lands in the Silver Creek drainage will continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing in order to prevent destruction of Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly species or habitat.

**Recreation Management.** Motorized vehicular travel will be limited to designated routes, unless otherwise authorized, in order to protect habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office. No routes are designated in the unit in this RMP. Public lands will continue to be managed for Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Primitive ROS settings, according to the existing Alpine Triangle RAMP.

**Visual Resources.** Visual resources will be managed according to VRM Class II objectives in order to maintain the natural setting in the unit.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands in the unit will be classified an avoidance area for rights-of-way.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires in the unit will be managed under the conditional suppression category.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 (Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 1,405 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

This unit is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Lake City and contains part of the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark, a mass wasting phenomenon. A Recreation and Public

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Purposes (R&PP) classification (C-0126201) applies to part of the public lands in the unit.

The unit is located within the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The Colorado Natural Areas Program has designated most of the public lands in the unit as a Colorado Special Interest Area. The unit contains approximately 270 acres of crucial elk and deer winter range.

The unit will be designated and managed as the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to enhance and protect the natural values within the earthflow.

This ACEC will continue to be located within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation of the earthflow, while protecting important historic, scenic, and other natural values (see Map F-4 in Appendix F in the RMP for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Surface disturbance within the unit will not be permitted if the natural values within the earthflow, including visual resources, will be degraded.

The entire federal, oil, gas, and geothermal mineral estate within the unit, 1,397 acres under federal surface and 45 acres of split estate, will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation in order to protect values associated with the earthflow. Disposal of mineral material on 1,397 acres of federal mineral estate in the unit will not be permitted within the unit for the same reason.

**Forest Management.** Timber harvesting will not be permitted in the unit.

**Recreation Management.** Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be limited to designated routes, in order to prevent surface disturbance within the slide area, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in

Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM class II objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** Utility rights-of-way will not be allowed in the unit except for buried utilities along an eight-acre corridor where Highway 149 crosses the unit, and buried utility services to individual private inholdings or property.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 1,060 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 347 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 (West Antelope Creek ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 28,275 acres of Public Surface; 5 % of the Planning Area.

This management unit is generally bounded on the south and west by the Curecanti National Recreation Area, on the north by the Gunnison National Forest, and on the east by West Antelope Creek. The unit contains big game crucial winter range, the greatest concentration of wintering elk and deer in the planning area, bald eagle habitat, the Dillon Mesa bighorn sheep herd, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife Sapinero State Wildlife Area (the first tract of land purchased under the Pittman-Robertson Act in Colorado). Much of the elk and deer crucial winter range in the unit is characterized by fairly gentle terrain (sparsely vegetated, and dissected by narrow, shallow drainages) that results in long sight distances and few sound barriers that could serve as buffers. The unit receives extensive recreational hunting use, and contains crucial big game winter range important in maintaining huntable populations in the planning area on 26,157 acres of public lands. An elk-calving area occurs in the unit. The unit contains lands critical to early spring and summer livestock grazing. A 115 kv electrical transmission line is located in the southern part of the unit.

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A major concern within the unit is that CDOW long-range elk and deer herd goals have reached or are beyond the carrying capacity in uplands and riparian areas, and attaining lower numbers in the next five years will be in the best interest of the habitat. Improper livestock grazing along North Willow Creek is a concern within that riparian area, along with the lack of administrative access into that watershed. Other concerns regarding elk and deer and their habitat are private land development within crucial winter ranges, the extent and distribution of palatable shrub browse species, vegetative/land treatments that remove winter browse, and disturbances and human activity during critical periods within crucial winter ranges. Another concern is that the bighorn sheep herd appears to be static and below herd goal numbers.

The unit will be designated and managed as the West Antelope Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and to improve the capabilities of the resources in the unit to support wintering elk, deer, and bighorn sheep.

A CRMAPP will be prepared for the unit, and will include management actions within the recommended Dillon Pinnacles ACEC, unit 9.

Land uses will be designed and implemented so as not to degrade big game winter range.

Surface-disturbing activities on public lands will not be permitted from December 1 through April 30 on crucial elk and deer winter range. Within the first five years following designation, recommendations will be made to CDOW to manage total numbers of elk and deer on crucial winter range so as to improve the production and vigor of important browse species and to increase the winter range carrying capacity. Refer to Table A-4 in Appendix A for these interim herd goal numbers that will be recommended for BLM-managed lands. The habitat thereafter on BLM-administered lands will be managed to achieve CDOW's long-range herd goals, within carrying capacities of the habitat.

Federal oil and gas estate totalling 126 acres under federal surface within 1/4 mile radius of sage grouse lek sites will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to lek

sites and strutting sage grouse. The BLM will, if necessary, through negotiations with operators or lessees, seek to obtain rescheduling of oil and gas related activities within federal oil and gas estate (26,112 acres under federal surface and 8,365 acres of split estate) on crucial big game winter range from December 1 through April 30 to prevent disturbances to wintering elk and deer, and to help maintain herd viability in this ACEC. This rescheduling could be in addition to the 60-day delay authorized in standard oil and gas lease terms. Federal oil and gas estate (17 acres under federal surface and 137 acres of split estate) within elk calving areas will be open to leasing with a timing limitation being in effect from April 16 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to calving elk. Variances to these stipulations may be granted (see Appendix K).

Disposal of mineral materials will not be authorized on 26,112 acres of federal mineral estate from December 1 through April 30 on crucial big game winter range to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk. Disposal will not be permitted on 17 acres of federal mineral estate from April 16 through June 30 within elk-calving areas to prevent disturbance to calving elk. Disposal will not be authorized on 126 acres of federal mineral estate within 1/4 mile of sage grouse lek sites from April 1 through May 31 to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse.

**Soils and Water.** Non-conflicting soil and watershed improvement projects, such as check dams, will be permitted.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** In order to permit riparian conditions to improve, livestock grazing will not be authorized on public lands along North Willow Creek in the Stevens Creek Common Allotment, No. 6202, until the riparian area has recovered sufficiently to permit livestock use. Any future grazing systems approved for this section of North Willow Creek will include measures to facilitate the continued improvement of riparian conditions and resources.

Livestock grazing will not be authorized within Allotment 6200 in this unit in order to remedy conflicts involving wildlife habitat. Non-conflicting and compatible livestock management objectives,

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

projects, and mitigating measures will be incorporated into new activity plans, such as AMPs, HMPs or CRMAs, before being implemented.

### Forest Management.

Commercial logging operations will be designed to enhance crucial big game winter range, and vegetation in general.

**Recreation Management.** Approximately 600 acres of public land within or adjacent to the Sapinero State Wildlife Area will be closed to motorized vehicular use in order to be compatible with CDOW management on adjacent state-owned lands. Motorized vehicular use on the remaining 27,615 acres of public lands in the unit will be limited to designated routes, if necessary, from December 1 through April 30, to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer in the event of excessive snow depths or big game herd concentrations. These designations and routes are shown on maps and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (7,551 acres), VRM Class III (9,887 acres), and VRM Class IV (10,777 acres) objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** Rights-of-way related construction activities will not be permitted on crucial big game winter range from December 1 through April 30 to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 20,365 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 7,850 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 (South Beaver Creek ACEC)

*Land ownership:* 4,570 acres of Public Surface; Less than 1% of the Planning Area

This unit is located between the Gold Basin Creek Road (Gunnison County Road 38) and South Beaver

Creek immediately southwest of Gunnison. The unit is characterized by sagebrush-covered rolling hills with many intermittent drainages and benches. A 230 kv electrical transmission line crosses the southern end of the unit. Several roads are located within the unit. About 1,960 acres of crucial big game winter range occur in the unit. The public lands in the north and east portions of the unit receive heavy OHV use. The unit contains scattered populations of skiff milkvetch (*Astragalus microcymbus*), a USF&WS Category 2 and Colorado sensitive plant species. The species is not fully protected under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

The unit will be designated and managed as the South Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The unit will be managed to protect and enhance existing populations and habitat of skiff milkvetch. Plant monitoring studies will be designed and conducted cooperatively with the Colorado Natural Areas Program and The Nature Conservatory to determine population trends; actions designed to improve habitat conditions will be initiated. Surface disturbing activities will be restricted to protect the species and potential habitat. An ACEC management plan will be prepared. No chemical spraying will occur on public lands within the unit. Any research activities will require approval by the BLM.

No vegetative treatments, or treatment maintenance will be conducted in the unit that would adversely effect skiff milkvetch populations or habitat.

No additional forage allocations will be made for either wildlife habitat or livestock grazing management.

The entire Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate in the unit, 4,540 acres, will be open to leasing with a controlled surface use stipulation in order to protect populations of skiff milkvetch. Please refer to Appendix K for the controlled surface use stipulation requirements for this unit.

Disposal of mineral materials on 4,540 acres of federal mineral estate within the unit will not be authorized for the same reason.

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**Soils.** Non-conflicting erosion control measures that do not alter existing skiff milkvetch habitat will be permitted.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized in the unit to avoid possible destruction of skiff milkvetch populations and related habitat.

**Recreation Management.** To prevent accidental destruction of skiff milkvetch populations, and existing habitat, motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be limited to designated routes, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resources.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class III (2,800 acres) and VRM Class IV (1,765 acres) objectives.

**Disposal of Public Lands.** Public lands in the unit containing colonies of skiff milkvetch will not be available for disposal until future inventories show that sufficient colonies occur throughout the Planning Area such that disposal will not jeopardize the overall population.

**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands.** If available, non-federal lands containing colonies of skiff milkvetch will be acquired if necessary for the enhancement, management, protection of the species, and to increase the number of colonies on public lands.

**Rights-of-Way.** Rights-of-way developments will be permitted throughout the unit, provided surface disturbance does not impair or degrade colonies of skiff milkvetch. An on-the-ground inventory and appropriate mitigation will be required on all rights-of-way involving surface disturbing activities.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires in the unit will be managed under the conditional suppression category.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 (Dillon Pinnacles ACEC)

**Land Ownership:** 535 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area.

This unit is located near the edge of the planning area boundary on the north side of U.S. Highway 50 and the Blue Mesa Reservoir, and is adjacent to unit 5, West Antelope ACEC. The specific management for this unit will be included in the ACEC management plan for unit 7. The public lands are classified as crucial big game winter range. The unit contains portions of the steep, highly dissected cliffs (spires) that form a highly visible and scenic backdrop for Blue Mesa Reservoir. The National Park Service maintains a heavily used hiking trail to these spires. A concern within the unit is that private development could occur on approximately 270 acres of non-federal land.

The unit will be designated as the Dillon Pinnacles Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and will be managed to protect scenic and recreational opportunities. Appropriate management actions and recommendations from this prescription will be incorporated into the management plan for the West Antelope Creek CRMAP, unit 7.

Surface disturbing activities will not be permitted in the unit.

The entire federal oil and gas estate in the unit, totalling 530 acres under federal surface and 22 acres of split estate, will be open to future mineral leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation in order to prevent potential deterioration of scenic, recreation, and other natural values. Disposal of mineral materials on 530 acres of the federal mineral estate in the unit will not be permitted for the same reason.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Livestock grazing will not be authorized within the unit in order to maintain a natural appearing landscape.

**Recreation Management.** The unit will be closed to motorized vehicular travel to prevent deterioration of scenic values, as shown on a map and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class I objectives.

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**Acquisition of Non-Federal Lands.** If available, approximately 270 acres of non-federal lands will be acquired in order to enhance and facilitate management of visual, recreation, and other natural values, and to prevent deterioration of visual resources from potential private development.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands in the unit will be classified an exclusion area for rights-of-way.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires in the unit will be managed under the full suppression category.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 10

**Land Ownership:** 15,112 acres of Public Surface; 3% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of lands containing yearlong bighorn sheep and other wildlife habitat.

This unit consists of areas along Cebolla and Cochetopa Creek that are important for the viability of bighorn sheep in the Planning Area. The CDOW has frequently trapped bighorn sheep in this unit for reintroduction and transplants into other areas. The unit is grazed by cattle, and domestic sheep grazing occurred in the past. Diseases potentially being transferred from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep, and road construction and encroachment along the east side of the Cebolla Creek area are concerns within the unit.

The unit will be managed to maintain or improve habitat capable of supporting a self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep, with herd sizes of about 100-150 animals in the Cochetopa Canyon and about 150 animals in the Cebolla Creek area. An HMP will be prepared for the unit. Activities that will result in disturbance to lambing bighorn sheep will be restricted from April 15 through June 15. Monitoring will be conducted to determine habitat condition and trend, and forage utilization, including within existing treatment areas. Activities and land uses that will result in the deterioration of, or decrease in, bighorn sheep habitat or herd numbers will not be permitted. Wildlife treatments recommended in the HMP as a result of monitoring will be permitted.

Federal mineral estate totalling 269 acres within BLM protective withdrawal C-014711 along parts of Cebolla Creek will continue to be withdrawn from mineral entry and location in order to protect riparian and recreation values from potential mining disturbances.

The entire federal oil and gas estate in the unit, totalling 14,817 acres under federal surface and 590 acres of split estate, will be open to leasing with a no-surface-occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to bighorn sheep and their habitat. Disposal of mineral material on 14,817 acres of federal mineral estate will not be permitted from April 15 through June 15 to prevent disturbance to bighorn sheep habitat and lambing bighorn sheep. Disposal of mineral materials will not be permitted on 1,245 acres of federal mineral estate from April 15 through June 30 within elk-calving areas to prevent disturbance to, and on 225 acres yearlong within withdrawal C-014711 to protect recreation and riparian values along parts of Cebolla Creek from potential disturbances associated with mineral material disposal.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized in the unit to help prevent disease spreading from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep. Livestock grazing will be managed in a manner compatible with the objectives of this unit. Range improvements or treatments recommended in activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, as a result of monitoring will be permitted if compatible with maintaining bighorn sheep habitat.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (7,367 acres), VRM Class III (540 acres) and VRM Class IV (7,205 acres) objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** Public lands will be open to the location of rights-of-way with appropriate mitigation to insure compatibility with the management of bighorn sheep. Rights-of-way construction or maintenance that will result in disturbance to lambing bighorn sheep will not be permitted from April 15 through June 15.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 8,687 acres of public lands will be managed according to a

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conditional suppression policy and about 6,425 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 11

*Land ownership:* 57,525 acres of Public Surface; 10% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of sage grouse high production areas.

This management unit is located generally on sagebrush-covered rolling terrain in the eastern part of the planning area. The unit contains sage grouse high production areas, and supports part of the third largest sage grouse population in Colorado. Most of the public lands in the unit are available for livestock grazing. The unit surrounds or contains riparian areas. The sagebrush vegetative communities within this unit provide important sage grouse nesting habitat, year-round food sources, cover for young birds (brood areas), and mating/strutting habitat (leks). The unit also contains 29,130 acres of crucial elk and deer winter range and 28,147 acres of yearlong pronghorn antelope range. Concerns within the unit regarding sage grouse habitat include disturbances to nesting or strutting sage grouse, poor quality and below-potential sagebrush nesting habitat; large-scale sagebrush removal treatments within or near nesting habitat and leks; utilization within treated areas that has resulted in sagebrush re-invasion and a subsequent lack of grasses and forbs within nesting and lek areas; and removal of sage grouse winter habitat (tall, dense sagebrush in drainages as a result of vegetation treatments).

This management unit will be managed to improve and maintain sagebrush vegetative communities in order to optimize sage grouse populations. Sagebrush treatments and management to improve sage grouse habitat will be considered in all activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, and their design, implementation, and management will incorporate as a minimum the sage grouse habitat management guidelines in Appendix A. Deviations from these guidelines may be granted by the authorized officer if it can be demonstrated that short term impacts will

be offset by long term benefits to sage grouse and their habitat.

Proposed habitat improvements will be implemented and managed to maintain and improve these areas crucial to sage grouse populations. All leks will be protected from destruction. No surface disturbance will be permitted within 1/4 mile of all lek locations from April 1 through May 31 (strutting season) to prevent disturbance to sage grouse while mating. Activities occurring on crucial elk and deer winter range in the unit will be restricted to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer from December 1 through April 30. Compatible sagebrush treatments and projects will be permitted.

Approximately 1,134 acres of federal oil and gas estate within a one-fourth mile radius of nine sage grouse leks in the unit will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse.

Disposal of mineral materials will not be permitted on 1,134 acres of federal mineral estate within one-quarter mile of all leks in the unit from April 1 through May 31, and within 28,267 acres of federal mineral estate on crucial big game winter range from December 1 through April 30, in order to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse and wintering deer and elk, respectively.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Range improvements and treatments meeting sage grouse habitat management objectives for this unit will be permitted. New or additional forage made available as a result of livestock grazing treatments/projects will be allocated according to STANDARD MANAGEMENT for Livestock Grazing Management.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (1,080 acres), VRM Class III (18,995 acres), and VRM Class IV (37,462 acres) objectives.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 57,170 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 367 acres

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will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 12

*Land ownership:* 91,547 acres of public surface; 16% of the Planning Area.

This unit contains elk and deer crucial winter range.

This management unit is located generally at lower elevations and throughout the planning area. Public lands totalling approximately 76,192 acres are crucial elk and deer winter range. Livestock grazing and other land uses occur on most of the public lands in the unit. The unit contains lands critical to early spring and summer livestock grazing. A variety of vegetation types occur within the unit, including some riparian zones. The unit also contains lands within the Gunnison ERMA; elk calving areas totalling 235 acres; and sage grouse brood-rearing areas.

Concerns within the unit include winter range occurring on mixed land ownership; large numbers of deer congregating along U.S. Highway 50; heavy to severe utilization of mountain mahogany by elk and deer and the lowering plant vigor in GMU 64 northeast of Cimarron; vegetative treatments that have resulted in the removal of browse species; and long-range CDOW herd goals possibly being too high in parts of the unit to maintain healthy browse stands under the current condition of the browse species in these GMUs (see Table A-1, Appendix A, for CDOW long-range herd goals for entire GMUs).

The unit will be managed to improve habitat conditions and increase the production and diversity of shrub species in upland and riparian vegetative types to support wintering populations of deer and elk, and to help meet CDOW long-range herd goals.

Any additional forage available for livestock as a result of range improvements, treatments, or grazing management procedures will be allocated in accordance with 43 CFR 4100, after meeting the basic soil and watershed needs defined in the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines. See Table I-1, Appendix I, for target basal cover densities that will be achieved on treated

areas before forage will be available for livestock grazing needs. Table I-1 is derived from Appendix F of the guidelines referenced above. Any additional forage available for livestock will be considered in reactivating suspended use or as a means to avoid suspending active use.

An HMP or a CRMAP will be developed focusing on overall habitat improvement and intensive habitat management. The plan will include treatments and projects in uplands and riparian ecosystems to increase the production and composition of bitterbrush, serviceberry, mountain mahogany, willows, and cottonwoods. Methods will include shrub plantings, burning, and techniques to convert decadent sagebrush stands to stands dominated by young sagebrush plants in the uplands. Wildlife habitat treatments will be maintained to ensure success. Monitoring of habitat conditions, utilization, and trend will be continued.

In the portions of GMU 55, 66, 67, and 551 within the unit, resources and land uses will be managed for the benefit of elk and deer winter habitat. In the portions of GMU 64 south and east of Cimarron in the unit big game utilization will be limited to 50% of the current years' growth of mountain mahogany. To help achieve this lower rate, a recommendation will be made to the CDOW to implement measures to temporarily reduce big game numbers in the GMU. See Table A-4 in Appendix A for proposed recommendations.

Interim deer herd goal numbers in portions of certain other GMUs within the unit (55, 66, 67, and 551) will be recommended to CDOW in order to permit the production and vigor of important browse species to increase such that winter habitat necessary to support CDOW's long-range herd numbers will be available. See Table A-4, Appendix A, for interim elk and deer numbers to be recommended on the BLM-managed lands, and Tables A-2 and A-3 for long-range elk and deer herd goals for BLM-managed lands within the unit.

Activities that will result in unnecessary disturbances to big game will be excluded from December 1 through April 30. Activities that will unnecessarily

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disturb elk within calving areas from April 16 through June 30 will be excluded.

To prevent disturbance to calving elk, a timing limitation will be in effect on approximately 235 acres of federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate under federal surface, from April 16 through June 30, within elk-calving areas in the unit. Federal oil and gas estate totalling 882 acres under federal surface within 1/4 mile radius of sage grouse lek sites will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse. Variances to these stipulations may be granted (see Appendix K).

Disposal of mineral material within elk-calving areas will not be authorized on 235 acres of federal mineral estate from April 16 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to calving elk, on 74,185 acres of federal mineral estate from December 1 through April 30 within crucial big game winter range to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer, and on 882 acres of federal mineral estate within a 1/4 mile radius of sage grouse lek sites from April 1 through May 31 to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse and habitat.

The federal oil and gas estate in withdrawal C-041711 along Cebolla Creek, totalling 164 acres, will be open to mineral leasing with a controlled surface use stipulation being in effect that restricts oil and gas development, as well as related surface disturbance, to an area beyond all riparian vegetation, in order to prevent damage to or removal of riparian vegetation (See Appendix K for this stipulation and exception language). Mineral material disposal will not be permitted on these lands for the same reasons.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Domestic sheep grazing and trailing will be excluded within the portion of GMU 64 in the unit from October 15 through April 15 in order to eliminate forage competition with big game. Compatible range improvements and treatments will be permitted.

**Forest Management.** Suitable forest lands and woodlands will be available for harvest, with a seasonal stipulation on harvesting from December 1 through April 30 to reduce stress on wintering big

game. Inventories of all forest lands and woodlands will be conducted to determine associated big game habitat conditions and habitat improvements needs. Spur roads and temporary roads used for logging will be kept to a minimum and will be physically blocked and re-vegetated after completion of operations.

**Recreation Management.** Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands in the unit north of U.S. Highway 50, east of the Gunnison River and west of Quartz Creek will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30, if necessary, due to big game herd concentrations or excessive snow depth, to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk. This designation and these routes are shown on a map and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** Public lands in the unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (7,747 acres) and VRM Class III (47,680 acres), and VRM Class IV (36,120 acres) objectives.

**Transportation and Access.** Public access will be acquired into the Bead Creek area for recreation and livestock grazing management.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 83,012 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 8,535 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 13

**Land Ownership:** 187,030 acres of Public Surface; 32% of the Planning Area

This unit generally contains "I" category livestock grazing allotments.

This management unit is located throughout the planning area except in the extreme eastern, northeastern, and northwestern portions. The unit consists of intensively managed BLM "I" category grazing allotments. The unit also contains pronghorn antelope habitat, elk calving areas, sage grouse nesting areas, and stands of suitable commercial forest lands. The unit also contains approximately

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20,970 acres of crucial big game winter range on public lands. Public lands in the unit are located within the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area and provide a variety of recreation resources and opportunities, including a hang-gliding site on Big Mesa and an area of concentrated public recreation use on High Mesa. Concerns within the unit are a lack of up-to-date vegetation trend data, a heavy-to-severe utilization of some riparian vegetation, resulting in below-potential forage production, undesirable plant compositions, stream channel and stream bank erosion and instability and other hydrological problems within riparian ecosystems, total forage production being far below potential, utilization of forage on public lands within a portion of the unit before range readiness criteria are met, sagebrush treatment location, design, and their later management, recreation users causing livestock control and management problems by leaving gates open, an unchecked increase in noxious weeds and their potential to reduce forage production and danger to livestock, and the shortage of AMPs.

The unit will be managed to improve or maintain ecological conditions. Suitable commercial forest lands will be available for harvest. Suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing. Activity plans, such as CRMAs or AMPs, will be developed, and existing AMPs will be updated as needed using CRMAP standards and procedures. Existing range improvements and treatments will be maintained and new range improvements and treatments will be developed according to updated or new activity plans. New or additional available forage will be allocated according to STANDARD MANAGEMENT. In order to permit riparian conditions and the fishery resource to improve, livestock grazing will not be authorized on public lands along approximately 1/4 mile of Los Pinos Creek in Allotment 6340 until the riparian area has recovered sufficiently to permit livestock use. Rangeland vegetation monitoring and inventory for condition, trend, and utilization patterns will continue. Activity plans developed that involve lands at High Mesa, Hartman Rocks, and Big Mesa will include and consider management objectives for all resources, including recreation management.

**Wildlife Habitat Management.** Federal oil and gas estate totalling 1,680 acres under federal surface and 42 acres of split estate on elk calving areas will be open to leasing with a timing limitation being in effect from April 16 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to calving elk. Federal oil and gas estate totalling 882 acres under federal surface within 1/4 mile radius of sage grouse lek sites will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse. Variances to these stipulations may be granted (see Appendix K). Disposal of mineral materials will not be permitted on federal mineral estate on these lands during these same time periods for the same reasons.

**Recreation Management.** One area on High Mesa will be considered for a campground.

Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit on public lands in the area north of U.S. Highway 50, east of West Antelope Creek, and west of the Gunnison River will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30, if necessary, due to big game herd concentrations or excessive snow depths in order to prevent disturbance to wintering big game. This designation and these routes are shown on a map and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (26,312 acres), VRM Class III (47,680 acres) and VRM Class IV (11,718 acres) objectives. If feasible, rehabilitation measures will be conducted on 1,687 acres of public lands classified as VRM II R and IV R (lands with existing man-made visual intrusions) in order to improve scenic quality.

**Transportation and Access.** Administrative access will be acquired into the Huntsman Mesa area from Colorado Highway 149 for livestock grazing management and public access will be acquired into the Vulcan/Big Mud Pond area and into public lands east of Deer Beaver Creek for recreation and livestock grazing management; into Willow Creek in the Blue Mesa area for commercial forest, livestock grazing, and recreation management, and into the Sandy Mesa area and Poison Draw areas on Blue

## CHAPTER TWO

Mesa for commercial forest and livestock grazing management.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 160,110 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 27,467 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 14

*Land Ownership:* 2,667 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of riparian areas containing important sage grouse broodrearing areas along about 25 miles of public land.

This management unit consists of public lands containing riparian areas within important sage grouse high production habitat. These lands are located east of Gunnison and are associated with perennial or intermittent streams. Some of the public lands within this unit are big game crucial winter range. The abundance of insects and lush herbaceous vegetation found in riparian areas is crucial for the survival of sage grouse chicks during the first twelve weeks after hatching. Resources within this unit are also important for the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of general riparian vegetation, aquatic/fishery habitat, stream channels, and water quality. Concerns within this unit are that riparian ecosystems in general are below their ecological potential and have been reduced in size due to water regimes being modified by improper livestock grazing and road locations. Downcutting or channel incision, and accompanying lowering of water tables has resulted in a reduction in riparian plant species and an invasion of upland plants.

The unit will be managed to protect, restore and enhance these riparian areas on public lands in order to optimize sage grouse populations. Management objectives will be to provide high quality brood-rearing habitat with a diversity of plant species composition and structure, aimed at achieving improved riparian conditions. Adequate vegetative cover necessary to avoid predation of foraging chicks will be another desired condition to be achieved.

Riparian improvement strategies and/or projects will be included in all CRMAs and other activity plans and implemented.

Emphasis will be placed on rehabilitating riparian areas where the riparian or hydrological condition is degraded. The herbaceous plant species will be increased to improve forage plants and insects for sage grouse. The proportion of native bunch grasses will be increased to help meet escape and hiding cover requirements of sage grouse chicks. Measures to reduce impacts to the riparian ecosystems and associated stream channels, and to prevent unnecessary removal of sage grouse brood habitat will be included in all surface-disturbing plans. No surface disturbing activities will be permitted from June 15 through July 31 in order to prevent disturbance to sage grouse during the brood-rearing period. All leks will be protected from surface disturbance. Resources within this unit will continue to be inventoried and evaluated for potential, condition and trend, and monitoring studies will be conducted. Vegetation treatments compatible with the objectives of this unit will be permitted.

The federal oil and gas estate in the unit, totalling 2,440 acres under federal surface and 60 acres of split estate will be open to mineral leasing with a controlled surface use stipulation being in effect that restricts oil and gas development, as well as related surface disturbance, to an area beyond all riparian vegetation, in order to prevent damage to or removal of riparian vegetation and sage grouse brood-rearing habitat (see Appendix K for this stipulation and exception language). Federal oil and gas estate within 1/4 mile of sage grouse leks totalling 126 acres under federal surface will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse. Variances to these seasonal stipulations may be granted (see Appendix K).

Disposal of mineral materials on about 2,440 acres of federal mineral estate in the unit will not be authorized, from June 15 through July 31 to prevent disturbance to sage grouse during the brooding period, at sage grouse leks on 126 acres of federal mineral estate from April 1 through May 31 to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse, and from

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

December 1 through April 30 on 1085 acres of federal mineral estate within crucial big game winter range to prevent disturbing wintering deer and elk.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** A 4 inch minimum stubble height will be maintained from June 15 through July 31 in order to improve and provide cover for sage grouse chicks, to improve general riparian ecosystem conditions, and to help increase the proportion of native bunch grasses, resulting in more livestock forage. A 2½ inch stubble height will be required at all other times.

Where authorized, domestic sheep grazing will be permitted in the unit only after June 1 to prevent disturbance to nesting sage grouse and nests.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (21 acres), VRM Class III (482 acres), and VRM Class IV (2,102 acres) objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** Mitigating measures will be included in rights-of-way authorizations to prevent disturbance within this unit to brooding sage grouse from June 15 through July 31 and from December 1 through April 30 on crucial big game winter range to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 72 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 2,533 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 15

*Land Ownership:* 4,725 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of riparian areas containing important fishery streams along approximately 57 miles of public land.

This unit consists of public land along 57 miles of streams and riparian zones containing a fishery or having the potential to support and maintain catchable populations of fish. Parts of the unit are located throughout the Planning Area, and are associated with

a variety of riparian zones. Parts of some of the streams contain crucial big game winter range, elk calving areas, lands suitable for grazing, lands within two SRMAs, and sage grouse brood-rearing habitat. This unit contains a 1.9 mile-long portion of Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a study segment eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Concerns are water quality, streams being below their potential for providing aquatic habitat, livestock forage utilization, physical damage from livestock grazing and roads, and a lack of fishery resource information to use in planning for habitat improvement projects.

The unit will be managed to restore and enhance the condition of fishery streams. Projects will be developed to stabilize and restore stream banks and improve instream conditions where necessary. Riparian vegetation and soil improvement projects will be permitted and included in all CRMAs, AMPs, or other activity plans, and implemented to meet the objectives of this unit. The Resource Area HMP will be revised to include recommendations in this unit. Resources will continue to be inventoried and monitored for condition, potential, and trend.

Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate totalling 445 acres under federal surface, will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation within BLM protective withdrawal C-0125423 to protect riparian values and scenery within the Alpine Loop back Country byway. Mineral material disposal on these lands will not be permitted yearlong for the same reasons.

Federal oil, gas, and geothermal estate within elk calving areas, 247 acres under federal surface, will be open to leasing with a timing limitation being in effect from April 16 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to calving elk. Variances to these stipulations may be granted. Disposal of mineral materials on the federal mineral estate in these areas will not be permitted during those same times for the same reasons.

Disposal of mineral materials on 655 acres of federal mineral estate within crucial elk and deer winter range will not be authorized from December 1

## CHAPTER TWO

through April 30 to prevent disturbance to wintering big game.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** When grazing occurs in the unit, a minimum stubble height of 4 inches will be maintained for key herbaceous forage species within riparian zones, in order to improve stream and streamside conditions, including soils and vegetation in the associated riparian zones. The minimum stubble height will be implemented according to the Livestock Grazing Management section of Standard Management.

Livestock grazing will continue to not be authorized along Henson Creek in order to maintain riparian, fishery, and scenic values.

**Recreation Management.** Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be managed as follows. These designations and routes are shown on maps and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

1. Motorized vehicular traffic south of Lake City (1,680 acres) will be limited to designated routes yearlong, with snowmobile use permitted on snow, and when the CRMAP is prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA, a map will be included and areas defined on the ground delineating appropriate pull-off and parking areas adjacent to designated routes;

2. Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit on Alder Creek (235 acres) will be limited to designated routes, if necessary, from December 1 through April 30, in order to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer on crucial big game winter range.

The lands in this unit located within the boundaries of the Alpine Triangle SRMA, shown on map F-4, Appendix F, will be designated and managed as part of the SRMA. Appropriate management actions and recommendations from this prescription will be incorporated into the CRMAP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA. The portions of this unit in the Alpine Triangle SRMA will continue to be managed for the ROS settings in the RAMP for that SRMA.

**Wild and Scenic River Study Segment.** The 1.9 mile-long portion of Segment A of the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, a segment found to be eligible, but not suitable, for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, will be managed according to this prescription and STANDARD MANAGEMENT for the RMP.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II objectives.

**Rights-of-Way.** No surface-disturbing activities will be permitted along Alder, Willow (west of Gunnison), and Razor Creeks, and along the lower one-mile of South Beaver Creek in the unit from July 1 through July 31 in order to prevent disturbance to sage grouse during the brood rearing period. Mitigating measures will be included in rights-of-way authorizations in these areas of this unit to prevent disturbance to brooding sage grouse.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 3,470 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 1,485 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 16

*Land Ownership:* 36,768 acres of Public Surface; 6% of the Planning Area

This unit consists generally of general resource lands.

This management unit is located throughout the planning area. Livestock grazing occurs in this unit containing public lands within "M" (20,300 acres) or "C" (4,777 acres), or "I" (915 acres) category grazing allotments. The unit is located within the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Concentrated public recreation use, such as camping and picnicking, occurs on a tract of public land approximately 400 acres in size along the Slate River.

The public lands will be managed according to this Management Unit prescription and Standard Management. No major BLM funded projects or

## DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

facilities will be developed. Studies and inventories involving habitat, vegetation, and other resources will be minimal.

Measures will be included in all plans for surface disturbing activities to prevent disturbance to wintering big game, soil erosion, and deterioration of visual resources and water quality.

Federal oil and gas estate totalling 252 acres under federal surface within 1/4 mile radius of sage grouse lek sites will be open to leasing with a no surface occupancy stipulation to prevent disturbance to strutting sage grouse. The federal oil and gas estate at the 40-acre Old Agency and the 60-acre Soap Creek FS administrative sites will be open to leasing with no surface occupancy in order to protect these uses and facilities from disturbance. Federal oil and gas estate, 4,580 acres under federal surface and 4,885 acres of split estate within elk calving areas, will be open to leasing with a timing limitation being in effect from April 16 through June 30 to prevent disturbance to calving elk. Variances to these stipulations may be granted (see Appendix K). For these same reasons, disposal of mineral materials will not be permitted on 4,580 acres of federal mineral estate from April 16 through June 30 within elk-calving areas, on 252 acres of federal mineral estate within 1/4 mile of sage grouse lek sites from April 1 through May 31, and on the two FS administrative sites yearlong.

**Livestock Grazing Management.** Livestock grazing will continue not to be authorized on 320 acres in Wildcat Creek drainage to help maintain Crested

Buttes' water supply. Range treatments or projects will be permitted otherwise in the unit, according to Standard Management for Livestock Grazing, and will be compatible with the objectives of this unit.

**Recreation Management.** The Slate River will be considered for the development of a campground.

Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands unit north of U.S. Highway 50, south of sections 17 and 18, T. 51 N, R. 1 W., N.M.P.M., east of West Antelope Creek, and west of the Gunnison River only (3,073 acres) will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30 if necessary, due to excessive snow depths or herd concentrations in order to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer. This designation and these routes are shown on a map and in Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

**Visual Resource Management.** The unit will be managed according to VRM Class II (11,159 acres), VRM Class III (6,892 acres) and VRM Class IV (14,882 acres) objectives. Rehabilitation measures will be conducted on 2,367 acres of public land classified as VRM IIR, IIIR, and IVR (lands with existing man-made visual intrusions) in order to improve scenic quality.

**Fire Management.** Wildfires on about 26,356 acres of public lands will be managed according to a conditional suppression policy and about 11,260 acres will be managed according to a full suppression policy.

## CHAPTER THREE RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

The livestock grazing management program, like all other resource programs in the Gunnison Resource Area, will be managed according to the decisions contained in this Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) and policies and regulations relating to BLM management. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) describes the livestock grazing management and other decisions as contained within Chapter Two, DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, rangeland resource management objectives for the RMP and planning area, and actions intended to achieve those objectives. Other decisions are included that are related to, or that could effect management of livestock grazing on public lands in the planning area. The information in this RPS complies with Supplemental Program Guidance for livestock grazing management in BLM Manual 1622.34.B, and BLM Manual Handbook H-4160-1, ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.

The RPS is a communication bridge between the two major decision points affecting livestock grazing management: the determination of livestock grazing management and other related land use decisions, and the determination of mutual agreements or grazing decisions that could be necessary to be issued to individual grazing permittees or lessees. As such, the RPS is intended to be a consolidated tracking mechanism for the livestock grazing management program, from the analysis conducted during the RMP process, through subsequent RMP decisions, to the implementation of grazing management actions.

See Table 3-1 in this chapter for a partial summary of the livestock grazing management program for allotments in this RMP. This table updates part of the information contained in Table B-5 in the Gunnison Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Table 3-1 also reflects livestock grazing management decisions anticipated in this RMP and ROD. Followup grazing decisions may be required in order to implement some livestock grazing management decisions in this RPS. Any implementation of these decisions or

followup decisions will be made according to BLM policy and regulations.

### RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY UPDATE(S)

Updates of this RPS will be issued as required by policy or more frequently as needed to document progress toward meeting objectives defined in the Gunnison Resource Area RMP. The RPS updates will serve primarily as a progress report and notice of future actions to be taken. The information in an RPS update will be sufficiently specific to allow interested parties to determine whether they may be adversely affected by any future actions. Those individuals or groups who notify the authorized officer in writing that anticipated decisions for a specific allotment may adversely affect their interests will be sent the proposed and final decisions by certified mail at the same time decisions are sent to the grazing permittees.

### CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND COOPERATION

Following distribution of this RPS and during the implementation of the Gunnison Resource Area RMP, the BLM is committed to communicating with all resource users. Consultation, cooperation, and coordination will focus on allotment-specific or general actions required to implement RMP objectives or decisions, such as:

1. Using every opportunity to notify and remind affected permittees of important resource management objectives in the RMP, for instance, during the annual issuance of grazing applications.
2. The timing, manner, and magnitude of any livestock use adjustments,
3. Formulation of action(s) needed to respond to resource management objectives and constraints,

## CHAPTER THREE

4. Development of needed grazing management practices,
5. Opportunities for range improvements, including the feasibility of cooperative development plans to include grazing use on lands administered by other agencies or lands controlled by the permittees, and
6. A monitoring program which will evaluate progress in achieving resource management objectives.

The Montrose District Grazing Advisory Board will be consulted in setting priorities for developing and installing range improvement projects within allotments and for advice on activity plan development as it concerns livestock operations.

### LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FROM STANDARD MANAGEMENT, CHAPTER TWO

Under the RMP, some resource management programs will be implemented according to standard management throughout the Planning Area. Management of resources identified as a result of future inventories or discoveries will generally be the same as for resources discussed and identified in this RMP. *Unless changes in or additions to standard management decisions are specifically addressed in the decisions for each Management Unit, these resources/resource uses, programs and activities would be managed according to the decisions below.*

#### Livestock Grazing Management.

##### *General Management*

Approximately 470,460 acres of suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing. Public lands unsuitable or unavailable for livestock grazing will continue to be excluded from livestock grazing unless monitoring or other sources of data indicate that the areas may be used for grazing. Total grazing preference in the Planning Area is approximately 60,135 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), of which

approximately 45,539 AUMs will be authorized for active use, and the remainder will be suspended use. Allotment categorization will be re-examined as needed based upon a change in categorization factors identified from monitoring data or other management and resource information.

##### *General Management Within "M" and "C" Allotments*

Existing allotment categorization and corresponding management levels, as defined in the 1987 Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), will be carried forward on all category "M" and "C" allotments.

##### *Management Within "I" Allotments*

On category "I" allotments, existing management and/or forage allocation levels will be adjusted when supported by monitoring data or other management and resource information, in order to achieve or maintain a desired plant community.

The Gunnison Resource Area RMP establishes the riparian and upland management goals and objectives outlined in paragraphs 1 through 6 below that are now in effect. All category "I" Allotments will be managed consistent with these goals and objectives to meet resource needs. Existing management and/or forage allocation levels will be adjusted if necessary and when supported by monitoring data or other management and resource information that indicates resource needs are not being met. Adjustments will be made in close consultation, cooperation, and coordination with permittees by agreement or decision.

##### *1. Within Uplands:*

Utilization of key forage species in uplands will be managed at levels that will allow for plant health or maintenance, watershed cover needs, and to provide quality forage and wildlife cover. On allotments without activity plans or grazing agreements prescribing grazing strategies designed to meet these needs, the maximum use level in uplands will be 40-60% of the current years production by weight on key forage species during the period of use. This will allow for at

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

during the period of use. This will allow for at least minimal management to begin on category "I" allotments until funding and personnel allow for activity planning and more intensive management.

### 2. Riparian Area Management Specific To Unit 14:

A 4-inch minimum stubble height will be maintained in Management Unit 14 (riparian areas that have been identified as important for sage grouse brood rearing) from June 15 through July 31, in order to provide for adequate brood rearing habitat. A 2½ inch stubble height will be required at all other times in Management Unit 14. It is expected that not only will sage grouse benefit, but in the mid to long-term, riparian areas will expand in size, resulting in more livestock forage.

### 3. Riparian Area Management Specific To Unit 15:

A 4-inch minimum stubble height will be maintained during the grazing period of use in Management Unit 15 (riparian areas that have been identified as important for fisheries management), in order to protect and maintain riparian and fishery values. These riparian areas will also be expected to improve in terms of fisheries, livestock forage production and other wildlife habitat needs.

### 4. Riparian Area Management Specific To Units 14 and 15:

In Management Units 14 or 15, the requirement to maintain a 4 inch stubble height will be flexible on allotments covered by activity plans or grazing agreements which prescribe other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian area management objectives. These site-specific riparian objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan for Management Units 14 and 15. The 4 inch stubble height requirement will be incorporated into all existing activity plans in these two management units, since existing plans do not adequately address riparian concerns. When these activity plans are

evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the management guidance described above.

The requirement to maintain a four inch stubble height in units 14 or 15 will become effective upon the signing of the ROD. In these units, the minimum 4 inch height requirement may be delayed if vigor and production of herbaceous riparian plants is not sufficient to meet livestock and wildlife needs, and adequate residual cover is not present. Flexibility will be considered for other management strategies defined in an activity plan or grazing agreement which adequately addresses riparian concerns.

In riparian areas in Management Units 14 and 15 where a 4 inch stubble height for key species will clearly not be achieved immediately upon implementation of the approved RMP, and where the key species have low vigor, there will be a recovery period of approximately one or two years that will depend on moisture conditions and other factors (recovery or improvement in vigor will be accomplished by rest, deferment, or other grazing strategies). The recovery period will allow plant vigor to improve and also will allow time to generate sufficient forage production for livestock needs and residue needed to maintain the 4 inch minimum stubble height. Where these conditions exist on allotments in units 14 or 15, a 2 1/2 inch minimum stubble height will be required during the period of use in order to help improve vigor of riparian vegetation. Flexibility to this 2 1/2" stubble requirement will be considered for those allotments in units 14 and 15 with activity plans or grazing agreements which prescribe other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian area management objectives.

In the event that minimum stubble heights do not exist in a riparian area in allotments at the prescribed turnout date, allotments will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and turnout will be either delayed, or livestock will be turned out on adjacent uplands and held there by salting, herding, hauling water, and/or other methods.

## CHAPTER THREE

These methods will be employed until riparian areas have received adequate growth.

### 5. Riparian Area Management Within "I" Allotments Except Those in Units 14 and 15:

Utilization of key forage species within all other riparian zones will not exceed 40-60% of the current years production, with a 2½ inch minimum stubble height maintained throughout the period of use. Utilization levels lower than 40% may be prescribed in severely degraded riparian areas. The 2½ inch stubble will allow for at least minimal management to begin on category "I" allotments until funding and personnel allow for activity planning and more intensive management. Flexibility to this 2½ inch stubble will be considered on those allotments with new activity plans or grazing agreements that utilize other grazing strategies, if these strategies clearly demonstrate the ability to achieve riparian management objectives.

Site specific objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan, including the maintenance, restoration, or improvement of riparian conditions (hydrologic, soil, and vegetation) and natural values. The 2½ inch stubble height will be incorporated into all existing AMPs or other activity plans. When these activity plans are evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the management guidance described above.

### 6. Management Common To All Riparian Zones in "I" Allotments:

a) Residual cover, or stubble height, is needed to improve or maintain riparian areas to a condition to allow proper hydrologic functioning during peak flows, reduce soil erosion, increase plant vigor (and eventually livestock forage), and to improve wildlife habitat (Clary and Webster 1989, Holechek et al 1989, Kinch 1989, Myers 1989, Platts 1982, USDA 1985). A minimum stubble is necessary during critical periods, such as spring runoff and the July and August

thunderstorm season. Critical periods vary from allotment to allotment due to elevation and other factors. Livestock will generally be turned into areas after key species have made sufficient growth to maintain the required minimum stubble heights. This will be consistent with the existing range readiness criteria (Appendix B) and average turnout dates. On allotments with AMPs or other activity plans, objectives and actions from these plans will also be considered when determining turnout dates. This will provide flexibility for early turnout on areas where plant maintenance and riparian system needs have been met.

b) The key herbaceous riparian forage species managed to maintain either a 4" or a 2 1/2" minimum stubble height objective will be grasses such as, but not limited to, Kentucky bluegrass, brome grass, redtop, wheatgrass, Timothy, tufted hairgrass, sedges, and rushes.

c) In the event that minimum stubble heights do not exist in a riparian area in allotments at the prescribed turnout date, allotments will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and turnout will be either delayed, or livestock will be turned out on adjacent uplands and held there by salting, herding, hauling water, and/or other methods. These methods will be employed until riparian areas have received adequate growth.

Livestock will be moved out of riparian areas to other pastures or other areas in the same pasture with adequate forage when the prescribed stubble height objective has been met or when other management prescriptions defined in activity plans or grazing agreements are fulfilled. Determining when required minimum stubble heights for riparian areas have been reached will be when key species average the minimum stubble height over 80% of a riparian area in a pasture. Realizing there are areas where cattle congregate or are gathered, the remaining 20% of a riparian area in a pasture or allotment could be grazed more heavily than required minimum stubble heights. Determining when other grazing strategies, defined in activity plans or grazing agreements, have been fulfilled will be done by

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

field compliance checks. Permittee participation in field compliance checks will be encouraged.

### *Grazing Administration*

Grazing administration under the RMP will be conducted in accordance with the following standard operating procedures as prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR 4100:

1. Grazing permits specifying the season of use, number, and kind of livestock will be issued to each operator for each allotment. Operators will have to obtain BLM approval before changing the grazing specifications outlined in their permits.
2. Livestock operators will be required to file actual-use reports showing how many and how long livestock grazed in each allotment and/or pasture. Use on the allotments will be supervised by BLM throughout the grazing year.
3. If necessary, actions resolving unauthorized use will be initiated as described in 43 CFR 4150. The unauthorized use will be eliminated and appropriate penalties assessed.
4. If it were determined, through monitoring, that adjustments in grazing preference or active use were necessary, implementation of changes in available forage will be done in compliance with 43 CFR 4110.3. Where possible, adjustments will be implemented by mutual agreement with the permittee. If agreements could not be negotiated, adjustments will be implemented by decision.

### *Range Improvements*

Structural and non-structural range improvements such as fences, water developments, burns, spray treatments, and others will continue to be identified and prescribed in activity plans or agreements. This will facilitate livestock management to achieve specific management and resource objectives defined in activity plans or agreements. Range projects and improvements constructed since 1981, and the amount

of BLM funds expended for these improvements, are shown in Table B-2, Appendix B. Table B-2 shows past trends regarding range improvements constructed in the Planning Area. Range improvements identified in the Gunnison Basin Management Framework Plan (MFP) Record of Decision (ROD) will not be incorporated into the RMP. However, any range improvements identified in the MFP ROD that were not implemented, and will enhance or facilitate resource management objectives will be considered for development. Existing range improvements will continue to be maintained as assigned in cooperative agreements and range improvement permits.

Cooperative agreements will be the preferred method to authorize range improvements. These agreements will be used to authorize all structural and non-structural, multiple-use range improvements (removable and non-removable). Range improvement permits will be used to authorize single use, removable range improvements required for livestock operations. These range improvements will be paid for and constructed by the permittee, or other non-federal entities. Maintenance will be assigned and contributions defined in both cooperative agreements and range improvement permits. All cooperative agreements and range improvement permits will comply with 43 CFR 4120.3-2 and 43 CFR 4120.3-3, respectively.

BLM's range improvement funding varies from year to year, depending on grazing fee receipts. Expenditures of funds will be budgeted and prioritized as follows:

- 1) Projects or treatments in which the Bureau of Land Management has the responsibility for operation, maintenance, or reconstruction.
- 2) Projects that conform with and will complete partially implemented activity plans.
- 3) Improvements prescribed in new activity plans or agreements.

Exceptions to this prioritization will be considered to avoid, minimize, or rehabilitate the effects of emergencies. Consideration will also be given to removal, modifications, or additions to improvements

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prescribed in existing activity plans that will further enhance resource conditions or take advantage of contributed funds. Category "I" allotments will normally receive priority over category "M" and "C" allotments.

All cost share or BLM funded improvements will require site specific environmental analysis, economic analysis, and resource clearances (cultural, threatened and endangered species etc.) before being authorized. Rancher or user funded projects will also require environmental analysis and appropriate resource clearances before being approved. Cooperative agreements and range improvement permits will specify the standards, design, construction, maintenance, or special conditions for range improvements or treatments.

Any additional forage available for livestock as a result of range improvements, treatments, or grazing management procedures will be allocated in accordance with 43 CFR 4100, and after meeting basic soil and watershed needs defined in Table I-1, in Appendix I of this document (Table I-1, showing target basal cover densities that will be achieved on treated areas before forage will be allocated to livestock grazing management, is derived from Appendix F of the Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines). Any additional forage available for livestock will be considered in reactivating suspended use or as a means to avoid suspending active use.

### *Fences*

Fences will be installed according to spacing, height, and other specifications described in the BLM Manual, Section 1740 and Handbook H-1741-1, for the control of livestock as well as the protection of wildlife. An example will be spacing the bottom wire of a 3-wire fence at 16 inches above the ground in pronghorn antelope ranges. Variances from these standards require approval of the authorized officer after consultation with affected parties.

### *Water Developments*

Federally funded livestock watering developments such as reservoirs (ponds), spring developments,

wells, water pipelines etc. will be developed and be safe for livestock and wildlife needs.

The appropriate State Engineer permits will be obtained for each project.

### *Weed and Pest Control*

A noxious weed program, and control of noxious weeds, will be initiated in cooperation with the local county weed district, county governments, and other affected interests.

### *Land Treatments*

Vegetation treatments will be done in accordance with approved BLM methods such as management application (grazing), burning, spraying, and chaining. Measures, such as (1) rest from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons, (2) fencing for protection of vegetation, and (3) establishing a grazing practice to ensure proper use, will be implemented on lands having recently been treated for vegetative manipulation purposes, in order to ensure the maximum opportunity for success of treatments. Land treatments will generally not be done on slopes greater than 25 percent depending on such factors as soils, type of treatment, and equipment limitations, in order to prevent soil erosion.

Reclamation of disturbed areas will involve seeding or planting a mixture of the major native species present within the range site/habitat type that are available commercially. If the erosion hazard is high, introduced species such as crested wheatgrass or annual rye may be used.

### *Activity Plans and Grazing Agreements*

Staff and permittee proposals will be considered and analyzed against office capabilities and priorities. If a decision is made to prepare an activity plan, a coordinated interdisciplinary approach will be used. Activity plans will also be developed with interdisciplinary staff input and consultation with permittees and other affected interests. Activity plans will incorporate allotment specific objectives for maintaining or improving livestock forage, wildlife and fish habitat, and riparian areas. Activity plans

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

will also prescribe appropriate management actions such as grazing practices, range improvements, or changes in season of use, to achieve allotment specific objectives. Innovative or non-traditional management strategies will also be considered. Table 3-2 illustrates Category "I" allotment prioritization for activity plan development/revision and management in general.

Allotment specific objectives and management actions required to achieve those objectives will also be defined in grazing agreements, and management actions will be included in the terms and conditions of permits or leases in compliance with 43 CFR 4130.6-2. This will allow for intensive management to address resource concerns when inadequate funding or personnel exist to prepare activity plans.

### *Monitoring*

Monitoring data collected will include interdisciplinary coordination and be conducted in accordance with the following procedures.

1. Actual use data will be obtained by indirect methods (statements from permittees which includes livestock numbers and periods of use) for all grazing allotments. All livestock operators will be required as part of the permit to submit actual use by pasture within 15 days from the end of the grazing season. Direct methods (counting livestock) for obtaining actual livestock numbers will be used as needed.
2. Utilization data will be collected on scheduled allotments or areas of concern using procedures described in BLM Technical Reference 4400-3. Stubble height measurements will document forage which is present during and/or after use has occurred. Stubble height will be measured as an average of the key species for the area observed. Utilization data will be used for evaluating the effects of grazing on rangeland to determine appropriate management strategies.
3. Rangeland trend monitoring will be conducted using procedures described in BLM Technical Reference 4400-4. The selection of method(s) for data collection will consider management

objectives, vegetation attributes (density, frequency, production, etc.) and actions for the allotment or area(s) of concern. Trend monitoring will be conducted as frequently as needed to satisfy data requirements for the allotment and/or other designated management area(s) evaluation.

4. Range readiness criteria, in Appendix B, for the Gunnison Resource Area considers both indicators of soil readiness and vegetative readiness. Plant species listed in Appendix B will be used, where applicable, as indicators of vegetative readiness. Key forage plant species will be considered as part of the overall range readiness evaluation for the specific allotment or area. Evaluation will be based on stage of development and/or size of plants. Ecological site, aspect, elevation and climate will be considered when evaluating development and/or size of plants.

Range readiness criteria will be considered when requests for livestock turn-out dates are earlier than dates specified on permits or when vegetation growing conditions are affected by drought or other natural or man-caused influences, such as, fire.

Range readiness will be incorporated into existing AMP's utilizing the criteria specified in Appendix B. However, the readiness criteria for allotments with AMP's or other activity plans will be specific to the allotment and/or areas within it. On allotments with AMPs or other activity plans, objectives and actions in these plans will also be considered when determining turnout dates. This will provide flexibility for early turnout on areas where plant maintenance and riparian system needs have been met. Range readiness criteria as documented in Appendix B will be used until allotment-specific criteria can be incorporated into each AMP or activity plan.

5. Use supervision on scheduled allotments or areas of concern will include counting livestock and observing distribution patterns; inspecting range improvements; observing apparent trend,

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utilization and growing conditions; and observing wildlife populations and movements, wildlife habitat, watershed and riparian conditions as needed. Documented observations made during use supervision field visits will identify where changes in grazing management are needed or those areas where more intensive monitoring is needed.

6. Precipitation data from rain gauges along with soil moisture monitoring and temperature data will be used to correlate vegetation production variations resulting from yearly variations in climate.
7. Soil erosion will be assessed in conjunction with rangeland trend and utilization monitoring.
8. Water quality and quantity will be monitored as necessary to determine the location of problem areas.
9. Ecological site inventories for uplands and riparian areas will be conducted in preparation for activity plans as needed on category "I" allotments. This will be done as part of the activity plan preparation process and as funding and personnel allow.

The types of data listed above will be used when evaluating stated objectives or actions on an allotment or specific area. The intensity of monitoring conducted for an allotment or specific area are determined, in part, by the Bureau's classification criteria for I, M, and C allotments. Other considerations for monitoring implementation include allotments with AMP's, allotments delineated as high priority for AMP or other activity plan development, and delineated areas of concern (i.e. riparian areas).

### LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FROM MANAGEMENT UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS, CHAPTER TWO

#### MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 (Part of Alpine Triangle SRMA)

*Land ownership:* 95,827 acres of public surface; 15% of the Planning Area.

The unit will continue to be managed as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation, while protecting important historic, scenic, and natural values. Motorized recreation sightseeing, hiking, camping, winter recreation, hunting, fishing, floatboating, and other recreation opportunities will be emphasized. Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Plans for surface-disturbing activities, including recreation use and development, will contain measures designed to minimize negative effects to resources, especially those that could impact adjacent recreation or scenic resources and fisheries and riparian habitat.

Overnight camping and fires will be excluded within 50 feet of historic resources on public land.

Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands within the unit south of the north line of Section 12, T. 45 N., R. 4 W., N. M. P. M., will be limited to designated routes, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and in the Gunnison Resource Area office. Snowmobile use will be permitted on snow anywhere in the unit, except in any lands designated as wilderness. When the CRMAP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA is prepared, a map will be included and areas defined on the ground delineating appropriate pull-off and parking areas adjacent to designated routes available for OHV use.

On public lands within the riparian area along Henson Creek, from the North fork of Henson Creek downstream to Lake City, livestock grazing in this important fishery will continue not be authorized in order to maintain stream and streamside conditions, including soils and vegetation.

Public hiking and horse access will be acquired into the Alpine Gulch drainage for recreation and livestock grazing management.

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 (Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA)

*Land Ownership:* 47,762 acres of Public Surface; 8% of the Planning Area.

This unit consists of lands managed for primitive, non-motorized recreational and natural values.

Public lands in Management Unit 2 will be designated as the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, and will be managed for primitive and semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation and scenic opportunities and for the maintenance and enhancement of natural values. The need to protect both the high quality and diversity of scenic, recreation, and other natural values, while reducing effects of recreation use will be recognized as important during the implementation of management decisions affecting the unit.

Measures to prevent soil erosion and water quality deterioration processes will be allowed to occur and surface-disturbing activities will be minimized.

Trail access to the unit from the Devil's Creek area will be located and constructed.

Public Lands in the unit will be closed to motorized vehicular traffic, unless otherwise authorized, to protect and maintain primitive recreation opportunities.

If the lands in the unit are acted upon by Congress for wilderness designation, and are not designated, lands in the unit will be evaluated and considered for moose introductions, which could be authorized by the District Manager following environmental analysis.

Domestic sheep grazing in grazing allotment 6112 will not be authorized in the unit in order to help prevent the potential for diseases being transferred to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep.

Cattle grazing will be authorized and administered in the unit such that recommended ROS settings will be maintained.

Vegetation treatments or improvements and treatment maintenance will be authorized if compatible with the objectives of this unit.

Livestock grazing along 2.2 miles of Fourth of July Creek, 10.2 miles of the East Fork of Powderhorn Creek, 8.3 miles of the Middle Fork of Powderhorn Creek, and 8.7 miles of the West Fork of Powderhorn Creek will be managed to maintain a 4-inch minimum stubble height for key forage species, during the grazing period of use, in these riparian zones containing important fisheries in order to improve and maintain stream and streamside conditions, including soils and vegetation. The minimum stubble height requirements along Fourth of July Creek, East Fork of Powderhorn Creek, Middle Fork of Powderhorn Creek, and West Fork of Powderhorn Creek will be implemented according to the STANDARD MANAGEMENT decisions for Livestock Grazing Management in Chapter Two of the RMP/ROD.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 (Cochetopa Canyon SRMA)

*Land Ownership:* 2,710 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area.

This unit consists of lands managed for day-use and overnight recreation along Cochetopa Creek. The management objectives for the unit will be to continue to provide and improve the existing diversity of recreation opportunities, with fishing and overnight camping adjacent to Highway 114 being emphasized.

Public lands in Management Unit 3 will be designated the Cochetopa Canyon SRMA, and will be managed according to the existing RAMP for a variety of recreation, scenic, and historical opportunities and settings at developed and dispersed sites.

Livestock grazing and watering will not be permitted in the riparian area along Cochetopa Creek in order to maintain or improve riparian and/or fishery conditions.

Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized throughout the unit to prevent disease transfer to domestic sheep.

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### **MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 (American Basin ACEC, And Part of The Alpine Triangle SRMA)**

*Land Ownership:* 1,597 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

The unit will be designated and managed as the American Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and will be managed to protect and enhance visual and other natural resources and existing related recreation opportunities in the unit.

This ACEC will continue to be contained within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA (see Map F-4, Appendix F in the RMP, for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Activities resulting in adverse visual impacts or unnecessary surface disturbances will not be permitted in order to prevent deterioration of scenic values.

Motorized vehicular travel will be limited to designated routes within the entire unit in order to prevent destruction to wildflower concentrations and visual resources in general.

Domestic livestock grazing will be administered in such a manner as to avoid conflicts between recreation visitors and grazing livestock, with the livestock management objective being to maintain recreation and scenic values, especially during the wildflower display and peak visitation periods.

Specific livestock grazing management for the unit will be incorporated into the overall CRMAP for the Alpine Triangle SRMA, and could include season of use changes, restrictions in areas that could be grazed, or possibly elimination of grazing in some areas.

### **MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 (Redcloud Peak ACEC, And a Part of The Alpine Triangle SRMA)**

*Land Ownership:* 5,960 acres of Public Surface; 1% of the Planning Area

The unit will be designated and managed as the Redcloud Peak Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and protection and enhancement of habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly and the species in the unit will be emphasized.

This ACEC will continue to be located within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation, while protecting important historic, scenic, and natural values (see Map F-4 in Appendix F in the RMP for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Surface disturbing activities will be restricted to protect the endangered species and existing and potential habitat of the species.

Motorized vehicular travel will be limited to designated routes, unless otherwise authorized, in order to protect habitat of the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. No routes are designated in the unit in this RMP.

On public lands within the unit, domestic sheep grazing will be controlled to prevent destruction of Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly habitat.

### **MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 (Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark ACEC, And a Part of The Alpine Triangle SRMA)**

*Land Ownership:* 1,405 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

The unit will be designated and managed as the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark

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Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to enhance and protect the natural values within the earthflow.

This ACEC will continue to be located within, and managed accordingly, as part of the existing Alpine Triangle SRMA, providing a diversity of recreation opportunities, including interpretation of the earthflow, while protecting important historic, scenic, and other natural values (see Map F-4 in Appendix F in the RMP for boundaries of the SRMAs in the planning area). Specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.

Surface disturbance within the unit will not be permitted if the natural values within the earthflow, including visual resources, will be degraded.

Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be limited to designated routes in order to prevent surface disturbance within the slide area.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 (West Antelope Creek ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 28,275 acres of Public Surface; 5% of the Planning Area.

The unit will be designated and managed as the West Antelope Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and to improve the capabilities of the resources in the unit to support wintering elk, deer, and bighorn sheep.

A CRMAP will be prepared for the unit, and will include management actions within the recommended Dillon Pinnacles ACEC, unit 9.

Land uses will be designed and implemented so as not to degrade big game winter range.

Surface-disturbing activities on public lands, including rights-of-way construction, will not be permitted from December 1 through April 30 on crucial elk and deer winter range, in order to prevent disturbances to wintering elk and deer.

In order to permit riparian conditions to improve, livestock grazing will not be authorized on public lands along North Willow Creek in the Stevens Creek Common Allotment, No. 6202, until the riparian area has recovered sufficiently to permit livestock use.

Grazing systems approved for public lands along North Willow Creek in the Stevens Creek Common Allotment, No. 6202, will include measures to facilitate the continued improvement of riparian conditions and resources.

Livestock grazing will not be authorized within Allotment 6200 in this unit in order to remedy conflicts involving wildlife habitat.

Non-conflicting and compatible livestock management objectives, projects, and mitigating measures will be incorporated into new activity plans, such as AMPs, HMPs or CRMAPs, before being implemented.

Approximately 600 acres of public land within or adjacent to the Sapinero State Wildlife Area will be closed to motorized vehicular use in order to be compatible with CDOW management on adjacent state-owned lands, as shown on a map in Appendix F in the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

Motorized vehicular use on the remaining 27,615 acres of public lands in the unit will be limited to designated routes, if necessary, from December 1 through April 30, to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer in the event of excessive snow depths or big game herd concentrations, as shown on a map and Table F-1, Appendix F, in the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 (South Beaver Creek ACEC)

*Land ownership:* 4,570 acres of Public Surface; Less than 1% of the Planning Area

The unit will be designated as the South Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and will be managed to protect and enhance existing populations and habitat of skiff milkvetch.

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An ACEC management plan will be prepared.

No chemical spraying will occur on public lands within the unit.

No vegetative treatments, or treatment maintenance will be conducted in the unit that would adversely effect skiff milkvetch populations or habitat.

Non-conflicting erosion control measures that do not alter existing skiff milkvetch habitat will be permitted.

No additional forage allocations will be made for either wildlife habitat or livestock grazing management.

Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized in the unit to avoid possible destruction of skiff milkvetch populations and related habitat.

To prevent accidental destruction of skiff milkvetch populations, and existing habitat, motorized vehicular traffic in the unit will be limited to designated routes as shown on a map and Table F-1, Appendix F, in the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 (Dillon Pinnacles ACEC)

*Land Ownership:* 535 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area.

The unit will be designated and managed as the Dillon Pinnacles Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and will be managed to protect scenic and recreational opportunities within the unit (the specific and appropriate management actions for this unit will be included in the ACEC management plan for unit 7).

Surface disturbing activities will not be permitted in the unit.

The unit will be closed to motorized vehicular travel to prevent deterioration of scenic values.

Livestock grazing will not be authorized within the unit in order to maintain a natural appearing landscape.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 10

*Land Ownership:* 15,112 acres of Public Surface; 3% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of lands containing yearlong bighorn sheep and other wildlife habitat.

An HMP will be prepared for the unit.

Surface disturbing activities will not be permitted in the unit.

Activities that will result in disturbance to lambing bighorn sheep will be restricted from April 15 through June 15.

Wildlife treatments recommended in the HMP as a result of monitoring will be permitted.

The unit will be managed to maintain or improve habitat capable of supporting a self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep, with herd sizes of about 100-150 animals in the Cochetopa Canyon and about 150 animals in the Cebolla Creek area.

Domestic sheep grazing will not be authorized in the unit to help prevent disease spreading from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep.

Livestock grazing will be managed in a manner compatible with the objectives of this unit.

Range improvements or treatments recommended in activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, as a result of monitoring will be permitted if compatible with maintaining bighorn sheep habitat.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 11

*Land ownership:* 57,525 acres of Public Surface; 10% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of sage grouse high production areas.

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

This management unit will be managed to improve and maintain sagebrush vegetative communities in order to optimize sage grouse populations.

Sagebrush treatments and management to improve sage grouse habitat will be considered in all activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, and their design, implementation, and management will incorporate as a minimum the sage grouse habitat management guidelines in Appendix A.

Deviations from the sage grouse habitat management guidelines in Appendix A may be granted by the authorized officer if it can be demonstrated that short term impacts will be offset by long term benefits to sage grouse and their habitat.

Proposed habitat improvements will be implemented and managed to maintain and improve these areas crucial to sage grouse populations.

All leks will be protected from destruction.

No surface disturbance will be permitted within 1/4 mile of all lek locations from April 1 through May 31 (strutting season) to prevent disturbance to sage grouse while mating.

Activities occurring on crucial elk and deer winter range in the unit will be restricted to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer from December 1 through April 30.

Compatible sagebrush treatments and projects will be permitted.

Range treatments, improvements, and projects meeting sage grouse habitat management objectives for this unit will be permitted.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 12

*Land ownership:* 91,547 acres of public surface; 16% of the Planning Area.

This unit contains elk and deer crucial winter range.

The unit will be managed to improve habitat conditions and increase the production and diversity of shrub species in upland and riparian vegetative types to support wintering populations of deer and

elk, and to help meet CDOW long-range herd goals.

An HMP or a CRMAP will be developed focusing on overall habitat improvement and intensive habitat management, and will include proposals for treatments and projects in uplands and riparian ecosystems to increase the production and composition of bitterbrush, serviceberry, mountain mahogany, willows, and cottonwoods (methods will include shrub plantings, burning, and techniques to convert decadent sagebrush stands to stands dominated by young sagebrush plants in the uplands).

Wildlife habitat treatments will be maintained to ensure success.

Domestic sheep grazing and trailing will be excluded within the portion of GMU 64 in the unit from October 15 through April 15 in order to eliminate forage competition with big game.

In the portions of GMU 55, 66, 67, and 551 within the unit, resources and land uses will be managed for the benefit of elk and deer winter habitat.

Activities that will result in unnecessary disturbances to big game will be excluded from December 1 through April 30.

Activities that will unnecessarily disturb elk within calving areas from April 16 through June 30 will be excluded.

Compatible range improvements, treatments, or projects will be permitted.

Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands in the unit north of U.S. Highway 50, east of the Gunnison River and west of Quartz Creek will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30, if necessary, due to big game herd concentrations or excessive snow depth, to prevent disturbance to wintering deer and elk, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

Public access will be acquired into the Bead Creek area for recreation and livestock grazing management.

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### MANAGEMENT UNIT 13

*Land Ownership:* 187,030 acres of Public Surface; 32% of the Planning Area

This unit generally contains "I" category livestock grazing allotments.

The unit will be managed to maintain or improve ecological conditions.

Suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing.

Activity plans, such as CRMAs or AMPs, will be developed, and existing AMPs will be updated as needed using CRMAs standards and procedures.

In order to permit riparian conditions and the fishery resource to improve, livestock grazing will not be authorized on public lands along approximately 1/4 mile of Los Pinos Creek in Allotment 6340 until the riparian area has recovered sufficiently to permit livestock use.

Activity plans developed that involve lands at High Mesa, Hartman Rocks, and Big Mesa will include and consider management objectives for all resources, including recreation management.

Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit on public lands in the area north of U.S. Highway 50, east of West Antelope Creek, and west of the Gunnison River will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30, if necessary, due to big game herd concentrations or excessive snow depths in order to prevent disturbance to wintering big game, as shown on a map and Table F-1 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office.

Administrative access will be acquired into the Huntsman Mesa area from Colorado Highway 149 for livestock grazing management and public access will be acquired into the Vulcan/Big Mud Pond area and into public lands east of Deer Beaver Creek for recreation and livestock grazing management; into Willow Creek in the Blue Mesa area for commercial forest, livestock grazing, and recreation management, and into the Sandy Mesa area and Poison Draw areas on Blue Mesa for commercial forest and livestock grazing management.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 14

*Land Ownership:* 2,667 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area

This unit consists of riparian areas containing important sage grouse broodrearing areas along about 25 miles of public land.

The unit will be managed to protect, restore and enhance these riparian areas on public lands in order to optimize sage grouse populations, with management objectives to provide high quality brood-rearing habitat with a diversity of plant species composition and structure, aimed at achieving improved riparian conditions, and achieving adequate vegetative cover necessary to avoid predation of foraging chicks. Emphasis will be placed on rehabilitating riparian areas where the riparian or hydrological condition is degraded.

Riparian improvement strategies and/or projects will be included in all CRMAs and other activity plans and implemented.

The herbaceous plant species will be increased to improve forage plants and insects for sage grouse.

The proportion of native bunch grasses will be increased to help meet escape and hiding cover requirements of sage grouse chicks.

Measures to reduce impacts to the riparian ecosystems and associated stream channels, and to prevent unnecessary removal of sage grouse brood habitat will be included in all surface-disturbing plans.

No surface disturbing activities will be permitted from June 15 through July 31 in order to prevent disturbance to sage grouse during the brood-rearing period.

All leks will be protected from surface disturbance.

A 4 inch minimum stubble height will be maintained from June 15 through July 31 in order to improve and provide cover for sage grouse chicks, to improve general riparian ecosystem conditions, and to help increase the proportion of native bunch grasses,

## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

resulting in more livestock forage. A 2½ inch stubble height will be required at all other times.

Where authorized, domestic sheep grazing will be permitted in the unit only after June 1 to prevent disturbance to nesting sage grouse and nests.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 15

*Land Ownership:* 4,725 acres of Public Surface; less than 1% of the Planning Area.

This unit, consisting of riparian areas containing important fishery streams along approximately 57 miles of public land, will be managed to restore and enhance the condition of fishery streams.

The CRMAPP to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA will also address the management of the riparian areas in this unit that are located within the SRMA boundary and appropriate management actions and recommendations from this prescription will be incorporated into the CRMAPP (see Map F-4, Appendix F, for the boundary of the SRMA).

Projects will be developed where necessary to stabilize and restore stream banks and improve instream conditions.

The Resource Area HMP will be revised to include recommendations in this unit.

When grazing occurs in the unit, a minimum stubble height of 4 inches will be maintained for key herbaceous forage species within riparian zones, in order to improve stream and streamside conditions, including soils and vegetation in the associated riparian zones, and the minimum stubble height will be implemented according to the Standard Management Livestock Grazing Management decisions in Chapter Two of this RMP/ROD.

Livestock grazing will continue to not be authorized along Henson Creek in order to maintain riparian, fishery, and scenic values.

Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit is described in the numbered paragraphs below, and is shown on a map and Table F-4 in Appendix F of the RMP, and on maps in the Gunnison Resource Area office:

1. OHV traffic south of Lake City (1,680 acres) will be limited to designated routes yearlong, with snowmobile use permitted anywhere on snow (except on any areas eventually designated as wilderness). When the CRMAPP is prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA, a map will be included and areas defined on the ground delineating appropriate pull-off and parking areas adjacent to designated routes.

2. Motorized vehicular traffic in the unit on Alder Creek (235 acres) will be limited to designated routes, if necessary, from December 1 through April 30, in order to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer on crucial big game winter range.

No surface-disturbing activities will be permitted along Alder, Willow (west of Gunnison), and Razor Creeks, and along the lower one-mile of South Beaver Creek in the unit from July 1 through July 31 in order to prevent disturbance to sage grouse during the brood rearing period.

### MANAGEMENT UNIT 16

*Land Ownership:* 36,768 acres of Public Surface; 6% of the Planning Area

This unit consists generally of general resource lands, and is located throughout the planning area.

No major BLM funded projects or facilities will be developed.

Measures will be included in all plans for surface disturbing activities to prevent disturbance to wintering big game, soil erosion, and deterioration of visual resources and water quality.

Livestock grazing will continue not to be authorized on 320 acres in Wildcat Creek drainage to help maintain Crested Buttes' water supply. Range treatments or projects will be permitted otherwise in the unit, according to Standard Management for Livestock Grazing, and will be compatible with the objectives of this unit.

Motorized vehicular traffic on public lands unit north of U.S. Highway 50, south of sections 17 and 18, T. 51 N, R. 1 W., N.M.P.M., east of West Antelope

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Creek, and west of the Gunnison River only (3,073 acres) will be limited to designated routes from December 1 through April 30 if necessary, due to

excessive snow depths or herd concentrations in order to prevent disturbance to wintering elk and deer.

Table 3-1  
PARTIAL SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM BY ALLOTMENT

ALLOTMENT NUMBER	AMP CATEGORY[1]	STATUS[2]	GRAZING PREFERENCE (AUMs)			KIND OF LIVESTOCK[3]	SEASON OF USE[4]
			Active	Suspended	Total		
6001	M	N	280	94	374	S	SP-SU-FA
6003	C	N	22	46	68	C	SP-SU-FA
6004	C	N	13	11	24	C	SP-SU-FA
6005	M	N	10	18	28	C	SP-SU-FA
6006	C	N	27	133	160	C	SP-SU-FA
6007	M	N	29	61	90	C	SP-SU-FA
6008	C	N	17	17	34	S	SP-SU-FA
6011	I	N	186	67	253	C	SP-SU
6013	C	N	14	14	28	C	SP-SU-FA
6014	C	N	4	0	4	C	SP-SU-FA
6015	C	N	6	1	7	C	SP-SU-FA
6016	C	N	25	86	111	S	SP-SU-FA
6018	I	N	75	105	180	S	SU
6021	C	N	15	0	15	C	SP-SU-FA
6022	M	N	8	52	60	C	SP-SU-FA
6024	C	N	30	59	89	C	SP-SU-FA
6026	C	N	7	0	7	S	SP-SU-FA
6027	C	N	12	44	56	C	SU
6028	C	N	10	0	10	C	SP FA
6029	C	N	9	27	36	C	SU-FA
6030	C	N	22	2	24	C	SP-SU-FA
6031	M	N	190	0	190	C	FA
6032	M	N	206	74	280	S	SU-FA
6033	I	Y	494	110	604	C	SP-SU-FA
6034	I	N	101	63	164	C	SU-FA
6035	I	Y	70	0	70	C	SP-SU-FA
6036	C	N	8	3	11	S	FA
6037	C	N	19	9	28	C	SP-SU-FA
6038	C	N	4	0	4	C	FA-WI
6040	C	N	31	0	31	C	SU
6043	M	N	75	0	75	C	SP-SU
6050	M	N	272	0	272	S	SP-SU-FA
6051	I	N	13	21	34	S	SP-SU-FA
6052	I	N	88	0	88	S	SP-SU-FA
6053	M	N	102	18	120	S	SP-SU
6054	C	N	21	15	36	C	SU-FA
6056 [5]	I	N	107	75	182	S	SP
6057	C	N	9	0	9	C	SU
6100	M	N	1791	81	1872	S	SP-SU-FA
6101	M	N	684	0	684	S	SP-SU-FA
6102	M	N	347	0	347	S	SU
6103	I	Y	944	538	1482	C	SP-SU-FA
6104	I	Y	845	1495	2340	C	SP-SU-FA
6105	I	Y	475	126	601	C	SP-SU-FA
6106	M	N	190	0	190	CS	SP-SU-FA
6107	I	Y	10843	5035	15878	C	SP-SU-FA
6108	I	Y	1432	767	2199	C	SP-SU-FA
6109	M	N	496	0	496	C	SP-SU-FA

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Table 3-1 (continued)  
PARTIAL SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM BY ALLOTMENT

ALLOTMENT NUMBER	AMP CATEGORY[1]	STATUS[2]	GRAZING PREFERENCE (AUMs)			KIND OF LIVESTOCK[3]	SEASON OF USE[4]
			Active	Suspended	Total		
6110	I	N	31	0	31	C	SP
6111	I	N	250	23	273	C	SP-SU-FA
6112 [6]	I	N	354	0	354	C	SP FA
6113	C	N	13	1	14	C	SP-SU-FA
6114 [6]	C	N	20	0	20	C	SP-SU-FA
6115	I	N	530	0	530	S	SU
6116	M	N	76	0	76	C	SP-SU-FA
6117	M	N	132	27	159	C	SU-FA
6118	C	N	4	0	4	H	SU
6119	I	Y	10	0	10	C	FA
6120	I	N	89	30	119	C	SP FA
6121	I	N	165	46	211	C	SP-SU-FA
6123	C	N	9	0	9	C	SP-SU-FA
6125	C	N	8	8	16	C	SP-SU
6127	M	N	10	0	10	C	SP-SU-FA
6128	C	N	120	0	120	C	SP-SU-FA
6129	C	N	21	22	43	C	SP-SU-FA
6130	C	N	9	0	9	C	SP-SU-FA
6131	C	N	54	20	74	C	FA-WI
6132	C	N	5	0	5	C	SP
6150	M	N	23	16	39	C	SP
6180	I	N	74	0	74	C	SP FA
6202	I	N	724	107	831	C	SP FA
6203	I	Y	673	0	673	C	SP-SU-FA
6204	M	N	26	23	49	H	SP-SU
6205	C	N	8	0	8	C	SP WI
6206	I	N	180	0	180	C	SP
6208	I	N	489	0	489	C	SP
6210	I	N	20	7	27	C	SU
6212	M	N	46	0	46	C	SP-SU-FA
6213	M	Y	166	0	166	C	SP-SU-FA
6216	I	N	167	58	225	C	SP-SU
6217	M	N	77	0	77	C	SU-FA
6300	I	Y	1111	0	1111	C	SP-SU-FA
6301	I	Y	1154	0	1154	C	SP FA
6302	I	Y	1487	0	1487	C	SP FA
6303	I	N	85	15	100	C	SP FA
6304	I	N	234	40	274	C	SP
6305	I	N	421	134	555	C	SP-SU-FA
6306	I	N	45	5	50	C	SP
6307	C	N	26	0	26	CH	SP-SU-FA
6308	I	N	107	0	107	C	SP-SU-FA
6309	I	N	248	0	248	C	SP-SU-FA
6310	I	N	62	38	100	C	SP
6311	I	Y	3553	1264	4817	C	SP-SU-FA
6312	I	Y	1162	0	1162	C	SP-SU-FA
6313	I	Y	892	0	892	C	SP-SU-FA
6314	M	N	47	0	47	C	SU
6315	M	N	157	49	206	C	SU-FA
6316	I	N	318	122	440	C	SP-SU
6317	I	N	922	124	1046	CH	SP-SU-FA
6318	I	N	867	112	979	C	SP-SU-FA

CHAPTER THREE

Table 3-1 (continued)  
PARTIAL SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM BY ALLOTMENT

ALLOTMENT NUMBER	AMP CATEGORY [1]	STATUS [2]	GRAZING PREFERENCE (AUMs)			KIND OF LIVESTOCK [3]	SEASON OF USE [4]
			Active	Suspended	Total		
6319	I	N	318	0	318	C	SP
6320	M	N	147	0	147	C	SP-SU
6323	I	N	118	17	135	C	SP-SU
6324	I	N	22	0	22	C	SP
6325	I	N	137	0	137	C	SP
6326	I	N	80	0	80	C	SP-SU
6327	I	N	200	0	200	C	SP-SU-FA
6328	M	N	324	0	324	C	SP-SU-FA
6329	I	N	245	0	245	C	SP-SU-FA
6330	I	N	30	0	30	C	SP-SU-FA
6331	I	N	264	101	365	C	SP-SU-FA
6338	M	Y	120	0	120	C	SP-SU-FA
6339	C	N	23	0	23	C	SP-SU-FA
6342	I	N	215	69	284	C	SU
6344	M	Y	332	0	332	C	SP-SU-FA
6346	M	N	50	10	60	C	SP-SU-FA
6347	M	Y	216	423	639	C	SP-SU-FA
6348	I	N	108	86	194	C	SP-SU-FA
6349	C	N	10	0	10	C	SP-SU-FA
6350	I	N	144	26	170	C	SP-SU-FA
6352	C	N	10	0	10	C	SU
6353	I	N	138	0	138	C	SU
6358	C	N	21	0	21	C	SP-SU-FA
6359	I	N	40	60	100	C	SP-SU
6360	M	N	23	15	38	C	SP-SU
6362	I	Y	507	117	624	CS	SP-SU-FA
6365	C	N	11	0	11	C	SP-SU
6400	C	N	8	30	38	C	SP-SU-FA
6401	C	N	27	81	108	C	SU-FA
6500	M	N	126	402	528	C	SP-SU-FA
6501	I	N	43	0	43	S	SU
6502	I	Y	450	418	868	S	SU-FA
6503	I	N	242	0	242	C	SP-SU-FA
6504	I	Y	400	86	486	S	SU-FA
6505	I	Y	1080	711	1791	S	SU
6506	I	Y	300	0	300	S	SU-FA
6507	I	Y	236	31	267	SH	SU-FA
6508	C	N	65	0	65	S	SU-FA
6509	I	Y	550	355	905	S	SU-FA
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>45,539</b>	<b>14,596</b>	<b>60,135</b>	<b>[7]</b>	

- [1] Allotment Category: "M" (32 Allotments) = maintain, "I" (66 Allotments) = improve, and "C" (41 Allotments) = custodial.
- [2] AMP Status: "N" allotment has no AMP (Allotment Management Plan), "Y" allotment has an AMP.
- [3] Kind of Livestock: "C" are cattle, "H" are horses, and "S" are sheep.
- [4] Season of Use: "SP" is spring, "SU" is summer, "FA" is fall, and "WI" is winter.
- [5] A grazing decision will be issued according to BLM policy and regulations to implement a change in season of use in this allotment, or part of the allotment (see Management Unit 12 for the land use decision regarding this change).
- [6] A grazing decision will be issued according to BLM policy and regulations to implement a change in the kind of livestock that will be authorized for these allotments, or parts of these allotments. See the prescriptions for units 2 and 10 for the land use decisions regarding these changes.
- [7] After a review of grazing case files and preparation of this table for the RPS, the number of AUMs of Total, Active, and Suspended preference differs from numbers published in the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. See Chapter One, Page 1-6, item 5, for an explanation of why these numbers are different in this document.

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

Table 3-2  
 CATEGORY "I" ALLOTMENT PRIORITIZATION  
 FOR  
 ACTIVITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT/REVISION [1]

General Ranking	Allotment Number	Allotment Name
1	6107	Iola Powderhorn [2]
2	6317	South Parlin Flats [3]
3	6318	Camp Kettle Gulch [4]
4	6319	Tomichi
5	6304	Doyleville Common
6	6309	Tomichi Dome
7	6311	Gold Basin
8	6108	Park Creek
9	6313	Stubbs Gulch
10	6305	Woods Gulch Common
11	6208	West Antelope Common
12	6206	Blinberry Gulch
13	6312	Lower Cochetopa Common
14	6104	Powderhorn
15	6110	Ranch Pasture
16	6302	Alder Creek
17	6301	Cabin Creek
18	6505	Grizzly Gulch
19	6203	Beaver Creek
20	6103	Indian Creek
21	6035	Metzler Basin
22	6300	Sheeps Gulch
23	6509	American Lake
24	6502	Red Cloud
25	6362	Cold Springs
26	6033	Willow Creek
27	6011	Big Willow
28	6034	Little Willow
29	6326	Snyder Gulch
30	6105	Yeager Gulch
31	6504	Hensen Creek
32	6506	Upper Burrows Park
33	6507	American Flats

[1] The ability to complete planning is related to funding and staffing capabilities; coordinated planning may accelerate the rate of planning on allotments

[2] Scheduled for completion in 1993

[3] Scheduled for completion in 1993

[4] Scheduled for completion in 1994

CHAPTER THREE

Table 3-2 (Cont'd.)  
 CATEGORY "I" ALLOTMENT PRIORITIZATION  
 FOR  
 ACTIVITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT/REVISION

General Ranking	Allotment Number	Allotment Name
34	6503	Lower Burrows Park
35	6202	Stevens Creek
36	6115	Devils Lake
37	6316	Bead Creek
38	6329	Razor Creek Dome
39	6331	Los Pinos Creek
40	6112	Cebolla Creek
41	6342	Dome Pasture
42	6111	Cathedral
43	6119	Spring Creek
44	6216	Antelope Creek
45	6121	Spring Gulch
46	6327	Vouga Reservoir
47	6348	Texas Creek
48	6056	Highway
49	6018	High Mesa
50	6350	Van Tassel Gulch
51	6353	Lower Means
52	6325	Mill Hill Common
53	6323	Barrett Creek
54	6120	Red Bridge
55	6308	Hot Springs Creek
56	6310	Pleasant View
57	6303	Line Spring
58	6359	Razor Creek
59	6052	Big Park
60	6180	Rock Creek Park
61	6306	Waunita Hot Springs
62	6501	Ramboulet Park
63	6051	Big Blue
64	6330	East Moss Lake
65	6210	Deep Gulch
66	6324	Needle Creek

## APPENDIX A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Table A-1

### CDOW LONG RANGE HERD GOALS

GMU	ELK <sup>1</sup>	DEER <sup>1</sup>
54 <sup>2</sup>	3,000	4,800
55/551 <sup>3</sup>	3,000	5,000
<u>66/67<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>6,800</u>
Totals	9,000	16,600

Note: <sup>1</sup> Numbers represent the total projected animals present including Federal, State, and private lands.

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 30% of big game winter range in this GMU is BLM; National Park Service(NPS) land was excluded in the calculation.

<sup>3</sup> Approximately 45% of big game winter range in this GMU is BLM.

<sup>4</sup> Approximately 57% of big game winter range in this GMU is BLM; NPS land was excluded in the calculation.

Table A-3

### LONG-RANGE DEER HERD GOALS ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE PLANNING AREA

GMU	NUMBERS OF DEER <sup>1</sup>
54	2,000
55	2,250
64 & 65	130
66	1,000
67	700
551 North	1,000
<u>551 South</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Totals	8,830

Note: <sup>1</sup> Herd goal numbers would be managed to support deer numbers within proper utilization levels on public lands. Numbers are approximate.

Table A-2

### LONG-RANGE ELK HERD GOALS ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE PLANNING AREA

GMU	NUMBERS OF ELK <sup>1</sup>
54	1,250
55	700
64 & 65	97
66	1,100
67	800
551 North	400
<u>551 South</u>	<u>400</u>
Totals	4,747

Note: <sup>1</sup> Herd goal numbers would be managed to support elk numbers within proper utilization levels on public lands. Numbers are approximate.

Table A-4

### ELK AND DEER INTERIM HERD GOALS ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE PLANNING AREA

GMU	ELK <sup>1</sup>	DEER <sup>1</sup>
54	1,150	1,400
55	700	1,575
64 & 65 <sup>2</sup>	97	130
66	1,100	700
67	800	500
551 North	400	700
<u>551 South</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>1,225</u>
TOTALS	4,647	6,230

Note: <sup>1</sup> Numbers represent recommended interim elk or deer herd goals for all BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area, until shrub production and vigor increases.

<sup>2</sup> A reduction in elk and deer numbers would be recommended to CDOW in GMU 64. The number is not known at the time this document was printed.

**APPENDIXES**

Table A-5

**MANAGEMENT UNIT NUMBERS  
KEYED TO CDOW GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT NUMBERS IN THE PLANNING AREA**

<b>CDOW GMU NUMBER<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>BLM RMP MU NUMBER<sup>2</sup></b>
54	7 <sup>3</sup> , 9 <sup>3</sup> , 13, 16
55	12, 15, 16
64	12
65	1, 13, 15, 16
66	1, 2 <sup>3</sup> , 4 <sup>3</sup> , 5 <sup>3</sup> , 6 <sup>3</sup> , 10, 12, 13, 15, 16
67	3, 8 <sup>3</sup> , 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
551 North	12, 14, 16
551 South	3, 11, 12, 14, 15

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> CDOW GMU = Colorado Division of Wildlife Game Management Unit
- <sup>2</sup> BLM RMP MU = Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Management Unit
- <sup>3</sup> These Management Units are entirely contained in the noted GMU.

**GUIDELINES FOR SAGE GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

Manage for sagebrush conditions that maintain the following habitat components for sage grouse.

**A. Management Guidelines Common to All Sage grouse Habitat Areas**

- 1. Protect all strutting grounds, or leks, from destruction.
- 2. Allow no treatments that would remove more than 25% of the sagebrush within one-half mile of all leks.

- 3. Protect sagebrush taller than 15 inches on dry south facing slopes greater than or equal to five percent and on ridge tops with slopes less than or equal to five percent.
- 4. Maintain sagebrush on public lands within 300 feet of irrigated hay meadows or pastures for escape cover.
- 5. In sagebrush stands having an average height of 10 to 15 inches, maintain a 10 to 15% overstory cover for summer habitat.
- 6. In order to protect brood-rearing cover and forage, maintain 50% of

the sagebrush within a 600 foot buffer zone around wetlands, wet and sub-irrigated meadows, and riparian areas. Untreated areas will be representative of the total treatment area with the 600 feet prior to treatment.

7. Maintain 50% of the tall dense sagebrush in drainage for winter habitat.
8. Manage for a canopy cover of 20-30% in sagebrush stands 15 to 20 inches high.

**B. Management Guidelines in Sage Grouse High Production Areas**

1. Sagebrush treatments would not remove more than 30% of the sagebrush within two miles of a lek in high production areas. This 30% should contain equal amounts of all types of canopy cover and height.

**C. Management Guidelines Outside of Sage grouse High Production Areas but Within Sage Grouse Habitat Areas.**

1. Sagebrush treatments would not remove more than 50% of the sagebrush within two miles of a lek. This 50% should contain equal amounts of all types of canopy cover and height.

**NON-GAME MANAGEMENT  
IN TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS**

Manage timber resources to improve or maintain habitat for timber dependent non-game wildlife.

Within all timber types, maintain a 200 acre block of undisturbed forest around all goshawk nests to meet nesting requirements. Maintain two slash piles and five logs 20" or greater DBH per acre for small mammals, black bears, and pine martens.

Within proposed clearcuts, maintain two-to-five snag trees for each three-to-four acres of clearcut; minimum diameter of snag trees at breast height would be 18", with a minimum height of 20 feet; if snag trees are not available in areas to be clearcut, live trees meeting these criteria would be girdled.

Maintain 30% of the ponderosa pine for Abert squirrels as follows: uneven-aged; 11-36 inches DBH; 200 stems per acre with basal area of 150-200 square feet, canopy closure greater than 80% with interlocking branches; and crowns 30-50 feet above the floor. Furthermore, trees meeting the parameters should occur in contiguous stands 1 to 2 acres.

Maintain a variety of all ecosystem timber types and all five forest structural stages that would maintain viable populations of non-game wildlife as identified in the Managing Forest Lands for Wildlife handbook. Increase the grass and forb component of sagebrush communities and maintain sage cover of 25%. A combination of good ground cover with sagebrush provides optimum habitat for small mammals and birds.

**APPENDIXES**

**Table A-6**

**MITIGATION FOR BIRDS OF PREY HABITAT**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>HABITAT<sup>1</sup> TYPE</b>	<b>TYPES OF SURFACE DISTURBANCE RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN OR SURROUNDING NESTS, ROOSTS, OR HABITAT<sup>2</sup></b>	
		<b>PUBLIC LANDS WHERE NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE WILL OCCUR YEARLONG</b>	<b>PUBLIC LANDS WHERE SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS FOR SURFACE DISTURBANCE WILL APPLY</b>
Ferruginous Hawk	Nesting	1/8 mile radius of nest	3/1-6/31, between 1/8 and 1/4 mile radius
Golden Eagle	Nesting	1/8 mile radius of nest	2/15-7-15, between 1/8 and 1/4 mile radius
Prairie Falcon	Nesting	1/8 mile radius of nest	3/15-7-31, between 1/8 and 1/4 mile radius
Peregrine Falcon	Nesting	1/8 mile radius of nest	3/15-7/31, between 1/8 and 1/4 mile radius
Bald Eagle	Nesting Active/Inactive	1/8 mile radius of nest	11/15-7/31, between 1/8 and 1/2 mile radius
	Roost Diurnal/Nocturnal	1/8 mile radius of nest	11/15-3/15, between 1/8 and 1/2 mile radius
	Crucial Winter	1/8 mile radius of nest	11/15-3/15, between 1/8 and 1/2 mile radius
Other Raptors	Nesting	1/8 mile radius of nest	2/15-7/15, between 1/8 and 1/4 mile radius

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Diurnal and Nocturnal = daytime and nighttime, respectively.  
<sup>2</sup> If habitat is located within planned surface disturbance site(s), specific inventories would determine if habitat would be affected and appropriate mitigation determined at that time.

**CHANGES IN THE KIND OF LIVESTOCK FOR BIGHORN SHEEP OR PRONGHORN ANTELOPE IN THE PRMP**

Several grazing allotments were approved for conversion of the kinds of livestock that would be authorized from cattle or sheep to cattle only in 1989, in order to enhance management of bighorn sheep or pronghorn antelope and their habitat. Several allotments are proposed for the same type of change

in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) in order to enhance management of bighorn sheep and their habitat. These changes were incorporated into the Draft Gunnison Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP) and the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP), and are incorporated into the Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). Table A-7 below lists the allotments that will be subject to the changes.

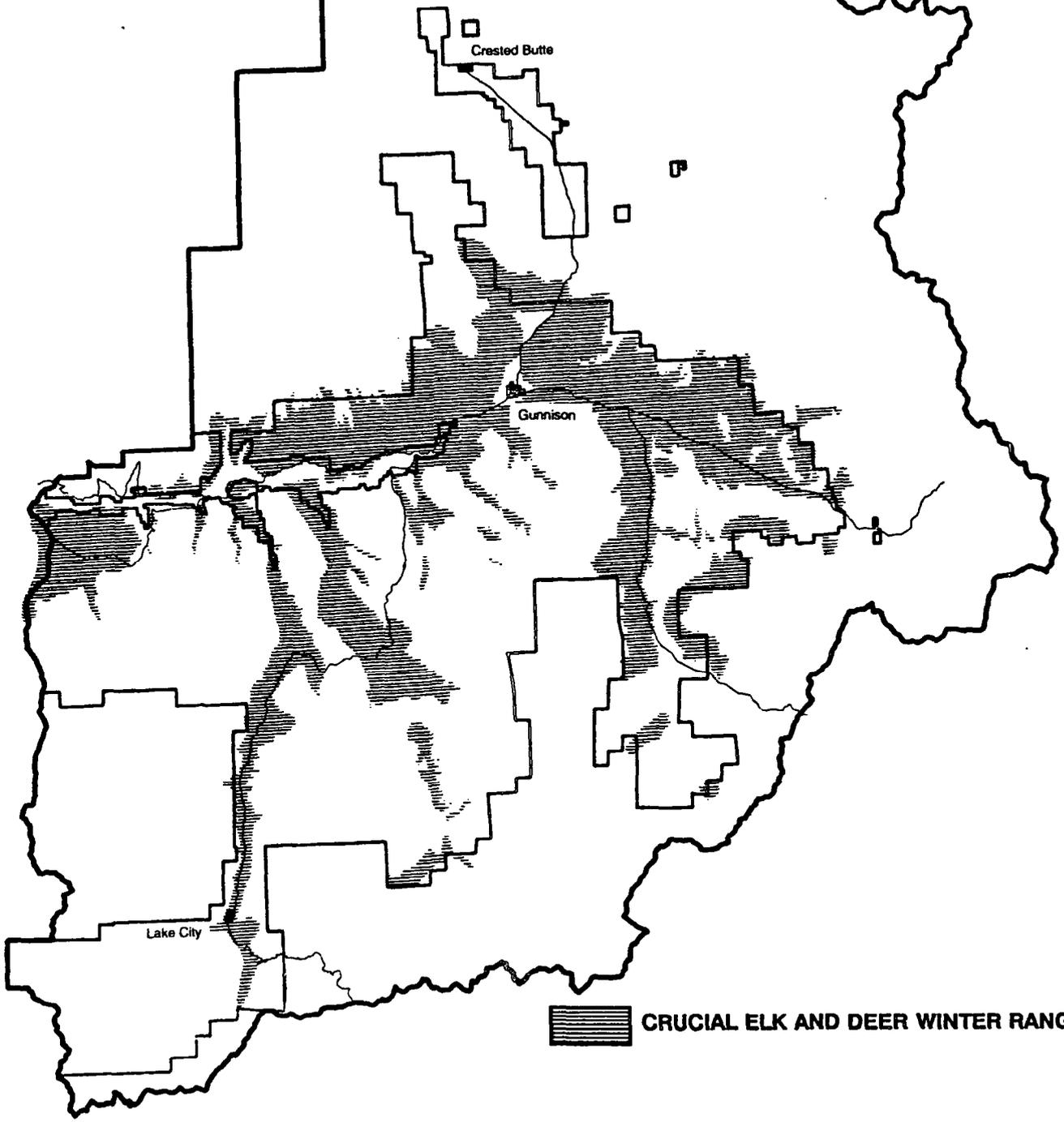
Table A-7  
ALLOTMENTS WHERE A CHANGE  
IN KIND OF LIVESTOCK WILL OCCUR

<i>BIGHORN SHEEP</i>		<i>PRONGHORN ANTELOPE</i>
Allotments Approved For Conversion in 1989	Allotments Proposed For Conversion in The RMP	Allotments Approved For Conversion in 1989
6312	6108	6312
6316	6109	6314
6317	6111	6319
6318	6112	
6328	6113	
6329	6114	
6338	6119	
	6180	
	6200[1]	

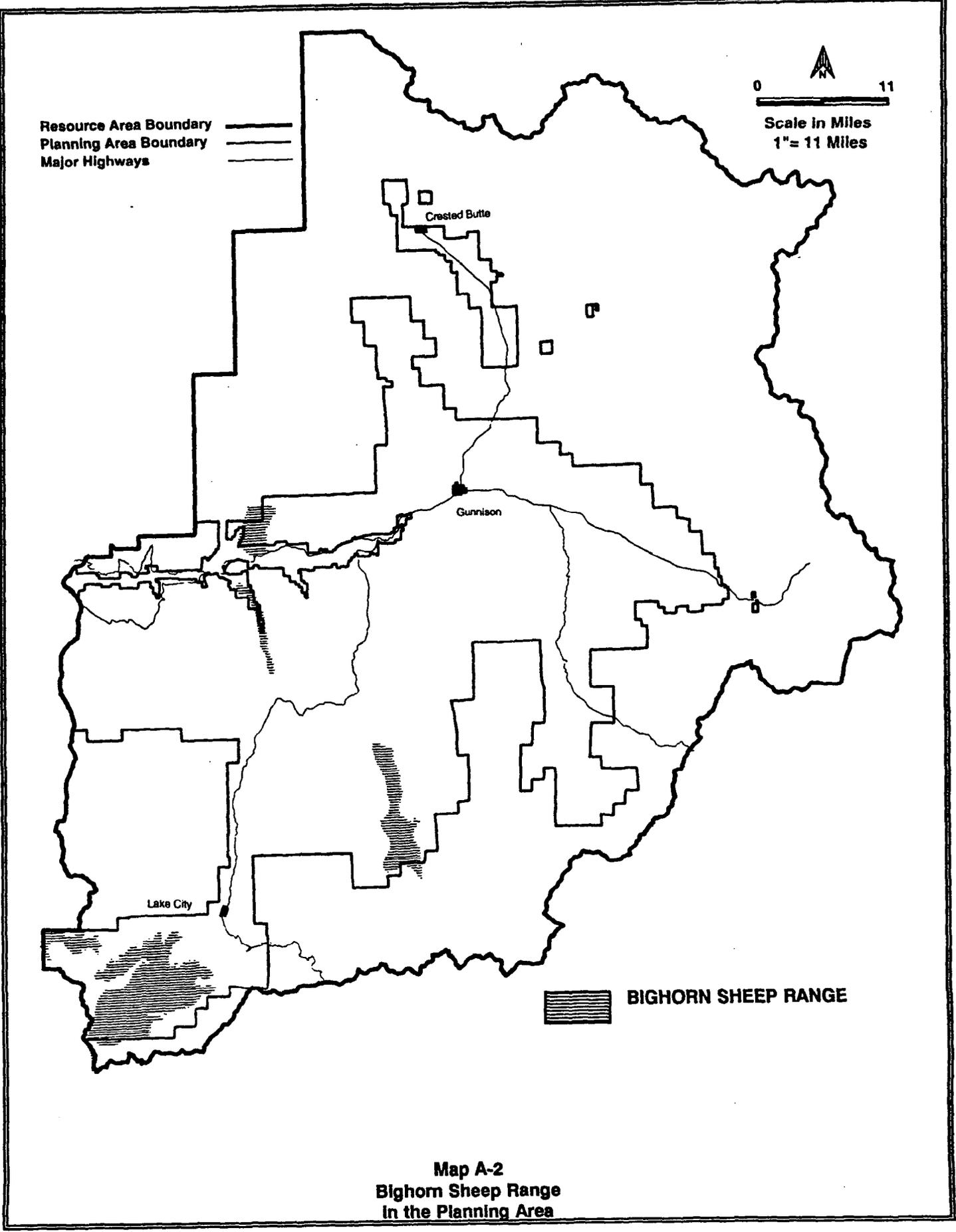
[1] Livestock grazing will not be authorized in Allotment 6200 in Management Unit 7. See the prescription for Management Unit 7.

Resource Area Boundary  
Planning Area Boundary  
Major Highways

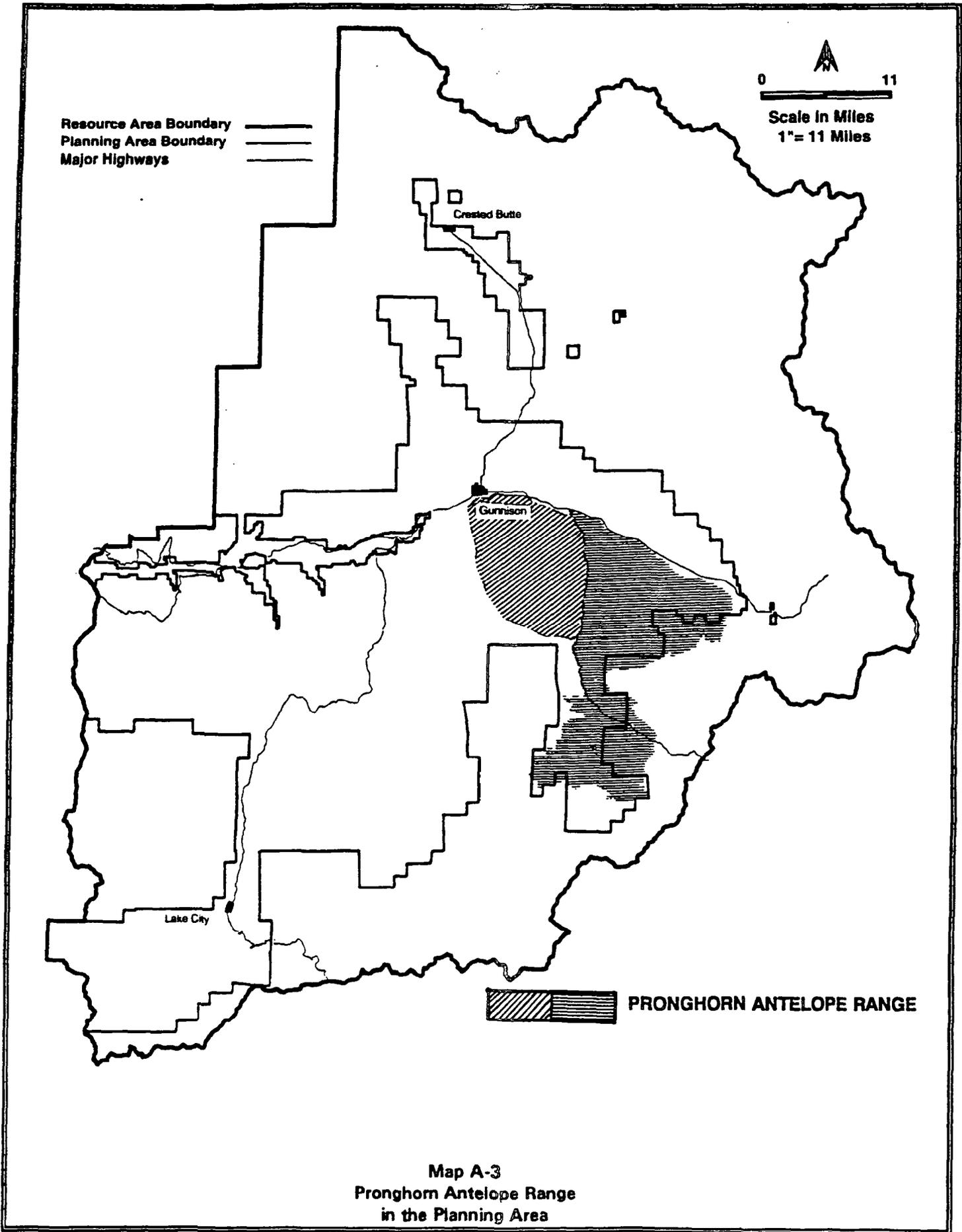
0 11  
Scale in Miles  
1" = 11 Miles



Map A-1  
Crucial Elk and Deer Winter Range  
in the Planning Area



**Map A-2**  
**Bighorn Sheep Range**  
**in the Planning Area**



## APPENDIX B LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

### RANGE READINESS CRITERIA FOR THE GUNNISON RESOURCE AREA

Criteria for range readiness consists of two elements:  
(1) soil readiness and (2) vegetation readiness.

**Soil Readiness.** Soils are especially vulnerable to damage in early season because of high soil moisture. Grazing at this time can damage soils, causing loss in productivity. Livestock should be excluded from the allotment at this critical period to allow the soil to become firm and plants to complete their early growth. Where applicable, snow should be absent from stock driveways.

#### Indicators of Soil Readiness:

Soils should be firm before grazing starts and moisture content should be low enough to insure that:

1. Soils will not be compacted resulting in hardpan surfaces which are impervious. This is especially true on fine-textured soils.
2. Sod covers in meadows and riparian areas will not be broken by hoof action.
3. Seedlings will not be pulled out of the ground because of high soil moisture.

**Vegetative Readiness.** The development stages of the species in Table B-1 will be used as indicators of readiness for grazing. This list is by no means complete. Additional species and developmental stages could be included when appropriate. These growth stages represent the earliest dates that use can begin on. When an allotment is dominated by a poor range condition, the guidelines prescribed in Table B-1 may have to be further altered to improve range condition and increase production.

Stages of plant development keyed to specific plants determine opening dates of the grazing season, and indicate when livestock grazing could occur. Under a system of management which provides for deferred use or rest, vegetation readiness may not be as important since the plants are provided a period for recovery. Under such grazing systems, vegetation may be grazed earlier than indicated by the following guides, provided the soils are ready. The goal is to maintain or restore the better forage plants. Therefore, growth stages of the perennial plants, not annuals, will govern vegetation readiness.

Range readiness observations will be made at key areas within an allotment. Key species will be the plants observed with emphasis on those plants which are primary forage species. This is a judgment decision to be made on the allotment. A list of plants which may be considered as key species when conducting range readiness is available for each range site. These lists can be found in the SCS Rangesite Descriptions for each site. However, the plants listed in the SCS descriptions do not include species which may be present in seral stages below the potential natural community (PNC) or introduced species.

Altitude also has a strong influence on vegetative readiness dates. Generally, each 100-foot (30 meters) difference in elevation is equal to one day's difference in range readiness. Also, a 10 to 15 day delay can be expected on north slopes compared to south slopes.

Other factors to consider are that plants will not produce seed head every year or, depending on site or moisture conditions, plants may not attain desired heights. These factors will be watched for (particularly plant height growth) and judgment used when determining range readiness.

APPENDIXES

Table B-1

INDICATORS OF VEGETATIVE READINESS - SEASON-LONG RANGE<sup>1</sup>

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATING RANGE READINESS <sup>2</sup>
<b>Grasses:</b>		
Agropyron smithii	Western wheatgrass	6-8" or more in height.
Agropyron spicatum	Bluebunch wheatgrass	8" or more in height, heading out.
Agrostis spp.	Redtop	Heading out.
Bromus carinatus	Mountain brome	8" or more in height, headed, panicle spreading.
Danthonia spp.	Oatgrass	In full bloom.
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted hairgrass	6" or more in height, heading out.
Festuca arizonica	Arizona fescue	8" or more in height, heading out.
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho fescue	6" or more in height, heading out.
Festuca thurberi	Therber fescue	12" or more in height, heading out.
Koeleria nitida	Prairie junegrass	Headed out.
Leucopoa kingii	Spike fescue	12" or more in height, heading out.
Muhlenbergia montana	Mountain muhly	6" or more in height, headed out.
Phleum alpinum	Alpine timothy	6" or more in height, headed out.
Poa alpina	Alpine bluegrass	Headed out, panicle open.
Poa fendleriana	Mutton grass	Plants maturing, seed in dough stage.
Poa pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	Panicle fully opened.
Poa secunda	Sandburg bluegrass	Development slightly behind Muttongrass.
Stipa spp.	Needlegrass	6" or more in height, headed out to blooming.
<b>Grasslike:</b>		
Carex spp.	Sedges	Heads blooming
Carex aquatilis	Water sedge	7" - heading out.
<b>Forbs:</b>		
Balsamorhiza spp	Balsamroot	Full to past blooming.
Castilleja spp.	Indian paintbrush	Full bloom.
Delphinium spp.	Low larkspur	Full to past bloom.
	Tall larkspur	Full growth, blooming to past bloom.
Erigeron spp.	Fleabane, Daisy	Full bloom.
Eriogonum spp.	Wild buckwheat	Full bloom.
Geranium spp.	Geranium	Full to past bloom.
Lupinus spp.	Lupine	Early to full bloom.
Martensia spp.	Bluebell	Full bloom.
Penstemon spp.	Penstemon	Full to past bloom.
Polygonum bistorta	Bistort	Full to past bloom.
Potentilla spp.	Cinquefoil	Early to full bloom.
Taraxacum officinal	Common dandelion	Seed disseminated on most plants.
Thermopsis spp.	Golden pea	Full bloom.

Table B-1

INDICATORS OF VEGETATIVE READINESS - SEASON-LONG RANGE<sup>1</sup>  
(Cont'd)

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATING RANGE READINESS <sup>2</sup>
Valeriana spp.	Valerian	Fully developed, blooming.
Veratrum californicum	False hellebore	Budding to early bloom.
Wyethia spp.	Mules ear or Wyethia	Full bloom to plants starting to dry.
Zygadenus spp.	Deathcamas	Full bloom.
<b><u>Browse and Trees:</u></b>		
Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry	Fruit forming.
Cercocarpus spp.	Mountain mahogany	Fully leafed.
Crataegus spp.	Hawthorn	In full bloom.
Populus tremuloides	Aspen	Fully leafed - deep green.
Potentilla fruticosa	Shrubby cinquefoil	In full bloom.
Prunus virginiana	Chokecherry	Full to past blooming
Purshia tridentata	Bitterbrush	In bloom.
Ribes spp.	Current, Gooseberry	Flowering 50% or more.
Salix spp.	Willow	Fully leafed.
Sambucus spp.	Elderberry	Full bloom.
Symphoricarpos spp.	Snowberry	Full leaf, budded to blooming.

<sup>1</sup> Source: USFS Range Analysis and Management Handbook, R-2, FSH 3/85 Amendment No. 15.

<sup>2</sup> In every case, the key forage perennial grass species should have reached the stage development listed. Leaf height is the average height of all leaves, except the few longest or the shortest, when held upright and measured.

## APPENDIX C PREPARATION, UPDATING, OR REVISION OF ACTIVITY PLANS IN THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Appendix consolidates decisions and recommendations made in Chapter Two of the Gunnison Resource Management Plan (RMP) regarding the preparation or updating of a variety of activity level plans, such as Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMPs) or Cultural Resource Management Plans (CRMPs). Also included are the decisions and recommendations in the RMP regarding the preparation of integrated, comprehensive, and coordinated multi-resource level activity plans. The plans are referred to in the RMP as Coordinated Resource Management Activity Plans (CRMAs). *If appropriate, managers are encouraged to combine single resource activity plans into CRMAs.* This Appendix also consolidates the decisions and recommendations in the RMP that would require certain or all resources to be incorporated or considered during the preparation, revision, or updating of either single resource activity level plans or CRMAs. The actions under the header "ACTIVITY PLAN DECISIONS IN THE STANDARD MANAGEMENT SECTION", below, would, unless otherwise noted, apply to the entire Planning Area. The actions under the header "ACTIVITY PLAN DECISIONS IN MANAGEMENT UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS", below, would apply to specific Management Units.

### ACTIVITY PLAN DECISIONS IN THE STANDARD MANAGEMENT SECTION, CHAPTER TWO

#### DECISIONS TO PREPARE, DEVELOP, UPDATE, OR REVISE ACTIVITY PLANS

- page 2-4: **Wildlife Habitat Management.** The Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Planning Area would be revised and implemented consistent with BLM's Fish and Wildlife Plan for Colorado - Program for the Decade. The HMP will prescribe land use and species management guidance for the mutual benefit of wildlife, fish, special status plant and animal species and habitat, and other resources on public lands. Objectives of the revised HMP will include, but will not be limited to, methods to manage public lands to help meet, within carrying capacities of the habitat, CDOW long-range herd goals, maintain or improve vegetation communities to benefit both game and non-game wildlife, implement a program to increase the quantity and quality of crucial big game winter range, and implement cooperative plans and projects with CDOW and other organizations to maintain or enhance big game and/or upland game habitats.
- page 2-10: Existing and future activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, will, based on staffing capabilities, be evaluated and either modified or revised as necessary, using a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach. New activity plans will also be developed with interdisciplinary input and consultation with permittees and other affected interests. Activity plans will incorporate allotment specific objectives for maintaining or improving livestock forage, wildlife and fish habitat, and riparian areas. Activity plans will also prescribe management actions including grazing practices, range improvements, changes in season of use, and other management actions to achieve allotment specific objectives. Innovative or non-traditional management strategies will also be considered.
- page 2-12: One Planning Area-wide Forest Management Plan (FMP) will be completed that will incorporate and update the two existing FMPs.
- page 2-13: A CRMA for the Alpine Triangle SRMA will be prepared that incorporates appropriate actions contained in the existing Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) and the prescriptions for Management Units 1, 4, 5, 6, and that part of unit 15 located in the SRMA.

## APPENDIXES

- page 2-13: In Management Unit 2, public lands in the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA will be managed for primitive and semi-primitive, non motorized recreation and scenic opportunities and for the maintenance and enhancement of natural values. A RAMP will be prepared and will include goals within BLM's Recreation 2000: A Strategic Plan.
- page 2-14: Wilderness Management Plans will be prepared for any area(s) designated and the area(s) will be managed as wilderness.
- page 2-14: The transportation plan and map will be updated.
- page 2-14: Protection of cultural resources will be considered in all activity plans.
- page 2-15: A land sale/disposal activity plan will be prepared for Category I lands, indicating disposal techniques, priorities, and implementation timing.
- page 2-15: A site-specific burn plan and Environmental Analysis (EA) will be prepared prior to authorizing any prescribed burns.

## DECISIONS TO INCLUDE, INCORPORATE, OR IDENTIFY CERTAIN RESOURCES/RESOURCE USES IN ACTIVITY PLANS

- page 2-2: Specific, desired plant communities will be identified in activity plans. Exceptions to a late seral ecological status needed to meet objectives will be identified in activity plans.
- page 2-2: Riparian management strategies, projects, or improvements will be included in activity plans and will be implemented by priority, as to be determined by riparian area inventories.
- page 2-7: In Management Units 14 or 15, the 4 inch stubble height requirement will be incorporated into all existing activity plans in these two management units, since existing plans do not adequately address riparian concerns. When these outdated activity plans are evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the following management guidance: site specific objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan for Management Units 14 and 15.
- page 2-8: In all riparian areas, except in units 14 or 15, the 2½ inch stubble height will be incorporated into all existing AMPs or other activity plans. When these outdated activity plans are evaluated, modified, or revised, riparian concerns will address the following guidance: site specific objectives will be consistent with riparian area goals established in this plan, including the maintenance, restoration, or improvement of riparian conditions (hydrologic, soil, and vegetation) and natural values.
- Page 2-9: ***Range Improvements***
- Structural and non-structural range improvements such as fences, water developments, burns, spray treatments, and others will continue to be identified and prescribed in

activity plans or grazing agreements. This will facilitate livestock management to achieve specific management and resource objectives defined in activity plans or agreements.

page 2-11: *Monitoring*

Range readiness will be incorporated into existing AMP's utilizing the criteria specified in Appendix B. However, the readiness criteria for allotments with AMP's or other activity plans will be specific to the allotment and/or areas within it. On allotments with AMPs or other activity plans, objectives and actions in these plans will also be considered when determining turnout dates. This will provide flexibility for early turnout on areas where plant maintenance and riparian system needs have been met. Range readiness criteria as documented in Appendix B will be used until allotment-specific criteria can be incorporated into each AMP or activity plan.

page 2-12: *Monitoring*

- 9) Ecological site inventories for uplands and riparian areas will be conducted in preparation for activity plans as needed on category "I" allotments. This will be done as part of the activity plan preparation process, and as funding and personnel allow.

page 2-18: Activity plans will consider the remediation of known hazards.

## ACTIVITY PLAN DECISIONS IN MANAGEMENT UNIT PRESCRIPTIONS, CHAPTER TWO

### DECISIONS TO PREPARE, DEVELOP, UPDATE, OR REVISE ACTIVITY PLANS

- page 2-22: In Management Unit 2, the Powderhorn Primitive Area SRMA, a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) will be prepared, emphasizing the enhancement of natural values and primitive recreation opportunities.
- page 2-24: In Management Unit 3, the Cochetopa Canyon SRMA, the existing RAMP will be updated to include the lands in this expanded unit, and management actions from the prescription for this unit.
- page 2-28: In Management Unit 7, the West Antelope Creek ACEC, a CRMAP will be prepared, and will include management actions within the recommended Dillon Pinnacles ACEC, unit 9.
- page 2-29: In Management Unit 8, the South Beaver Creek ACEC, an integrated ACEC management plan will be prepared.
- page 2-31: In Management Unit 10, a HMP will be prepared.
- page 2-33: For Management Unit 12, a HMP or a CRMAP will be developed focusing on overall habitat improvement and intensive habitat management.

## APPENDIXES

- page 2-35: In Management Unit 13, activity plans, such as CRMAs or AMPs, will be developed, and existing AMPs will be updated as needed using CRMAs standards and procedures.
- page 2-37: For Management Unit 15, the Resource Area HMP will be revised to include the recommendations in the Management Unit prescription.

### DECISIONS TO INCLUDE, INCORPORATE, OR IDENTIFY CERTAIN RESOURCES/RESOURCE USES IN ACTIVITY PLANS

- page 2-20: In Management Unit 1, specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAs to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.
- page 2-25: In Management Unit 4, the American Basin ACEC, specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAs to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.
- page 2-26: In Management Unit 5, the Redcloud Peak ACEC, specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAs to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.
- page 2-27: In Management Unit 6, the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark ACEC, specific and detailed management for resources in this unit will be included as part of the CRMAs to be prepared for the Alpine Triangle SRMA.
- page 2-29: In Management Unit 7, the West Antelope Creek ACEC, non-conflicting and compatible livestock management objectives, projects, and mitigating measures will be incorporated into new activity plans, such as AMPs, HMPs or CRMAs, before being implemented.
- Page 2-30: For Management Unit 9, the Dillon Pinnacles ACEC, specific management actions will be included in the CRMAs for unit 7.
- page 2-32: In Management Unit 11, sagebrush treatments and management to improve sage grouse habitat will be incorporated into all activity plans, such as AMPs or CRMAs, and their design, implementation, and management will incorporate as a minimum the sage grouse habitat management guidelines in Appendix A.
- page 2-35: In Management Unit 13, activity plans developed that involve lands at High Mesa, Hartman Rocks, and Big Mesa will include and consider management objectives for all resources, including recreation management.
- page 2-36: In Management Unit 14, riparian improvement strategies and/or projects will be included in all CRMAs and other activity plans and implemented.

**APPENDIX D**  
**DISPOSAL TRACTS, ACQUISITION CRITERIA,**  
**RIGHTS-OF-WAY CORRIDORS - LANDS AND REALTY**

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**CATEGORY I DISPOSAL TRACTS**

1. T. 14 S., R. 86 W., Sec. 1: S 1/2 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 -20 acre isolated tract, on East River near town of Crested Butte, difficult to manage and is adjacent to private subdivision developments on two sides.
2. T. 15 S., R. 87 W., Sec. 1: Lot 2, SW 1/4 NE 1/4 - 80.11 acre isolated tract, near Carbon Creek that is uneconomical to manage; adjacent to USFS.
3. T. 15 S., R. 86 W., Sec. 7: NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract, near Baldwin that is uneconomical to manage.
4. T. 15 S., R. 84 W., Sec. 28: SE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract, near Taylor River in Elsinor Ranch, difficult and uneconomical to manage.
5. T. 49 N., R. 3 E., Sec. 8: SE 1/4 SW 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract, near Quartz Creek, difficult and uneconomical to manage.
6. T. 49 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 17: SE 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 80 acre isolated tract, near Tomichi Creek that is difficult and uneconomical to manage.
7. T. 49 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 21: E 1/2 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 120 acre isolated tract, difficult and uneconomical to manage.
8. T. 49 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 34: NE 1/4 - 160 acre isolated tract, difficult and uneconomical to manage; Current BuRec withdrawal in revocation process.
9. T. 48 N., R. 4-1/2 E., Sec. 24: Lot 6 - 3.78 acre isolated sliver of public land, difficult and uneconomical to manage; Templeton ranch.
10. T. 48 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 8: NE 1/4 - 160 acre isolated tract, difficult and uneconomical to manage.
11. T. 48 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 21: SW 1/4 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, W 1/2 SE 1/4 - 160 acre isolated tract.
12. T. 48 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 9: Lots 1,2,3,4, W 1/2 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SW 1/4 - Western part of Section, adjacent to NPS; - 212.96 acre isolated tract.
13. T. 48 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 20: Lot 9; Sec. 21: Lot 1 - 57.08 acre isolated tract.
14. T. 48 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 13: Lots 1, 2, and 7 - 121.98 acre isolated tract.
15. T. 48 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 25: SE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
16. T. 47 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 29: NW 1/4 NW 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract - Big Mud Pond Area.
17. T. 47 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 34: S 1/2 SW 1/4 - 80 acre isolated tract.
18. T. 47 N., R. 1-1/2 W., Sec. 25: N 1/2 NE 1/4 - 80 acre isolated tract.
19. T. 47 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 19: E 1/2 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 120 acre isolated tract.
20. T. 47 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 20: NE 1/4 NW 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
21. T. 47 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 20: NE 1/4 SW 1/4, S; 1/2 SW 1/4; Sec. 29: NW 1/4 - 280 acre isolated tract.
22. T. 47 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 20: SE 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 80 acre isolated tract.
23. T. 47 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 8: Lot 14 - 20.45 acre isolated tract.
24. T. 47 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 9: Lot 22 - 19.45 acre isolated tract.
25. T. 47 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 10: Lots 1,3,4,5, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 133.43 acre isolated tract.
26. T. 47 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 14: SE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.

## APPENDIXES

27. T. 47 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 14: NW 1/4 SW 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
28. T. 46 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 12: SE 1/4 NE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
29. T. 46 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 33: SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Lot 1 - 82.58 acre isolated tract.
30. T. 46 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 11: Lots 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 & 13 - 103.95 acres in four isolated slivers around Iron Hill.
31. T. 46 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 12: Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 - 75.46 acres in three isolated small tracts around Iron Hill.
32. T. 46 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 18: SW 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract near Indian Creek.
33. T. 46 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 17: SW 1/4 NE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
34. T. 46 N., R. 3 W., Sec 20: NE 1/4 SE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
35. T. 46 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 34: SW 1/4 NW 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
36. T. 45 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 10: SE 1/4 NE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
37. T. 45 N., R. 2 E., Sec. 11: Lot 1 - 45.10 acre isolated tract.
38. T. 45 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 3: E 1/2 SW 1/4 - 80 acre isolated tract in Rock Creek.
39. T. 45 N., R. 1 W., Sec. 5: Lot 2 - 41.62 acre isolated tract.
40. T. 48 N., R. 4 E., Sec. 30: Se 1/4 NE 1/4 - 40 acre isolated tract.
41. T. 48 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 6: Lot 2 - 31.28 acre isolated tract.
42. T. 44 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 11: Lots 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11; Sec. 14: Lots 12 and 13 - 70.97 acres; irregularly shaped parcels difficult to manage.

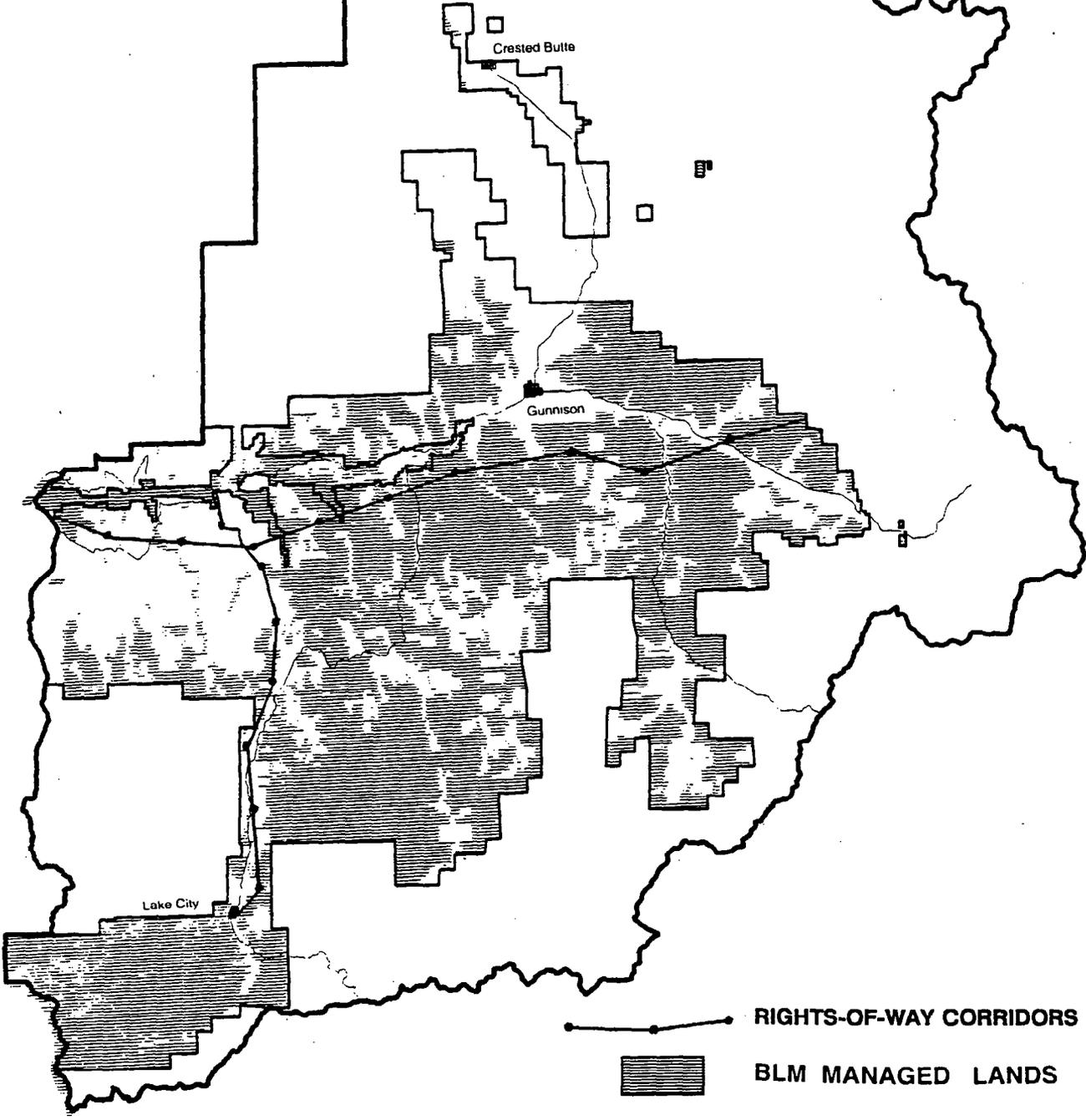
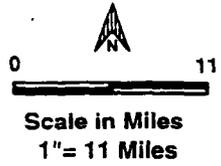
43. T. 43 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 9: NE 1/4 and SE 1/4, identified as Tract C on plat revised May 26, 1980 - .533 acres difficult and uneconomical to manage; this tract is too small to identify on map of the PRMP.

## CRITERIA FOR LAND ACQUISITIONS

The following list of general land acquisition criteria will be used to evaluate potential parcels for acquisition, by any means:

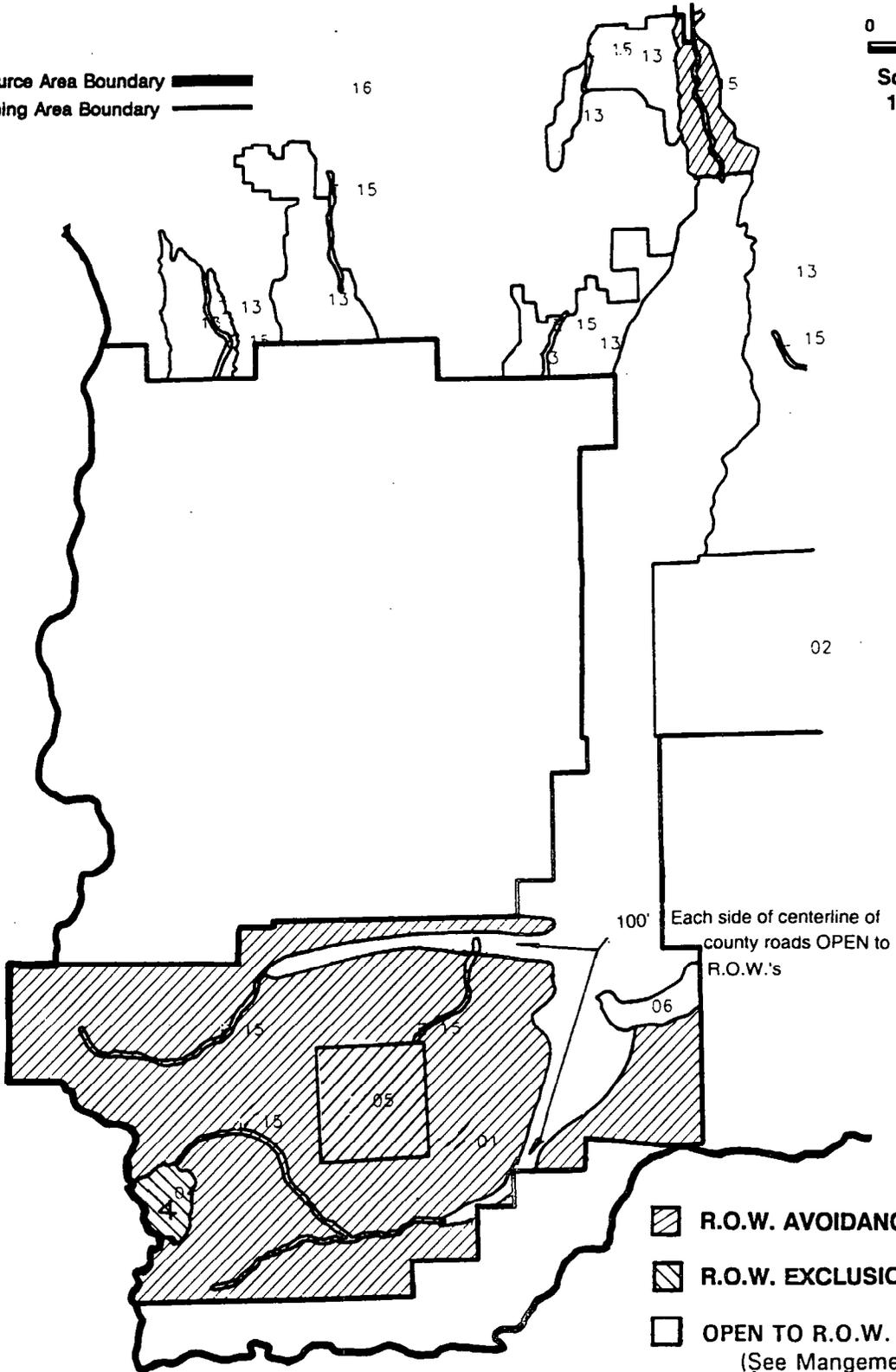
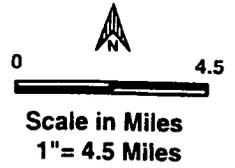
1. Private lands within areas recommended as suitable for designation as wilderness or adjacent to such areas where the acquisition would add to the manageability and scenic value of the unit.
2. Private lands needed for management of wild and scenic rivers and wild and scenic study rivers.
3. Land adjacent to and inholdings within Special Recreation Management Areas, high value recreation lands or areas, and important scenic areas.
4. Potential national or historic trails.
5. Potential natural or research natural areas or areas for cultural or natural history designation.
6. Potential areas of critical environmental concern.
7. Special status plant and animal species or habitat.
8. Aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat areas (streams, rivers, lakes, ponds).
9. Critical/crucial game winter range or other important wildlife habitat.
10. Floodplain areas (100-year) as defined in Executive Order 11988, dated May 24, 1977.
11. Private land that would improve public access.
12. High country summer range.

Resource Area Boundary  
Planning Area Boundary  
Major Highways



Map D-1  
Rights-of-Way Corridors  
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resource Area Boundary **——**  
 Planning Area Boundary **——**



**Map D-2**  
 Rights-of-Way Avoidance and Exclusion Areas  
 and Areas Open to R.O.W.s in a Portion of the  
 APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## APPENDIX E ACCESS

Table E-1

AREAS TARGETED FOR ACCESS IN THE  
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANAGEMENT UNIT	TARGETED AREA	TYPE OF ACCESS DESIRED <sup>1</sup>		BENEFITTING PROGRAMS		
		PUB	ADMIN	Livestock Grazing Management	Forestry	Recreation
1	DEVIL'S CREEK	X				X
1	YAEGER GULCH, SKUNK & TROUT CREEKS		X		X	
1	ALPINE GULCH DRAINAGE (HIKING and HORSE ONLY)	X		X		X
12	BEAD CREEK	X		X		X
13	HUNTSMAN MESA (FROM COLORADO HIGHWAY 149)		X	X		
13	VULCAN/BIG MUD POND	X		X		X
13	PUBLIC LANDS EAST OF DEER BEAVER CREEK	X		X		X
13	SANDY MESA (ON BLUE MESA)	X		X	X	
13	POISON DRAW (ON BLUE MESA)	X		X	X	
13	WILLOW CREEK (IN BLUE MESA AREA)	X		X	X	X

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Pub. = Public Access; Admin. = Administrative Access

# APPENDIX F RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS

Table F-1  
DESIGNATED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ROUTES  
FOR THE GUNNISON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(See Maps F-1 and F-2 for location of routes 1-17)

MAP F-1 REFERENCE NUMBER <sup>1</sup>	DESIGNATED ROUTE
1	BLM Road #3300 from Lake City, generally along Henson Creek to Engineer Pass and Planning Area boundary.
2	BLM Road #3303 along Nellie Creek to USFS boundary.
3	From BLM Road #3300 north along North Fork Creek to USFS boundary; includes a short segment that reenters BLM managed land upstream along North Fork Creek.
4 <sup>3</sup>	BLM Road 3320 from BLM Road #3300, south and east along Schaeffer Gulch, and to head of Hurricane Basin <sup>2</sup> .
5	BLM Road #3306, from Colorado Highway 149, generally along Lake Fork of the Gunnison River to Cinnamon Pass and Planning Area boundary.
6	BLM Road #3314 from BLM Road #3306 to about 0.8 miles north of Sloan Lake, in American Basin.
7	BLM Road #3309 along Cottonwood Creek, from Road #3306 to Junction of Snare Creek and Cuba Gulch.
8	BLM Road #3308 along Wager Gulch from BLM Road #3306 to USFS boundary.
9 <sup>3</sup>	From Road #3306 south of Lake San Cristobal in Red Mountain Gulch area, north generally to the northern part of section 29, T. 43 N., R. 4 W. <sup>3</sup>
10	BLM Road #3322 from Colorado Highway 149, and a trail extension at road's end to the USFS boundary.
11 <sup>3</sup>	From Colorado Highway 149 NE to bridge over Lake Fork of The Gunnison River, then approx. 1 mile north along existing two-track road paralleling river to a designated terminus. <sup>3</sup>
12	BLM Road #3305 from Colorado Highway 149 south of Lake City to a radio tower.
<p>THE NEXT SEVEN ROUTES , a) THROUGH g), ARE LOCATED IN THE ALPINE TRIANGLE SRMA, AND ARE TOO SHORT TO SHOW UP ON MAP F-1</p>	
a) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3306 southeast into the meadow across from the gravel pit; approximately 150 yards; T. 42 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 4: NE1/4NW1/4.
b) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3306 east of Bent Creek, north to several undeveloped campsites; approximately 100 yards; T. 42 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 11: SW1/4SE1/4.
c) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3306 w. of Bent Creek, s. past the Bent Creek toilet to several undeveloped campsites; about 120 yards; T. 42 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 11: SW1/4SE1/4.

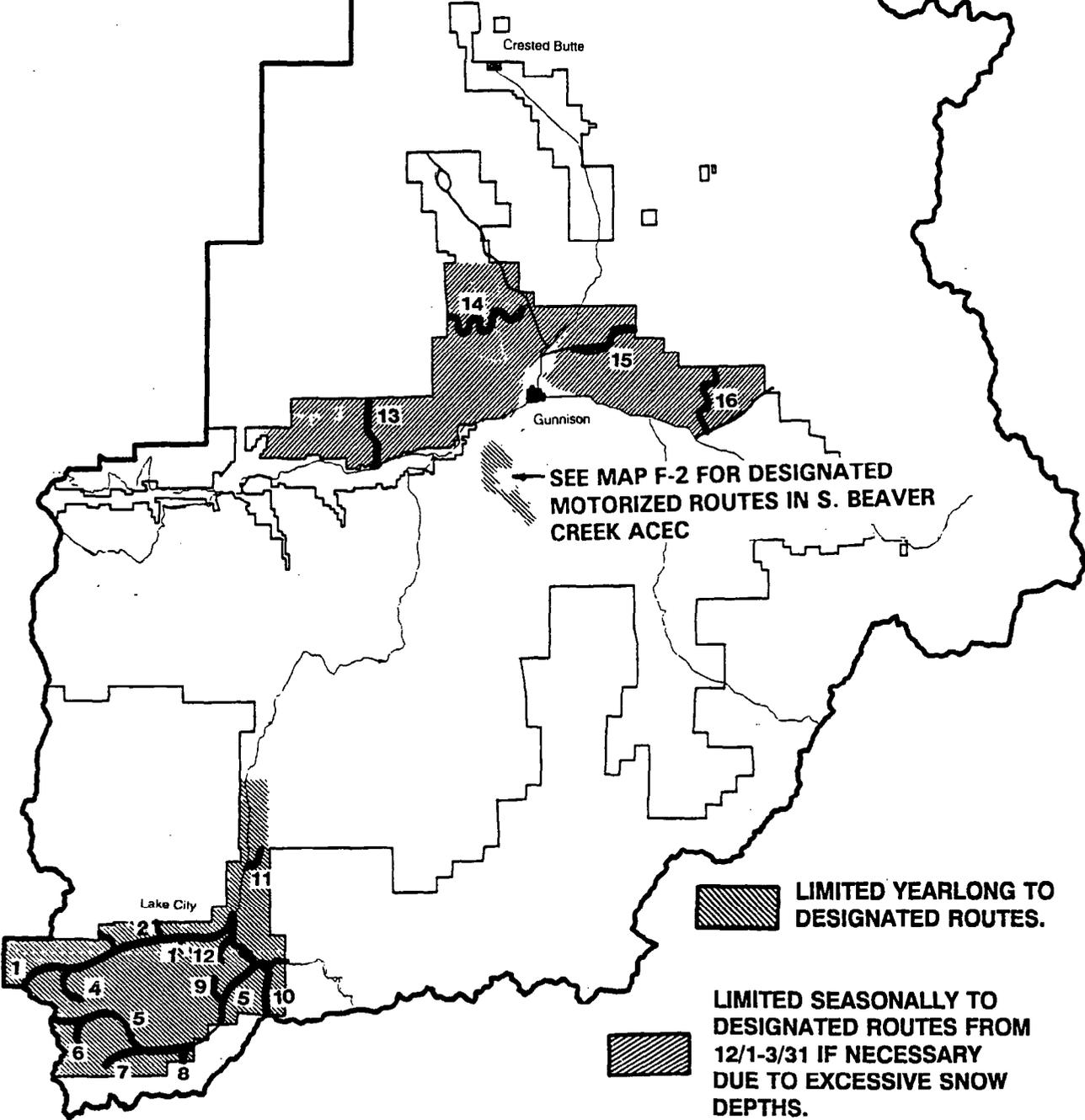
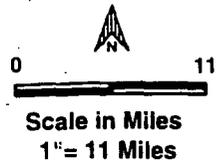
APPENDIXES

Table F-1 (Cont'd.)  
 DESIGNATED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ROUTES  
 FOR THE GUNNISON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
 (see maps F-1 for locations of routes 1-17)

MAP F-1 REFERENCE NUMBER <sup>1</sup>	DESIGNATED ROUTE
d) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3309 (Cottonwood Creek Road), beginning about 100 yards beyond the Cataract Gulch trailhead, south to an undeveloped campsite; approximately 70 yards; T. 42 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 17: SE1/4.
e) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3306 southeast to the Bon Homme mine; approximately .25 miles; T. 43 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 34: SE1/4, Sec. 35: SW1/4.
f) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3300 northeast to the Nellie Creek meadow; approximately 100 yards; T. 44 N., R. 5 W., Sec. 35: SW1/4NE1/4.
g) <sup>3</sup>	From BLM Road # 3300 southwest to the Capitol City toilet and corral; approximately .25 miles; T. 43 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 12: SE1/4.
13 <sup>2</sup>	BLM Road #3087 (the Rainbow Lake Road) generally along East Fork Dry Creek to USFS boundary <sup>2</sup> .
14 <sup>2</sup>	Deep Gulch and Maggie Gulch Roads from Ohio Creek Road to West Antelope Creek Road and USFS boundary <sup>2</sup> .
15 <sup>2</sup>	BLM Road #3110 along Sheep Gulch and Lost Canyon to USFS boundary <sup>2</sup> .
16 <sup>2</sup>	BLM Road #3105 from Quartz Creek in North Parlin Flats vicinity to USFS boundary <sup>2</sup> .
17 <sup>3</sup>	See Map F-2 for designated routes in Unit 8, South Beaver Creek recommended ACEC.

- Notes: <sup>1</sup> See numbers and routes on Maps F-1 and F-2 for general locations  
<sup>2</sup> These routes would continue to be designated OHV routes, if necessary, in the event of heavy snowfalls and concentrated elk or deer herds from 12-1 through 3-31.  
<sup>3</sup> These are newly designated routes for OHV use in the PRMP.

Resource Area Boundary   
 Planning Area Boundary   
 Major Highways 



SEE MAP F-2 FOR DESIGNATED  
 MOTORIZED ROUTES IN S. BEAVER  
 CREEK ACEC

 LIMITED YEARLONG TO  
 DESIGNATED ROUTES.

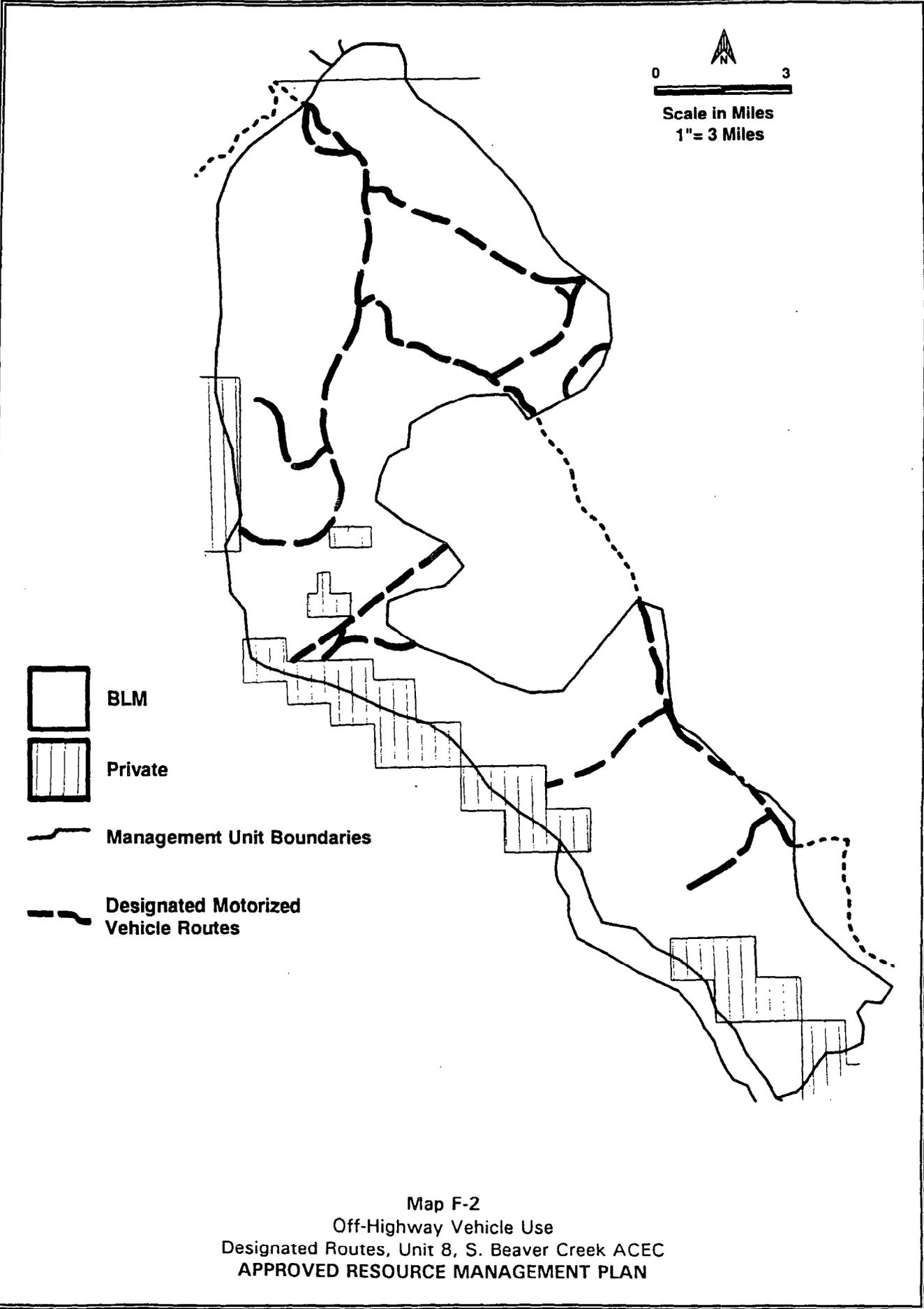
 LIMITED SEASONALLY TO  
 DESIGNATED ROUTES FROM  
 12/1-3/31 IF NECESSARY  
 DUE TO EXCESSIVE SNOW  
 DEPTHS.

 DESIGNATED MOTORIZED VEHICLE  
 ROUTES. (SEE TABLE F-1 FOR  
 ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS)

Public lands where OHV use is not limited  
 (seasonally or yearlong) or closed are OPEN  
 to OHV use.

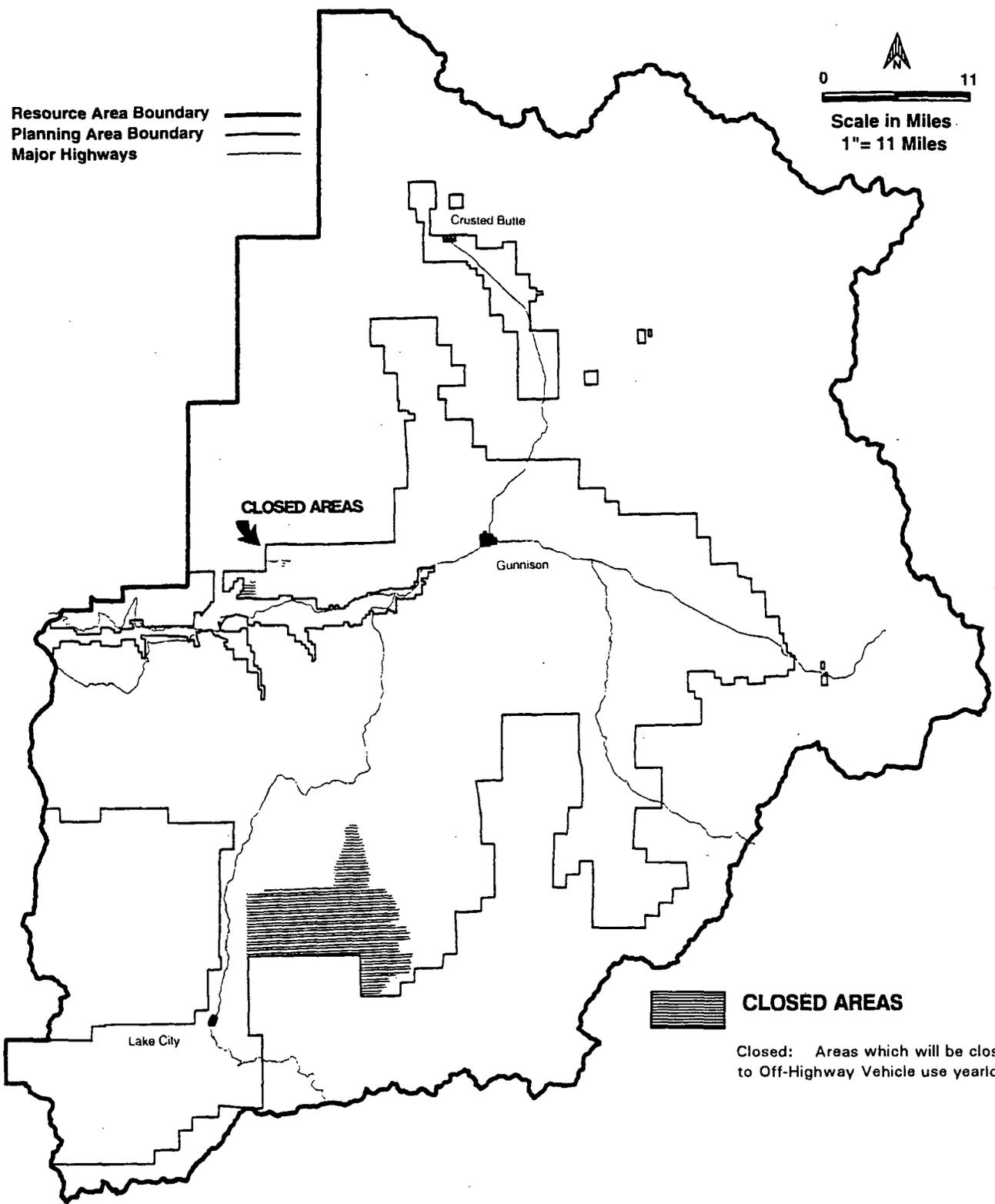
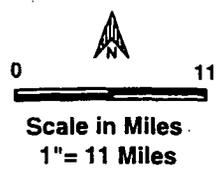
Map F-1  
 Off-Highway Vehicle Use  
 Limited Areas

APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Map F-2  
Off-Highway Vehicle Use  
Designated Routes, Unit 8, S. Beaver Creek ACEC  
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resource Area Boundary  
 Planning Area Boundary  
 Major Highways



 **CLOSED AREAS**

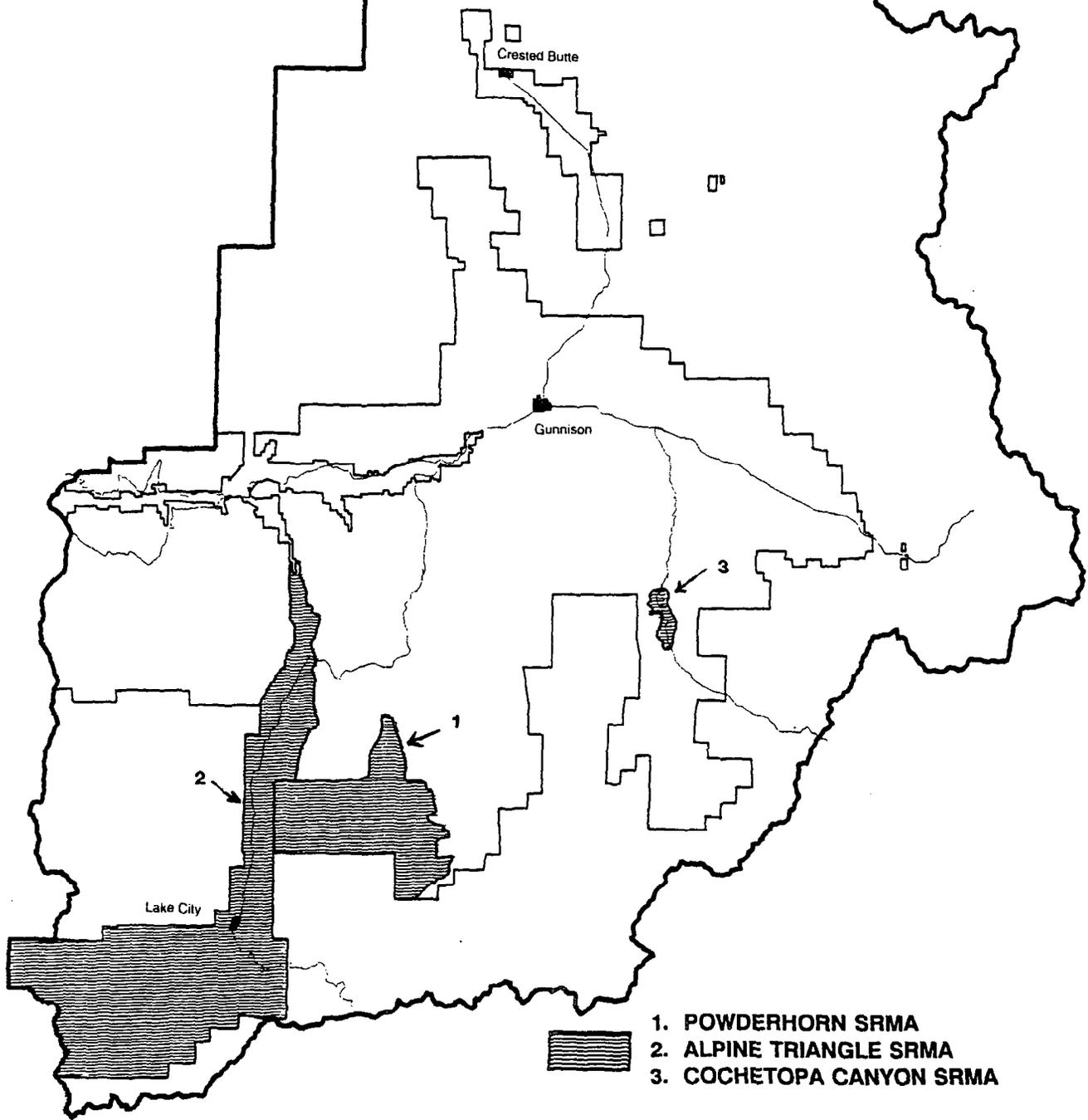
Closed: Areas which will be closed to Off-Highway Vehicle use yearlong.

Public lands where OHV use is not limited (seasonally or yearlong) or closed are OPEN

**Map F-3**  
**Off-Highway Vehicle Use**  
**Closed Areas**  
**APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Resource Area Boundary  
 Planning Area Boundary  
 Major Highways

0 11  
 Scale in Miles  
 1" = 11 Miles

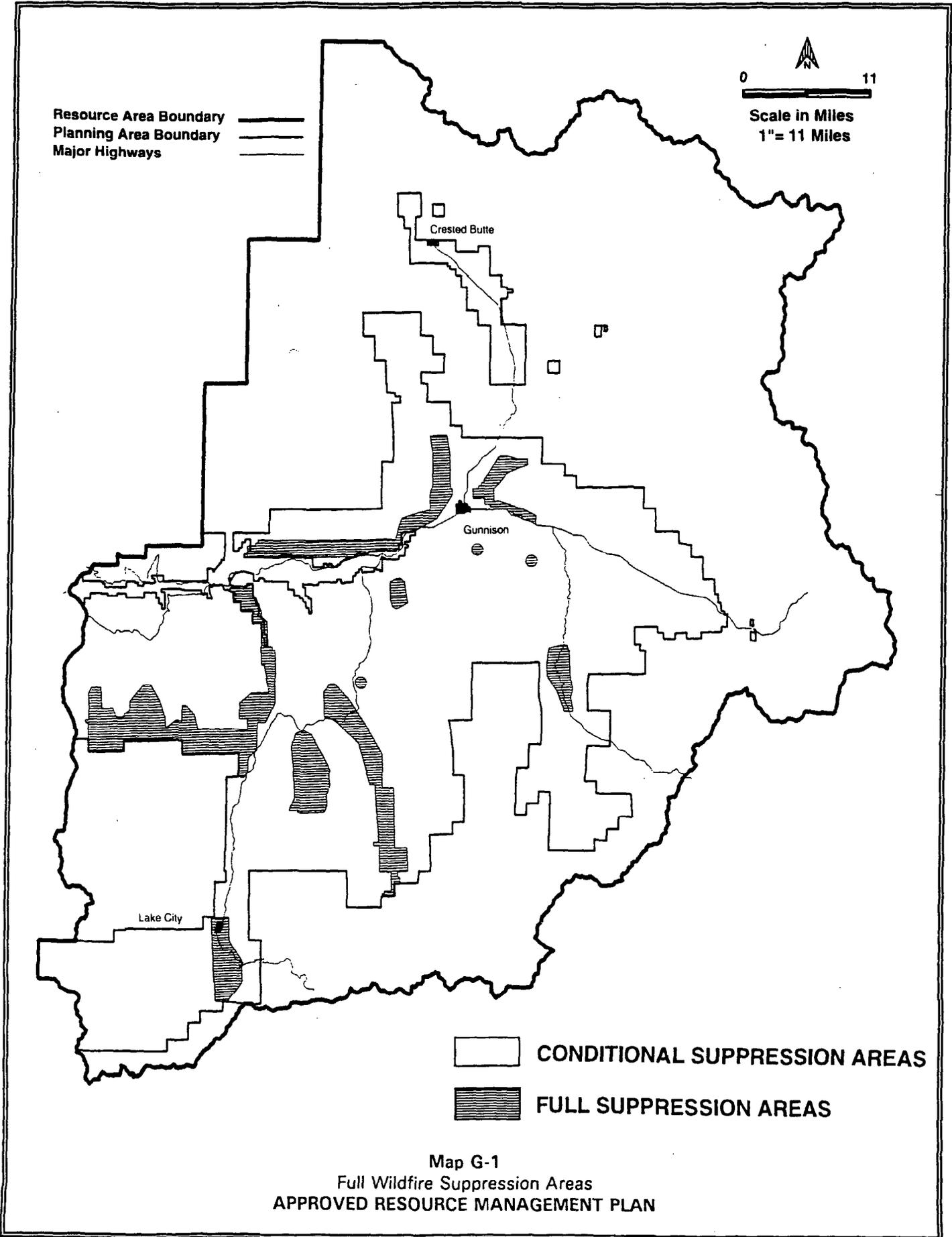


- 1. POWDERHORN SRMA
- 2. ALPINE TRIANGLE SRMA
- 3. COCHETOPA CANYON SRMA

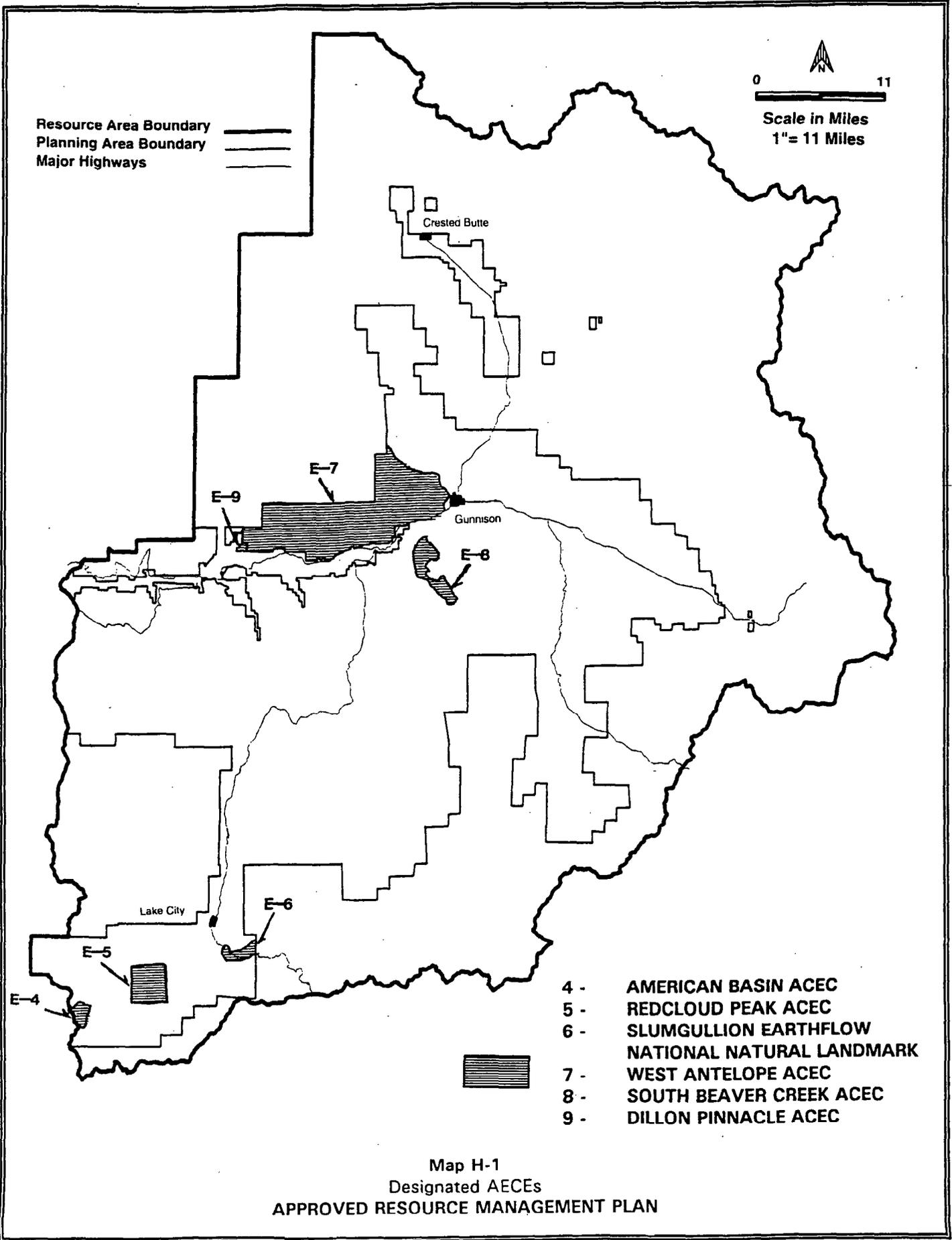
Public Lands not included in the above SRMAs are contained within the Gunnison Extensive Recreation Management Area.

Map F-4  
 Special Recreation Management Areas  
 in the Planning Area

# APPENDIX G - FIRE SUPPRESSION



**APPENDIX H - DESIGNATED AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**



## APPENDIX I SOILS AND WATER RESOURCES

The table below lists target basal vegetation cover densities, expressed in percentages, for upland ecological sites in the Planning Area. These target basal vegetation cover densities apply to soils with a moderate to severe erosion potential. Additional forage could be allocated to livestock or wildlife management on these sites once these vegetative cover densities are achieved. The density of vegetation to be achieved will vary, depending upon the ecological site that exists where the activity is proposed. Determining when the target densities are reached will be accomplished by a monitoring schedule established during the planning stage for proposed activities.

Table I-1

TARGET % BASAL COVER DENSITIES TO BE ACHIEVED FOR WATERSHED NEEDS  
AND PROTECTION ON SOILS WITH A MODERATE TO SEVERE EROSION POTENTIAL

ECOLOGICAL SITES ON UPLANDS	% BASAL COVER OF VEGETATION
Alpine Slopes	30
Deep Clay Loam	25
Dry Mountain Loam	10
Mountain Meadow	30
Mountain Loam	17
Mountain Outwash	10
Mountain Swale	25
Subalpine Loam	30
Shallow Subalpine Loam	16

Source: *Appendix F, Montrose District Soil Erosion Monitoring Guidelines*

## APPENDIX J PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOW APPROPRIATIONS

Table J-1

### PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOW APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISHERY STREAMS - GUNNISON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Stream Name	Approximate BLM Miles
Alkali Creek	0.41
Alpine Gulch	1.59
Antelope Creek	2.31
Beaver Creek	1.00
Willow Creek	0.38
Cebolla Creek	3.0
Cochetopa Creek	0.5
Deer Beaver Creek	1.00
East Beaver Creek	0.57
E. Fk. Blue Creek	2.01
E. Fk. Little Cimarron River	1.34
E. Fk. Powderhorn Creek	10.15
Fourth of July Creek	2.20
Gunnison River	0.08
Los Pinos Creek	0.77
Middle Blue Creek	0.55
Middle Fk. Powderhorn	8.31
Mill Creek	0.15
Monument Rock Creek	1.49
N. Willow Creek	3.21
Powderhorn Creek	1.75
Pine Creek	1.41
Razor Creek	0.71
Road Beaver Creek	2.00
Rock Creek	4.69
S. Beaver Creek	7.73
Spring Creek	0.51
Sugar Creek	5.39
S. Willow Creek	5.38
Townsite Gulch	0.52
Tomichi Creek	0.45
Trout Creek	1.12
Van Tassel Creek	1.61
W. Antelope Creek	3.58
W. Fk. Blue Creek	1.15
W. Fk. Powderhorn Creek	8.70

DATA SOURCE: BLM 1988

## **APPENDIX K OIL AND GAS STIPULATIONS**

The following stipulations will be added, as prescribed in the various Management Unit prescriptions in this Approved Resource Management Plan, to future oil and gas leases on both Federal surface and split-estate lands. The actual wording of these stipulations may be adjusted at the time of leasing to reflect future legislation, court decisions, or policy changes; however, protection standards in these stipulations will be maintained. Any change to the protection content of the stipulation will require an amendment to the approved Resource Management Plan. Table K-1 is a summary of the stipulations.

TABLE K-1

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS STIPULATIONS  
BY TYPE, MANAGEMENT UNIT, AND ACRES EFFECTED  
IN THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MGT. UNIT	TIMING LIMITATIONS <sup>1</sup>	NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY <sup>2</sup>						CONTROLLED SURFACE USE <sup>3</sup>		TOTALS BY UNIT
	4-16/6-30 Elk- Calving Areas	Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Mgt. Area	Cochetopa Canyon Special Recreation Mgt. Area	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Bighorn Sheep Habitat	Sage Grouse Leks	Forest Service Admin. Sites	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Riparian Wetland Vegetation	
1		675								675
3			2,592							2,592
4				1,590 - American Basin - Scenery						1,590
5								5,962 - Redcloud Peak - Special Status Sp.		5,962
6				1,442 - Slumgullion Earthflow - Mudslide						1,442
7	154									280
8								4,540 - S. Beaver Creek - Special Status Sp.		4,540
9				552 - Dillon Pinnacles - Scenery						552
10					15,407					15,407
11						1,134				1,134
12	235					882			164	1,281
13	1,722					882				2,604
14						126			2,500	2,626
15	247	445								692
16	9,465					252	100			9,817
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,823</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>15,407</b>	<b>3,402</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,502</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>51,194</b>

- Notes: <sup>1</sup> Total Acres Timing Limitations = 11,823  
<sup>2</sup> Total Acres No-Surface Occupancy = 26,205  
<sup>3</sup> Total Acres Controlled Surface Use = 13,166

## APPENDIXES

# OIL AND GAS STIPULATIONS FOR THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATIONS

#### **Alpine Loop National Back Country Byway, in Management Unit 1; G-1**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting the Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roaded Natural recreation and scenic values along the Alpine Loop National Back Country Byway, within the Alpine Triangle Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page 3- ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

#### **Cochetopa Canyon SRMA, Management Unit 3; G-2**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: Protecting the Roaded Natural recreation and scenic values within the Cochetopa Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

#### **American Basin Proposed ACEC, Management Unit 4; G-3**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: protecting scenic and other natural resources and existing related recreation opportunities in the American Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

#### **Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark Proposed ACEC, Management Unit 6; G-4**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: protecting the geological mass-wasting phenomenon in the Slumgullion Earthflow National Natural Landmark Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

#### **Dillon Pinnacles Proposed ACEC, Management Unit 9; G-5**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: protecting scenic and other natural resources and existing related recreation opportunities in the Dillon Pinnacles Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the

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regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

### **Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitat, Management Unit 10; G-6**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below:

For the purpose of: protecting bighorn sheep and their habitat selected because of topography, slope, aspect, and escape cover from disturbances that would alter the productivity or suitability of these areas as important bighorn sheep range; Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

An exception to this stipulation may be approved if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Authorized Officer that the bighorn sheep range is (1) not being utilized and is expected to remain in such 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 vegetation, topography, slope, aspect, and escape cover on these lands.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

### **Sage Grouse Lek/Courtship sites; CO-2**

No surface occupancy or use is allowed within a one-quarter mile radius of sage grouse lek sites/courtship sites. Known lek sites are described or identified below:

For the purpose of protecting grouse courtship sites from disturbances that would force strutting sage grouse onto less desirable sites, or disturbances that would interfere with mating processes, or disturbances that could result in lek site destruction.

An exception may be granted by the Authorizing Officer, dependant upon the active status of the leks

or the geographical relationship of topographical barriers and vegetation screening to 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 (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

## **TIMING LIMITATION STIPULATIONS**

### **Elk-Calving Areas; CO-10**

No surface use is allowed during the following time period(s). This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

April 16 through June 30

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of protecting elk-calving areas from activities which would force elk into less suitable areas during the calving season; Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Pages ).

An exception to this stipulation, in the form of an alteration or removal, may be approved by the Authorizing Officer when it has been determined through a site specific analysis that specific actions would not interfere with critical habitat function or compromise animal condition within the project vicinity.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

## **CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION**

### **Riparian/Wetland vegetation in Sage Grouse Brood Rearing Habitat; CO-28**

Activities associated with oil and gas exploration and development including roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, are restricted to an area beyond the

## APPENDIXES

riparian/wetland vegetation zone on the lands described below:

For the protection of perennial water impoundments and streams, and/or riparian/wetland vegetation zone, important sage grouse brood-rearing habitat, and fish use, water quality, and other related resource values; Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

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 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 location of the well site.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

### **Riparian/Wetland vegetation along a Portion of Cebolla Creek; CO-28**

Activities associated with oil and gas exploration and development including roads, transmission lines, storage facilities, are restricted to an area beyond the riparian/wetland vegetation zone along a portion of Cebolla Creek on the lands described below:

To protect perennial water impoundments and streams, and/or riparian/wetland vegetation and fish use, water quality, and other related resource values; Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

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 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 location of the well site.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

### **Redcloud Peak Proposed ACEC, Management Unit 5; G-7**

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special constraints:

1. An inventory for populations of USF&WS listed threatened, endangered, candidate, and BLM sensitive species, especially the endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, and known or potential vegetative habitat of the species, will be conducted prior to approval of operations. The inventory will be used to prepare mitigative measures, consistent with lease rights granted, to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance to these special status species.

2. Relocation of proposed operations more than the 200 meters permitted in standard lease terms, in order to protect high value scenic resources. Mitigative measures will be prepared, consistent with lease rights granted, to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance to scenic resources.

Mitigation measures for the above two constraints may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads, pads, pipelines, and other facilities, and fencing operations or habitat.

On the lands described below:

For the purpose of protecting USF&WS listed and candidate species and BLM sensitive special status species and their known or potential habitat, especially known or potential habitat of the endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, and high value scenic resources within the Redcloud Peak Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or on the lands described above; Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).

**South Beaver Creek Proposed ACEC, Management Unit 8; G-8**

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special constraints:

1. An inventory for populations of USF&WS listed threatened, endangered, candidate, and BLM sensitive species, especially for skiff milkvetch, including known or potential habitat of the species, will be conducted prior to approval of operations. The inventory will be used to prepare mitigative measures, consistent with lease rights granted, to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance to these special status plant species.

2. Relocation of proposed operations more than the 200 meters permitted in standard lease terms, in order to protect special status plant species. Mitigative measures will be prepared, consistent with lease rights granted, to reduce the impacts of surface disturbance to special status plant species.

Mitigation measures for the above constraints may include, but are not limited to, relocation of roads,

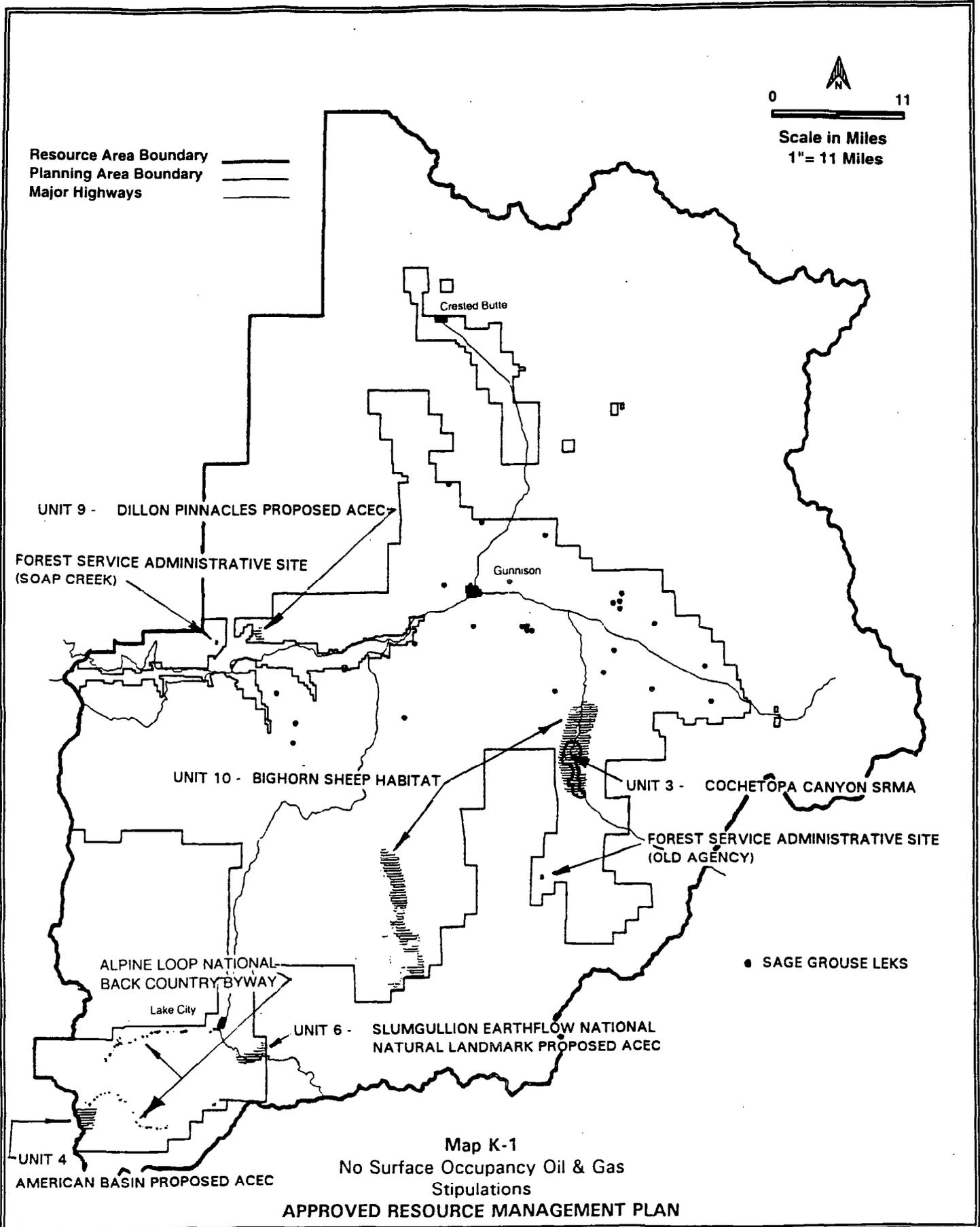
pads, pipelines, and other facilities, and fencing operations or habitat.

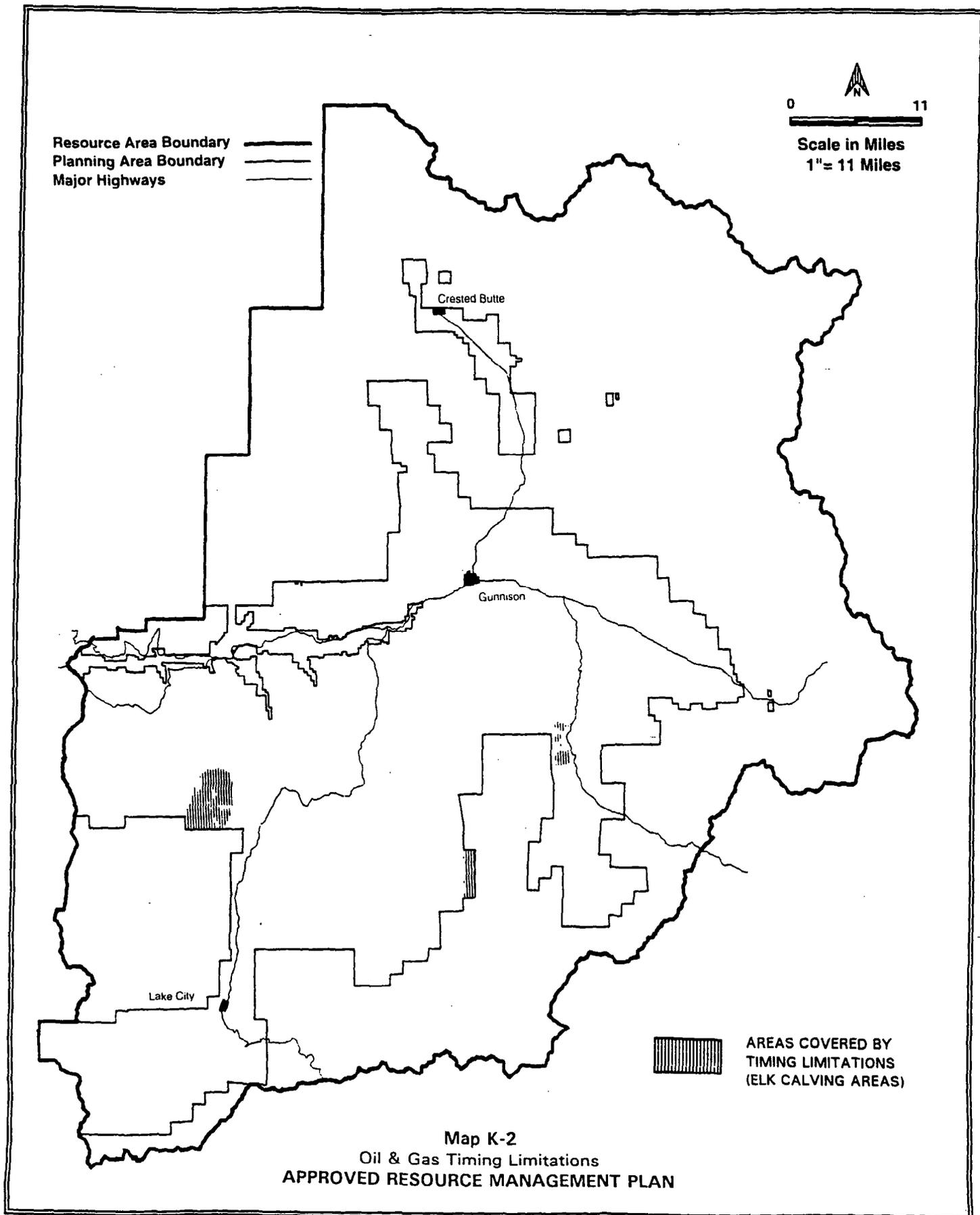
On the lands described below:

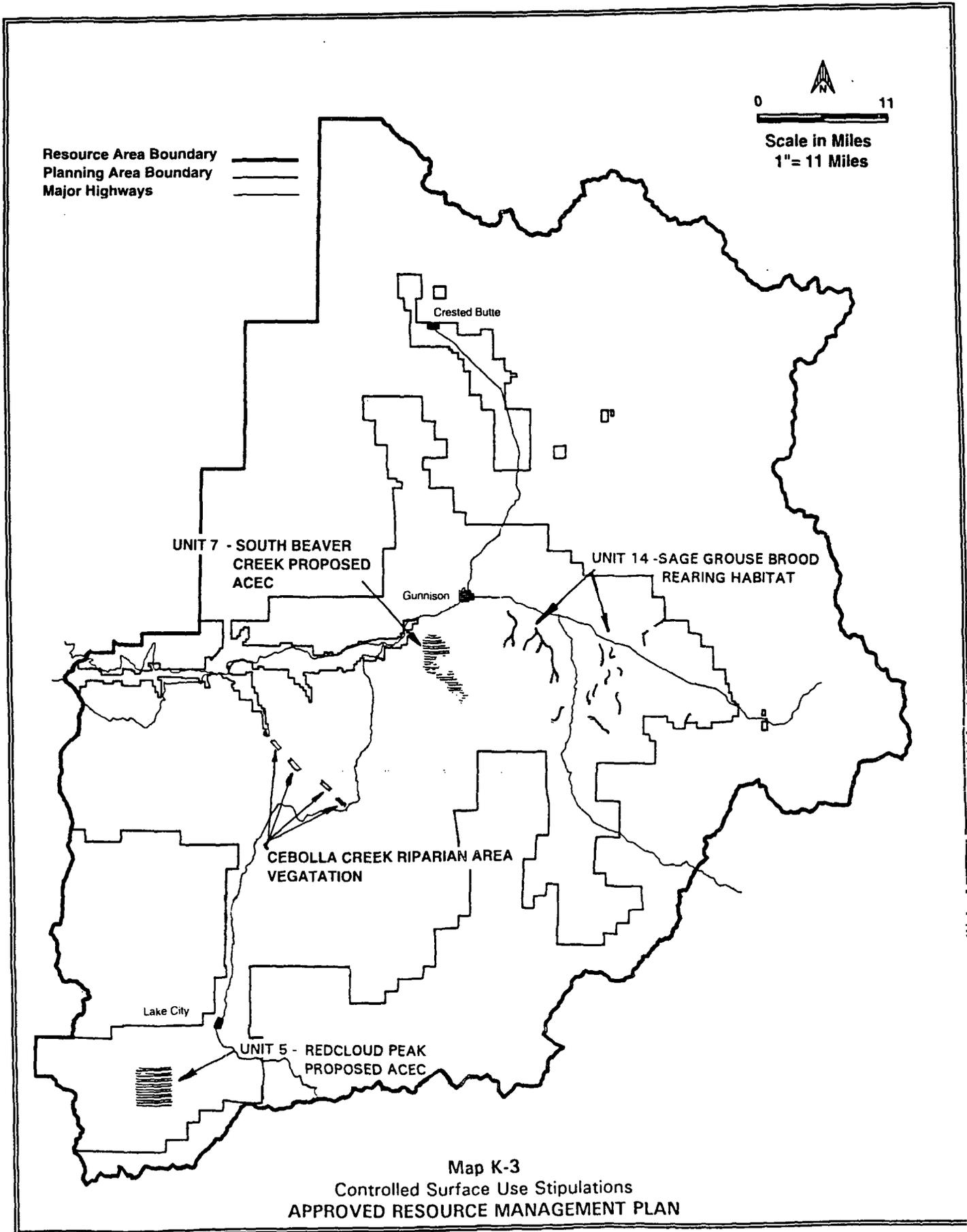
For the purpose of protecting USF&WS listed and candidate species and BLM sensitive special status species and their known or potential habitat, especially known or potential habitat of skiff milkvetch, within the South Beaver Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Gunnison Resource Management Plan (Page ).

An exception or alteration to the area covered by this stipulation may be approved if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Authorizing Officer that, after an impact analysis is conducted that considers such factors as the type and amount of surface disturbance proposed, plant frequency and density, and the relocation of disturbances, operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts on USF&WS listed threatened, endangered, candidate, or BLM sensitive listed special status plant species or their occupied or potential habitat.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manuals 1624 and 3101, and Forest Service Manuals 1950 and 2820).







Map K-3  
Controlled Surface Use Stipulations  
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN