

Appendix A:

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Relevance and Importance Criteria Evaluations For Existing and Nominated ACECs

Alkali Ridge Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Alkali Ridge lies between Alkali Canyon and Montezuma Canyon in the eastern portion of the Monticello Field Office planning area.	This area is one of the best known and influential examples of scientific archeological investigation in the Southwestern United States. There is a National Historic Landmark (2,340 acres) within the ACEC.	39,202	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - This area contains numerous large structural sites that have revealed evidence of the full range of prehistoric pueblo occupation from Basketmaker II to Pueblo III (500-1300 AD) and represent the defining morphological site type for the prehistoric Pueblo II cultural period (900-1150 AD).
	No	<u>Scenic</u> – The ID Team determined that scenic relevant resources were not found in the area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a Fish and Wildlife resource was not considered relevant for this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils,	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).		
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Importance:
 The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and value in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value includes evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - The cultural resources located in this area are regionally and nationally significant, and include Basketmaker and Pueblo village sites often reaching densities of 200 sites per square mile.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - The cultural resources found here are irreplaceable and extremely vulnerable to oil / gas exploration and development, intense pot hunting, increased site visitation, and road maintenance in the area. In the past, vegetative manipulation associated with grazing and agricultural activities has also contributed to damaged cultural resources.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – The area contains the designated Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark (2,340 acres), managed for information potential and public values. Cultural resources are the subject of national protective laws, regulations, and policy.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: The existing Alkali Ridge ACEC provides protective management for a large number of high density cultural sites of the Basketmaker and Pueblo cultures.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:
 FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Alkali Ridge ACEC (39,202 acres) - Cultural, contains a National Historic Landmark (2,340 acres) – Under No Action Alternative the ACEC would be maintained and would continue to be managed with the current management prescriptions:

- Where riparian areas overlap this ACEC, the special conditions for floodplain and riparian /aquatic areas would take precedence.
- Requirements of appropriate regulations would be met
- Within the Alkali Ridge NHL, all cultural resources would be avoided by 100 feet
- All cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection.
- If cultural resources or their avoidance areas cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation
- In any given situation, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- Open for mineral leasing – Surface use limited by special conditions,
- Open for geophysical work
- Available for the disposal of mineral materials
- Open to locatable mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated or withdrawn from entry
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products
- Available to livestock use
- Available for land treatments or other range improvements
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- OHV use limited to existing roads and trails
- Managed as VRM Class III
- Surface disturbance would be limited to what can be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- Available for wildlife habitat improvement

Under the proposed DEIS range of alternatives, the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Alkali Ridge Potential ACEC (39,202 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Cultural values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	Alkali Ridge contains a National Historic Landmark (2,340 acres) which will have separate management prescriptions common to all.
Fire	Appropriate management response to fire
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated or withdrawn
Livestock grazing	Range of prescriptions: From - Available for livestock use, and could be restricted if cultural resources are being impacted, To - Livestock use would conform to Rangeland Health Standards
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing – Controlled surface use Open for geo-physical work Available for disposal of mineral materials Open to locatable mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
Recreation	OHV use limited to designated roads and trails
Soil and Water	Available for watershed improvements Available for wildlife habitat improvement
Vegetation	Range of prescriptions: From - No surface disturbing vegetative treatments, To – Vegetative treatments allowed with avoidance of eligible cultural sites and NHL.
Visual (VRM)	Managed at VRM III
Woodlands	Range of prescriptions: From - Wood gathering would be prohibited, To - Limited to designated areas and designated routes for access, To - Wood gathering vehicle use would be

[Notes: The ID Team recommends carrying the existing Alkali Ridge ACEC forward for protection of cultural values including Alkali Ridge NHL, with some change in the current management prescriptions.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Bridger Jack Mesa Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Bridger Jack Mesa is located in the Indian Creek Corridor on the west side of Scenic Highway 211.	Bridger Jack Mesa ACEC covers a large mesa top consisting of pinyon-juniper woodland and sagebrush-grass parks. The mesa is public land except for approximately 420 acres of state land. (* See page 8 for boundary change description)	6,260 6,225*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No	An inventory for cultural resources has not been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a Fish and Wildlife relevant resource was not found in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	<u>Near-relict plant community</u> - The near-relict plant community remains unaltered by human intervention. The cliffs surrounding the mesa top form a natural boundary providing a relatively isolated area that has not been grazed since 1957. Bridger Jack Mesa is, therefore, a natural enclosure for study of a vegetative community released from grazing by domestic livestock.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning)	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

process that it has become part of a natural process).		
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Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and value in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Near-relict plant community</u> - Bridger Jack Mesa provides a control area to study to compare the recovery of pinyon-juniper woodland and sagebrush-grass communities from livestock grazing. The vegetative community is important for study and comparison purposes to design management for pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush-grass communities in other parts of the Colorado Plateau, and is, therefore, more than locally significant.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Near-relict plant community</u> - The area offers an un-impacted area naturally protected from other resource activities for comparative vegetative studies and research.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Near-relict vegetation for comparative studies for rangeland health and management.

<p>Suggested Special Management Prescriptions: FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.</p>

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Bridger Jack Mesa ACEC (6,260 acres) - Near-relict Vegetation value - Under No Action alternative, Bridger Jack Mesa ACEC would be maintained and would continue to be managed with the following management prescriptions:

- Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy (NSO) on the mesa top; available for geophysical work
- Closed to the disposal of mineral materials
- Open to locatable mineral entry with approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top, insofar as possible
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry

- Excluded from livestock grazing, including grazing by saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access
- Excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of the near-relict plant communities
- Closed to OHV use
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- Managed to limit recreation use if vegetation resources are being damaged
- Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) ROS class
- Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Excluded from wildlife habitat improvements
- Excluded from watershed control structures
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment; insofar as legally possible
- Excluded from improvements for wildlife habitat , watershed, or vegetative treatments

Under the proposed DEIS range of alternatives, the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Bridger Jack Mesa Potential ACEC (6,225 * acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important near-relict vegetation values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate management response to fire
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
Livestock grazing	Excluded from livestock grazing, including grazing by saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing NSO on mesa top Available for geophysical work Closed to disposal of mineral materials Open to locatable mineral entry with approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top, insofar as possible
Recreation	Closed to OHV use Allow commercial recreation activities if vegetation would not be impaired. Managed to limit recreation use if vegetation resources are being impaired Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) ROS class
Soil and Water	Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment, insofar as legally possible Excluded from watershed control structures
Vegetation	Excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of the near-relict plant communities Allow wildlife habitat improvements Excluded from vegetative treatments with minimum weed manipulations
Visual (VRM)	Manage as VRM I class within WSA boundary Otherwise managed as VRM IV
Woodlands	Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires.

* This acreage total includes deleting 35 acres from the 1991 total; the 35 acres represent the two northern spires of Bridger Jack Mesa, which have no vegetation on them.

Boundary Change from Existing Area: The ID Team evaluated the existing boundary and determined that the northern area of the two spires should be eliminated from the boundary. The rock spires area just that – eroded rock remnants. This 35 acre area does not contribute to the soil/vegetation base for plant communities to grow. The resulting acreage for the proposed Bridger Jack ACEC is 6,225.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Bridger Jack ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the existing Bridger Jack ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

_____ Date: _____
Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team recommends carrying the existing Bridger Jack ACEC forward for protection of near-relict plant communities with a few changes in the management prescriptions].

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Butler Wash Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Butler Wash North ACEC is located south of and adjacent to Canyonlands National Park, and includes several forks of Salt Creek.	The Butler Wash North ACEC is noted for its rugged terrain composed of high buttes, domes, and sandstone spires. The southern part of the ACEC flat areas drop abruptly into the heads of the various forks of Salt Creek.	17,365	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The scenic values of this area are a continuation of the remarkable rock formations – spires, domes and buttes -- seen in the adjacent Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Gray, cream, coral and red sandstones band the walls of the canyons of Salt Creek.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – no cultural inventory has been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a fish and wildlife relevant resource was not found in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and value in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The scenic values are important to regional, national, and international visitors who travel to the area, including Canyonlands NP, and who backpack into the remote, natural areas adjacent to the park. Salt Creek is one such area. The scenic values of the park and those of the Butler Wash North ACEC are not separated at the boundary but are interrelated. The March 31, 1986 VRM inventory shows a Scenic Quality rating of B – 14; a Visual Sensitivity rating of A; and a Distance Zone of Foreground and Mid-ground which is shown as High. This indicates a Visual Inventory Class II.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - Without protective management prescriptions, the unique scenic values could be damaged by other resource uses, such as potential oil and gas development, mineral disposal, and increasing recreational vehicle activities.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Scenic quality

<p>Suggested Special Management Prescriptions: FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.</p>

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Butler Wash North ACEC (17,463 acres) - Scenic value – would continue to be managed with the following management prescriptions under a No Action alternative:

- Managed under the special conditions developed for ROS-P class areas
- Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy; however, the area manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA, or EIS if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area.
- Available for geophysical work
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry

- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Available for livestock use
- Subject to conditional fire suppression, with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life or property
- Closed to OHV use
- Managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged
- Managed as VRM Class I

Under the proposed DEIS range of alternatives, the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Butler Wash North Potential ACEC (17,365 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect the relevant and important scenic value from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Subject to conditional fire suppression, with mechanized suppression methods Used only if necessary to protect life or property.
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock use.
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy (NSO); however, the Manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA , or EIS if necessary, with the adoption of mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area.
Recreation	Managed under the special conditions developed for ROS-P class areas. Closed to OHV use. Managed to limit recreation if scenic values are being damaged.
Vegetation	Available for vegetative treatment with prior cultural survey.
VRM	Managed as VRM I class
Woodlands	Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for Limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires.

Field Manager Concurrence:

I concur that the existing Butler Wash North ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

I concur that the existing Butler Wash North ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team renamed this existing Butler Wash ACEC adding 'North' to the name to differentiate it from an area in the central and southern portion of the field office also referred to as Butler Wash. The ID Team recommended that as an alternative to the current ACEC management the scenic value of Butler Wash North could be protected under the VRM management class objectives.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Cedar Mesa Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Cedar Mesa ACEC is located on the southern boundary of the field office bounded by Comb Wash on the east, Highway 163 and Glen Canyon NRA on the south and by portions of State Highway 276 on the west. The Valley of the Gods area is in the southeastern portion of the ACEC bounded on the west by Rte 261 and on the south by UT 163.	This ACEC encompasses the Grand Gulch Archeological District, the Grand Gulch Primitive Area, and three special emphasis areas, Grand Gulch, Valley of the Gods, and Arch Canyon	295,335	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes
	Evaluated acreage includes Pine/Step Canyon (below), and acreage of Cedar Mesa ACEC that lies within Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC	344,262	
Pine/Step Canyon - UT highway 95 on the north going west to highway 276, then south on highway 260 to the Collins Trails trailhead at the boundary of Cedar Mesa ACEC.	** The ID Team evaluated and recommends the Pine/Step Canyon area be included within the boundary of the Cedar Mesa ACEC for like-cultural values. (See p. 20 for boundary change description)	** 23,653	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<p><u>Cultural</u> - The Grand Gulch/Cedar Mesa area was extensively occupied by the Puebloan culture from before CE 500 to 1270. In surveyed areas, site densities of 20-200 sites per square mile have been recorded. The sites are of many types and include lithic scatters, petroglyph and pictograph panels, Basketmaker pit houses and pit structures, Puebloan kivas, multi-room surface swellings, granaries, and cliff dwellings. Many are nearly or totally in tact. The area probably contains the greatest concentration of Basketmaker II and III sites in the Southwest. Grand Gulch is also known particularly for its well-preserved cliff dwellings and variety of rock art.</p> <p>Five major sets of data [artifacts, environment, stratigraphy, architecture, and rock art] are available for scientific study and visitor viewing. Recent research has demonstrated that Grand</p>

	Yes	Gulch/Cedar Mesa has been occupied for over 7,000 years. Most of the occupation has taken place in the large dry alcoves, but some sites are also located on the benches at the bottom of the gulch.
	Yes	Cultural sites are present in the Arch Canyon area of the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC. Arch Canyon ruin has unique architectural elements that are one-of-a-kind in this area.
		<u>Scenic</u> - Valley of the Gods Special Emphasis Area (34,771 acres) is a valley of multi-colored, differently-shaped sandstone buttes and spires, surrounded on the north and east by high canyon walls. There is an unpaved rough dirt and gravel road [17 miles] running through the area that provides a different scenic view looking in every direction.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> - Arch Canyon: T & E species – designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, and potential habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. Sensitive species: Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker. Riparian habitat essential for amphibians and neo-tropical migratory birds.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - Cultural resources in the Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch area are of regional, national, and worldwide significance because of the wealth of intact Basketmaker and Pueblo cliff dwellings; preservation of the sites is excellent.
	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The Valley of the Gods area draws regional, national and international visitation to its unique and accessible scenic vistas. The March 31, 1986 VRM inventory shows a Scenic Quality rating of B; a Visual Sensitivity rating of H(igh); and a Distance Zone of Foreground - High. This indicates a Visual Inventory Class II.

resource.	Yes	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> - Arch Canyon: Designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, and state sensitive species are present in Arch Canyon
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - Protection of the fragile cultural resources found here is important because they are irreplaceable and extremely vulnerable to activities that create adverse change in the sites. Intense recreational use threatens the cultural resources through surface collection, site trampling, pot hunting, and the consequent increase in erosion. This refers to both Cedar Mesa / Grand Gulch and Arch Canyon sites.
	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The incursion of some uses and activities could cause adverse surface disturbance and damage to the scenic quality and value of the Valley of the Gods area.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - The Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Even though numerous artifacts have been removed from the area both legally and illegally since the 1890s, an enormous amount of material remains for scientific study by archeologists. Grand Gulch/Cedar Mesa is the location where Richard Wetherill was finally able to demonstrate that a cultural group he identified as the Basketmakers predated the prehistoric Pueblo people. This concept has become a basic underpinning of Southwestern Archeology, and is one of the significant discoveries in North American Archeology. Cultural resources are the subject of national protective laws, regulations, and policy.
	Yes	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> - Arch Canyon – T & E species have designated critical habitat. State sensitive species are present in Arch Canyon: Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Cultural site types with densities between 20-200 sites per square mile in surveyed areas. [Documented public interest includes concern by professional archeologists, recreational users, individuals, and the Utah SHPO over preserving the cultural resources found on Cedar Mesa for public and scientific uses.]
- The Valley of the Gods Special Emphasis Area has nationally recognized scenic values.
- The Arch Canyon area has nationally listed fish/wildlife habitat and cultural values – Mexican spotted owl and Southwestern willow flycatcher, and presence of state sensitive species: Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Cedar Mesa ACEC (295,335 acres) – Cultural - includes Grand Gulch Archeologic District, Recreation/Primitive Area/Natural Area values - would be maintained and would continue to be managed under the Cultural and Recreation/Scenic programs with the following management prescriptions under the No Action alternative:

Cedar Mesa:

- The Scenic Highway Corridor overlaps; the special conditions for Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC take precedence
- Where riparian areas overlap Cedar Mesa ACEC, the special conditions for floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas take precedence
- The ROS special conditions include both P and SPNM classes apply, and would be managed for these classes
- Measures that limit surface disturbance serve cultural resource objectives by reducing direct and indirect impacts.
- Cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection.
- If cultural resources or their avoidance areas cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation
- In any given case, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Cedar Mesa Management Plan developed for the ACEC would guide site protection, data recovery, and all other necessary cultural management activities.
- Surface disturbance would be limited to what can be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- Open for mineral leasing [categories 2, 3, and 4]– Surface use limited by special conditions
- Available for geophysical work
- Open to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Available for livestock use
- Available for land treatments or other range improvements
- Available for wildlife habitat improvements
- Subject to conditional fire suppression with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life or property
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment
- OHV use Limited to designated roads/trails
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas, except that onsite collection of dead fuel wood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area

Under the proposed DEIS range of alternatives, the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Cedar Mesa Potential ACEC (344,262 acres**) including Grand Gulch Archeological District and the Pine and Step Canyon area	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important cultural and scenic values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions

Cultural	Cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection If cultural resources or their avoidance areas cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation
Fire	Appropriate management response to fire
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Range of prescriptions: From - Available for livestock use with special conditions, To - Protect cultural resources according to requirements in Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between Utah BLM and the Utah SHPO (1980), To - Available for livestock use (with same note about SHPO)
Minerals	Range of prescriptions: From - Mineral leasing timing and controlled surface use and closed in WSAs, To - Standard stipulations and closed in WSAs Range of prescriptions: From - Available for geophysical work with special stipulations, To - Protect cultural resources, unless in WSA, To - available for geophysical work Range of prescriptions: From - Open to disposal of mineral materials with stipulations, To - Protect cultural resources, unless in WSA, To - Open to disposal of mineral materials Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations, unless in WSA Available for mining entry with an approved plan of operations
Recreation	OHV use limited to designated roads and trails Limit recreation use to protect cultural resources at-risk in Comb Wash BLM Campground to BLM designated camping/parking areas and hiking trails (include integrity criteria from Section 106 as appendix/glossary) Range of prescriptions: From - Closed to dispersed camping, To - Camping and parking in designated areas only, To - Limit camping/parking in designated areas around Comb Wash BLM Campground Range of prescriptions: From - Permit required for day hikes and overnight camping to prevent cultural site damage from over-visitation, To - Limited number of permits issued for day hikes and overnight camping to prevent cultural site damage from over-visitation, To- Dispersed camping allowed throughout Cedar Mesa subject to Grand Gulch Cultural and Recreation Area Management Plan Range of prescriptions: From - Human waste must be packed out, To - No special mention Ropes and other climbing aids are not allowed for accessing ruins or cultural sites
Soil and Water	Available for watershed improvements
Vegetation	Range of prescriptions: From - Available for land treatments or other range improvements, To - Available for vegetative treatments Available for wildlife habitat improvements Surface disturbance allowed with special stipulations for permitted activities
Woodlands	Range of prescriptions: From - Closed to wood gathering in the ACEC, To - Available for private use of woodland products, certain areas will be closed to wood gathering if they are adversely impacting cultural resources, To - Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas. Within these designated areas, off-road travel would be allowed to collect the wood. Certain areas will be closed to wood gathering if they are adversely impacting cultural resources.
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions: Moon House Cultural Site
Cultural	A cultural resource management plan (CRMP) will be written for Moon House and will not require a plan amendment to the RMP Adversely impacted cultural sites may be closed to visitation until mitigation measures can be done
Recreation	Limit public access with a permit system for day visits and overnight camping No more than 12 persons allowed to visit Moon House per day No more than one person allowed inside the "Moon Room" at any time Human waste must be packed out Designate a primitive camp and park area west of the Snow Flat Road. Camping would be prohibited outside of this primitive camp area. No public travel allowed off the Snow Flat Road except for BLM site maintenance

	<p>Close McCloyd [McLeod] Canyon to UTM 607100 E 4143495 N Camping will be limited to designated areas on mesa tops and group size will be limited to 12 persons Range of prescriptions: From – Hiking limited to designated trails, To - No special mention Range of prescriptions: From – Closed to pack animals and dogs, To - No special mention Ropes and other climbing aids are not allowed to access ruins or other cultural sites</p>
Woodlands	Range – Closed to woodcutting, to no special mention

Grand Gulch: (37,433 acres) - Special Emphasis Area for Cultural and Recreational [natural values associated with primitive recreation] / Scenic values under the No Action alternative:

- Managed for ROS P class to provide primitive recreation opportunities in the ROS areas
- ROS P class areas protected from surface disturbance to the maximum extent possible
- Closed to mineral leasing in Grand Gulch Special Emphasis area
- Open to leasing with NSO in ROS p class areas
- Available for geophysical work except Grand Gulch Special Emphasis area
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Retained in public ownership and classified as segregated from entry (a Secretarial withdrawal would be requested)
- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Available for livestock use, except Grand Gulch itself, below Kane Gulch fence to the confluence with the San Juan River
- Closed to OHV use
- Managed to limit recreation use if cultural resources or scenic values are being damaged
- Managed as VRM I class in WSA
- Subject to conditional fire suppression with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life or property
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Livestock use excluded from Grand Gulch itself
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment
- Excluded from habitat and watershed improvements, with stipulations that exempt special circumstances from exclusion, such as fire management, ruin stabilization, or excluded unless no practical alternative exists and then it would be minimal, only as necessary to achieve.
- Excluded from range improvements except for non-motorized weed removal

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Cedar Mesa Potential ACEC – Grand Gulch Special Emphasis Area (37,433 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important cultural and scenic values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	A cultural resource management plan (CRMP) will be written for GGNHD and will not require a plan amendment to the RMP Adversely impacted cultural sites may be closed to visitation until mitigation measures can be done
Fire	Appropriate management response to fire
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and classified as segregated from entry (a Secretarial withdrawal would be requested)
Livestock grazing	Range of prescriptions: From - Closed to livestock use, To - Closed to grazing the canyon itself
Minerals	Closed to mineral leasing in Special Emphasis Area (SEA) Closed to the disposal of mineral materials

	Closed to geophysical work in SEA
Recreation	Closed to OHV use Managed to limit recreation use if cultural resources or scenic values are being damaged Camping in designated areas at designated sites Hiking limited to designated trails Group (limited to 12 persons) camp sites will be designated and assigned Range of prescriptions: From – No more than 100 persons over a 14-day period allowed within the GGNHD, To - No more than 200 person over a 14-day period allowed within the GGNHD Range of prescriptions: From – Closed to pack animals and dogs, To - Dogs would be confined to leash and not allowed at cultural sites. Pack animals would be allowed. Range of prescriptions: From – Human waste must be packed out , To – No special mention Ropes and other climbing aids are not allowed to access ruins or other cultural sites
Soil and Water	Excluded from watershed improvements. Exceptions include fire suppression, and non-motorized weed control with no surface disturbance
Vegetation	Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment Excluded from habitat improvements and vegetative treatments. Exceptions include fire suppression, and non-motorized weed control with no surface disturbance
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM I class in WSAs
Woodlands	Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products Closed to woodcutting

Valley of the Gods: (34,771 acres) Special Emphasis Area for Scenic Value – Under the No Action alternative:

- Surface disturbance would be managed to be compatible with VRM I class criteria
- Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy; however, the manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA or EIS, if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area
- Available for geophysical work
- Available for disposal of mineral materials with an approved plan of operations
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas, except that onsite collection of dead fuel wood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area
- Available for livestock use
- Managed as VRM I class, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- OHV use on designated roads/trails
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- Open for improvements of vegetation

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Cedar Mesa Potential ACEC – Valley of the Gods Special Emphasis Area (34,771 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Scenic values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate management response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock grazing
Minerals	Open for mineral leading – No Surface Occupancy (NSO); however the manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA, or EIS if necessary, with the adoption use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the

	<p>project would meet visual quality standards for the area. Available for geophysical work Available for disposal of mineral materials with an approved plan of operations Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations</p>
Recreation	OHV use limited to designated roads and trails
Vegetation	<p>Surface disturbance would be managed to be compatible with VRM I class criteria Open for vegetative treatments; revegetation must be with native species naturally-occurring in the vicinity</p>
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM I class, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed
Woodlands	Subject to conditional fire suppression with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life and property

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered for the potential Arch Canyon Special Emphasis Area (2,910 acres):

Cedar Mesa Potential ACEC – Arch Canyon Special Emphasis Area (2,910 acres)	
<p>Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important cultural and wildlife values from irreparable damage. The following management prescriptions are in addition to those applicable to Cedar Mesa ACEC.</p>	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Livestock grazing	Closed to livestock use
Minerals	<p>Open for mineral leasing with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Closed to disposal of mineral materials Open to mineral entry with approved plan of operations</p>
Recreation	<p>Designate Arch Canyon camp area to prevent damage to cultural resources at the mouth of Arch Canyon. Dispersed camping would be allowed in the canyon Designate an interpretive trail and provide interpretive materials at the Arch Canyon Ruin Site Ropes and other climbing aids are not allowed to access ruins or cultural sites</p>
Soil and Water	Open for improvement is habitat and watershed
Special Species Status	<p>Range of prescriptions: Mexican Spotted Owl – From - Close Arch Canyon to motorized and mechanized travel, To - Close Arch Canyon to motorized travel from April 15 through September 15 Range of prescriptions: From - Group size will be limited to 12 individuals, To - No limitation on group size. Implement a permit system for Arch Canyon</p>
Woodlands	Excluded from use of woodland products except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires

**** Boundary Change from Existing Area:** Consideration of the Pine and Step Canyon areas of Cedar Mesa for inclusion within the Cedar Mesa ACEC was discussed during the ID Team Alternatives Development meeting on November 18, 2004. It was determined that the cultural value of the Pine and Step Canyon area is consistent with and reflects the relevant and important cultural values found in the currently designated Cedar Mesa ACEC. In addition to cultural sites of relevance and importance, the Hole in the Rock Trail is partially located within Pine and Step Canyons. The Hole in the Rock Trail is on the National Register of Historic Places as an Historic Trail that was key to the settlement of the southern Utah area.

It was recommended that a Core ID Team meet to establish boundaries for this potential inclusion within the proposed Cedar Mesa ACEC. This was accomplished with the boundaries for this area being UT Highway 95 on the north going west to highway 276, then south on highway 260 to the Collins Trail Trailhead at the boundary of the Cedar Mesa ACEC. The area encompassed by this boundary is 23,653 acres.

The ID Team recommends that this area adjacent to Cedar Mesa ACEC on the northwest, and having like-cultural sites of relevance and importance as well as the Hole in the Rock Historic Trail, be included within the proposed Cedar Mesa ACEC.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC, including Pine and Step Canyons, and Special Emphasis Areas of Grand Gulch, Valley of the Gods, and Arch Canyon as documented, meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC, including Pine and Step Canyons, and Special Emphasis Areas of Grand Gulch, Valley of the Gods, and Arch Canyon as documented, meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

Date: _____

Notes:

[The ID Team recommends that the potential Cedar Mesa ACEC be carried forward with the addition of the Pine and Step Canyon area, with the changes noted above to management prescriptions for protection of the unique and exemplary cultural values.

The ID Team recommends that the Cedar Mesa Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) be dropped from at least one alternative and analyzed, thereby comparing management of the cultural/recreational aspects of Cedar Mesa under the ACEC designation with its management prescriptions and the Grand Gulch Cultural / Recreation Plan, to management under the SRMA.

The ID Team also recommends that the Valley of the Gods be included in a range of alternatives as a proposed stand-alone potential ACEC and therefore, released as a Special Emphasis Area from within the boundaries of the Cedar Mesa ACEC. If the potential Valley of the Gods ACEC is determined a stand-alone ACEC, the Scenic relevant value follows the Valley of the Gods and is deleted from the values determined for Cedar Mesa ACEC, leaving Cedar Mesa as a potential ACEC for cultural value. Likewise, the acreage of Valley of the Gods would be deleted from the total existing Cedar Mesa ACEC acreage.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Dark Canyon Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Dark Canyon ACEC is located on the western boundary of the field office adjacent to Glen Canyon NRA, and bounded on the east by the Dark Canyon Wilderness Area (45,000 acres) of the Manti-LaSal NF	Dark Canyon ACEC is surrounded by National Forest and National Park Service lands. This area is primitive, roadless and undeveloped in nature. It is limited to access due to the canyon rims that form a natural boundary, which helps to protect its natural scenery and wildlife values. The area includes Dark, Gypsum, and Fable Valley and several smaller side canyons all of which are part of the Colorado River drainage.	61,660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - Dark Canyon is one of the deepest canyon systems in the region. The remote location, dramatic rugged terrain, and undeveloped naturalness of the area contribute to an area of high scenic value. The canyon has unobstructed and expansive views including 1,200 foot vertical cliffs, rimrock, outcrops and spires, pour offs and potholes, and color contrasts between soil and rock, flowing water, and diverse vegetation.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> : The density of cultural sites in this area is not as prevalent as in Alkali Ridge or Cedar Mesa, thus fewer sites are impacted. No cultural resource inventory has been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	<u>Wildlife</u> - Dark Canyon is within designated critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl.
	Yes	Important habitat for peregrine falcon and other raptors. The peregrine falcon has been delisted; however, it is mandated that management support the continued viability of the species.
	Yes	Presence of a large variety of wildlife including at the lower elevations ringtail cats, desert bighorn sheep, and bobcats; at the higher elevations, black bear, deer, elk, and mountain lions.
A natural process or	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system

system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).		of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

<p>Importance: The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
<p>Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u> – The naturalness of the area, the elevations changes and vertical canyon walls, with the diversity of vegetation and rock formations contribute, and the national and international recognition of Dark Canyon as a destination contributes to its importance with regionally significant scenic quality. The proximity to Glen Canyon NRA, the Colorado River, Canyonlands NP, and the Manti-LaSal National Forest contribute to Dark Canyon as a visitation destination for primitive backcountry experience.</p> <p>On the March 1986 VRM Inventory, Scenic Quality was listed as Primitive; Visual Sensitivity Class was listed as Primitive; Distance Zone was Foreground and Middleground (High).</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> – Designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, a T & E species.</p> <p>Important habitat for peregrine falcon and other raptors – it is mandated that management support the continued viability of the peregrine falcon</p> <p>Presence of a large variety of wildlife including at the lower elevations ringtail cats, desert bighorn sheep, and bobcats; at the higher elevations, black bear, deer, elk, and mountain lions. <u>These species are found in other areas locally.</u></p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u> – This area includes a variety of terrain not usually found in a desert environment – mountainous (8,800 feet) to the desert (3,700 feet) with a wide range of visual diversity. There is potential for adverse impacts due to the increasing recreational use and activities in the Dark Canyon area.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> - Designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl; owl pairs are known to inhabit Dark Canyon.</p>

Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<u>Wildlife</u> - Designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, a T & E species.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Scenic quality
- Wildlife - Mexican Spotted owl critical habitat and presence

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Dark Canyon ACEC - Recreation/Natural Area values, Visual/VRM, 61,659 acres – Under No Action, would be maintained and would continue to be managed with the following management prescriptions:

- Closed to mineral leasing
- Closed to mineral entry
- Segregated from entry
- Closed to livestock use
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- Closed to OHV use
- Managed as VRM I class
- Closed to gathering of woodland products
- Surface disturbance if can be reclaimed after 1 year

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Dark Canyon Potential ACEC (61,660 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Scenic and Wildlife values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate Management Response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
Livestock grazing	Closed to livestock use except in Fable Valley
Minerals	Closed to mineral leasing Closed to mineral entry Segregated from mining entry
Recreation	Closed to OHV use
Soil and Water	Conditionally allowed improvements for wildlife habitat, watershed and vegetative treatments that meet VRM I class management criteria

Vegetation	Conditionally allowed improvements for wildlife habitat, watershed, and vegetative treatments that meet CRM I class management
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM I class
Woodlands	Closed to gathering of woodland products

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Dark Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan.
- I concur that the existing Dark Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

 Sandra A. Meyers
 Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team recommends that the existing Dark Canyon ACEC be carried forward in alternatives with the changes noted to management prescriptions for protection of scenic and wildlife values.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Hovenweep Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Hovenweep ACEC is located on the eastern boundary of the field office and adjacent to Hovenweep National Monument (NPS).	Hovenweep ACEC is adjacent to the Square Tower Unit of Hovenweep National Monument (NPS), and was designated to protect cultural and wildlife values with two special emphasis areas, Cajon Pond (10 acres), and a visual protection zone (880 acres) for the unobstructed viewing of cultural sites.	1,798 plus about 621 acres [See Notes below] Total of 2,439	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The visual protection zone [Special Emphasis Area 880 acres] provides for unobstructed viewing of cultural sites at Hovenweep NM.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – An adjacent area in Colorado was designated as Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (COANM) on June 9, 2000 by Presidential proclamation to protect cultural and natural resources on a landscape scale. Hovenweep ACEC contains cultural resources in the same vicinity and of the same types, and adds cohesiveness to the management of the cultural resources of the two National Monuments.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	<u>Wildlife – Habitat Management</u> –The Special Emphasis Area at Cajon Pond, a constructed reservoir covering approximately 10 acres, provides important habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife in a desert, semi-arid climate that has very little surface water present.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

		cultural values. Cultural resources are the subject of national protective laws, regulations, and policy.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Cultural values, and a visual protection zone for Hovenweep National Monument (NPS-Cultural)
- Wildlife habitat / riparian zone associated with interagency cultural resources by joint agency agreement.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Hovenweep ACEC (1,798 acres) - Cultural, Habitat Management values – Under No Action, would be maintained with the following management prescriptions:

Cultural/Visual zone:

- Where riparian areas overlap Hovenweep ACEC, the special conditions for floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas take precedence
- Measures that limit surface disturbance serve cultural resource objectives by reducing direct and indirect impacts.
- Within Hovenweep ACEC, cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be avoided by 100 feet.
- Cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by an avoidance area sufficient to allow permanent protection.
- If cultural resources or their avoidance areas cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation
- In any given case, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Cedar Mesa Management Plan developed for the ACEC would guide site protection, data recovery, and all other necessary cultural management activities.
- Revegetation efforts with surface disturbance must be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- Open for mineral leasing – surface use limited by special conditions
- Open for geophysical work
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operation
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Available for livestock use
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- OHV use limited to designated roads/trails in entire area
- Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires

- Open for improvement in habitat, watershed and vegetation treatments

Visual Protective Zone (880 acres):

- Open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3)
- Excluded from watershed and grazing (vegetative) treatment improvement

Cajon Pond (Habitat):

- Open for mineral leasing and other surface uses with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy or surface disturbance during the shorebird and waterfowl courtship and nesting season (March 1 through June 30, (category 2)
- Excluded from livestock use within the fenced portion (about 1 acre)

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Hovenweep Potential ACEC (2.439 acres) and Special zones: Visual (880 acres), and Cajon Pond (10 acres) within total acreage	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Cultural and supporting visual and habitat values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	Within Hovenweep ACEC, cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be avoided by 100 feet
Fire	
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock use
Livestock grazing – <u>Cajon Pond</u>	Excluded from livestock use within the fenced portion (about 1 acres)
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing, surface use limited by special conditions Open for geophysical work Closed to disposal of mineral materials Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
Minerals – <u>Visual Protective Zone</u>	Open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3)
Minerals – <u>Cajon Pond (Habitat)</u>	Open for mineral leasing and other surface uses with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy or surface disturbance during the shorebird and waterfowl courtship and nesting season (March 1 st through June 30 th – Category 2)
Recreation	OHV use limited to designated roads and trails
Soil and Water	Open for improvement in habitat, watershed, and vegetation treatments
Vegetation	(See Soils and Water above)
Vegetation - Visual Protective Zone	Excluded from improvements for watershed and grazing (vegetative) treatment
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM I class
Woodlands	Excluded from use of woodland products except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions: Visual Protective Zone (880 acres)
Minerals	Range - Open for mineral leasing with NSO, to Managed as timing and controlled surface use for minerals, to Controlled surface use for minerals
Soils and Water	Range - Excluded from watershed treatment improvement, to available for watershed treatment improvement as long as cultural and VRM objectives are adhered to, to Open to watershed treatment improvement
Vegetation	Range of prescriptions: From – Excluded from grazing (vegetative) treatment improvement, To - Available for grazing (vegetative) treatment improvement as long as cultural and VRM objectives are adhered to, To - Open to grazing (vegetative) treatment

	improvement
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions: Cajon Pond (Habitat)
Minerals	Managed with timing and controlled surface use
Livestock grazing	Excluded from livestock use within the fenced portions (about 1 acre)

Notes: The Hovenweep ACEC provides a visual buffer for Hovenweep National Monument (NPS), protection of like-cultural values, and a wildlife habitat/riparian zone associated with interagency cultural resources.

Field Manager Concurrence:

I concur that the existing Hovenweep ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

I concur that the existing Hovenweep ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Proposal for Modification: Potential Increase in Hovenweep ACEC boundary and acreage:

Since the designation of this ACEC in the 1991 RMP, BLM has acquired an additional parcel of land, approximately 620+ acres, that is adjacent on the east to the BLM Hovenweep ACEC and to a state section, and is adjacent on the western boundary to the Canyon of the Ancients NM (COANM) in Colorado. It is proposed that this parcel of approximately 620+ acres be added to the current BLM Hovenweep ACEC. The additional acreage will fill in a previously privately owned parcel between the two national monuments and contribute to consistent management of the cultural values.

Hovenweep National Monument is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and COANM is under the jurisdiction of the Colorado BLM, both are areas established to protect cultural values. The added acreage would be contiguous with the current BLM (Utah) Hovenweep ACEC. The total acres of the ACEC including the 621 acre acquisition would be 2,439 acres.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Indian Creek Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Indian Creek ACEC is located in the northern area of the FO, east of and adjacent to Canyonlands NP / Needles District.	The Indian Creek ACEC protects the scenic view from Needles Overlook across BLM land into Canyonlands NP. The area includes the lower end of Indian Creek and Rustler Canyon. The ACEC corresponds roughly with the Indian Creek WSA, but is slightly larger.	8,510	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The Indian Creek ACEC is noted for its incised, meandering canyons which wind through dark red mudstones, forming many rounded spires, and “hoo-doo”, boulders atop eroded rock that look like mushrooms. These various formations continue uninterrupted into Canyonlands National Park.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – No cultural inventory has been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a fish and wildlife relevant resource was not found in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).		
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Importance: The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The scenic values are based on the rock formations in the area similar to those found in Canyonlands NP, which contains some of the most unique land forms in the world [Shiozwa and Larson, 1980]. In the March 1986 VRM Inventory Scenic Quality was A; Visual Sensitivity Class was H(igh); Distance Zone was Foreground and Middleground (High), with a VRM Inventory Class of II. Visitors from around the world come to view this area from rim overlooks across BLM land and into NPS Canyonlands NP.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	<u>Scenic</u> – Although the area is scenic quality A when viewed from the overlook, from the basin it appears less natural due to resource activities that have taken place in the past within the basin, and which could further impact the scenic values.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Scenic value - viewshed from numerous rim overlooks into Canyonlands NP.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions: FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
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Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Indian Creek ACEC – Scenic value – 8,509 acres. Under No Action, would be maintained and would continue to be managed with the following management prescriptions:

- Almost all of the ACEC would be in ROS-P class areas

- Surface disturbance would be limited to that for which vegetation could be successfully within 1 year after project completion
- All vegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the vicinity.
- Open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (category 3) NSO; however, the area manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA or EIS, is necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area
- Available for geophysical work
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified as segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Available for livestock use
- Closed to OHV use
- Managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged
- Managed as VRM I class
- Subject to conditional fire suppression, with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life and property

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Existing Indian Creek ACEC (8,510 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Scenic values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate Management Response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock use
Minerals	Range of prescriptions: Mineral leasing– From - Indian Creek managed as NSO and the rest of the ACEC should be managed as timing and controlled surface use while meeting VRM II objectives, To - Timing and controlled surface use Closed to disposal of mineral materials in the Indian Creek portion of the ACEC and allow disposal as long as VRM II objectives (as intended from the key observation points) are met within the remaining portion Range of prescriptions: From – Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations, To - Open to mineral entry
Recreation	Range of prescriptions: From – Managed under the same prescriptions for No Action for ROS, To - would not be managed under ROS inventory class Limited to designated routes except for Indian Creek WSA,
Vegetation	Range of prescriptions: From - All vegetation (reveg) must be with native species naturally occurring in the vicinity, To – Not addressed
Visual (VRM)	Range of prescriptions: From – Managed as VRM II, To - Managed as VRM III
Woodlands	Range of prescriptions: From - Excluded from use of woodland products, To - No specific mention

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Indian Creek ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the existing Indian Creek ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team suggested that a range of alternatives should be considered including No Action; release of this ACEC with protection as noted for VRM class objectives, or inclusion of the nominated potential Lockhart Basin ACEC, which would include Indian Creek ACEC area. See Lockhart Basin Nominated ACEC p. 47.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Lavender Mesa Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Lavender Mesa ACEC covers the top of Lavender Mesa, which is located in the Indian Creek corridor of the field office.	Lavender Mesa is isolated and inaccessible by ground routes to man and herbivores; even small mammals such as rabbits and mice appear to be absent. The mesa top provides a relict plant community environment. Most of the mesa is pinyon-juniper woodland with a small 20 acre sagebrush-grass park.	649	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No	<u>Scenic</u> : The ID Team determined that scenic relevant resources were not found in this area.
	No	<u>Cultural/Historic</u> : No inventory has been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a fish and wildlife relevant resource was not found in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	<u>Relict plant community</u> - The vegetative community present on the top of Lavender Mesa is unique because it has developed without the influence of grazing animals and most other mammals. The area is ecologically relevant because it presents an isolated, relict plant community that remains unaltered by human or animal intervention.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Relict plant community</u> - The vegetative community is important for study and comparison purposes to design management for pinyon-juniper woodland and sagebrush-grass communities in other parts of the Colorado Plateau.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Relict plant community</u> .- The area offers an unimpacted area naturally protected from other resource activities for comparative studies and research.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Relict vegetation for comparative studies for rangeland health and management.

<p>Suggested Special Management Prescriptions: FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.</p>

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Lavender Mesa ACEC - Grazing Management Program – Near-relict Vegetation, 649 acres. Under No Action, would be maintained and would continue to be managed with the following management prescriptions:

- Managed to provide a baseline for rangeland studies through research and experiments and to allow for SPNM recreation
- Managed as ROS-SPNM class
- Open for mineral leasing with an approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top insofar as possible (NSO)
- Available for geophysical work

- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top insofar as possible
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products, except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Excluded from livestock grazing, including grazing by saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access
- Excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of relict plant communities
- Excluded from wildlife habitat improvements
- Excluded from watershed control structures
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- Closed to OHV use
- Surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment, insofar as possible

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Lavender Mesa Potential ACEC (649 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Relict vegetation values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate Management Response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Managed to provide a baseline for rangeland studies through research and experiments and to allow for Semi-primitive non motorized (SPNM) recreation Excluded from livestock grazing, including grazing by saddle stock and pack animals allowed for access
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing with an approved plan of operations, subject to stipulations precluding surface use of the mesa top insofar as possible; managed as (NSO) Available for geophysical work Closed to disposal of mineral materials Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
Recreation	Managed as ROS- semi primitive nonmotorized (SPNM) class Closed to OHV use Managed to limit recreation use if relict values are being damaged No campfires
Soil and Water	Excluded from watershed control structures
Vegetation	Excluded from land treatments or other improvements, except for test plots and facilities necessary for study of relict plant communities Excluded from wildlife habitat improvements Non-surface disturbing vegetative treatment would be allowed to control invasive species and for rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment, except helicopter access for scientific study and heliportable equipment, insofar as possible
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM I Class
Woodlands	Excluded from private or commercial use of woodland products

<u>Field Manager Concurrence:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I concur that the existing Lavender Mesa ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I concur that the existing Lavender Mesa ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes: _____ _____ _____
_____	Date: _____
Sandra A. Meyers Field Office Manager	

[Notes: The ID Team recommends carrying the existing Lavender Mesa ACEC forward for protection of relict plant communities with a few changes in the management prescriptions.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Scenic Highway Corridor Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
The Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC covers a visual zone along Highways U-95, U-261, and U-276, and part of the White Canyon viewshed. With the exception of the White Canyon viewshed, the corridor is approximately 1 mile wide. The ACEC includes portions of the canyons north of White Canyon – Fortknocker, Short, Long, Cheesebox, Hideout, and K & L, and intersects Natural Bridges National Monument.	Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC is managed to maintain scenic quality as viewed from the highways (Utah- 95, 261, and 276). Within the White Canyon viewshed (U-95 west from U-276), the south boundary of the corridor is the toe of the slope of Fry Point and Windgate Mesa. The north boundary is generally the toe of the slopes of the mesas north of White Canyon. The ACEC contains a small portion of the Butler Wash Archaeologic District, and overlaps a portion (21,380 acres) of Cedar Mesa ACEC.	79,017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No	<p><u>Scenic</u> – The ID Team considered the scenic qualities of the area along the highway corridor and determined both in 1987 and in 2004 that scenic quality was not present as defined by ACEC criteria. The viewsheds and canyons are typical of those found throughout the Colorado Plateau.</p> <p>However, in the 1991 RMP the Field Office agreed to recognize the visual elements of the highway corridor and their importance to tourism to the state due to the cooperative study efforts in the late 1970’s with the state, county and other federal agencies [<i>“U-95”, An Interagency Highway Corridor Study of Utah State Highways U-95, U-261, U-263, U-276, Notom Road.”</i>] Route U-95 was subsequently designated [after 1987] a Scenic By-way by the State of Utah. [<i>Proposed RMP FEIS, Vol 1. Page 1-197</i>].</p> <p>The VRM Inventory from March 1986 shows varying Scenic Quality Ratings for the surrounding area of the</p>

	No	<p>corridor. The Scenic Highway Corridor crosses many land forms and significant distances (roughly 130 miles). The Visual Sensitivity Classes range from Medium to Low, the Distance Zones range from Foreground to Background and Seldom Seen. The various VRM Inventory Classes along the corridor range from II, to III, to IV.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u> - The Scenic Highway Corridor runs through the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC and a portion of the Butler Wash Archeologic District, which are managed for cultural values. However, the corridor is ½ mile wide on each side of the highway and does not include cultural sites that could be considered relevant. Other cultural values are not generally present within the 1 mile width of the remaining (non-Cedar Mesa) corridor.</p>
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a fish and wildlife relevant resource was not found in the mile wide corridor.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.		No relevant value found

Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.		No relevant value found
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: The ID Team determined that the Scenic Highway Corridor does not meet ACEC criteria for relevance and importance.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

The current management prescriptions for the Scenic Highway Corridor (79,017 acres) are included below and would be included in the No Action alternative if analyzed.:

- Surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion.
- All revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the area
- Open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy (Category 3); however, the area manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through and EA or EIS, if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area
- Available for geophysical work
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Available for disposal of mineral materials subject to visual quality considerations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated or withdrawn from entry
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas except that onsite collection of dead fuel wood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area
- Available for livestock use
- OHV use is limited to existing roads and trails, except Grand Gulch SRMA OHV use is limited to designated roads and trails
- Managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged
- Managed as VRM I class, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed (those recreation development projects proposed in the 4333 section of this plan would not have to meet the VRM class standards
- Subject to conditional fire suppression

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC no longer meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will not be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I disagree with the ID team's findings for the existing Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC for the following reasons:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Shay Canyon Existing ACEC			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Shay Canyon ACEC is located in the southern portion of the Indian Creek corridor and is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Manti-LsSal National Forest.	Shay Canyon ACEC includes sections of the upper Indian Creek drainage with a Special Emphasis Area for the protection of aquatic and riparian habitat, delineated as a 275-foot corridor along upper Indian Creek. There are dinosaur tracks in the bedrock of Shay Canyon and sweeping panels of rock art on the cliff walls.	Existing: 3,560 Recommended Modification to 119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Cultural / Paleontological</u> - Rock art sites are the significant cultural resources along Indian Creek. Native Americans who have visited these sites recognize images that relate to their migration history. Dinosaur tracks in the bottom of the Shay Canyon streambed are a unique visual reminder of the area’s distant geologic and natural past.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team evaluated Shay Canyon that was previously listed as a Special Emphasis Area and determined that there are no relevant fish or wildlife resources currently in the area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process of system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the	No	The ID Team identified no natural hazards in the area.

resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).		
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Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Cultural / Paleontological</u> - Cultural resources in this area represent the interface between two prehistoric cultural groups: Anasazi and Fremont. This interface is represented in the unique motifs in the rock art. The area provides an opportunity for cultural scientific research, and paleontology study. This is a heavily traveled area by visitors to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park; Rte 211 is the only way into and out of the park. Needles District reported visitation of 44,333 vehicles in 2003, and 44,400 through the end of July 2004.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Cultural / Paleontological</u> – Rock art panels are extensive in the area of Shay Canyon and subject to adverse change and damage from increasing visitation on the benches and stream beds of the creeks.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – Cultural resources are the subject of national protective laws, regulations, and policy.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Cultural / Paleontological values.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:
FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Shay Canyon ACEC (3,560 acres) - Cultural, and Special Emphasis Area for conservation value - would be maintained with the following management prescriptions under the No Action alternative:

- Where riparian areas overlap part of Shay Canyon ACEC, the special conditions for floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas take precedence.

- Measures that limit surface disturbance serve cultural resource objectives by reducing direct and indirect impacts.
- Within Shay Canyon ACEC, cultural properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be surrounded by a buffer sufficient to allow permanent protection. If cultural resources or their buffers cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation would be applied; such measures range from limited testing to extensive excavation
- In any given case, mitigation would be designed to fit the specific circumstances and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Cedar Mesa Management Plan developed for the ACEC would guide site protection, data recovery, and all other necessary cultural management activities.
- Revegetation efforts for surface disturbance must be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- Open for mineral leasing – Surface use limited by special conditions
- Open for geophysical work
- Available for disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products except for limited onsite collection of dead fuel wood for campfires
- Available for livestock use
- Managed as VRM Class I, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed
- Subject to conditional fire suppression
- OHV use limited to designated roads/trails
- Open for improvements in habitat and watershed

Under the current DEIS alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Shay Canyon Potential ACEC (119 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Cultural/Paleontological values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	A Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) would be written for Shay Canyon ACEC
Fire	Appropriate Management Response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock use - trailing
Minerals	Manage as NSO for mineral leasing Open for geophysical work as long as it is consistent with the objectives of the ACEC Closed to the disposal of mineral materials Closed to mineral entry
Recreation	Closed to OHV use Recreation use may be limited if cultural/paleo resources become impacted
Soil and Water	No surface disturbance for watershed treatments / improvements
Vegetation	No surface disturbance for vegetation, or wildlife treatments / improvements Open for vegetative treatments
Visual (VRM)	Managed as VRM II class, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed
Woodlands	Closed to the use of woodland products

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the existing Shay Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the existing Shay Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Proposed Modification: The existing Shay Canyon ACEC boundary could be modified to include only the area surrounding the mouth of Shay Canyon which includes paleontological and cultural sites. Newspaper Rock, further up Indian Creek, is protected through designation as a National Historic Landmark. The Indian Creek stream corridor, likewise, is protected through management conditions for floodplains / riparian areas and does not currently have relevant fish resource values.

The ID Team suggests the modified Shay Canyon ACEC (119 acres) with reduced boundaries be considered in one alternative, and that the Special Emphasis Area for riparian and aquatic conservation be released from all alternatives.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Lockhart Basin ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
The Lockhart Basin ACEC nomination area is bounded on the north by the Colorado River, on the east by the cliffs of Hatch Point [the Moab and Monticello FOs' boundary], and on the west by Canyonlands National Park (CNP). The southern boundary contours from the eastern rims to south of Indian Creek existing ACEC and west to the boundary of CNP	The Lockhart Basin ACEC nomination includes lower Indian Creek, Rustler, Horsethief, and Lockhart Canyons, and is nominated to protect scenic values as viewed from the numerous rims above the eastern ACEC nominated boundary, and looking into Canyonlands NP.	47,783	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - The landforms within the nominated area are typified by outstanding rock formations, including rounded spires, high, truncated ledges, and cliffs. Colors range from light pink and white sandstone along the lower Indian Creek areas to white, pink, red, and dark reddish-purple in the ledges and various formations. The color contrasts change by time of day and light cast on the formations.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - The cultural inventory areas within Lockhart Basin reveal a low site density but represent multi-cultural occupations, unique to the canyonlands area of Utah.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> - The ID Team determined that there were no relevant wildlife values for this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological	No	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – The ID Team determined that there were no relevant Natural Systems and Process values for this area.

wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

See management prescriptions for Existing Indian Creek ACEC (page 33).

Lockhart Basin nominated ACEC is adjacent to the BLM Moab Field Office's potential Canyon Rims ACEC eastern boundary.

Field Manager Concurrence:

I concur that the nominated Lockhart Basin ACEC as documented meets the Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

I concur that the nominated Lockhart Basin ACEC as documented meets the Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team recommended that Lockhart Basin ACEC nomination be considered in a range of alternatives and in conjunction with the existing Indian Creek ACEC (see page 31).]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Valley of the Gods ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Valley of the Gods lies north of US Highway 163 extending north to the south cliff line of Cedar Mesa. The Valley of the Gods is currently a Special Emphasis Area within the Cedar Mesa existing ACEC.	Valley of the Gods is nominated as a potential ACEC by the BLM Monticello Field Office ID Team based on scenic values of quality and diversity of landforms.	34,615	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – The ID Team determined that cultural resources have not been inventoried in this area. <u>Scenic</u> – Panoramic views can be seen from the highways bordering the area and from the Valley of the Gods Loop (graded gravel and clay, 17 miles) Road. The eroded, wind-sculpted spires and buttes, and long rock fins resemble animals or “gods”. Seven Sailors, Rooster Butte, Setting Hen Butte, Pyramid Peak, Castle Butte, and Bell Butte are found here. The West Fork of Lime Creek, Lime Creek, and the northwest portion of Lime Ridge are included in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The ID Team determined that a fish and wildlife relevant resource was not found in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	The ID Team determined that a natural process or system of relevance was not found in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding,	No	The ID Team found no natural hazards in this area.

landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).		
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Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – Valley of the Gods provides significant vistas to those who travel the roads surrounding the nominated ACEC area. The Valley of the Gods is important to regional, national and international visitors who view and photograph the scenery. The majority of those who travel the highway system do not take advantage of backcountry scenery in a natural setting, instead, the view from the roads are their scenic experience in the area. The loop route provides those driving through the area, an “on-road” scenic opportunity. The BLM, the county and the state have promoted the loop road as part of the Trail of the Ancients. The March 1986 VRM Inventory showed the Scenic Quality as B; Visual Sensitivity as H(igh); Distance Zones of Foreground which is H(igh) and listed as VRM Inventory Class II.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> - Without protective management prescriptions, the unique scenic values could be damaged by other resource uses, such as potential oil and gas development or mineral-material disposal. Special management attention would limit surface disturbance to protect scenery from potential adverse impacts.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: Scenic values

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions: FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
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Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Valley of the Gods potential ACEC –34,771 acres. Under No Action (as part of the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC) , with the following proposed management prescriptions:

- Surface disturbance would be managed to be compatible with VRM I class criteria
- Surface disturbance would be limited to what can be successfully established within 1 year after project completion. Revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the vicinity.
- Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy; however, the manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA or EIS, if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area
- Available for geophysical work
- Open to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Available for livestock use
- Available for land treatments or other range improvements
- Available for wildlife habitat improvements
- Subject to conditional fire suppression with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life or property
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment
- OHV use Limited to designated roads/trails
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas, except that onsite collection of dead fuel wood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

Potential Valley of the Gods ACEC (34,615 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the relevant and important Scenic values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Fire	Appropriate management response
Lands and Realty	Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry.
Livestock grazing	Available for livestock grazing
Minerals	Open for mineral leasing – No Surface Occupancy (NSO); however the manager would grant an exception to the NSO stipulation in the event it is determined through an EA, or EIS if necessary, with the adoption of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area. Available for geophysical work Available for disposal of mineral materials with an approved plan of operations Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
Recreation	OHV use limited to designated roads and trails
Vegetation	Surface disturbance would be managed to be compatible with VRM criteria Open for vegetative treatments; revegetation must be with native species naturally-occurring in the vicinity
Visual (VRM)	Projects that meet visual quality standards allowed based on determined VRM management class
Woodlands	Subject to conditional fire suppression with motorized suppression methods used only if necessary to protect life and property

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated Valley of the Gods ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

- I concur that the nominated Valley of the Gods ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team suggested that Valley of the Gods be considered for potential ACEC status within a range of alternatives. This includes leaving Valley of the Gods as a Special Emphasis Area within the Cedar Mesa ACEC; releasing it from special designation with management under the VRM class objectives; or as a stand-alone ACEC for scenic values.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Canyonlands ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Area east of Canyonlands NP south to the National Forest Boundary. No specific boundaries were described; hand drawn boundaries were overlaid on an indistinct map. Map seemed to match that on-file by SUWA for the Redrock Wilderness Proposal boundaries. [This nominated area has within its boundaries the following existing ACECs: Shay Canyon (Cultural), Lavender and Bridger Jack Mesas (Relict and near-relict-plant communities), and Indian Creek (Scenic)]	<p><u>Nomination Description:</u></p> <p>The proposed ACEC holds the landscape of infinitely twisted canyons, high domes, cliffs, mesas and anticlines that borders Canyonlands National Park. Creeks flow down from the nearby Abajo Mountains (NF), creating important riparian corridors and carving interesting formations. The road to the Needles Overlook and Highway 211 to Squaw Flat run through and along the edge of the area. Newspaper Rock, a unique and important archaeological site, adjoins the southern edge. Bridger Jack Mesa, Harts Point and Horsehead Rock provide long views of the canyon country. One of these views is of Lockhart Basin, which is below the popular Needles Overlook.</p>	175,365	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No	<u>Scenic</u> – Mentioned in the nomination specifically was Hart’s Point. Hart’s Point is not unique in itself and is inventoried as VRM IV.
	Yes	Hart’s Point overlook with views into Canyonlands NP is considered scenic. The existing Indian Creek ACEC (Scenic) is located within this nomination yet covers only 5% of this total nominated area.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – nomination report says that “12,000 acres ...have been identified by BLM... for cultural resources”. This number is not based on any known real data BLM is aware of.
	Yes	The current existing Shay Mesa (Cultural) ACEC within this nominated area encompasses 3,560 acres or 2% of the nominated area.
	No	

		“countless archeological sites are scattered throughout the remaining lands within the proposed ACEC.” This is possible but BLM surveys have not been completed to substantiate this statement.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	<u>Wildlife</u> –
	No	- Southwestern willow flycatcher – <u>no currently occupied habitat</u>
	No	-Critical habitat for sensitive species [“critical” is Fish Wildlife Service (FWS) term]; <u>not occurring in this area for these species / may provide habitat but not critical</u>
	No	Pronghorn, western red bat, ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, Virgin River montane vole, Great Plains rat snake, Swainson’s hawk , Spotted ground squirrel, Utah milk snake, many lined-skink , desert bighorn sheep -- <u>none of these species are considered sensitive by the State of Utah for San Juan County</u>
	No	Bats: big free-tailed bat, fringed myotis, spotted bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat - found in a wide range of habitats available throughout Utah; <u>there is no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to the nominated ACEC area</u>
	No	Sage grouse – is sensitive, but <u>does not occur nor is there habitat in this nominated area</u>
	Yes	Bald eagle - a T&E species; winters throughout the field office area, but not specifically reliant on this area for winter habitat, nor does it nest in resource area
	No	Ferruginous hawk – potentially present, but <u>don’t know where located</u> , typically nests in higher elevations than nominated area
	No	Peregrine falcon – <u>not state sensitive species</u> , found throughout field office area, not just in this area
	No	Burrowing owl – <u>not known in this area</u>
No	Lewis’ woodpecker – is state sensitive species, but <u>typically found at higher elevations than this nominated area</u>	
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	-Spineless hedgehog cactus, <u>delisted in 1993</u>
	No	-Jane’s globemallow, Tuhy aromatic scurf-pea, and Chatterley’s onion - could occur in this area but <u>have not been identified</u>
	No	-Moab woodyaster, Eastwood monekeyflower - <u>not in area of nomination</u>
	Yes	-Relic [relict] plant communities on Lavender Mesa are present and protected under the existing Lavender Mesa ACEC
	Yes	-Rock formations are examples of unique erosion processes
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area not nominated for this value

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For this field office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The nominated area includes the existing Indian Creek ACEC for scenic value, which is only 2% of the total acreage of this nomination.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – Sites are present in the area; currently there is an existing ACEC (Shay Canyon) for cultural values within a small portion (2%) of the nominated area. However, the nomination did not describe sites, nor cultural value in terms of more than locally significant qualities for importance. The area within this nomination acreage determined by the BLM ID team to have relevant and important cultural values is considered in the Shay Canyon existing and potential ACEC,
	No	<u>Wildlife</u> – Bald eagle, a T & E species, is present during the winter in the resource area but there are no nesting birds. This species is present throughout the field office area and the State of Utah; it is not, therefore, more than locally significant.
	No	<u>Natural Systems & Processes - Geologic/Rock formations</u> - examples of unique erosion processes: this general comment describes much of the entire resource field area in terms of rock formations, and is not unique to this area..
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	<u>Scenic</u> - The extensive viewshed area nominated is comprised primarily of large rock formations, many of them in the far distance and located within Canyonlands NP, or areas without scenic quality. In general, these formations are not vulnerable to on-the-ground impacts. There is no special management attention needed to preserve formations for the entire large nominated acreage.
	Yes	<u>Natural Systems & Processes -</u> - <u>Relict and near-relict plant communities</u> on Lavender Mesa and Bridger Jack Mesa existing ACECs respectively are present and are currently protected with ACEC management prescriptions; these two areas lie within this larger nominated ACEC area, and are less than 4% of this extensive nominated area.
	No	- <u>Geologic/Rock formations</u> examples of unique erosion processes: these formations hundreds of feet high will continue in their erosion process, and are not threatened by impacts on-the-ground.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy		None identified

public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Scenic value, which is present as a viewshed from an area looking west from Hart’s Point Overlook into Canyonlands NP, is currently protected under the existing Indian Creek ACEC
- Cultural value, is currently protected under the existing Shay Canyon ACEC, or could be protected under the potential modified Shay Canyon ACEC
- Relict and near-relict plant communities on Lavender and Bridger Jack Mesas, are currently protected under the two existing ACECs by the same names.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

See management prescriptions under existing Lavender and Bridger Jack Mesas existing/potential ACECs, Shay Canyon existing/potential ACEC, and Indian Creek existing/potential ACEC/Lockhart Basin potential ACEC.

Field Manager Concurrence:

I concur that the nominated Canyonlands ACEC does not meet Relevance and Importance criteria for the entire nominated acreage and will not be considered in its entirety as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

I disagree with the ID team’s findings for the following reasons:

_____ Date: _____
 Sandra A. Meyers
 Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team determined that the entire nominated acreage (175,365 acres) does not meet the relevance and importance criteria for the values nominated across that acreage. However, the existing / potential ACECs that lie within the nominated acreage -- Lavender Canyon, Bridger Jack Mesa, Shay Canyon, and Indian Creek/potential Lockhart Basin, were found to have values based on relevance and importance criteria.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Cedar Mesa ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Located in the area south of UT 95, west of Comb Ridge, north of a portion of Glen Canyon NRA, and bounded on the west by Highway 276.	<p><u>Nomination description:</u></p> <p>This is an area of diverse terrain from high elevations to desert washes. Large numbers of cultural sites are located within the area, as well as backcountry access for primitive recreation and cultural visitation.</p>	379,336	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic: Valley of the Gods:</u> Panoramic views can be seen from the highways bordering the area and from the Valley of the Gods Loop 17-mile [dirt] Road. [See Valley of the Gods ACEC nominated evaluation, p. 50].
	Yes	<u>Comb Ridge:</u> “the arching spine of Comb Ridge is a remarkable sight” from the highway.
	Yes	<u>Cultural:</u> The Grand Gulch/Cedar Mesa area was extensively occupied by the Puebloan culture from before AD 500 to 1270. In surveyed areas, site densities of 20-200 sites per square mile have been recorded. The sites are of many types and include lithic scatters, petroglyph and pictograph panels, Basketmaker pit houses and pit structures, Puebloan kivas, multi-room surface swellings, granaries, and cliff dwellings. Many of the cultural properties are well preserved and need condition assessment and protection.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – Arch Canyon ruin has unique architectural elements that are one-of-a-kind in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for	Yes	<u>Wildlife:</u> <u>Fish and Wildlife – Arch Canyon:</u> T & E species – designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl, and potential habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. Sensitive species - Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker.

<p>maintaining species diversity).</p>	<p>No Yes No Yes Yes No No No</p>	<p>- Black-footed ferret -Federally endangered: <u>extirpated from field office area (no longer present)</u> - Ferruginous hawk - sensitive [state] species-- winters in pinyon-juniper (P-J) woodland - Mule deer [crucial winter range is designated], desert shrew, western red bat, ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, Virgin River montaine vole, the Utah night lizard, Swainson’s hawk, osprey, spotted ground squirrel, Pacific chorus frog, many-lined skink [found in moist areas near water, not in area], and the desert bighorn sheep: <u>none are listed as sensitive</u> - Peregrine falcon - This species is delisted but support continues to be mandated to ensure the continued viability of the species. - Bald eagle – winter range, present but no breeding in area; ubiquitous range over the state of Utah, - Burrowing owl – <u>not in area</u> - Big free-tailed bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis bats – <u>no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to this area</u> Bobolink – found between the pinyon-juniper and shrub, usually in NF, <u>not in this area</u>; burrowing owl [present in open grass lands, not treed area] – <u>not present in area</u>; sage grouse, – <u>not found in this area</u>; Lewis’ woodpecker – is state sensitive but breeding area is typically in ponderosa pine forests, <u>not in this area</u>.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	<p>No No No Yes</p>	<p><u>Natural Systems and processes:</u> - Navajo sedge: Federally listed plant species, <u>not found in this area</u> (found in ledges of the Navajo sandstone formation on the San Juan River); whiteflower penstemon – <u>not present in this area</u>; -Monument milkvetch - potentially located in the northern part of San Juan County in Canyonlands NP; alcove bog-orchid, Hole in the Rock prairie clover, ; Kachina daisy – all could possibly be in the area but <u>have not been identified</u> - Comb Wash buckwheat –<u>removed from special species status list</u>; Franklin’s ceanothus, <u>not sensitive species</u>; Bluff buckwheat, <u>not sensitive species</u> - Cronquist milkvetch – located in the bottom of Comb Wash, (outside of the existing ACEC area) though within the nominated area boundaries.</p>
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Area not nominated for this value</p>

Importance:

The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
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<p>Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.</p>	Yes	<p><u>Scenic</u> - Valley of the Gods - The Valley of the Gods is important to regional, national and international visitors who view and photograph the scenery. [See Valley of the Gods nominated ACEC evaluation, p 50]</p>
	No	<p><u>Scenic</u> - Comb Ridge - ID Team determined that Comb Ridge is located within a different management category type area than the existing Cedar Mesa ACEC boundaries. It is a scenic formation but the ridge itself is not subject to impacts that would necessitate special management protection</p>
	Yes	<p><u>Cultural</u> - The area probably contains the greatest concentration of Basketmaker II and III sites in the Southwest. Grand Gulch is also known particularly for its well preserved cliff dwellings and variety of rock art. [See existing Cedar Mesa ACEC evaluation, p 13].</p>
	Yes	<p><u>Cultural</u> – The Arch Canyon Anasazi ruin contains a unique and rare example of Chaco and Mesa Verde style architecture. The presence of this stone structural style combined in one site is unprecedented in the northern San Juan area.</p>
	No	<p><u>Wildlife</u> - - Ferruginous hawk – winters in pinyon-juniper (P-J) woodlands, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of P-J in the resource area, <u>not limited to Cedar Mesa</u></p>
	No	<p>- Peregrine falcon – <u>may be present but most birds are found in the San Juan River ecosystem, their natural habitat.</u></p>
	No	<p>- Bald eagle – no breeding areas in Cedar Mesa; eagle is found throughout the State of Utah</p>
	Yes	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife</u> – Arch Canyon: Designated critical habitat for T & E species – Mexican spotted owl; state sensitive species, Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker, are present in Arch Canyon.</p>
	No	<p><u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> - Kachina daisy - <u>not known if it is present in this area</u> - Cronquist milkvetch – this plant is located within Comb Wash, however, the ID Team determined that extending the boundaries to include Comb Wash and Ridge was not a practical management action due to change in use and activities in these two areas and, therefore, differing management needs.</p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	<p><u>Scenic</u> - Valley of the Gods - Some resource uses and activities could cause adverse surface disturbance and impacts to the scenic quality / value of the area</p>
	Yes	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife</u> – Arch Canyon: Designated critical habitat for T & E species – Mexican spotted owl; state sensitive species are present in Arch Canyon</p>
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	Yes	<p><u>Cultural</u> - The Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Grand Gulch Archeological District</p>
	Yes	<p><u>Fish and Wildlife</u> Arch Canyon – Designated critical habitat for T & E species; state sensitive species are present.</p>
<p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.</p>		<p>None identified</p>

Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified
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Summary of Important Values:

- Scenic quality in the Valley of the Gods area
- Cultural values in the Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch and Arch Canyon areas
- Fish / wildlife values in the Arch Canyon area, designated critical habitat for T & E species – Mexican spotted owl; habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher, and state sensitive species- Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

See management prescriptions listed under Cedar Mesa Existing ACEC evaluation (pp 16-20), Grand Gulch Special Emphasis Area, and for Arch Canyon potential Special Emphasis Area under existing Cedar Mesa ACEC.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated Cedar Mesa ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC as the existing / potential Cedar Mesa ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the nominated Cedar Mesa ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

_____ Date: _____
 Sandra A. Meyers
 Field Office Manager

[Notes: The ID Team recognizes that relevant resources in this nomination compare to the ones in the existing / potential Cedar Mesa ACEC, the Special Emphasis Area of Valley of the Gods, and in a potential Special Emphasis Area for fish/wildlife and cultural values in Arch Canyon. The ID Team recommends that the existing / potential Cedar Mesa be considered in a range of alternatives.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Dark Canyon ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
The Dark Canyon nominated area is located on the western field office boundary adjacent to Glen Canyon NRA, and from the southern boundary of Canyonlands NP south to the Manti-LaSal NF and includes the areas of Bulter Wash, Beef Basin, and Dark Canyon	<p><u>Nomination Description:</u></p> <p>The Dark Canyon/Butler Wash/Beef Basin area is one of the least accessible areas in southern Utah, and encompasses a wide range of elevation changes, a diversity of scenic viewing opportunities, and a variety of plant, and animal habitats and species.</p>	163,678	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The nominated ACEC holds every type of beautiful view imaginable, from snow-capped mountaintops cloaked in dark forests, across expansive mesas, down redrock cliffs, to green creekside grasses sprouting from red sand. Twisted junipers cling to cliffs that rise 2,000 feet above the canyon floors.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – “Cultural resources, including petroglyphs and cliff dwellings, are thick through the entire region.” - The ID Team determined that because the density of cultural sites in this area is likely not to be as prevalent as in Alkali Ridge or Cedar Mesa, and sites are less impacted because they are off the beaten path, that the cultural value was not relevant. No cultural resource inventory has been done in this area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	<u>Wildlife</u> – - Mexican spotted owl – Dark Canyon is within designated critical habitat for the owl.
	Yes	- Sensitive [state] species - ferruginous hawk – winters in pinyon-juniper (P-J) woodland
	No	- Mule deer [crucial winter range is designated], desert shrew, western red bat, Great Plains rat snake, ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, Virgin River montaine vole, the Utah night lizard, Swainson’s hawk, osprey, spotted ground squirrel, Pacific chorus frog, many-lined skink [found in moist areas near water, not in area], and the desert bighorn sheep: <u>none of these species are listed as sensitive</u>
	Yes	-Important habitat for peregrine falcon, may be present in

	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>this area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bald eagle no breeding areas here, ubiquitous range over the state of Utah, - Burrowing owl – <u>not in area</u> - Big free-tailed bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis bats – <u>no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to this area</u> <p>Bobolink – found between the pinyon-juniper and shrub, usually in NF - <u>not in this area</u>; burrowing owl [present in open grass lands, not treed area] – <u>not present in area</u>; sage grouse – <u>not found in this area</u>; Lewis’ woodpecker – is state sensitive but breeding area is typically in ponderosa pine forests [at higher elevations in NF]- <u>not in this area.</u></p>
<p>A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p><u>Natural process of system</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whiteflower penstemon – <u>not present here</u>; - Monument milkvetch - <u>potentially located in the northern part of San Juan County in Canyonlands NP, north of this nominated area</u> - Kachina daisy – possibly could be present, habitat is seasonally wet seeps, <u>not identified in area</u> Comb Wash buckwheat - <u>removed from sensitive species list</u>, Franklin’s ceanothus – <u>not sensitive species</u>; Bluff buckwheat - <u>not sensitive species</u> - alcove bog-orchid, Hole in the Rock prairie clover - could possibly be in the area <u>but not identified</u> Cronquist milkvetch – sensitive species but <u>not present in this area.</u>
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>This value was not submitted</p>

<p>Importance: The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<p>Important Values</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Values and Rationale for Determination</p>
<p>Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u> – Dark Canyon is a destination for visitors regionally, nationally and internationally because of its remoteness, scenery, and opportunity for primitive backcountry travel in a large canyon system.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mexican spotted owl – designated critical habitat and pairs known to inhabit - Ferruginous hawk – winters in P-J woodlands, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of P-J in the resource area <u>not limited to Dark Canyon</u> - Bald eagle - eagle <u>found throughout the State of Utah</u> - Peregrine falcon - provides important habitat for peregrine

	No	falcon and other raptors <u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> Kachina daisy – <u>not identified in this area</u>
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	- Peregrine falcon – provides important habitat for peregrine falcon and other raptors
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Scenic quality
- Wildlife values, Dark Canyon is within designated critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

See the management prescriptions listed for the existing/potential Dark Canyon ACEC evaluation (p. 22).

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated Dark Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC as the existing / potential Dark Canyon ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the nominated Dark Canyon ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

Date: _____

[Notes: The ID Team determined that the entire acreage (163,678 acres) as nominated does not meet the relevance and importance criteria for the values listed. However, the existing Dark Canyon ACEC provides protection for the values found to have relevance and importance: scenic and wildlife.]

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Monument Canyon ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
Monument Canyon nominated ACEC area is located on the eastern edge of the field office at the Colorado border, and north of Navajo Nation lands.	<p align="center"><u>Nominated Description:</u></p> <p>The nominated Monument Canyon ACEC area includes Tin Cup Mesa, Cross Canyon, Monument Canyon and the upper part of Montezuma Creek. Portions of the area are currently within WSAs.</p>	46,830	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	No	<u>Scenic</u> – The ID Team determined that this area does not have scenic qualities, nor is it unique within the larger resource area. VRM Inventory Class is IV.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – Ruins occur throughout the canyons and mesas. Tin Cup Mesa has some cultural sites; however, the ID Team determined that the density of cultural sites in this area is likely not as prevalent as in Alkali Ridge or Cedar Mesa, and sites are less impacted because they are off the beaten path. Based on criteria (pp 41-44), the ID Team determined that the cultural value was not relevant.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	<u>Wildlife:</u> - Federally endangered black-footed ferret: <u>extirpated from field office area (no longer present)</u>
	No	- Ferruginous hawk - winters in pinyon-juniper woodland <u>typically not found in this area</u>
	No	- Mule deer [crucial winter range is designated], desert shrew, western red bat, ringtail cat, Utah milk snake, dwarf shrew, Virgin River montaine vole, the Utah night lizard, Swainson’s hawk, osprey, spotted ground squirrel, Pacific chorus frog, many-lined skink [found in moist areas near water, not in area], and the desert bighorn sheep: <u>none of these species are listed as sensitive</u>
	No	- Burrowing owl – <u>not in area</u>
	No	- Big free-tailed bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis bats – <u>no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to this area</u>

	No No	- Sage grouse – sensitive but <u>not found in this area</u> - Lewis’ woodpecker – is state sensitive but breeding area is typically in ponderosa pine forests <u>not in this area</u>
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	<u>Natural Systems and processes:</u> -Natural Riparian Ecosystems – ID Team did not identify any riparian systems in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	None identified in proposal

Importance: The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value includes evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.		No relevant value found
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.		No relevant value found
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		No relevant value found
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human		None identified

life and safety or to property.		
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Summary of Important Values: The ID Team determined no relevant values were present in this area.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

The ID Team determined there are no relevant values were present in this area.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated Monument Canyon ACEC as documented does not meet Relevance and Importance criteria and will not be considered in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I disagree with the ID Team’s findings for the following reasons:

Date: _____

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

Redrock Plateau ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
The Redrock Plateau ACEC nomination is located in the southwestern corner of the field office (FO) area. It is bounded by routes U-95 on the north and U-276 on the partially on the east, and Glen Canyon NRA on the south and western FO boundaries.	<u>Nominated Description:</u> Sheer-sided canyons cut the area, high mesas, and eroded badlands make up this varied landscape. A part of this proposed ACEC is the existing Mancos Mesa WSA.	323.473	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The area encompasses a large diverse geographic region which displays a landscape of canyons, cliffs, desert and badlands, high mesas sandy washes. The area outside of the WSA is VRM Inventory Class(es) III and IV.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – “The proposed ACEC is rich in significant cultural resources.” The ID Team determined that the density of cultural sites in the area is likely not high, nor are the resources unique to the area or that would require special management for protection.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	<u>Wildlife</u> – - Ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, and Virgin River vole – <u>these species are not sensitive.</u>
	Yes	- Ferruginous hawk - sensitive species-- winters in pinyon-juniper woodland
	Yes	- Peregrine falcon - <u>could be found in the area but usual habitat is along the San Juan River</u>
	Yes	- Bald eagle – present but no breeding areas, ubiquitous range over the state of Utah],
	No	- Burrowing owl – <u>not in area</u>
	No	- Big free-tailed bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, fringed myotis bats – <u>no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to this area</u> ; spotted ground squirrel, <u>not a sensitive species and can be found throughout the field office area.</u>
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict	Yes	-Desert bighorn sheep – largest herd found in the field office area, but <u>not a sensitive species</u>
	No	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – - Sage, blackbrush, and rabbitbrush communities – <u>not unique, these plant communities are found within the entire Colorado Plateau</u>
	No	- Hole in the Rock prairie clover – could possibly be

plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No No Yes	present but not identified - Whiting indigo bush – <u>not a sensitive species</u> , present in the Mancos area - Copper Canyon milkvetch – could possibly be present in area but not identified - Relict plant communities – some are located on Mancos Mesa
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).		No hazards were identified in this area.

Importance: The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value includes evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	No No No No No No	<u>Scenic</u> – The area is large and replicates most desert scenery present within the Colorado Plateau. <u>Wildlife</u> - Ferruginous hawk - winters in p-j woodlands, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of p-j in the resource area, <u>not limited to this section of the resource area</u> - Peregrine falcon – not usually found in this type of area, <u>usual habitat is along the San Juan River</u> - Bald eagle – present but no breeding areas here, ubiquitous range over the state of Utah - desert bighorn sheep_– <u>not a sensitive species</u> , herds occur in other areas of the field office. <u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> - Relict plant communities_– not unique, <u>inaccessible on mesa top and within WSA, does not need special management attention for protection</u>
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.		None identified
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values: The ID Team determined no relevant values present in this area.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Notes: The ID Team determined that the nominated Redrock Plateau ACEC (323,473 acres) does not meet the relevance and importance criteria for the values considered.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated Redrock Plateau ACEC as documented does not meet the Relevance and Importance criteria and will not be considered in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I disagree with the ID Team’s findings for the following reasons:

Sandra A. Meyers
Field Office Manager

Date: _____

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

San Juan River ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
The San Juan River ACEC nomination is located along the river from west of Bluff, UT to the boundary of Glen Canyon NRA, with the Navajo Nation on the southern portion of the river center line.	<p><u>Natural Description:</u></p> <p>The San Juan River ACEC nomination includes the many varied rock formations and cultural sites along the river banks, the diversity of rock, water and vegetation views, and the riparian nature of the river corridor. A portion of the nominated area lies within the San Juan River SRMA.</p>	<p>22,179 as nominated</p> <p>7,590 as recommended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – The scenery along the San Juan River includes tilted formations as the river crosses Comb Ridge, steep vertical cliffs hundreds of feet high with walls of interbedded sandstone and limestone, and the 1,200 foot high walls define the Goosenecks, one of the best examples of entrenched meanders in the United States. Riparian areas with various hues of green set off the water course and rock, presenting a diverse and varied scenic viewing area.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – The rock art along the San Juan River is unsurpassed, recognized as “Type Sites” for their specific rock art motifs. Cultural sites are present along the river banks and within the tributaries of the San Juan River
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> – The San Juan River has a unique endemic fish population and designated habitat for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and the Razorback sucker, as well as the state sensitive Flannelmouth sucker. Bighorn sheep inhabit the rocky precipices of the lower river. The corridor is used by migrating Southwestern willow flycatcher (T&E), and Yellowbilled cuckoo (candidate species). Important riparian habitat for several species of wildlife including the bighorn sheep, amphibians, neo-tropical birds, and waterfowl.
A natural process or system (including but not	Yes	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – -Riparian systems – found in all areas of the San Juan

limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	River corridor -Hanging gardens / Navajo sedge – occurs in the ledges of the Navajo sandstone formation. Hanging gardens are unique herbaceous communities that develop under certain geologic and climatic features in arid to semi-arid climates. They are fed by groundwater aquifers in either fine-grained sandstones or in limestones, and exist on cliff faces or in undercut alcoves.
	Yes	-Sensitive species: Western hop hornbeam, Alcove Rock daisy, Howel scorpion weed, Bluff phacelia, and Cooper Canyon milkvetch
	Yes	<u>Geologic features: Goosenecks</u> - entrenched meanders of the San Juan River
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area not nominated for natural hazards.

Importance:

The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value include evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – Visitors come to the San Juan River as a destination for river trips at least in part because of the unique desert river scenery. Thousands of visitors a year also view the river from the overlook at Goosenecks State Park to view the entrenched meanders hundreds of feet below. San Juan River is currently managed as VRM Class I.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – The density and types of cultural sites along the San Juan River corridor are significant, and subject to impacts from use and potential resource development.
	Yes	<u>Wildlife</u> – T & E and state sensitive species present: Colorado pikeminnow and the Razorback sucker as well as the State sensitive Flannelmouth sucker.
	Yes	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – - <u>Hanging Gardens / Navajo sedge</u> – are present within the Navajo sandstone formation along the river. Hanging garden vegetation is structurally and floristically distinct from other spring-supported vegetation in the American southwest.
	Yes	- T&E and state sensitive species: Western hop hornbeam, Alcove Rock daisy, Howel scorpionweed, Bluff phacelia, and Cooper Canyon milkvetch <u>Geologic features:</u>

	Yes	- Geologic Features / <u>Goosenecks</u> – Visitors from the world over stop to view the entrenched meanders of the San Juan River from more than 1,000 feet above at the Goosenecks State Park overlook. Boaters float within the confines of these thousand foot rock walls for approximately 30 miles.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – It is unlikely that the scenic qualities of the massive rock formations will be adversely affected. However, surface disturbances (on the beaches, riparian lands, or rims) from increased use and other resource activities could impact the scenic values.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – Cultural sites are particularly subject to adverse impacts along the river due to the heavy visitation in the area, as well as being subject to damage by other resource activities.
	Yes	<u>Wildlife</u> – The T & E : Colorado pikeminnow and the Razorback sucker, as well as the State sensitive Flannelmouth sucker. are rare, unique, and vulnerable to adverse change.
	Yes	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – - <u>Riparian systems</u> – extensive riparian areas are rare in the desert climate and provide habitat for T&E and sensitive species, wildlife and for neo-tropical migratory birds. The riparian areas are subject to adverse impact from increased use of the waterway and other resource uses and activities (such as grazing) including potential development along the banks. <u>T&E species:</u> -Navajo sedge, Western hop hornbeam, Alcove Rock daisy, Howel scorpionweed, Bluff phacelia, and Cooper Canyon milkvetch.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> - Cultural resources are the subject of national protective laws, regulations, and policy. Many are potentially eligible for the National Historic Register
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified

Summary of Important Values:

- Scenic quality
- Cultural values
- Wildlife - T & E fish species: Colorado pikeminnow, the Razorback sucker; the state sensitive Flannelmouth sucker
- Natural Systems - Riparian ecosystems, and the following T & E plant species: Navajo sedge, Western hop hornbeam, Alcove Rock daisy, Howel scorpion weed, Bluff phacelia, and Cooper Canyon milkvetch

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and

wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Under the current DEIS range of alternatives the following changes in management prescriptions could be considered:

San Juan River Potential ACEC (7,590 acres)	
Special Management: The following management prescriptions were identified to protect and prevent the Scenic, Cultural, Wildlife, and Natural System relevant and important values from irreparable damage.	
Resource/Use	Management Prescriptions
Cultural	Cultural Resources Management Plan will be written for all alternatives
Fire	Appropriate Management Response
Livestock grazing	Range of prescriptions: From - Available for livestock use October 1 st through March 31 st , To - Open to livestock grazing
Minerals	Mineral leasing - NSO
Recreation	ROS-P class conditions for the San Juan River Camping closed in areas as necessary to protect cultural resources. Designate trails to access cultural sites as necessary to protect cultural resources No camping in cultural sites or ruins OHV limited to designated roads and trails Ropes and other climbing aids are not allowed to access ruins or cultural sites.
Soil and Water	Available for watershed improvements while preserving integrity of ROS-P class conditions
Vegetation	Available for habitat, and vegetation improvements while preserving integrity of ROS-P class conditions
Visual (VRM)	Managed at VRM II class
Woodlands	Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products except for limited onsite collection of dead wood for campfires Exclude live cottonwood harvest

Notes: The ID Team found relevant and important values present within the San Juan River corridor in the area from the centerline of the river to the boundary of the riparian area /or at the rim on the northern side of the river (7,626 acres), the area of the river under BLM jurisdiction and administration.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated San Juan River ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria and will be considered as a potential ACEC in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I concur that the nominated San Juan River ACEC as documented meets Relevance and Importance criteria with the following changes:

 Sandra A. Meyers

Date: _____

Field Office Manager

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns (ACECs)
Monticello Field Office**

White Canyon ACEC Nomination			
General Location	General Description	Acreage	Values Considered
White Canyon ACEC nomination is located north of State Highway 95, east of the Manti-LaSal NF, and includes the canyons north of White Canyon, and the area surrounding Natural Bridges NM.	<p><u>Nominated Description:</u></p> <p>The area includes the canyon drainages of White Canyon - Short, Long, Gravel, Fortknocker, Hideout, K & L, Armstrong and Tuwa canyons and an area known as Cheesebox Canyon, which is a WSA.</p>	101,377	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Cultural • Wildlife • Natural Systems and Processes

Evaluation Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevant Values	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans.)	Yes	<u>Scenic</u> – Although similar to other areas locally, White Canyon drainages provide a deeply incised slickrock canyon system that is known for treacherous slot canyons that flood with storm run-off.
	Yes	<u>Cultural</u> – The canyons contain cultural sites, and sites related to Utah’s early Anglo history.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat and endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u> – “critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl and the Southwestern willow flycatcher” – <u>No critical habitat in this area</u>
	No	- Mule deer, Western red bat, ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, osprey, Swainson’s hawk, Lewis’ woodpecker, big free-tailed bat, fringed myotis, Townsend’s bat, spotted ground squirrel, Albert’s squirrel, and many-lined skink – no information to show that these bats have a strong affinity to this area and <u>none of these are sensitive species</u>
	No	- Three-toed woodpecker – <u>not habitat for this species</u> , they typically live in conifer forests at 8k feet
	Yes	- Peregrine falcon - not a sensitive species but could possibly be found in this area
	Yes	- Bald eagle - a T&E species, winters throughout the field office area, but not specifically reliant on this area for winter habitat, nor does it nest in resource area
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or	No	<u>Natural Systems and Processes</u> – - Rock violet, sheathed death camus, indigo bush, white flower penstemon, monument milkvetch – <u>could possibly be found in the area but not identified</u>
	No	- Kachina daisy – could possibly be found in this area, not identified ; usually found in hanging gardens
	No	- Perennial steams in area – ID Team determined <u>there are</u>

riparian; or rare geological features).	No	<u>no perennial streams in this area.</u> - Springs in area: there are springs throughout the FO area, this is not unique
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs, determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	No	Area not nominated for natural hazards.

Importance:		
The resource, value, process, system, or hazard described above as relevant must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the resource, value, process, system, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Important Values	Yes/No	Values and Rationale for Determination
Has <u>more than locally significant qualities</u> which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource. For Monticello Field Office consideration, criteria for cultural value includes evaluation of the nature of the cultural resource: types of sites, the density of sites, and the existing impacts to the resource.	No	<u>Scenic</u> – The canyon systems are not easily visible from the highway because they are visually blocked by a lower bench along the mesa. Views in the northern area of the nominated area include the plateaus south of Dark Canyon. These areas are similar to the high, rolling plateaus common in San Juan County. The view of the area looks towards the mountains but doesn’t capture the deep canyons, instead you see the sage brush areas in the foreground. The area on the eastern end of the nominated area provides similar terrain for the viewer with some obstructed views due to the trees lining the highway.
	No	<u>Cultural</u> – The steep, narrow canyons tend to make the cultural sites inaccessible and difficult to identify. The density and site types are not comparable to the Alkali Ridge and Cedar Mesa cultural sites within the field office resource area. (see criteria pp 41-44 of text section).
	No	<u>Wildlife</u> –
	No	- Peregrine falcon - not state sensitive species, <u>found throughout field office area not just in this area</u> - Bald eagle – no nesting areas in this FO; <u>ubiquitous throughout state of Utah</u>
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	<u>Cultural</u> – The special conditions developed for sites eligible for listing on the National Register would be sufficient to protect cultural values present; the intensive level of management associated with ACEC designations was not determined to be needed to protect cultural resources for this area.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		None identified
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare.		None identified

Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.		None identified
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Summary of Important Values: The ID Team determined values present in this nominated area did not meet the relevance and importance criteria.

Suggested Special Management Prescriptions:

FLPMA Section 103(a): The term “areas of critical environmental concern”, means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to the important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Suggested Special Management Conditions, and Notes

Notes: The ID Team determined that the nomination does not meet the relevance and importance criteria for the values listed.

Field Manager Concurrence:

- I concur that the nominated White Canyon ACEC as documented does not meet the Relevance and Importance criteria and will not be considered in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- I disagree with the ID Team’s Finding for the following reasons:

 Sandra A. Meyers
 Field Office Manager

Date: _____

Appendix B: List of Existing and Nominated ACECs as Evaluated in Appendix A* – Monticello Field Office

Existing (E) or Nominated	Nominator(s)	Acres of BLM land in proposed boundary¹	Potential ACEC (Yes/No)	Comments
Alkali Ridge (E)	BLM Monticello	39,196	Yes	
Bridger Jack Mesa (E)	BLM Monticello	6,225	Yes	Modified from existing acreage
Butler Wash North (E)	BLM Monticello	17,365	Yes	
Canyonlands	SUWA	175,365 as nominated	No, not as nominated	See Indian Creek, Lockhart Basin, Bridger Jack Mesa, Lavender, and Shay Canyon
Cedar Mesa (E)	BLM Monticello, SUWA	306,572	Yes	Compilation of boundaries, includes Pine/Step Canyons
Dark Canyon (E)	BLM Monticello, SUWA	61,660	Yes	
Hovenweep (E)	BLM Monticello	2,439	Yes	Modified from existing boundary
Indian Creek (E)	BLM Monticello,	8,510	Yes	
Lockhart Basin	BLM Monticello, BLM Moab, and SUWA	47,783	Yes	
Lavender Mesa (E)	BLM Monticello	649	Yes	
Monument Canyon	SUWA	46,830 nominated	No	
Redrock Plateau	SUWA	323,473 nominated	No	
San Juan River	SUWA	22,179 nominated; 7,590	Yes	Monticello FO ID team determined boundary
Scenic Highway Corridor (E)	BLM Monticello	79,017	No	
Shay Canyon (E)	BLM Monticello	119	Yes	Modified from existing boundary
Valley of the Gods	BLM Monticello	34,615	Yes	Was a Special Emphasis Area within existing Cedar Mesa ACEC
White Canyon	SUWA	101,377 nominated	No	
Total Potential ACEC acreage		532.723		

* This table represents the information evaluated in the preceding section (Appendix A), and does not stand alone.

¹ Bolded acreages are included in the total

Table –April, 2005

MAPS

- Existing ACECs
- BLM Nominated ACECs
- Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) Nominated ACECs
- Potential ACECs