

Table 2.1.16 Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Riparian Resources

PROPOSED RMP	Alternative A (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D Current Management (No Action)	Alternative E
RIPARIAN RESOURCES					
<p>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain, restore, improve, protect, and expand riparian-wetland areas so they are in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and meet Utah Rangeland Health Standards for their productivity, biological diversity, and sustainability, and achieve an advanced (late-climax seral stage) ecological status, except where resource management would require an earlier ecological status for such purposes as vegetation diversity. PFC is the minimum acceptable riparian goal. However, PFC may not provide the streamside and aquatic conditions to meet goals for other resources. These include, but are not limited to, fisheries habitat, migratory bird habitat, unique recreational values, and/or forage. Specific objectives and management actions such as those stated below would be implemented in order to meet riparian goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the natural configuration of all streams. Stream bank damage caused by livestock would be less than 10% of a stream segment within an allotment/pasture. Site-specific plans, where appropriate, would be prepared in collaboration with affected livestock operators, the UDWR, the Central Utah Water Conservancy Districts, and other interested parties, agencies, or organizations to identify desired plant communities, establish specific management objectives, and recommend practices to be employed to achieve desired results. Monitoring and evaluation strategies would be implemented to measure progress in accordance with Utah’s Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management. Certain situations may occur that would allow the BLM to modify specific grazing objectives set forth in this plan. 					
<p>MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate management actions to meet riparian objectives could include fencing, herding, change of livestock class, temporary closures, and/or change of season. Allow no new surface-disturbing activities within active flood plains, public water reserves, or 100 meters of riparian areas unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no practical alternatives. Impacts would be fully mitigated. The action was designed to enhance the riparian resources. Acquire and expand riparian-wetland areas through exchange, donation, or purchase as opportunities arise. Restore and/or re-establish cottonwood, willow, and other riparian species along major riparian and other wetland areas. Development of springs and seeps to improve livestock and wildlife distribution would be designed and constructed to protect ecological processes and functions. Restrict or mitigate those surface-disturbing activities that would adversely affect wetlands. Adjust livestock management practices on riparian areas that do not satisfactorily respond to improved grazing management after all other options have been pursued. Where feasible, fence spring sources and any other areas that may need special protection (such as amphibian ecosystems) on a site-by-site basis. The following mitigation measures would be included as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep construction of all new stream crossings to a minimum. Stream crossings with culverts would be designed and constructed to allow fish passage, where needed. All stream crossings would be designed and constructed to keep impacts to riparian and aquatic habitat to a minimum. Relocate existing routes out of riparian areas where feasible or necessary to restore watershed and riparian stability. As identified in the preliminary riparian inventory, maintain 295 miles and 3,674 acres of riparian areas currently in proper functioning condition. Improve 133 miles and 1,452 acres functioning at risk and 79 miles and 1,213 acres not in properly functioning condition. Note: These are preliminary numbers and they may change as the inventory is completed. 					
<p>The following management strategies would be employed in riparian areas that are not achieving proper functioning condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key streamside herbaceous riparian vegetation, where stream bank stability is dependent upon it, would have a minimum stubble height at the end of the growing season capable of trapping and assuring retention of sediment during high flows Management actions could be based on residual stubble height or utilization of current year’s growth at the end of the growing season. An initial management action would 	<p>Same as the Proposed RMP.</p>	<p>Same as the Proposed RMP.</p>	<p>Same as the Proposed RMP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diamond Mountain: Where grazing is allowed on riparian areas, the objective would be to maintain an average minimum herbage stubble height of 3 inches after livestock grazing in order to provide sufficient herbaceous biomass to meet requirements of plant, vigor, maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment. Book Cliffs: Unspecified in the current management plan. 	<p>Same as the Proposed RMP.</p>

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<p>be to set a stubble height of 4 inches or 30% utilization on key species if riparian conditions in that reach are to be maintained and 6 inches or <20% utilization if riparian conditions need to be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initial stubble height or utilization level would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization or stubble height being made as needed. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key herbaceous riparian vegetation in riparian areas, other than the stream banks, would not be grazed more than would allow for trapping and retention of sediment during high water events. Management actions would be based on residual stubble height or utilization of current year's growth at the end of the growing season. An initial management action that has been shown to obtain riparian goals is to set a stubble height of 4 inches or 30% utilization if riparian conditions in that reach are to be maintained and 6 inches or <20% utilization if riparian conditions need to be improved. This initial stubble height or utilization level would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization or stubble height being made as needed. 	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Key herbaceous riparian vegetation in riparian areas, other than the stream banks, would not be grazed more than 50% during the growing season, or 60% during the dormant season.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diamond Mountain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where grazing is allowed on riparian areas, the objective would be to maintain an average minimum herbage stubble height of 3 inches after livestock grazing in order to provide sufficient herbaceous biomass to meet requirements of plant, vigor, maintenance, bank protection, and sediment entrapment. Book Cliffs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unspecified. 	Same as the Proposed RMP.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key riparian woody vegetation would not be browsed more than allows for the adequate recruitment to maintain or recover the woody component. Specifically, more plants in the combined sprout and young categories would be managed for than in the combined mature and dead categories. Management action would be based on utilization of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals. 	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Key riparian woody vegetation would not be used more than 50% of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Unspecified in the current management plans.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial management action that has been shown to obtain riparian goals is to set a woody vegetation utilization level of 30%. The specific utilization would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization being made as needed. 					