

4.10. NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are areas having 5,000 acres, or areas less than 5,000 acres that are contiguous to designated wilderness, WSAs, or other lands administratively endorsed for wilderness; or in accordance with the Wilderness Act's language, areas "of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition". These are areas in a natural or undisturbed condition that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation (non-motorized and non-mechanized activities in undeveloped settings). BLM used the same criteria for determining wilderness characteristics as in the 1979 wilderness inventory. The 5,000 acre value was helpful to BLM in making preliminary judgments, but it was not considered a limiting factor.

The Proposed RMP and all of the alternatives would impact the values of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to some degree. Generally, actions that create surface disturbance adversely affect the natural characteristics of these areas and the setting for experiences of solitude and primitive recreational activities. Motorized uses in these areas detract from opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Under the Proposed RMP, all or parts of 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling 106,178 acres would be managed with emphasis on protection of the areas wilderness characteristics. All or parts of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling 171,418 acres would be managed with emphasis on other resources values and uses. Under Alternatives A, B, C, and D, no non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed with specific emphasis on protection of the wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative E, all 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed with emphasis on protection of wilderness characteristics on 277,596 acres (see Table 2.1.10.)

The analysis that follows will disclose the effects of the various actions prescribed under the Proposed RMP and each alternative on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics proposed for management and protection of those characteristics and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are proposed for management with emphasis on other resource values and uses.

4.10.1. IMPACTS COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES

4.10.1.1. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Prescribed fire would be used under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives to restore native vegetation communities; to maintain and enhance forage for livestock and wildlife; and to reduce fuel loading to prevent catastrophic wildfires.

Prescribed fire treatments would restore vegetation communities and a more natural or desired composition of forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees, enhancing a more natural landscape. In the short term, a burned landscape may reduce visitor attraction to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for primitive recreation. In the long-term, however, a more

natural landscape would benefit the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and enhance the setting and opportunities for primitive forms of recreation, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature study. Enhancing forage for wildlife would support and enhance opportunities for primitive recreation, including hunting and wildlife viewing. Reducing fuel loading and the risk of catastrophic wildfire would protect the settings that support primitive recreation opportunities.

In the short term, fire operations (e.g., aircraft over-flights and fire line construction) would adversely impact both the natural landscape and characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of the people, equipment, and operations would also reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation. In the long-term, however, surface disturbance associated with the fire treatment would be restored, with little to no net effect on natural characteristics of the land. The effects of fire operations on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would cease, restoring those opportunities. When fencing and seeding are used to aid in restoration of the vegetation community, livestock enclosure fences would have a short-term, temporary impact on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Introducing a fence would add a human-made structure to the landscape, diminishing the natural characteristics in the short term, and until it is removed.

Wildfire suppression would be permitted in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, with similar impacts as described for prescribed fire above. The suppression operation would result in the same physical disturbances to the land, and thus the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The scale or degree of impact, however, may vary depending on the size and severity of the fire and the resources at risk. The impacts of the noise and presence of people and equipment would also be the same as described for prescribed fire, with variation for size and severity of the wildland fire.

The long-term effects of emergency site reclamation (ESR) on the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, however, would vary, depending on the ESR objectives and methods employed to achieve those objectives. Restoration of healthy vegetation communities that protect watersheds and support wildlife would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and the settings needed for primitive recreational opportunities.

The methods used to restore vegetation communities, however, would result in both short and long-term effects on the natural characteristics of an area. Revegetation methods that use aerial or broadcast seeding would leave less evidence of human intervention on the landscape, and little effect on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In pinyon-juniper communities it is often necessary to remove standing dead vegetation to facilitate seeding. This is done by chaining, cutting, and/or chipping. If these methods are used in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, as the evidence of human manipulation of the landscape would be readily apparent and remain for many years, reducing the apparent naturalness of the land. Except in emergency situations, methods used to restore wildland fires in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are being managed for those characteristics would employ methods that are consistent with protection of wilderness characteristics.

4.10.1.2. LANDS AND REALTY

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, lands would be recommended for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws for the protection of natural and cultural resource values. Closure of lands to mining (e.g., gold, silver, and uranium) would prevent surface disturbances to the landscape that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Mineral withdrawals would also prevent the presence and noise of mining operations (people, vehicles, and equipment) that would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation (e.g., hiking, backpacking, hunting, river floating, wildlife viewing, and nature study).

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, most of the public lands in the VPA would be retained in public ownership and managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield for the benefit of the American people. Retention of public lands would facilitate the BLM's ability to manage the various resource values and uses, including wilderness characteristics. Further, non-federal lands may be acquired to maintain or enhance public use and resource values, through exchange or from willing sellers.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, the identification of utility corridors for future placement of power lines and pipelines, and the identification of avoidance areas for corridors would both degrade and protect the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. If corridors were located through non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the placement of utility lines would introduce human-made structures to the landscape and degrade the natural condition of the lands. The presence of these facilities would change the setting required to support primitive forms of recreation from an undeveloped landscape to a more developed and industrial landscape. The presence and operation of utility lines would also reduce opportunities for solitude. On the other hand, if non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics were identified as areas of avoidance for placement of utility corridors, the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be protected.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, easements would be acquired to improve access to public lands. Acquisition of easements would improve access to some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, providing additional opportunities for primitive recreational activities.

4.10.1.3. LIVESTOCK AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, livestock (cattle and sheep) would continue to graze on public lands in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Levels of livestock use (AUMs) on public lands are set to ensure vegetation communities will meet standards for rangeland health, including proper functioning condition of riparian zones, and the BLM monitors the rangeland to ensure those standards and conditions are met. When a healthy vegetation condition is maintained, there would be no degradation of the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Healthy vegetation communities would maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and populations, ensuring continued opportunities for primitive forms of recreation, including hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature study. Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, the health of vegetation communities would be protected,

and, therefore, there would be no degradation to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Often, it is necessary to construct fences and waters to support livestock grazing. In order to ensure proper distribution of livestock over an allotment and proper levels of forage utilization, fences and waters are constructed to manage livestock. The introduction of human-made structures on the landscape would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, to some degree. However, improved livestock distribution and forage utilization would protect and enhance the condition of the vegetation community and thus the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. If a minimal number of fences or waters could be constructed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and still meet the objectives of protecting wilderness characteristics, they may be permitted. Livestock management facilities are proposed under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives.

4.10.1.4. MINERALS

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, development of existing oil and gas leases would result in the loss of wilderness characteristics on between 14% and 100% of 11 different non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling between 117,470 acres and 171,412 acres. Construction of roads, well pads, compressors, pipelines, and power lines would disturb vegetation and soil and the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence of people, vehicles, and equipment, and the physical disturbance to the landscape would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation.

However, under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, lands would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws in some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Closure to mining would prevent surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and would exclude the presence and noise of people, vehicles, equipment, and structures that would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive recreation.

4.10.1.5. RECREATION

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, portions of the VPA would be managed for primitive recreational opportunities and the settings needed to support those activities and desired experiences. Under the Proposed RMP and every alternative, management for primitive recreation would maintain and enhance the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and the experience of solitude in some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, portions of the VPA would be managed for motorized recreation, including OHV use, back country driving, sightseeing, and vehicle-supported camping, picnicking, and hunting. Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, motorized uses would degrade opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C,

and D (No Action), motorized travel would be permitted on some of the vehicle routes in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of vehicles would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation. Under Alternative E, motorized use of routes would only be permitted on the boundaries of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, use of those boundary routes would degrade opportunities for solitude near the edges of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. As visitors move away from the boundary of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, further into the heart of the area(s), the impacts of the noise and presence of vehicles on solitude and primitive recreation would lessen.

4.10.1.6. RIPARIAN AND WETLAND RESOURCES

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, riparian systems would be managed to achieve proper functioning condition. Protection and improvement of riparian vegetation communities in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would enhance the natural characteristics of portions of some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protection and improvement of riparian areas would also enhance habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and would enhance opportunities for primitive recreation.

Sometimes it is necessary to construct facilities to manage and improve riparian areas. Construction of enclosure fences, for example, would introduce human-made structures to the landscape and degrade the natural characteristics of the riparian portion of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, to some degree. Many of these structures would be temporary and would be removed upon achieving proper functioning condition. Rehabilitation of the riparian vegetation condition, however, would restore the natural characteristics of the riparian portion of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.1.7. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Special designations are proposed under Proposed RMP and all of the alternatives. These areas include ACECs, suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers, and WSAs. Generally, ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers are established to protect water courses, wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, scenic quality, and recreational opportunities, and management of them would limit surface disturbances and offer protection to the natural characteristics of some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protection of natural landscapes would protect and enhance the settings and opportunities for both solitude and primitive types of recreation.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, WSAs would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. Where WSAs are contiguous to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, protection of the WSA would extend or expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to a larger area, enhancing the opportunity.

4.10.1.8. VISUAL RESOURCES

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, visual resource management objectives would protect natural landscapes, and thus wilderness characteristics, but would also provide opportunities for landscape changes that would degrade the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Management under VRM Class I (preservation of the characteristics landscape) and Class II (retention of the characteristics landscape) objectives would prevent and minimize disturbance to the landform and vegetation and would prevent the placement of structures that are apparent on the landscape, thus protecting the natural characteristics of some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, management objectives under VRM Class III (partial retention of the characteristic landscape) and Class IV (management for landscape change) provide for more landscape change. With those objectives, surface disturbance to landform and vegetation and placement of structures that are apparent on the landscape would be permitted. This would degrade the natural characteristics of some of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and alter the setting needed to support opportunities for solitude and primitive types of recreation.

4.10.1.9. WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, the BLM would implement a variety of actions to maintain, enhance, and protect habitats for a diversity of fish and wildlife species. Degraded habitats would be restored. Habitat would be managed for large blocks that provide for the life cycle requirements of fish and wildlife species. These actions would lead to healthy and diverse wildlife populations throughout the VPA. For example, under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, the cottonwood vegetation community along the Green and White Rivers would be protected and restored, where needed, to maintain important winter habitat for Bald Eagles. The presence of a variety of wildlife would provide for primitive recreation activities (i.e., hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and nature study) in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

There are no actions common to the Proposed RMP and all the alternatives for air quality, cultural resources, hazardous materials, paleontology, soil and water resources, or socio-economics, which would impact non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. These resources are analyzed in the Alternatives Impacts Section (4.10.2).

4.10.2. ALTERNATIVE IMPACTS

4.10.2.1. IMPACTS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.1.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.1.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under this the Proposed RMP, cultural resource sites and areas of high site density would be protected from surface disturbance caused by OHV use by limiting motorized travel to designated routes in the Little Hole/Devils Hole area. This action would have direct, short- and long-term benefits to the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by limiting surface disturbance cause by OHV use to the designated routes and by not expanding OHV use to other areas of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, while limiting OHV use to designated routes would prevent surface disturbance that would impact the naturalness of this non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the noise and presence of OHVs on these routes would have an adverse impact on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities when OHVs travel on these routes.

4.10.2.1.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP, cultural resource sites and areas of high site density would be protected from surface disturbance caused by OHV use by limiting motorized travel to designated routes in the Upper Willow Creek area. This action would have direct, short- and long-term benefits to the natural characteristics of the Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by limiting surface disturbance cause by OHV use to the designated routes and by not expanding OHV use to other areas of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Limiting OHV use to designated routes and offering portions of the Four Mile Wash area for oil and gas leasing subject to NSO would also protect areas of high cultural resource site density by limiting surface disturbance and vehicle use to designated routes. This action would also have direct, short- and long-term benefits to the natural characteristics of the Four Mile Wash portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, while limiting OHV use to designated routes would prevent surface disturbance that would impact the naturalness of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the noise and presence of OHVs on these routes would have an adverse impact on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities when OHVs travel on these routes.

4.10.2.1.2. ALTERNATIVE A**4.10.2.1.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under this alternative, the benefits of limiting surface disturbance by OHV use to protect cultural resources, and thus wilderness characteristics, would be the same as described for the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.1.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.1.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under this alternative, the benefits of limiting surface disturbance by OHV use to protect cultural resources, and thus wilderness characteristics, would be the same as described for the Proposed RMP. However, the benefits of offering oil and gas leases with an NSO stipulation in the Four Mile Wash area of Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would not be realized. Under this alternative, leases would be issued with standard stipulations resulting in surface disturbance and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of oil and gas exploration and development would also adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities.

4.10.2.1.4. ALTERNATIVE C**4.10.2.1.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under this alternative, cultural sites and areas of high site density would be protected from surface disturbance caused by OHV use and oil and gas development by closing the Little Hole/Devils Hole and Four Mile Wash areas to OHV use and oil and gas leasing. These actions would have direct, short- and long-term benefits to the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by preventing surface disturbance caused by OHV driving cross-country (as permitted in Alternative D, No Action) and oil and gas exploration and development. Further, closing these areas to OHV use and oil and gas development would provide short- and long-term benefits to opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities in these areas by excluding the presence and noise of OHVs and oil and gas development from these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In Upper Willow Creek OHV travel would be permitted on designated routes. The effects of this action on the wilderness characteristics of Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as Proposed RMP. Under this alternative, oil and gas leases would be subject to timing and controlled surface use stipulations, resulting in surface disturbance and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of oil and gas exploration and development would also adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities.

4.10.2.1.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.1.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Alternative D (No Action) would not limit OHV use near high-density cultural sites, and these sites would be open to oil and gas leasing. This alternative would have long-term, adverse impacts on the wilderness characteristics of Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by permitting surface-disturbing activities that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of these areas. Further, the noise and presence of OHVs and oil and gas development would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities these areas offer.

4.10.2.1.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.1.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Alternative E would have the same impacts on cultural sites and areas of high site density and wilderness characteristics in the Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described in Alternative C, except Wolf Point would also be closed to OHV use and oil and gas leasing, preventing surface disturbance that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.1.7. SUMMARY

In summary, Alternatives C and E would provide the highest level of protection to cultural sites and areas of high site density and wilderness characteristics in the Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and B would provide some protection but less than that provided by Alternatives C and E. Alternative D (No Action) would provide the least protection to cultural resources and wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.2. IMPACTS OF FIRE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS.

4.10.2.2.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.2.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

The Proposed RMP would provide for prescribed fire treatments on approximately 156,425 acres per decade. Where fire treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed to protect their wilderness characteristics, the effects on wilderness values would be both short- and long-term. Further, the degree of impact would vary by vegetation community

and landform. For example, the effects of fire that burned in a pinyon-juniper community in mountainous terrain would remain longer and remain more visible to the visitor than a fire that burned on a sage brush flat.

Prescribed fire treatments would restore native vegetation communities and a more natural composition of forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees, enhancing a more natural landscape. In the short-term, a burned landscape may reduce opportunities for primitive recreation. In the long-term, however, a more natural landscape would benefit the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and enhance the setting and opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Restoration and maintenance of native vegetation communities would also support wildlife populations that continue to provide opportunities for primitive forms of recreation like hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and nature study.

In the short term, fire operations (i.e., aircraft over-flights and fire line construction) would adversely impact both the natural landscape and characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of the people, equipment, and operations would also adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. In the long term, however, surface disturbance associated with the fire treatment would be restored, with little to no net effect on naturalness. And, the effects of fire operations on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would cease, restoring those opportunities. When fencing and seeding are used to aid in restoration of the vegetation community, the livestock enclosure fences would have a short-term, temporary impacts on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Introducing a fence would add a human-made structure to the landscape, diminishing the natural characteristics in the short-term until it is removed.

4.10.2.2.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Where prescribed fire treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed for other resource values and uses, the effects of the fire and the burning operations would be generally the same as for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. However, in these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (not being managed to protect their wilderness characteristics), fire line construction could be more substantial. In forest and woodland vegetation communities, chain saws could be used to create fuel breaks for fire line construction, resulting in more substantial evidence of human manipulation of the land (cut logs, stumps, and cleared lines through vegetation). This type of surface disturbance would remain evident on the land for longer periods of time, reducing the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.2.2. ALTERNATIVE A, B, AND C**4.10.2.2.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

These alternatives would also provide for prescribed fire treatments on approximately 156,425 acres per decade. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP for those non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed for resource values and uses other than wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.2.3. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.2.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Alternative D (No Action) would prescribe fire on up to 27,950 acres in the Book Cliffs area and 22,950 acres in the Diamond Mountain area. The effects, whether adverse or beneficial, would be the same as those described under Proposed RMP for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed for other resource values and uses, but on a smaller scale than under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.2.4. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.2.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

The Proposed RMP would provide for prescribed fire treatments on approximately 156,425 acres per decade, with impacts to the wilderness characteristics of all 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,596 acres) the same as described for the Proposed RMP for the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect their values.

4.10.2.2.5. SUMMARY

In summary, fire management would have long-term, beneficial impacts on vegetation, and thus on the natural quality of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C, and E would have generally equivalent impacts on this resource. Alternative D (No Action) would have the least beneficial impacts on the natural quality because fewer acres would be treated with prescribed fire.

4.10.2.3. IMPACTS OF LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.3.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.3.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

The Proposed RMP proposes withdrawals to preclude locatable mineral entry into the Green River Scenic Corridor in Browns Park, the White River, Lears Canyon, and the Book Cliffs Natural Area. The proposed withdrawals, totaling 17,814 acres, would prohibit entry for locatable mining, protecting the existing characteristics of the landscape. Withdrawing lands from mineral entry in these areas would prevent surface disturbance and protect the natural characteristics of 1,779 acres of the Lower Flaming Gorge, 171 acres of the Cold Spring Mountain, and 6,720 acres of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, prohibition of mining would preserve the opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation in each of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, BLM would pursue public access to the White River at the mouth of Cowboy Canyon, Bonanza Bridge, and the Wagon Hound Road. This action would enhance public access to the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, protecting and enhancing opportunities to participate in primitive and unconfined forms of recreation in this area.

Under the Proposed RMP, non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect their wilderness characteristics would be managed as ROW avoidance areas. Avoidance from future ROW development for pipelines and power lines would prevent surface disturbance and the placement of human-made structures on the land. This action would protect the natural characteristics of the landscape and the setting needed to support opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.3.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Withdrawing lands from mineral entry would prevent surface disturbance and protect the natural characteristics of 3 acres of the Cripple Cowboy non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, prohibition of mining would preserve the opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation in each of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, BLM would pursue acquisition of Indian Trust Lands in Bitter Creek and Willow Creek and near the confluence of South and Sweetwater Canyons. These actions would enhance public access to the Bitter Creek, Rat Hole, Cripple Cowboy, Hells Hole Canyon, Sweet Water, and Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, protecting and enhancing opportunities to participate in primitive and unconfined forms of recreation in these areas.

4.10.2.3.2. ALTERNATIVE A**4.10.2.3.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

The effects of pursuing access to public lands and proposing mineral withdrawals would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP, except that none of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.3.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.3.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Alternative B also proposes withdrawals to preclude locatable mineral entry into the Green River Scenic Corridor in Browns Park, the White River, Lears Canyon, and the Book Cliffs Natural Area. The effects on the wilderness characteristics of Lower Flaming Gorge, Cold Spring Mountain, White River, and Cripple Cowboy non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described in Proposed RMP.

Public access to the White River would not be pursued and acquisition of Indian Trust Lands would only be sought for BLM administrative purposes under this alternative. The actions would provide no enhancement of public access to participate in primitive recreation activities in a natural setting.

4.10.2.3.4. ALTERNATIVE C**4.10.2.3.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

The effects of pursuing access to public lands and proposing mineral withdrawals would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP, except that mineral withdrawal would also be proposed for lands in the Lower Green River ACEC on 17,063 acres. Withdrawing lands from mineral entry in this area would protect the natural characteristics on 8,572 acres of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Prohibition of mining would also preserve the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities in the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.3.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.3.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under this alternative, BLM would recommend mineral withdrawals in the Green River Scenic Corridor in Browns Park, relict vegetation areas, and the Lower Green River, totaling about 30,900 acres. Mineral withdrawals under this alternative would prevent surface disturbance and

protect the natural landscape and characteristics of the Cold Spring Mountain (171 acres), Lower Flaming Gorge (1,779 acres), and Desolation Canyon (8,572 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Without mining operations, there would be no presence and noise of people, equipment, and mining operations, and thus these would not impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in these areas.

4.10.2.3.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.3.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

The effects of pursuing access to public lands would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP. Under this alternative, non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed as ROW avoidance areas. Avoidance from future ROW development for pipelines and power lines would protect the wilderness characteristics of these areas, including the natural characteristics of the landscape of all the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, under Alternative E, all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry. Withdrawal from mining entry would have the same impacts as described in Proposed RMP, except on a much larger area (277,596 acres). Protection of the natural landscape would also preserve the setting needed to support primitive forms of recreation and experiences of solitude.

4.10.2.3.7. SUMMARY

In summary, Alternative E would provide the greatest protection to the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by proposing to withdraw all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics from locatable mineral entry and by avoiding the areas as locations for future utility ROWs. The Proposed RMP and other alternatives provide comparable protection to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, though Alternative B does not seek to secure as much access to public lands as the Proposed RMP and other alternatives.

4.10.2.4. IMPACTS OF LIVESTOCK AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.4.1. PROPOSED RMP AND ALTERNATIVES A AND C

4.10.2.4.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP and these alternatives, lands acquired in the Nine Mile area would not be grazed by livestock to enhance riparian and watershed values. The resulting improvement of riparian and watershed condition would enhance the wilderness characteristics of Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Without livestock grazing, the vegetation and soil condition of the watershed would improve, also improving the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, improved natural

condition would sustain the setting needed to support wilderness-related recreation opportunities (primitive and unconfined recreation) and the experience of solitude wilderness visitors seek.

4.10.2.4.2. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.4.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative B, livestock grazing would be permitted on lands acquired in the Nine Mile area if use does not detract from riparian values and recreation objectives. At proper levels of use, grazing would not adversely impact the riparian conditions of Nine Mile Canyon. While there would be some visual evidence of livestock use in the canyon (presence of livestock, feces, trampling of soil, and consumption of vegetation), rangeland health and riparian condition would be maintained, and the natural characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be maintained to the average visitor. For some visitors, the presence of livestock would diminish the desired experience (connection with the natural world and experiences of solitude). However, this effect would be seasonal. Livestock would not graze in the canyon year long. At other times of the year, livestock would be gone, trampled soils would recover, and vegetation would re-grow, reducing the effect to the visitor.

4.10.2.4.3. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.4.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative D (No Action), grazing management actions are unspecified on lands acquired in the Nine Mile area. Because grazing is guided by livestock objectives set in the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management* and the riparian areas are managed by objectives of Proper Functioning Condition, this alternative would have impacts on Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics like Alternative B. Proper levels of livestock use are guided by grazing and riparian objectives. These objectives would not permit degradation of the lands. However, because livestock would still be present during periods of the year, the effects on wilderness characteristics would be the same as described for Alternative B.

4.10.2.4.4. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.4.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under this alternative, lands acquired in the Nine Mile area would not be grazed by livestock to enhance riparian and watershed values. The resulting improvement of riparian and watershed condition would enhance the wilderness characteristics of Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and C, except that under this alternative, Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect its wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.4.5. SUMMARY

In summary, under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, C, and E there would be no impact of livestock grazing on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics from acquisition of lands in Nine Mile Canyon, because grazing would not be permitted on the acquired lands. Alternatives B and D (No Action), however, would allow for livestock grazing, with seasonal impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities due to the presence of livestock in the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.5. IMPACTS OF MINERALS AND ENERGY RESOURCES ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Given the resource development potential, past levels of production, presence of leases, and ongoing exploration and development, the following assumptions for oil and gas exploration and development were used in the analysis of impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

- The number of wells projected in each development area would not be evenly distributed throughout the development area. Greater densities of wells would cluster in areas of exploration interest and resource discovery and production.
- Lessees would exercise rights on existing leases (valid existing rights) in areas of high and moderate potential with a past or current demonstration of interest in exploration and development.
- 75% of the wells drilled would produce oil or gas.
- 75% of the producing wells would be producing at any given time.
- The average life of a well would be 25 years.
- There would be 0.20 miles of new road construction per well and 0.73 acres of surface disturbance per well.
- There would be 2.4 acres of surface disturbed per well; 0.9 acres would be reclaimed within 1 year.
- The number of miles of pipelines would equal the numbers of miles of new roads.
- Average well spacing would be 80 acres.
- 10% of the wells would have electrification. The length of power lines would approximately equal the miles of road. There would be approximately 0.25 miles of surface disturbance per mile of power line.

The potential for oil and gas development in the VPA was derived from the Mineral Potential Report for the Vernal Planning Area (BLM 2004). Definitions of high ("H"), medium ("M"), and undetermined ("ND") oil and gas development potential can be found in that publication. For analysis purposes, high and medium potential are considered as reasonably foreseeable for development, while undetermined potential is considered to indicate that development is unlikely to occur. Areas are considered to have undetermined oil and gas potential because of a lack of useful data. Within the VPA, these areas typically lack data due to a dearth of current or

historical exploration, and they are therefore considered unlikely to be developed within the life of this plan.

A number of variables would influence the degree of impact to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, including where surface-disturbing activities occur, land form or topography, vegetation type, sequence of development, and reclamation time. Soil types and climate would affect the time it takes to reclaim disturbances. Successful reclamation would take about 5–10 years.

Construction and operation of oil and gas wells and associated support facilities, including roads, surface and buried pipelines, power lines, and compressor stations would create soil and vegetation disturbance and the presence of permanent structures that would degrade the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In addition to site-specific surface disturbance, the cumulative number of wells and density of spacing would change the natural landscape to an industrial landscape.

The noise of construction and operation of producing wells, including the presence of work crews, vehicles, and equipment, would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreational opportunities in proximity to industrial development. As recreational visitors move away from the sources of development, the sights and sounds of development would diminish. However, it can be expected that sights and sounds from development would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation up to 1/2 mile beyond the direct loss of natural characteristics. Given the number and spacing of industrial facilities, it would be difficult to escape the adverse effects on solitude and primitive recreation activities throughout the areas with wilderness characteristics.

It can be expected that as a result of oil and gas development and production, entire non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities. Table 4.10.1 summarizes the impacts from the Proposed RMP and each of the alternatives to each of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics found in the VPA.

Because the precise location of solid mineral development (Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals) is unknown, for analysis purposes the following assumptions for solid mineral exploration and development were used in the analysis of impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

- The assessment of potential effects is based on the overall acreage open to development.
- The greater the surface disturbance, the greater the potential to impact the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.5.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.5.1.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under Proposed RMP, the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect their wilderness characteristics would be closed to oil and gas leasing, except for White River which would be open subject to an NSO stipulation. These leasing stipulations would prevent occupancy and surface disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protection of the natural characteristics would also maintain the setting needed for support opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities.

Under the Proposed RMP, parts (between 11% and 89%) of five of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed to protect those characteristics (Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Mountain, and Mountain Home – See Table 4.10.1 below), totaling 18,286 acres, are currently leased for oil and gas production. However, given the mineral potential of the areas and past and current interest in exploration and production, it is not expected that these lands would be affected by oil and gas operation (exploration, development, and production) under the Proposed RMP.

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

All or parts (between 54% and 100%) of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling up to 150,421 acres, would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to surface disturbance and the presence and noise of people and equipment during exploration for and development of oil and gas resources in the VPA.

- Bitter Creek
- Cripple Cowboy
- Desolation Canyon
- Hell's Hole Canyon
- Hideout Canyon
- Lower Bitter Creek
- Mexico Point
- Rat Hole
- Sweet Water Canyon
- White River
- Wolf Point

These areas are located in oil and gas development areas with moderate to high potential for further development. Given the resource potential, level of past production, existing leases, and ongoing exploration and development, it is anticipated these 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose all or most of their wilderness characteristics. The impacts to naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities would be the same as described above.

4.10.2.5.1.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Phosphate is present on 11,719 acres of lands in the Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under the Proposed RMP, these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect those characteristics and all 11,719 acres would be closed to phosphate leasing. Closure to leasing and development would prevent surface disturbance and protect the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of these four non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

There is 1 mile of Gilsonite veins on about 5 acres located in the portion of White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that would be managed to protect those characteristics. These lands would be closed to solid mineral leasing and no surface disturbance or impacts to wilderness characteristics would result.

Mineral materials would be closed to leasing on 25,688 acres in Beach Draw, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, and Wild Mountain.

Under the Proposed RMP, 8,670 acres in portions of three non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws: Cold Spring Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, and White River. Withdrawal from mineral entry would prevent surface disturbance that would reduce the natural characteristics of these areas, and prevent the presence and noise of people, equipment, and structures that would diminish solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive recreation activities.

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

There are 9 miles of Gilsonite on about 44 acres (determined based on an average width of 40 feet for Gilsonite) in Desolation Canyon (1 mile) and White River (8 miles) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that would not be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. These lands would be open for solid mineral leasing.

Mineral materials (e.g., sand, gravel, and building stone) would be open to leasing on 30,490 acres in 4 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Bitter Creek, Desolation Canyon, Lower Bitter Creek, and Wolf Point.

Under the Proposed RMP, 3 acres in a portion of the Cripple Cowboy non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws. Withdrawal from mineral entry would prevent surface disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics. Closure to entry would also prevent the presence and noise of people, vehicles, and equipment that would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive recreation activities.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally, it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas listed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development, as compared to Alternative D (No Action). The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under the Proposed RMP, 10,531 fewer acres would be open to phosphate leasing as under Alternative D (No Action), and 1 less mile of Gilsonite would be available for leasing under the Proposed RMP than under Alternative D (No Action). And, 28,975 fewer acres would be open to disposal of mineral materials. Under the Proposed RMP, 13,086 more acres would be available for mineral entry than under Alternative D (No Action).

4.10.2.5.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.5.2.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal-bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

All or parts (between 70% and 100%) of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling up to 153,768 acres, would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to exploration for and development of oil and gas resources in the VPA.

- Bitter Creek
- Cripple Cowboy
- Desolation Canyon
- Hell's Hole Canyon
- Hideout Canyon
- Lower Bitter Creek
- Mexico Point
- Rat Hole
- Sweet Water Canyon
- White River
- Wolf Point

These areas are located in oil and gas development areas with moderate to high potential for further development. Given the resource potential, level of past production, existing leases, and ongoing exploration and development, it is anticipated these 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose all or most of their wilderness characteristics. The impacts to

naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be the same as described above.

4.10.2.5.2.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Phosphate would be available for leasing on 11,515 acres in Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and closed to leasing on 204 acres in Moonshine Draw and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In all, 10 miles of Gilsonite would be open to leasing on about 49 acres (determined based on an average width of 40 feet for Gilsonite) in Desolation Canyon, and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Mineral materials (e.g., sand, gravel, and building stone) would be open to leasing on 53,084 acres in 17 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, Wild Mountain, and Wolf Point. Mineral materials would be closed to leasing on 13,872 acres in Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and White River.

Under Alternative A, 8,673 acres in portions of four non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws: Cold Spring Mountain, Cripple Cowboy, Lower Flaming Gorge, and White River. This would leave 268,923 acres open to entry under the mining laws in all or portions of each of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally, it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas listed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development, as compared to Alternative D (No Action). The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under Alternative A, 984 more acres would be open to phosphate leasing than under Alternative D (No Action), and 1 more mile of Gilsonite would be available for leasing under Alternative A than under Alternative D (No Action). However, 6,381 fewer acres would be open to disposal of mineral materials. Under Alternative A, 13,086 more acres would be available for mineral entry than under Alternative D (No Action).

4.10.2.5.3. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.5.3.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

The impacts of oil and gas development on the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described for Alternative A, for the same 11 areas, though more acres would lose their wilderness characteristics—up to 171,412 acres.

4.10.2.5.3.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative B, phosphate would be available for leasing on 11,515 acres in Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and closed to leasing on 204 acres in Moonshine Draw and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. A total of 10 miles of Gilsonite would be open to leasing on about 48 acres (acres determined based on an average width of 40 feet of Gilsonite) in the Desolation Canyon and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Mineral materials (i.e., sand, gravel, and building stone) would be open to leasing on 63,926 acres in 18 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, Wild Mountain, and Wolf Point. Mineral materials would be closed to leasing on 13,872 acres in Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and White River.

Under Alternative B, 8,673 acres in portions of four non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws: Cold Spring Mountain, Cripple Cowboy, Lower Flaming Gorge, and White River. This would leave 268,923 acres open to entry under the mining laws in all or portions of each of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally, it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to

medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas listed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development, as compared to Alternative D (No Action). The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Compared to Alternative D (No Action), 984 more acres would be open to phosphate leasing than under Alternative D (No Action), and 1 more mile of Gilsonite would available for leasing than under Alternative D (No Action). And, 4,461 more acres would be open to disposal of mineral materials. Under Alternative B, 13,086 more acres would be available for mineral entry than under Alternative D (No Action).

4.10.2.5.4. ALTERNATIVE C

4.10.2.5.4.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative C the impacts of oil and gas development on the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for Alternative B, for the same areas, except that fewer acres would be affected. All or parts (between 51% and 100%) of the same 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics discussed in Alternative B, totaling up to 123,571 acres, would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to oil and gas development and production.

4.10.2.5.4.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative C, phosphate would be available for leasing on 11,509 acres in the Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and closed to leasing on 210 acres in Moonshine Draw and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. A total of 9 miles of Gilsonite would be open to leasing on about 44 acres (acres determined based on an average width of 40 feet for Gilsonite) in the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Mineral materials (e.g., sand and gravel and building stone) would be open to leasing on 34,106 acres in 15 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Bitter Creek, Bourdette

Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, White River, and Wild Mountain. Mineral materials would be closed to leasing on 32,850 acres in Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, and Wolf Point.

Under Alternative C, 17,245 acres in portions of five non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws: Cold Spring Mountain, Cripple Cowboy, Desolation Canyon, Lower Flaming Gorge, and White River. This would leave 260,351 acres open to entry under the mining laws in all or portions of each of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas listed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development, as compared to Alternative D (No Action). The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative C, 978 more acres would be open to phosphate leasing than under Alternative D (No Action), and the same number of miles of Gilsonite (9) would be available for leasing as Alternative D (No Action). However, 25,359 fewer acres would be open to disposal of mineral materials. Under Alternative C, 365 fewer acres would be available for mineral entry than under Alternative D (No Action).

4.10.2.5.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.5.5.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

The impacts of oil and gas development on the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the

same as described for Alternative C, for the same areas, except that 22,200 more acres would be affected: up to 145,711 acres.

4.10.2.5.5.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Phosphate would be available for leasing on 10,531 acres in the Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and closed to leasing on 1,188 acres in Moonshine Draw and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. A total of 9 miles of Gilsonite would be open to leasing on about 44 acres (acres determined based on an average width of 40 feet for Gilsonite) in the Desolation Canyon, Lower Bitter Creek, and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Mineral materials (e.g., sand and gravel and building stone) are open to leasing on 59,465 acres in 18 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, Wild Mountain, and Wolf Point. Mineral materials are closed to leasing on 7,490 acres in Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and White River.

Under Alternative D (No Action), 10,522 acres in portions of three non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws—Cold Spring Mountain, Desolation Canyon, and Lower Flaming Gorge. This would leave 267,074 acres open to entry under the mining laws in all or portions of each of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas discussed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development. The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Alternative D (No Action) would open 10,531

acres to phosphate leasing, 984 fewer acres than under the Proposed RMP and Alternative B and 978 fewer acres than under Alternative C. Alternative D (No Action) would make 9 miles of Gilsonite available for leasing, the same as under Alternative C, but 1 mile less than under the Proposed RMP and Alternative B. Under Alternative D (No Action), 59,465 acres would be open for mineral material disposal, more than the Proposed RMP and Alternative C, but 4,461 fewer acres than Alternative B. Under Alternative D (No Action), 35,900 acres would be recommended for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws, 13,086 more than under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and B, but 365 fewer acres than Alternative C.

4.10.2.5.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.5.6.1. Oil, Gas, and Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Due to the presence of existing leases, parts (between 14% and 85%) of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics totaling up to 117,470 acres would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources in the VPA:

- Bitter Creek
- Cripple Cowboy
- Desolation Canyon
- Hell's Hole Canyon
- Hideout Canyon
- Lower Bitter Creek
- Mexico Point
- Rat Hole
- Sweet Water Canyon
- White River
- Wolf Point

These areas are located in oil and gas development areas with moderate to high potential for further development. Given the resource potential, level of past production, existing leases (exercise of valid existing rights), and ongoing exploration and development, it is anticipated these 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose part of their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The impacts to naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be the same as those described for Proposed RMP above.

4.10.2.5.6.2. Other Mineral Resources

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

While phosphate occurs on 11,719 acres in the Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Moonshine Draw, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, it would be closed to leasing under this alternative. All 10 miles of Gilsonite found in Desolation Canyon, Lower Bitter Creek, and White River would be closed to leasing under Alternative E. Further, 66,956 acres of mineral materials found in Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Moonshine Draw, Mountain

Home, Stuntz Draw, White River, Wild Mountain, and Wolf Point would be closed to mineral material disposal. Under Alternative E, 277,596 acres in all 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be proposed for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws.

The impacts from projected development of Gilsonite, phosphate, mineral materials, and locatable minerals are difficult to quantify because specific locations for these operations have not been determined and development is dependent on market demand and technology. However, generally it can be said that these types of operations typically result in small to medium-sized surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of localized parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if they were to occur in any of the areas listed above. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation. Road construction to new mine sites would reduce the roadless nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristic.

Development potential for Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials is moderate to high, and exploration and development is likely. Development potential for locatables is moderate. Very little development is expected.

This assessment is based on acres open to development, as compared to Alternative D (No Action). The more acres open to mineral leasing, the more potential for surface disturbance and degradation of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Because the emphasis of Alternative E is to protect the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, these lands would not be available for leasing for any of the solid mineral leasables. Compared to Alternative D (No Action), 10,531 fewer acres open to phosphate leasing, 9 fewer miles would be open to Gilsonite leasing, and 59,465 fewer acres would be open to mineral material disposal. All 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry—241,696 more acres unavailable for hardrock mining than under Alternative D (No Action). As a result, there would be no impacts on the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, subject to valid existing rights.

4.10.2.5.6.3. Summary

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, portions (between 14% and 100%) of 11 of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose their wilderness characteristics due to the development of oil and gas resources (exercise of valid existing rights on existing leases). Construction of roads and well pads and ancillary facilities would degrade the natural landscape. The presence of people and equipment and the operation of the exploration and production facilities would diminish or eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Oil and gas development would degrade the wilderness characteristics of between 117,470 acres and 171,412 acres, depending on the Proposed RMP or alternative, of the total 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the VPA.

Under Alternatives A, B, C, and D (No Action), the anticipated development of some phosphate, Gilsonite, and mineral materials leases would have the same types of impacts on the wilderness

characteristics on up to 18 non-WSA lands where these resource values are located. Under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C, and D (No Action), most of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be open to entry under the mining laws. A few projects are anticipated that would have generally small to moderate, localized impacts on the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative E, however, all 277,596 acres of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be recommended for mineral withdrawal, protecting the wilderness characteristics of these lands.

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Beach Draw (898 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				898	0	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	40	858			0	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	717	181			0	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X	3	16	879		0	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	898				0	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				898	0	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Bitter Creek (33,488 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X			33,434		54		23,569 (70%)	33,399	33,399	33,399 (99%)
Alternative A	X			2,419	30,980	89		23,569 (70%)	33,399	33,399	33,399 (99%)
Alternative B	X			13,609	19,790	89		23,569 (70%)	33,399	33,399	33,399 (99%)
Alternative C	X			32	1,073		32,383	23,569 (70%)	23,569	23,569	23,569 (70%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X			25,509	7,239	740		23,569 (70%)	32,748	32,748	32,748 (98%)
Alternative E	X						33,488	23,569 (70%)	23,569	23,569	23,569 (70%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Bourdette Draw (13,335 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				13,335	5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	3,224	10,036	75		5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	6,828	6,432	75		5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		13,258	77		5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	13,094	22	239		5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				13,335	5,744 (43%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Bull Canyon (2,483 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)		X					2,483	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A		X		12	2,468		3	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B		X		13	2,466		4	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C		X			2,479		4	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)		X		2,479			4	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E		X					2,483	2,221 (89%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Cold Spring Mountain (8,764 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)		X	X				8,764	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A		X	X	115	8,400	171	78	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B		X	X	2,994	5,521	171	78	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C		X	X		8,515	171	78	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)		X	X		5,189	3,500	75	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E		X	X				8,764	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Cripple Cowboy (13,603 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		13,598			5	11,519 (85%)	13,599	13,599	13,599 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			13,599		4	11,519 (85%)	13,599	13,599	13,599 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		6,943	6,657		3	11,519 (85%)	13,600	13,600	13,600 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		9	57		13,537	11,519 (85%)	11,519	11,519	11,519 (85%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		3,640	9,525	435	3	11,519 (85%)	13,165	13,165	13,165 (97%)
Alternative E	X	X					13,603	11,519 (85%)	11,519	11,519	11,519 (85%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Daniels Canyon (3,045 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				3,045	322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X		3,045			322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	1,923	1,122			322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		3,004	41		322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	2,980	16	49		322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				3,045	322 (11%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Dead Horse Pass (6,994 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				6,994	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	3,594	3,400			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	5,727	1,267			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X	3,594	3,400			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	3,261	2,086	1,647		0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				6,994	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Desolation Canyon (63,118 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		36,954	8,336	17,828		41,949 (66%)	45,337	45,337	45,337 (72%)
Alternative A	X	X		38,007	7,330	17,781		41,949 (66%)	45,337	45,337	45,337 (72%)
Alternative B	X	X		50,474	12,507	137		41,949 (66%)	62,981	62,981	62,981 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		17,076	3,953		42,089	41,949 (66%)	41,949	41,949	41,949 (66%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		19,652	25,669	17,763		41,949 (66%)	45,321	45,321	45,321 (72%)
Alternative E	X	X					63,118	41,949 (66%)	41,949	41,949	41,949 (66%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Diamond Breaks (4,539 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				4,539	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	3,241	1,241		57	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	4,225	257		57	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		4,482		57	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	3,036	1,425	21	57	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				4,539	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Diamond Mountain (27,238 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				27,238	5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	3,291	23,477	470		5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	4,760	22,008	470		5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X	3,393	20,431	3,414		5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	2,260	19,274	5,704		5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				27,238	5,475 (20%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Hell's Hole Canyon (2,709 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		2,709				2,260 (83%)	2,709	2,709	2,709 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			2,709			2,260 (83%)	2,709	2,709	2,709 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		2,419	290			2,260 (83%)	2,709	2,709	2,709 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		570	16		2,123	2,260 (83%)	2,260	2,260	2,260 (83%)
Alternative D	X	X		7	2,438	264		2,260 (83%)	2,445	2,445	2,445 (90%)
Alternative E	X	X					2,709	2,260 (83%)	2,260	2,260	2,260 (83%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Hideout Canyon (1,113 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		1,113				154 (14%)	1,113	1,113	1,113 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			1,113			154 (14%)	1,113	1,113	1,113 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		8	1,105			154 (14%)	1,113	1,113	1,113 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		1,113				154 (14%)	1,113	1,113	1,113 (100%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		42	1,071			154 (14%)	1,113	1,113	1,113 (100%)
Alternative E	X	X					1,113	154 (14%)	154	154	154 (14%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Lower Bitter Creek (11,417 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X			11,307	110			8,039 (70%)	11,417	11,417	11,417 (100%)
Alternative A	X			4,761	6,656			8,039 (70%)	11,417	11,417	11,417 (100%)
Alternative B	X			4,761	6,656			8,039 (70%)	11,417	11,417	11,417 (100%)
Alternative C	X			4,761	6,656			8,039 (70%)	11,417	11,417	11,417 (100%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X			10,398		1,019		8,039 (70%)	10,398	10,398	10,398 (91%)
Alternative E	X						11,417	8,039 (70%)	8,039	8,039	8,039 (70%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Lower Flaming Gorge (17,810 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				17,810	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	89	6,432	2	11,287	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	12,840	3,184	1,786		0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X	18	6,495		11,297	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	3,455	4,999	9,356		0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				17,810	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Mexico Point (1,277 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		1,277				635 (50%)	1,277	1,277	1,277 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			1,277			635 (50%)	1,277	1,277	1,277 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		10	1,267			635 (50%)	1,277	1,277	1,277 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		1,277				635 (50%)	1,277	1,277	1,277 (100%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		1	1,276			635 (50%)	1,277	1,277	1,277 (100%)
Alternative E	X	X					1,277	635 (50%)	635	635	635 (50%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Moonshine Draw (4,513 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				4,513	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	12	4,377	120	4	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	2,197	2,192	120	4	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		3,043	1,466	4	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	4,509			4	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				4,513	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Mountain Home (7,083 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)	X	X					7,083	4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A	X	X		208	6,674	201		4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B	X	X		1,822	5,060	201		4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C	X	X			6,875	208		4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		254	3,185	3,644		4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E	X	X					7,083	4,524 (64%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Rat Hole (11,367 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		11,367				8,288 (73%)	11,367	11,367	11,367 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			11,367			8,288 (73%)	11,367	11,367	11,367 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		11,367				8,288 (73%)	11,367	11,367	11,367 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X			164		11,203	8,288 (73%)	8,288	8,288	8,288 (73%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		3,864	7,023	480		8,288 (73%)	10,887	10,887	10,887 (96%)
Alternative E	X	X					11,367	8,288 (73%)	8,288	8,288	8,288 (73%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Stuntz Draw (1,992 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				1,992	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X		1,992			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	636	1,356			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		983	1,009		0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	1,992				0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				1,992	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Sweet Water Canyon (6,994 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		6,994				5,143 (74%)	6,994	6,994	6,994 (100%)
Alternative A	X	X			6,994			5,143 (74%)	6,994	6,994	6,994 (100%)
Alternative B	X	X		723	6,271			5,143 (74%)	6,994	6,994	6,994 (100%)
Alternative C	X	X		34			6,960	5,143 (74%)	5,143	5,143	5,143 (74%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		6,387		583		5,143 (74%)	6,387	6,387	6,387 (91%)
Alternative E	X	X					6,994	5,143 (74%)	5,143	5,143	5,143 (74%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Vivas Cake Hill (277 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				277	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	9	268			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X		277			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X		27	250		0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	277				0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				277	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
White River (21,210 acres)											
Proposed RMP (6,680 acres managed for wilderness characteristics.)	X			7,042	4,394	9,774		9,626 (45%)	11,436	11,436	11,436 (54%)
Alternative A	X			8,812	5,971	6,367		9,626 (45%)	14,783	14,783	14,783 (70%)
Alternative B	X			8,812	5,971	6,367		9,626 (45%)	14,783	14,783	14,783 (70%)
Alternative C	X			7,644	3,140	3,538	6,888	9,626 (45%)	10,784	10,784	10,784 (51%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X			10,911		10,299		9,626 (45%)	10,911	10,911	10,911 (51%)
Alternative E	X						21,210	9,626 (45%)	9,626	9,626	9,626 (45%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Wild Mountain (527 acres)											
Proposed RMP (Managed for wilderness characteristics.)			X				527	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative A			X	427	100			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative B			X	439	88			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative C			X	428	52			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative D (No Action)			X	348	179			0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)
Alternative E			X				527	0 (0%)	0	0	0 (0%)

Table 4.10.1 Proposed RMP and Alternative Impacts to Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Name of Area	Oil & Gas as Development Potential			Proposed Lease Stipulations (Acres)				Currently under Lease (Acres)	Wilderness Characteristic Lost (Acres)		
	H	M	U	Standard Stipulations	Timing and Controlled Surface Use	NSO	Closed to Leasing		Direct loss of natural characteristics during life of the Plan (acres)	Reduction (directly or indirectly) in quality of the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to sights and sounds of development (acres)	Total area affected during life of the plan (acres and %)
Wolf Point (11,802 acres)											
Proposed RMP	X	X		4,782	6,940	71	9	6,288 (53%)	11,733	11,722	11,722 (99%)
Alternative A	X	X			11,733	65	4	6,288 (53%)	11,733	11,733	11,733 (99%)
Alternative B	X	X			11,733	65	4	6,288 (53%)	11,733	11,733	11,733 (99%)
Alternative C	X	X		3	29		11,770	6,288 (53%)	6,288	6,288	6,288 (53%)
Alternative D (No Action)	X	X		9,483	1,636	679	4	6,288 (53%)	11,119	11,119	11,119 (94%)
Alternative E	X	X					11,802	6,288 (53%)	6,288	6,288	6,288 (53%)

4.10.2.6. IMPACTS OF NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

There are 25 areas outside of existing WSAs totaling 277,596 acres that were inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics. See Table 3.10.1 for a list of areas by name and acreage with wilderness characteristics (Figure 26).

4.10.2.6.1. PROPOSED RMP

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under Proposed RMP, 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling 106,178 acres (see Table 2.1.10, Proposed RMP and Alternatives), would be managed with the following prescription to ensure the presence of their wilderness characteristics:

- Visual resource management (VRM) Class II objectives
- OHV use limited to designated routes
- Closed to oil and gas leasing, except in White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. There leases would be offered with a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation
- No geophysical exploration permitted except with hand-carried geophone lines
- Closed to solid mineral leasing
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Open to mineral entry under the mining laws
- Public lands retained in federal ownership
- Avoidance for location of utility ROWs
- Closed to woodland products (firewood, posts/poles, Christmas trees) harvest
- No cross country travel (up to 300 feet) to access camp sites
- When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics:
 - Vegetation and fuel treatments permitted using prescribed fire and mechanical and chemical methods
 - Construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities permitted
 - Excavation of cultural resources sites permitted
 - Excavation of fossils permitted
- Wildfire suppression permitted. Fire lines and other disturbances would be reclaimed following suppression activities.

Many elements of the prescription to protect the wilderness characteristics of the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would prevent surface disturbances that would degrade the

natural characteristics of these areas. Closure of the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to oil and gas leasing (except in White River, which would be leased with an NSO stipulation), closure to solid mineral leasing, closure to mineral material sales, and closure to harvest of woodland products would all prevent surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protection of the undeveloped nature of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would also maintain the setting needed to support primitive forms of recreation and experiences of solitude.

Other elements of the prescription to protect the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would permit, when compatible with the management objectives of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limited or minimal degrees of surface disturbance and construction of human-made facilities. Management to visual resource management Class II objectives, ROW avoidance objectives, and allowance for construction of minimal livestock, wildlife, and recreation facilities would result in some small amount of surface disturbance and placement of minimal structures in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but not to the degree that these changes would be readily apparent on the land.

Other permitted actions in the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed to protect those characteristics would result in temporary surface disturbance and degradation of the natural characteristics for the benefit of resource management, science, and education. Excavation of cultural resource sites and fossil sites would yield important information about the cultural and natural resources of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Upon completion of excavations, sites would be rehabilitated, and the natural characteristics of the lands restored. The presence and noise of these excavation operations would diminish opportunities for solitude, and depending on methods, conflict with primitive forms of recreation. These impacts, however, would end upon completion of excavation and restoration of the sites.

While limiting motorized (OHV) travel to designated routes in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would prevent expansion of OHV use and surface disturbance that degrade the natural characteristics of these lands, the noise and presence of motor vehicles would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation like hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, and nature study.

Use of prescribe fire to maintain and restore vegetation communities, reduce fuel loading, rehabilitate watershed condition, and maintain or restore forage for wildlife and livestock would result, primarily, in naturally appearing disturbances to the land (fire). In the long term, restoration of desired vegetation communities would benefit the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The prescribed burning operation, however, would also temporarily reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation opportunities, caused by the presence and noise of personnel, vehicles, and equipment needed to manage the fire. Fire lines and other surface disturbances would be rehabilitated following the burning operation, restoring the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Retaining public lands in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in public ownership would ensure BLM would have the continued ability to manage these lands to protect their wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics, however, would remain open to entry (mining claim staking, exploration, and production) under the 1872 Mining Law. This action would result in an occasional small to moderate sized surface mining operation that would degrade the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP, no specific actions are prescribed to directly protect or enhance the wilderness characteristics of all or portions of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Thus, there would be no effect on the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.6.2. ALTERNATIVES A, B, C, AND D (NO ACTION)

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under these alternatives, there would be no specific actions prescribed to directly protect or enhance the wilderness characteristics of all 25 of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that have those values (277,596 acres). Thus, there would be no effect on the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.6.3. ALTERNATIVE E

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative E, all 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling 277,596 acres (see Table 2.1.10 Proposed RMP and Alternatives), would be managed by the following prescription to protect their wilderness characteristics:

- Visual resource management (VRM) Class I objectives
- Closed to OHV use
- Closed to oil and gas leasing
- Closed to solid mineral leasing
- Closed to disposal of mineral materials
- Proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry
- Public lands retained in federal ownership
- Avoidance from location of utility ROWs

- Closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collecting
- Closed to new road construction
- Maintenance of existing facilities permitted
- When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics:
 - Vegetation and fuel treatments permitted using prescribed fire
 - Construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities permitted
 - Excavation of cultural resources sites permitted
 - Excavation of paleontological resources permitted
- No actions would be allowed that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under Alternative E, the management prescription prescribed to protect the wilderness characteristics of the 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would have the same effect on those characteristics as described under the Proposed RMP, with the following exceptions.

The visual resource management objective would be Class I. The objective of Class I is to preserve the characteristic landscape. This objective would strictly limit, or even prohibit, actions that cause surface disturbances and result in the degradation of the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Closure of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to motorized vehicle (OHV) use would protect not only the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but also opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Closure to OHV use would prevent surface disturbance caused by motor vehicles. Closure to OHV use would also prevent the noise and presence of people and vehicles that degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with other primitive forms of recreation.

Under Alternative E, all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry under the mining laws. Under withdrawal, no mining would be permitted and there would be no resultant surface that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics or opportunities for solitude or primitive forms of recreation.

Under this alternative, no road construction would be permitted. This would maintain roadless and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, prevent surface disturbance that degrades the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, prevent degradation of opportunities for solitude, and prevent conflicts with primitive forms of recreation.

This management prescription would protect the wilderness characteristics of all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with those values.

4.10.2.7. IMPACTS OF RECREATION DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.7.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.7.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

The Proposed RMP would manage 2,831 acres along the White River as an SRMA for river-related recreation opportunities, including float boating, camping, and hiking. The SRMA includes portions of the White River immediately downstream the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Coupled with the lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, the SRMA would generally retain the natural characteristics of the landscape, allowing minor development consistent with VRM Class II objectives. Retaining the natural characteristics of the setting would support opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Under the Proposed RMP, Blue Mountain (42,729 acres) would be managed as a SRMA with recreation focus on hang-gliding, rock climbing, historic interpretation, and OHV use of designated routes. The SRMA includes 13,335 acres of the Bourdette Draw non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The management prescription for that portion of the SRMA that includes the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would limit OHV use to designated routes, manage landscapes as VRM Class II, and close the area to oil and gas leasing. Management to VRM Class II objectives (to retain the landscape character) would limit surface disturbance that would impact the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. While parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are leased, oil and gas occurrence potential is undetermined, and development is not anticipated. Limiting OHV use to designated routes (about 4 miles) would prevent further surface disturbance of the landscape, and thus its natural characteristics, but the noise and presence of motorized vehicles would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities found in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The Proposed RMP would manage 18,490 acres in Browns Park as an SRMA with recreation focus on outstanding scenic vistas and enhancement of resources, including riparian, fish, special status species, and water quality, and the associated recreation uses, including water-based recreation, hunting, hiking, biking, horseback riding, OHV driving, camping, and cultural interpretation; as well as the construction of facilities needed to support these activities. The SRMA includes all or portions of the Mountain Home (507 acres), Cold Springs Mountain (3,225 acres), and Lower Flaming Gorge (4,318 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The management prescription for that portion of the SRMA that includes the three non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would close the area to leasing. The prescription for OHV travel in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics within the SRMA would limit travel to designated routes. And, the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed by VRM Class II objectives. In the northern portion of the SRMA (that includes part of Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics), mineral occurrence potential is moderate to high, but interest in exploration and production has not been demonstrated. No surface disturbance connected with exploration and production is anticipated that would alter the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with

wilderness characteristics. Limiting motorized travel to about 3 miles of designated routes in the Mountain Home and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would prevent expansion of surface disturbance that would degrade the natural landscape. However, the noise and presence of vehicles would temporarily diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation.

4.10.2.7.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

The Proposed RMP would manage 44,168 acres in Nine Mile Canyon as a SRMA to protect high-value cultural resources and scenic vistas. The SRMA includes a portion (23,058 acres) of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. OHV travel in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics portion of the SRMA would be limited to designated routes and the area would be managed with VRM Class II objectives (retention of the characteristic landscape) in the canyon bottom and Class III objectives (partial retention) on the table lands above the canyon. Mineral resources would be leased with a no surface occupancy stipulation for the canyon bottom and standard stipulation on the table lands. Portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are already leased, the potential for mineral occurrence is moderate to high, and development is anticipated. No surface occupancy on future leases in the canyon bottom would prevent further landscape modifications that would degrade the natural characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. But, exploration and development on existing leases and new leases with standard stipulations would result in surface disturbance that would alter the natural characteristics of the table lands above the canyon. Limiting motorized travel to designated routes (19 miles) would prevent surface disturbance from expansion of OHV use that would adversely impact the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of vehicles on these routes, however, would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive, non-motorized recreation uses of the area. While management of the area for VRM Class II objectives would minimize surface disturbance and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, it would not prevent that disturbance.

4.10.2.7.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.7.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Alternative A would manage 24,183 acres along the White River as an SRMA for river-related recreation opportunities, including float boating, camping, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and historic interpretation. The SRMA includes portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the canyon, the SRMA prescription would generally retain the natural characteristics of the landscape, allowing minor development consistent with VRM Class II objectives, except where the ROW corridor crosses the river canyon. Generally, retaining a natural setting would support opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Location of a utility line in the proposed corridor would change that portion of the

landscape to a more developed character, and would not be conducive to opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation activities.

Under this alternative, Blue Mountain (42,758 acres) would be managed as a SRMA with recreation focus on hang-gliding, wildlife viewing, hunting, sight seeing, photography, horseback riding, camping, hiking, rock climbing, historic interpretation, and OHV use of designated routes. The SRMA includes Bourdette Draw non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The management prescription for that portion of the SRMA that includes the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would limit OHV use to designated routes, manage landscapes as VRM Classes I, II, and IV, and allow for oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations. Management to VRM Class I (preservation of the characteristic landscape) and II (retain the landscape) would limit surface disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Areas along the Miners Draw Road would be managed VRM Class IV and would permit development that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use would allow exploration and development that would alter the landscape. However, while parts of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are leased, oil and gas occurrence potential is undetermined, so development is not anticipated. Limiting OHV use to designated routes (about 4 miles) would prevent further surface disturbance of the landscape, and thus its natural characteristics, but the noise and presence of motorized vehicles would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities found in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Alternative A would manage 273,486 acres in the Book Cliffs as a SRMA with emphasis on a frontier mystique of adventure and discovery; opportunities for unconfined recreation with limited facilities. Activities would include wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, OHV driving, camping, viewing cultural sites, picnicking, mountain biking, photography, and horseback riding. This SRMA includes all or portions of the Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Cripple Cowboy, Hells Hole Canyon, Sweet Water Canyon, and Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The management prescription for that portion of the SRMA that includes the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would limit OHV use to approximately 34 miles of designated routes, manage landscapes as VRM Classes II and III, and allow for oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations (also a small area of standard stipulations in Bitter Creek non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics). Management to VRM Class II would limit surface disturbance that would generally protect the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Management to VRM Class III would allow for surface disturbance and development that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Wolf Point, Sweetwater Canyon, Cripple Cowboy, Hells Hole Canyon, and Rat Hole Ridge would be managed by VRM Class II objectives. Bitter Creek would be managed under both Class II and III objectives. Oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations would allow exploration and development that would alter the landscape. Because the SRMA is located in an area with moderate and high potential for oil and gas occurrence, development is likely. Limiting OHV use to designated routes would prevent further surface disturbance of the landscape and thus degradation of the natural characteristics, but the noise and presence of

motorized vehicles would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities found in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Alternative A would manage 52,720 acres in Browns Park as an SRMA with recreation focus on outstanding scenic vistas and enhancement of resources and associated activities including riparian, fish, special status species, water quality, water-based recreation, hunting, hiking, biking, horseback riding, OHV driving, camping, and cultural interpretation, as well as the construction of facilities needed to support these activities. The SRMA includes all or portions of the Mountain Home, Cold Springs Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, and Dead Horse Pass non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The management prescription for that portion of the SRMA that includes Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would close the area to leasing, while the other non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would allow leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations in the SRMA. The prescription for OHV travel in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics within the SRMA would limit travel to designated routes, except Lower Flaming Gorge, which would be closed to OHV use. And, the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed by VRM Class II objectives. The area south of the Green River between Little Hole and Fire Flat, extending around the Taylor Flat subdivision to Rye Grass Draw, would be managed for primitive recreation opportunities, closed to OHV use, and closed to surface-disturbing activities. This prescription would protect the wilderness characteristics (natural characteristics, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation) in the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the northern portion of the SRMA (that includes parts of Mountain Home and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics), mineral occurrence potential is moderate. Interest in exploration and development, however, has not been demonstrated and surface disturbance that would alter the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics is not anticipated. Limiting motorized travel to about 3 miles of designated routes in the Mountain Home and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would prevent expansion of surface disturbance that would degrade the natural landscape. However, the noise and presence of vehicles would temporarily impact opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation. There are no routes designated for OHV travel in the Dead Horse Pass non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Alternative A would manage 81,168 acres in Nine Mile Canyon as a SRMA to protect high-value cultural resources and scenic vistas. The SRMA includes a portion (20,989 acres) of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. OHV travel in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics portion of the SRMA would be limited to designated routes and the area would be managed with VRM Class II objectives in the canyon bottom and Class III objectives on the table lands above the canyon. Mineral resources would be leased with a no surface occupancy stipulation for the canyon bottom and standard stipulation on the table lands. Portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are already leased, and potential for mineral occurrence is moderate to high. So, development is anticipated. No surface occupancy on future leases in the canyon bottom would prevent further landscape modifications that would degrade the natural characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. But, exploration and development on existing leases and new leases with standard stipulations would result in surface disturbance that would alter the natural

characteristics of the table lands above the canyon. Limiting motorized travel to designated routes (19 miles) would prevent surface disturbance from expansion of OHV use that would adversely impact the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of vehicles on these routes, however, would degrade opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive, non-motorized recreation uses of the area. While management of the area for VRM Class II objectives would minimize surface disturbance and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, it would not prevent that disturbance.

4.10.2.7.3. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.7.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative B, the White River would be managed for recreation use with minimal management oversight. OHV use would be closed along the river and limited to routes elsewhere. As a result, the river itself would provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation like floating, fishing, camping, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Motor vehicles, however, would have point access to the river on existing routes, providing for OHV driving and vehicle-supported camping, fishing, and picnicking, but this would also create some conflict with non-motorized river users. Motorized recreation uses and unlimited visitor group sizes would detract from opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive and unconfined recreation uses.

Under this alternative, Blue Mountain would not be managed as a SRMA, but the area would be managed as part of the field office Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Dispersed motorized and non-motorized recreation uses would continue with minimal facility construction. Non-motorized, undeveloped forms of recreation would enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and would not create surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the Bourdette Draw non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, where motorized recreation uses occurred in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and if even minimal facilities were constructed to support recreation activities, the resulting surface disturbance of construction of facilities would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the noise and presence of vehicles and facilities would impact opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive and unconfined forms of recreation.

Under this alternative, like Blue Mountain, the Book Cliffs region would not be managed as a SRMA, but the area would be managed as part of the field office ERMA. Dispersed motorized and non-motorized recreation uses would continue with minimal facility construction. Non-motorized, undeveloped forms of recreation would enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation and would not create surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Hells Hole Canyon, Sweetwater, Cripple Cowboy, and Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, where motorized recreation uses occurred in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and if even minimal facilities were constructed to support recreation activities, the resulting surface disturbance of construction of facilities would degrade the natural

characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the noise and presence of vehicles and facilities would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive and unconfined forms of recreation.

Under Alternative B, Browns Park would be managed as an 17,000-acre SRMA with recreation focus on outstanding scenery, riparian, fisheries, special status species, and water quality, and the associated recreation uses, including water-based recreation, hunting, hiking, biking, horseback riding, OHV driving, camping, and cultural interpretation; and construction of facilities would be needed to support these activities. The SRMA includes portions of the Mountain Home (507 acres), Cold Springs Mountain (3,226 acres), and Lower Flaming Gorge (4,312 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for Alternative A, for those non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics located in the slightly smaller SRMA.

Under this alternative, Nine Mile Canyon would be managed as a 44,181-acre SRMA to protect areas of high cultural resource site density and scenic vistas. The SRMA would include part of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA with wilderness characteristics (23,053 acres), with impacts to the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.7.4. ALTERNATIVE C

4.10.2.7.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values

Alternative C would manage 47,130 acres along the White River as an SRMA, with impacts that same as described for Alternative A, but include all of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, Blue Mountain would be managed as a 42,758-acre SRMA, with impacts that are the same as those described under Alternative A.

Alternative C would manage 273,486 acres within the Book Cliffs as a SRMA. The impacts would be the same as those described for Alternative A, except the Wolf Creek and Bitter Creek drainages and the head of Sweetwater Canyon would be closed to oil and gas leasing. Closure to leasing would prevent surface disturbance from exploration and development, protecting the natural characteristics of the Wolf Point, Cripple Cowboy, Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, and Sweetwater non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, portions of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are already leased, and given the moderate to high potential for mineral occurrence, impacts to their roadless character, natural characteristics, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be the same as those described under Alternative A.

Under Alternative C, Browns Park would be managed as a 52,720-acre SRMA, with impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being the same as those described for Alternative A.

Under this alternative, Nine Mile Canyon would be managed as an 81,168-acre SRMA, with impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being the same as those described for Alternative A.

4.10.2.7.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.7.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Designation of Browns Park and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs under Alternative D (No Action) would be very similar to that proposed under Proposed RMP, with impacts being the same as those described for Proposed RMP. No SRMAs would be designated for the Book Cliffs, White River, or Blue Mountain under this alternative. Recreation use in the non-WSA lands in these areas would be managed as part of the VFO Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) with impacts that same as described under Alternative B above.

4.10.2.7.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.7.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Designation of SRMAs under Alternative E would be the same as that proposed under Alternative A, with impacts being the same as those described for Alternative A. Designation of the White River SRMA, however, would be the same as proposed under Alternative C, with impacts that same as described for Alternative C. Under this alternative, however, non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics located in any of the SRMAs would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics and to provide for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the settings needed to support those types of activities (undeveloped and unmodified landscapes) and experiences. As a result, the roadless and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be preserved, as would the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation it provides.

4.10.2.7.7. SUMMARY

In summary, management of SRMAs under Alternative E would provide the greatest level of protection to the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, followed by the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and C. Management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics portions of the SRMAs for natural landscapes, non-motorized uses, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would protect the wilderness characteristics of these areas under the Proposed RMP and Alternative E. Alternatives B and D (No Action) would provide less protection of wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.8. IMPACTS OF TRAVEL, ROADS, AND TRAILS DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.8.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.8.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

The Proposed RMP would improve and develop up to 400 miles of trails for non-motorized uses. Mechanized use (mountain bikes) would also be permitted. Developing additional trails for hiking and horseback riding would provide added opportunities for primitive forms of recreation, where the trails are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Trails are planned in many non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed for protection of those characteristics, including Daniels Canyon, Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and others. Development of trails for mountain bikes would be in conflict with the primitive forms of recreation typically found, and managed for, in lands with wilderness characteristics. If there were substantial levels of use on the trails (by foot, horse, and/or bike) in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the visitor's ability to find and experience solitude would be reduced. Construction of new trails would create surface disturbance that would detract from the natural characteristics of the landscape and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, depending on the type of landform and vegetation cover. The change to the natural landscape, however, would be expected to be minimal, and new trails would provide added opportunities for primitive recreation activities.

The Proposed RMP would not allow motorized use off roads or trails to retrieve big game taken while hunting. Where this activity might occur in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this management action would reduce surface disturbance caused by OHV use that directly reduces the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, this action would reduce the presence and noise of vehicles and the impacts to opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation uses.

Under Proposed RMP, 6,202 acres would be designated as "open" to cross-country OHV travel. None of these open areas are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impact of motor vehicles or use on wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, 1,643,475 acres would be designated "limited" to OHV travel. The limitation would require vehicles to travel on designated routes (4,860 miles). Except for portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, OHV use in most of the other non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (258,074 acres) would be limited to designated routes. This limitation would confine disturbance to soils and vegetation caused by motor vehicle use to the existing 113 miles of routes and result in no additional degradation of the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of vehicles using these routes, however, would reduce the opportunity of visitors to find solitude in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, especially in proximity to the routes. And, motorized uses would conflict with primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities sought in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, 75,845 acres would be closed to OHV use, including portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge (11,245 acres) and White River (6,833 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This closure would prevent surface disturbance caused by motorized travel and the resultant impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, closure to OHV use would protect opportunities for solitude and prevent motorized uses that conflict with primitive forms of recreation in these areas. The wilderness characteristics of these two non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be unaffected by OHV travel.

4.10.2.8.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Development of 400 miles of additional trails for hiking and horseback riding would provide added opportunities for primitive forms of recreation, where the trails are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Trails are planned in many non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, including Bitter Creek, Cripple Cowboy, and others. Development of trails for mountain bikes would be in conflict with the primitive forms of recreation typically found, and managed for, in lands with wilderness characteristics. Substantial levels of use on the trails (by foot, horse, and/or bike) would reduce the visitor's ability to find and experience solitude. Construction of new trails would create surface disturbance that would detract from the natural characteristics of the landscape and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, depending on the type of landform and vegetation cover. The change to the natural landscape, however, would be expected to be minimal.

Under the Proposed RMP, new permitted roads would be rehabilitated after serving their intended purposes. In the short-term, new roads constructed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would reduce the roadless character of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Depending on the location of the road, it may even reduce the size of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, as lands with wilderness characteristics are roadless. Motor vehicle use of these newly constructed roads would also reduce a visitor's ability to find solitude and conflict with primitive, non-motorized forms of recreation. Depending on the purpose of the road, the impacts would be long-term, as well. For example, a newly constructed road to a producing oil or gas well would remain in place for an average of 25 years (Mineral Report, June 2004). However, upon successful reclamation, the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would return. The nature of the landform and vegetation would affect the success of the reclamation efforts (partial or total). Cuts and fills for road construction on steep slopes and removal of old growth forest vegetation would be more difficult to restore and would take longer to return to a natural condition than a road constructed through a grassland or sage brush flat.

The Proposed RMP would also allow for the improvement or development of 800 miles of motorized trails. Trail improvement or construction would create surface disturbance that would have direct, adverse impacts on the landscape and natural quality of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if any of the trails were developed in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (that decision would be made at the activity-level stage of planning following completion of the RMP). Development of motorized trails would conflict with the

primitive forms of recreation typically found, and managed for, in lands with wilderness characteristics. And, the presence and noise of dirt bikes or ATVs would reduce opportunities for solitude visitors seek in areas with wilderness characteristics. Construction of new trails would create surface disturbance that would detract from the natural characteristics of the landscape and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, depending on the type of landform and vegetation cover. Indirect, long-term, adverse impacts would be produced by soil erosion, trail widening, and unmanaged extension of the trail system by OHVs.

The Proposed RMP would not allow motorized use off roads or trails to retrieve big game taken while hunting. Where this activity might occur in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this management action would reduce surface disturbance caused by OHV use that directly reduces the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, this action would reduce the presence and noise of vehicles and the impacts to opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation uses.

Under Proposed RMP, 6,202 acres would be designated as "open" to cross-country OHV travel. None of these open areas are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impact of motor vehicles or use on wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, 1,643,475 acres would be designated "limited" to OHV travel. The limitation would require vehicles to travel on designated routes (4,860 miles). Use in most all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (258,074 acres) would be limited to designated routes. This limitation would confine disturbance to soils and vegetation caused by motor vehicle use to the existing 113 miles of routes and result in no additional degradation of the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of vehicles using these routes, however, would reduce the opportunity of visitors to find solitude in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, especially in proximity to the routes. And, motorized uses would conflict with primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities sought in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, 75,845 acres would be closed to OHV use. This closure would prevent surface disturbance caused by motorized travel and the resultant impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, closure to OHV use would protect opportunities for solitude and prevent motorized uses that conflict with primitive forms of recreation in these areas.

4.10.2.8.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.8.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative A, the impact of travel, roads, and trails decision on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described for the Proposed RMP, except that no non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed with emphasis on protection of wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.8.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.8.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative B, hiking, horseback riding, and mechanized (non-motorized) trails would not be improved or developed. Thus, there would be no benefit to primitive and unconfined forms of recreation (hiking and horseback riding) sought by visitors to areas with wilderness characteristics. However, there would also be no conflict between mountain bike users of trails and hikers and horseback riders.

Under this alternative, new permitted roads would not be rehabilitated after serving their intended purposes. They would be left as parts of the transportation system on public lands. If these roads were constructed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, they would reduce the roadless character of the affected non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and reduce the size of the area with wilderness characteristics because lands with wilderness characteristics are roadless. The presence and noise of continued motor vehicle use of these newly constructed roads would also reduce a visitor's ability to find solitude and conflict with primitive, non-motorized forms of recreation.

This alternative, like the Proposed RMP and Alternative A, would also allow the improvement or development of 800 miles of motorized trails. If these trails were developed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the impacts would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Alternative B would allow motorized use off roads or trails to retrieve big game taken while hunting. Where this activity occurs in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, it would result in a one-time pass, in and out of the area, and generally minor amounts of surface disturbance caused by motor vehicles that would reduce the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Because the use would be a one-time event, depending on the terrain and vegetation type, surface disturbance should be temporary and naturally rehabilitate. The presence and noise of vehicles, however, would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive and unconfined recreation uses of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under Alternative B, 5,434 acres in the VPA would be designated as "open" to cross country OHV travel. None of these open areas are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impacts of motor vehicles on wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, 1,659,901 acres would be designated "limited" to OHV travel. The limitation would require vehicles to travel on designated routes (4,861 miles). Except for portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, OHV use in most all of the other non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (274,022 acres) would be limited to 114 miles of designated routes, with impacts the same as those described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A for areas designated limited to OHV travel.

Under this alternative, 60,187 acres would be closed to OHV use, including portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (2,948 acres), with impacts the same as those described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A, for areas closed to OHV travel.

4.10.2.8.4. ALTERNATIVE C

4.10.2.8.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Alternative C proposes to improve and develop up to 400 miles of trail for non-motorized uses, including hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The impacts of this action on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Under this alternative, new permitted roads would be rehabilitated after serving their intended purposes. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics of this action would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Under this alternative, motorized trails would not be developed, and consequently this decision would result in no impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, nor opportunities for solitude or primitive recreational activities.

Alternative C would not allow motorized use off road or trail to retrieve big game taken while hunting. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Under Alternative C, 5,434 acres in the VPA would be designated as "open" to cross-country OHV travel. None of these open areas are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impacts of motor vehicles on wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, 1,353,529 acres would be designated "limited" to OHV travel. The limitation would require vehicles to travel on designated routes (4,707 miles), including the Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Mountain, Hells Hole Canyon, and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The impacts of limiting motorized travel on 26,266 acres to 57 miles of designated routes on the wilderness characteristics of these areas would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Under Alternative C, 366,559 acres would be closed to OHV use, including most of the Lower Flaming Gorge, Cold Spring Mountain, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Wild Mountain, Moonshine Draw, Bourdette Draw, Daniels Canyon, Bull Canyon, White River, Bitter Creek, Lower Bitter Creek, Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Cripple Cowboy, Sweetwater Canyon, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The effect of OHV closure of 250,716 acres on the wilderness characteristics of these non-WSA lands with

wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for Proposed RMP and Alternative A, but would include more lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.8.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.8.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Alternative D (No Action) proposes 55 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails and 2 miles of mountain bike trails. If these trails are located in any non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the impacts to wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A. As with the Proposed RMP and other alternatives, off-road or off-trail use of OHVs to retrieve game taken while hunting would not be permitted, with impacts as described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

This alternative would maintain a total of 787,859 acres as open to cross country OHV travel, including all, or portions of the Beach Draw, Bourdette Draw, Cold Spring Mountain, Desolation Canyon, Wolf Point, Cripple Cowboy, Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Lower Bitter Creek, Sweet Water, Hideout Canyon, White River, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Lower Flaming Gorge, Dead Horse Pass, Mountain Home, and Wild Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Cross-country motorized travel in these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would result in surface disturbance to soils and vegetation that would alter the landscape and diminish the natural characteristics of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the presence and noise of motorized vehicles would degrade a visitor's opportunity for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation activities.

Under this alternative, 887,275 acres would be limited to OHV use, including small to substantial parts of every non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Limiting OHV use on 143,887 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to 228 miles of existing routes would confine soil and vegetation disturbance caused by motor vehicles to those routes and would result in no additional change to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of vehicles using these routes, however, would reduce the opportunity of visitors to find solitude in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, especially in proximity to the routes. And, motorized uses would conflict with primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities sought in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Alternative D (No Action) would close 50,388 acres to OHV use, including parts of every non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (34,331 acres), except Hideout Canyon. This closure would prevent surface disturbance caused by motorized travel and would protect the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, closure to OHV use would eliminate the presence and noise of OHV travel and preserve opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation in these areas. The wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be unaffected by OHV travel.

4.10.2.8.6. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.8.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

Alternative E proposes to improve and develop up to 400 miles of trails for non-motorized uses, including hiking and horseback riding. The impacts of this action on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A, except that mountain biking would not be permitted, and thus, the conflicts with primitive forms of recreation would not occur.

Under this alternative, new permitted roads would be rehabilitated after serving their intended purposes. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described under Alternative A.

No motorized routes would be improved or developed under Alternative E. This decision, therefore, would result in no impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics nor opportunities for solitude or primitive recreational opportunities.

This alternative would not allow motorized use off-road or off-trail to retrieve big game taken while hunting. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described under the Proposed RMP and Alternative A.

Under Alternative E, 5,434 acres in the VPA would be designated as "open" to cross-country OHV travel. None of these open areas are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impacts of motor vehicles on wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, 1,326,024 acres would be designated "limited" to OHV travel. The limitation would require vehicles to travel on designated routes (4,654 miles). None of the areas limited to motorized travel include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, so there would be no impacts of limited motor vehicle use on wilderness characteristics.

Under Alternative E, 392,818 acres would be closed to OHV use, including all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,596 acres). The effect of OHV closure on the wilderness characteristics of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP and Alternative A, but it would affect more acres, including all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.8.7. SUMMARY

In summary, the Proposed RMP and Alternative A, C, and E travel decisions would have the greatest benefit to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Alternative D (No Action) would have greater OHV impacts on wilderness characteristics than the Proposed RMP and other alternatives because more acres would be designated open to cross-country OHV travel.

4.10.2.9. IMPACTS OF RIPARIAN/SOILS/WATERSHED DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.9.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.9.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Surface-disturbing activities on slopes between 21% and 40% would not be approved without an approved erosion-control strategy. While the strategy would prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the environment, it would not prevent soil and vegetation disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the presence and noise of people and equipment connected with the proposed project would diminish opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation typically sought in areas with wilderness characteristics.

The prohibition of surface disturbance on slopes greater than 40% would prevent surface disturbance that would degrade the natural condition of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The prohibition on disturbance would also protect opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Restrictions on surface disturbance in active flood plains or within 100 meters of riparian zones would reduce surface disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that contain floodplains and riparian zones, including Lower Flaming Gorge, Cold Spring Mountain, Mountain Home, White River, and others.

4.10.2.9.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Surface-disturbing activities on slopes between 21% and 40% would not be approved without an approved erosion-control strategy. This strategy would prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the environment, but it would not prevent soil and vegetation disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of people and equipment connected with a surface-disturbing project would diminish opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation typically sought in areas with wilderness characteristics.

The prohibition of surface disturbance on slopes greater than 40% would prevent surface disturbance that would degrade the natural condition of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and protect opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Restrictions on surface disturbance in active flood plains or within 100 meters of riparian zones would reduce surface disturbance in flood plains and riparian zones that would degrade the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, including Desolation Canyon, Bitter Creek, and others.

4.10.2.9.2. ALTERNATIVES A AND C**4.10.2.9.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under these alternatives, the effects of limiting surface disturbance on steep slopes and in floodplains and riparian zones would have the same effects on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.9.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.9.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 20% would not be approved without an approved erosion control strategy, resulting in impacts the same as those described for the Proposed RMP on slopes between 21% and 40%. Restrictions on surface disturbance in active flood plains or within 100 meters of riparian zones would have the same effects on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described for the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.9.4. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.9.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under this alternative, no surface disturbance or occupancy for mineral development would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%. The effects of this action on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the Proposed RMP. Restrictions on surface disturbance in active flood plains or within 100 meters of riparian zones would have the same effects on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.9.5. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.9.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

As with the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and C, no surface disturbance would be permitted on slopes between 21% and 40% without an approved erosion-control strategy. Further, surface disturbance would not be allowed on slopes over 40%. However, under this alternative, no surface disturbance would be permitted that would impact the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The effects of these actions would preserve the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, restrictions on surface disturbance in active flood plains or within 100 meters of riparian zones would have

the same effects on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.9.6. SUMMARY

Alternative E would provide the most protection of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics because surface disturbance would not be permitted in these areas. The Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and C would mitigate the effects of soil erosion on slopes greater than 20%, but the mitigation would not prevent surface disturbance that degrades the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.10. IMPACTS OF SPECIAL DESIGNATION DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

For the purposes of this analysis, "Special Designations" include ACECs established under the Proposed RMP and each alternative, rivers suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under the Proposed RMP and each alternative, and WSAs being managed to protect their wilderness characteristics under the Proposed RMP and each alternative.

Tables 4.10.2 through 4.10.4 show which special designations would be established or recommended under the Proposed RMP and each alternative, their acreage or length, and the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are wholly or partially located in the special designations.

Table 4.10.2 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)						
ACEC	Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (No Action)	Alternative E
Bitter Creek – PR Spring						
<i>Acres</i>	0	68,834	0	147,425	0	147,425
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>		Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, and Cripple Cowboy		Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Cripple Cowboy, and Sweet Water Canyon		Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Cripple Cowboy, and Sweet Water Canyon
Four Mile Wash						
<i>Acres</i>	0	0	0	50,280	0	50,280
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>				Desolation Canyon		Desolation Canyon
Lower Green River						
<i>Acres</i>	8,470	10,170	8,470	10,170	8,470	10,170
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon
White River						
<i>Acres</i>	0	17,810	0	47,130	0	47,130
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>		White River		White River		White River
Browns Park						
<i>Acres</i>	18,490	52,721	18,474	52,721	52,721	52,721

Table 4.10.2 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)						
ACEC	Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (No Action)	Alternative E
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and Cold Spring Mountain	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, Cold Spring Mountain, and Dead Horse Pass	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and Cold Spring Mountain	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, Cold Spring Mountain, and Dead Horse Pass	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, Cold Spring Mountain, and Dead Horse Pass	Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, Cold Spring Mountain, and Dead Horse Pass
Nine Mile Canyon						
<i>Acres</i>	44,168	48,000	44,181	81,168	44,181	81,168
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon
Main Canyon						
<i>Acres</i>	0	0	0	100,915	0	100,915
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>				Wolf Point		Wolf Point
Red Creek Watershed						
<i>Acres</i>	24,475	24,475	24,475	24,475	24,475	24,475
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home	Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home

Table 4.10.3 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special Designations

Wild and Scenic Rivers						
River	Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (No Action)	Alternative E
White River						
<i>Miles/Classification</i>	0	34 / Scenic and Wild	0	44 / Scenic, Wild, and Scenic	0	0
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>		White River		White River		
Nine Mile Creek						
<i>Miles/Classification</i>	0	0	0	19 / Scenic and Recreational	0	19 / Scenic and Recreational
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>				Desolation Canyon		Desolation Canyon
Bitter Creek						
<i>Miles/Classification</i>	0	0	0	22 / Scenic	0	22 / Scenic
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>				Bitter Creek, Cripple Cowboy, Rat Hole Ridge, and Hells Hole Canyon		Bitter Creek, Cripple Cowboy, Rat Hole Ridge, and Hells Hole Canyon
Upper Green River						
<i>Miles/Classification</i>	22 / Scenic	22 / Scenic	22 / Scenic	22 / Scenic	22 / Scenic	22 / Scenic
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Lower Flaming Gorge and Cold Spring Mountain	Lower Flaming Gorge and Cold Spring Mountain	Lower Flaming Gorge and Cold Spring Mountain			
Lower Green River						
<i>Miles/Classification</i>	30 / Scenic	30 / Scenic	30 / Scenic	30 / Scenic	30 / Scenic	30 / Scenic

Table 4.10.3 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special Designations

Wild and Scenic Rivers						
River	Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D (No Action)	Alternative E
<i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in the Special Designations</i>	Desolation Canyon	Desolation Canyon				

Table 4.10.4 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special Designations

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)		
WSA	Acres	Contiguous Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Book Cliffs Mountain Browse ISA	400	Cripple Cowboy
Bull Canyon	600	Bull Canyon
Daniels Canyon	2,496	Daniels Canyon
Diamond Breaks	3,900	Diamond Breaks
West Cold Springs	3,200	Cold Spring Mountain
Winter Ridge	42,462	None

4.10.2.10.1. PROPOSED RMP**4.10.2.10.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

Under the Proposed RMP, two existing ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be carried forward to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are Red Creek Watershed and Browns Park. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The Red Creek Watershed ACEC (24,475 acres) would be managed to protect high-value wetland and wildlife habitat, including the regionally significant watershed (part of the Green River drainage system) and a Class 1 fishery. Protection of this watershed would help preserve the natural characteristics of those portions of the Cold Spring Mountain (76 acres) and Mountain Home (4,976 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that lie within the

ACEC. Protection of the fishery would enhance the natural values of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and ensure opportunities for primitive recreational activities (fishing).

In the 18,490-acre Browns Park ACEC, part of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to leasing and OHV use. The Green River through Browns Park would be open to leasing but with an NSO stipulation. The area of NSO includes a small part of the south end of the Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Otherwise, most of the ACEC would be open to leasing with timing and controlled surface use; OHV use would be limited to designated routes; and visual resource objectives would be Class II. This prescription would limit surface disturbance and would protect the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. It would also preclude the noise and presence of motorized vehicles and equipment that would reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with the primitive forms of recreation sought by visitors to lands with wilderness characteristics. The NSO leasing stipulation along the Green River would prevent surface disturbance in small parts of the Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Otherwise, this ACEC prescription would allow for surface disturbances that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, the ACEC is located in an area of undetermined mineral potential, and mineral development is not expected to be substantial. Further, compliance with VRM Class II objectives would minimize surface disturbances and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Motorized use of designated routes, however, would adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The presence and noise of vehicles would detract from the experience of solitude and conflict with primitive recreational uses.

Under the Proposed RMP, 22 miles of the Upper Green River would be recommended for designation as a Wild and Scenic River with a classification of "scenic." Protection of the river (until Congress acts) would preserve the wilderness characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Managing the wilderness study areas (WSAs) under the BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP, two ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be established to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are Nine Mile Canyon and the Lower Green River. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the 44,168-acre Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, the canyon would be open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation, while the table lands above the canyon would be open with timing and controlled surface use stipulations. The ACEC prescription would limit OHV travel in the entire ACEC to designated routes, and visual resources management objectives would be Class II in the lower canyon and Class III in the upper canyon and on the tablelands. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbance to the canyon bottom, protecting its natural characteristics. Given the mineral potential, current industry interest, and production history, however, surface disturbances would be expected in much of the rest of the ACEC and would detract from the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV travel and oil and gas development would diminish the opportunities for solitude on the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and would conflict with primitive forms of recreation typically found in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The 8,470-acre Lower Green River Corridor ACEC would be available for oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations and an NSO stipulation, managed by VRM Class II objectives, and limited to OHV use on designated routes. This prescription would prevent large-scale landscape modifications from oil and gas development in an area of high potential and industry interest, but would allow some developments within VRM objectives, generally protecting the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV use on designated routes would temporarily reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation sought in areas with wilderness characteristics, when vehicles were traveling the routes.

Under the Proposed RMP, 30 miles of the Lower Green River would be recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river with a classification of "scenic." Protection of river values (until Congress acts) would preserve the wilderness characteristics of a portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Managing the wilderness study areas (WSAs) under the BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.10.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative A, six ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be established to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are Bitter Creek-PR Spring, Lower Green River, White River, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, and Red Creek Watershed. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the 68,834-acre Bitter Creek-PR Spring ACEC, the 160-acre parcel around the old growth pinyon forest and the Book Cliffs Mountain Browse Natural Areas (400 acres) would be NSO and closed to oil and gas leasing, closed to wood cutting and OHV use, and would be managed by VRM Class I objectives. This prescription would prevent surface disturbances and motorized uses and would protect the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Most of the ACEC, however, would be available for leasing, forest treatments, firewood cutting, and OHV use on designated routes. These actions would result in surface disturbances that alter the landscape and natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of vehicles and equipment would diminish opportunities for solitude and would conflict with more primitive forms of recreation.

The 10,170-acre Lower Green River ACEC would be open for oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation, managed by VRM Class II objectives, and limited to OHV use on designated routes. This prescription would prevent large-scale landscape modifications from oil and gas development in an area of high potential and industry interest, but would allow some developments within VRM objectives, generally protecting the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV use on designated routes would temporarily reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation sought in areas with wilderness characteristics, when vehicles were traveling the routes.

Most of the 17,810-acre White River ACEC would be closed to oil and gas leasing or available only with an NSO stipulation. The uplands of the eastern half of the ACEC would be open to leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations. The western half of the ACEC would be closed to OHV use, while OHV use in the eastern half of the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. The interior river canyon in the western half of the ACEC would be managed by VRM Class I objectives, while the remainder of the ACEC would be managed VRM Class II. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbances that reduce the natural characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, except in the uplands of the eastern half of the ACEC. Here oil and gas leasing is permitted and would lead to surface disturbance due to the high potential for and industry interest in developing oil and gas resources. VRM Class II objectives in the eastern half of the ACEC would permit some surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV use on designated routes in the eastern half of the ACEC would reduce opportunities for solitude and would conflict with primitive forms of recreation when vehicles were traveling the designated routes.

In the 52,721-acre Browns Park ACEC, much of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to leasing and OHV use. The Green River through Browns Park would be open to leasing but with an NSO stipulation. The area of NSO includes a very small part of the north end of the Dead Horse Pass non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and a very small part of the south end of the Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Otherwise, most of the ACEC would be open to leasing with timing and controlled surface use; OHV use would be limited to designated routes; and visual resource objectives would be Class II. This prescription would prevent surface disturbance and

would protect the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. It would also preclude the noise and presence of motorized vehicles and equipment that would reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with the primitive forms of recreation sought by visitors to lands with wilderness characteristics. The NSO leasing stipulation along the Green River would prevent surface disturbance in very small parts of the Mountain Home and Dead Horse Pass non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Otherwise, this ACEC prescription would allow for surface disturbances that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, the ACEC is located in an area of undetermined mineral potential, and mineral development is not expected to be substantial. Further, compliance with VRM Class II objectives would minimize surface disturbances and impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Motorized use of designated routes, however, would adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The presence and noise of vehicles would detract from the experience of solitude and conflict with primitive recreational uses.

In the 48,000-acre Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, the canyon would be open to oil and gas leasing with an NSO stipulation, while the table lands above the canyon would be open with timing and controlled surface use stipulations. The ACEC prescription would limit OHV travel in the entire ACEC to designated routes, and visual resources management objectives would be Class II in the lower canyon and Class III in the upper canyon and on the tablelands. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbance to the canyon bottom, protecting its natural characteristics. Given the mineral potential, current industry interest, and production history, however, surface disturbances would be expected in much of the rest of the ACEC and would detract from the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV travel and oil and gas development would diminish the opportunities for solitude on the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and would conflict with primitive forms of recreation typically found in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The Red Creek Watershed ACEC (24,475 acres) would be managed to protect high-value wetland and wildlife habitat, including the regionally significant watershed (part of the Green River drainage system) and a Class 1 fishery. Protection of this watershed would help preserve the natural characteristics of those portions of the Cold Spring Mountain (76 acres) and Mountain Home (4,976 acres) non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that lie within the ACEC. Protection of the fishery would enhance the natural values of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and ensure opportunities for primitive recreational activities (fishing).

Under Alternative A, 22 miles of the White River would be recommended suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation with a classification of "wild" in the upper end of the river canyon and "scenic" in the lower end. Protection of river values (until Congress acts on BLM's recommendation) would prevent uses and surface disturbances that would detract from the natural characteristics of 22 miles of the recommended river canyon in the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics or that would impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the river canyon. Under this alternative, 22 miles of the Upper Green River would be recommended for designation as a Wild and Scenic River with a classification of

"scenic." As in the case of the White River, protection of the river (until Congress acts) would preserve the wilderness characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, 30 miles of the Lower Green River would be recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river with a classification of "scenic." Protection of river values (until Congress acts) would preserve the wilderness characteristics of a portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Managing the wilderness study areas (WSAs) under the BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.3. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.10.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative B, four ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be established to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are Red Creek Watershed, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, and the Lower Green River. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The effects of ACEC management in the Red Creek Watershed ACEC on the wilderness characteristics of Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP.

In the 18,474-acre Browns Park ACEC, part of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be open to oil and gas leasing subject to an NSO stipulation. The Green River through Browns Park would be open to leasing, also with an NSO stipulation. In Browns Park, the NSO area would include a small part of the south end of the Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Otherwise, most of the ACEC would be open to leasing with timing and controlled surface use, OHV use would be limited to designated routes, and visual resource objectives would be VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbance and protect the natural characteristics of the riverine parts of the Lower Flaming Gorge, Mountain Home, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, the noise and presence of motorized vehicles and equipment would reduce opportunities for solitude and would conflict with the primitive forms of recreation sought by visitors to lands with wilderness characteristics. This ACEC prescription would allow for surface disturbances that would alter the landscape and natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, the ACEC is located in an area of undetermined mineral potential, and mineral development is not expected to be substantial. Motorized use of designated routes would

adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The presence and noise of vehicles would detract from the experience of solitude and would conflict with primitive recreational uses, both opportunities sought by visitors to lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the 44,181-acre Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, the canyon would be open to oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use stipulations and NSO, whereas the table lands above the canyon would be open with standard stipulations. The ACEC prescription would limit OHV travel in the entire ACEC to designated routes, and visual resources management objectives would be VRM Class II in the canyon and VRM Class III and IV on the tablelands. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbance to the canyon bottom, protecting its natural characteristics. Given the mineral potential, current industry interest, and production history, however, surface disturbances would be expected in much of the rest of the ACEC, detracting from the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV travel and oil and gas development would diminish the opportunities for solitude on the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and conflict with primitive forms of recreation typically found in lands with wilderness characteristics.

The impacts of the Lower Green River ACEC on Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP.

Under this alternative, 22 miles of the Upper Green River would be recommended for designation as a Wild and Scenic River with a classification of "scenic." Protection of river values (until Congress acts on BLM's recommendation) would prevent uses and surface disturbances that would detract from the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics or impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the river canyon. In addition, 30 miles of the Lower Green River would be recommended for designation as a wild and scenic river with a classification of "scenic." Protection of river values (until Congress acts) would preserve the wilderness characteristics of a portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Managing the wilderness study areas (WSAs) under BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.4. ALTERNATIVE C

4.10.2.10.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative C, eight ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be established to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are

Bitter Creek-PR Spring, Four Mile Wash, Lower Green River, White River, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, Main Canyon, and Red Creek Watershed. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the 147,425-acre Bitter Creek-PR Spring ACEC, the 160-acre parcel around the old growth pinyon forest and the Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Hells Hole Canyon, Cripple Cowboy, and Sweet Water Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to oil and gas leasing, closed to OHV use (except Hells Hole Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics), and managed by VRM Class I objectives. This prescription would prevent surface disturbances and motorized uses and would protect the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The rest of the ACEC would be available for leasing, forest treatments, firewood cutting, and OHV use on designated routes, but there are no lands with wilderness characteristics in the remainder of the ACEC, so the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would not be affected by these uses.

The 50,280-acre Four Mile Wash ACEC would be closed to oil and gas leasing. The visual resources of the ACEC would be managed for VRM Class II, Class III, and Class IV objectives. The ACEC prescription would limit off-highway vehicles to designated routes. This prescription would generally limit surface disturbance and would maintain the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of vehicle use on designated routes would diminish opportunities for solitude, and conflict with opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation sought by visitors to lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, the 10,170-acre Lower Green River ACEC would be the same area as that described in Alternative A and would be managed by the same prescription. The effect on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, therefore, would be the same as that described under Alternative A.

The river canyon of the 47,130-acre White River ACEC would be closed to oil and gas leasing or available with an NSO stipulation. The uplands would be open to leasing with timing and controlled surface use and standard stipulations. The western half of the ACEC would be closed to OHV use, whereas OHV use in the eastern half of the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. The river canyon in the western half of the ACEC would be managed by VRM Class I objectives, whereas the river canyon in the eastern half of the ACEC would be managed by VRM Class II objectives. The uplands would be managed under VRM Class III and IV objectives. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbances that reduce the natural characteristics along the river corridor of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but not in the uplands of the ACEC. Here oil and gas leasing would be permitted and would lead to surface disturbance due to the high potential, industry interest, and production history. VRM Class II objectives in the eastern half of the ACEC would permit some surface disturbances that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV use of designated routes in the

eastern half of the ACEC would reduce opportunities for solitude and would conflict with primitive forms of recreation when vehicles were traveling the designated routes.

Under this alternative, the 52,721-acre Browns Park ACEC would be the same area as that described in Alternative A and would be managed by the same prescription. The effect on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, therefore, would be the same as that described under Alternative A.

In the 81,168-acre Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, the lower canyon in the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to oil and gas leasing, while the remainder of the canyon would be open to leasing subject to NSO or timing and controlled surface use stipulations. The table lands above the canyon would generally be open subject to standard stipulations. OHV use in the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. Visual resources in the canyon portion of the ACEC would be managed under VRM Class II, whereas the uplands would be managed under VRM Class III and IV objectives. This prescription would generally prevent surface disturbance to the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics because the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to oil and gas leasing. OHV use, however, would be limited to designated routes. Use of those routes would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreational activities.

The Main Canyon ACEC (100,915 acres) would be managed to protect important cultural and historic resources and natural systems. Protection of natural systems would help preserve the natural characteristics of those portions of the Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (11,783 acres) that lie within the ACEC. Protection of prehistoric and historic cultural resources would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities (study and viewing cultural resources).

Under this alternative, the Red Creek Watershed ACEC would be open to oil and gas leasing subject to an NSO stipulation. OHV use would be permitted, but only on designated routes. This prescription would prevent surface disturbance associated with oil and gas production that would degrade the natural characteristics of the Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. While limiting motor vehicle use to designated routes would prevent expansion of surface disturbance in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, allowing use on designated routes would result in the noise and presence of motor vehicles that would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive forms of recreation.

Under Alternative C, 44 miles of the White River would be recommended suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation with segment classifications of "scenic," "wild," and "scenic" in the upper, middle, and lower portions of the river canyon, respectively. Further, under this alternative, 19 miles of Nine Mile Creek would be recommended suitable for designation as "scenic" and "recreational." Twenty-two miles of Bitter Creek would be recommended suitable for designation as a "scenic" river. Twenty-two miles of the Upper Green River would be recommended suitable for designation as a "scenic" river. Thirty miles of the Lower Green River would be recommended suitable for designation as a "scenic" river. Protection of river values

(until Congress acts on BLM's recommendation) would prevent uses and surface disturbances that would detract from the natural characteristics of the White River, Desolation Canyon, Bitter Creek, Rat Hole Ridge, Cripple Cowboy, Hells Hole Canyon, Lower Flaming Gorge, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of motor vehicle use of designated routes in the recommended "scenic" and "recreational" segments would reduce opportunities for solitude and would conflict with primitive recreation in these river segments. The impacts would be temporary, however, occurring only when vehicles were present.

Managing the WSAs under BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.10.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative D (No Action), four ACECs that include non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be established to protect a variety of relevant and important values. Those ACECs are the Lower Green River Corridor, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, and Red Creek Watershed. The management prescriptions for these ACECs would protect wilderness characteristics in portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

The 8,470-acre Lower Green River Corridor ACEC would be available for oil and gas leasing with timing and controlled surface use and NSO stipulations, managed by VRM Class II objectives, and OHV use would be closed or limited to designated routes. Most of the ACEC would be available for leasing with NSO, and this prescription would prevent large-scale landscape modifications from oil and gas development in an area of high potential, industry interest, and production history, generally protecting the natural characteristics of this portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. VRM Class II objective would generally retain the existing character of the landscape, protecting the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of OHV use on designated routes would temporarily reduce opportunities for solitude and conflict with opportunities for primitive forms of recreation sought in areas with wilderness characteristics, when vehicles were traveling the routes. This effect would not occur in areas closed to OHV use.

In the 52,721-acre Browns Park ACEC, lands along the Green River would be generally open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations, closed to OHV use, and managed under VRM Class II objectives. Outside the river, the ACEC would be open to leasing subject to timing and controlled surface use stipulations; OHV use would be limited to designated routes; and visual resources would be managed for partial retention of the landscape and for landscape

modification. This prescription would generally protect the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA with wilderness characteristics, a small portion of the Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and a portion of the Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in proximity to the river. The portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics closed to OHV use would preserve opportunities for solitude because there would be no noise or presence of motorized vehicles. In those parts of the Mountain Home and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics where OHV use is limited to designated routes, the presence and noise of motor vehicles would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Under this alternative, the 44,181-acre Nine Mile Canyon ACEC would be the same area as that described in Alternative B and would be managed by the same prescription. The effect on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, therefore, would be the same as that described under Alternative B.

The effects of ACEC management in the Red Creek Watershed ACEC on the wilderness characteristics of Cold Spring Mountain and Mountain Home non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under Proposed RMP.

Under this alternative, 22 miles of the Upper Green River would be recommended for designation as a Wild and Scenic River with a classification of "scenic." Thirty miles of the Lower Green River would be recommended as a "scenic" river. Protection of river values (until Congress acts on BLM's recommendation) would prevent uses and surface disturbances that would detract from the natural characteristics of the Lower Flaming Gorge, Cold Spring Mountain, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The presence and noise of motor vehicle use of designated routes in the recommended "scenic" segment would reduce opportunities for solitude and would conflict with primitive recreation in these river segments. The impacts would be temporary, however, lasting only when vehicles were present.

Managing the WSAs under BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.10.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under this alternative, the Bitter Creek-PR Spring, Four Mile Wash, Lower Green River, White River, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, Main Canyon, and Red Creek Watershed ACECs would be the same areas as that described in Alternative C and would be managed by essentially the same prescription. In the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics portions of the ACECs, the natural characteristics, opportunities for solitude, and opportunities for primitive recreation

would be protected by the management actions prescribed for the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The effect would be protection of the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Under this alternative, the segments of the White River, Nine Mile Creek, Bitter Creek, Upper Green River, and Lower Green River recommended suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation would be the same area as that described in Alternative C and would be managed by the same prescription, except in White River. The segments of the White River would not be recommended suitable for wild and scenic river designation, but would be managed as eligible pending review of a dam construction permit. The effect on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, however, would be the same as that described under Alternative C.

Managing the WSAs under BLM's Interim Management Policy to protect their wilderness values would expand opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation found in the Cripple Cowboy, Bull Canyon, Daniels Canyon, Diamond Breaks, and Cold Spring Mountain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to larger land areas, including both the WSAs and contiguous non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. This would enhance the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.10.7. SUMMARY

Alternatives C and E would provide the most long-term protection of wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by designating the most acres as ACECs and by recommending the longest stretches of waterways for protection in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, followed by Alternative A. The Proposed RMP and Alternatives B and D would provide some protection of wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics but less than that provided by Alternative C or E, because they designate a smaller number of ACEC acres and recommend protecting fewer waterways under the Wild and Scenic River System.

4.10.2.11. IMPACTS OF VEGETATION DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Vegetation treatments are proposed under the Proposed RMP and each alternative in both the Fire Management and Rangeland Improvements Sections of Chapter 2 (see Table 2.1.5 and Table 2.1.12 Proposed RMP and Alternatives). For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the acreages proposed for treatment in the Rangeland Improvement section are in addition to the acreages proposed in the Fire Management section.

4.10.2.11.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.11.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under the Proposed RMP, 156,425 acres of vegetation would be treated by prescribed fire per decade. The purpose of these treatments would be to reduce fuel loads, restore fire to the

ecosystem, restore native vegetation communities, and enhance livestock and wildlife forage conditions. In the long term, vegetation treatments with fire would restore native vegetation communities and a more natural composition of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and/or trees in those communities. If these treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics, this objective would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the short term, however, operation of a prescribed burning operation would result in disturbance of the landform and vegetation through fire line construction and other activities (e.g., staging areas) needed to manage the fire. Further, the presence and noise of people, vehicles, equipment, and aircraft would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in proximity to the fire. The impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be temporary, lasting for the duration of the prescribed burning operation and reclamation. When the fire and reclamation operations are complete, these opportunities would return. Soil and vegetation disturbance from fire line construction and other activities (e.g. staging areas) would diminish the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but reclamation would restore those characteristics in a relatively short period of time.

Also under the Proposed RMP, 34,460 acres of vegetation would be treated to enhance forage condition for livestock grazing. The methods of treatment for this purpose would vary but would most often include fire and/or mechanical treatments (heavy equipment and chainsaws). If these treatments were planned for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the effects of treatment with fire would be the same as described above. Mechanical treatments, however, would have long-term impacts on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, and would likely not be permitted on a large scale on 106,178 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics under the Proposed RMP. While restoration of native vegetation communities would be beneficial to the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the presence and noise of people and equipment would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities in proximity to the treatment area, in the short-term. In the long term, the noise and presence of people and equipment would be removed and opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation would return.

4.10.2.11.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

The effects of vegetation treatments in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are managed for resource values and uses other than wilderness characteristics would be the same as described above (for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics), except that more surface-disturbing fire line construction could be permitted. Chain saws could be used to create fuel breaks for fire line construction, resulting in more substantial evidence of human manipulation of the land (cut logs, stumps, and cleared lines through vegetation). This type of surface disturbance would remain evident on the land for longer periods of time, reducing the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Also, in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are managed for other resource values and uses, mechanical treatments (heavy equipment and chainsaws) would be used to meet vegetation objectives. Mechanical treatments (chaining or chipping) would have long-term impacts on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. While restoration of native vegetation communities would be beneficial to the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the use of chainsaws, bull dozers, and brush hogs to accomplish the objective would leave an obvious imprint of human activity on the land, an adverse effect on the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Also in the short term, the presence and noise of people and equipment would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation in proximity to the treatment area. In the long term, a setting clearly manipulated by humans would diminish the opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

4.10.2.11.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.11.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative A, 156,425 acres of vegetation would be treated by prescribed fire per decade. The impacts to the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are managed for resource values and uses others than wilderness characteristics.

Also under this alternative, 34,460 acres of vegetation would be treated to enhance forage condition for livestock grazing. The methods of treatment for this purpose would vary but would often include fire and/or mechanical treatments (heavy equipment and chainsaws). The effect of these treatment methods on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under the Proposed RMP for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are managed for resource values and uses others than wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.11.3. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.11.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

The effects of vegetation treatments with prescribed fire would be the same as those described under Alternative A. The effects of vegetation treatments to enhance livestock forage would also be the same as those described under Alternative A, except under this alternative 50,900 acres would be treated (16,260 more acres than under Alternative A).

4.10.2.11.4. ALTERNATIVE C**4.10.2.11.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

The effects of vegetation treatments with prescribed fire would be the same as those described under Alternative A. The effects of vegetation treatments to enhance livestock forage would also be the same as those described under Alternative A, except that under this alternative 45,860 acres would be treated (11,220 more acres than under Alternative A).

4.10.2.11.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.11.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative D (No Action), 50,900 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush communities would be treated with prescribed fire with effects matching those described under Alternative A. The effects of vegetation treatments to enhance livestock forage would also be the same as those described under Alternative A, except that under this alternative 40,390 acres would be treated (5,750 more acres than under Alternative A).

4.10.2.11.6. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.11.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

The effects of vegetation treatments with prescribed fire would be the same as those described under the Proposed RMP for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics. The effects of vegetation treatments to enhance livestock forage would also be the same as those described under the Proposed RMP for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics, but on all 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.11.7. SUMMARY

The Proposed RMP and all of the alternatives would have similar effects of vegetation treatments on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The difference would be the number of acres treated, and the method of treatment. Mechanical treatment methods typically would not be used in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics. Alternatives B and C would treat the same number of acres with prescribed fire and comparable numbers of acres to enhance livestock forage. The Proposed RMP and Alternatives A and E would treat the same number of acres with prescribed fire, but would treat the fewest acres to enhance livestock forage, due to limitations required to protect wilderness characteristics. Alternative D (No Action) treats the fewest acres with prescribed fire but comparable acreages for livestock forage improvement.

4.10.2.12. IMPACTS OF VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

There are four objectives for visual resource management (VRM Classes I–IV) that provide for various levels of landscape protection and change. The objective of Class I is to preserve the characteristic landscape whereas the objective of Class IV provides for landscape modifications (see Chapter 3 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, Section 3.19, Visual Resources). Land use planning decisions to manage areas by VRM Class I objectives would preserve the characteristics of the landscape. In non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this objective would preserve the natural characteristics of the area. VRM Class II objectives would retain the characteristics landscape, allowing for minor changes to the landform and vegetation. This objective would generally protect the natural characteristics of the land in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. VRM Class III objectives provide for partial retention of the existing character of the landscape, allowing for moderate changes to land and vegetation. This objective is not compatible with preserving the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. VRM Class IV objectives provide for major modification of the landscape, and this is incompatible with preservation of the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

Table 4.10.5 shows the VRM Class I–IV objectives by non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, in acres, by the Proposed RMP and alternative.

Table 4.10.5 Visual Resource Management Objectives by Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Areas

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Proposed RMP (Acres)	Alternative A (Acres)	Alternative B (Acres)	Alternative C (Acres)	Alternative D (No Action) (Acres)	Alternative E (Acres)
Beach Draw						
Class I						898
Class II	898	898	208	898	208	
Class III						
Class IV			690		690	
Bitter Creek						
Class I				32,363		33,488
Class II		12,764		68		
Class III	33,488	20,724		1,057		
Class IV			33,488		33,488	
Bourdette Draw						
Class I		4,342				13,335
Class II	13,335	7,170		13,335		
Class III		1,798	4,365		4,365	
Class IV		25	8,970		8,970	
Bull Canyon						
Class I		1	4	1	4	2,483

Table 4.10.5 Visual Resource Management Objectives by Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Areas

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Proposed RMP (Acres)	Alternative A (Acres)	Alternative B (Acres)	Alternative C (Acres)	Alternative D (No Action) (Acres)	Alternative E (Acres)
Class II	2,483	2,482		2,482		
Class III						
Class IV			2,479		2,479	
Cold Spring Mountain						
Class I		75	75	75	75	8,764
Class II	8,764	8,574	367	8,689	367	
Class III		115	4,580		4,580	
Class IV			3,742		3,742	
Cripple Cowboy						
Class I	4	4	3	13,537	3	13,603
Class II		13,599	6,687	66	6,657	
Class III	13,599		1,720		1,720	
Class IV			5,193		5,223	
Daniels Canyon						
Class I						3,045
Class II	3,045	3,045		3,045		
Class III						
Class IV			3,045		3,045	
Dead Horse Pass						
Class I						6,994
Class II	6,994	3,042	676	3,402	676	
Class III		2,965	2,111	2,965	2,111	
Class IV		627	4,207	627	4,207	
Desolation Canyon						
Class I	1,311					63,118
Class II	20,632	23,903	12,273	24,321	12,273	
Class III	16,477	14,510	20,475	14,101	20,475	
Class IV	24,698	24,705	30,370	24,696	30,370	
Diamond Breaks						
Class I	72	57	59		59	4,539
Class II	4,467	1,160		4,536		
Class III		3,322	2,652	3	2,652	
Class IV			1,828		1,828	
Diamond Mountain						
Class I				1,042		27,238
Class II	27,238	3,300	6,399	5,131	6,399	
Class III		23,938	1,051	21,039	1,051	

Table 4.10.5 Visual Resource Management Objectives by Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Areas

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Proposed RMP (Acres)	Alternative A (Acres)	Alternative B (Acres)	Alternative C (Acres)	Alternative D (No Action) (Acres)	Alternative E (Acres)
Class IV			19,778		19,778	
Hells Hole Canyon						
Class I						
Class II		2,709		2,119		2,709
Class III			289	590	289	
Class IV	2,709		2,420		2,420	
Hideout Canyon						
Class I						1,113
Class II		1,113	1,103	1,113	1,103	
Class III	1,113					
Class IV			10		10	
Lower Bitter Creek						
Class I						11,417
Class II						
Class III	58	26				
Class IV	11,360	11,391	11,417	11,417	11,417	
Lower Flaming Gorge						
Class I						17,810
Class II	17,810	17,700	1,257	17,770	1,257	
Class III		33	1,875	33	1,875	
Class IV		77	14,678	77	14,678	
Mexico Point						
Class I						1,277
Class II			1,277	1,277	1,277	
Class III	1,277	1,277				
Class IV						
Moonshine Draw						
Class I			4		4	4,513
Class II	4,513	4,513	1,735	4,513	1,735	
Class III						
Class IV			2,774		2,774	
Mountain Home						
Class I						7,083
Class II	7,083	4,875	117	4,875	117	
Class III		2,208	1,354	2,208	1,354	
Class IV			5,612		5,612	
Rat Hole Ridge						

Table 4.10.5 Visual Resource Management Objectives by Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Areas

Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Proposed RMP (Acres)	Alternative A (Acres)	Alternative B (Acres)	Alternative C (Acres)	Alternative D (No Action) (Acres)	Alternative E (Acres)
Class I				11,175		11,367
Class II	11,367	11,367		192		
Class III			3,240		3,240	
Class IV			8,127		8,127	
Stuntz Draw						
Class I						1,992
Class II	1,992	1,992	1,362	1,992	1,362	
Class III						
Class IV			630		630	
Sweet Water Canyon						
Class I				6,950		6,994
Class II		6,994	6,272	44	6,272	
Class III	6,994					
Class IV			722		722	
Vivas Cake Hill						
Class I						277
Class II	277	277	277	277	277	
Class III						
Class IV						
White River						
Class I		4,980		9,027		21,210
Class II	11,930	7,360	12,339	4,528	12,219	
Class III	2,481	464	464	3,210	464	
Class IV	6,799	8,406	8,406	4,445	8,527	
Wild Mountain						
Class I				515		527
Class II	527	58	42	6	42	
Class III		469	16	6	16	
Class IV			469		469	
Wolf Point						
Class I	10	10	9	11,746	9	11,802
Class II				56		
Class III	11,792	11,792	242		242	
Class IV			11,551		11,551	

4.10.2.12.1. PROPOSED RMP**4.10.2.12.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

Under the Proposed RMP, 106,178 acres of 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed with visual resource management Class II objectives (see Table 4.10.5 above). The objective of this class is to retain the characteristic landscape, while allowing for some minor level of development or change to the landscape. This landscape objective would generally protect the undeveloped (natural) characteristics of the 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics managed to protect those characteristics.

4.10.2.12.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP, 132,845 acres of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed by VRM Class III and IV objectives. These objectives would allow for activities that would alter the landscape, and diminish the natural characteristics of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (see Table 4.10.5 above). However, in four of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that are proposed for management of resources and uses other than wilderness characteristics (Cripple Cowboy, Desolation Canyon, Rat Hole Ridge, and Wolf Point), 33,324 acres would be managed by Class I and II objectives. These objectives would limit surface disturbance and protect the natural characteristics of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.12.2. ALTERNATIVE A**4.10.2.12.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative A, 148,364 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and II objectives in all or parts of 23 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limiting surface disturbance and protecting the natural characteristics of those lands in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, 127,595 acres would be managed by Class III and IV objectives in all or parts of 13 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with impacts as described under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.12.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.12.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative B, 52,777 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and II objectives in all or parts of 20 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limiting surface disturbance and protecting the natural characteristics of those lands in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, 224,819 acres would be managed by Class III and IV objectives in all

or parts of 23 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with impacts as described under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.12.4. ALTERNATIVE C

4.10.2.12.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative C, 191,657 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and II objectives in all or parts of 24 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limiting surface disturbance and protecting the natural characteristics of those lands in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, 85,939 acres would be managed by Class III and IV objectives in all or parts of 10 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with impacts as described under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.12.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

4.10.2.12.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative D (No Action), 52,626 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and II objectives in all or parts of 20 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limiting surface disturbance and protecting the natural characteristics of those lands in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. However, 224,970 acres would be managed by Class III and IV objectives in all or parts of 23 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with impacts as described under the Proposed RMP.

4.10.2.12.6. ALTERNATIVE E

4.10.2.12.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative E, 277,596 acres would be managed by VRM Class I objectives in all of the 25 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, limiting surface disturbance and protecting the natural characteristics of those lands in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.12.7. SUMMARY

The visual resource management objectives proposed in Alternative E would provide protection of the natural characteristics of all the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. VRM objectives in Alternative C would provide protection to the natural characteristics of the 191,657 acres in 24 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, followed by Alternative A with 148,364 acres protected in 23 areas. The Proposed RMP would provide protection to natural characteristics on 106,178 acres of 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Visual resource objectives in Alternatives B and D (No Action) provide the least protection to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.13. IMPACTS OF WILD HORSE DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

There are three wild horse herd management/herd areas in the VPA: Bonanza, Winter Ridge, and Hill Creek. A portion of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (7,449 acres) is located in the Bonanza herd management area. The Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics is located in the Winter Ridge herd area and a portion of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (16,396 acres) is located in the Hill Creek herd management area.

4.10.2.13.1. PROPOSED RMP

4.10.2.13.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Under the Proposed RMP, no horse herd would be maintained in the Bonanza Herd Area. Any wild or feral horses present would be gathered and removed. An area with wilderness characteristics is natural and provides opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. Areas with wilderness characteristics may also possess supplemental values (interesting, special, or unique natural or cultural resource values) in addition to the requisite wilderness characteristics. Wild horses, for example, would be considered a supplemental value. The presence of this resource value would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Because a herd would not be maintained in this area, there would be no supplemental benefit to the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the primitive recreational activity of viewing wild horses would also be lost.

Because wild horses would be gathered and removed under the Proposed RMP, there would be no need for facilities (fences and water developments) to manage the herd. Thus, there would be no introduction of human-made facilities on the landscape that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, there would be no temporary disruption of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation activities resulting from the noise and presence of people and equipment used during construction of these facilities. However, there would be temporary disruption of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation from gathering operations due to the noise and presence of people, structures (fences, corrals, or pens), vehicles, and aircraft.

4.10.2.13.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under the Proposed RMP, no wild horse herd would be established in the Hill Creek or Winter Ridge herd areas. Any wild or feral horses present would be gathered and removed. The presence of this resource value would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Desolation Canyon and Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Because herds would not be maintained in these herd areas, there would be no supplemental benefit to the wilderness

characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the primitive recreational activity of viewing wild horses would also be lost.

Because wild horses would be gathered and removed under the Proposed RMP, there would be no need for facilities (fences and water developments) to manage the herds. Thus, there would be no introduction of human-made facilities on the landscape that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, there would be no temporary disruption of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation activities resulting from the noise and presence of people and equipment used during construction of these facilities. However, there would be a temporary disruption of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation from gathering operations due to the noise and presence of people, structures (fences, corrals, or pens), vehicles, and aircraft.

4.10.2.13.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.13.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative A, a horse herd would not be re-established in the Bonanza herd management area. Thus, there would be no impacts (beneficial or adverse) on the wilderness characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the Winter Ridge herd area, a horse herd of 50 to 100 animals would be re-established. An area with wilderness characteristics is natural and provides opportunities for either solitude or primitive recreation. Areas with wilderness characteristics may also possess supplemental values (interesting, special, or unique natural or cultural resource values) in addition to the requisite wilderness characteristics. Wild horses, for example, would be considered a supplemental value. The presence of this resource value would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the Hill Creek herd management area, a 70- to 145-animal horse herd would be re-established. Again, the presence of this resource value would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In order to re-establish the herd, however, fences would have to be constructed to manage the herds. Construction of fences in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (if that location was necessary) would add further development of humans to the landscape and degrade the natural characteristics of the land. During construction, the presence and noise of people and equipment building the fences would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. When construction ended, the adverse impact on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would improve, but the long-term presence of human-made structures on the land would detract from the undeveloped setting needed to support these opportunities.

4.10.2.13.3. ALTERNATIVE B**4.10.2.13.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative B, the impacts of wild horse management on the wilderness characteristics of Wolf Point and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described under Alternative A. In the Hill Creek herd management area, including the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, all horses would be removed and permits would be offered to the Northern Ute Tribe for up to 100 wild and feral horses. Under Alternative B, it would be necessary to build fences to manage the herd. The introduction of human-made structures on the land would diminish the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, if the fences were located in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. There would also be a temporary disruption of opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation from gathering operations due to the noise and presence of people, structures (fences, corrals, or pens), vehicles, and aircraft. The presence of wild horses, however, would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and provide opportunities to view wild horses, a primitive recreation activity.

4.10.2.13.4. ALTERNATIVE C**4.10.2.13.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative C, a horse herd of 40 – 85 animals would be re-established in the Bonanza herd management area. The presence of this resource value would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. With the herd, however, it would necessary to construct fences and water facilities to manage the horses. Construction of the facilities would further modify the landscape and detract from the natural characteristics of the landscape and would adversely impact opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. If the facilities were located in the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, they would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the Winter Ridge herd area, a 50- to 100-animal horse herd would be established. The effects to wilderness characteristics of the Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics above, but no fences or waters would be constructed.

In the Hill Creek herd management area, a 70- to 145-animal horse herd would be re-established with impacts to the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics the same as that described for the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics above.

4.10.2.13.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.13.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

The effects of Alternative D (No Action) in the Bonanza herd management area would be the same as those described for Alternative A—a horse herd would not be re-established. The effects on the natural characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be the same as those described for Alternative A.

In the Winter Ridge herd area, no herd would be established, with effects on the wilderness characteristics being the same as those described for Alternative B.

The Hill Creek herd management area would support a herd of 195 horses under Alternative D (No Action). The presence of wild horses would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. No facilities are proposed for management of the herd, so no adverse impacts to the natural characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be anticipated.

4.10.2.13.6. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.13.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

The impacts of wild and feral horses and horse management on the wilderness characteristics of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as described for Alternative C. The impacts of wild and feral horse management on the wilderness characteristics of the Wolf Point non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as Alternative A. The impacts on Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be the same as those described for Alternative A.

4.10.2.13.7. SUMMARY

Under the Proposed RMP, BLM would no longer manage for wild and feral horses. While there would be no adverse impacts to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, there would also be no benefit to opportunities for primitive recreation (viewing wild horses) or supplemental benefit to wilderness characteristics.

Under Alternatives A, C, D, and E, the BLM would manage for wild and feral horses with the benefits that the presence of wild horses would have on wilderness characteristics and the adverse impacts fence and water construction would have on the natural landscape and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Under Alternative B, the BLM would not manage for wild horses but would offer permits to the Northern Ute Tribe for up to 100 horses. The presence of Tribal horses would have the same benefits to the wilderness characteristics of

the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the Hill Creek herd management area as described under Alternatives A, C, D, and E.

4.10.2.14. IMPACTS OF WOODLAND AND FOREST DECISIONS ON NON-WSA LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

4.10.2.14.1. PROPOSED RMP

Under Proposed RMP, actions would be implemented to maintain and restore forest and woodlands ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved, insects and disease are controlled to normal levels, relict stands are maintained, fuel loads are reduced, historic fire regimes are beginning to be restored, salvage is permitted, forests and woodlands are managed for multiple-use, and sustained yield is allowed through fire and mechanical treatments. Up to 546,152 acres would be treated or harvested. Salvage of forest and woodland products that are dead or dying due to fire, disease, insect kill, or other disturbance would be permitted throughout the VPA.

4.10.2.14.1.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics

Forest and woodland treatments with fire would restore native vegetation communities and a more natural composition of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and/or trees in those communities. If these treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this objective would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the short term, however, prescribed burning would result in disturbance of the landform and vegetation through fire line construction needed to manage the fire. Further, the presence and noise of people, vehicles, equipment, and aircraft would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in proximity to the fire. The impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be temporary, lasting for the duration of the prescribed burning operation and reclamation. When the fire and reclamation operations are complete, these opportunities would return. Soil and vegetation disturbance for fire line construction would diminish the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but reclamation would restore the natural conditions in a relatively short period of time.

Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics being managed to protect those characteristics would be closed to woodland products harvesting.

4.10.2.14.1.2. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Forest and woodland treatments with fire would restore native vegetation communities and a more natural composition of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and/or trees in those communities. If these treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this objective would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the short term, however, prescribed burning would result in disturbance of the landform and vegetation through fire line construction needed to manage the fire. Further, the presence and

noise of people, vehicles, equipment, and aircraft would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in proximity to the fire. The impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be temporary, lasting for the duration of the prescribed burning operation and reclamation. When the fire and reclamation operations are complete, these opportunities would return.

Forest and woodland treatment using mechanical methods (heavy equipment and chainsaws) would be allowed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that would not be managed to protect those characteristics under the Proposed RMP. If mechanical treatments were conducted, the surface disturbance would have long-term impacts on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. While restoration of native vegetation communities would be beneficial to the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the use of chainsaws, bull dozers, and brush hogs to accomplish the forest and woodland objectives would leave an obvious imprint of human activity on the land, having an adverse effect on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Also, in the short term, the presence and noise of people and equipment would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation in proximity to the treatment area. In the long term, a setting clearly manipulated by humans would also diminish the opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

In the other non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (not managed for their wilderness characteristics), salvage of forest and woodland products would be done by mechanical means with the same impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described above.

4.10.2.14.2. ALTERNATIVE A

4.10.2.14.2.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative A, actions would be implemented to maintain and restore forest and woodlands ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved, insects and disease are controlled to normal levels, relict stands are maintained, fuel loads are reduced, historic fire regimes are beginning to be restored, salvage is permitted, forests and woodlands are managed for multiple-use, and sustained yield is allowed through fire and mechanical treatments. Up to 552,152 acres would be treated or harvested. Salvage of forest and woodland products that are dead or dying due to fire, disease, insect kill, or other disturbance would be permitted throughout the VPA.

Forest and woodland treatments with fire would restore native vegetation communities and a more natural composition of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and/or trees in those communities. If these treatments occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, this objective would enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. In the short term, however, prescribed burning would result in disturbance of the landform and vegetation through fire line construction needed to manage the fire. Further, the presence and noise of people, vehicles, equipment, and aircraft would eliminate opportunities for solitude and

primitive and unconfined recreation in proximity to the fire. The impacts on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be temporary, lasting for the duration of the prescribed burning operation and reclamation. When the fire and reclamation operations are complete, these opportunities would return. Soil and vegetation disturbance for fire line construction would diminish the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, but reclamation would restore the natural conditions in a relatively short period of time. The use of chainsaws to clear vegetation for fire line construction, however, would result in more extensive surface disturbance that would degrade the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and require a much longer period of time to rehabilitate.

If mechanical treatments (heavy equipment and chainsaws) were conducted for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the surface disturbance would have long-term impacts on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. While restoration of native vegetation communities would be beneficial to the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the use of chainsaws, bull dozers, and brush hogs to accomplish the forest and woodland objectives would leave an obvious imprint of human activity on the land, having an adverse effect on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Also, in the short term, the presence and noise of people and equipment would eliminate opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation in proximity to the treatment area. In the long term, a setting clearly manipulated by humans would also diminish the opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

Salvage of forest and woodland products would be done by mechanical means with the same impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as described above.

4.10.2.14.3. ALTERNATIVE B

4.10.2.14.3.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses

Under Alternative B, public use of forest and woodland products would be permitted to achieve desired future conditions (e.g., vegetation treatments). Harvest of forest and woodland species would be permitted by the public with emphasis on achieving the greatest output of products. Up to 554,108 acres would be treated or harvested. The emphasis of this alternative is on the production of forest and woodland products for public use. Under this alternative none of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. Thus, the effects of mechanical treatment of up to 554,108 acres on the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, that are not being managed to protect their wilderness characteristics, would be the same as those described under Alternative A. The effects of forest and woodland salvage on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would also be the same as those described in Alternative A.

4.10.2.14.4. ALTERNATIVE C**4.10.2.14.4.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Alternative C would have the same effects from forest and woodland treatments and harvest on wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as those described in Alternative A. The effects of forest and woodland salvage by mechanical means would be the same as those described for Alternative A, except that salvage would only be allowed in ACECs when forest and woodland resources were threatened. Otherwise, 242,760 acres of ACECs would not be affected by salvage. Because there are several areas of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics located in proposed ACECs, the exclusion of salvage from ACECs would prevent surface disturbance that would diminish the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (see Table 4.10.3, Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Located in Special designations).

4.10.2.14.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)**4.10.2.14.5.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed for Other Resource Values and Uses**

Under Alternative D (No Action), up to 88,200 acres of forest and 200,100 acres of woodlands would be treated or be harvested. If any of those treatments (fire or mechanical) occurred in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the effects would be the same as those described under Alternative A.

4.10.2.14.6. ALTERNATIVE E**4.10.2.14.6.1. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics**

Under Alternative E, forest and woodland treatment and harvests as well as salvage would not be permitted with mechanical means (e.g., chainsaws or bulldozers) in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Forest and woodland treatments, however, could be performed with prescribed fire if consistent with the objectives for management of the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. As a result, there would be no surface disturbance from mechanical treatments, harvests, or salvage operations and no effects on the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. With prescribed fire treatments, the presence and noise of people, vehicles, or equipment would temporarily reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation during the fire operation. When the operation was complete and rehabilitated as needed, those opportunities would return. Forest and woodland treatments would restore native vegetation communities and composition that would benefit the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.2.14.7. SUMMARY

Forest and woodland management under the Proposed RMP and Alternative E would provide the greatest protection of wilderness characteristics in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. On the other hand, without treatments, in some cases there would be no benefit from the restoration of native plant communities or the composition of plants in those communities. The Proposed RMP and other alternatives would prescribe different areas of land for treatment, harvest, and salvage with similar beneficial effects to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics from restoration of native plant communities and similar adverse effects from surface disturbance.

4.10.2.14.8. SUMMARY

Alternatives A, B, C, and D (No Action) prescribe no specific actions that would affect (adversely or beneficially) the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The Proposed RMP, however, prescribes a management scheme that would protect the wilderness characteristics of 15 of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics with those values (106,178 acres) and Alternative E would prescribe measures to protect all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,596 acres).

4.10.2.15. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALTERNATIVES**4.10.2.15.1. PROPOSED RMP**

The Proposed RMP provides for management of natural landscapes and opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation by:

- establishing cultural resource protection areas;
- proposing large acreages for protection in special designations (ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers);
- limiting surface disturbance on steep slopes;
- establishing a large number of acres for protection of landscapes (scenery) through VRM Class I and II objectives;
- using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to restore vegetation communities and reduce wildfire hazard; and
- managing 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for protection of their wilderness characteristics.

Under the Proposed RMP, however, protection of wilderness characteristics would be less than under Alternatives E.

4.10.2.15.2. ALTERNATIVE A

Alternative A provides for management of natural landscapes and opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation by:

- establishing cultural resource protection areas;
- proposing large acreages for protection in special designations (ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers);
- limiting surface disturbance on steep slopes;
- establishing a large number of acres for protection of landscapes (scenery) through VRM Class I and II objectives; and
- using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to restore vegetation communities and reduce wildfire hazard.

Under Alternative A, however, protection of wilderness characteristics would be less than under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives C and E.

4.10.2.15.3. ALTERNATIVE B

Alternative B provides less emphasis on management of natural landscapes and opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation by:

- using prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to restore vegetation communities and reduce wildfire hazard and
- managing more acres for landscape change through VRM Class III and IV objectives.

4.10.2.15.4. ALTERNATIVE C

Alternative C places emphasis on management of natural landscapes and opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation by:

- establishing cultural resource protection areas;
- leasing fewer acres for mineral and hydrocarbon development;
- using prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to restore vegetation communities and reduce wildfire hazard;
- proposing larger acreages for special designations (ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers); and
- managing large acreages for landscape protection through VRM Class I and II objectives (the most protective VRM classes).

4.10.2.15.5. ALTERNATIVE D (NO ACTION)

Alternative D (No Action) provides the least emphasis on management of natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation by:

- establishing no cultural resource protection areas;
- using prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to restore vegetation communities and reduce wildfire hazard;
- managing the fewest acres for special designations (ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers); and

- managing the most acres for VRM Class III and IV objectives (the least protective VRM classes), the same as Alternative B.

4.10.2.15.6. ALTERNATIVE E

Alternative E focuses on protection to the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics by:

- closing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to OHV use;
- closing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to oil and gas leasing, solid mineral leasing, and mineral material sales;
- proposing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for withdrawal from mineral entry;
- avoiding the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for ROW development;
- closing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting;
- managing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for landscape protection through VRM Class I objectives;
- closing the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to road construction; and
- allowing vegetation and fuel treatments with prescribed fire, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.3. MITIGATION MEASURES

There are a number of actions proposed under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives that would limit surface disturbance, focus on primitive forms of recreation, and maintain or restore vegetation condition, all of which would maintain and enhance the wilderness characteristics of portions of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C, and E, withdrawals from entry under the mining laws would prevent surface disturbance along parts of the Green and White Rivers and would protect the natural condition of the landscape in the Lower Flaming Gorge, White River, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative D (No Action), mineral withdrawals are also proposed for portions of the Green River through Browns Park and the lower Green River, again, protecting the natural condition of the river canyon parts of Lower Flaming Gorge and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protecting the natural characteristics of the river canyons would enhance the setting required to support opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, actions to prohibit surface disturbance within floodplains and within 100 meters of riparian zones would protect the natural condition of riparian portions of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Protection of the natural condition of these areas would also enhance the setting needed to provide opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Further, managing riparian zones to achieve proper functioning condition would maintain and restore vegetation condition and water quality that would enhance the natural condition of riparian portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness

characteristics and settings that support primitive forms of recreation like floating, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, prescribed burning to restore vegetation communities would maintain and enhance the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, enhance wildlife habitat for hunting, photography, and wildlife viewing, and enhance the visual appeal by introducing variety to the landscape. Under the Proposed RMP, 15 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to VRM Class II standards. Managing areas by VRM Class II objectives would maintain the natural characteristics of portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative E, all of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to VRM Class I standards, providing even more protection of the natural characteristics of these areas, than Class II objectives. Under the Proposed RMP and other alternatives, portions of the non-WSA lands would continue to be managed to that standard, preserving the natural characteristics of the lands. All surface-disturbing activities, regardless of the Proposed RMP and alternative or management action, would be subject to the VRM objectives of the area within which the activity takes place. The visual resource contrast rating system would be used as a tool to analyze the potential site-specific impacts of surface disturbance as well as facility design and placement. Surface-disturbing activities and facilities would then be designed to mitigate their visual impacts and conform to the area's VRM objective. Mitigation would include painting, facility design, and placement/location.

Under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, C, and E, recreation management objectives for portions of the White River, Blue Mountain, Book Cliffs, Browns Park, and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs would provide activities, settings, and experiences for primitive forms of recreation. These objectives would provide protection of the natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation in portions of the White River, Bourdette Draw, Lower Flaming Gorge, Desolation Canyon, and the Bitter Creek non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. These objectives would provide the same benefits to wilderness characteristics for the Desolation Canyon and Lower Flaming Gorge non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics under Alternative D (No Action). Further, actions to construct up to 400 miles of non-motorized trails under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, C, and E and 55 miles of trails under Alternative D (No Action) would provide further opportunities for primitive forms of recreation.

Management of ACEC or wild and scenic river values in Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, and the Lower Green River under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives would maintain and enhance wilderness characteristics in portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Management of the ACEC and wild and scenic river values in White River under Alternatives A, C, and E would have the same effect on the wilderness characteristics of portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.4. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C, and D (No Action), minerals exploration and development, power line and pipeline construction, road and trail construction, and vegetation treatment with mechanical methods would result in surface disturbances and placement of human-made structures on the landscape that would cause unavoidable adverse impacts on the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, the noise and presence of people and equipment to implement these treatments and construct these facilities would diminish opportunities for solitude and conflict with primitive recreation activities. The human presence on the landscape would also alter the setting needed to support these opportunities. These impacts to wilderness characteristics would not be mitigated through project location and design.

Under Alternative E, 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to OHV travel and surface disturbances that would degrade or diminish the wilderness characteristics of these lands. However, even under this alternative and these prescriptions to protect wilderness characteristics, 117,470 acres would lose their natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources in the VPA. Existing oil and gas leases and the exercise of valid existing rights under those leases would eliminate the wilderness characteristics in portions of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (see Section 4.10.2.5.6.1 above).

4.10.5. SHORT-TERM USE VERSUS LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, construction of oil and gas exploration access roads and well pads would produce a long-term loss of naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in portions of up to 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Similarly, under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, C, and D (No Action), OHV driving, woodcutting, and seismic exploration would cause long-term losses of natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives, the use of prescribed fire for vegetation treatments would, in the long term, enhance vegetation condition and the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. A more natural landscape would improve opportunities for both solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Further, construction of riparian enclosure fences needed for restoration of riparian areas would degrade the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the short term but would enhance the riparian vegetation community in the long term, providing for a more natural landscape and settings for primitive recreational activities. Upon restoration, the enclosure fences would be removed.

Protection of ACEC or wild and scenic river values in Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, and the Lower Green River under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives would maintain and enhance wilderness characteristics in portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the long term. Management of the ACEC and wild and scenic river values in White River under Alternatives A, C, and E would have the same long-

term effect on the wilderness characteristics of portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

4.10.6. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE IMPACTS

Under Alternatives A, B, C, and D, oil and gas wells and well fields that are currently producing; above-ground pipeline and power line corridors and communication sites; forest and woodland treatments by mechanical means (bull dozers and chainsaws); construction of livestock and wildlife waters and fences; construction of roads and trails; allocation of open areas and designated routes for motorized vehicle use; and allocation of areas for the harvesting of forest and woodland products (e.g., timber production and fire wood) would all result in irretrievable degradation of the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Further, implementation of these structures, land treatments, and uses would change the natural, undeveloped setting to a more developed and industrial landscape that is not conducive to primitive recreation activities and experiences of solitude. Land and vegetation disturbance, the presence of human-made structures on the land, and the noise and presence of people, equipment, and vehicles would not support an experience of solitude and would conflict with primitive recreational activities.

Under the Proposed RMP, however, 106,178 acres in 15 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and under Alternative E, 277,596 acres in 25 separate non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed to protect natural characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation activities. These areas would be limited and closed to motorized uses and surface-disturbing activities that would degrade or diminish wilderness characteristics. Despite this long-term commitment to protecting undeveloped landscapes, opportunities for solitude, and primitive recreational activities, there would still be an irretrievable loss of wilderness characteristics on 117,740 acres in portions of 11 of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics under Alternative E (see Section 4.10.2.5.6.1 above). Although currently undeveloped, portions of these non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics have been leased for oil and gas production. Because it is anticipated that the lease holders will exercise their rights under their leases and develop these areas for oil and gas production, the wilderness characteristics of portions of these 11 areas would be irretrievably lost. No irreversible impacts are anticipated.