

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLANNING ISSUES

NOTE TO READER: The following paragraph has been added to this section for clarification.

Wilderness Characteristics

Public lands outside of existing WSAs that have wilderness characteristics have been referred to by many names, including Non-WSA Lands with or Likely to have Wilderness Characteristics, Wilderness Inventory Areas, Reasonable Probability Determination Areas, or simply, Areas with Wilderness Characteristics. All of these terms refer to the same lands; those public lands outside of WSAs that BLM determined have wilderness characteristics and that will be considered for management of those characteristics in this planning effort. For consistency and to minimize confusion, these lands will be referred to as *non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics*.

ALTERNATIVES

NOTE TO READER: The first paragraph of the Alternatives Section has been replaced with the following to reflect the addition of Alternative E to the DRMP/DEIS analysis.

This RMP presents five alternative proposals for managing public lands in the Vernal Planning Area (VPA). The alternatives were developed in response to the issues identified in the public scoping process and the planning criteria. The BLM recognizes that social, economic, and environmental issues cross land-ownership lines and that extensive cooperation is needed to actively address issues of mutual concern. To the extent possible, these alternatives were crafted utilizing input from public scoping comments, from Duchesne, Daggett, and Uintah County representatives, and from other cooperating agencies.

NOTE TO READER: A description of Alternative E has been added to this section.

Alternative E

This alternative emphasizes the protection of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The natural succession of ecosystems would be allowed to proceed in these and other select management areas. This alternative emphasizes maintenance of watershed conditions, species viability, properly functioning ecosystems, and a reduction of habitat fragmentation. It also includes designation of ACECs and determinations for wild and scenic river suitability, while still providing for resource uses in other parts of the VPA, including mineral and energy development and motorized recreation use.

Alternative E is the same as Alternative C, except that it adds a protective management prescription to 277,596 acres of land in 25 areas that comprise non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Alternative E, however, applies to all public lands within the VPA. The proposed

decisions that apply to the lands outside of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics remain the same as those in Alternative C.

NOTE TO READER: *A new column has been added to Table S.1 to include information under Alternative E.*

TABLE S.1. ALTERNATIVES COMPARISON: OIL AND GAS AND COAL-BED METHANE LEASING (ACRES)	
Leasing Category	Alternative E
Open	818,891
Administratively Open with Controlled Surface Use	680,570
Administratively Open with No Surface Occupancy	47,629
Closed	367,037

NOTE TO READER: *A new column has been added to Table S.2 to include information under Alternative E.*

TABLE S.2. ALTERNATIVES COMPARISON: ACECs (ACRES)	
ACECs	Alternative E
Bitter Creek	68,834
Bitter Creek-P.R. Spring	78,591
Coyote Basin	124,161
Four Mile Wash	50,280
Middle Green River	6,768
Lower Green River	10,170
White River	47,130
Browns Park	52,721
Red Mountain-Dry Fork	24,285
Nine-Mile Canyon	81,168
Main Canyon	100,915
Lears Canyon	1,375
Pariette	10,437
Red Creek	24,475
Total Acres	681,310

NOTE TO READER: A new column has been included in Table S.3 to include information under Alternative E.

TABLE S.3. ALTERNATIVES COMPARISON: WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS (LINEAR MILES)	
Wild and Scenic River Designations	Alternative E
White River	44
Nine Mile Creek between Green River and Duchesne county line	13
Nine Mine Creek between Carbon county line and confluence with Gate Canyon	6
Middle Green River	36
Evacuation Creek	21
Bitter Creek	22
Argyle Creek	22
Upper Green River	22
Lower Green River	30
Total Linear Miles	216

NOTE TO READER: A new column has been added to Table S.4 to include information under Alternative E.

TABLE S.4. ALTERNATIVES COMPARISON: OHV USE	
Categories of OHV Use	Alternative E
Open to OHV (acres)	5,434
Limited to OHV (acres)	1,326,024
Closed to OHV (acres)	392,818
Designated OHV Routes (miles)	4,654

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