

A READER'S GUIDE TO THE CHAPTER 2 SUPPLEMENT

The Vernal Field Office Draft RMP/Draft EIS (DRMP/DEIS) was released for public review and comment in January 2005. Chapter 2 of the DRMP/DEIS, entitled "Alternatives," describes four alternatives for the management of resources and uses in the Vernal Field Office. It explains how the alternatives were developed, describes the focus or emphasis of each alternative, and presents the goals and objectives for management, as well as actions common to all alternatives. A table details proposed management actions for resources, resource uses, and special designations under each of the four alternatives. The four alternatives in the DRMP/DEIS are as follows:

- **Alternative A, the Preferred Alternative** – Management direction is generally broad and accommodates a wide variety of values and uses. Under this alternative, the planning area would be managed to provide a sustainable flow of resources for human use, while protecting important watersheds and providing viable populations of native and desirable non-native plant species and wildlife habitat and opportunities for recreation use.
- **Alternative B** – This alternative would provide for most resource uses but would emphasize oil and gas development where feasible. Renewable resources would be protected by balancing the development of mineral resources with focused and prudent mitigation measures.
- **Alternative C** – Under this alternative, the natural succession of ecosystems would be allowed to proceed in select management areas. This alternative would strongly emphasize maintenance of watershed conditions, species viability, properly functioning ecosystems, and a reduction of habitat fragmentation.
- **Alternative D describes Current Management** - This alternative would maintain present uses by continuing present management direction and activities while abiding by all new mandates, Executive Orders, and directives that have been implemented since the previous RMPs were completed.

The DRMP/DEIS provides the full context for this Chapter 2 Supplement. Section 2.1 of the DRMP/DEIS has been modified with the addition of a fifth alternative (Alternative E). A new Section 2.2.5 has been included in this Supplement to the DRMP/DEIS and includes a summary description of the new Alternative E. The first sentence of Section 2.4, Management Common to All Action Alternatives by Resource Program, has been changed to reflect the addition of the fifth alternative (Alternative E). New sections have been added to Section 2.4 and Table 2.3 to reflect the addition of Alternative E.

Alternative E is the same as Alternative C except that it adds a protective management prescription for 277,596 acres of lands in 25 areas that comprise non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Alternative E applies to all public lands within the area managed by the Vernal Field Office. The proposed decisions that apply to the lands outside of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics remain the same as those in Alternative C.

In the DRMP/DEIS, public lands outside of existing wilderness study areas (WSAs) that have wilderness characteristics were referred to as *Non-WSA Lands with or Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics*. The document also used other variations of that name, like *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* and *Non-WSA Lands Likely to Have Wilderness Characteristics*.

Further, you may have seen or heard other terms like 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 existing WSAs that the BLM has determined to 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* throughout this Supplement.

CHAPTER TWO – ALTERNATIVES

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

NOTE TO READER: Section 2.1 of the DRMP/DEIS has been replaced with the following text to reflect the addition of a fifth alternative (Alternative E).

This chapter presents five alternative proposals for managing public lands in the Vernal Planning Area. The alternatives were developed in response to the issues identified in the public scoping process and in light of BLM's planning criteria. 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 using the input from public scoping comments, from Duchesne, Daggett, and Uintah County representatives, and from other cooperating agencies, including the Northern Ute Tribe.

2.2 AGENCY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

See Section 2.2 of the DRMP/DEIS with the following additions.

NOTE TO READER: A second paragraph has been added to this section for clarification of the process used to arrive at a Record of Decision for the planning process.

When BLM prepares the final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD), they may select one of the alternatives in its entirety or management actions from more than one of the alternatives analyzed in the planning process. With respect to management of the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, that means the BLM may choose to protect all, some, or none of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, or to select all or some of the actions of the protective management prescription.

2.2.5 Description of Alternative E

NOTE TO READER: A new Section 2.2.5 has been added to the DRMP/DEIS which includes a summary description of the new Alternative E.

Alternative E emphasizes the protection of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, including closing these areas to mineral leasing and off-road vehicles, excluding new rights-of-way, protecting undisturbed landscapes, and providing opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation. 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.

2.4 MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES BY RESOURCE PROGRAM

NOTE TO READER: The first sentence of Section 2.4 of the DRMP/DEIS has been replaced with the following to reflect the addition of a fifth alternative (Alternative E).

The goals and objectives described in Section 2.4 the DRMP/DEIS apply only to Alternatives A, B, C, and E.

NOTE TO READER: A new Section 2.4.20 has been added to the DRMP/DEIS which includes the goals, objectives and management actions common to all for non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

2.4.20 Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

2.4.20.1 Goal and Objectives

Maintain the wilderness characteristics (i.e., appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation or solitude) of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Manage these primitive and backcountry landscapes for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and experiences of solitude.

2.4.20.2 Actions Common to All

There are no non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics Actions Common to All Alternatives.

NOTE TO READER: Another column has been added to Table 2.3 of the DRMP/DEIS to reflect the addition of Alternative E, and the addition of a Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics section to the table. 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 Vernal Field Office. The proposed decisions that apply to the lands outside of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics remain the same as those in Alternative C. Abandoned Mine Lands, Air Quality, Special Status Plant Species, Special Status Animal Species, Other Selected Special Status Animal Species, and Vegetation have no specific management direction other than the actions portrayed in the Actions Common to All Alternatives Sections of the DRMP/DEIS and are not included below.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<i>Cultural Resources</i>
Alternative E
On- and off-site interpretive facilities would be developed for all appropriate archeological, historical, and cultural resources only if they would not adversely impact the cultural site or conflict with other resource objectives.
The Uinta Foothills would be closed to oil and gas leasing, as well as OHV travel, to protect high-density cultural site areas that include burial sites, petroglyphs, task sites, pictographs, and villages.
The Little/Devils Hole area would be closed to oil and gas leasing, as well as OHV travel, to protect high-density cultural sites that include lithic scatters, burials, tool manufacturing sites, structures, and rock shelters.
The Upper Willow Creek area would be closed to oil and gas leasing, as well as OHV travel, to protect high-density cultural sites that include pictographs, petroglyphs, burials, and storage crypts and to preserve the unique representation of the Archaic period.
The Four Mile Wash (T10S, R19E, Section 18) would be closed to oil and gas leasing, as well as OHV travel, to protect traditional sacred properties.
Excavation of cultural sites in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be permitted when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
<i>Fire Management</i>
Alternative E
Prescribed burning would be allowed for approximately 156,425 acres per decade.
The use of prescribed fire in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be permitted for forest, woodland, and vegetation treatments, and for reduction of fuels, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the areas. Fire lines and other surface disturbances would be rehabilitated following completion of the burning operation.
Wildfire suppression operations would be permitted in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Fire lines and other surface disturbances would be rehabilitated following completion of suppression operations.
<i>Forage</i>
Alternative E
<i>Forage-All Localities</i>
Unless otherwise specified by a management plan, up to 50% utilization of forage on uplands would be allowed.
AUMs would be allocated as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77,294 AUMs for livestock • 106,196 AUMs for wildlife • 3,960 AUMs for wild horses
<i>Forage-Bonanza Locality</i>
If forage allocation reductions are necessary to make significant progress towards or sustain rangeland health, the following criteria would be followed to make the needed reductions.
Demonstrated conflicts between wildlife and livestock: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock use would be reduced. • Pronghorn use would not be reduced.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer or other big game use would not be reduced.
<p>If additional forage is available and rangeland health is being sustained, or if significant progress is being made towards sustaining rangeland health, increased use would be considered based on the following criteria.</p>
<p>Additional forage meets the dietary needs of livestock and wildlife:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife use would be increased in accordance with available forage. Livestock use would not be increased above permitted use.
<p><i>Forage-Bonanza Wild Horse Herd Locality</i></p>
<p>Allocate 1,020 AUMs for wild horses.</p>
<p>If forage allocation reductions are necessary to make significant progress towards or sustain rangeland health, the following criteria would be followed to make the needed reductions.</p>
<p>Demonstrated conflicts between wildlife and livestock</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock use would be reduced. Wildlife use would not be reduced.
<p>Demonstrated conflicts with wild horses and livestock</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock use would be reduced. Wild horse use would be reduced, but not below 480 AUMs.
<p>Demonstrated conflicts with wild horses and wildlife</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild horse and wildlife use would be proportionately reduced.
<p>If additional forage is available and rangeland health is being sustained, or if significant progress is being made towards sustaining rangeland health, increased use would be considered based on the following criteria.</p>
<p>Additional forage meets the dietary needs of livestock and wildlife</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronghorn and deer use would be increased in accordance with available forage. Livestock would not be increased above permitted use.
<p>Additional forage meets the dietary needs of horses, sheep, or pronghorn</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would not increase AML. Would increase pronghorn use until there are conflicts with sheep. Would increase sheep use in accordance with available forage.
<p>Additional forage meets the dietary needs of horses and sheep</p>
<p>Would increase horse use in accordance with available forage.</p>
<p><i>Forage-Book Cliffs Locality</i></p>
<p>Allocate 1,325 AUMs acquired by acquisition of private lands (Cripple Cowboy) to wildlife.</p>
<p>Allocate 1,200 AUMs to wild horses in the Winter Ridge Herd Area. Allocate 1,740 AUMs to wild horses in the Hill Creek HMA.</p>
<p>If monitoring shows that reductions are necessary in all areas except the Wild Horse Herd Areas because of:</p>
<p>Demonstrated conflicts between wildlife and livestock</p>
<p>Livestock use would be reduced.</p>
<p>If monitoring shows that reductions are necessary in the Wild Horse Herd Areas because of:</p>
<p>Demonstrated conflicts between big game, livestock, and wild horses</p>
<p>Livestock use would be reduced.</p>
<p>Demonstrated conflicts between big game and livestock</p>

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
Livestock use would be reduced.
Demonstrated conflicts between livestock and wild horses
Livestock use would be reduced.
Demonstrated conflicts between wild horses and big game
Reductions in grazing use would be divided proportionately between wild horses and big game.
Additional forage would be allocated in areas except Wild Horse Herd Areas as follows:
Cattle Allotments
60% to restore suspended cattle AUMs and 40% for wildlife. After restoring all suspended AUMs, allocate additional forage to wildlife.
Sheep Allotments
Forage increases would be allocated to big game. If additional forage were not needed by big game, it would be given to livestock. Big game numbers would be allowed to increase only to the point livestock permitted use would not be reduced.
Additional forage would be allocated in the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek Wild Horse Herd Areas as follows:
Forage increases would be divided proportionately between big game and wild horses. If wild horses or big game do not need additional forage, it would be given to livestock. Big game and wild horse numbers would be allowed to increase only to the point livestock permitted use would not be reduced.
<i>Forage-Blue Mountain Locality</i>
If monitoring indicates forage assignments cannot be met, livestock permitted use would be reduced. Adjustments would be attained by decision or agreement. The first year reductions would be made with an initial 10% adjustment. Five-year agreements would be developed and signed outlining the process for phased reductions to the desired level.
Additional forage would be allocated in the Blue Mountain area as follows:
Additional AUMs realized through management and/or created from wildlife-oriented vegetation treatment would be provided to wildlife.
<i>Forage-Diamond Mountain Locality</i>
If monitoring indicates forage assignments cannot be met, livestock permitted use would be reduced. Adjustments would be attained by decision or agreement. The first year reductions would be made with an initial 10% adjustment. Five-year agreements would be developed and signed at the same time outlining the process for phased reductions to the desired level.
Additional forage would be allocated in the Diamond Mountain area as follows:
Additional AUMs realized through management changes and/or vegetation treatment would be provided to wildlife or retained for watershed.
<i>Lands and Realty</i>
Alternative E
LAND ACCESS
Public access to the White River would be pursued at the mouth of Cowboy Canyon, Bonanza Bridge, and Wagon Hound Road.
An easement for the old Uintah Railroad bed from the Utah/Colorado line to Watson in Evacuation Creek would be not pursued.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
Acquisition of Indian Trust Lands in Bitter Creek would be pursued.
Acquisition of Indian Trust Lands near the confluence of South and Sweet Water Canyon would be pursued.
WITHDRAWALS
Locatable mineral withdrawal or other protective measures that would preclude mineral entry in the Green River Scenic Corridor in Browns Park (8,208 acres), White River (9,218 acres), Lears Canyon relict vegetation areas (1,375 acres), the Book Cliffs Natural Area (401 acres), and the lower Green River ACEC (17,063 acres).
Propose non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for withdrawal from mineral entry.
OTHER LANDS AND REALTY ACTIONS
Retain non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in federal ownership.
Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed as rights-of-way exclusion areas.
<i>Livestock and Grazing Management</i>
Alternative E
Lands acquired by acquisition of properties in the Nine-Mile area would not be grazed to enhance riparian and watershed values.
Change in class of livestock would not be allowed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics if fencing or other structural improvements are necessary or if the conversion would result in significant resource conflicts or impacts.
SEASONS OF USE
<u>ADJUDICATED</u>
Livestock grazing could be allowed under the discretion of the VFO in Area 1.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 6/15 to 8/31 in Area 2.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 6/15 to 8/31 in Area 3.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 10/1 to 3/1 (Fall/Winter) in Area 4.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 10/1 to 3/1 (Fall/Winter) in Area 5.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 10/1 to 3/1 (Fall/Winter) in Area 6.
Livestock grazing would be allowed from 10/1 to 11/30(Fall) in Area 7.
<i>Minerals and Energy Resources</i>
Alternative E (Figure 14e)
OIL AND GAS AND COAL-BED METHANE
Approximately 818,891 acres would be administratively available for oil and gas leasing, including coal bed methane, subject to standard lease terms.
Approximately 680,570 acres would be administratively available for oil and gas leasing with controlled surface use.
Approximately 47,629 acres would be administratively available for oil and gas leasing with no surface occupancy (NSO).
Approximately 367,037 acres would be closed to leasing.
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to leasing.
No geophysical exploration would be allowed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics except

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
hand-carried geophone lines would be permitted.
COMBINED HYDROCARBON AREAS/SPECIAL TAR SAND AREAS
Approximately 43,295 acres would be administratively available for combined hydrocarbon leasing subject to standard lease terms.
Approximately 191,563 acres would be administratively available for combined hydrocarbon leasing with controlled surface use.
Approximately 3,696 acres would be administratively available for combined hydrocarbon leasing with no surface occupancy (NSO).
Approximately 59,966 acres would be closed to leasing.
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to leasing.
GILSONITE AND PHOSPHATE (NON-ENERGY LEASABLES)
52,063 acres would be open for prospecting, leasing, and development of phosphate with standard and special stipulations within the phosphate occurrence areas.
163 miles would be available for prospecting, leasing, and development of Gilsonite (additional veins located through field study or prospecting not shown on Figure 15 would also be available if such are within "open" category lands).
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to leasing.
OIL SHALE
Within the known oil shale lease areas, 286,105 acres would be open for leasing if regulations providing for such are promulgated. (BLM does not have the necessary regulations in place to lease oil shale at this time.)
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to leasing.
MINERAL MATERIALS
344,682 acres would be available for mineral material disposal with standard and special stipulations.
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to disposal of mineral materials.
<i>Paleontology</i>
Alternative E
Areas with significant fossils would be identified through predictive modeling and broad-scale sampling. Assessment and mitigation in all Condition 1 areas and in Condition 2 areas would be applied as needed.
Interest groups and public land users would be contacted to provide information about fossils and appropriate uses. Condition 1 areas that receive high levels of development or visitor use would be identified and monitored.
New websites and publications would be developed and maintained to promote visitor education. BLM would assist in development of local museum exhibits on paleontology.
Paleontological Resources Use permits would be issued for scientific study, promoting or supporting investigations in poorly known areas. BLM would support investigations in lesser-known areas and in areas where surface disturbance is occurring or anticipated.
Collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils would be allowed for present, non-commercial use. Areas for hobby collection would be identified, publicized, and monitored. Areas with rare and significant invertebrate and plant fossils would be closed to hobby collection.
Permit excavation of fossils in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES	
<i>Rangeland Improvements</i>	
Alternative E	
Part or all of the following measures would be implemented to meet resource objectives for habitat enhancement:	
Vegetation Treatment (Acres)	45,860
Fencing (Miles)	129
<u>Water Developments:</u>	
Guzzlers/Reservoirs (#)	811
Wells/Springs (#)	87
Pipeline (Miles)	29.5
Permit use of prescribed fire in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for vegetation treatments, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Rehabilitate fire lines and other surface disturbances following completion of the burning operation.	
Permit construction of rangeland improvements in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	
<i>Recreation</i>	
Alternative E	
Seep Ridge, Book Cliff Divide, and Atchee Ridge Roads would not be designated as a Back Country Byways.	
Permit construction of minimal recreation facilities in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	
SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS – SRMAS	
47,130 acres along the White River from where the river enters Utah to the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation boundary would be managed as a SRMA. An integrated activity plan would be developed and implemented. In the recreational portion of the plan, some of the following uses would be provided for: canoeing, rafting, camping, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, historic interpretation, and day hiking (This would not exclude other recreational opportunities.). The non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those types of activities and experiences.	
42,758 acres on Blue Mountain would be managed as a SRMA and an integrated activity plan would be developed and implemented. In the recreation portion of the plan the following uses would be emphasized: hang-gliding (competitive and special events), wildlife viewing, small and big game hunting, sight seeing, photography, equestrian use, camping, hiking, rock climbing, historic interpretation, and OHV use on designated routes (This would not exclude other recreational opportunities.). The non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those types of activities and experiences.	
69 acres in Fantasy Canyon would be managed as a SRMA to provide for the following uses: guided or self-guided tours, hiking, and interpretation.	
273,486 acres in the Book Cliffs would be managed as a SRMA and an integrated activity plan would be developed and implemented to maintain a frontier mystique of adventure and discovery (unconfined recreation, limited facilities). The recreational portion of the plan would provide for the following uses:	

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, back packing, OHV use, camping, cultural values including petroglyph viewing, picnicking, mountain biking, photography, back country horse riding, and visits to turn of the century homesteads. Wolf Point, Bitter Creek drainages, and the head of Sweet Water Canyon would be closed to mineral leasing. Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those types of activities and experiences.
52,720 acres in Browns Park would be managed as a SRMA to provide for outstanding scenic vistas and enhancement of resources and associated activities such as, riparian, fisheries, special status species, water quality, water-based recreation, hunting, comprehensive trail system for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and OHV use, camping, cultural and historic interpretation and facility development. The south side of the river between Little Hole and Fire Flat extending around the Taylor Flat subdivision to Rye Grass Draw and in the east would be managed for primitive recreation values, VRM I, and closed to surface disturbing activities, except for activities that complement recreation values. Additionally, the area would be closed to OHV use. The historic wagon route in Sears Canyon would be evaluated and analyzed along with other routes, i.e. Crouse Canyon and Rye Grass, to determine if an opportunity exists to provide a loop route for OHV use. Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those types of activities and experiences.
81,168 acres in Nine-Mile Canyon would be managed as a SRMA to protect high-value cultural resources and scenic vistas. Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the SRMA would be managed for primitive and non-motorized/non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those types of activities and experiences.
Mountain bike use would be limited to designated roads and trails.
TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
Up to 400 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and mechanized (non-motorized) trails would be signed, improved, and/or developed in the following areas: the Green River, Dry Fork, Willow Creek, Nine Mile, Home Mountain, Devils Hole, Ely/Rainbow Park, Yellow Pine, Spitzenberg/Warren Ridge, Centennial Book Cliffs Trail, Rat Hole Canyon, Burnt Timber Canyon, Boulevard Ridge, Bitter Creek, Westwater Point, Chipeta Canyon, Taylor Canyon, Little Mountain, Daniels Canyon, and other additional trails. Where these trail projects cross non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, uses would be limited to primitive and non-mechanized forms of recreation, and the required settings supporting those activities and experiences.
Up to 800 miles of motorized trails would not be improved and/or developed.
OHV use for big game retrieval off designated routes would not be allowed.
In WSAs and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, there would be no off-road motorized access to dispersed campsites.
BLM would work in conjunction with the National Park Service and energy companies to minimize noise and light pollution adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument using best available technology, such as installation of multicylinder pumps, hospital sound-reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from the monument. Additionally, there would be a requirement to reduce light pollution by using methods such as limiting height of light poles, timing of lighting operations (meaning limiting lighting to times of darkness associated with drilling and work over or maintenance operations), limiting wattage intensity, and constructing light shields.
Oil and gas leasing categories would be NSO for lands within one-half mile of the Dinosaur National Monument boundary. VRM Class designations would be I, II, and III. However, non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics contiguous to Dinosaur National Monument and the Moonshine Draw WSA would be managed as VRM I, and closed to mineral leasing, OHV use and biking.
Additional cabins in the Book Cliffs would not be constructed.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<i>Riparian</i>
Alternative E
<p>The following management strategies would be employed in riparian areas that are not achieving proper functioning condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key streamside herbaceous riparian vegetation, where stream bank stability is dependant upon it, would have a minimum stubble height at the end of the growing season capable of trapping and assuring retention of sediment during high flows • Management actions could be based on residual stubble height or utilization of current year's growth at the end of the growing season. An initial management action would be to set a stubble height of 4 inches or 30% utilization on key species if riparian conditions in that reach are to be maintained and 6 inches or <20% utilization if riparian conditions need to be improved. This initial stubble height or utilization level would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization or stubble height being made as needed.
<p>Key herbaceous riparian vegetation in riparian areas, other than the stream banks, would not be grazed more than would allow for trapping and retention of sediment during high water events. Management actions would be based on residual stubble height or utilization of current year's growth at the end of the growing season. An initial management action, that has been shown to obtain riparian goals, is to set a stubble height of 4 inches or 30% utilization if riparian conditions in that reach are to be maintained and 6 inches or <20% utilization if riparian conditions need to be improved. This initial stubble height or utilization level would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization or stubble height being made as needed.</p>
<p>Key riparian woody vegetation would not be browsed more than allows for the adequate recruitment to maintain or recover the woody component. Specifically, more plants in the combined sprout and young categories would be managed for than in the combined mature and dead categories. Management action would be based on utilization of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals. An initial management action, that has been shown to obtain riparian goals, is to set a woody vegetation utilization level of 30%. The specific utilization would need to be monitored to verify if it provides for maintenance or improvement objectives, with adjustments in allowable utilization being made as needed.</p>
<i>Soil and Water Resources</i>
Alternative E
<p>The "Surface Operating Standards for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development" (Gold Book), would be used as a guide for surface disturbing proposals on steep slopes/hillsides. Specific to oil and gas activities, steep hillsides should be avoided in the construction of roads, pipelines, and flowlines.</p> <p>If surface disturbing activities cannot be avoided on slopes 21-40%, an approved plan would be required prior to construction and maintenance that would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An erosion control strategy • GIS modeling • Proper survey and design by a certified engineer <p>No surface disturbance would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%.</p>
<p>Old agricultural fields would be irrigated and existing ditches and diversion structures would be restored on acquired lands in Bitter Creek and Rat Hole Drainages. New ditches and diversion structured would be constructed, as well.</p>

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<i>Special Designations</i>
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECs)
Alternative E
<p>All or portions of the following ACECs are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: Bitter Creek, Bitter Creek/P.R. Spring, Four Mile Wash, Lower Green River, White River, Browns Park, Nine Mile Canyon, Main Canyon and Red Creek Watershed. See ACECs marked with an asterisk (*) below to identify ACEC in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, within these ACECs, would be managed with the following prescription:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class I • 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 • Retained in federal ownership • Exclusion area for rights-of-way • Closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collection • Closed to road construction • Permit maintenance of existing facilities • When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit vegetation and fuel treatments using prescribed fire - Permit construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities - Permit excavation of cultural resources sites. - Permit excavation of paleontological resources. • No actions would be allowed that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
<p>Designate the following ACECs. The prescriptions below apply to those portions of the ACECs that do not have wilderness characteristics:</p>
<p>*Bitter Creek and Bitter Creek/PR Spring ACECs: 147,425 acres referred to as Bitter Creek would be designated as an ACEC/Research Natural Area to protect high-value, old-growth pinyon pines, cultural resources, historical features, and watersheds. Special management actions would include the following: establishing a research/monitoring program, enhancing habitat utilizing forest manipulation and tree spraying, and restricting wood cutting around old-growth pinyon. The area would be managed with timing and controlled surface use for oil and gas leasing, except for the following areas which would be closed to leasing: the old-growth pinyon pine area (T13S, R25E, Section 35, SESE), Bitter Creek drainages, and the head of Sweet Water Canyon. VRM class designations would be I, II, or III, and OHV use would be closed or limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>Coyote Basin-Shiner, Coyote Basin-Snake John, and Coyote Basin-Kennedy Wash sub-complexes and the Coyote Basin-Myton Bench complex: 124,161 acres would be designated as an ACEC/Research Natural Area. The area would be subject to standard lease terms, and managed with timing and controlled surface use or NSO for oil and gas leasing. VRM class designations would be II, III or IV. OHV use would be limited to designated routes or closed. Special management attention would include controlling noxious weeds, restoring a natural fire regime, implementing actions to maintain or enhance ferret habitat and associated prey base, and establishing a research monitoring program.</p>

<p>TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES</p>
<p>*Four Mile Wash ACEC: 50,280 acres in the Four Mile Wash area would be designated as an ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area to protect high-value scenic values, riparian ecosystems, and special status fish species. An integrated activity level plan would be developed to provide additional site-specific management prescriptions. The area would be closed to oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class II, III, and IV. OHV use would be limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>Middle Green River ACEC: 6,768 acres (line of sight from the centerline of the river up to one-half mile along both sides of the Middle Green River) between Dinosaur National Monument and the boundary of the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge would be designated as an ACEC to protect riparian ecosystems.</p> <p>Special management attention would include permitting surface disturbing activities found complementary to the goals and objectives of the ACEC. The area would be open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard lease terms or managed with timing and controlled surface use. Visual resources would be managed as Class II, III or IV. OHV use would be limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>*Lower Green River ACEC: 10,170 acres (line of sight from the center line of the river up to one-half mile along both sides of the Lower Green River), between the trust land boundary at Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and the Carbon County line would be designated as an ACEC to protect high-value scenic resources and riparian ecosystems. The area would be managed as NSO for oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class II. OHV would be limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>*White River ACEC: 47,130 acres along the White River corridor would be designated as an ACEC to protect unique geologic formations with spectacular vistas and high-value river riparian ecosystems. The area would be managed as VRM Class I, II, III, or IV, and closed or limited to designated routes for OHV use. NSO would be within line-of-sight of centerline, up to one-half mile either side of the river. Areas beyond the one-half mile buffer would be open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard lease terms, managed with timing and controlled surface use, or closed to oil and gas leasing.</p>
<p>*Browns Park ACEC: 52,721 acres in Browns Park would be designated as an ACEC and a comprehensive integrated activity plan would be developed/implemented that would address protection of high value scenic views, wildlife habitat, and cultural and historic resources. The area would be closed, NSO, or managed with timing and controlled surface use for oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class I or II. OHV use would be closed or limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>Red Mountain-Dry Fork ACEC: 24,285 acres in Red Mountain-Dry Fork Complex would be designated as an ACEC and a comprehensive integrated activity plan would be developed/implemented. Special management attention would include maintenance and development of OHV or non-OHV trails, minimal facilities development necessary for human health and safety, and protection of watershed values, relict vegetation communities, and crucial deer and elk winter habitat. The area would be NSO, managed with timing and controlled surface use, or closed to oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class II, III, or IV. OHV use would be limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>*Nine Mile Canyon ACEC: 81,168 acres in Nine Mile Canyon would be designated as an ACEC for the protection of cultural resources, special status plants, and scenery, and a comprehensive integrated activity plan would be developed/implemented. The area would be open subject to standard lease terms or managed as NSO for oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class II, III, or IV. OHV use would be limited to designated routes.</p>
<p>*Main Canyon ACEC: 100,915 acres in Main Canyon would be designated as an ACEC for the protection of cultural resources, historic resources, and natural systems. Special management attention would include permitting surface disturbing activities found to be complementary or compatible to the goals and objectives of the ACEC. The area would be closed or managed with timing and controlled surface use for oil and gas leasing. Visual resources would be managed as Class I or II. OHV use would be closed or limited to designated routes.</p>

<p>TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES</p>
<p>Continue the designation of the following ACECs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pariette Wetlands ACEC: 10,437 acres would continue to be designated as an ACEC and managed to protect high-value wetland and wildlife habitat resources. It would be managed as NSO and closed to mineral material sales. • *Red Creek Watershed ACEC: 24,475 acres would continue to be designated as an ACEC and managed to protect high-value wetland and wildlife habitat resources. • Lears Canyon ACEC: 1,375 acres would continue to be designated as an ACEC and managed to protect the relict vegetation. It would be managed as NSO and closed to mineral material sales.
<p>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Alternative E</p>
<p>All or portions of the following Wild and Scenic River segments are located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: White River, Nine Mile Creek, Lower Green River, Upper Green River and Bitter Creek. See wild and scenic rivers marked with an asterisk (*) below to identify streams and rivers in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics within these Wild and Scenic River segments would be managed with the following prescriptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class I • 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 • Retained in federal ownership • Exclusion area for rights-of-way • Closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collection • Closed to road construction • Permit maintenance of existing facilities • When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit vegetation and fuel treatments using prescribed fire - Permit construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities - Permit excavation of cultural resources sites. - Permit excavation of paleontological resources. • No actions would be allowed that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
<p>The following rivers would be suitable for designation as wild and scenic rivers. They would be managed to preserve their free-flowing condition, outstandingly remarkable values, and the tentative classifications identified below (see Appendix C, DRMP/DEIS). Those portions of the river corridors located in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed according to the prescription identified above.</p>
<p>*White River: The segment of the White River, between the Colorado state line and the trust land boundary (44 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River system with a tentative classification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Scenic" between the state line and its confluence with Asphalt Wash; • "Wild" between Asphalt Wash to where the river leaves Section 18, T10S, R23E, SLBM; and • "Scenic" from where the river leaves Section 18, T10S, R23E, SLBM, and the Indian trust land boundary.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<p>*Nine Mile Creek: The segment of Nine-Mile Creek within Duchesne County between the Green River and the Duchesne County line (13 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Scenic".</p> <p>The segment of Nine-Mile Creek within Duchesne County, between the Carbon County line (6 miles) and its confluence with Gate Canyon, would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Recreational".</p>
<p>Middle Green River: The segment of the Middle Green River, from Dinosaur National Monument to the boundary of the Ouray National Waterfowl Refuge (36 miles), would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Recreational".</p>
<p>Evacuation Creek: The segment of Evacuation Creek between the Utah state line and the White River (21 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Scenic".</p>
<p>*Bitter Creek: The segment of Bitter Creek between the Utah state line and where it enters private property (22 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Scenic".</p>
<p>Argyle Creek: The segment of Argyle Creek between its headwaters and the Carbon County line (22 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Recreational".</p>
<p>*Upper Green River: The segment between Little Hole and the Utah state line (22 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Scenic".</p>
<p>*Lower Green River: The segment between the public land boundary south of Ouray and the Carbon County line (29.6 miles) would be identified as suitable for designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System with a tentative classification of "Scenic".</p>
WILDERNESS (WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS)
Alternative E
<p>If the existing WSAs are released from wilderness consideration and management by Congress during the life of the RMP, the released WSAs would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics. These lands will be managed in accordance with the following prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class I • 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 • Retained in federal ownership • Exclusion area for rights-of-way • Closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collection • Closed to road construction • Permit maintenance of existing facilities • When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit vegetation and fuel treatments using prescribed fire - Permit construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities - Permit excavation of cultural resources sites. - Permit excavation of paleontological resources.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions would be allowed that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
<p>Where wilderness characteristics have been lost, due to the exercise of valid existing rights in the Winter Ridge WSA, the following prescriptions would be applied, if the WSA were released from wilderness consideration by Congress during the life of the RMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage fire as Management Category C Open to oil and gas leasing, subject to timing and controlled surface use Manage as part of the Book Cliffs SRMA Manage as part of the Main Canyon ACEC Limit OHVs to designated routes Manage landscapes by VRM Class II objectives Available for wood cutting Manage for livestock grazing
<i>Special Status Species</i>
Alternative E
RAPTORS
Buffers
USFWS's spatial and seasonal buffers would be implemented for raptors as recommended in Table 2 of the Utah Field Office Guidelines For Raptor Protection From Human and Land Use Disturbances.
Nest Protection for Raptors:
<p><u>On unoccupied nests for all activities, including new oil and gas leases:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For long-term land use activities, nests should be protected for seven years and such activities should not occur proximally to unoccupied nests unless it is determined that mitigation is appropriate. Short-term land use and human activities could progress near a nest or nest territory after sufficient time has elapsed in a specific breeding season to determine a nest is unoccupied and prior to the beginning of the next year's breeding season On existing oil and gas leases the following management applies: <p>Bald eagle, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl nests would be protected for two years, during which time permanent disturbances would not occur within the spatial buffer; non-permanent activities would be allowed within the spatial buffer, but outside the seasonal buffer.</p>
<p><u>On occupied nests under all leases:</u></p> <p>Activities would not occur within the spatial/seasonal buffer of any nest. Short-term land use and human use activities would only proceed within the spatial buffer of an occupied nest outside the seasonal buffer after coordination with appropriate agency biologists. Long-term land use activities and human use activities would not occur within the species-specific spatial buffer of nests.</p>

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<p>Modifications to the spatial and seasonal buffers would be made in accordance with the criteria in the VFO's BMPs summarized as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a Site-Specific Assessment form; • Written documentation by the BLM Field Office Biologist confirming that implementation of the modifications would not impact the success of the nest or the suitability of the site for future nesting; and • Monitoring, which would include strategy employment and implementation of a post-project/mitigation plan.
BLM SENSITIVE
Colorado River Cutthroat Trout
Per the Conservation Agreement/Conservation and Sportfishing Management Strategy for the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, habitat would be provided, maintained and/or enhanced in Bitter, Upper Willow, Beaver, Sears, Crouse, Tolivers, Davenport, Jackson, and Sweet Water Creeks, including tributaries for the reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
Sage Grouse
Connelly's Guidelines to Manage Sage Grouse Populations and Their Habitats, which recommends no surface disturbing activities within two miles of active sage grouse leks from March 1 to June 15 and no surface disturbing activities within one-quarter mile of active sage grouse leks year round, would be implemented. No permanent facilities or structures would be allowed within two miles when possible.
Within 0.5 mile of known active leks, the best available technology would be used to reduce noise, such as installation of multi-cylinder pumps, hospital-type sound reducing mufflers, and placement of exhaust systems.
<i>Travel/Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)</i>
Alternative E (Figure 28e)
The Chipeta Canyon road would be closed at the mouth of Chipeta Canyon.
Newly permitted roads or trails would be obliterated when they no longer serve their permitted purpose.
Roads and trails causing resource damage would be maintained, upgraded, realigned, and/or closed.
OHV travel would be limited to designated routes or closed except for managed open areas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acres that would be open to OHV travel: 5,434 • Acres that would be limited to OHV travel: 1,326,024 • Acres that would be closed to OHV travel: 392,818 • Miles of routes that would be designated to OHV travel: 4,654
Close non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to OHV use.
<i>Visual Resource Management (VRM)</i>
Alternative E (Figure 32e)
331,813 acres would be managed as VRM Class I.
263,285 acres would be managed as VRM Class II.
536,301 acres would be managed as VRM Class III.
590,262 acres would be managed as VRM Class IV.
Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as VRM Class I, to preserve the characteristic landscape.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<i>Wild Horses</i>
Alternative E
Permit construction of waters, fences, and other facilities in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
BONANZA WILD HORSE HERD AREA
The Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan Amendment involving the Bonanza Wild Horse Herd Area would be implemented.
A herd of 40 horses would be re-established. Physical and conformation characteristics would be established under the Herd Area Management Plan.
The HMA would be maintained with horses.
Establish an AML of 85 wild horses with a minimum herd of 40. Adjustments in the interim AML would be in accordance with criteria outlined under the Forage section.
Gap fences would be determined under the Herd Area Management Plan.
Additional water developments would be determined under the Herd Area Management Plan.
The need to fence up to 15 reservoirs in proximity to the Herd Area boundary would be determined under the Herd Area Management Plan.
A gathering plan would be prepared and approximately 45 horses would be removed every four years; gathered horses would be available for adoption under BLM's Adopt-A-Horse Program.
A Wild Horse Herd Area Management Plan would be prepared within three years after the Record of Decision is signed.
WINTER RIDGE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA
An AML of 50 to 100 horses would be established. The herd would not be reduced below 50. Adjustments in the AML would be accordance with criteria outlined under the forage section.
A gathering plan would be prepared and an estimated 50 horses would be removed approximately every four years; gathered horses would be available for adoption under BLM's Adopt -A-Horse Program.
The HA would be designated as a HMA.
A Wild Horse Herd Management Area /Monitoring Plan would be prepared after the ROD is signed.
HILL CREEK HERD MANAGEMENT AREA
Hill Creek would be managed as a wild horse HMA
An AML of 70 to 145 horses would be established with a minimum herd of 70. A management objective would be to manage for a 100 animal wild horse herd.
No horse grazing permits would be issued on public lands within the HMA or immediate areas to grazing permittees, including the Northern Ute Tribe.
A government-to-government agreement with the Northern Ute Tribe and a Memorandum of Understanding with adjacent private property owners would be entered into for range improvements, i.e., fences (for key areas of management concern) and for wild horse and tribal horse management.
A gathering plan would be prepared every four years and approximately 75 horses would be removed and made available for adoption under BLM's Adopt -A-Horse Program.
The boundaries of the Herd Management Area would be extended to include the north end of Wild Horse Bench (approximately 30,347 acres) and Big Pack Mountain (approximately 22,865 acres).
A Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan would be prepared after the ROD is signed.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<i>Wildlife and Fisheries</i>
Alternative E
No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed from April 15 to May 31 and September 1 to October 15 within McCook and Monument Ridge mule deer migration corridors.
Habitat and forage would be provided for the emigration and/or reintroduction of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the following areas: Upper Book Cliffs (Willow Creek drainage upstream from Wood Canyon and the Bitter Creek drainage upstream from the Sweet Water confluence), White River, Browns Park/Green River corridor that includes Red Creek Canyon, Sears Creek Canyon, Crouse Canyon, Toliver's Creek, Beaver Creek/Willow Creek area, Goslin Mountain, Teepee Mountain, Big Brush Creek, Little Brush Creek, Ashley Gorge, ridge tops on Diamond Mountain, Richard's Mountain, the Island Park /Dry Fork area, and Nine-Mile Canyon. Forage required for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep would be included in the AUMs allocated for wildlife.
Habitat and forage would be provided for the emigration and/or reintroduction of bison in the southern Book Cliffs. Forage required for bison would be included in the AUMs allocated for wildlife.
Habitat and forage would be provided for the emigration and/or reintroduction of moose populations. Forage required for moose would be included in the AUMs allocated for wildlife.
Disturbance within sagebrush habitat on crucial deer winter range would be reclaimed or enhanced at a ratio of 3:1.
Activities that would result in adverse impacts to deer and elk within crucial winter range would not be allowed from November 15 to April 30. This restriction would not apply if it is determined through analysis and coordination with UDWR that impacts could be mitigated. Factors to be considered would include snow depth, temperature, snow crusting, location of disturbance, forage quantity and quality, animal condition, and expected duration of disturbance.
Total surface disturbance (new and existing) of 560 acres per township would be allowed, prorated based on percentage of the crucial deer winter range within the township.
New water developments and guzzlers for wildlife would not be constructed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics unless they meet the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
<i>Woodlands and Forest</i>
Alternative E (Figure 36e)
Public utilization of forest and woodland species would be allowed as one tool for vegetative treatments to achieve desired future conditions.
Forests and woodlands would be managed to maintain and restore ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved and occurrences of fire, insects, disease and other disturbances do not exceed levels normally expected in healthy forests and woodlands.
Relict stands would be maintained for biological and genetic diversity.
Forests and woodlands would be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment; use of forest, woodland and certain vegetation products in areas specified for this use, and other areas to meet RMP goals would be allowed.
The President's Healthy Forests Initiative would be implemented.
The National Fire Plan would be implemented by conducting treatments to reduce fuel loadings, fire severity, and restoring historical disturbance regimes.

TABLE 2.3 ALTERNATIVES
<p>The salvage of forest and woodland species would not be allowed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,596 acres).</p> <p>On those portions of ACECs outside of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (178,582 acres), the salvage of forest and woodland species would be allowed only when a threat to forest and woodlands or other resources exists.</p> <p>Salvage of forest and woodland products for other resources on up to 242,511 acres outside of proposed ACECs would be allowed.</p>
<p>Up to 275,068 acres of forest and woodland would be treated or harvested. Approximately 52,978 acres within WSAs would not have vegetation removal.</p>
<p>Use of prescribed fire would be permitted in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for forest and woodland treatments, when compatible with the goals and objectives for management of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Fire lines and other surface disturbances would be rehabilitated following completion of the burning operation.</p>
<p><i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</i></p>
<p>Alternative E (Figure 20e)</p>
<p>The following areas are non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (Figure 20e): Beach Draw, Bitter Creek, Bourdette Draw, Bull Canyon, Cold Spring Mountain, Cripple Cowboy, Daniels Canyon, Dead Horse Pass, Desolation Canyon, Diamond Breaks, Diamond Mountain, Hells Hole Canyon, Hideout Canyon, Lower Bitter Creek, Lower Flaming Gorge, Mexico Point, Moonshine Draw, Mountain Home, Rat Hole Ridge, Stuntz Draw, Sweet Water Canyon, Vivas Cake Hill, White River, Wild Mountain, and Wolf Point.</p>
<p>All non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be managed with the following prescription:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM class I (Figure 32e) • Closed to OHV use (Figure 28e) • Closed to oil and gas leasing (Figure 14e) • Closed to solid mineral leasing • Closed to disposal of mineral materials • Proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry • Retain public lands in federal ownership • Exclusion area for ROWs • Closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collection (Figure 36e) • Closed to new road construction • Permit maintenance of existing facilities • When compatible with the goals and objectives for management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit vegetation and fuel treatments using prescribed fire - Permit construction of wildlife waters, livestock facilities, and minimal recreation facilities - Permit excavation of cultural resources sites. - Permit excavation of paleontological resources. • No actions would be allowed that would degrade the wilderness characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

NOTE TO READER: Another column has been added to Table 2.5 of the DRMP/DEIS to reflect the addition of Alternative E.

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
Air Quality	<p>PM_{2.5}, CO₂, and ozone emissions would increase as a result of 156,425 acres of prescribed fire treatments per decade.</p> <p>Due to more restrictive management in many areas, PM₁₀ and other windblown particulate from surface disturbance and erosion of exposed soils would be lower than under Alternative A.</p> <p>Mineral resource decisions: projected concentrations of CO, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂ and NO_x would not have adverse impacts as they would be below the applicable NAAQS as modeled for 1-hour, 8-hour, 24-hour, and annual time frames.</p>
Cultural Resources	<p>Restrictions on OHV travel and mineral development in the areas of high cultural resource site density would have the most beneficial impacts on high-density cultural sites.</p> <p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire per decade to reduce fuels and lessen wildfire severity would have beneficial impacts on cultural resources.</p> <p>Potential acquisition of Indian Trust Lands, the Uintah Railroad bed, and other areas. Proposals for locatable mineral withdrawals in several areas, including non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Other protective measures for certain areas would have beneficial impacts on potential cultural sites in these areas.</p> <p>Limitations and restrictions on OHV travel would have the most beneficial impacts on cultural resources.</p> <p>Areas designated as VRM Class I and Class II would provide for the least landscape change and the most protection (with the greatest beneficial impacts) to cultural resources.</p>
Environmental Justice	<p>Indian tribes would benefit from revenues derived from rights-of-way grants to oil and gas industry, but traditions and religious sites could be adversely impacted.</p> <p>Minerals development could adversely reduce or replace tribal livestock grazing, decrease opportunities for hunting and gathering, and ceremonial worship.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
Fire Management	<p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire per decade would reduce fuel loading and reduce the risk of a large-scale, catastrophic wildfire.</p> <p>186,309 AUMs would be allotted, which translates to the least amount of fine-fuels reduction.</p> <p>Spark or heat ignition from equipment and vehicles used during mineral development (18,757 acres of surface disturbance) would pose a greater short-term risk for wildfire within the BLM administered areas of the VPA, than No Action. In the long term, access roads, well pads, and mines would provide access and create fire breaks that would be helpful in preventing and suppressing future wildfires.</p> <p>Vegetation treatments would occur on 45,860 acres, reducing fuel loads and potential for wildfire.</p> <p>Six SRMAs, 400 miles of non-motorized trails, and 800 miles of motorized trails would increase visitor use and indirect risks of human- and vehicle-caused fires.</p> <p>131,809 acres of forest and woodland treatments would reduce fuel loading and the risk of wildfires.</p>
Hazardous Materials	<p>Decreased, long-term potential to generate hazardous materials from oil and gas, mineral materials, and locatable mining.</p> <p>Recommended closure of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to mining and closure of these areas to mineral leasing decreases lands available for mining and mineral leasing and the associated generation of hazardous materials.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
Lands and Realty	<p>Pursuing easements for Cowboy Canyon, Bonanza Bridge, and Wagon Hound Road would provide additional public access to the White River.</p> <p>Acquisition of Indian Trust Lands in Bitter Creek and Sweetwater Canyon would provide additional public access and improved BLM management of the resources of the area.</p> <p>Locatable mineral withdrawals would be pursued along the Green and White Rivers, in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, and other areas. Withdrawals would prevent surface disturbance and provide protection to resource values and uses.</p> <p>Management of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as right-of-way exclusion areas would prevent surface disturbance and protect the wilderness characteristics of these areas.</p> <p>Retention of public lands in federal ownership would maintain and enhance BLM's ability to manage the resource values and uses of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p>
Livestock Grazing	<p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire per decade would maintain and restore vegetation communities and improve forage available for grazing.</p> <p>77,294 AUMs of forage would be allocated to livestock, a 47.1% reduction from Alternative D. Use of upland vegetation by livestock would be targeted at 50% to ensure rangeland health. Use of riparian vegetation would be targeted at 30% to ensure proper functioning condition.</p> <p>Construction of oil and gas roads and well pads would result in the short-term loss of 344 AUMs.</p> <p>45,860 acres vegetation treatments would improve forage condition for livestock grazing. Construction of 129 miles of fence, 811 guzzlers/reservoirs, and 87 springs/wells would manage livestock for proper distribution and forage utilization, sustaining the health of the rangeland.</p> <p>Livestock grazing would continue in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
Minerals	<p>1,499,461 acres available for oil and gas leasing, a 2% decrease from Alternative D – No Action. Alternative E has the fewest acres open to oil and gas development; however, the open areas have more potential than Alternative D. A 4% increase in the number of wells is anticipated compared to Alternative D.</p> <p>Fewer lands would be available for leasing and development of solid mineral resources – tar sands, oil shale, Gilsonite, phosphate, and mineral materials – than under Alternative D – No Action. Impacts to the development of coal are unlikely, due to the low-grade quality of coal resources in the VPA. Moderate potential for locatable minerals, but development is unlikely on a large scale.</p> <p>Cultural resource decisions would close 48,801 acres to oil and gas leasing in the Uintah Foothills, Little/Devil’s Hole, Upper Willow Creek, and Four Mile Wash.</p> <p>Decisions to manage portions of SRMA for primitive recreation opportunities would limit mineral leasing and mineral material disposal, resulting in limits on development greater than expected under Alternative D – No Action.</p> <p>Limitations on, and mitigation required for, development on steep slopes would increase the cost of mineral exploration and development.</p> <p>Special status species and other wildlife protective timing and spatial stipulations would increase the cost of mineral development.</p> <p>2,474,938 acres of VRM Class I and Class II areas would adversely impact minerals development by increasing production costs and reducing areas of development.</p> <p>277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would be closed to oil and gas leasing and solid mineral leasing, and proposed for withdrawal from entry for locatable minerals.</p>
Paleontology	<p>Acquisition of lands and access easements would result in increased public access that would result in vandalism and unauthorized collection of fossils. Increase access would also result in increased public knowledge and appreciation for fossil resources. ROW exclusion and proposed mineral withdrawals would reduce surface disturbance and adverse impacts to paleontological resources.</p> <p>Long-term, direct adverse impacts from surface</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>disturbance caused by livestock and grazing, fire management, woodland management, minerals development, and recreation. Beneficial impacts from development include site discoveries and long-term increase in knowledge of fossil resources.</p> <p>Beneficial short- and long-term direct protection of fossils from reduction of surface disturbances associated with general travel and OHV use.</p> <p>Limits on surface disturbance in VRM Class I and Class II areas (595,098 acres) and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,596 acres) would protect paleontological resources.</p>
Recreation	<p>On- and off-site interpretive facilities at archeological and historic sites would be developed, providing added recreation opportunities.</p> <p>OHV use in the Uinta Foothills, Little/Devil's Hole, Upper Willow Creek, and Four Mile Wash areas would be closed, limiting opportunities for motorized travel and OHV use.</p> <p>Prescribed burns on 156,425 acres per decade would limit recreation use in the short term, but improve wildlife habitat in the long-term, enhancing opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing.</p> <p>Acquisition of lands and access to public lands would enhance opportunities for recreation uses in the White River and Bitter Creek areas. Pursuing locatable mineral withdrawals in the Green and White River corridors and in the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would enhance opportunities for primitive recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Minerals development on approximately 1,896,205 acres would have direct and indirect adverse impacts on recreation, except for OHV use that would benefit from additional road availability. Closure or withdrawal of lands for fluid and solid mineral leasing and locatable mineral entry would enhance opportunities for primitive recreation opportunities.</p> <p>SRMAs would be established with beneficial impacts to a variety of recreation uses in (acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Mountain (42,758) Browns Park (52,720) Fantasy Canyon (69) Nine-Mile Canyon (81,168)

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>White River (47,130)</p> <p>Red Mountain-Dry Fork (24,285)</p> <p>Book Cliffs (273,486)</p> <p>Pelican Lake (1,020)</p> <p>Development of 400 miles of non-motorized trails and increasing the number of cabins would enhance recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Designation of ACECs, totaling 681,310 acres, would be beneficial to recreation in (acres):</p> <p>Bitter Creek (68,834)</p> <p>Bitter Creek/P.R. Spring (78,591)</p> <p>Browns Park (52,721)</p> <p>Coyote Basin Complex (124,161)</p> <p>Four Mile Wash (50,280)</p> <p>Lears Canyon (1,375)</p> <p>Lower Green River (10,170)</p> <p>Main Canyon (100,915)</p> <p>Middle Green River (6,768)</p> <p>Nine Mile Canyon (81,168)</p> <p>Pariette (10,437)</p> <p>Red Creek (24,475)</p> <p>Red Mountain-Dry Fork (24,285)</p> <p>White River (47,130)</p> <p>Protection of 216 miles of suitable wild and scenic rivers - segments of the White River, Nine-Mile Creek, Green River, Evacuation Creek, Bitter Creek, and Argyle Creek – would enhance river-related recreation opportunities.</p> <p>5,434 acres would be designated as open to OHV travel, 1,326,024 acres would be designated as limited, 392,818 acres would be closed, and 4,654 of designated routes would have long-term beneficial impacts on OHV recreation; and long-term beneficial impacts on other forms of recreation by reducing recreation use conflicts.</p> <p>Protection of wilderness characteristics on 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would provide opportunities for primitive forms of recreation.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
Riparian Resources	<p>Prescribed fire on 156,425 acres per decade would result in fewer severe wildfires, promote healthy upland vegetation condition, and reduce erosion and sedimentation to riparian systems.</p> <p>187,450 AUMs allotted with 30% riparian utilization would maintain proper functioning condition of riparian zones in the VPA.</p> <p>Increased public access via easements and land acquisitions would lead to increased visitation and increased human impacts on riparian systems. Proposal for mineral withdrawals would limit surface disturbances in riparian zones.</p> <p>Vegetation treatment of 45,860 acres would enhance upland vegetation communities and thus, riparian systems, by reducing runoff and erosion from uplands and improving filtration (reducing sedimentation).</p> <p><u>Managing portions of SRMAs for primitive opportunities and settings would limit surface disturbances that result in erosion and sedimentation in riparian systems. Limiting most OHV use to designated routes would also limit surface disturbance, with the same impacts on riparian systems.</u></p> <p><u>Managing riparian zones for proper function condition would ensure their continued health.</u></p> <p>Limiting surface disturbance on steep slopes would reduce erosion and sedimentation to riparian systems.</p> <p>Designation of special management areas (ACEC and recommended wild and scenic rivers) would limit surface disturbances that lead to erosion and sedimentation and deterioration of riparian zones.</p> <p>Treatment or harvest of 552,663 acres of forests and woodlands would result in increased soil erosion.</p> <p>Protection of 277,596 acres of wilderness characteristics in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would limit surface disturbances that lead to erosion and sedimentation in riparian zones.</p>
Social and Economic Considerations	<p><u>Mineral Development:</u></p> <p>90,532 jobs over 20 years.</p> <p>\$12.5 billion in development costs over 20 years.</p> <p>\$453,600,000 in state revenue.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>\$281,300,000 in local revenue. \$446,600,000 in royalties to counties.</p> <p><u>Recreation:</u> Long-term, indirect benefits to communities from development of recreational opportunities, increased tourist spending, and limits on other activities.</p> <p>Protection of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would limit development of mineral and energy resources, but provide tourism opportunities for businesses whose focus is on primitive recreation opportunities. It should be noted that exercised of valid existing rights in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would reduce the adverse economic impact on energy development.</p>
Soil and Water Resources	<p>Prescribed burning on 156,425 acres per decade would cause short-term erosion on: -20,335 acres of water-erodible soils -123,575 acres of wind-erodible soils, and reclamation difficulty on: -14,078 acres of sodic soils -31,285 acres of saline soils -10,949 acres of gypsic soils</p> <p>50% forage utilization and 187,450 AUMs allocated would have less adverse impacts on soil and water resources through loss of cover and trampling, than Alternative D – No Action.</p> <p>Increased public access via easement and land acquisition would result in increased surface disturbance and adverse impacts to soil and water resources.</p> <p>1,499,461 acres available for oil and gas development, adversely impacting 27,837 acres of soils in the long term from development of about 6,117 wells.</p> <p>45,860 acres of rangeland treatments would maintain and restore vegetation condition, reducing erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Establishing 7 SRMAs and 400 miles of non-motorized would result in increased visitation and adverse impacts from erosion, sedimentation, and soil degradation. Elements of recreation management that limit surface disturbance, however, would protect soil and water resources.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>Limiting OHV use to trails for game retrieval would beneficially impact soils.</p> <p>30% forage utilization of riparian areas would maintain riparian vegetation condition, benefiting water quality and soil productivity.</p> <p>Limits on surface-disturbing activities for slopes 21% - 40% and greater than 40% would reduce erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Special management area designations, including ACECs and recommended wild and scenic rivers would limit surface disturbance and erosion and sedimentation. Stream habitat improvements and maintenance would have beneficial impacts by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p><u>OHV Use:</u></p> <p>-5,434 acres open</p> <p>-1,326,024 acres limited</p> <p>-392,818 acres closed</p> <p>-4,654 miles of designated routes would result in the least OHV-caused erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Harvest of 275,068 acres of forest and woodlands would result in short-term adverse impacts from erosion and sedimentation, but long-term beneficial impacts by reducing wildfire risks.</p>
Special Designations	<p>Designations of 681,310 acres of ACECs, protection of 52,978 acres of WSAs, and protection of 216 miles of recommended wild and scenic rivers would result in the greatest benefits to rangeland, fire, soil, watershed, vegetation, riparian, woodland, and wildlife resources.</p>
Special Status Species	<p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire per decade would restore habitat health over the long term, though individual displacement and loss of habitat would be adverse in the short term.</p> <p>Land and easement acquisition would lead to increased visitation and surface disturbance that would impact special status species habitat. Proposed mineral withdrawals and ROW exclusion areas, on the other hand, would reduce surface disturbance that would impact vegetation communities.</p> <p>1,499,461 acres associated with mineral development would cause reductions in the AUMs available to wildlife, increase habitat fragmentation, cause adverse deterioration of fisheries and wildlife</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>habitats, and disruption and alteration of seasonal migration routes.</p> <p>45,860 acres of rangeland treatments and water developments would benefit special status species where additional water sources would be established and habitat restored. Improvements would have adverse impacts if livestock move into areas that have received little grazing in the past.</p> <p>Establishment of 7 SRMAs and 400 miles of non-motorized trails would introduce additional visitation that may result in displacement, disturbance, and/or harm to special status species.</p> <p>Limits on livestock grazing in riparian habitat to 30% utilization would leave sufficient vegetation to reduce erosion of stream banks and capture sediment for maintenance of stream habitat.</p> <p>681,310 acres of ACEC designations, 52,978 acres of WSAs, and 216 miles of recommended wild and scenic rivers would maintain habitat for special status species.</p> <p>Seasonal and spatial buffers would be implemented for raptor species. Sage grouse protection measures would be more restrictive than other alternatives.</p> <p>Treatment or harvest of 552,663 acres of forests and woodlands would restore habitat for special status species.</p> <p>Management of 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to protect their wilderness characteristics would limit surface disturbances, providing protection of special status species and their habitat.</p>
Vegetation	<p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire treatments per decade would maintain and enhance vegetation communities, improving composition, health, biomass, age class, and diversity of forage.</p> <p>Allocation of 187,450 AUMs to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses would provide needed forage and sustain the health of the rangeland vegetation communities. Fifty percent upland vegetation utilization by livestock, and 30% riparian vegetation utilization would ensure continued availability of forage and the health of upland and riparian vegetation communities.</p> <p>Land and easement acquisition would lead to increased visitation and surface disturbance that</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>impacts vegetation. Proposed mineral withdrawals and ROW exclusion areas, on the other hand, would reduce surface disturbance that would impact vegetation communities.</p> <p>17,467 acres of vegetation would be disturbed by a 4% increase in the number of oil and gas wells, as compared to Alternative D.</p> <p>45,860 acres of rangeland improvements would restore vegetation communities and eliminate weeds. Construction of fences and water would control livestock distribution and forage utilization.</p> <p>Establishment of 7 SMRAs and 400 miles of non-motorized trails would lead to increased visitor use, exposing areas to trampling and weed introduction.</p> <p>Erosion control on slopes greater than 20% and limits on surface disturbance on slopes greater than 40% would ensure adequate soil exists for continued plant growth.</p> <p>681,310 acres of ACEC designation, 52,978 acres of WSAs, and 216 miles of recommended wild and scenic rivers would limit surface disturbance to vegetation resources.</p> <p>366,559 acres would be closed to OHV travel, which would reduce damage to and loss of vegetation, and the spread of weeds.</p> <p>Management of 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to protect their wilderness characteristics would limit surface disturbances and protect vegetation communities.</p>
Visual Resources	<p>156,425 acres of fire treatments per decade would have short-term impacts that affect color, line, form, and texture of vegetation of the treated area. Long-term benefits to visual resources would include lower frequency of wildfires and the introduction of visual variety to the landscape.</p> <p>Locatable mineral withdrawals for the Green River Scenic Corridor, the White River, relict vegetation areas, the Book Cliffs Natural Area, the Lower Green River ACEC, and the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would protect the landscape and its scenic quality.</p> <p>Mineral and energy development would introduce changes to the landform and vegetation of the landscape that would alter its character. The introduction of mining and energy related structures would also contribute to those changes in the</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>landscape, and its visual appeal.</p> <p>Management of portions of the SRMA for primitive and undeveloped forms of recreation would limit landscape change. These limits on landscape development would support unmodified landscapes and benefit visual resources.</p> <p>No motorized trails would be established. Closing or limiting OHV travel on 1,720,088 acres would reduce surface disturbance and benefit visual quality.</p> <p>Required mitigation and limits on surface disturbances on steep slopes would reduce landscape changes and benefit visual resources.</p> <p>681,310 acres of ACEC designation, 52,978 acres of WSAs, and 216 miles of recommended wild and scenic rivers would generally limit surface disturbance and benefit visual resources.</p> <p>Decisions to manage 595,098 acres as VRM Class I and Class II would limit landscape change and protect visual resources. Decisions to manage 1,126,563 for VRM Class III and Class IV objectives provide for landscape modifications that would change the landscape and scenic quality.</p> <p>552,663 acres of woodlands and forests treatments would alter the vegetation component of the landscape in the short term. With proper design, long-term impacts could include variety in the vegetation community that introduces interest and appeal in the scene.</p> <p>Management of 277,596 acres of non-WSA land with wilderness characteristics to protect their wilderness characteristics would limit changes to the landscape and scenery.</p>
Wildlife and Fisheries Resources	<p>Restricting OHV travel to designated routes in areas with high cultural resource site density would preserve habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>156,425 acres of fire treatments per decade would produce long-term beneficial improvements in the health, biomass, age class, and diversity of forage for wildlife resources.</p> <p>106,196 AUMs allocated to wildlife and 3,960 AUMs allocated to wild horses would benefit wildlife more than Alternative D.</p> <p>Limiting upland vegetation utilization by livestock to 50%, and riparian vegetation utilization to 30% would maintain and improve habitat and wildlife.</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>Withdrawing lands from mineral entry would prevent surface disturbance and benefit wildlife habitat in the long term.</p> <p>Mineral development would reduce AUMs available to wildlife, result in the loss of wildlife and fisheries habitat, and disrupt or alter seasonal migration routes due to construction of facilities. Indirect impacts include habitat fragmentation and changes in behavior, distribution, activity, and energy expenditure caused by human disturbance.</p> <p>Rangeland improvements would benefit wildlife habitat in the long-term by improving existing habitat and providing water during high-stress drought periods.</p> <p>Designation of SRMAs would have long-term benefits to wildlife and fisheries by limiting surface-disturbing activities, but adverse impacts produced by increased visitation.</p> <p>Stream habitat improvements would reduce erosion and sedimentation, which would benefit wildlife and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Wildlife management decisions would benefit fish and wildlife by providing habitat and forage, expanding wildlife reintroduction efforts, and protecting crucial winter ranges.</p> <p>Limiting most OHV use to designated routes would protect wildlife habit from disturbances, noise, and human harassment.</p> <p>Treatment or harvest of 554,108 acres of forest and woodlands would benefit wildlife and fisheries in the long term by reducing fuel loading and the risks of wildfire, and improving big-game habitat.</p> <p>Management of 277,596 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to protect their wilderness characteristics would limit surface disturbances and protect wildlife habitat.</p>
Wild Horses	<p>156,425 acres of prescribed fire treatments per decade would benefit wild horse habitat through improved health, biomass, age class, and diversity of forage.</p> <p>3,960 AUMs would be allocated to wild horses.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing mineral leasing within HMAs would have adverse impacts to horse habitat, but additional acres in herd areas and herd management areas would go into categories that either restrict mineral development or result in less</p>

TABLE 2.5. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS	
Alternatives	
Discipline	E
	<p>of an impact.</p> <p>A herd of wild horses would be re-established in the Bonanza HMA with an AML of 85 horses. The Winter Ridge HMA would be designated with an AML of 100 horses. The Hill Creek HMA would be managed with an AML of 145 horses.</p>
Woodland Resources	<p>156,425 acres of fire treatments per decade would improve the health of vegetation communities, including forests and woodlands.</p> <p>Withdrawal of lands from mineral entry and excluding lands from ROW development would limit disturbance to forest and woodlands, maintaining the productivity of these vegetation communities.</p> <p>Surface disturbance from mineral and energy development result in the loss of forest and woodland production and products.</p> <p>Management of 7 SRMAs to maintain desired recreation setting would reduce disturbance to forest and woodland resources.</p> <p>Limits on surface disturbance on steep slopes would protect soils and that support forest and woodland communities.</p> <p>Treatment of 552,663 acres of forest and woodland would maintain forest and woodland community health and provide forest products. Limits on harvest in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would reduce these opportunities.</p>

NOTE TO READER: Another row has been added to Table 2.5 to include a Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics section to the table.

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
Non-WSA Land with Wilderness Characteristics	Limiting OHV use to designated routes in areas of high cultural site density would protect the naturalness of portions of Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The noise and presence of vehicles, however, would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.	Same as Alternative A	Closing areas of high cultural site density to OHV use would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	OHV use would not be limited in areas of high cultural site density, and would degrade the naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation of portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative C
	156,425 acres of prescribed fire treatments per decade would restore vegetation communities and the naturalness of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Fire	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	50,900 acres of prescribed fire treatments with the same impacts as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	<p>operations would degrade opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the short term.</p> <p>Proposed locatable mineral withdrawal of 36,267 acres would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge, Cripple Cowboy, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Land acquired in Nine Mile Canyon would not be grazed by livestock. Improvement of riparian and watershed condition would enhance the natural characteristics of a portion of the</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p> <p>Land acquired in Nine Mile Canyon would be grazed by livestock, but there would be no noticeable impacts to the naturalness of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. The</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A</p> <p>Same as Alternative A</p>	<p>Proposed locatable mineral withdrawal of 35,900 acres would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B</p>	<p>Proposed locatable mineral withdrawal of 277,596 acres would protect the wilderness characteristics of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A</p>

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and the setting required to provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.	presence of livestock could degrade the desired experience of some visitors.			
	Between 70% and 100% of 14 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling up to 171,608 acres, would lose their wilderness characteristics due to oil and gas development.	Same as Alternative A, except up to 183,095 of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose their wilderness characteristics.	Between 51% and 100% of 14 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling up to 141,480 acres would lose their wilderness characteristics due to oil and gas development.	Same as Alternative C, except up to 157,965 acres of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics would lose their wilderness characteristics.	Between 14% and 89% of 13 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, totaling up to 124,215 acres would lose their wilderness characteristics due to oil and gas development.
	Managing White River, Blue Mountain, Book Cliffs, Browns Park, and Nine Mile Canyon SRMAs would provide for primitive recreation opportunities in portions of the SRMAs – preserving	Managing White River, Blue Mountain, Browns Park, and Nine Mile Canyon as SRMAs would have the same impacts on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A	Managing Browns Park and Nine Mile Canyon as SRMAs would have the same impacts on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative C, except that all non-WSA lands within the five SRMAs would be managed for primitive recreation, opportunities for solitude, and the setting required to

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	<p>wilderness characteristics. Motorized recreation opportunities would be emphasized in other parts of the SRMA, conflicting with opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.</p> <p>Developing 400 miles of non-motorized trails would provide added opportunities for primitive recreation. Development of 800 miles of motorized trails would conflict with primitive recreation, and non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics that provide those opportunities.</p>	<p>Development of 800 miles of motorized trails would have the same impacts on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A, except 800 miles of motorized trails would not be developed.</p>	<p>Developing 57 miles of non-motorized trails would have the same impacts on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative A.</p>	<p>support those opportunities.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A, except 800 miles of motorized trails would not be developed.</p>

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	75,845 acres closed to OHV use would enhance the wilderness characteristics of portions of the Lower Flaming Gorge and White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	60,187 acres closed to OHV use would enhance the wilderness characteristics of portions of the White River non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	366,559 acres would be closed to OHV use, enhancing the wilderness characteristics of 16 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	50,388 acres would be closed to OHV use, enhancing the wilderness characteristics of 7 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	392,818 acres would be closed to OHV use, enhancing the wilderness characteristics of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
	Prohibiting surface disturbance on slope greater than 40% would prevent surface disturbances that would degrade the naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Erosion control plans required for surface disturbances on slopes greater than 20% would not prevent degradation of the natural characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A
	Designation of 5 ACECs would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 9 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Designation of 2 ACECs would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 2 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Designation of 7 ACECs would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 11 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Designation of 3 ACECs would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 5 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative C

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	<p>Protection of 3 recommended wild and scenic rivers would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 3 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>150,001 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and Class II objectives, protecting the landscapes and the natural characteristics of portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The presence of wild horses would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Wolf Point and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with</p>	<p>52,777 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and Class II objectives, protecting the landscape and the natural characteristics of portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The presence of wild horses would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with wilderness</p>	<p>Protection of 5 recommended wild and scenic rivers would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 7 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>191,657 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and Class II objectives, protecting the landscape and the natural characteristics of portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The presence of wild horses would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the White River, Wolf Point, and Desolation Canyon non-WSA</p>	<p>Protection of 2 recommended wild and scenic rivers would protect the wilderness characteristics of portions of 2 non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>52,626 acres would be managed by VRM Class I and Class II objectives, protecting the landscape and the natural characteristics of portions of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The presence of wild horses would supplement the wilderness characteristics of the White River and Desolation Canyon non-WSA lands with</p>	<p>277,596 acres would be managed by VRM Class I objectives, protecting the landscape and the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C</p>

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	<p>wilderness characteristics. Construction of waters and fences to manage horses would degrade the naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to some degree.</p> <p>552,663 acres of forests and woodlands would be treated or harvested. Treatments with prescribed fire could restore natural vegetation communities and enhance the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. Treatments with chainsaws and bulldozers would degrade naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness</p>	<p>characteristics. Construction of waters and fences to manage horses would degrade the naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to some degree.</p> <p>554,108 acres would be treated or harvested with the same impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative A.</p>	<p>lands with wilderness characteristics. Construction of waters and fences to manage horses would degrade the naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to some degree.</p> <p>Same as Alternative A, except treatment would not be permitted in 242,760 acres of ACECs.</p>	<p>wilderness characteristics. Construction of waters and fences to manage horses would degrade the naturalness of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to some degree.</p> <p>Up to 88,200 acres of forests and 200,100 acres of woodlands would be treated or harvested with the same impacts to non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics as Alternative A.</p>	<p>No forest or woodland treatment would be permitted in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. There would be no benefit to the natural characteristics of the non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics and there would be no adverse impact either.</p>

TABLE 2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS					
Alternatives					
Discipline	A	B	C	D	E
	<p>characteristics. Operation of the treatment would diminish opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the short term.</p> <p>No specific actions are specifically prescribed to protect the wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. There would be no impacts on non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.</p>	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A	A management prescription would be implemented to protect the wilderness characteristics of all non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.

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